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FAVOR

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digital issue

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Greg Green had lived much of his life facing failure after failure, including being released by the New York Knicks. But a chance meeting with Kenneth Copeland quickly turned his life around, and ushered him and his family into God's abundant favor.

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The Tent Anointing Is Back—Big Time!

by Kenneth Copeland

The miracle-working anointing from the past that great men of God walked in, is here again. This time, it will continue to grow until people will be talking about *Christian extremists* who are terrorizing the demons of hell—preaching the gospel, healing the sick, making the maimed whole and setting the captives free.

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“The best person in the world could be elected president of the United States and it wouldn’t do one bit of good if the people did not awaken to God.”

—Billye Brim

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From Failure to Favor

by Ronald C. Jordan

From his youth, Greg Green was a naturally talented basketball player. And while his father was proud of him, he tended to compare his son to others, which left Greg feeling like a failure—even after he was drafted onto an NBA team. A chance encounter with Brother Copeland began Greg’s healing journey and shaped his destiny.

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Remembering the Fourth of July

by David Barton

Celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks, festivities and parades. But also celebrate it by setting aside a time to thank God for His numerous blessings upon our country.

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Your Wealthy Place

by Gloria Copeland

If you’ll choose to seek God with all your heart and do what He teaches in His Word, you’ll see His promises fulfilled in your life. You’ll walk in honor, riches, glory, healing and prosperity.



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—Kenneth & Gloria

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'the Tent Anoi



by
**Kenneth
Copeland**

I'll never forget my first experience with what I call the *Tent Anointing*.

The year was 1967. I was a 30-year-old freshman at Oral Roberts University, working as a co-pilot flying Brother Roberts to his healing meetings...and I was standing next to him in a room full of the sickest people I'd ever seen. What I was supposed to do to help him that day had initially sounded simple.

nting IS BACK big time!"

I was assigned to the invalid tent, where the people were too sick or too weak to manage the crowds in the large tent. My job was to listen to Brother Roberts' message over the speakers, outline it, and then while we were waiting for him to come, I was to go back over the main message points and prepare the people to have hands laid on them for healing. When he arrived my first night in that job, I

finished my remarks and stepped back so he could lay hands on the people and pray.

At least, this is what I'd been told would happen.

As it turned out, however, Brother Roberts had a different plan. When he walked into the room, he caught me by the shoulder of my coat and said, "You're going to do the praying and you're going to lay hands on them."

Looking up at him, I felt all the color drain from my face. *What?* I thought. I'd never prayed for anyone in this kind of situation!

He saw my reaction and laughed. "Don't worry," he said. "If you make a mistake, I'll be right here. I'll fix it."

Then he added, "Don't touch them until you're ready to release your faith."

Unsure of exactly what that meant, I thought of what I'd been studying about the power and authority of the Name of Jesus. So I decided that would be the moment to release my faith. I would say, "In the Name of Jesus!" then I'd touch them.

The first woman I prayed for was lying on a little Army cot. Barely more than skin and bones, she weighed only 75 or 80 pounds and her stomach bulged with a cancerous tumor. She was too weak to even sit up so, when we came over to minister to her, the nurse who had come with her lifted her up onto her side a little.

I started to pray for her and say, "In the Name of Jesus," but before I could finish I heard a roar like the Lion of the tribe of Judah come from behind me. "You foul, unclean spirit, take your hands off of God's property!" Brother Roberts thundered.

With those words, an anointing swept into the room that literally took my breath away. It charged the atmosphere with God's power and right in front of my eyes that woman blew the tumor that had been growing in her belly out of her mouth and onto the floor. I'll never forget what

the thing looked like. It was about the size of my fist and had tentacles coming out of it. It looked to me like a jellyfish.

She jumped up from the cot and started running around the room screaming, "I'm healed! I'm healed!" while her nurse chased right behind her, afraid she was going to die any minute.

It was an astounding sight. But I soon realized, it was just the beginning! I saw one miracle after another that day, and many more meeting after



Oral Roberts and Kenneth, 1967

meeting, invalid room after invalid room!

I remember one young girl about 12 years old they'd brought in a wheelchair, strapped to a board, completely paralyzed. When we laid hands on her, Brother Roberts had preached that evening. "Even if you can't move anything but your little finger," he said, "start moving it in the Name of Jesus. Do something you couldn't do before."

Initially, all she could do was roll her eyes. So for a moment that's what she did. Then she started hollering, "Untie me! Untie me! Get me off of here! I'm healed!"

Her mother unbuckled her and she jumped off that board and took off around the room, running and shouting. When she did, almost everyone in the room jumped up and started running too.

The Dinner Bell of the Gospel

I was in three of the last four tent meetings Brother Roberts ever held. The anointing I experienced there—which I've come to understand over the years was the anointing of the New Testament evangelist—is the dinner bell of the gospel. When it begins to manifest people will come from all over the world to get in it.

After my experience with it in the invalid room, I encountered it again just a few weeks later in Cobo Hall in Detroit. Brother Roberts was holding a

series of healing meetings there and his associate evangelist, Bob DeWeese, was preaching the daytime services. Brother DeWeese was my boss at the time, and he came to me before one of the services and said, "Kenneth, there's no way we're going to get all these people prayed for without some help. So I'm going to set up a prayer line and let you pray for some of them."

This time I didn't flinch. *Oh yeah, let me at 'em!* I thought.

That afternoon I laid hands on about 500 people. My mother (who was a powerful woman of prayer) stood behind me praying for me the whole time. One woman in the line had a cancerous growth that had covered one side of her forehead and part of her eye. When I said, "In the Name of Jesus" and touched it—poof—it disappeared!

Mother gasped and said, "Where did it go?"

I didn't have any idea. I just knew it was gone.

As you can imagine, those experiences marked me for life. They left me with a permanent hunger to see the Body of Christ operating in that kind of anointing. Over the years, I've seen flashes of it now and again in my own ministry. One instance particularly stands out in my mind.

I was preaching in St. Louis many years ago in Kiel Auditorium and The LORD instructed me to invite people who needed healing to come up on the platform to receive prayer. I didn't usually lay hands on people up on the platform, but that day The LORD told me clearly, *I want it done where all the people in the congregation can see what's happening.*

A young woman in her mid-20s came up wearing steel braces from her neck, down her back, and all the way down her legs. After I laid hands on her, she initially just hobbled away. But after she'd gone about 15 feet, she sat down on the platform and started unbuckling her braces and pulling them off.

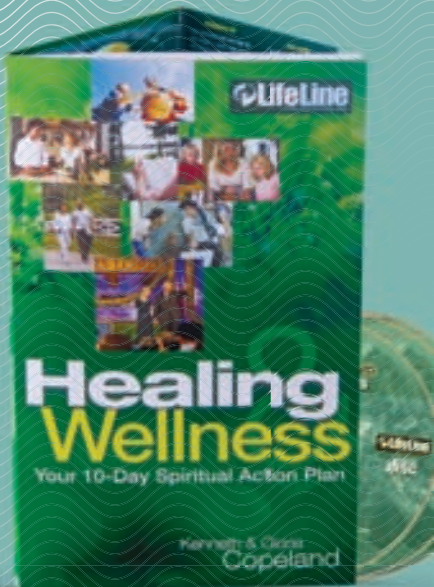
At first her legs were so weak from being harnessed in all that hardware that they were as limp as noodles. The best she could do was crawl around the platform on her hands and knees. She pushed herself over to the wall and pulled herself up. At my command, she took a step. Shaky and weak at first, but she came to me and we walked together. By the time she left the platform steps she was walking strong, and so thrilled about it she wouldn't stop.

I found out later she'd come to the meeting on a bus with a group of other people, and when it was time to leave she refused to get on the bus. She just kept walking around the parking lot with the bus creeping along beside her, just having a good time.

The next year, she came to the Southwest Believers' Convention and testified about her healing. She was wearing *very high heels!*

Thirty Five Years... Expecting

Over the years I've seen that kind of anointing in manifestation only on rare occasions—at least to the degree



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I experienced it in Brother Roberts' meetings. But early in 2014, while I was in Tennessee attending the 70th anniversary celebration of T.L. Lowery's ministry, something happened that put me on alert.

Before I tell you about it, I should explain that Brother Lowery is one of those great old warriors of faith who used to hold tent meetings back in the 1950s and '60s. He ministered primarily overseas and saw the same marvelous miracles in his ministry that were seen here in the U.S. in the ministries of men like Oral Roberts, A.A. Allen and Jack Coe. They were all preaching in tents in those days and the anointing was often so powerful that people would just walk into the tent and instantly get baptized in the Holy Spirit. Without anyone laying hands on them, they'd fall over on their backs and start speaking in other tongues.

I've always loved Brother Lowery dearly, so I was thrilled to be invited to his anniversary celebration. But when I arrived, I got an even greater thrill. When I walked into the room where the event was being held, I walked into that tent anointing. It was there!

The moment I sensed it, The LORD said to me, *The tent anointing is back*—big time.

Those words were still fresh in my heart last December when Gloria and I were sitting in our home in Colorado one Sunday morning. We'd taken some time off, as we always do during that month, to rest, pray and get ready for the coming year. For days we'd been preaching to one another and discussing the things that have been prophesied recently about 2015 being the year of the open door, a time of manifestations, visitations and demonstrations, and a year of the overcomer.

We had also been talking about what The LORD had said to me back in the 1970s. He told me when I'd first stepped onto the property at Eagle Mountain, where our ministry headquarters is located, that there would be an outpouring of the Holy

Spirit there. That at some point in the future, the healing glory of God would reside there and manifest on such a scale and in such unusual ways, that people would line up bumper to bumper to get onto that property and get healed.

Ever since The LORD said that to me some 40 years ago, I've been expecting it—and that Sunday morning in Colorado we saw it hit.

I turned on the television so Gloria and I could watch the church service at Eagle Mountain and, as my daughter Terri was receiving the Sunday morning offering, the glory of God came on her and she began to preach like those tent preachers. I knew exactly what it was! Then it hit the whole church and people began getting healed. The service that day went until after 2:00 in the afternoon because the power of God was in such manifestation people didn't want to leave.

As we were watching, The LORD said to me, *This is that! And it will continue and continue.* Then He told me to read Exodus 34:10: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you" (*New King James Version*).

When I read those words I knew exactly how to respond. I said, "Dear LORD, I enter this covenant with You, Sir. I receive it. I'll walk in it. I'm Your covenant partner in the blood of Jesus, so I take this as mine now!"

From that day until now, what began that Sunday morning has continued every Sunday since. It's been wonderful. But as good as it's been, the best is still to come because, just as The LORD told me, the anointing we've experienced is going to keep increasing—not only here at Eagle Mountain, but in churches everywhere that have committed themselves to God and are standing ready.

I've been in the ministry 48 years and I'm more expectant right now than I've ever been! In the very near future, there's coming a time when



Now,

the same kind of miracle-working anointing is here again.



the glory of God will come into services like a cloud. It will be so thick the people in the congregation won't be able to see one another. When it comes in, everyone in it will receive the miracles they need from God.

Right now we're just in the beginning of the outpouring that's been prophesied for years. The dinner bell of the gospel is ringing! As it continues to sound, louder and louder, not only will

the sick be healed, the maimed will be made whole, just like they were in Jesus' ministry (Matthew 15:31).

I've seen that happen. Back in the early days of my ministry I prayed for a little baby whose feet were twisted so severely that his toes touched the inside of his legs. When I took those tiny feet in my hands and said the Name of Jesus, I felt them turn and they popped perfectly into place.

Now, the same kind of miracle-working anointing is here again. This time, it will not wane. It will continue to grow until we, as believers, rise up as the supernatural Church of The LORD Jesus Christ and the world is saying about us what was said in Acts 17:6: "These who have turned the world upside down have come!" (NKJV).

Before this is over, instead of the news being dominated by *violent extremists*, people will be talking about *Christian extremists*. They'll be marveling over our extreme love, mercy and power. They'll be running to tents and churches and meeting places all over the world where, in the Name of Jesus, Christians are terrorizing the demons of hell—preaching the gospel with boldness, healing the sick, making the maimed whole and setting the captives free.

Big time! 📌



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Believers' Convention



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"There is no price too big, no effort too great, no job too hard for our God to reach our children," said Kenneth Copeland. "Whatever we must do, we are going to reach our kids."



Commander Kellie

Every day, we agree in prayer with parents who are longing for the moment when their children will encounter Jesus personally...and uncover a faith that's truly their own.

That's why we are inviting you to discover our kids' and youth services at this year's Southwest Believers'



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Our prayer for these services is simple: *We want your kids to meet Jesus in a very real way.*

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1-763-315-7000 | lwcc.org

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817-252-2900 | emic.org

Johnstown, Ohio : Sept. 5-6

Faith Life Church
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Forest Park, Ill. : Sept. 14

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1-512-484-7198 | abundantfaithchurch.org

Westminster, Colo. : Sept. 25-27

Family of Faith | 12161 N. Park Centre Drive
Westminster, CO 80234
1-303-465-4449 | fofbim.com

On June 29, 2008, the Lord interrupted our Sunday afternoon corporate prayer meeting here at Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks. We were praying about the then-upcoming elections. We were praying for America. We were praying for Israel and the nations.


The core of this group had been praying together for some time, so we were not surprised when we began to be lifted up in one accord. However, there was

something a bit unfamiliar about the place where we found ourselves in united prayer. Then came the interruption.

The Spirit of God came

an Awakening to God





Knowing the time,
that now it is high
time to awake out of
sleep: for now is our
salvation nearer than
when we believed.

Romans 13:11

on me with power I have known only a few times, and forcibly spoke these words through my lips: *One thing will save America; and it is not the election. It is an awakening to God. One thing will help Israel and the world. It is an awakening to God.*

We were silenced. Shaken. Rebuked.

Then Spirit-inspired thoughts raced through my mind. *The best person in the world could be elected president of the United States and it wouldn't do one bit of good if the people did not awaken to God. American history. The Great Awakening.*

The Lord told us to prepare ourselves and the people who would gather for our annual prayer meeting. We host an Autumn Assembly of Prayer at the end of October every year in Branson, Mo. From June 29 on, I knew the autumn prayer meeting would not have the anointing to pray about the U.S. elections that we'd known in previous meetings just before elections. Indeed as it came to pass, the Lord's Anointing to pray in that meeting rested on prayer for His breathing upon the embers within His Body until they burn with new fire, for the awakening of all that is preserved in us as nature preserves things in amber, and for a manifestation of His presence that will awaken the spiritually dead unto Himself.

More to Know About Awakenings

I vaguely knew about The Great Awakening, and

other "awakenings" of times past. But He led me in an intense study of those moves of God that history labels as awakenings. I was and am amazed at their impact.

In one resource, I found a comparison between *revival* and *awakening* that resonated with my soul: "A revival can be described as 'a visitation of God's Spirit on God's people.' But an awakening is 'a time of such intense visitation by God that both the Christian and non-Christian communities are affected.' An awakening is considered to be the effect of a revival on the community at large, including those who are outside the Christian faith. While revivals alter the lives of individuals, awakenings alter the worldview of a whole people or culture."

That is what happened in The Great Awakening that resulted in the birth of the United States of America. A Harvard professor said that one cannot understand the Colonial society that brought forth the Declaration of Independence and the United States of America without a study of The Great Awakening.

God used preachers. Jonathan Edwards was a pastor who read his sermons in a monotone as he stared at the back wall. George Whitefield was a golden-voiced itinerant preacher who traversed the separated Colonies by horseback and canoe, preaching the new birth, and his dream of one nation under God. Through the ministry of these preachers and others,

**One thing will
save America;
and it is not the
election. It is an
awakening to
God. One thing
will help Israel
and the world. It
is an awakening
to God.**

multitudes of individuals were changed, the Colonists were united in an awakening to God and a nation was born out of it!

Not only was this nation born out of The Great Awakening, but also it has been preserved in times of crisis by awakenings to God. I am convinced the awakening from 1857-1859 preserved the nation through the Civil War.

I have studied the awakenings in many books and resources, both Christian and secular, and a few in particular have impacted me. For those who would like to know more about these historical moves of God, and understand how the awakenings have affected the nations of the world, I recommend you read *Ireland's Lost Heritage* by David Carnduff, Th.M.; *Revival Fire* by Wesley L. Duewel; *2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity* by Eddie L. Hyatt; and *The*

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Light and the Glory by Peter Marshall and David Manuel. *George Whitefield and the Great Awakening* by John Pollock is out of print, but you can find it online.

Any study you invest into the awakenings will be of great benefit as the days ahead unfold. And along with your study, your prayer for these days is vital.

Key to Every Awakening

The key to every awakening is prayer.

Of Jonathan Edwards it has been said, "His preaching derived its power from his prayer life. He would spend whole days and weeks in prayer, and it was not unusual for him to spend eighteen hours in prayer prior to preaching a single sermon."

What does prayer do? It makes power available—effectual in its working (James 5:16). For Edwards, and other fervent pray-ers throughout the ages, the result has been revivals—indeed, awakenings that transformed the moral and spiritual character of not only their own community but also that of entire nations.

The 1857-1859 Awakening in America was known as the revival of the United Prayer Meetings. It resulted in an awesome sense of God's presence across America. And 2 million of the 30 million people in the nation were won to Christ. In 1859, Northern Ireland knew an outpouring of God's Spirit that swept 100,000 people into the kingdom of God in one year.

These simultaneous awakenings began with prayer meetings, which started on both sides of the Atlantic on the exact same date. On Sept. 23, 1857, Jeremiah Lanphier began a prayer meeting in The North Reformed Dutch Church near where the Twin Towers stood in New York City. On that same date, four, young Irishmen, new to the faith, in a rural schoolhouse in Kells, began to pray for God to pour out His Spirit. Neither knew of the other prayer meeting.

Today, the importance of effectual, fervent prayer is crucial. As individuals and groups of believers gather specifically to hold their nations before the Lord, we expect the outpouring of

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what's up?



the next Great Awakening.

As I think back through the days of our ministry, I am moved by the responsibility the Lord has given us in this generation to pray.

In 1981 the word of the Lord came to me saying, *It is your job to help the pray-ers.* And in 1985, Brother Phillip Halverson reminded me, "Never forget, your No. 1 call is to help the pray-ers." In 1995 the Lord directed me to go to Branson, Mo., and establish a place of prayer. As impossible as it seemed then we now have such a place. Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks was born and is functioning as He wills and provides.

Prayer Mountain is a place for individuals to come and pray, and for corporate gatherings of pray-ers. Our God-given purpose for this place of prayer is twofold—to pray in the plans of God and to stop the strategies of the enemy. Every Sunday at 3 p.m. people join us from various churches for corporate prayer.

It was in that very prayer meeting, on June 29, 2008, that the Lord spoke to us about "the only thing that would save America—an awakening to God."

This mandate is now the focus of a special noontime prayer group. We have set aside one hour every Wednesday, from noon until 1 p.m. CT, to pray. People from all over the world are uniting in God's call to prayer at that time. We stream the prayer time live over the Internet at billyebirim.org. Individuals and prayer groups in 60 countries have joined us in prayer for an awakening. Many attest to the power they "feel" in our united prayer.

The call 'to help the pray-ers' that the Lord has given me is humbling. But with what has happened since June 29, 2008, there has come a gift of faith to expect an awakening to God for my nation, for Israel and for our world! For God is calling us to pray! 🙏

What's up, Superkid?
Really, I mean it. What's up?
Stop what you are doing right now and look around you.
What's going on in your world?

Let's play a game.
Take a look at the list of words below, and then check the ones that best describe your life:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| ● Happy | ● Hard |
| ● Adventurous | ● Quiet |
| ● Bored | ● Fun |
| ● Busy | ● Fearful |
| ● Exciting | ● Sad |
| ● Angry | ● Successful |
| ● Easy | ● Awesome |
| ● Lonely | ● Hurt |
| ● Joyous | ● Creative |

Now, take a good look at the words you chose.

What do you think made you pick them? If you could live a different life, would you? What would it be like to just suddenly be someone else?

I'll be honest with you, Superkid. At one time or another I have felt ALL those feelings. You probably have, too! That's a roller coaster, and sometimes not a fun one!

But guess what? All these are CHOICES!

That's what I really want to talk to you about this month—your choices.

Every choice you make is building your moments, your day, your year, your life. It may seem that some are not choices, like whether your life is easy or hard. Things that HAPPEN may not be your choice, but how you SEE those things, and how you REACT to them are. And more importantly, whom you choose to look to for answers, for help and to tell you

what to do or how to REACT.

Look at John 8:12, *The Message*. Jesus is speaking to the people and religious leaders: "Jesus once again addressed them: 'I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in.'"

Think about what is happening here, Superkid. Jesus tells them they can just follow Him and have plenty of light for their life. No stumbling, no goof ups. In other words, nothing they and Jesus couldn't fix.

This was good news! Were they excited about this great deal? Let's see: "The Pharisees objected, 'All we have is your word on this. We need more than this to go on'" (verse 13).

What? Wait a minute! "All we have is your word on this"? What else could they need? This is Jesus! Son of God! Miracle Worker! What He said should have made them HAPPY! JOYOUS! ADVENTUROUS! But it didn't because they needed more than His Word. They CHOSE not to trust Jesus, and instead CHOSE to need more. More what? More proof. They wanted to SEE the proof that He was sent to help them. They wanted more than His Word to believe in. Jesus said to them in verse 14: "You're right that you only have my word. But you can depend on it being true."

He talked to them about who He was and why He had

come, but they made a CHOICE to not believe. Then Jesus said in verses 23-24: "You're tied down to the mundane; I'm in touch with what is beyond your horizons. You live in terms of what you see and touch. I'm living on other terms. I told you that you were missing God in all this. You're at a dead end. If you won't believe I am who I say I am, you're at the dead end of sins. You're missing God in your lives."

Wow! They were tied down to the mundane. That's another way of saying BORING! Jesus told them they were tied down to what they could see, touch or do without His light. And, He said they were missing God! That's quite a statement and it's exactly the way people end up HURT, ANGRY, SAD, FEARFUL and LONELY.

See where I am going with this?

When we choose to believe and take Jesus at His Word, exciting things happen, like miracles and adventures. Most importantly, we begin to view life and circumstances through His promises, His light and His answers! Instead of missing God in our lives we are living in His light, depending on His Word. He said it Himself, Superkid. You can trust Him.

Now, look at that list again. Don't look at what is going on around you, but look at the list through the LIGHT that Jesus shines on your life. What does HE want in your life? Instead of checking the ones you see around you, CHOOSE what Jesus chose to give you: Happiness, Joy, Peace, Adventure and all around awesome!

Superkid, you CAN live another life. You aren't tied down to the mundane or boring. You are FREE. Free to choose to let go of what you see and touch, and free to believe in the life Jesus has for you. THAT'S what's up! 🍎

About

Billye Brim is the president and founder of Billye Brim Ministries aka Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks. For ministry materials and information visit her website at billyebirim.org.

About

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.



From Failure to

FAVOR

Growing up in southern Louisiana, ***Greg G. Green*** didn't have to work hard at becoming a star athlete in basketball. It was something that came naturally. From the time he first took interest in the sport in third grade, all the way through high school and into college, it was obvious to almost everyone who saw him play that this kid had something special.

by
*Ronald C.
Jordan*

To call that “something” a gift from God may have been a stretch, since his family was not religious. But anyone who watched this skilled youngster from Baton Rouge handle a basketball could see that he was talented.

Looking back, Greg is quick to acknowledge God’s presence in his life—that His hand was on him even as a child. Greg also knows the Lord had a plan for his life and that, while that plan may not have involved a career in basketball, it would require his learning to apply at least one of the same disciplines—dealing with failure.

“I didn’t grow up in a Christian home,” said Greg, who was one of six boys and three girls born to James W. “Penu” and Ruby Green. “But we loved one another. We were a close-knit family, and my parents did the best they could with the knowledge they had.”

Though his relationship with his father was good in most respects, especially sports, Greg knew very little about his dad’s military life.

“In later years, I learned of my father’s role in the military, but he never talked about it,” Greg said. “I believe he was profoundly affected by his military service in World War II. Even though he struggled, I do know that he provided for us the best he could.”

Greg had heard stories about his father’s athletic prowess, like the one told by legendary coach Eddie Robinson of how Penu Green made a winning touchdown, catching the football behind his back!

“After the game they made up a cheer that went: ‘One big cheer for the football team, and three big cheers for Penu Green,’” Greg said.

Everyone in the neighborhood knew that as a child, Greg was a very good basketball player, and many encouraged him to try out for the junior-high and high-school teams,

which he did. “They called me ‘Pop’ Green, because I was known for always ‘popping’ the nets [making shots].” The nickname actually originated with Greg’s dad, who called his son “Pop” because of his affinity for the cereal “Rice Krispies.” Three cartoon mascots associated with the crisped-rice cereal are named, Snap, Crackle and Pop, explains Greg.

“When I started playing basketball, the name just fit,” he said.

James Green died in 1974, when Greg was 17 and a senior in high school. In the years to follow, the absence of his father would have a major effect on Greg.

The First of Many Nails

Though Greg knows his father was inwardly proud of his accomplishments during his early years playing basketball, the elder Green had difficulty relating those feelings to his son. In fact, it was words his father once spoke to him that would follow Greg for years to come—causing him to carry a failure mentality.

One day after returning home from school, Greg fell asleep while waiting to head out to play in an evening basketball game. When he woke up, it was clear that he would be late to the game. Instead of encouraging his son to press to get to the game on time, Greg’s dad started comparing him to other players on the team.

“You should be like this person. He’s going to be a success,” Greg recalled his dad saying. “You see this person right here, they’re going to make it.”

“I realize now that he meant well, and was just trying to help me to be more responsible,” says Greg, “but those words were like a nail in the coffin. They became a seed that caused me to feel rejection. I began to see myself as a failure.”

That wouldn’t be the only “nail” Greg would encounter.

During junior high and most of his senior-high-school years, he was a starter on the team and experienced great success. “It was in my senior year of high school that I found myself sitting on the end of the bench,” Greg recalled. “Even though I had the talent, for some reason I wasn’t put in

the game. I felt held back—rejected! I saw that as another nail in the coffin.

“When the team was losing, or the crowd was yelling, ‘We want Pop,’ the coach would put me in the game,” Greg said.

His senior year in high school, Greg received a basketball scholarship to Southern University in Baton Rouge. Ironically, at the same time Greg transitioned to college, his high-school coach took a job at the same school. And the rejection continued.

It would be years later, during a chance meeting with one of his former assistant coaches, that Greg would learn the real reason for the ill treatment he received.

“This man told me it was all because my coach was jealous of my popularity,” said Greg. “I could not believe it. I wanted to ask, ‘Didn’t he understand that all my playing ability was for his benefit as a coach? Did he not understand that?’

“I thought about the Bible story of Saul and David and how the people were yelling, ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’ Saul was so fixated with jealousy over David that he didn’t realize David was killing his (Saul’s) enemies. That spirit got ahold of Saul and he became jealous and envious of David’s popularity.

“Finally, I realized what had happened was a spirit—a curse in operation—and that same spirit had dogged me through this one man. I knew I wasn’t rebellious, and that I did everything he asked me to do. Yet he would never truly acknowledge my talent. All these things just gave more validity to the words my dad had spoken to me years before. They represented one failure after the next, and I carried that for a long time.”

One Final Nail!

In 1978, Greg was drafted by the New York Knicks of the NBA. Although it appeared he had finally attained success, that the rejection and all that came with it was over, Greg would quickly discover that was not the case. Despite being in the NBA, doing what he loved most and enjoying all the things that came with



Mandy and Greg Green.

JULY

		Old Testament	New Testament
Wed	1	2 Chr. 14-15	Heb. 4
Thu	2	2 Chr. 16-18	Heb. 5-6
Fri	3	2 Chr. 19-20	Heb. 7
Sat	4	2 Chr. 21-22	Heb. 8
Sun	5	2 Chr. 23-24	Heb. 9
Mon	6	2 Chr. 25-26	Heb. 10
Tue	7	2 Chr. 27-28	Heb. 11
Wed	8	2 Chr. 29-30	Heb. 12
Thu	9	2 Chr. 31-33	Heb. 13; Jas. 1
Fri	10	2 Chr. 34-35	Jas. 2
Sat	11	2 Chr. 36; Ezr. 1	Jas. 3
Sun	12	Ezr. 2-3	Jas. 4
Mon	13	Ezr. 4-5	Jas. 5
Tue	14	Ezr. 6-7	1 Pet. 1
Wed	15	Ezr. 8-9	1 Pet. 2
Thu	16	Ezr. 10; Neh. 1-2	1 Pet. 3-4
Fri	17	Neh. 3-4	1 Pet. 5
Sat	18	Neh. 5-6	2 Pet. 1
Sun	19	Neh. 7-8	2 Pet. 2
Mon	20	Neh. 9-10	2 Pet. 3
Tue	21	Neh. 11-12	1 Jn. 1
Wed	22	Neh. 13; Est. 1	1 Jn. 2
Thu	23	Est. 2-4	1 Jn. 3-4
Fri	24	Est. 5-6	1 Jn. 5
Sat	25	Est. 7-8	2 Jn.
Sun	26	Est. 9-10	3 Jn.
Mon	27	Job 1-2	Jude
Tue	28	Job 3-4	Rev. 1
Wed	29	Job 5-6	Rev. 2
Thu	30	Job 7-9	Rev. 3
Fri	31	Job 10-11	Rev. 4

this newfound popularity, it didn't fill the emptiness Greg was feeling inside.

"Here I am playing with the New York Knicks," Greg recalls. "We're in preseason and I'm the first one they call off the bench. In one game against the Boston Celtics, I scored almost 16 points in no time at all. The announcers were saying things like, 'This guy is going to take somebody's place.' The crowds were going wild. Kids were running out on the court getting autographs. I thought, *Hey, I've finally got it made now.*"

But deep down inside, Greg knew he hadn't made it.

At the end of the preseason, Greg was released by the team.

"They said it had nothing to do with my talent," Greg recalled. "They told me, 'It's because we need more diversity on the team.'"

"At that point, I heard those words again: *Nail in the coffin.* Though I had all the potential, all the talent, by human standards I wasn't good enough. I was still a failure. This thing just continued to follow me.

"I found myself in the same place I was after my father passed—in transition but with no sure direction," said Greg. "It was then that I realized the magnitude of the impact my father's death had on me, both mentally and emotionally. I also realized I was looking for acceptance, affirmation and approval in all the wrong places, including spending time in clubs."

After returning home to Louisiana, Greg met a young woman with whom he hoped to strike up a relationship. He was surprised when she told him, "You don't need a woman; you need Jesus!"

"Then she began to witness to me about the love of God," Greg remembers. Soon after that encounter, he became born again.

A Void Is Filled and Jesus Nails It

"I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and for the first time in my life the void was filled and the emptiness was gone," said Greg. "I knew I had been accepted, affirmed and approved by God and I could hear the whisper of the Holy Spirit saying, *You are no longer alone.*" Three years later, in 1986, Greg came across a book by Kenneth E. Hagin titled *The Ministry of a Prophet*. Inspired by what he had read, he decided

to enroll at Brother Hagin's Rhema Bible Training Center in Tulsa, Okla. In 1988, Greg graduated from Rhema and a year later, while ministering at a church in Lafayette, La., met Mandy Wilturner. The two were married the following year.

"During the first five years of our marriage there were many arguments and unforgiveness that created strife," Greg volunteers. "Because of that, we were on the verge of divorce."

But God had a different plan for them, and their marriage.

"One day Mandy and I were engaged in a heated argument when the Lord got right in the middle and began to speak to me concerning His calling on our lives," Greg said. "He said, *I am not pleased with marriages in the Body of Christ.*"

"Then He said, *My people have taken My covenant, and made it common.*"

"I didn't understand what He meant, but the Lord reminded me of Acts 10:28, where Peter said: 'Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.'"

"The marriage union has been cleansed and set aside by God. The common factor must be removed so that the weight and value of our marriage can be honored through our covenant relationship," Greg said. "As I began to apply the revelation in my own marriage, I realized God was developing the ministry He was calling us to."

In 2004, Greg and Mandy launched Dominion Covenant Marriage Ministry and began teaching on marriage. Only two people showed up at their first meeting; the next few weeks there were 30 people. The following weeks the numbers had grown so large they rented space in a hotel.

Soon afterward, Greg heard the Lord say: *Now I'm going to send you out locally and abroad, and give you favor with pastors.*

"We never called one ministry to ask if we could come and minister," Greg recalled. "But with God's favor, doors were opening. Mandy and I made a commitment to always be led by the Holy Spirit and to stay committed to a local church and to proper authority. It was also my desire to be under the headship of a spiritual father for

accountability in ministry.”

Greg took his request to the Lord in prayer, and soon after he heard the Lord say, *Elijah and Elisha. Go see Brother Hagin.* Not knowing exactly what the Lord meant, Greg traveled to Tulsa to attend the 2003 Winter Bible Seminar at Rhema. Suddenly, Kenneth E. Hagin and an usher came down the same hallway where I was standing waiting on a friend. He stopped and stared at me while I stared at him. I knew this appointment was divinely orchestrated. In that moment, I knew what I was to do and say, yet failed to do it. Then, in September of that year, Brother Hagin went home to be with the Lord.

“I repented and asked God’s forgiveness, and then I asked Him to give me another chance.”

Second Chance, New Beginning!

In 2006, Mandy had been praying about a spiritual father for her husband when she heard the Lord ask, *What about you? Wouldn’t you like to be like Gloria Copeland?*

“Well, yes!” Mandy responded.

From that point, Mandy began listening to Gloria Copeland’s teachings online. Several months later, she was on the ministry’s website when she saw that Brother Copeland was scheduled to speak at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, also known as Angola.

“Having served as a chaplain there for seven years, we were granted permission to attend the meeting, which was closed to the public,” said Greg. After the meeting ended, Greg and Mandy saw Brother Copeland in the parking lot and decided to speak.

“As we approached, Brother Copeland looked up at me, looked away and then looked back at me again,” Greg recalls. “Then, he came up and greeted me and said: ‘The same anointing that is on my life, marriage and ministry be upon you this day.’”

With that, Brother Copeland got into the car and left.

Surprised by what had just happened, Greg gathered his senses and proceeded on to the prison warden’s home for a visit.

“To my surprise, I walked Brother

Copeland,” Greg said. “This time, Brother Copeland invited me to attend the upcoming Southwest Believers’ Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. When I didn’t respond immediately, he asked me a second time. Then, before I could respond, he pointed a finger at me and said, ‘I’m telling you I want you to come to the Southwest Believers’ Convention. And I don’t care if you have to stand up on a chair to get my attention, I want to know you are there.’”

Greg’s response was clear and direct: “Yes, sir, I will be there.”

In July 2007, Greg and Mandy Green drove from Louisiana to Fort Worth to attend their first Southwest Believers’ Convention. Admittedly, at the first meeting that morning they sat near the back of the auditorium. But during the evening session, Greg moved near the front.

“I can remember thinking if I stood up on the chair and yelled, ‘Brother Copeland, I’m here,’ I could see all the ushers carrying me out of the building,” said Greg. “But, I knew the words he spoke to me were orders from God, and I did not want to disobey them.”

Instead, Greg caught the attention of an usher and told him about Brother Copeland’s instructions.

“He said Brother Copeland didn’t usually see anyone during the time he ministers, but instructed me to sit in the same seat the next day in case Brother Copeland wanted to see me,” Greg recalled. After service the next day, Greg and Mandy were escorted backstage to meet with Brother Copeland, who prayed with them.

Two years later, the Lord instructed Greg to fly to Fayetteville, N.C., to attend another KCM meeting—the Word Explosion. When the meeting ended, Greg was again taken backstage to meet with Brother Copeland. This time, Greg shared with him what the Lord had instructed him to say to Kenneth Hagin, and how he failed to obey that instruction.

“This time, he prayed for me and then said, ‘I make myself your spiritual father.’ Then he told me: ‘You will never fail again. It will never happen again.’”

“*We are preparing for the largest, most unusual gathering of souls into the kingdom of God in the history of mankind,* and we are preparing the message that will explode throughout this earth and cause men to come to the foot of that Cross and come to the glory of His resurrection and walk in the kingdom of God, kings and priests along with their King and their Priest,’ thus saith The LORD.

—Kenneth Copeland*

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*Prophecy delivered by Kenneth Copeland on Feb. 5, during taping of the April 15 edition of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast.

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Little did Brother Copeland know that a spirit of failure had haunted Greg Green for the better part of his life. But through those words, God had confirmed for Greg that He had removed that spirit of failure and replaced it with His abundant favor.

"Being a Partner and new spiritual son to Kenneth and Gloria Copeland has helped shape the destiny God has ordained for my wife and me in our life, marriage and ministry," said Greg. "We consider it an honor and privilege to be connected with Kenneth Copeland Ministries. We realize that through this partnership, the blessings, the anointing and the grace that is on their lives is being imparted to us."

In recent years, Greg has come to better understand his father, and why those words spoken many years ago seemed more critical than encouraging. It began in 2012, when his 15-year-old son, Aaron, and 12-year-old daughter, Desiree, started asking questions about their grandfather.

When Greg, Mandy and the children visited James Green's gravesite, which is only about 10 minutes from their home in Baker, La., Greg was surprised at what he saw engraved on the headstone: James W. Green Jr., Cpl., U.S. Marines.

"I knew my father had served in the military, but I did not know he was a Marine," said Greg. "His military service was just something he never talked about."

Driven to the Internet to do further research, Greg and Mandy soon learned

that, as part of an elite, all-black military platoon known as the Montford Point Marines, James W. Green was a war hero. According to historical records, this group of men not only played a significant role in the integration of the Marines, but was very instrumental in fighting the war.

From 1942 to 1949, over 20,000 men received basic training at the segregated Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, N.C. Most black units served as support or guard units, but some, like James Green's Platoon 279, saw actual combat. Unlike the famed Tuskegee Airmen or the Buffalo Soldiers, however, the historic actions of the Montford Point Marines had gone unnoticed and was not made public until June 2012, when the group was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor.

In October 2013, on what would have been James Green's 97th birthday, Ruby Green accepted the medal, in honor of her husband and on behalf of her family, during a special ceremony that was held in Louisiana.

Today, Greg Green looks back on that day, and the years leading up to it, not only with a sense of pride in his father, but also a better understanding of his own life. "I am so thankful to the Lord for His grace and favor, which have established an outpouring of restoration in our lives.

"I salute my father today," says Greg. "I honor him, and I thank God for him and for the rich legacy that was left to our family. Three cheers for 'Penu' Green." 🎉

Not Cancerous!

I had a lump in my breast and I phoned KCM for prayer. My results showed it was not cancerous. Hallelujah, praise God and thank you, KCM prayer partners!

Patricia R. | Canada

'God Gave Me My Job'

Thanks to your magazine I got my job. In 2013 Gloria wrote: "If you have lost your job you can believe God about a new one and say: 'Lord, according to Your Word those who trust You lack no good. And a job is good. So I am not going to worry about it. I know that You have a wonderful job for me. I believe that I receive my perfect job right now, in the Name of Jesus.'"

Although I didn't know where to look for the job and what to do, I repeated the words of that prayer over and over. God gave me my job, right near my house. Thank you for your magazine, I am always looking forward to reading it.

L.G. | Russia

'God Answered'

I attended the convention last year when Jerry Savelle preached on the top three expectations. My No. 1 was for a spouse and God answered! C.K. | USA

GoodNewsGazette

"There is one body, and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:4-6

Victory Over Wrongful Dismissal

I had requested prayer regarding wrongful dismissal. Our God is victorious—the dismissal was quashed. Reference letter and apology was given and compensation also. At that time we were down to nothing. Power was due to be cut off and three vehicles not registered. We kept confessing the Word. Then the bank reverted their overdue charges, and

we received favour with creditors. I am also happy to sow into my partnerships. Thank you for your ministry and prayers. I need to say that I know if God had not taken me to Southwest Believers' Conference and given me the opportunity to hear the Word and see the manifestation of His love for me, I do not know if I could have walked this out. I appreciate you all very much and love you in Christ.

M.N. | New Zealand

Judge Ruled in His Favor

I was born again 10 months ago, was being deported to Mexico and had no chances of staying with my family in this country. When I arrived to the detention center in Miami, I asked God to give me another chance; in exchange I told Him I would take His Word to many people.

While I was in my final court, I felt in my spirit a power that was intense and irresistible. Both the presiding judge and the prosecutor could not say anything against me, and granted me permission to stay in the United States.

I could not believe the words! The guards who were with me asked if I believed in God. I answered: "Praise the Lord!" They hugged me and said this was a miracle, since only about one in 100 cases like mine the judge grants permission to stay.

Today I want to thank God for what He has done for me and I want to keep studying His Word. Blessings to you all in KCM, and thanks for sending me the *From Faith to Faith* devotional while I was in prison, it has helped me a lot. May God bless you always!

I.S. | Florida



Watch Online
bvov.tv

Now Walking Without a Cane!

Praise the Lord! On Thursday, July 3, when Bill Winston said God had new body parts (even in the brain) I took it and said God can and will remove scar tissue from my brain. For years I had to use a cane to walk, and in the last few months I couldn't walk without it. But praise God I put that cane down on Thursday and I did not have to use it again for over a month! I now use it once in a while when I'm walking long distances. God is good! Margo H. | Canada

The Prayer of Agreement Works

How can I ever thank you, so much, for the wonderful prayer of agreement you made with me regarding the lump found in my left breast. I went for a specialist appointment and he referred me for a further ultrasound and biopsy. The room was all set up—ultrasound machine, pathologist with her microscope and other analytical equipment, computer screen showing the

black mass lump and, of course, radiographer making the examination.

Well he found **nothing** and called in the specialist radiologist doctor who said the same thing: "There's nothing here for me to work with!" Praise God, all I could do from the examination bed was exclaim, "Amen!" to everything they said. These two confused doctors kept looking at the evidence on the computer, and

the complete lack of evidence on the ultrasound screen. My eyes were all welled up with tears of joy for a miracle healing. I went home needing nothing to be done.

I had another ultrasound round about three months later...the ultrasound was just as expected—ALL CLEAR. Thank you for your prayers. Prayer of agreement—it works!

Ann A. | Australia

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Nancy H. | New Jersey

salvation prayer

If you do not know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith, and Jesus will be your Lord!

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

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

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by
David
Barton

REMEMBERING THE FOURTH OF JULY—



This Fourth of July America celebrates its 239th birthday!

The Fourth of July is one of our most-celebrated holidays, a fact confirmed by a very elderly John Quincy Adams in a speech he delivered July 4, 1837—America's 61st birthday.

America's Day of Deliverance

John Quincy Adams properly reminded the crowd that one of the most important elements of the American movement for independence had been its spiritual underpinnings. He asked:

Why is it that, next to the birthday of the Savior of

the World, our most joyous and most venerated festival occurs on this day? And why is it that...thousands and tens of thousands among us...year after year...celebrat[e] the birthday of the nation? Is it not that...the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with

the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of



human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?

The fact that there was a spiritual emphasis at the birth of the nation was confirmed by numerous others. For example, Benjamin Kent, in a letter to Samuel Adams, declared: "It is God's doing!"

So clearly did John Adams see God's hand in America's independence, he even believed that to help America achieve her independence was the single reason God had created him. As he told his wife, Abigail: "The Colonies must be declared free and independent States.... When these things shall be once well finished, or in a way of being so, I shall think that I have answered the end of my creation."

In a similar tone, John Page (later a Virginia governor) told Thomas Jefferson, "I am highly pleased with your Declaration. God preserve the United States! We know the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong (Ecclesiastes 9:11). Do you not think an angel rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm?"

Yet, declaring independence was only the beginning. Much sacrifice, patience and reliance on God would still be required. As signer of the declaration, Abraham Clark explained: "This seems now to be[gin] a trying season; but that indulgent Father who hath hitherto preserved us will, I trust, appear for our help, and prevent our being crushed; if otherwise, His will be done."

Our founders knew that without God's help—or, as they announced in the declaration itself—"a firm reliance on...divine Providence"—they would never achieve their objective.

While we celebrate our liberties this year, let us not forget that those liberties came only through great, personal sacrifice: Nine of the 56 signers of the declaration died during the war. Five were captured by the British and

"A holy faith burned in the spirits and guided the actions of all those who set in motion the establishment of these United States of America. Their own words bear testimony to this truth. And it is no accident that in the few words chosen to declare independence on that summer morning, the Name of Almighty God appears as testimony to the faith of our fathers."

Kenneth Copeland

tortured before their deaths. Twelve had their homes destroyed by British troops, and three lost their sons to the enemy. Such sacrifices remind us that liberty is never free—every generation must defend it anew.

The possibility that we might forget the sacrifices necessary to preserve liberty was something which troubled our founders. This was made clear in a letter from Dr. Benjamin Rush to John Adams after witnessing the celebration surrounding America's 35th birthday in 1811. Dr. Rush told Mr. Adams:

The 4th of July has been celebrated in Philadelphia in the manner I expected. The military men, and particularly one of them, ran away with all the glory of the day. But scarcely a word was said of the solicitude and labors and fears and sorrows and sleepless nights of the men who projected, proposed, defended, and subscribed [signed] the Declaration of Independence. Do you recollect your memorable

speech upon the day on which the vote was taken? Do you recollect the pensive and awful silence which pervaded the House when we were called up, one after another, to the table of the President of Congress [John Hancock] to subscribe what was believed by many at that time to be our own death warrants?...

While we should remember the sacrifices, it is more important that we remember the proper manner to celebrate the Fourth of July. What is the proper manner? The answer was given in a letter John Adams wrote to Abigail on the day they approved the declaration. He forecast: "I am apt to believe that [this day] will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the 'Day of Deliverance' by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty!"

Celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks, festivities and parades. But also celebrate it by setting aside a time to thank God for His numerous blessings upon our country. 🇺🇸

About

David Barton, nationally known author and public speaker, is the founder and president of WallBuilders, a pro-family organization which seeks to educate grassroots society to rebuild America's constitutional, moral and religious foundations. For more information go to wallbuilders.com; call 1-817-441-6044; or write to WallBuilders, P.O. Box 397, Aledo, TX 76008-0397.

A photograph of a man and a woman rowing a blue boat on a calm lake. The man, wearing a light blue shirt and a straw hat, is at the stern, smiling and holding an oar. The woman, with her hair in a ponytail and wearing a light-colored top, is at the bow, also holding an oar. The water is still, reflecting the warm, golden light of the setting or rising sun. In the background, there are dense green trees and a rope barrier along the shore.

your **Wealthy** *place*

by Gloria Copeland

Of all the things I love about God (and there are a lot of them) one of my favorites is this: He always has a plan. He doesn't just wait for things to happen and then decide what to do. He always knows what's coming and makes preparations in advance.



That's especially true when it comes to His children.

He knew us, loved us and chose us to be His own "before the foundation of the world" (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4). He designed a plan and a destiny for each one of us, and provided in advance every good thing we could ever need or desire.

Ephesians 2:10, *The Amplified Bible*, confirms this. It says: "We are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]."

Obviously, there's nothing haphazard about

God's preparations for His children! He never looked down at someone the day they got born again and said, "Oh, I didn't realize that person was going to get saved. I guess I'd better figure out real quick where I'm going to put them and what I want them to do."

No, God has been preparing for every one of us for a long, long time—and everything He's prepared for us is good because that's just how He is.

You can see that by looking at what He did for Adam and Eve. Before they were ever created He prepared an entire universe for them to enjoy. He provided a place for them that was so beautiful and filled with abundance that by God's own standards—which must be pretty high considering the fact that the streets of heaven are paved with gold—it

qualified as "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Of course as we all know, Adam and Eve sinned and messed up that goodness. They disobeyed God and allowed the devil to steal God's BLESSING not only from them but from all mankind. But even then, God's nature and plan didn't change.

He knew what they were going to do before they did it and He'd already prepared for it. He'd already planned to send Jesus, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8), to pay the price for sin, defeat the devil, restore THE BLESSING and open the door for each one of us to move right back into our very own "wealthy place" (Psalm 66:12).

I'm telling you, God is a good God!

The Bible declares it from Genesis to Revelation. It tells us time and again that He takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants (Psalm 35:27). "His tender mercies are over all His works.... You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing" (Psalm 145:9, 16, *New King James Version*).

"Oh how great is thy goodness," the Scriptures exclaim, "which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee.... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into

What is it, exactly, that determines our capacity to receive? The first determining factor is how much we know about God.

the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (Psalm 31:19; 1 Corinthians 2:9).

Position Yourself to Receive

Well, someone might think, if God has that much goodness prepared for me, why haven't I been experiencing it in my life?

Because you can only experience as much as you have the capacity to receive.

The Lord drove this fact home to me some years ago while I was watching (of all things!) the Super Bowl. In the last moments of the game, the quarterback stepped back to throw the game-winning pass. As he scanned the field looking for an open receiver, God spoke to my heart.

Reminding me of 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," the Lord told me that He is always searching for someone who has

the capacity to receive the good things He has prepared for them. Much like the quarterback in that football game, He is always looking for a receiver!

What is it, exactly, that determines our capacity to receive?

The first determining factor is how much we know about God. Although it's sad to say, many Christians don't really know very much. They may have heard a few Bible verses. They may have been taught a lot of religious tradition. They may have even gone to church for years. But they don't understand that God's will for them is always and only good. They don't know that He wants them healed, prosperous and BLESSED in every way, because they've never spent enough time in His Word to find out.

This is a big problem! Because faith is the avenue through which we receive everything from God, and faith comes by hearing His Word (Romans 10:17), if we don't know what the Word says

about the good things God has stored up for us, our capacity to receive them will be hindered.

I can vouch for this from personal experience. I remember what life was like for Ken and me before we heard and believed God's Word. It was pathetic! We just accepted whatever bad things came along. If we started feeling sick, we put on our pajamas, jumped into bed and said, "Hey, I'm sick." If things went wrong financially (and they often did) we just let poverty push us into a place where we couldn't pay our bills.

We were living in a whole different world back then than we do now. Our entire reality was based on the natural realm, so we were continually subject to all the negative things the devil was doing. These days, however, we live in a higher realm. We live in the kingdom of God!

What's more, over the past 47 years we've learned a lot about how to operate in that Kingdom. For one thing, we've learned that to connect with God's good plans for our lives we have to do things His way. Instead of coming up with our own plans and running around trying to get stuff for ourselves, we have to obey the instructions Jesus gave in Matthew 6:31-33, *AMP*:

Do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or, What are we going to have to wear? For the Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you need them all. But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things will be given to you besides.

Choose to Walk in Wisdom

Notice that according to those verses, unbelievers have to go after their own provisions. They have to seek to add things to themselves because they don't have a heavenly Father to take care of them. But as believers you

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and I are in a totally different position. We don't have to live according to the dog-eat-dog system of this world. We don't have to fend for ourselves. We have a Father who can and will provide everything we could ever need or desire. He'll add more to us than we could ever get on our own. We just have to keep the door open for Him to do it by seeking Him first and putting His Word first place in our lives.

Why is His Word so vital?

Because His Word is His wisdom, and His wisdom teaches us His way of doing and being right. It teaches us how to live in the place of BLESSING—the wealthy place He has provided for us.

The degree of God's wisdom you and I walk in determines how much of His goodness we have the capacity to receive—and we're the ones who decide how much of that wisdom we're going to receive. God has made it readily available to us through His Word and His Holy Spirit, but He won't force it on us. He's not a dictator who compels people to do things His way. He simply offers Himself and His wisdom to us and then lets us choose what we're going to do.

If we'll choose to seek Him with all our heart and do what He teaches us in His Word, we'll see His promises fulfilled in our lives. We'll be the head and not the tail, BLESSED coming in and going out, BLESSED in the city and in the field. We'll walk in honor, riches, glory, healing and prosperity.

I'm not saying all those things will manifest in our lives overnight. But if we get on God's plan and stay there we'll always be increasing.

That's what happened to Joshua in the Old Testament. Have you ever read about him? He's the leader who took the Israelites into the Promised Land. God told him at the beginning of the journey that if he would keep God's Word in his heart and in his mouth, and obey it, he'd be able to "deal wisely and have good success" and "little by little" he and the Israelites would take possession of the whole land (Joshua 1:8; Deuteronomy 7:22, AMP).



Victorious Christian *living*

by Gloria Copeland

Speak God's Language of Love

"Through Him, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name."

Hebrews 13:15,
The Amplified Bible

To God, praise is *the language of love*. So, if you really want to let God know you love Him, do what this verse says and praise Him constantly...at all times. Don't be grateful one day and griping the next. Continually rejoice and thank the Lord for what He's done for you.

According to Ephesians 5:18-20 that's not just a nice idea, it's God's will for us. He tells us to be continually filled with the Spirit, "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father" (*New American Standard*). We should be expressing our love to God by singing and speaking His praises—in the shower, in our cars, and even as we go about our work. Whether we're doing it aloud or quietly in our hearts, we should be praising Him all the time.

That's the way God wants us to be. He wants us so full of victory that we overflow with gratitude to Him. He wants us to be so full of His praises that no one has to lead or urge us, we just praise Him because we can't help ourselves.

"I don't see how I can do that," you might say. "I

have so many problems, I don't feel like praising the Lord. I'm just not very happy right now."

Then you might have to begin by simply choosing to do it. You might have to say, "I'm going to praise the Lord whether I feel like it or not." But if you'll do it wholeheartedly, before long you *will* feel like it. You'll start remembering how bad things were when God found you. You'll start thinking about what He's done for you since then. You'll get excited about what He's going to do for you in the days ahead... and you'll want to sing and shout!

The more you keep on praising the Lord and walking with Him, the more reasons you'll have to praise Him. And, one of these days, you'll look around yourself and see the love of God poured out in every area of your life. You'll see His goodness everywhere you turn. You'll be living out His plan, enjoying His provision and dwelling in the place He prepared especially for you.

You'll be living proof that "happy is that people, whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15). You'll be glad when times were rough you chose to offer up the sacrifice of praise. 🕊

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Sure enough, Joshua followed those instructions. He did everything God told him to do and God did everything He said He would do. They were a perfect match and produced perfect victory.

Although everything didn't happen instantly, at the end of his life Joshua could say, "Not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord... God promised.... All have come to pass" (Joshua 23:14, *AMP*).

Be Steadfast in the Hard Places

One thing it's important to know about Joshua, though, is this: He was a fighter. When he faced challenges, he didn't throw his hands in the air and say, "I give up!" No, he pressed through the challenges and kept on believing and obeying God until he got the victory.

For us to lay hold of all the good things God has laid up for us, we have to do the same. Why? Because we have an enemy. His name is Satan. He's come to steal, kill and destroy.

Although Jesus has already defeated him, he'll do everything he can to discourage us from believing God. He'll lie to us nonstop, especially when we're confronted with contrary circumstances, and tell us God's Word is not going to come to pass for us.

As believers, our job is to resist the devil, to "be firm in faith [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined]" (1 Peter 5:9, *AMP*). That means we have to be steadfast in the hard places. We can't quit when we've gotten a bad report and it looks like we're not going to make it. To walk in the fullness of God's plan for us we must continue believing and obeying God.

"But Gloria," someone might say, "you don't know just how bad the report I've gotten actually is. I've lost my job. I'm facing bankruptcy. It looks to me like there's no way out."

With God there's always a way out, because with Him "all things are possible" (Mark 9:23). Even if you did go through bankruptcy, He could bring you out and prosper you beyond anything you ever dreamed. He could turn the whole ordeal into the biggest

BLESSING you've ever experienced.

But to do so, He needs you to stop worrying and start fighting the good fight of faith. He needs you to say, "Hallelujah! I was looking for a job when I found that one! God must have a job for me that's even better than my old one! I can hardly wait to find out what it is!"

That's the attitude one of our ministry Partners chose to have some years ago when he lost his job. Instead of giving in to discouragement (which he could have done because the job he lost was a good one that paid him a lot of money), he decided to believe God and immerse himself in the Word. Every morning he'd go to a local restaurant as if he were going to his office. He'd take his Bible with him, along with Ken's book *The Laws of Prosperity*, and sit there for hours, drinking coffee and building his faith to receive the great financial BLESSING God had in store for him.

As he looked to God, sought first His kingdom and His ways of doing and being right, he discovered that God truly did have a plan. He had a wealthy place already prepared for him. Eventually God made him so rich that he became the first person ever to give this ministry a million dollars.

"God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). Everyone who hears the gospel and makes Jesus Christ the Lord of his life is qualified to receive all the goodness of God. And He has something just as good prepared for you as He did for that man who became a millionaire.

So keep spending time in God's Word. Believe what He says. Do what He tells you to do, and refuse to quit until you have the same testimony Joshua did: "All God's promises have come to pass in my life."

Position yourself to be a receiver because before the foundation of the world God prepared a wealthy place for you. ❶



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points to get you there

Your Wealthy Place

God designed a destiny especially for you and, just as He prepared the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve, He's prepared for you your very own "wealthy place" (Psalm 66:12). Here are some points to get you there:

1 Remember that as God's children we aren't left on our own to figure out a plan for our lives.

Ephesians 2:10, *AMP*: "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]."

2 His plan for you includes more good things than you've ever imagined.

First Corinthians 2:9: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

3 Connect with God's plan by seeking Him and doing things His way.

Matthew 6:33: "Seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides" (*AMP*).

4 Build your faith to receive what God has prepared for you by spending time in His Word.

Romans 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

5 Resist the devil and be steadfast in the hard places until you receive everything God has promised.

Hebrews 10:36: "For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised" (*AMP*).



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Good News for Every Living Creature

Kenneth Copeland

July 6-10

Qualified and Empowered by God

Kenneth Copeland and David Barton

Sun., July 12

Preparing for God's Miraculous Outpouring

Kenneth Copeland

July 13-17

Growing Up Spiritually

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sun., July 19

Faith Listens and Obeys God

Kenneth Copeland

July 20-24

God's Word and His Plan for Women

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sun., July 26

The Process of Receiving From God

Kenneth Copeland

July 27-31

From Their Cabin in Arkansas

Kenneth & Gloria Copeland



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