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# VICTORY

March 2014

by *Melanie Henry*

# HOPE

for a Hurting World

## *Sergio Alvarado*

was addicted to drugs and alcohol for 20 years after his mother, an addict and prostitute, died on the drug-infested streets of **Juárez, Mexico**. Then, he found freedom through the teachings of Kenneth Copeland—who now calls Sergio a “spiritual son.”



## Time to Take Refuge

by Gloria Copeland

## Are You Listening?

by Kenneth Copeland



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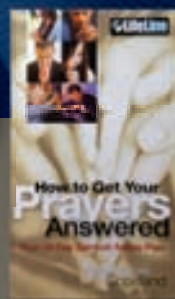
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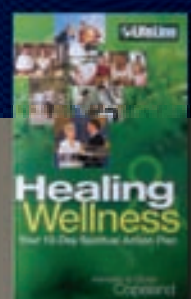
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# March



Good News! That's what *Believer's Voice of Victory* has been bringing to you each month since 1973. For 41 years, it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and through the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in their lives. We are committed to teaching you how to live a life of faith and experience God's victory—every day!

*Kenneth & Gloria*

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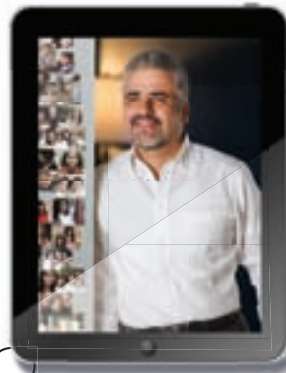


## Are You Listening?

by Kenneth Copeland

Jesus always got 100-percent results, because He listened for, and heard, God's words. Then, in faith, He spoke and acted on those words, and the Father who dwelled within brought them to pass. He'll do the same for you.

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## Hope for a Hurting World

by Melanie Hemry

As a child growing up in Juárez, Mexico, Sergio Alvarado watched helplessly as his alcoholic father abandoned the family and his heroin-addicted mother turned to prostitution. After she died, Sergio spent the next 20 years battling his own drug and alcohol addictions. Then he met Yvette, who introduced him to a better way of life through Jesus Christ.

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# ARE YOU Listening?

I've been flying airplanes now for 52 years. During those years, one skill in particular has become second nature to me: I've learned no matter what else is going on, to listen *for* and *to* what the air traffic controller is saying to me.

That might sound simple. But it's not always as easy as you'd think. In an environment where air traffic is heavy, there are a lot of voices and instructions coming through the radio: "American 451, turn left... climb and maintain 5,000." "Delta 23, turn right...descend to and maintain 8,000." :: To someone unfamiliar with aviation, it might sound like a confusing mess. But as a pilot I don't even hear it. Why? Because I'm listening for something else. :: I'm listening for my call sign. :: When the controller says, "62 Juliette, turn left to heading 3-5-4," I respond immediately because that's me. "Yes, sir," I answer, "62 Juliette, turning left to 3-5-4."



**I**n my almost 50 years in ministry, I've found I have to do much the same thing where the voice of God is concerned. If I'm going to follow the instructions He gave in Proverbs 4:20 ("My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings."), I must always be tuned in to what He's saying to me. I must be continually listening for His words.

In life, just as in the cockpit, that's not always easy. There are all kinds of voices out there making a lot of noise. But I'm determined not to let them distract me, because God's voice is the only one I really need to hear. His words are the only ones that can supply me with abundant life, keep me walking in THE BLESSING and get me where I need to go.

As Jesus said in John 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words

that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

God's very life is in His WORD!

If you're saved today, you're living proof of it. You've been "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23).

The WORD is the basis of God's entire kingdom. It's the key to His whole operating system. Jesus left no doubt about it. During His earthly ministry when people asked Him how He did such mighty, miraculous works, He pointed them again and again to the power of God's WORD.

He didn't say, "I can do anything I want because I'm the Messiah and have special supernatural power." He didn't say, "Because I'm God manifested in the flesh I can work miracles anytime I choose." Instead He said things like this:

▸ I can of mine own self do nothing. (John 5:30) (Not "I won't," but "I can't.")

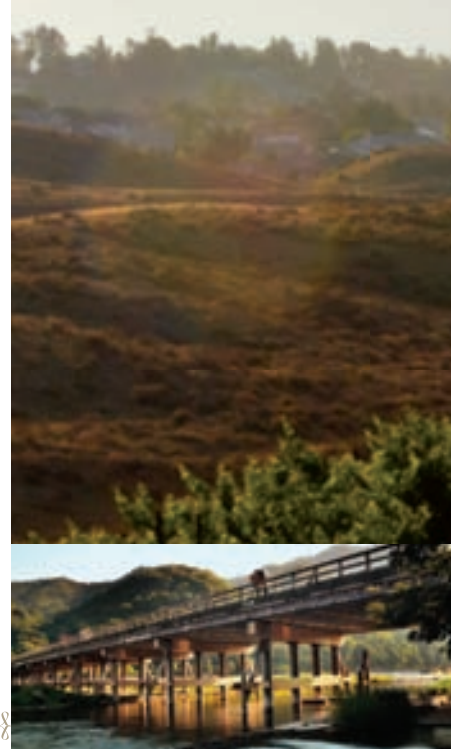
▸ [The Father] that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard [from Him]. (John 8:26)

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

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

This was the process behind Jesus' entire life and ministry! First and foremost, He listened for, and heard, God's words. Then, in faith, He spoke and acted on those words, and the Father who dwelled within brought them to pass.

That's why Jesus always got



by Kenneth Copeland

100-percent results. He didn't just do and say whatever He wanted. He proved that at the pool of Bethesda. When He walked up to that pool, multitudes of sick people were piled all around it. He loved all of them and He must have wanted to heal every single one. Yet He walked right past them and spoke to just one man.

"Wilt thou be made whole?" He asked. "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked" (John 5:6, 8-9).

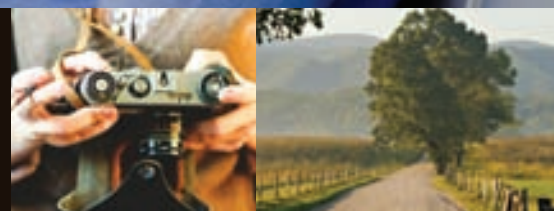
Christians have read that story for years and wondered why Jesus didn't just heal everyone. The answer is simple.

He couldn't.

He could only do what He saw His Father do and He could only say what He heard His Father say. Jesus heard Him, spoke and acted on His words, and the Father did the work.



First and foremost, He listened for, and heard, God's words. Then, in faith, He spoke and acted on those words, and the Father who dwelled within brought them to pass.







As we keep our loving communication open with God, and *refrain from being offended* or gossiping about people, we will hear Him.”



### The Freest Man on Earth

This was the secret to Jesus' every success. It's also the secret to ours because, as His disciples, we're supposed to operate just like He did. As He said in John 8:31-32: "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."

Jesus was the freest Man who ever walked the face of this earth. He wasn't in bondage to anything—not to the devil or any of his

works, or even the natural forces of this fallen planet. He had complete liberty to do anything God wanted Him to do, and nothing could stop Him because He continued in His Father's WORD.

The same can be true of us. If we listen for the words Jesus is saying to us in every situation, and choose to speak and act on His words, the same truth that made Him free will make us just as free as He is!

"But Brother Copeland, there's just one problem," you might say. "I can't seem to

hear the voice of God."

Why not? Aren't you born again?

"Yes. I've been saved for years."

Then your problem is solved, because Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27).

"I know He said that, Brother Copeland. But God just isn't talking to me."

Sure He is! He's not an absentee Father. He's speaking all the time. He's speaking to you through the Bible, which is His written WORD. He's speaking to

you by His Holy Spirit and fulfilling the promise Jesus made in John 16: "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you" (verses 13-15).

If you believe Jesus meant what He said in those verses, you can come to only one conclusion. If someone has been saved and therefore has the Holy Spirit dwelling inside him, and he's *still* not hearing God's voice, then *someone* is not listening!

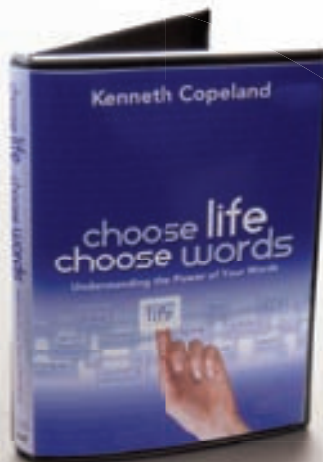
But, praise God, you can make up your mind right now not to be that *someone*. You can settle this by faith and say, "Jesus is speaking to me, and because I am His sheep I have ears to hear Him."

Once you have that settled and you tune in to what The LORD is saying to you, you can activate the Kingdom process just like Jesus did. You can hear from Him the words He hears from the Father, and you can speak those words by faith. Then the Father will do the works, and what Jesus said to the

## Life or Death? You Choose!

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disciples in John 14:12-13 will come to pass in your life: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

### Beware of the Devil's Flip Chart

I do want to warn you, however, the devil comes immediately to steal the WORD. Although he can't actually stop the Kingdom process from working (it's a heavenly operation so it can't be changed; like God, it's the same yesterday, today and forever), what he will do is try to turn the process to his advantage. He'll attempt to steal the words God has spoken to you and replace them with his stuff.

Then instead of God doing His works in your life, the devil can do his.

In Mark 4:14-15, Jesus explained exactly how this happens. He said: "The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts."

Most likely you've had plenty of experience with this kind of thievery, so you know the drill. You start spending time in The WORD and hearing what God is saying to you about who you are in Christ Jesus. You're believing and speaking His WORD and seeing Him move in your life. Then the devil pipes up.

He starts talking to you

about some offensive remark someone made about you. "Can you believe they said that?" he whispers. Before you know it, you're thinking and saying what they said about you instead of what God's saying.

The same thing can happen in the area of healing. You might hear the voice of The LORD speaking to you from 1 Peter 2:24, "By Jesus' stripes ye were healed." You might be faithfully putting that WORD in front of your eyes, in your ears and in your mouth, believing that it is health to all your flesh (Proverbs 4:22).

You're doing fine for a while, but then you experience some symptoms of sickness, and the devil shows up with his flip chart of alternatives to The WORD. The first one he presents is a picture of a heart attack.

"Would you believe this?" he says.

"No!" you answer. "I'm not having a heart attack. I am healed!"

So he flips to another picture.

"What about lung cancer?" he says. "Would you believe that?"

"No!"

"Well, what about the disease your Auntie May had? You *do* have some of the same symptoms."

That gets you to thinking. *Aunt May died of that disease! Maybe I should be worried about this.* But then you catch yourself and say, "No, devil. That's ridiculous. I am healed!"

Eventually, however, the devil comes up with an alternative you're willing to consider: *the flu*.

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# points to get you there

## hearing God's voice

As a believer, you have the capacity to hear from God. But doing it isn't always easy. With so many other voices in the world making all kinds of noise, you must purposely listen for His voice. Once you hear Him, respond! Here are a few points to help you:

### 1 God's voice can be heard through His written WORD.

Proverbs 4:20-21: "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart."

### 2 Speaking and acting on God's words will make you as free as Jesus is.

John 8:31-32: "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."

### 3 The Holy Spirit within you will tell you what God is saying.

John 16:13: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak."

### 4 Be on guard and refuse to let the devil steal God's WORD from you.

Mark 4:15: "And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts."

### 5 Choose life by choosing to speak God's WORD.

Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

"Yeah, I believe that's it," you say. "I believe I must be taking the flu!"

Once you speak those words, instead of God's WORD, the devil can then do the work—the same process, different words. But you don't have to take what he says. You can stick with God's WORD and take health instead.

It's your choice.

## What Will You Say?

"Now, Brother Copeland, that's just too extreme. We can't just choose whether we're going to be sick or well!"

Yes, God told us we can. He said in Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Sickness is under the curse. Healing is under THE BLESSING. We can have either one. God wants us to choose life and BLESSING but the final decision is ours. We get to choose.

How do we make that choice?

With our words.

We choose the curse by listening to and saying what the devil, our flesh and this world is saying. We choose THE BLESSING by listening for and saying God's words. By saying things like, "Thank You, Sir, for blessing our bread and our water and taking sickness away from the midst of us (Exodus 23:25). Thank You for giving us Your healing WORD. I take that healing and I say that, as for me and my house, we are healed!"

That's what our family did on Christmas Day some years ago when my little 11-year-old granddaughter was diagnosed with neisserian meningitis. We chose life. We didn't say, "Oh, God! Lyndsey is so sick! We're afraid she's going to die before morning!" Even though that's what

doctors were saying, we didn't put those words in our mouths. Instead, we listened for God's words.

I'll never forget that day. Gloria and I were away from home when we received the call telling us what was going on, and we immediately inquired of The LORD. We asked Him to tell us specifically what He wanted us to do and say. While we were flying back to Fort Worth, I heard His voice.

He said, *Kenneth, as soon as you see Lyndsey, put your index finger right on her breastbone and speak to the anointing in her. Command it to rise up and put this disease out of her body.*

When we arrived at the hospital, Gloria and I put on the required hazmat suits, walked into the room where Lyndsey had been lying, delirious, for over 12 hours, and I said to her exactly what The LORD had told me. Sure enough, He did the work. Lyndsey—who hadn't said anything that made sense all day—suddenly gritted her teeth and declared, "Papaw, I'm healed in the Name of Jesus."

That was at midnight. When the doctors came in the next morning she was perfectly well.

"But Brother Copeland, what if I inquire of The LORD in a situation like that and His WORD doesn't come to me?" you might ask.

It will come. It always does because Jesus promised it would. He said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

Believe that and tune in to His voice. Listen for the words He is speaking to you like you're a pilot listening for your call sign. When you hear Him, respond immediately. Say and do whatever He tells you to, and you'll land safely in THE BLESSING every time. ⑤



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# The End times— It will be good

God is not of *time*—He is of eternity. God created *time* for His dealings with man. He cut out a piece of eternity, measured it and called it *time*. ∴ *Time* as God measured it has a beginning and an ending. We are somewhere on God's timeline. The question is, where?

**Y**ears ago, I sought the Lord about my ministry.

"What am I?" I asked.

*You are a witness*, was the answer I heard.

Then He confirmed my call with Acts 26:16, "I have [called] you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you" (*New King James Version*).

On another occasion, He connected my being a witness to the end times. And He gave me a key for watching them as I was listening to a tape of Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin's class at Rhema Bible Training Center. As he taught about "rightly dividing the Word," one of his points was, "Always determine to whom a scripture is speaking."

"A scripture can be addressed to only

one person," Brother Hagin said. "Or, it can be speaking to or about one of the three groups of people God sees and deals with as groups. God names these three groups in a letter to the Church."

Then he read 1 Corinthians 10:32, "Give none offence, neither to the church of God." At that moment in the late 1970s, I heard what seemed to me an audible voice saying, *If you will remember that verse of Scripture, it will keep your end time doctrine straight.*

## The Jews, the Nations and the Church

The Lord has plans and purposes for these groups. He has judgments and futures for the Jews, the nations (gentiles) and the Church. People from all three groups have places in the Millennial Age—a threshold we are about to traverse.

A three-pronged witness, watching and telling what I see, has developed in my life of ministry—the Jews, the nations and the Church.

The first group the Lord taught me to watch was the Church. He revealed to me His plan for the glorious Church. (See the book of Ephesians!) And He gave me mentors who were and are generals in the end time army of the Lord.

He took me to the nations. Throughout the 1980s He took me to Soviet Russia where we watched up close His bringing down of communism in 1989. We have watched Europe and signs of the end times there primarily from regular trips to Brussels and the old world nations.

And then, of course, I watch Israel—*God's time clock!*

When His disciples asked the Lord, "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" a key point in Jesus' answer was, "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees" (Matthew 24:3; Luke 21:29, *NKJV*).

"Trees" in Luke 21:29 refers to nations. The fig tree in this verse is Israel. (See Joel 1:6-7.) "All the trees" are the other nations of prophecy. The prophets told us from the beginning, things which would transpire in the latter days in certain nations, such as Iraq (Babylon), Iran, Syria, Egypt, Russia, Europe, etc. It is from these prophets that we receive light on the happenings of these times. (See 2 Peter 1:19-21.)

By watching the fig tree and the nations of prophecy, we can tell where we are on the timeline and in relation to the fullness of time.

When we speak of the end times, we do not actually mean the end of time as such, but the end of this current age and the passing into the next one.

Since Sinai, Jewish tradition has taught that God gave man a six-day workweek corresponding to the



## I believe Earth is as old as true science requires, but man as we know him was created almost 6,000 years ago.

six days of Creation. After the six days, man and Creation enter into the seventh day corresponding to God's seventh day of rest—the Sabbath—the 1,000-year Millennial Reign.

Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8 teach us that 1,000 years of earth time is as one day with the Lord.

I believe Earth is as old as true science requires, but man as we know him was created almost 6,000 years ago. In other words, to make a very long story short, we are almost at the end of the six-day workweek. We will soon cross over into the seventh day.

How can we tell? By watching the signs of the times. By considering current news events in the light of Bible prophecy.

### What About the Future?

Let me quote from introductory remarks to the book of Revelation made by F.W. Grant in *The Numerical Bible* in 1902:

The future before the world is largely...made up of judgment, although it is true that the judgment is for a blessing which lies beyond it, and *which is as bright as God can make it...* God's moral ways...the end will perfectly bring...out.... The future more than fulfils every promise of the past, and of necessity, therefore, all prophecy runs on to the complete fulfillment, intermediate fulfillments in the meanwhile showing that the first purpose abides, *which the great end alone reveals in its perfection.*

How should we address these days progressing toward a "future as bright as God can make it"?

"Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times" (Isaiah 33:6, *NKJV*). We are to know the Word of the Lord for our individual lives, and concerning these last days as revealed by the prophets.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). These are days of glorious guidance and revelation for those who would practice the presence of God by keeping their minds on the Lord and His Word.

Those of us in the third group—the Church—look to experience the marvel of being changed from glory to glory into the very image of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18). We, the Body of Christ, should now aim to abide in His presence, walk in His Spirit, partake of His benefits and be His partners in blessing the world.

Israel will pass through the final phases of God's dealings unto complete redemption and restoration. Sheep nations will pass into the kingdoms prepared for them. Creation awaits deliverance and restoration.

### Yehiya Tov— It Will Be Good!

I have spent hours upon hours with people of Israel—common folks, Torah scholars, government officials and rabbis—and I know for a fact that the Church and Israel are in agreement that the Messiah's coming is at hand.

A phrase that I have learned from them is one they say, even in dire circumstances, "*Yehiya Tov!*" It will be good! 🍀

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# what you BELIEVE IS POWERFUL

What you believe is powerful. If you can change what you believe, you can change your life! I have met many precious people who keep struggling to control their behaviors and actions. No matter how hard they try and how much effort, time, and resources they throw into the fight, like a beaten boxer they end up returning to their corners, their bodies defeated, morale crushed, and confidence shattered—trapped once again in guilt, fear, and addictions that simply refuse to go away.

**T**hen the bell rings for the next round. The fight continues, and they unleash everything they have against their adversary. Left, right. Left, right. It seems like they are making progress. But then their opponent starts landing head shots, and each blow comes loaded with poisonous, condemning judgment:

*Who do you think you are? Have you forgotten all those mistakes you've made?*

*Things will never get better. You should just accept your lot.*

*It's not going to work—you are just going to fail again!*

*Nobody loves you. You are all alone.*

I've seen these deceptive tactics used too many times by the adversary. I've seen too many people try to move out from under the shadow of their past or break free from their addictions, only to end up succumbing to these lies about themselves, their identity, and their destiny.



**This is not about human psychology.**

This is about right believing that is birthed out of a very personal and intimate relationship with a loving Savior.

That's the power of *wrong* believing.

Wrong believing puts people in a prison. Even though there are no physical shackles, wrong believing causes its inmates to behave as though they were incarcerated in a maximum-security penitentiary. They march inexorably to their dank cells of addictions. They allow themselves to be led into dungeons of destructive behaviors. They have convinced themselves never to dream of a better place, believing that they have no choice but to live in despair, frustration, and defeat.

*Right* believing, on the other hand, is a light that illuminates the path to

freedom out of this prison.

## God Wants to Light Your Way

Now before you dismiss this as yet another book that claims that everything will work itself out if only you could think positively, hang on. This is not about human psychology. This is about right believing that is birthed out of a very personal and intimate relationship with a loving Savior and founded upon His Word that brings life and illumination. The psalmist says it this way: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). The Message translation reads, "By your words I can see where I'm going; they

throw a beam of light on my dark path."

My friend, God wants to throw a beam of light on your path today. Whatever you are struggling with currently, no matter how insurmountable your challenges appear, when you start believing right, things are going to start turning around for your good!

The breakthroughs you have been fighting to have for years can happen in a supernatural instant. I know this because I have counseled and prayed for many people who have told me about how their years of addiction to cigarettes, alcohol, or pornography just vanished when they allowed Jesus to come into their situations.





tenderhearted toward us, who only leads us to good places, who protects us and lovingly watches over us. So if worrying or being fearful seems to be your natural default mode, what you need to do is to keep hearing and learning about how much God loves you and how precious you are to Him. The more strongly you believe this—the more this truth gets a hold on the inside of you—the more it will change your thoughts and feelings and the less you will fall victim to unhealthy emotions and behaviors.

In varying degrees, we all have wrong beliefs in our hearts that need to be exposed to the truth of God's Word. That's why we need the Savior. Our wrong beliefs can only be demolished when they are exposed to His grace and the truth of His Word.

### Knowing the Truth That Sets You Free

The very premise of this book is based on the oft-quoted verse that says, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). This is a verse that has been widely used, even in secular literature. But what does it really mean? What *is* the truth that sets you free?

It is essential we recognize Jesus said this to the Jews of His day. These were people who at an early age grew up studying and learning the law. Yet these people, much like us today, still battled with fears, anxieties, sicknesses, and all kinds of oppression, bondages, and addictions.



They woke up one morning, and the desire for those things just wasn't there anymore!

If we're honest, we all have some measure of wrong believing in our lives. If you don't believe this, all you need

to do is ask yourself, "Have I often felt anxious, worried, or fearful that the worst would happen to me and my loved ones?" My friend, these negative, exhausting emotions are merely flags that indicate

what we truly believe about ourselves, our lives, and God.

When we are fearful and worried all the time, we are living as if we don't believe that we have a strong and able Shepherd who is

When we are fearful and worried all the time,  
we are living as if we don't believe that we have a strong and able Shepherd  
**WHO IS TENDERHEARTED TOWARD US,**  
who only leads us to good places.

So what is this truth that Jesus was talking about, this truth that if His hearers knew, would set them free of all these destructive things? Well, it clearly cannot be the law because these people were already well-versed in the law. They were already observing the law as best they could, yet they could not find freedom in the law. Freedom, my friend, can only be found in His grace. When you believe right in His grace and His love for you, the shackles of fear, guilt, and addictions will fall off.

### Grace—Antidote for the Poisoned Mind

Grace is the truth that Jesus came to give us. His Word proclaims that “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17).

In the original Greek, “grace and truth” are regarded as one item because the following verb, “came,” is used in the singular. Grace and truth are one and the same thing. Grace is the truth that has the power to set you free from fear, guilt, and all addictions—“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

It is the truth of grace and not of the law that brings you true freedom. The truth of the law only binds you. In fact, religious bondage is one of the most crippling bondages with which a person can be encumbered. Religious bondage keeps one in constant fear, guilt, and anxiety.

The good news is that grace came to set you free from the curse of the law. Grace is not a doctrine or theological subject. When Jesus talks about grace, He is talking about Himself. Grace is a person. Grace is Jesus Himself. “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John

1:17). The truth that has the power to fling wide open your prison doors is His grace. His grace is the antidote to counteract every poison in your mind! When you taste Jesus’ love and savor His loving-kindness and tender mercies, every wrong belief begins to dissolve in the glory of His love.

I’ve seen this happen over and over again, everywhere I go proclaiming without apology the unadulterated gospel of grace and the unceasing love of our Lord Jesus. When a person starts to calibrate his or her believing so that he or she receives with gladness God’s lavish, excessive, and super-abounding love, destructive mind-sets or strongholds begin to shatter. And in a supernatural instant, he or she experiences liberation from destructive habits, fears, and bondages. You can’t process His grace logically in your mind—it needs to be experienced in your heart!

My friend, your freedom is found in rightly believing in His love, His grace, and His favor in your life. When you believe right about His grace, you will begin to live right. Right believing always produces right living.

### God’s Grace Uproots Wrong Beliefs

I met a lady at a conference where I was speaking. I wish you could have seen Kate for yourself. She was a confident and attractive young lady, with a face radiant and glowing. So I couldn’t believe it when she revealed to me that she had been delivered from more than four years of alcohol addiction!

She had been a corporate highflier, but the stress of work and the strain of maintaining her success and image drove her to consume at least one liter of alcohol a day as a means of escape.

Before long, keeping up with the high-octane demands of her career became a constant struggle. Coupled with the self-imposed pressure to keep her veneer of success intact, this struggle pushed her deep into depression.

One thing led to another, and soon, besides being addicted to alcohol, Kate became dependent on a cocktail of strong antidepressants, tranquilizers, beta-blockers, and sleeping pills. She shared that she tried everything to beat the bottle. She made appointments with psychiatrists and psychologists, and even faithfully attended support groups for alcoholics. Through these endless appointments and meetings she experienced what she calls “a few bouts of recovery,” but they only lasted several days at best.

One day, Kate’s husband decided to take her on a holiday. This filled her with even more anxiety because she didn’t know how she was going to get her secret alcohol “fix” while traveling with her husband. Now, she had tried over and over again to quit drinking and was all too familiar with how the withdrawal symptoms had defeated her every time. Her hands would tremble and shake so vigorously that she couldn’t even hold a spoon to feed herself. She would feel faint and break out in a cold sweat and would constantly throw up and not be able to keep any food down.

All these symptoms would disappear with a drink or two, so she would sneak off to buy alcohol when she was supposed to be at the gym and guzzle hard liquor in secret when her husband was at work!

To the rest of the world, Kate appeared to have it all together. But she knew. She knew that she was



trapped in the prison of alcoholism and there was no way out of this vicious cycle of defeat.

So after repeatedly trying to overcome her addiction without success, Kate was on the verge of giving up. But God had other plans. He led her to one of the leaders in my church who taught her to immerse herself in the Word and to keep praying in the Spirit. As she kept listening to my messages on God's grace, God began uprooting the wrong beliefs that had taken hold in her mind and replacing them with right beliefs.

When it was time for her to leave for the holiday, even though she was filled with trepidation and almost backed out of the trip at the last minute, she decided that she would go. She asked the Lord to help her keep her eyes on Him instead of trying to overcome the withdrawal symptoms. She was determined to enjoy her time with her husband and to give thanks to Jesus for every blessing, no matter how small.

Kate told me that throughout the trip, she just kept resting, praying in the Spirit, and listening continually to my messages on her iPod. To her amazement, she didn't suffer any symptoms. And you know what? It has been more than two years since that trip, and she has never taken another drop of alcohol. Hallelujah!

She admitted that while the thought of having a drink does come to her once in a while, she believes that God has given her the strength to resist the temptation. And by His grace, she knows that she will never give in to the bottle again!

My friend, in a supernatural instant, four long and treacherous years of addiction to alcohol disappeared for Kate. She didn't know it then, but God was freeing her from her addiction (and much more) by filling her with the Spirit as she looked away from her problem and kept her eyes on Jesus. She also shared how she had discovered recently that

the answer to her drinking problem was in God's Word all this time: "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

I applaud this young lady for having the courage to share her powerful story with me. I pray that her testimony will encourage, inspire, and give you hope.

Whatever your condition, however long it has kept you bound—two years, 10 years, 30 years—know this: God can set you free in a supernatural instant. He who created time isn't time-bound. He who in a fraction of a second turned water into the finest aged wine can bypass natural processes and accelerate your deliverance from any bondage!

I know of many people who struggled with addictions for decades. But once they had a supernatural encounter with Jesus, they just woke up one morning and found themselves free, with none of that familiar urge or desire to engage in their negative behavior anymore. Frank, who lives in the state of Maryland, wrote to me and shared how he was set free from drug addiction. He had been told that "once an addict, always an addict," and he had believed it.


But when he came to know the truth about the life-transforming love and grace of Jesus through one of my teaching resources, it just destroyed the chains that bound him. He shared, "Man, I could have jumped through the roof when I discovered that all I had to do was accept the finished work of Jesus and His grace! After thirty years of drug addiction, I thought that there was no hope for me. But praise Jesus, I am now drug-free, and I'm in a good

grace-preaching church with my wife, who has also been set free of her drug addiction."

My friend, that is the power of right believing!

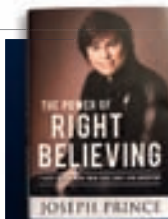
## God's Truth Triggers Your Deliverance

The moment Kate and Frank began to hear and believe the right things about God, it triggered their deliverance in an accelerated fashion. Knowing the truth was the catalyst. Contrast this with those who focus on living right without paying attention to believing right. Sadly, they only experience transient breakthroughs to the extent their willpower, self-control, or discipline persists. But those who focus on and believe the truth about God experience lasting freedom effortlessly. Jesus certainly wasn't kidding or exaggerating when He said that knowing the truth sets you free.

Jesus has the truth that you need, that you've been searching for. He is *the way*, *the truth*, and *the life* (see John 14:6). In love, He willingly laid down His life at the cross to set you free. That's what this book is all about—transforming what you believe through the power of His sacrificial love and eternal truths. I've endeavored to make these truths as accessible and plain to see as possible for you. As you read the words, Scriptures, and stories of real people who have been set free by simply believing these truths about God and what He says about them, I pray that you will encounter God's grace like never before. And as you meditate on these truths, I am confident that you will be walking in freedom sooner than you think. Your liberation is at hand! 

About

This article was excerpted from the book *The Power of Right Believing* by Joseph Prince. For more information or to order, see ad. Joseph Prince is founder of Joseph Prince Ministries Inc. and senior pastor of New Creation Church in Singapore with a congregation of more than 30,000 attendees.



*The Power of Right Believing* by Joseph Prince is available now at [kcm.org/mag](http://kcm.org/mag). Order today!

# Good News Gazette

“For the word of the Lord is right; and all His work is done in faithfulness.” (Psalm 33:4, *The Amplified Bible*)

## Prepared for a Miracle

Thank you so much, KCM Prayer Dept., for praying in March of last year, when we put in a bid for a property in Taunton as a permanent home

for Oakwood Church. Praise the Lord! We now have a facility valued at £3,000,000, purchased for a fraction of that sum! Now we understand the teaching on wealth transfer. Reading the daily *From Faith to Faith* from

January began to prepare my faith to receive this miracle, so I thank you for that, and for the Europe Victory Campaign. Thank you for your fellowship in the gospel. Jesus Is Lord!  
David H. | United Kingdom

## Divine Health & Healing by the Word

I've been blessed with excellent health all my life. At 40 I'd never been sick—nine years teaching elementary school with never a day off due to illness. Then, the weekend of May 17, 2013, I became severely ill. After fighting it all week with prayer and the Word, on Friday, symptoms of a virus began to appear. The Lord gave me Isaiah 58:8: “(my) healing will quickly appear,” and I made it through the day.

I meditated on that Word throughout the weekend. I called the prayer line, took Communion and listened to God, which I had learned to do at the Canada Victory Campaign just a few days before. That week, Kellie Copeland Swisher was on the broadcast, teaching about speaking peace and wellness into the lives of people you are having difficulty with. God reminded me of colleagues I was not speaking life into and I repented. I played Sarah Pearsons' CD, *Strength and Healing, 24/7* and listened to *Faith in God* by Keith Moore. All of these brought life to my body and God was true to His word.

My healing did come quickly.

When I headed back to work the next week, my friends didn't think I was ready. I confessed otherwise, and then I received my Partner Letter: Be Strong in The LORD, and it helped me through.

My body grew stronger and by Sunday, May 26, I participated in a half marathon I had trained for all year.

God worked out this illness for my good. I grew closer to Him and His Word. I learned to have compassion for those who are not well, and how to use my words to bless. I learned that when God says He will do something, He will do it. I am blessed because my Abba Father loves me and wants to do good for me. I learned the importance of “first words” and how to keep my mouth shut. I thank the Lord that I will continue to live a strong and healthy life!

S.R. | Canada

## My Youth Is Renewed!

I have been confessing Psalm 103:5, “My youth is renewed like the eagle's.” I am 68 and in good health. The other day I had some blood work done and the doctor informed me that the results were like that of a 25-year-old. Praise the Lord, this confirms that my youth is being renewed!

M.L.  
Ontario, Canada

## Psalm 91 to the Rescue

About 2 a.m., a big crash of thunder woke us up. The weather radio and sirens went off. We made it to the hall where the front stairs are, when a 70 mph wind from a tornado hit the back of the house. It felt like the windows were going to blow out and the back was going to fall down. We started quoting Psalm 91 as soon as the sirens went off, and when the wind hit we were pleading the blood and calling on Jesus' Name. After only a few seconds it was over. In the morning we found only two roof shingles missing. Everything else was perfect with our house and yard. There were trees down next door and in a yard one street over. Coming into town, large commercial roofs were torn off, signs were bent over and many treetops had snapped off. When we heard what the tornado had done, we found that it had jumped over our house, went about 800 feet and knocked over about 40 hardwood trees in a neighbor's yard. Our trees were not damaged. God is faithful!!

R. and R.P.  
Madison, Ga.

J.C.,  
prayer  
minister

We responded to over 60,000 internet prayer requests last year.

## THE BLESSING Is at Work

Finland

I want to thank KCM for teaching THE BLESSING. I can see it activated in our lives right now as situations that seemed difficult or even impossible are

working out in our favor. The hand of God is so visible that even my husband, who is not saved, had to admit that something supernatural is at

work! Let this be a powerful testimony of what it is like to live as a blessed child of the Almighty!  
J.R. | Finland





  
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our priority.

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**Branson Was Life-Changing**  
The Branson meeting was a life-changing event,  
and I'm now a Partner with KCM and Keith  
Moore's church. I'm receiving the Lord's grace and  
obeying His commands quickly and accurately.

Debra R. | Aberdeen, S.D.

## *salvation prayer*

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

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

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

### *connect with us*

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

**web** [kcm.org](http://kcm.org) and type Salvation Package in the search box

**phone** **1-800-600-7395** (U.S. only)  
or +1-817-852-6000

**mail** **Check the box** on the response form in the center of this magazine.





# Let Your JOY OVERFLOW

Whether you realize it or not, you need the joy of The LORD. Everything in you is crying out for it. You may have tried to satisfy yourself with superficial substitutes like money, social position, success, even drugs, alcohol, illicit sex or overeating. If you have, you know that ultimately those things leave you unfulfilled. The happiness they bring quickly vanishes. And you're

left once again with that deep inner longing for something more.

Joy. Your entire being craves it. Why? Because if you're to keep on living, you need strength, and the

joy of The LORD is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10). Every fiber of your being is crying out for strength because you live in a world that is flowing in a negative direction.

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To resist poverty, fear, doubt and disease demands strength—lots of it! That's why your entire being continually cries out for strength.



by  
Gloria  
Copeland

# The Truth Will Make You Free

Do you ever long to be absolutely free of selfishness? Do you yearn to throw off every fleshly bondage and hindrance so you can walk fully in love?

As amazing as it seems, we can do it!

Jesus told us how: "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32, *New American Standard Bible*).

That's why, again and again, we must meditate on the truths in the Word that tell us we've been made partakers of God's divine and loving nature. We must continually grow in our revelation of the fact that God's love has been shed abroad in our hearts. The more fully and deeply we come to know that truth, the freer we will be!

It simply doesn't work for us to try to free ourselves out of sheer, human self-discipline from our unloving habits and behaviors. It doesn't work when, by the force of our own efforts, we try to make ourselves "act nice." When we do that, we inevitably fail, and get frustrated and discouraged with ourselves. As a result, we end up more irritable and short-tempered than we were before!

The only way we can truly succeed at walking in love is by drawing on the grace of God within us. The only way we can truly love like Jesus loves is by letting His nature, which dwells within our reborn human spirits, flow out through us. The

more we know about His nature, the more we can do that.

As 2 Peter 1:2 says, God's grace is multiplied to us through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord! That's true in every area of the Christian life. We can't receive something from God that we don't know about. We have to hear the truth about it. Then, when we hear it, faith comes. As we believe and begin to act on that truth, we see the power of it go to work in our lives.

So dig into the Word and find out more about the loving nature of God that abides in you. Meditate on it. Confess it and say, "God's love lives in me!" Then, begin to act by faith, and the bondages of the flesh will be broken. You will know the truth, and it will make you free! 🍎

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"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."  
2 Peter 1:2-4

The human race without Jesus is going toward death. In order to reach toward life, you must turn around to go upstream. And it takes a lot of strength to row upstream. It takes effort not to live the way the world lives—in doubt, fear, poverty and failure.

All you have to do to get in doubt and unbelief is relax your faith in God a little. The negative tide of this world will just sweep you downstream.

Poverty comes just as easily! All you have to do to be poor is to go to bed. The Bible says, "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to lie down and sleep—so will your poverty come like a robber..." (Proverbs 6:10-11, *The Amplified Bible*). Prosperity takes hard work and diligence. You can't get it by sleeping your life away.

To resist poverty, fear, doubt and disease demands strength—lots of it! That's why your entire being continually cries out for strength.

If you don't stay alert, Satan will take advantage of that need and lie to you. He'll tell you that strength is in dope. He'll tell you it's in alcohol. He'll tell you it's in food. He'll tell you that it's in sex.

Now sex is a good thing, but God didn't design it to live on. When people get it out of its proper perspective, it'll destroy them like a rattlesnake. Death is connected to adultery. It doesn't bring life and peace. Adultery produces death and destruction.

The strength you really need can only come from one source: the joy of The LORD. Joy is the strength you need to go upstream in a downstream world. So now the questions arise, where does joy come from, and how do I release it?

Joy comes from The WORD of God. Galatians 5:22 shows us joy is a fruit of the spirit. It is a spiritual force born into the spirit of man at the time of conversion along with faith, love, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness and temperance. It's really not something

we have to "get." It's already in every born-again believer.

Because of its kinship to faith, it's easy to apply many of the same verses that talk about faith to joy. Romans 10:17, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Joy also comes by hearing The WORD. First John 1:4 lets us know that. So, joy is a product of The WORD like everything else that comes from God. Don't look for it to come from other sources. It's inside you—look there as you meditate The WORD.

Joy comes from a revelation of Jesus, which is a revelation of the Father—Almighty God. I discovered this vital truth by meditating the things Jesus told His disciples just before He went to the cross.

At the end of His earthly ministry, The LORD made the following statement to His disciples. He astounded them by saying, "It is expedient [or more profitable] for you that I go away" (John 16:7).

You have to understand why those men were so astonished by this statement. It was difficult for them to believe that it was better for them if Jesus left. While He was in their midst their every need was met. He calmed the storms. He fed the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes. He raised the dead and healed the sick. Obviously, while He was with them everything was better than it had ever been before. Yet, Jesus said, "It is better for you that I go away."

Let's continue reading and find out why. Beginning again with John 16:7, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter [or Helper] will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." Now, verses 13-15: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive

# Joy comes from *The WORD* of God.

It is a spiritual force born into the spirit of man at the time of conversion along with faith, love, peace... *It's really not something we have to "get."*

of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you."

Then in verses 22-25:

And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show

you plainly of the Father.

Notice in these statements how Jesus connected knowing the Father with the joy of The LORD. He knows that joy is the result of the Father being revealed. And when joy rises, there is strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

So, how are we going to know and understand the Father? Philip asked Jesus this very question. He said, "How are you going to show us the Father?" And Jesus replied, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." To get a revelation of the Father, you need to look at Jesus.

The LORD spoke to Oral Roberts several years ago and said, *You'll know Me better than you know any man if you will read Matthew,*

*Mark, Luke, John and the book of Acts three times in 30 days, and do it on your knees.* And 30 days later Brother Roberts said, "I know Jesus Christ of Nazareth more intimately than any person on earth."

Jesus revealed Himself to Brother Roberts in and through The WORD of God. When he saw Jesus, he saw the Father.

You can come to know Him in that same way. Jesus has made that promise to everyone who keeps His WORD. In John 14:21-23 He says, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest [or reveal] myself to him.... If a man love me, he will keep my words."

God's fundamental method of revealing Himself is through *The WORD*. "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (1 John 1:4). If you will purposely search The WORD of God for a revelation of Jesus and a revelation of the Father, the joy of The LORD will arise in your heart. And if you will stay with it, there is no condition of the body, no mental condition, no spiritual condition, no social situation, no political problem that will be able to keep you down. People every day are searching for this kind of victory and strength. They seek it everywhere except where it can really be found—in The WORD of God, fellowshiping with Jesus and the Father.

God also reveals Himself through the gifts of the Spirit. Didn't Jesus say that the Spirit was coming to reveal the Father? So, that means that when the Spirit manifests Himself, the Father is revealed.

A doctor friend of mine was operating on a young boy who had a tumor on his brain stem. This doctor

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Jerry Savelle



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Jeremy LaBorde

### Speaker Schedule:

Wed. 7 p.m. Jerry Savelle  
Thu. 10 a.m. Marty Copeland/Dr. David Robinson  
Thu. 7 p.m. Ken Harbaum  
Fri. 10 a.m. Marty Copeland/Dr. David Robinson  
Fri. 7 p.m. Jeremy LaBorde

Praise and Worship with Mandy Senior

Special Youth Service with Selo Lozano, Wed. 7 p.m.

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[JeremyLaBorde.com](http://JeremyLaBorde.com).



approached the operation in an attitude of prayer. He was praying in other tongues the whole time he was in surgery. When he started to make an incision to remove that tumor, he heard the voice of God. The LORD said, *Wait, don't do that. You're cutting in the wrong place.*

Right there in the midst of an operating room a word of wisdom was manifested! The Father revealed Himself! He told the doctor exactly how far he needed to move his knife over in order to make the incision in the right place. The doctor said later that if he had made the incision where he had started to, the boy would have died.

That word of wisdom made the surgery a success. It brought great joy to that boy and his parents. The Father revealing Himself through that gift of the Spirit made the difference between life and death, and the result was joy. Hallelujah!

How do I release joy? Since it's already in my spirit and The WORD feeds it and energizes it, then it must be released. How? One way is through praise. God inhabits the praise of His people. Psalm 16:11 says, "In thy presence is fulness of joy." Psalm 42:4 says, "I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise." Joy is released with the voice. Like faith, it is released with words. God's words of joy spoken with our mouths stir and release *His* joy from within us, bringing the strength that we must have from the Spirit of God.

Jeremiah 31:13 says, "Rejoice in the dance,

both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow." Joy is released when we dance before God in praise and worship. Joy is also released in prayer. The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:4 that he made request with joy. When we find the answer in God's WORD to what we are about to pray and then meditate on it until it penetrates our hearts and minds, the joy of The LORD begins to be stirred up in us. As it is being stirred, we release it in prayer and supplication along with faith. Then comes the thanksgiving and praise. Then comes the shout for joy. Then the dance of joy. Strength is being applied in many directions to solve many problems. No wonder Satan falls back at the presence of God.

So then, joy is not only a great blessing, but it is also a weapon of tremendous strength. However, like all weapons of our warfare, it must be used as an act of faith in Jesus' WORD rather than how we might feel at the time. He said His joy was ours. I believe it! It is fruit born in our inner man. I believe it! It's mine! So, I'll praise whether I feel like it or not—all the while expecting joy to do its work. Let's put this mighty force to work in our lives and bring strength not only for ourselves but others as well.

Rejoice! And again I say, rejoice! 🙌

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by Melanie Henry

# HOPE

for a Hurting World

**Sergio Alvarado** dropped into a chair on the front porch of the little house where he lived with his mother and brother in Fort Worth, Texas. At 14 years old, he looked like most other boys his age, except for his eyes. They were old. Not the eyes of a kid. ❁ Tipping back in the chair, Sergio listened to dogs bark in the night and to a mother calling her children home. He wondered what it would be like to have a mother who cooked and cleaned, who fretted over him, making sure he washed behind his ears and finished his homework.



Sergio & Yvette Alvarado

Leaning his head against the house, he wondered what it felt like to have a mother's hug. *Surely she hugged me*, he thought. But try as he might, he couldn't conjure up a single memory of one.

What he remembered instead were the sights and sounds of Juárez, Mexico, where he was born and had lived most of his life. Home had been an area known as "Heroin Alley," a place where people from the U.S. flooded across the border to score heroin. The narrow streets were bordered with bars and brothels. People milled around, while others were cooking drugs in a spoon. Beautiful young girls prostituted themselves for heroin.

Sergio had been 2 when his father walked out on them; his little brother just a baby. They lived in several houses without roofs, floors or windows. Just walls, for all the good they did. His mother survived by prostitution, leaving the boys



Juárez, Mexico

He told me to buy the land and build a word of faith church equipped with a large kitchen. We are to feed those children with good food and with the Word of God. That's a good picture of what partnership with KCM means to me. It's like throwing a lifeline to hurting people around the world.





# “Juárez

is considered one of the most *dangerous cities on earth*, which is why God wants us to

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE THERE.”

### MARCH

		Old Testament	New Testament
Sat	1	Num. 7:79-89, 8:1-26	John 1
Sun	2	Num. 9-10	John 2
Mon	3	Num. 11-12	John 3
Tue	4	Num. 13-14	John 4
Wed	5	Num. 15-17	John 5-6
Thu	6	Num. 18-19	John 7
Fri	7	Num. 20-21	John 8
Sat	8	Num. 22-23	John 9
Sun	9	Num. 24-25	John 10
Mon	10	Num. 26	John 11
Tue	11	Num. 27-28	John 12
Wed	12	Num. 29-31: 1-24	John 13-14
Thu	13	Num. 31:25-54, 32:1-42	John 15
Fri	14	Num. 33	John 16
Sat	15	Num. 34-35	John 17
Sun	16	Num. 36; Deut. 1	John 18
Mon	17	Deut. 2-3	John 19
Tue	18	Deut. 4-5	John 20
Wed	19	Deut. 6-8	John 21; Acts 1
Thu	20	Deut. 9-10	Acts 2
Fri	21	Deut. 11-12	Acts 3
Sat	22	Deut. 13-14	Acts 4
Sun	23	Deut. 15-16	Acts 5
Mon	24	Deut. 17-18	Acts 6
Tue	25	Deut. 19-20	Acts 7
Wed	26	Deut. 21-23	Acts 8-9
Thu	27	Deut. 24-25	Acts 10
Fri	28	Deut. 26-27	Acts 11
Sat	29	Deut. 28-29	Acts 12
Sun	30	Deut. 30-31	Acts 13
Mon	31	Deut. 32-33	Acts 14

alone for days at a time. Sergio, at the tender age of 3, had been responsible for taking care of his brother. Occasionally his mother dropped them off with an aunt. Sometimes she just brought the men home with her.

Closing his eyes, Sergio was back in Juárez in the little two-room house where they lived. He was 7 at the time, sitting on the floor, when his mother had convulsed and fallen out of her chair. He ran to her but two men shoved him aside. “Get back!” they shouted.

He watched them strip off her clothes and drag her to the shower. Following, Sergio saw blood on her arm. Any child from Heroin Alley knew what that meant.

His mother had overdosed.

While the men fought to revive her, Sergio slid down the wall and collapsed onto the floor. He felt so *old*, so exhausted. He wanted out of this life, but the only escape he could imagine was death.

His mother lived...if you could call it that.

There were a few good memories, Sergio recalls.

Going to school, for instance, had been like stepping into an alternate universe. He had also loved the smell of food and the sound of the cheering crowds at the basketball stadium where he worked selling potato chips. In the corner of the stadium, his mother scored heroin. For years he'd been the one taking care of her—trying to get her sober, bailing her out of jail.

Sergio was 10 when his mother brought them to the U.S. illegally. Instead of solving their problems, the move complicated matters. They spoke no English. And the fear Sergio had known every day of his life threatened to overtake him as his mother spiraled further out of control.

To help keep a roof over their heads, Sergio and his brother delivered newspapers and washed dishes. When his mother didn't come home, he often found her passed out on a park bench.

One night, Sergio heard something and sat upright in his chair. The night long spent, stars shimmering in the sky, he watched his mother stagger toward the door with a man.

The blade in Sergio's hand glinted as cold and hard as his eyes. “Try to bring a man in this house and I'll stab him,” he warned in a voice as final as death.

She went in alone while Sergio once again took his place as sentinel at the door. Later, when she slept, he tossed a rope across her and tied her to the bed. Sergio heaved a sigh of relief. She couldn't drink anything or score a hit until he untied her.

For a few blessed hours, he could rest.

Before turning to leave, he paused. Looking down at his mother he said, “Are you ever going to stop? What's it going to take?”

### Cycle of Poverty and Despair

“My mother was illiterate and gave birth to her first child when she was only 12,” Sergio explains. “By the time she was 19, she had four children whose father had left her. I was born 10 years after the youngest of those four. By the time I watched my mother overdose, the youngest of my half-brothers was already a heroin addict.

“My mother used drugs, but her primary addiction was to alcohol. I saw my father less than a dozen times in my life. He was from a good family in El Paso. Although he named me after himself, his family refused to acknowledge my brother or me. My dad was a sweet man when he was sober but, like my mother, he was a full-blown alcoholic.



“When I was around 8 years old, my aunt started taking us to a Pentecostal church. It was a little, rustic, white adobe church in Juárez. The benches were old and scarred. The cement was broken and cracked. But the people were happy, always praising God. I loved sitting up front and listening to the pastor.

“Although I didn’t know what it meant to be born again, I made a profession of faith. My mother was sober and that was the happiest year of my life. Then she started drinking again and it all fell apart. By the time we lived in Fort Worth, she was so out of control that she’d drink anything—even cologne or rubbing alcohol.”

### Alone and Rejected

Sixteen-year-old Sergio searched the park benches, bars and brothels of Fort Worth for his mother. He was used to her disappearing acts, but this time she hadn’t come home. Worry furrowed his brow. Had she gone on a binge with the wrong man? Was she dead? Might she be lying in a hospital somewhere? Maybe she’d been arrested.

Frantic, Sergio wondered what would happen to them if she didn’t return. How would they survive alone in a foreign country?

Finally, news trickled back from Mexico. Their mother had been spotted. She’d returned to Juárez—without them.

“Look,” Sergio told his younger brother, “we’re illegal aliens. Even though we’re both working, we don’t make enough to keep a roof over our heads. We’ve got to get back to Mexico!”

The boys pooled their money and bought a little car for \$400. Although neither of them knew how to drive, they figured it couldn’t be that hard. Laying a map across the scarred kitchen table, they mapped their journey. Packing their few belongings, they slipped out of the house and drove to El Paso. From there they crossed the border into Juárez.

Months later, 17-year-old Sergio sat at a bar when one of his cousins sidled up beside him. “I just saw your mother.”

Something cold coursed through Sergio’s veins. “Was she dead?”

“Yeah.”

“Where was she?”

“In the street.”

### The Cycle Repeats Itself

“I sat there crying, feeling an awful mixture of sorrow and relief,” Sergio recalls. “I was so tired. I felt like I’d spent my whole life trying to keep my mother alive, and failed. She was only in her early 50s when she died alone in the street. As sad as I felt at the loss, I was ashamed to also feel such relief. I drank all night without stopping.

“That was a turning point in my life. I’d experimented with drugs while living in Fort Worth, but after her death I spiraled out of control. I knew I was following in her footsteps,

but felt powerless to stop. I fell captive into an abyss of drugs and alcohol that lasted for 20 years.

“Two years after my mother died, my father also died of alcoholism. By then, I was a full-blown cocaine addict. I married and had children but, like my mother, I couldn’t sustain a relationship. Unlike her, I always worked and held a job. Unlike my father, I made it a point to stay involved in the lives of my children. Many times I overdosed on cocaine and almost died. My life was like a runaway train and those kids were the only thing that kept me alive.”

One day Sergio arrived to pick up his kids for a weekend visit. One of his sons looked at him in disgust. “Are you ever going to stop using drugs? I don’t want to be around you anymore.”

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The pain was staggering. He'd sunk so low his son didn't even want to be around him. He remembered tying his mother to a bed in his determination to stop the cycle.

Now it was repeating itself.

## A Cry for Help

At 37, Sergio lived in a run-down trailer in El Paso. One day he stopped outside and looked up at the sky. Weary beyond words, he said, "God, I'm so tired. If there's a chance for me to change my life, will You help me?"

A few days later Sergio met a beautiful woman. When he asked her out, Yvette said, "Sergio, if you want a relationship with me you have to attend a church seminar for couples."

Yvette wouldn't back down, so Sergio attended the seminar. Through his drug-induced fog, he remembered the joy he'd found in that little Pentecostal church. Soon after, Sergio joined the Abundant Life Faith Church in El Paso, rededicated his life to Jesus and began weaning himself off of drugs.

His 20-year drug addiction didn't disappear overnight. Sergio realized that to be free, his spirit had to grow stronger in the Word. And he had to resist the devil.

"It's very hard to get off of cocaine," Sergio admits. "Those six to eight months were very difficult. I lay in bed suffering withdrawals, every cell in my body screaming for relief. I didn't tie myself to my bed, but I wrapped myself in a huge blanket like a burrito and said, 'I'm not moving!'"

"I had to resist... and resist...and resist... and resist some more. If I saw drugs on TV my whole body shook.

Certain sights and smells triggered the cravings. Finally, I was free. Free from drugs, free from the past and free to live my life."

## God Had a Plan

May 21, 2002, Sergio and Yvette married. Three years later, one of Sergio's sons, and then his daughter, moved to Fort Worth. Hungry to rebuild his relationship with them, Sergio and Yvette moved there as well. Yvette went to work in the Partner Services Department at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Later, Sergio joined her there.

"I'd heard Jerry Savelle while we were in El Paso," Sergio remembers, "but I'd only heard of Brother Copeland. I began paying attention to what he taught. The day I heard him say that we are the prophets of our own lives, I was forever changed. Then I learned about the authority of the believer! Message by message I began to grow in the Word of God."

## To the Victor, the Spoils

A few years ago when Sergio was in Venezuela with the KCM ministry team for the Victory Campaign there, he was asked to fill in for Brother Copeland's translator for a meeting in the host's church. He was also informed that he would be riding from the hotel to the church with Brother Copeland, so he could talk with him before the meeting. Holding a microphone for the first time in his life, Sergio ministered the word in Spanish as Brother Copeland preached.

Now, as a member of the KCM ministry team, Sergio travels to meetings across the country—California, Florida,

Michigan, Wisconsin. Last August, at the 2013 Venezuela Victory Campaign, Brother Copeland invited Sergio to the platform to give his testimony. Before an audience of thousands, a humble Sergio Alvarado listened as Brother Copeland said, "I want to introduce you to my spiritual son."

His mother had rejected him. His father had abandoned him. Yet this man of God called him a son. Sergio knew it was THE BLESSING of God, restoring what had been lost.

Back in March of last year, Sergio returned to Juárez with a burden for his people. He stood once again in the basketball stadium where, as a child, he sold potato chips and where his mother spent most of her time working in nearby bars. Instead of a sporting event, the stands were filled with people praising the Name of Jesus. At the Lord's direction, Sergio had rented the stadium and hosted the Juárez Victory Campaign, bringing in pastors from Lima, Peru, and all across the U.S.

"Juárez is considered one of the most dangerous cities on earth, which is why God wants us to make a difference there," Sergio explains.

In March of this year, Sergio will join with Courtney Copeland, Kenneth Copeland's granddaughter, and minister during a special youth event called Reaction Tour. Then, in May, he has rented the same stadium for another Juárez Victory Campaign.

Sergio also has been directed by God to purchase a piece of land in the area of Juárez where he used to live.

"He told me to buy the land and build a word of faith church equipped with a large kitchen," he said. "We are to feed those children with good food and with the Word of God. He is calling us to empower them. That's a good picture of what partnership with KCM means to me. It's like throwing a lifeline to hurting people around the world."

It's been 13 years since Sergio Alvarado grabbed a lifeline from God and got off of cocaine. Not only has he reversed the curse in his own life, but his message of hope is a lifeline to a hurting world. ❶



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Time to

# Take Refuge



With every day that passes, I am increasingly grateful that God has provided His people with a place of refuge. I am also increasingly aware that we'd better make sure we're in it 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We are living in dangerous times. The end of this age is rapidly approaching and what the prophets have been saying

ever since the Bible was written is coming to pass: The light of God is getting brighter and the devil's darkness is getting darker. >>>

by Gloria Copeland





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Sin is absolutely running wild these days. I'm amazed sometimes at how much evil has increased just during my lifetime. Acts of wickedness that were practically unthinkable when I was growing up are almost commonplace now.

Many people these days have gotten the idea that sin really isn't a big deal. They think we should be more tolerant of it. Some are even proud of their sin and boldly flaunt it in the face of God.

If you've read Bible history, you know that's not a smart thing to do. It makes cultures increasingly violent and dangerous. It opens the door to calamity, destruction and ultimately to divine judgment.

Maybe this isn't a popular thing to say these days, but I'm going to say it anyway: Sin is not OK. It carries penalties with it.

Anyone who thinks it doesn't, needs to look at what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah. They don't exist anymore. You and I can't go there on vacation and tour the antiquity museums. Those cities are gone. God had to judge and destroy them because if He'd let the evil there continue unchecked, it would have contaminated the whole world. It would have darkened the hearts of future generations and prevented God from getting through to them.

Although the world hasn't gotten to that point yet in our day (and I don't believe it will as long as the Church is on the earth preaching the gospel and living for Jesus), sin is clearly having a negative effect on this planet. The earth can take only so much evil before it revolts, and things like earthquakes, fires, famines and plagues start to multiply. That's why the closer we get to the end of this age, the more dangerous this world will become.

### You Can Be Sheltered and Secure

"Well, Gloria," you might say, "you're making things sound pretty scary."

I know, and they would be scary if it weren't for this: As believers, God has provided protection for us. He has

offered us a refuge from the dangers of this world.

If we take Him up on that offer, we can be like the man in Psalm 91 who dwells in the secret place of the Most High. We can say with confidence: "The Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust!" (verses 1-2, *The Amplified Bible*).

A refuge is a wonderful thing. It provides a place of safety even in the midst of the most terrible destruction.

Have you ever seen old photos of people during World War II crowding into underground bomb shelters? That's a good illustration of what a refuge can do. It can protect you and literally save your life when evil and violence are exploding all around.

In times of trouble, even a natural refuge can be a great blessing. But a supernatural refuge—the kind that God provides for us—is an even

greater blessing. Unlike a natural shelter, there's always plenty of room in the secret place of the Most High. God will never turn you away and tell you there's no vacancy. He'll never say, "My shelter is full."

God is big! He's big enough to cover everyone who comes to Him. He's so big He can keep us surrounded continually by His goodness, so that wherever we are we can say like David did in 2 Samuel 22:2-3: "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; the God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence."

### Obedience Matters

If anyone ever needed a refuge from violence, David did. He faced a lot of it in his lifetime. He had to fight the lion and the bear that attacked his father's

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sheep. He had to single-handedly slay the murderous giant, Goliath. But he could do it all without fear because he had this revelation: “The Lord [is]... My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I *take refuge*” (Psalm 144:1-2, *New King James Version*).

Look again at those last two words. I italicized them for emphasis because they're especially important. They let us know that God's sheltering power doesn't just fall on us like an apple off a tree. We have to do something to appropriate it. We have to actively “*take refuge*” in God.

How do we do that?

By faith!

Faith is a major key to receiving everything God offers. It's how we receive the new birth. It's how we receive healing and prosperity. And since faith comes by hearing God's Word, to have faith in our refuge the first thing we do is find out what the Word says about it. We feed on God's promises of protection until all fear has been eradicated from our hearts.

Then, according to Romans 10:10, we say what we believe. We talk like David did and say things like, “I'm hidden in the secret place of the Most High! He saves me from violence. He's my refuge, my defense and my very present help in time of trouble.”

Ken and I preach frequently about faith and words, so if you've heard us very often you already know how important they are. But, they're not the whole story. It's not just what you believe and say that matters. Your actions are important too.

If you want to stay safe in God's refuge, you must obey Him. You must do what He tells you to do in His written Word and through the voice of the Holy Spirit inside you. Otherwise you'll open the door to the devil; he'll gain entrance into your life and threaten your security.

It's a sobering thought, I know, but it's true nonetheless. Even though we're believers—born again and washed in the blood of Jesus—if we want to live

in God's secret place of protection, we must be steadfast in our walk with Him. We can't be on fire for Him one day and backsliding the next. We can't be wishy-washy, acting like saints on Sunday and sinners on Monday. “For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord” (James 1:6-7).

### Living in Dangerous Territory

This is one reason why, in my own life, I put such emphasis on spending time in God's Word. The Word strengthens my faith and keeps me spiritually stable. It corrects me when I'm wrong and teaches me how to live in a way that pleases God.

Fifty years ago I used to do and say things without any sense of conviction, that I would never do or say today, because I've spent time in God's Word. I've gotten to know Him and His ways. I've learned more about what I should and shouldn't do and say.

Do you know what else I've learned from spending time in the Word? I've learned that God is altogether good, that He wants the best for me. But, if I choose to go opposite His direction, I'm taking my life in my own hands. I'm heading for trouble because just as following His commands leads to THE BLESSING, refusing to follow them leads to the curse.

Disobedience to God's Word is the doorway to everything bad! That's why James 1:22 says, “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.” Christians who are *hearers only* live in dangerous territory. *Doers* live in security and safety.

I want to be a doer, don't you? I want to do everything I can to live in obedience to the Lord. I want to think like the Bible says to think. I want to talk like the Bible says to talk, and act like the Bible says to act. I want to abide in the secret place of the Most High so I can be secure and safe even in times of national turmoil and judgment.

“Gloria, are you saying our nation is headed for judgment?” you might ask.



That's not my primary point, but I'll admit that it's possible. After all, the Bible clearly says things are going to get very bad on earth before Jesus comes. Personally, I'm praying that before the worst hits, our nation will awake unto God and experience great revival. Then the Rapture can come and God can whisk us out of here.

But regardless of how events unfold, regardless of how bad it gets before we leave, if God is your refuge you don't have to worry. As Proverbs 3:25-26 says, "You need not be afraid of sudden disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked, for the Lord is your security" (*New Living Translation*).

As the righteous, you and I can survive national judgment or any other kind of danger! We can come through the worst times and end up more BLESSED than ever. If you want to see a picture of how it happens, read in the book of Exodus about what God did for the children of Israel the night before He brought them out of Egypt.

Talk about a time of national judgment! On that night, all the firstborn in Egypt died because of the nation's rebellion against God. But in the midst of it all, the Lord protected and prospered His people. He fulfilled the promise He made to them, that "against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel" (Exodus 11:7).

God does the same for His people today. He makes a difference between the righteous and the unrighteous.

*Well, I don't believe that's fair!* someone might think.

Yes, it is. It's absolutely fair! Anyone who chooses to can do what God says. Anyone can repent and receive His forgiveness. Anyone can receive Jesus as Lord, get born again, start obeying the Word and take refuge in God.

Jesus said, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). That means it's our choice whether or not we receive God's

righteousness and take Him as our refuge. It's also our choice whether or not we stay in that refuge day by day.

If we choose not to, if we choose to step outside the protection of our covenant with God and live in disobedience to the Word, God won't be able to help us. He'll try to get correction to us, but if we ignore Him and insist on going our own way, we're going to experience the consequences. And we won't like them.

Think again about the first Passover night in Egypt and you'll see what I mean. Before the plague came, God told the Israelites to put the blood of the Passover lamb over their doorposts and then go inside their houses. "And none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the

morning," He said (Exodus 12:22).

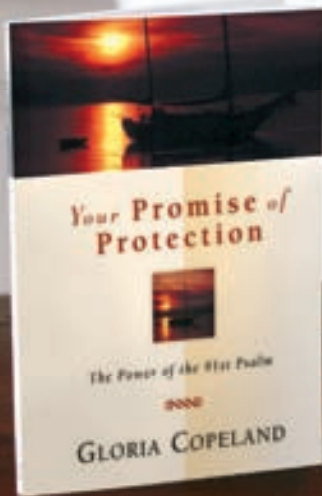
What do you think would have happened to a firstborn Israelite if he decided to ignore God's instructions and go outside about midnight? He would have died—and it would have been his own responsibility because he chose to disobey. He decided to leave the protection of the blood and ignore God's Word.

My friend and fellow believer, let's not make those kinds of choices in these dangerous times. Let's get more serious than we've ever been about the Word of God. Let's put our faith in God as our refuge, get rid of the trash in our lives and do what's right.

Then we'll be safe no matter what happens around us. We'll not only survive, we will thrive in the secret place of the Most High. 📖

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## March broadcast calendar

Sun., March 2

**Redeemed From Poverty**  
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March 3-7

**The Benefit of Healing  
Belongs to You!**  
Gloria Copeland

Sun., March 9

**Disciples of Truth and Freedom**  
Kenneth Copeland

March 10-14

**How to Get Your Prayers Answered**  
Kenneth Copeland and Bill Winston

Sun., March 16

**The Father Working Within You**  
Kenneth Copeland

March 17-21

**Taking Ownership**  
Kenneth Copeland and Bill Winston

Sun., March 23

**Receiving Grace to Please God**  
Kenneth Copeland

March 24-28

**Heirs of God—Who You Are in Christ**  
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

Sun., March 30

**Be a Blessing Agent**  
Kenneth Copeland

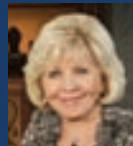
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