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January



Learning to Live in the Kingdom

by Kenneth Copeland

Leave the bondage of Satan's system behind! Attend to The WORD, walk with Jesus and keep your ear turned toward Him. Say and do whatever He tells you to, knowing you'll come out ahead every time.



Poor No More

by Melanie Hemry
Tommy and Pam Smith
discovered the freedom
that truth brings when they
started watching the BVOV
broadcast. Coming from a
denomination of legalism,
they joyfully began to
proclaim the love of God
and His blessings, which
changed their lives.



A New Resolve to Pray

by Terri Copeland Pearsons
Our families, communities and nations
need us to pray, and the Holy Spirit will
lead us every step of the way.



Take Your Place at the Father's Table

by Dennis Burke

The details of God's plan for us as individuals differ, but the purpose stays the same. We're here to show off the goodness and salvation of God, and when we do, our dissatisfaction disappears.



When you connect to Jesus and to His Word, you can be free from the curse and enjoy THE BLESSING.



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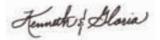


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Pass this magazine on to a friend. It's a great way to recycle!





In the 1980s, right after the fall of communism in the Soviet Union, I saw something I'll never forget. was ministering in the Ukraine at the time, in an old opera house. Gloria and I were preaching upstairs in the auditorium where the singing happens, but the basement of that opera house had a horror story for a background.

It was one ugly place.

For years, the KGB had used it as a place to do their dirty work. They had snatched so-called "enemies of the state" right out of their seats during the opera and dragged them down to the basement for interrogation. Many of

them disappeared forever.

The way Gloria and I saw it, however, it was a great place to have a meeting! We were having lots of fun there preaching to people who were hearing the gospel freely proclaimed for the first time in their lives. They were responding by

singing and shouting praises to God. Everyone, it seemed, was thrilled... except for the ushers who'd been posted at the doors.

They were scared. They didn't know what to do because only a few days earlier Christians had been killed for such activity. So they panicked and locked the doors.

We couldn't understand it. "What are you doing?" we asked. "Are you trying to lock us in or lock someone else out?"

They had no idea! They were confused because they didn't know how to operate in this new system of freedom. It was a mystery to them.

It was no mystery to us, though, because we were raised in it. So we straightened things out. We said, "Unlock the doors!" and they did.

Those flustered ushers weren't the only ones who had trouble figuring out what to do back then. One of our ministry Partners who lives in Eastern Europe told us it was a widespread problem. He handled it in his family by calling them all together for a meeting. "We all have to watch the Copelands' broadcasts very carefully now," he told them, "because we don't know how to live free and they do."

I'll always remember those exciting days! I'll also remember how vividly they illustrated this powerful spiritual lesson: People who have lived under a system of oppression and are suddenly delivered from it, must be taught how to live free.

It was true for those people in the Ukraine, and it's true for you and me.

Even if we've never lived in a communist country, as believers we've all faced the same challenge they did. We know what it's like to live under a system of bondage and then be set free, because that's what happened to us when we were born again. We were delivered out from under the oppressive regime of the devil and translated into the freedom of the kingdom of God.

When it first happened, we were all just like those ushers at the opera house. We initially had no idea how to function in our new spiritual environment. The operating system of God's kingdom was a mystery to us.

Many Christians get the idea it's supposed to remain a mystery. They hear someone say that God's ways are past finding out, so they go to church and read the Bible without expecting to learn a thing. "Well, you just never know what God's going to do," they say. "He works in mysterious ways."

As spiritual as such statements might sound, they're totally unscriptural. Jesus never said God's ways are supposed to be a mystery to us. He said just the opposite. He said, "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God" (Luke 8:10).

Do you realize what that means?

It means that, as born-again citizens of heaven, we have access to inside information. We can understand God's methods of operation. We can study His WORD

turned to Peter and said, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."

"Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing:" Peter answered, "nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:4-5).

Notice Jesus said "nets" (plural), and Peter said "net" (singular). Why did Peter alter Jesus' instructions? Because he was exhausted from the night's work. He'd already washed all his nets. He didn't want to throw them back in the sea and get them dirty again just because this preacher—who obviously knew nothing about fishing—thought it would be a good idea. So he chose to use just one old, rotten net so it wouldn't matter if he didn't have the energy to wash it again later.

Of course, Peter soon regretted his choice because when he threw the net into the water, so many fish jumped into it that it broke. He had

He was offering them the opportunity to **shake off the shackles of the world's ungodly economic system** and experience the thrill of having their needs supplied by the kingdom of God.

and learn the process by which He operates.

In John 8:31-32, Jesus put it this way: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Lessons From the Master

This kind of inside information will change your life!

If you want to see how, just look at what happened to Peter in the New Testament. The first time Jesus gave him a command, he knew nothing about Kingdom operations. He had no idea how to cooperate with them. So he missed a major opportunity.

You probably remember the story. Jesus had borrowed Peter's fishing boat and preached from it to the multitudes on the Galilean shore. After finishing His message, He

to call his fishing partners to come help him. While they hauled in the catch of a lifetime, Peter fell down at Jesus' knees right there in the boat. With fish tails slapping him in the face, he said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken" (verses 8-9).

Just think what that must have been like for Peter! Even though the fishing trip was a success for his partners, for him personally it was one colossal failure. Why? Because he did not yet have any insight into the mysteries of God's kingdom.

Some time later, however, it was a whole different story. When the Temple tax collectors came around demanding money, Peter didn't even flinch when Jesus told him, once again, to go fishing. "Go thou to the sea, and cast an hook," He said, "and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee" (Matthew 17:27).

Talk about a strange set of instructions! Jesus didn't even tell

Peter to use any bait. He said, "Just throw in the hook and a moneycarrying fish will get on it."

If Jesus had said something like that to Peter the first day they met, he probably would have said, "Mister, what have you been drinking?" But this time he'd been walking with Jesus for a while and listening to Him teach.

He'd heard Jesus say things like, "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise" (John 14:10, 5:19).

By watching what happened when Jesus heard and obeyed The WORD of the Father, Peter had gained some insight into the mysteries of the Kingdom. He'd learned that when you say and do whatever Jesus tells you to say and do, God's power goes to work and you come out way ahead!

Traveling Light

Peter wasn't the only one who learned this lesson either. Jesus taught it to all of His disciples. One way He did it was by sending them out to preach all over the country equipped with nothing but the clothes on their backs. "Travel light!" He said, "Leave everything behind. Don't even pack a spare shirt." (See Matthew 10:5-10.)

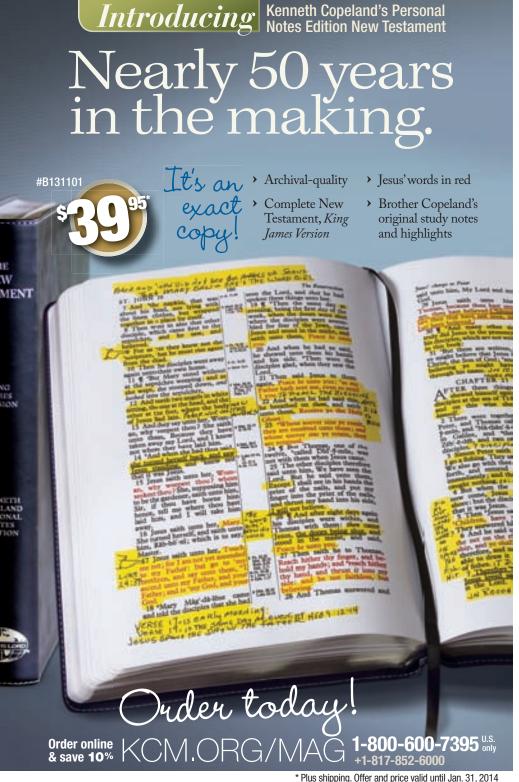
Some people think Jesus said that because He wanted them all to be poor. But nothing could be further from the truth! He wasn't telling them to be poor. He was offering them the opportunity to shake off the shackles of the world's ungodly economic system and experience the thrill of having their needs supplied by the kingdom of God.

He was saying, "Come to work for Me, boys. Do what I tell you to do and the Father will see to it you're well provided for."

They obeyed Him and it turned out just like He promised. At the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus said to them, "When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing" (Luke

Read what the Bible says about the rich young ruler and you'll see he could have gotten in on the same deal. Jesus offered it to him the day he came around asking about how to receive eternal life. At the end of

22:35). They had learned to live free.



their conversation, Jesus said to him something similar to what He said to the 12 disciples. "Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me" (Luke 18:22).

Instead of jumping at the opportunity, however, the rich young ruler went away grieved because he knew nothing about the mysteries of the kingdom of God. He didn't understand that if he'd done what Jesus said to do, he not only would have been a part of His ministry, he would have ended up richer than he ever dreamed.

Like the other disciples, he too could have learned to live free.

Ask God to Train You

This is the process by which God's entire kingdom operates! This is the way you get out of debt. It's the way you get healed. It's the way you make the devil flee from you. This is the way you have days of heaven on earth.

All you have to do is listen to Jesus. Say and do what He tells you to say and do, and you can have the same success He had when He was on earth, in any area of life.

"But Brother Copeland, I'm not sure I can do that! Most of the time I don't feel like I can even hear God's voice."

Then forget about your feelings. Focus instead on scriptures like John 10:4-5 where Jesus said, "My sheep know My voice and a stranger's voice they will not follow." Believe that and say it. Tell The LORD, "I have ears to hear You and I know You're speaking. So I incline my ears to Your sayings. Sir, I'm Yours to command."

Then do your part to familiarize yourself with God's voice by putting His written WORD first place in your life. Spend time reading and studying the Bible. Pray every day and practice listening to the Holy Spirit's voice in your spirit. Ask God to train you. Then trust Him to protect you by alerting you if you misunderstand something He said.

I guarantee, He'll do it.

He's done it for me countless times. One incident in particular in the early days of my ministry stands out in my mind. I was walking down the street in Tulsa, Okla., where I was preaching a meeting and The LORD spoke up on the inside of me and gave me a direct assignment. I knew it was Him. But then a few minutes later, I heard something else in my spirit that didn't seem quite right.

I didn't think it lined up with the written WORD—at least, with what I knew of it back then. So I just stopped right there on the sidewalk. I repeated to The LORD what I'd heard and said, "I am willing and ready to obey You, but the last part seemed off to me. So with Your permission, I'm going to wait to act on it until I can see it in the written WORD."

In response, I heard The LORD say very plainly within me, You are to be commended for that and I'll show you what you need to know.

A short while later, He revealed to me what had happened. He showed me that right after He had spoken to me, Satan had come along behind and tried to impersonate His voice. Then He directed me to the Bible, showed me exactly what scriptures the devil's instructions had violated, and said, You will not follow that voice ever again.

Sure enough, I haven't. When the devil has tried to play the impersonator with me, I've recognized it and said, "No, Mr. Devil, you're not conning me with that. I know the difference between your voice and my Father's, and I'm not following you!"

You can do the same thing. So go after it. Keep attending to The WORD, walking with Jesus, and keeping your ear turned toward Him. Keep saying and doing whatever He tells you to say and do, knowing you'll come out ahead every time.

Leave the bondage of Satan's system behind, keep pressing into the mysteries of God's kingdom, and every day you'll learn more about how to live free. (1)

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points to get you there Living Free

As believers, we have all been delivered out from under the oppressive regime of the devil and translated into the freedom of the kingdom of God. But to fully enjoy our new freedom we must discover the process by which His kingdom operates. We must learn how to live free. Here are a few points to help you:

Every time you read the Bible, expect to learn more about God's methods of operation.

> Luke 8:10: "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God...."

Familiarize yourself with God's voice by putting His written WORD first place in your life.

Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Pray every day and practice 3 listening to the Holy Spirit's voice in your spirit.

> John 14:17, New Living Translation: "He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you."

Trust God to protect you by alerting you if you misunderstand something He said.

> John 10:5: "A stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."

If you are not sure you've 5 heard the Spirit correctly, ask God to confirm it with His written WORD.

> 1 John 5:7: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

by Melanie Hemry

Pourolore

Jonny Smith dropped a stack of bills on the kitchen table and buried his head in his hands. How could so many hopes and dreams go up in smoke so fast? From the bedroom he heard the broken sobs that seemed never-ending. The sound of Pam's heartbreak was just about the saddest thing he'd ever heard.

Well, except for the clods of dirt hitting the casket of his firstborn son. That may have been the loneliest, saddest sound of all.

Two years ago when they married, life had stretched out before Tommy and Pam like a promise—golden with hope. No two people had ever been happier than they were when Pam conceived a child. They'd marveled and rejoiced at every milestone along the way. Every flutter of movement, every kick, had been a celebration. From assembling the crib to buying blankets and clothes for the little guy, they had loved every moment.

Jonathan's birth had been a rollercoaster of emotions. Overwhelming joy had faded to shock as he struggled to breathe. Tommy still shivers at memories of the sound of the ambulance as it screamed away from the local hospital in Fayette, Ala., carrying its precious cargo. Admitted to Children's Hospital in Tuscaloosa, Jonathan had undergone surgery.

Three days later he died. As if the nursery and crib weren't reminders enough of their loss, the seemingly endless number of medical bills arriving in the mail added to it. Tommy leafed through them, feeling overwhelmed. Hospital bills. Ambulance bills. Surgeon's bills. Neonatal ICU. Thank God for all the premiums they had paid for insurance through his job.

Sifting through the mail one day, Tommy found a letter from their insurance company. He read it through the first time without comprehending. Hands trembling, he read it again.





Learning to live by faith only made me dream bigger. Pam

Sorry to inform you of this exclusion...insurance doesn't go into effect until the newborn is a week old... since your son died prior to being a week old...these medical expenses are not covered under your policy.

Tommy stared at the letter as though it was a snake. If he applied every penny of his annual salary toward the debt it would still take years to pay it off.

Broken Dreams

"We didn't know how to go on," Tommy remembers. "Losing Jonathan was awful and being saddled with all that debt was overwhelming. We continued to pray, read our Bibles and attend church, but we'd lost our joy.

"I'd hoped to do better financially than the poverty I'd experienced growing up. As a kid, I didn't have money for lunch or food to pack one. Poverty wasn't limited to my immediate family; it stretched back for generations. I didn't know of anyone in our family who'd gone to college. Most didn't make it through high school before dropping out to find a job.

"Pam was the oldest of seven children and her parents were pastors. Every Sunday night after church they'd made the



humiliating drive to her grandparents' house to ask for money to pack school lunches. The difference between Pam and me was that she had dreams. She always dreamed of getting a college education and becoming a teacher. After we married she began clipping pictures out of magazines and designing her dream home. I refused to even look at it."

Although they continued to struggle financially, God added to their family. In 1975, their son Brad was born. Two years later, Pam gave birth to a daughter, Dwanla.

In 1981, Tommy went into business for himself. He also accepted the call to pastor a church.

Their denomination was legalistic, Tommy said, with a longer list of "Thou Shalt Nots" than God gave Moses. A lot of things on that list, things like wearing a wedding band, could get you kicked out of the church and turned over to the devil, he said.

But of all the things members were forbidden to do, one topped the list. They were never to watch anyone preach on television. Listening to a sermon from

I don't know how many times I heard Brother Copeland say, 'You don't have to be poor anymore!'

When I got a revelation of those words

and took my stand, it revolutionized our lives.

JANUARY New Testament Testament Wed Gen. 1-3 Matt. 1-2 Thu 2 Gen. 4-5 Matt. 3 3 Gen. 6-7 Matt. 4 Sat Gen. 8-9 Matt. 5 Sun 5 Gen. 10-11 Matt. 6 6 Mon Gen. 12-13 Matt. 7 7 Gen. 14-15 Matt. 8 Wed Gen. 16-18 Matt. 9-10 Thu 9 Gen. 19-20 Matt. 11 Fri 10 Gen. 21-22 Matt. 12 Matt. 13 Sat 11 Gen. 23-24 12 Sun Gen. 25-26 Matt. 14 Mon 13 Gen. 27-28 Matt. 15 14 Gen. 29-30 Matt. 16 Tue Wed 15 Gen. 31-33 Matt. 17-18 Thu Gen. 34-35 Matt. 19 16 Fri 17 Gen. 36-37 Matt. 20 Gen. 38-39 Matt. 21 Sat 18

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Ex. 11-13

Ex. 14-15

Ex. 16-17

Matt. 22

Matt. 23

Matt. 24

Matt. 27

Matt. 28

Mark 1

Mark 2

Mark 3

Mark 4

Mark 7

Mark 8

Mark 5-6

Matt. 25-26

someone outside the denomination was considered spiritual adultery.

Forbidden Fruit
That's why in 1985, when Pam caught Tommy up early one Sunday

morning watching the *Believer's Voice* of *Victory* broadcast, she was shocked. She scolded, pled and argued, but she couldn't get him to stop.

"Tommy, how can you watch that?"

she asked one day.

"Just sit down and listen!"

Arms crossed, she plopped into a chair and watched the broadcast in silence. The next week she didn't wait to be asked. Week after week, and month after month, they were stunned by what they heard. It was almost too good to be true, but it was all scriptural.

"Of all the things I learned from Brother Copeland, the most powerful one was that God *loves me*," Tommy recalls. "Our denomination hammered away at the curse. We'd never even heard about THE BLESSING. Instead of just teaching church doctrine, I started preaching about the blessings and the love of God."

Tommy understood that the consequences of his actions could be severe. If caught listening to Brother Copeland, he would be excommunicated from the church. Yet, two years after he first started listening to Brother Copeland, when Tommy learned that the Copelands would be holding a meeting in Atlanta, he not only attended, he became a Partner with the ministry.

"Learning to live by faith only made me dream bigger," Pam admits. "Over the years I continued working on plans for our home. Then, as soon as Brad and Dwanla started school, I began taking classes at the community

college. When I'd taken all they had to offer, I transferred to the University of Alabama and earned a degree in special education with a certification to work with hearing-impaired children."

Taking a Stand

Tommy still felt weighed down by debt. Income from his pest-control business was steady, but it seemed as though every time he took a tiny step forward, something happened to drag him down. One day in 1989, Tommy became very depressed over their situation—overwhelmed with a feeling that no one cared about him.

The word of the Lord came swift and sure, he recalls.

Do you see that picture?

Tommy glanced at the photograph of his children.

"Yes, Sir."

You know how much you love them?

"Yes, Sir."

That doesn't compare to how much I love you. Those words brought fresh revelation for Tommy. Jesus had died to redeem him from the curse! Poverty was not in their lives because God didn't love them. It was there because they had put up with it!

Falling to his knees, Tommy cried out to God: "Lord, I've been redeemed from the curse of the law! In the Name of Jesus, I declare that I'm not going to be poor anymore!"

From that moment forward, things changed.

"Within two years from the day I prayed that prayer, we were totally out of debt," Tommy says. "Instead of poverty, it was as though I had somehow gained the Midas touch. Everything I touched prospered. When Brad graduated from high school, he got a scholarship to the University of

Alabama where he earned a bachelor's degree. Afterward, he wanted to go to medical school."

Tommy figured he would have to borrow against their house for his son to go on, but he was willing to do it. When he prayed about it the Lord said, *I'm* your *Daddy and I'm* his *Daddy*.

"Dad," Brad said, "I've been offered a full ride to medical school. All I have to do is agree to work in a rural area for two years after I graduate."

"But..." Tommy said, sensing his son's hesitation.

"Well, I want to be a surgeon. If I take the scholarship I won't be able to specialize."

"Then don't take it," Tommy said. "God's your Daddy."

Faith for a Miracle

The summer before he began medical school, Brad began coughing up blood. A local doctor took an X-ray and found a spot on Brad's lung, so Tommy and Pam took him to see a pulmonary specialist.

In the exam room they found Brad wearing a mask. The doctor pointed to the X-ray they'd brought from home and the one he'd just taken. Both revealed a spot the size of a half dollar on his lung.

"There won't be any medical school for him," the doctor said handing the two of them masks. "He's got tuberculosis. You're all being quarantined." With that he left the room.

Brad turned to his father.

"You've been preaching to me about healing for years," he said. "It's time to put up or shut up."

Tommy and Pam prayed the glory of God down in that room and released their faith for Brad's healing. A while later the doctor returned. "Would you please take another X-ray?" Tommy asked.

"You can see that both these X-rays show the same thing."

"I know, but I would appreciate it if you'd take another."

The doctor put the third X-ray on the light box next to the other two. It didn't take a medical degree to see that there was no spot on the last one.

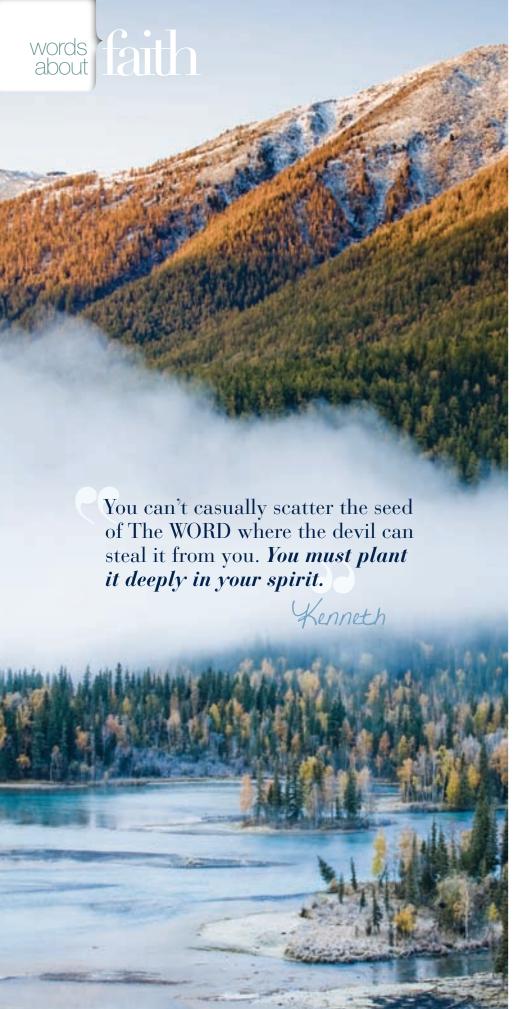
"We believe in God," Tommy explained.

The doctor, who they later learned was an atheist, stormed out of the room.

"Twelve years later I ran into that



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doctor," Tommy recalls. "I didn't recognize him but he recognized me. The first thing he did was ask about Brad. I told him that Brad was still healed and that he was an ophthalmologist. What I didn't tell him was that Brad had attended four years of medical school, spent four years in internship and residency, did a two-year fellowship, and graduated without owing anyone a dime. And I didn't owe anything, either. Today, Brad mentors fellows in ophthalmology at a nearby medical school and works as an eye surgeon in the St. Louis area."

Dreams Come True

While Brad was studying medicine, Dwanla earned a master's degree in social work.

It was clear to anyone who knew them that the curse of poverty had been broken off the family. In 1999, Tommy came home one day and said, "Pam, we can build your dream home now."

In 2001, Tommy sold his pest-control company, and then started building storage sheds. His goal was to build 10 of them and put them on a lot to sell. Instead, people bought them so fast, he was building and selling as many as five a week. In addition to their debt-free dream home, Tommy and Pam bought five other houses, which they rented out.

"If I'd known then what I know now, Jonathan would have lived and not died," Tommy says. "Being Partners with KCM has changed our lives. I don't know how many times I heard Brother Copeland say, 'You don't have to be poor anymore!' When I got a revelation of those words and took my stand, it revolutionized our lives. If that's not enough, the anointing of the prophet is on us. As Partners, when Brother Copeland goes to minister in Japan, we get that reward."

Tommy and Pam Smith were disfellowshiped from their denomination for preaching Jesus instead of church doctrine. It's a charge they're pleased to admit. Today, their lives are a witness to everyone they meet. They are ambassadors of God's goodness, His grace and THE BLESSING.

Building a Wall Between You and Sin

One of my heroes of faith is Smith Wigglesworth, an early 20th-century healing evangelist from England. :: Mr. Wigglesworth was perhaps one of the boldest men of faith ever to walk this earth. But he wasn't always that way.

ecause he was raised in a poor family and forced to work hardlabor jobs from the time he was 6 years old, Mr. Wigglesworth had no formal education and didn't learn to read until he was an adult.

He became a plumber by trade—a successful one. But when he married a woman who was called to preach, Mr. Wigglesworth soon came face to face with the call of God that was on his life as well—a calling he did everything he could to avoid.

You see, Smith Wigglesworth was extremely introverted, and very embarrassed at his lack of education.

When he first entered public ministry with his wife, Mr. Wigglesworth was scared out of his wits just to stand on a platform and say his name. When he read Scripture out loud, he would stutter and stumble through the reading. Afterward he would say, "If anyone has anything to say, let them say it now—I'm done." Then he would walk off the platform and sit down. His wife usually ended up doing the preaching.

Well, Mrs. Wigglesworth passed away and left her husband after having done all she knew to do to get him to yield to the call of God on his life. But he just would not give in to it—at least not while she was around to do the preaching. So before she died, she made an agreement

with The LORD that she would go on to heaven in order to get Smith to do His will.

However, on the day his wife died, Mr. Wigglesworth prayed for her to be raised from the dead...and she was!

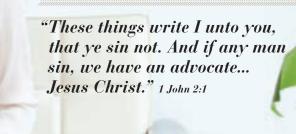
"You're not leaving me!" he told her when she came back to life. "What will I do?"

"Smith, you are going to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ!" she said. "I'm leaving—now do the will of God!"

Then she laid her head down on the pillow and left.

Once she was gone, Mr. Wigglesworth repented and repented and repented and repented, and finally accepted his call. But that was only the beginning. The real change in Smith Wigglesworth did not come until he started getting up every day at 4 a.m. to take Communion.

Like clockwork, he would begin each day by remembering his covenant with Almighty God by taking the bread and the cup. Every day he lived under the influence of that covenant. And



every day he became more and more bold—until finally, he became one of the boldest men of God in history.

A Wall of Righteousness

Like Mr. Wigglesworth, as you and I continue to walk out our salvation on this earth, there are times when we mess up and sin. Even as mature believers we step outside of God's will for our lives. When we do, our natural tendency is to run from God in shame. We have a tendency to hide from Him like Adam and Eve did when they first sinned.

Instead of hiding, though, I would like to encourage you to run as fast as you can into the arms of God. We can do that because we have an advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1). We have "One Who will intercede for us," *The Amplified Bible* says. That advocate is Jesus.

But simply knowing that Jesus is

our personal advocate is one thing. Tapping into His ministry as advocate is another.

That's why I would like to show you a practical way we can bring Jesus—our heavenly lawyer—into our conscious, everyday-life situations where, even if we've sinned and repented by faith, we can use some help in standing our ground where the devil's attacks of guilt and condemnation against us are concerned.

Or maybe we haven't sinned, but we just need help in standing our ground where the temptation to sin is concerned.

In either case, each and every day you and I can build a wall that will help keep us from being overcome by the world's darkness. It's a wall that will turn away sin, guilt and condemnation. It's a wall of righteousness that will reinforce our

confidence and boldness in God.

How do we build this wall? By faith, and by The WORD of God.

What do we build it with? The bread and the cup.

A Wall of Remembrance

In early 1998, the Spirit of God convicted me about not taking Communion as often as I should. Certainly, I knew the benefits of taking Communion on a regular basis, and for specific situations I faced from time to time, but The LORD was telling me I needed to do it more often.

At about that time, The LORD also used a friend of mine to stir inside me this principle of building a mighty wall between sin and believers who have been made the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). It was a principle I had practiced over the years, but I needed fresh revelation.

The Apostle Paul, who had received great revelation concerning The LORD's Supper, wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26:

The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

As you and I come to the Communion table and take the bread and the cup, we are representing, signifying and proclaiming the fact of Jesus' death (verse 26, AMP).

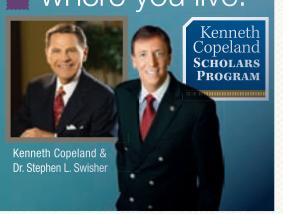
Why is that so important?

Well, Jesus said Himself, in verse 25, "This cup is the new covenant [ratified and established] in My blood" (AMP).

Jesus' blood—His death—ratified our covenant with God. God honors

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that blood. In fact, when you and I sin, that blood is in the way. The blood of His Son is between Him and our sins.

But now, let's step back for a moment and take a look at that bloodline that encircles us.

Using the television as an example of something that can allow the world's darkness to enter our lives, let's say I sat down and watched a program I knew I should not have watched. By doing so, I opened my mind and heart to ungodly images and words. I was convicted by the Spirit of God to not watch the show, yet I did anyway.

So I went to God and confessed that what I did was wrong, and I repented for having disregarded the Holy Spirit's warning.

But let's say this has been a recurring issue in my life. To settle it once and for all, I get a Communion cup and some bread and set them on a table in front of the TV set.

First, I judge myself—I don't condemn myself-dead to sin (1 Corinthians 11:31-32; Romans 6:11). Galatians 2:20 says, "I am crucified with [the Anointed One, Jesus]: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but [the Anointed One, and His Anointing liveth in me."

After I judge myself dead to sin, I take the bread and the cup—the body of Jesus broken for me, which established a covenant before God's throne of grace...the blood of Jesus shed for me to eradicate, remit and remove all my sin-and I take those elements into my body.

Now watch this. I then purposely set those elements on the table between me and the television. Why? Because it helps me to visualize what actually exists in the spiritual realm. A ratified blood covenant is between me and sin.

So there's a wall between the TV and me. The blood covenant of God, in the person of Jesus, has stepped in between me and the TV, which represents sin—the sin I've been delivered and cleansed from. That means if I were to choose to sin again, I would have to cross that line. I

would have to cross the bloodline.

It also means, now that I've repented, the TV program is no longer between God and me. Sin cannot remain between us. Sinand all its guilt and condemnation can no longer lord it over me. A wall has been built. I'm on God's side and He's on mine—together, we're against the sin.

A Wall of Power

The Communion table can be a powerful force in our lives. It's what made the difference in the life of Smith Wigglesworth.

Mr. Wigglesworth was not bold because he tried to be bold. His boldness came from the fact that his identity was no longer that of a poor, uneducated boy from northern England. His identity was hidden in the Anointed One, Jesus, and in His Anointing.

Once Mr. Wigglesworth began building a wall with the bread and the cup, he never gave another thought to himself. He only thought about Jesus. His covenant with God was constantly on his mind, influencing everything he said and did.

You don't just show up at a funeral, as Mr. Wigglesworth once did, and drag a dead body out of its casket and command it to walk-and it come to life and walk-without having taken Communion that morning. In fact, you'd better have that bread and cup with you all day if you desire to operate in that kind of boldness!

Jesus said, "Every time you do this, you remember Me."

When you and I remember Jesus, through the bread and the cup, we build a wall of righteousness. We build a wall of Jesus' righteousness that stands between us and sin. It determines what we say and do. It determines the amount of power in our lives.

If you desire to see God move mightily through you this year, take Communion frequently, and build yourself a wall. Develop a greater sense of honor for the blood and body of Jesus. Take the bread and the cup... and remember Jesus. (V)

You're not alone. The Apostle Paul once faced the same dilemma! In Romans 7 (The Amplified Bible), he said, "I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh.... For I fail to practice the good deeds I desire to do. but the evil deeds that I do not desire to do are what I am [ever] doing" (verses 18-19).

In verses 24-25 (AMP), Paul asks (and answers) the same question you've been asking. "O unhappy man that I am! Who will deliver me? O thank God! [He will!] through Jesus Christ (the Anointed One) our Lord!"

Paul found his deliverance in Jesus and so will you!

The key is abiding in Jesus and having His WORD abide in vou. In one of the last conversations Jesus had with His disciples before His crucifixion, He spoke to them about that. He told them that they were cleansed because of The WORD He'd taught

them. He promised if they would continue to abide in Him and allow His WORDs to remain in them, they could have whatever they asked. Now that's victory!

You see. God's **WORD** has the power within itself to overcome sin.

All you have to do is get that WORD inside you so that it will go to work empowering you to overcome sin in your life. Jesus said, "If ye continue [meditate and be consistent] in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Put God's **WORD first** place in your life.

Make the decision to act on The WORD and spend time in it. You'll soon begin to enjoy the freedom and victory you've longed for!

YOUR VOICE. YOUR VICTORY. YOUR MINISTRY.

Miracle-Working God

I asked you to agree in prayer for my daughter to come to God, and a miracle happened. She graduated from Bible college, got married and they both serve God. There was one more miracle the Lord did. The Spirit of God told me to pray Psalm 91 with my grandchildren. The children repeated it after me.

My grandson fell off the fifth floor onto the ground. But he is whole because angels were holding him. Nothing was broken and no pain. Doctors said he will be restored completely. There are no words to express my gratitude to our Lord! My grandchildren and I—we love Jesus! V.P. | Ukraine

Changed and Healed!

My husband and I were at the Toronto Victory Campaign in May—it changed our lives. At Healing School my ears popped when Kenneth said sinuses were being healed. God healed a sinus condition which I'd had since January. Praise the Lord. God bless you! L.P. | Canada



GoodNewsGazette

"But [even] the very hairs of your head are all numbered... you are of greater worth than many [flocks] of sparrows."

(Luke 12:7, The Amplified Bible)

The Great Physician at Work

No tumor found! Praise God! March 21, 2013, I wrote KCM for prayer as the doctor diagnosed me with colon cancer. On May 9, after all

tests were done, the surgeon proclaimed that I was cancer free—no surgery. I stand in awe, so utterly amazed with my Lord. And I thank this

ministry for praying saints. Jesus is Lord! And thank you so much for Dodie Osteen's book *Healed of Cancer*.

V.B. | Canada

The Greatness of God

I have to testify to the greatness of God. My wife contacted the prayer group of KCM Australia and asked for prayer for my job. We both believed God would not forsake us. We confessed the blessings of God every day over our lives, our children and this situation. At one point, we heard news that tried to shake our confidence in God. But we both brought our minds back to His Word and His promises.

Thank you for standing with us. I was offered two jobs at the same time! It was as if God was saying, *You choose and I will bless you.* So today, I shout His goodness and I am a BLESSED man. Thank you, KCM, for the *BVOV* broadcast and magazine. This is strength for our daily life with God. J.W. | Australia

The Glory of the Lord Revealed

I was waiting to fall asleep one night when in my spirit I heard these words: I will protect that which concerneth thee. I pondered these words because I had no health concerns, especially as the last test had come back normal.

The next afternoon I had an appointment to see my doctor, where I learned the last test I had was not normal and I needed another X-ray. That led to a CT scan which showed "worrisome" changes in my colon!

When I saw the surgeon he told me I had cancer of the colon and I would likely need chemotherapy. I heard him, but in my heart I rejected his diagnosis. My heart was already prepared for a much better

outcome. Daily the Lord would speak words of comfort to me and my faith continued to grow.

Before surgery, I asked my doctor to examine the part of the colon that would be cut off. The Lord had instructed me to call things that are not as though they were, so I called my colon healthy from end to end and side to side.

In my prayer journal I had written before the surgery, the day for the glory of the Lord to be revealed in my body. On the day of surgery, it was. Afterward, the doctors told my daughter there was no tumor! God had taken care of it and it was "no more." My recovery in hospital was quicker than usual. I give all the praise, glory and honor to our wonderful Lord. H.B. | Canada



Suicidal Thoughts Defeated

I have been watching the BVOV broadcast since I was a baby, when my mom would put the playpen by the television. That was about 20 years ago. I grew up under Kenneth and Gloria's teachings and they helped me grow in the Word and become the godly woman I am today.

Around 2005, the enemy started to attack me with thoughts of suicide. Through teachings from KCM, I was able to stand on the Word during that season and sow the right seeds to overcome. Thank you for your faithfulness unto the Lord. You have been such a blessing to me in every area of my life! A.D. | Illinois





BVOV



a NEW RESOLVE to



I love the start of a new year. God is all about fresh starts. His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." :: God is always looking forward. He is ready to assist us as we take on the challenges of a new day, a new year—a new start at anything. Unfortunately, too often we don't take advantage of all the help and support that is ready to flow to us from heaven. Either we press into the future on our own or we procrastinate.

h, now there's a word no one likes to hear, much less own up to. Why do we procrastinate?

Fear? In most cases, probably.

Depending on what we are putting off, it could be fear of failure, fear of something unpleasant or fear of the unknown. Or, it *could be* the fear of work (also known as being lazy!). Uh oh! I sense I hit a nerve on that one, too. Maybe not yours, but I sure felt it.

Letting Things Slip

Fear and laziness have shot down many a New Year's resolution.

Are you thinking, New Year's resolution? What New Year's resolution? Who does those anymore?

Well, if we don't stop at least some time *close* to January 1, and reassess our priorities, we are apt to let some very important things slip. Some objectives, though important, don't rate on the same level as others, especially natural things versus spiritual ones. For example, a new exercise program, though beneficial, can't compete with the importance of time with the Lord. "For physical training is of some value (useful for a little), but godliness (spiritual training) is useful and of value in everything and in every way, for it holds promise for the present life and also for the life which is to

come" (1 Timothy 4:8, *The Amplified Bible*). (That doesn't mean we have a scriptural basis for throwing out the treadmill. Sorry.)

The reasons for spending time with the Lord on a daily basis are as vast as God Himself. Everything God is, He is for us. Everything God has, He has given to us. He has not withheld anything from His children: "Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal

nothing replaces having faith that the Spirit of God will do what He is assigned to do and lead you every step of the way.

(declare, disclose, transmit) it to you" (John 16:15, AMP). It is only in fellowship with Him through His Word and prayer that we can discover who He is and what He has given us.

According to Jesus, this discovery is the happy work of the Holy Spirit. He has a heavenly mission on an earthly assignment. It is His ministry to impart The Blessing to us: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). The Amplified Bible says "every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the

heavenly realm!" This doesn't leave out the natural things we need. It simply points to the fact that God is the source of ALL things and His resources begin in the realm of the spirit.

It is also the ministry of the Holy Spirit to be our guide, both into scripture (John 16:13) and in our daily lives (Romans 8:14). But He is also our constant companion in prayer (Did I just see you twitch a little?). For those Christians who still make New Year's resolutions, more time in prayer is a favorite addition to the list, but often, the least favorite to actually do. This is prayer procrastination!

Every reason we previously stated about procrastination sure applies here. Namely, fear. Another word for *fear* is *dread*. Why would someone dread praying? Perhaps they find it boring. Some run out of what to say or how to say it. Some don't want to pray because of a past experience when their prayers didn't seem to be answered.

One-on-One With God

Even though you may have never voiced them, you may have your own reasons for not spending much real time in prayer. I say "real" time because it is easy to "say a prayer" in the car on the way to work or maybe before you go to sleep at night. Those *are* prayers, and should happen dozens of times a day. But the kind of prayer I'm talking about is one-on-one with the Father. It's talking and listening. It's looking inside your own inner being by faith, and locating His presence. It is loving Him, and being loved by Him. It is discovering Him. And it is doing Kingdom business.

Think for a moment of all the wonderful things we have been privileged to learn from the Scripture about the Name of Jesus, the power of the Word and our authority as believers. Have you ever read in Ephesians 6 about the armor of God? We are told to put it on and take care of the devil's strategies. Yes, that's right! Us in God's armor! Each piece of armor has a great place in prayer. When you consider that any one of these "weapons of our warfare" is powerful "to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Corinthians 10:4), how could prayer be anything but exciting? And what about praying in the spirit? Are you kidding me? How could praying with the "tongues of men and angels" be boring? If prayer is boring, or continues unanswered, we aren't doing it right (James 4:3).

Simply put, it takes three things to develop a deep, satisfying prayer life: the Word of God, the Spirit of God and commitment on your part. The first two are gifts from God. They are His guarantee of our success in every aspect of our lives. But they are also the guarantee that we can know Him, commune with Him and work with Him.

However, it's your commitment, the third



The treasures of the Kingdom are for those who ask, knock and seek. They aren't hidden from us, but for us.

ingredient, which really makes the difference. Without commitment it doesn't really matter what God has done or given. The treasures of the Kingdom are for those who ask, knock and seek. They aren't hidden from us, but for us. Still, they aren't laying out for the carnal-minded to use and abuse.

What do you do if you are committed to growing in your prayer life? Start by asking the Lord to lead you, and then, have faith that He will. Commit to set time aside specifically for prayer. Maybe you could start with 20 minutes. Even if it seems you can't do that every day, start with 20 minutes somewhere in your week!

Next, commit to staying focused. Romans 8:7 tells us the flesh is in opposition to God. Most of the time, our flesh is looking to sit down. It wants to find a reason to not do what it needs to do (yes, procrastination again). Sit down to pray and your flesh will suddenly think of a dozen things that need to be done. It will have the urge to jump up and get going right then! You must be on guard for such impulses and refuse to allow anything to distract you from your time with the Lord.

Remember, you asked the Lord for His help. So, watch for His leading. Maybe a song will come to mind. As long as it is one you can sing to Him, yield to it. If a scripture comes to mind, look

it up and talk to Him about it. Tell the Lord what you are grateful for. Tell Him how impressed you are with all He can do. Look through the Psalms and find those you can base prayers on. Pray the prayers of the Apostle Paul, starting with Ephesians 1 and 3, and Colossians 1. And pray in tongues! Or as my grandmother, Vinita Copeland, used to say, "Hit it in tongues, honey!"

Commit to learn from others. Invest in teachings on prayer from like-minded ministers. Actually pray when someone asks you to, including when the pastor says from the platform, "Let's pray!" Join or start a prayer group—even if it's just with one other person. I've heard Kenneth E. Hagin, as well as others, say that some things about prayer are "better caught than taught." Praying with others is one of the best ways to "catch things" in the spirit. But nothing replaces having faith that the Spirit of God will do what He is assigned to do and lead you every step of the way.

There is more at stake

here than just checking off a "New Year's Resolution" list. Our families need prayer. Our nations need prayer. And they need us to step up, without procrastination, without hesitation and with a Kingdom boldness that can only come from time spent with the Father.

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 write to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001 or go to terricopelandpearsons.com.



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by Dennis Burke



I've only heard it once.

In all my years of traveling and talking with Christians all over the world, only one person has ever said these words to me. "Dennis, I wouldn't change one thing about my life."

The statement carried no sense of complacency. No careless surrender to the status quo. Instead, it sparkled with contentment, bubbling up like a spring from a man who was living life the way it's meant to be lived.



uch springs are all too rare these days. People everywhere are parched—thirsty for something more. Hungry for fulfillment they can't seem to find.

Most of us try, though. You have to give us credit for that. We gnaw away at life like a dog at a bone—with determination, gusto and frequently with frustration. Working it from every angle, we labor to extract from our existence the satisfaction we crave. Yet, more often than not, we still feel like we're lacking something. Stomach growling, we always want more.

It's not a new phenomenon. It can't be blamed on Generation X, Y or Z. It wasn't introduced by today's consumer culture; by cashiers at drive-thru windows saying, "Would you like to supersize that?"; or by The Shopping Network. No, the dilemma of perpetual dissatisfaction has been around as long as people can remember. A few decades ago, it even caught the attention of the press. Hoping to shed some light on the situation, a news magazine surveyed thousands of Americans to find out just how much money they needed to be satisfied. "What would it take for you to live the American dream?" they were asked.

After averaging the answers, the magazine reported these results: People making \$25,000 a year thought \$54,000 would be enough. Those making \$100,000 said

\$192,000 would satisfy them. And so on. Eventually, John D. Rockefeller, one of the richest men in the world at the time, weighed in on the issue. When asked how much money it takes to be truly rich, he gave a classic, unforgettable answer. "Just a little more," he said.

Marketing experts make millions by exploiting that mentality. They start by targeting toddlers with toyladen cereal boxes. Stacking them knee-high on grocery store shelves where little eyes can see and little hands can reach, they provoke the familiar cry: "Mommy, I want it!"

So it begins...and so it continues—from childhood to adolescence, to adulthood, to the grave. Always wanting more, never having enough.

Playing the 'Keeping-Up' Game

As Christians, we're not shocked when we see unbelievers trapped in such a cycle. Why shouldn't they be? The only system they know enshrines materialism as a god. But things should be different in the church, don't you think? Surely, we believers shouldn't be running here and there, seeking the same stuff everyone else does. Surely, we don't have to be driven by the same insatiable disease. Yet, all too often we are.

Christians by the church-loads live in continual frustration because they don't have the cash to dress, drive or vacation in the same kind of luxury



I don't buy the idea

that we can become less materialistic and more spiritually satisfied by wearing cheaper clothes, driving cheaper cars and vacationing in tents in the backyard.

less materialistic and more spiritually satisfied by wearing cheaper clothes, driving cheaper cars and vacationing in tents in the backyard.

In other words, I'm not anti-stuff. I'm actually in favor of it. I like it. I like nice cars and homes. I *really* like nice motorcycles. And I don't mind saying so because I don't believe those things are the problem.

The problem is we've fallen for a lie. We've gone after stuff (in the form of things, money, status, success, et cetera) like a dog goes after a bone, because we've swallowed the same deception the dog does. We've believed that such bones could satisfy our inner hunger. People want stuff like dogs want bones. That's what we've thought. But here's the hitch. Dogs don't really want bones. Dogs want meat. They've settled for bones.

So have we. In our quest to live an abundant life, we've settled for scraps. We've chased, chewed on and coveted things that—although there's nothing wrong with them—were never meant to fulfill the hunger in our hearts. We've fed on crumbs and stayed famished. Yet, all the while, our heavenly Father has a banquet table prepared for us. It's piled high with enough soul-satisfying goodness to take us from here to eternity. And there's a chair with our name on it—sitting empty!

The solution to the problem seems so obvious it's a wonder so many Christians miss it. But multitudes do. Maybe that's because they've been taught by well-meaning ministers that God's feast is in heaven and they can't enjoy it until they get there—which would be fine if folks were planning to die or be raptured right away. But

their friends do. They mortgage themselves into misery, buying their way into upscale neighborhoods. Then they're eaten up with embarrassment because they don't have as much stuff as everyone else on the block.

What's up with that?

My answer may surprise you.

Unlike some, I don't think the problem lies with our affluent society. I don't believe that Christians have simply been seduced by a covetous culture. Nor do I believe we can rediscover the secret of contentment by adopting a more austere lifestyle. I don't buy the idea that we can become



most of them aren't. I've noticed when I minister that if I ask who's looking forward to heaven, hands fly up all over the congregation. People smile and cheer and wave. But when I ask if they want to go right now, the hands drop and the place goes silent. It seems that as hungry as believers might be for a satisfying life, if they have to pass through the pearly gates to get it, they'd rather wait and deal with their dissatisfaction some other way.

So that's what we do. We try to put the kibosh on our carnality by feeling guilty about it. We cut up our credit cards, cancel our subscriptions to Consumers Guide, deprive ourselves of unnecessary indulgences and strive to be content with less. But those tactics, by themselves, don't work. We can't cure ourselves of materialism by cutting down on the amount of stuff in our lives any more than we could stop a starving man from eating out of a dumpster by putting him on a diet.

A Table Prepared for NOW!

What we need to do is find our way to our Father's table. Not a table reserved for the next life that can only be reached by way of heaven, but a table available to us now. Psalm 23 describes it as a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies (verse 5). Clearly, our enemies (which include the devil and everyone who's working for him) aren't waiting for us in heaven. They're doing their dirty work on earth, which means the Psalm 23 buffet can be enjoyed right here.

Even so, some people hesitate to pull up a chair. They're afraid that what God

is cooking up for them could be even less satisfying than the crumbs they've been eating. They remember the times they've messed up and suspect that their plate might be covered with cabbage and cod liver oil—a lifetime of hard lessons served up by a frowning God who considers such fare their just desserts.

People get that idea because it's the picture painted of God by every false religion in the world. It's the picture of an angry God who is generally unhappy and must be appeased. A God who is displeased with people most of the time. Somehow that pagan concept has crept into the Church. It's convinced a great number of Christians that God is-at the very least-irritated with them. They believe that He's saved them and given them hope for the hereafter, and they're grateful for it. But they're not expecting Him to do much for them between now and then.

As a result, the majority of Christians need the same reassurance needed by people who are practically strangers to the Scriptures. First, they need to know that God is a good God. That He loves them and wants to do good things for them. In other words, they need to know that God wants to be, not their judge or their punisher, but their Papa.

Once we receive Jesus as Lord, God is our Papa, you know. According to the Bible, that's what our spirit calls Him. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). The Greek word *Abba* means "Daddy, or Papa."

I know something about that word, not because I'm a Greek scholar, but because I'm a grandfather and that's what my grandchildren call me. Nothing lights me up any more than being their Papa. I love it. In my grandchildren's eyes, Papa can do anything. He's master of the universe. He's a king (at least in his own mind) who delights in them and wants to bless them in every conceivable way.

Why am I like that? Why do we, as parents and grandparents, have such a deep-rooted desire to drench our children and grandchildren with goodness? Because we're made in God's image. We're created in the likeness of our heavenly Papa, and that's how He is. A Father who "daily loads us with benefits" (Psalm 68:19). He is a good God!

Here's the second thing I've found that believers everywhere need to know: God wants to be good to us, not just in the sweet by-and-by, but right here and now. If we put our faith in Him, good things can start happening in our lives today. Jesus left no doubt about it. He summed up His whole mission on earth—His reason for dying on the Cross and bearing mankind's sins—by saying: "My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." A rich and satisfying life. It's what we've all been hungry for; it's what Jesus came to give; and it's what the Bible promises us again and again in verses like these:

My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the Lord (Jeremiah 31:14, *New King James Version*).

He satisfies the longing soul,

and fills the hungry soul with goodness (Psalm 107:9, *NKJV*).

Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures (Psalm 36:7-8, *NKJV*).

With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation (Psalm 91:16, *NKJV*).

More than Just Longevity

God intends for our lives to be so satisfying in every way, so brimming with His bounty, that we become living illustrations of His favor and kindness. He plans for us, as believers, to be like billboards advertising His love and blessings. He wants a lost world to look at what He's done for us and say, "I want it!"

That's why crumbs don't satisfy us. God didn't design us to live on such a low level. He didn't create us to be mediocre or average. It's not in our divine DNA.

We're ordained by God to be spectacular. As Christians, we're part of His worldwide agenda to demonstrate the glory, greatness and goodness of Jesus. We're meant to be on display as showpieces of God's grace. We're made for victory, to stand in the authority of Jesus and conquer everything the kingdom of darkness throws at us.

Talk about a satisfying life! What could be better than a lifetime spent revealing the blessings of God given to mankind through the Lord Jesus Christ? Nothing! That's as good as it gets. And it's what we're called by God to do.

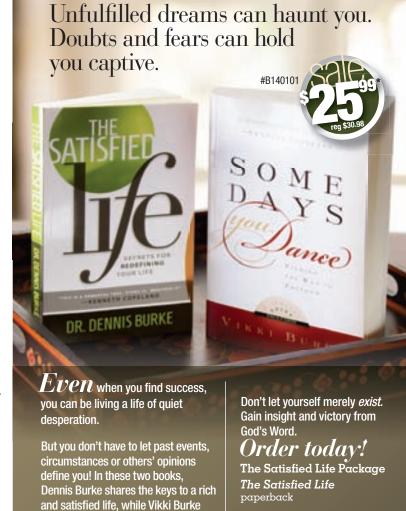
We all do it in different ways because God has a unique assignment for each one of us. Mine involves getting on an airplane every week and going somewhere to proclaim the gospel. Someone else's might involve selling cars or practicing law or landscaping lawns. The details of God's plan for us as individuals differ. But the purpose stays the same. We're here to show off the goodness

and salvation of God. That's our divine assignment. When we do it, our dissatisfaction disappears. Our stomach stops growling because we're not settling for bones anymore. We've gotten hold of the real thing.

Jesus said it this way, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

Now that's what I call a meal! **W**

This article was adapted from the book by Dennis Burke titled *The Satisfied Life.*Dennis Burke is internationally known as a Bible teacher and best-selling author. For more information or to order the book, see the ad below.



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I was reminded of them. It suddenly occurred to me that as much as I liked watching television curse free, there's something else I like even more.

I like living my whole life curse free!

I don't mean just living without having to listen to bad words. I mean living free from the curse that came on the earth through man's sin.

That curse is a miserable thing! Everything bad in the world is included in it: sickness, poverty, destruction, defeat and disasters of every kind. These are all manifestations of the curse.

Back before Ken and I got saved, we experienced a lot of those manifestations firsthand and, I can tell you, it was a drag! I wouldn't want to go back to those days for anything. No matter how hard we tried, we just couldn't get ahead. We were under pressure all the time. Something was always going wrong.

If the refrigerator worked, the car was broken. The bills would pile up and we had no money to pay them. The flu would hit, and because we didn't know any better, we'd just give in to it. We'd jump into our pajamas and head for bed thinking things like, *How long are you going to be with us this time, flu?*

Truth be told, we even lived that way for a while after we got saved. We thought it was normal. Like a lot of Christians, we assumed that because the curse came on the earth when Adam sinned, it was always going to be a part of our lives. We figured we just had to put up with it until we died and went to heaven.

But our attitude changed when we found out what the Bible says in Galatians 3:13-14: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit

through faith."

I'll never forget when the reality of those verses first started to dawn on Ken and me. We thought it was the best news we'd ever heard! We were thrilled to find out that Jesus not only stepped up to pay the price for our sins so that we could go to heaven someday, but that He bore the entire curse and every bad thing included in it on our behalf. He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sake and said to God, "I'll take their place, Father. I'll go to the Cross and deliver them from the curse so that they can live a curse-free life."

Step Into a Whole New Adventure

It's sad to say, but many Christians can hardly imagine living free from the curse. They've let the devil take advantage of them for so long, they can't picture what life would be like if they weren't perpetually afflicted with lack and sickness and defeat. When you tell them Jesus wants them to live a BLESSED life, they don't even know what that means.

Really, though, it's very simple. The curse is the penalty for man's disobedience. Just as the curse includes every bad thing (Deuteronomy 28:15-68), THE BLESSING includes everything good. It covers every area of life. Nothing is left out.

When you're walking in THE BLESSING, your body is healthy and strong. Your kids are doing well. You're prospering financially. Even your house and your car are blessed. As Deuteronomy 28:6 says, "Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed" (New Living Translation).

Of course, if you've never been born again you're not yet connected to THE BLESSING. You're still connected to the curse. But you can change that in an instant. All you have to do is give Jesus your heart and receive Him as your Lord and Savior. All it takes is one simple prayer.

Could it really be that easy? you might wonder.

Yes! I'm living proof of it. Back in 1962 I got born again by praying a prayer that was only one sentence long. I knew almost nothing about God at the time. But I was desperate. So when I came across the Bible Ken's mother had given him for his birthday, I looked up the scripture she'd written in the front. It was Matthew 6:33: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

I needed a lot of things added to me in those days so I decided to take God up on His offer. Responding to that little bit of scriptural light I said to Him, "Take my life and do something with it."

I had no idea how much difference that one little prayer was going to make. I certainly didn't expect God to do all the wonderful things He's done for me. But this is a fact: When you get in the will of God, life gets good—and giving your heart to Jesus is the first step into the will of God.

Once you've taken that step, a whole new adventure opens up to you. You can start reading the Bible and learning how to live curse free. You can begin to renew your mind so that you can cooperate with the ways of God and experience the fullness of THE BLESSING Jesus purchased for you.

"But Gloria," you might say, "I don't know how to do that!"

No problem. Just follow the instructions God gave in verses like these:

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life (Proverbs 4:10, 12-13).

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For

what a future!

All my life people told me the reason God saved us was so that when we got to glory, we could spend the rest of eternity loving Him and worshiping Him. But, you know, that's just not so.

It sounds pretty good, but it's just something someone made up. God isn't selfish. He's just the opposite. He's the ultimate giver. The ultimate lover. He doesn't do anything just so He can get something in return.

Why then did He save us? The Word of God tells us He did it so that in the ages to come, He could show us the exceeding riches of His grace.

Think about that! God is going to spend eternity showing the riches of His grace to you and me.

That's why He sent Jesus into the world. He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. God gave Jesus so that He wouldn't be His only son. He sent Jesus so He could have more sons to love and give to—and He plans to spend the eons of time doing just that.

As a believer, you have the most glorious future ahead of you that anyone could ever ask. But don't wait until you get to glory to enjoy it. You can start right now. You've already been seated!

[God] hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6-7

length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee (Proverbs 3:1-2).

The Hebrew word for *peace* means "nothing missing, nothing broken." It refers to a life that's good and satisfying in every way. That's the kind of life we all want and it's the kind we can have, if we'll pay attention to and obey God's Word

His Word is THE BLESSING book! It's the long-life and healing book. It's the prosperity book. It's the ultimate wisdom and success book. But you won't enjoy its benefits if you just leave it sitting unopened on the coffee table. It won't do you any good if you just carry it to church on Sunday morning and let it gather dust the rest of the week. To tap into the wonderful life the Word makes available, you must find out what it says about everything and obey it.

Reading your Bible every day is the best investment of your time you can make! So if you haven't already made it a habit, start now. Dig in and study what God has to say. Let Him speak to you through the Scriptures and instruct and correct you. Find out what He wants you to do in every area of your life, and then do it.

Study God's Word—the Bible, and do what it says. Obeying God's Word disarms the curse.

Don't Make This Mistake

I will warn you that some of the things you read in the Bible may not make sense to you at first. Take tithing, for example. A lot of people initially have trouble wrapping their minds around giving 10 percent of their income to God, especially when they're already running short of money as it is.

Ken and I understand that. Back when we first started tithing we had the same problem. In those days we had to use our faith just to buy groceries so it looked to us like we needed the 10 percent much more than God did.

What's more, our income was so small the tithe on it didn't amount to much. It was just a little dab. We couldn't figure out how God could do anything with it. But we decided to obey and give it to Him anyway, because we saw in the Bible that tithing is what BLESSED people do! It's what keeps us living free from the effects of the financial curse that is on this world.

Actually, the more Ken and I read in God's Word about tithing the more we realized we couldn't afford *not* to tithe.

"But tithing just doesn't fit into my budget right now," you might say. "I've looked at the numbers and I just can't see how it will work."

It doesn't matter what the numbers say, it matters what the Bible says! And the Bible makes it clear that if you're not tithing, you're making a mistake. You're disconnecting from God's BLESSING system and inviting the devil to come in and wreak economic havoc in your household.

Don't do that! Keep your finances curse free. GET GOD INVOLVED! Even if you don't yet understand how God can open the windows of heaven for you and "pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in" (Malachi 3:10, *NLT*), start tithing anyway.

Stop trying to figure out everything with your brain and follow the instructions in Proverbs 3:5-10:

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. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Ken and I have proven in our own lives that those verses are true. We've learned that if you'll depart from evil and be a tither, you'll pretty well have it made. You'll have a happy, healthy, prosperous life!

God Has Your Best Interest at Heart

I don't mean to imply, of course, that tithing is all there is to walking with the Lord. If we want to enjoy everything He has for us, we must trust Him in every area of life. We must act on what God says in verses like Psalm 34:8-10: "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."

The command "fear the Lord," used there isn't telling us we're supposed to be afraid of God. He loves us. He's our heavenly father. He's tender and compassionate. He doesn't want us to be frightened of Him. He simply wants us to honor and obey Him. He wants us to respect Him enough to do what He says.

Why?

Because He has our interest at heart. He knows better than we do what's best for us. Whatever God tells us to do in Scripture is for our good, our deliverance and our health. He doesn't write things down just to give us something to do. He knows what works and He wants us to be free and BLESSED all the time.

"But I haven't always obeyed God,"

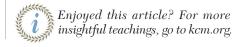
you might say. "In the past I've been rebellious and disobedient. I'm not sure I qualify for THE BLESSING because I've done things in my life that opened the door to the curse."

That's true of everyone. We all miss it at times, but when we do, we can repent and God will forgive us. He'll extend more grace to us and remove our sins from us as far as the east is from the west!

Remember that the next time you start getting sick or having financial trouble. When the devil tries to tell you that God is the source of your trouble, that He is punishing you because of something you did wrong, refuse to believe it. When the devil tells you that God is mad at you or that He doesn't love you anymore, remind him that God loves you so much He sent Jesus to give His life for you. Then open your Bible and read Psalm 103:

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. The love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments! (verses 8-11, 17-18, *NLT*).

Even if you haven't had a history of obeying God's Word in the past, you can make a change. You can determine right now to start reading your Bible and doing whatever it says. Today, you can get connected to Jesus, to His Word and to THE BLESSING.





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Through a New Year—Part 1

Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 6-10 Receive the Father's Love

Kenneth Copeland and Dennis Burke

Sun., Jan. 12 God's Wisdom to Steer

Through a New Year—Part 2

Kenneth Copeland

Jan, 13-17 The Book of Daniel—Part 1

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sun., Jan. 19 God Is Speaking His Plans to You

Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 20-24 The Book of Daniel—Part 2

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