

VICTORY

MAY 2019

From ^{P12}
Penniless to
Prosperous

**“WITHOUT
DEBT... WE
HAD TO START
LEARNING
HOW TO BE
STEWARDS
OF WEALTH.”**

Jessie Johnson with his husky, Wilke



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“He planned your life before you were ever born; a plan that spans from start to finish just for you—the plan that He calls good.”

P20

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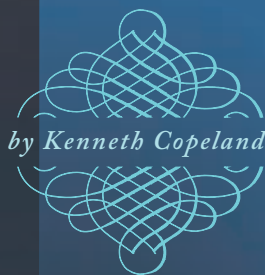
Spanish edition
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A full-page photograph of a man in a blue button-down shirt and jeans, smiling broadly while holding a pen and papers. The scene is set in a bright office with a window in the background. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a quote in white text, flanked by large, stylized quotation marks.

“
WHEN YOU SAY
SOMETHING
LONG ENOUGH,
IT WILL GET INTO
YOUR HEART
AND CONTROL
YOUR LIFE.
”



by Kenneth Copeland

an excellent SPIRIT

I'm not often tempted to grab a musician's guitar and feed it to him. But one time many years ago, the thought did go through my mind.

It was during a recording session for the album *Jesus Country*, which was released in 1974.

The session had gone on for a while and we'd done several takes on the different tracks, trying to get them just right.

Determined to nail the part we were still working on, I said, "Guys, we can do better than this. Let's try it at least one more time."

The steel guitar player shrugged, uninterested.

"Aw, that's good enough for gospel," he said.

Good enough for gospel? (I still get irritated when I think about that phrase.) *There's nothing good enough for gospel, except Jesus Himself!*

I didn't feed the guy his guitar, but I didn't smile at him either. I just said, "All right," and acted as if he hadn't said anything. Then we recorded that part again...and again...and again...until we got it.

The reason I remember that incident so well is because it captures an attitude that's still prevalent today. We live in an "Oh, that's good enough" time. A time when people tend to want to do the minimum it takes to get by. When instead of prizing diligence and excellence, fast and easy is what matters, and sloppy is OK.

It's understandable for the world



**POINTS TO
GET YOU
THERE:**

We live in a world where most people want to do just enough to get by, where fast and easy is what matters, and sloppy is OK. But that attitude isn't compatible with your identity as a believer.

1

When you received Jesus as LORD, the same Spirit came into you as was seen in Daniel in the Old Testament.

Dan. 6:3

2

You already have within you the excellent power of God; you just need to stir it up and release it.

2 Cor. 4:7

3

The Anointing of Christ is an anointing of excellence.

Phil. 3:8

4

You weren't created to be a mud pot, God made you to be a golden vessel, so live accordingly.

2 Tim. 2:20

5

Run your spiritual race with excellence in every area of life.

1 Cor. 9:24



A Word About Your Children

by Gloria Copeland

The world has much to say about your children these days—and most of it is bad. We're being told their economic futures are bleak, their ethics are waning and, for the most part, they're on a downward slide.

But if you've made Jesus Lord of your life, God has something very different to say about your children. He says they're headed for heaven, not hell. For a blessing, not a curse. So ignore the world and trust the Word. It has the power to turn your children's lives around! Here are some scriptures that will help you stay focused on God's promises regarding your children.

"Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they [your children] shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border" (Jeremiah 31:16-17).

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children" (Isaiah 54:13).


"...The seed of the righteous shall be delivered" (Proverbs 11:21).

"...Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed" (Psalm 112:1-2).

"...I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children" (Isaiah 49:25).

"The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works" (Psalm 145:9).

"...I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring" (Isaiah 44:3).

"As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever" (Isaiah 59:21). 

to have that attitude. But it ought to be totally foreign to us, as believers. It's not compatible with our identity. It's not who we are!

We're of the same spirit that was on Daniel in the Old Testament, and the Bible says that he had the exact opposite of an "oh-that's-good-enough" spirit. It says that after he was taken captive by the Babylonians as a young Jewish teenager and conscripted into government service, "This Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him" (Daniel 6:3).

Who was the "excellent spirit" in Daniel?

The Spirit of the living God! The same Spirit who's in you and me, as believers.

We've been born again of God's "excellent greatness." We've been made joint heirs with the King of all kings. (What's the title of a king? Your *Excellency*!) We've been made kings in Him, inherited His "excellent name" and His "excellent glory." We have an excellent heritage because our spiritual DNA is exactly like His. (See Psalm 150:2; Hebrews 1:4; 2 Peter 1:17.)

One of the first people who helped me understand this was Brother Oral Roberts. Back when I was a student at Oral Roberts University, serving as part of his ministry team, he often talked to us about excellence. He said if we were going to demand it of the students, we must demand it of ourselves.

Having a sloppy attitude could cost you your job on Brother Roberts' team. But he wasn't unfair about it. He set the example for us by living and ministering in excellence himself.

"Well," someone might say, "that was just his personality. It was because he was a perfectionist."

No, it was because he knew that excellence is a hallmark of God's power, that it's connected to the manifestation of His glory and His Anointing. He had a revelation of what the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:7: "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

Brother Roberts understood that the *excellency of the power* and glory of God

is already in every one of us as believers, and it's our responsibility to release it. To stir up that excellent power and put it to work in our lives.

Golden Vessel? Or Clay Pot?

In Philippians 3, the Apostle Paul wrote about how he did this in his own life. He said, "I count all things but loss for the *excellency* of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (verse 8, italics mine).

The word *Christ* literally translated means "the Anointed One and His Anointing." So what Paul really said was that he counted all things loss compared to knowing and winning the excellency of the Anointing of Jesus.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in [the Anointed One and His Anointing]" (Philippians 3:13-14).

I press toward the prize! That's what all of us, as believers, ought to be saying. We ought to have the attitude that this is the one thing we do above all: We reach forward with everything in us to lay hold of the excellence of the anointing that's ours in Jesus.

We don't want to have a sloppy, second-place mindset where walking in the power and Anointing of God is concerned. Paul certainly didn't. He didn't approach his spiritual race saying, "Well, you win a few and you lose a few." No, his attitude was you "run in such a way that you will win." (See 1 Corinthians 9:24, *New Living Translation*.)

That's what he was telling us to do in 2 Timothy 2. Referring to us as vessels in the house of God he said: "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (verses 20-21).

Now look at these verses from the

New Living Translation: “In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.”

Vessels of gold or silver are *excellent* vessels. They’re the expensive ones you polish and use for special occasions. They’re also a picture of what every born-again, Spirit-filled child of God is created to be.

We weren’t meant to limp through life as lowly mud pots. God will still love us if we do. But it’s not His plan, and He doesn’t want it to be ours either. He wants us to live as golden vessels of honor in the hands of the Master. To cleanse ourselves of dishonor so that His excellent Spirit can shine through us.

How do you do that?

You simply make a quality decision. (That’s a decision about which there is no more argument and from which there is no retreat.) You decide: *I am a golden vessel, a person with an excellent spirit, and that’s what I will continue to be.*

Then, once you’ve made that decision, you act on it. You believe God and do what He tells you to do. You take seriously and obey His every command.

Such obedience is vital because there’s no such thing as a lightweight command from God. When He tells you to do something, even if it doesn’t look all that important to you, He has a reason for it. So, ignoring it will cost you.

Take, for example, what He told me to do many years ago about exercising. When I first got started in ministry, He commanded me to “start walking and don’t quit.”

I understood Him perfectly. I even knew why He had said it. I was significantly overweight back then, and there was no way I could do everything God had called me to do if I kept carrying around 30 or 40 extra pounds.

But I didn’t want to exercise. I’d hated it ever since high school. So, I didn’t make a quality decision to obey The

At 82 years old... I have a brand-new mandate from God and I’m excited about it.

LORD in that area. I’d walk for a few days, then slough it off and forget about it. I managed to get my weight under control with dieting programs and such. But even so, for years the fat percentage on my body stayed at about 35 percent.

I eventually got it down to about 20 percent and dreamed of getting it down to the ideal, which is 15 percent. I even claimed it. But when it came to exercise, after being in the ministry for decades, I still wasn’t doing what God had said.

Getting With the Program

Then a couple of years ago The LORD dealt with me very strongly. He drew my attention to some areas in my life and ministry where I’d gotten sloppy and spoke to me about them. *You’d better get your house in order*, He said.

One by one, I addressed those areas until eventually we got down to the exercise issue.

What are you going to do about this? He asked.

“I wasn’t planning on doing anything about it,” I replied.

Well, you’re going to have to, He said.

He’d already sent me one of the finest trainers in the country. But up to that point, instead of approaching my training with excellence, I’d just griped about it and done as little as I could get away with. So, I made a change. I repented right there and made a quality decision to get with the program.

The next day, I went into the exercise

room with a whole different attitude.

I was glad to be there and ready to give this thing my all. As I reached up to grab the bar to work my triceps, however, these words came out of my mouth before I could even think to stop them: “God, I hate this!”

Why did I say it? Because I’d been saying that about exercise for years. I’d said it until it had gotten in me.

When you say something long enough, it will get into your heart and control your life. Realizing that’s what had happened to me, I immediately slapped my hand over my mouth. “God, forgive me!” I said. “In the Name of The LORD Jesus Christ, I repent with all my heart. LORD, I love this because I love You. I dedicate myself to this because I’ve dedicated my life to You.”

As soon as I got those words out of my mouth, I physically felt that hatred for exercise leave me. From then on, I fell in love with the weight room. I began to enjoy working out. Less than three months later I was at 15 percent body fat!

I’d struggled and failed for 20 years to reach that goal because I’d counted God’s commandment as a lightweight thing. It hadn’t looked like much to me, so I hadn’t realized that it was from His excellent glory.

Now, though, I’ve made the adjustment. At 82 years old with 15 percent body fat, I have a brand-new mandate from God and I’m excited about it. What made the difference? I released the excellence of God in that area of my life.

You can do the same thing! You can release the excellence of God in any area and see His glory go to work for you. All it takes is a quality decision to do these five things:

1. Decide to live always and only by God’s WORD. Make it your absolute final authority. Determine that you’ll have no other source in your life—if The WORD won’t get it, you won’t have it.

2. Decide to live the life of love. To believe the love God has for you, and to love others the way He loves you.

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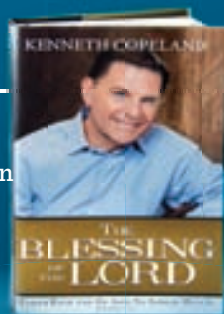
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3. Decide to live by uncompromising faith that makes no room for the flesh.

4. Live a life of honor before God. Be totally honest with Him always. Don't get into condemnation, but don't dodge His questions, make excuses and try to cover stuff up. If I'd been honest with God and hadn't made excuses for not exercising all those years, I could have dodged a lot of pain and trouble in my body. That's what God was trying to help me do, but I was too dumb to realize it. So, learn from my mistake. Don't wait until you're over 80 years old to tell God the truth about that thing He's been dealing with you about. Don't keep kicking it down the road year after year. Stop lying to Him about it and let Him straighten you out. While you're at it, be honest with other people, as well. Don't lie about anything. Don't make excuses. Treat people with honor and tell them the truth.

5. Determine to excel more in every aspect of your life. Commit to increase in excellence spiritually, to improve the quality of your soul (which includes your mind, will, emotions) and the condition of your body. Seek The LORD about how to improve your marriage. (No matter how good your marriage may be, you can always find ways to have more fun together.) And aim for greater excellence where your business, your prosperity and your assets are concerned.

Granted, improving those areas will require some investment. It will take prayer, effort, money and time. The changes I've made in my body required me to invest in all those things. But the dividends were well worth the cost. They haven't just affected me physically, they've increased the excellence of the anointing on my ministry and my life.

This is what we're after! We're pressing toward the prize of that anointing. We're not just being picky or perfectionistic. We're in training, learning how to activate and release the excellent glory that's on the inside of us.

The time has come for that glory to manifest as never before. So, let's get our act together and tighten up the ship. Let's let the world see in us, what the king of Babylon saw in Daniel—the excellent Spirit of God! 🙏

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**Commander
Kellie's Corner**

MY SECRET SAUCE



Hey, Superkid! I know, you are already so focused on Jesus that giving yourself to Him has become your daily, even hourly way of living. Giving yourself to Him this year pleases Him so much! It is His great desire to live in complete union and connection with you.

This month, let's go further into our prayer of dedication we prayed a few months ago: ***This is my gift to You, Jesus. I give You ME! My life, my thoughts, 24-7, every beat of my heart....***

Every beat of my heart. The beat of your heart is your source of life. When the heart stops beating, life stops. Our need for Jesus is even more serious and critical to our lives. Jesus not only gave us life when we were born, He changed our lives when we were born again. Superkid, He IS our life!

Jesus knew that to live, He had to stay connected with His Father, because He KNEW where His life came from. So, He said it out loud and He said it often! John 5:30, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says, "I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord—but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide, as the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me."

Jesus is the Son of God. He created the universe, but not by Himself. He didn't even TRY to do anything by Himself. He wasn't kidding! He made a decision: I don't make My own decisions. I don't make My own way, please Myself, or make up My own ideas about what I like and don't like. It only matters what the Father thinks about Me or wants for Me.

That is serious dedication and living for only one purpose—to please His Father!

If Jesus, the Son of God, must be that focused on His Father to live, then you and I must be that focused on Jesus to live! If Jesus can't live one moment out of the Father's presence, then you and I can't either. Why would we want to? Jesus paid the BIGGEST price for us

to ALWAYS be with Him, to be able to draw our life from Him, and to stay firmly joined with Him. Stop and think about how huge that is, Superkid! Jesus Himself has filled us up with ALL of Himself!

I want you to see this truth in the Word of God and then receive His Word by saying it out loud (like Jesus did in John 5:30). In Colossians 1 and 2 (*The Passion Translation*), the Bible expresses who the Father is in Jesus and who Jesus is in us. I've only used some of the verses, but I challenge you and your family to read both chapters, then discuss what it means to be filled-up Superkids!

**Say
the words
in BOLD
out loud,
Superkid:**

CHAPTER 1:

15 "He is the divine portrait, the true likeness of the invisible God, and the first-born heir of all creation."

Jesus looks and acts just like our Father!

18-19 "He is the Head of his body, which is the church. And since he is the beginning and the firstborn heir in resurrection, he is the most exalted One, holding first place in everything. For God is satisfied to have all his fullness dwelling in Christ."

All the fullness of God the Father lives in Jesus! This is huge to me!

26-27 "There is a divine mystery—A SECRET SURPRISE that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it's being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory!..."

**This is my SECRET SAUCE!
This is what makes me special and makes me ALIVE!**

27 "...This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes A HEAVENLY



TREASURE CHEST of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!"

I contain THE Treasure of heaven—Jesus, and God wants everyone to know it!

28 "Christ is our message! We preach to awaken hearts and bring every person into the full understanding of truth."

I awaken my HEART to the real Jesus inside me!

CHAPTER 2:

3 "For our spiritual wealth is in him, like hidden treasure waiting to be discovered—heaven's wisdom and endless riches of revelation knowledge."

I am on the TREASURE HUNT OF MY LIFE!

6 "In the same way you received Jesus our Lord and Messiah by faith, continue your journey of faith, progressing further into your union with him!"

By faith, I am connected to Jesus more today than yesterday.

7 "Your spiritual roots go deeply into his life as you are continually infused with strength, encouraged in every way."

Jesus IS THE HEARTBEAT OF MY LIFE!

8 "Beware that no one distracts you or intimidates you in *their attempt to lead you away from Christ's fullness* by pretending to be full of wisdom when they're filled with endless arguments of human logic."

No lie of the enemy can steal my attention from My Jesus. I am forever connected to Him!

19 "They refuse to take hold of the true source. *But we receive directly from him*, and his life supplies vitality into every part of his body through the joining ligaments connecting us all as one. *He is the divine Head who guides his body* and causes it to grow by the supernatural power of God."

My life comes only from Jesus. I look to Him every second, and I do not look to any other source for my life, my information, my wisdom or my strength.

Jesus, I give You EVERY BEAT of my heart, because You ARE every beat of my heart! You guide and make me into all You created me to be.

Oh WOW. Just WOW! I'm ALIVE and AWAKE. Ready for anything, Jesus!

Commander Kellie

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Shelly & Jessie Johnson

by *Melanie Hemry*

From Penniless to PROSPEROUS

Jessie Johnson pulled himself up off the sagging sofa in the trailer house where he'd crashed since losing his job.

Aug. 4, 1998, he figured, was as good a day to die as any.

Denton, Texas, as good a place as any.

Homeless. Jobless. Hopeless. He couldn't think of a single thing to live for. The ounce of cocaine he'd taken should do the trick.

Staggering outside, he sat on the steps of the deck, feeling his heart pump like a jackhammer. No breeze dispelled the August heat. It clung, cloying like cheap perfume in a crowded room. The strangling heat made it hard to get a deep breath. Or maybe that was the cocaine.

"Do you believe in God?"

Jessie opened his eyes against the glaring sun.

It was his friend's girlfriend, high on something.

"Sure," Jessie said, "that tree is my god. The moon is my god. Everything around me is my god."

"Those aren't God!" she insisted. "Jesus Christ is the only way!"

She carried on, preaching Jesus.

It was not a subject Jessie wanted to hear. God and Jesus wanted nothing to do with him. Of course, that wasn't big news. Why should God care what happened to him if his own parents hated him enough

to abuse him? If it was possible to literally beat the hell out of a kid, he should have been awarded sainthood. He'd tried to commit suicide twice as a child. Where his family began, his sister's boyfriends had finished. One family member started giving him marijuana when he was 8. Maybe it was supposed to ease the pain.

It hadn't.

That same year, a neighbor had taken him to church. Sitting in the cool sanctuary and listening to beautiful music, hope had sprung to life. Could God help him?

Jessie still remembered that day. The pastor said something like, "Don't you know that people who do wrong won't get to heaven?" He talked about people who were sexually immoral. Greedy. Drunk. It probably included drugs too, but he didn't remember.

Still, the message had been clear to Jessie's 8-year-old mind.

He was doomed to hell.

Might as well get it over



**Why should
God care what
happened to
him if his own
parents hated
him enough to
abuse him?**

with and pay his dues.

"Jesus said that He was the way, the truth and the life...."

She was still droning on.

Jessie tried to get up, but something powerful pinned him down. Another voice spoke. It wasn't hers. This one was loud, authoritative. If he didn't know any better, he'd think it was the voice of God.

MAY READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

		Old Testament	New Testament
Wed	1	Jdgs. 20-21	John 19
Thu	2	Ruth 1-4	John 20
Fri	3	1 Sam. 1-3	John 21
Sat	4	1 Sam. 4-7	
Sun	5	Ps. 56-59; Prov. 11:24-12:11	
Mon	6	1 Sam. 8:10	Acts 1
Tue	7	1 Sam. 11-13	Acts 2
Wed	8	1 Sam. 14	Acts 3
Thu	9	1 Sam. 15-16	Acts 4
Fri	10	1 Sam. 17	Acts 5
Sat	11	1 Sam. 18-19	
Sun	12	Ps. 60-63; Prov. 12:12-28	
Mon	13	1 Sam. 20-21	Acts 6
Tue	14	1 Sam. 22	Acts 7
Wed	15	1 Sam. 23-24	Acts 8
Thu	16	1 Sam. 25-26	Acts 9
Fri	17	1 Sam. 27-29	Acts 10
Sat	18	2 Sam. 30-31	
Sun	19	Ps. 64-67; Prov. 13	
Mon	20	2 Sam. 1-3	Acts 11
Tue	21	2 Sam. 4-6	Acts 12
Wed	22	2 Sam. 7-10	Acts 13
Thu	23	2 Sam. 11-13	Acts 14
Fri	24	2 Sam. 14-15	Acts 15
Sat	25	2 Sam. 16-17	
Sun	26	Ps. 68; Prov. 14:1-14	
Mon	27	2 Sam. 18-20	Acts 16
Tue	28	2 Sam. 21-22	Acts 17
Wed	29	2 Sam. 23-24	Acts 18
Thu	30	1 Kgs. 1	Acts 19
Fri	31	1 Kgs. 2	Acts 20

Sit down, shut up and listen or you'll die tonight and go to hell.

A Future and a Hope

"When I heard those words," Jessie remembers, "I lay back across the deck and listened to her talk. As I listened, I sobered up. A while later, my friend's daughter came home. I remembered that someone had given her a student Bible, and I asked to see it. I still didn't believe there was any hope for me to escape hell, but I stayed up all night reading that Bible, looking for the words that doomed me there.

"Hours later, I found what I was looking for in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10: 'Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God' (*New International Version*).

"There it was in black and white. It was clear. I was doomed. Then I saw something I didn't know existed. The next verse said, 'And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.'

"I was stunned as I read and reread that verse. For the first time in my life, I knew I wasn't hopeless. I opened the phone book to the church section and saw a listing for Bethel Temple. I read the Bible for the rest of the night and showed up at the church the next morning at 7:15. When someone arrived, I asked when there would be a service. There would be one that evening. I spent the whole day reading the Bible, then borrowed a truck and went to church that evening.

"During worship, I felt something wash over me. I'd never experienced anything like it, but it was the love of God. Pastor John Stout knelt in front of me and led me to the Lord. After service, he took me out to eat. I went back to my sofa that night knowing that I was a different person."

Surrounded by Love

Not sure what to do with himself the next day, Jessie showed up at the church. The pastor put him to work painting

and doing odd jobs. He spent the money he earned buying his first Bible. Each day over lunch, Jessie's pastor taught him about the Lord. When Calvary Cathedral International Church in Fort Worth held a revival, Jessie attended each night.

"Calvary Cathedral has a Bible college," Pastor Stout explained. "If you want to attend, I'll pay your fees."

Jessie enrolled in the program, moving to Fort Worth and living with another student and his father. He joined the church and became a member of the choir. Looking up from his songbook one morning, he noticed a beautiful woman.

That's the one I have for you.

Jessie sought counsel about the situation and was advised to wait and see what God would do. Months later, at the choir's Christmas party, the woman, Shelly, came as a guest. They became acquainted, and soon after Jessie proposed. In March 1999, the two were married. Both Jessie and Shelly graduated from the Bible college in 2000.

That summer, they went on a mission trip with the church to Romania. As they ministered, Jessie and Shelly saw many certifiable miracles. Blind eyes opened. Deaf ears healed. One girl in a gypsy camp had been born deaf and dumb. She'd never heard or spoken. Following prayer, she could both hear and speak. She spoke fluent Dutch and Romanian.

A Family and a Career

"In 2001, my company transferred us to Austin," Jessie says. "While we were there, I started my own IT company. I didn't have enough capital and got us into \$100,000 of debt. I didn't want to let Shelly down, so I kept trying to figure out a way to fix the problem. When I realized we would have to declare bankruptcy, I was sure Shelly would leave me. I always expected that she would, but she didn't. She said she'd made a vow to God and to me and was staying.

"I was always hesitant about having children, because I didn't know how to be a father. I hadn't learned that at home. But after five years, we had a son, Matthew. He was still little when my parents moved into a big house on 14 acres. They invited us to move in with them so Shelly and I could go back to



“

We both needed healing, but I knew Jessie had to experience God's love through me....The turning point came when he experienced true forgiveness from me. I don't believe he was able to get free until then.

”

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The BLESSING of
The LORD: Receiving
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Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland

Sun., May 5
Your Wealth Is
in the Hundredfold
Kenneth Copeland

May 6-10
The Laws of
Prosperity—Part 1
Gloria Copeland and
George Pearsons



George Pearsons

Sun., May 12
Jesus Provided Your
Heart's Desire
Kenneth Copeland

May 13-17
Jesus, God's
Heavenly Gift to You
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., May 19
Your Time for
Abundant Harvest
Kenneth Copeland

May 20-24
God's Way of
Doing Things
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., May 26
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school. I'd worked hard to develop a better relationship with them over the years. Neither of them knew the Lord. So, in 2005, we moved to Arkansas to live with them.

"Shelly was an LPN and wanted to become an RN. I decided to go into nursing too. It took a while, but we each graduated as registered nurses. In 2010, my mother accepted the Lord Jesus as her Savior before she died that year."

Years passed, as Jessie and Shelly carved out a good life for themselves and Matthew.

In 2014, Jessie accepted a job with a good salary and excellent benefits. Although he had stopped doing drugs years before, on occasion he would gamble. Over time, he became more and more obsessed with gambling.

Mountain of Debt

In April 2016, Shelly stumbled across a deleted email in her computer that revealed that almost \$28,000 of a student loan she had taken out to get her master's degree had been used. Problem was, *she* hadn't used it. Livid, she picked up her phone to call Jessie, who was out of town on a job assignment. Jessie was at the airport, preparing to board a flight for home, when he answered the call.

"I know what you did," he heard Shelly say.

Not trying to cover his deception, Jessie told Shelly, "I have a problem. We'll talk when I get home."

Shelly went through all their finances, adding up the debts. The number was staggering. It was *impossible*. She saw no way to get out of debt. No way to trust Jessie again and save their marriage. The pain from his betrayal felt overwhelming.

Shelly realized that she was at a crossroad. If she handled this in the flesh, they would have to declare bankruptcy—and probably end in divorce court. Should she stay, or should she go? Her world felt as though it had tilted on its axis.

With sudden clarity, she knew what to do. Pulling out their checkbook, she wrote a check to KCM.

"We had listened to Kenneth and Gloria off and on for years," Shelly said. "We'd given to their ministry

sporadically, and I knew that giving into their ministry was the key to a miracle. I didn't want to declare bankruptcy. I wanted to get out of debt God's way. Part of doing that was through giving. Another part was responding to Jessie with the love of God—not hammering him with guilt and anger.

They needed more than a financial miracle, Shelly said. They also needed God's power to repair and restore what had quickly become a broken marriage.

"I knew what I had to do to make that happen, but for it to work Jessie had a huge part of his own," said Shelly. "It wasn't going to happen overnight. This was a process that we had to work through. It took work. But I trusted God to help me learn to trust Jessie again.

Back to Basics

"We'd always been tithers, but we didn't understand the power of giving as part of our covenant. We hadn't understood the concept of sowing seed. But I did know this: When I wrote that check to KCM, I made a withdrawal on God's power for help.

"As we worked through paying off debts, we gave \$25 a month to KCM. Then \$50, and then \$100 a month. We weren't just giving money. We gave possessions. Once, when a pastor needed a refrigerator, we gave him our good one and kept the old one. We gave clothes to those in need. We made giving a lifestyle. We also immersed ourselves in the Word of God and took our stand in the Scriptures.

"We both needed healing, but I knew Jessie had to experience God's love through me. We had an accountability structure in place, but as months passed he was more accountable than he needed to be. I realized that he was floundering because for months he'd been beating himself up. The turning point came when he experienced true forgiveness from me. I don't believe he was able to get free until then."

Jessie took an important step of his own. He went to the church for healing prayer. Sharing what he'd suffered as a child, they prayed over that abuse. While he'd had prayer before, it was nothing as deep and thorough as now. Chains that had held

pain and addictive behaviors in place were broken.

Game Changer

In October 2016, Shelly listened to a message by Kenneth Copeland, and another one by Bill Winston. There was nothing specific in either message to their situation, but she felt led to ask Jessie to listen to them as well. He did, and that's when everything changed. From that point on, he immersed himself in the Word and began learning to live by faith. The more time he spent in the Word, the more he was transformed by the renewing of his mind. There was a radical change in him.

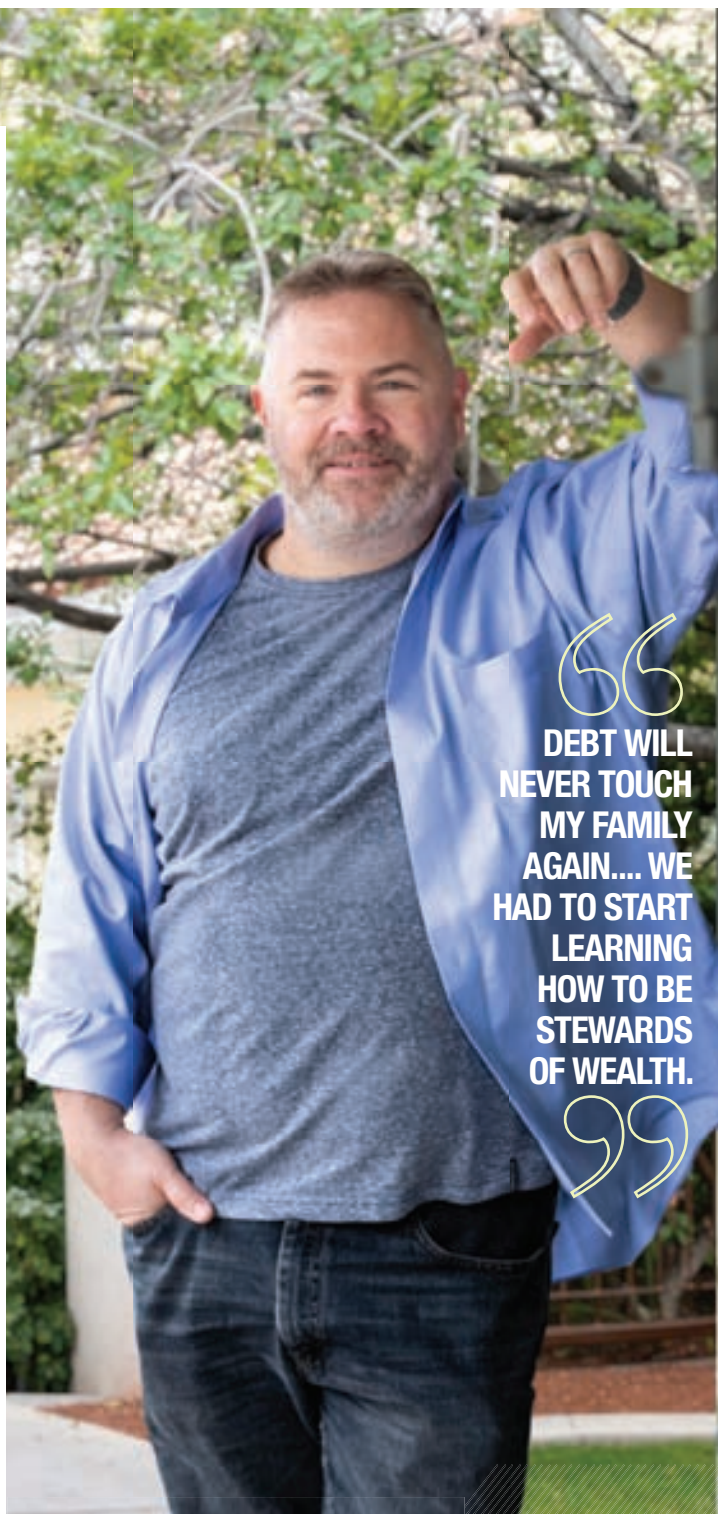
"I attended a program called Celebrate Recovery," Jessie recalled. "It was a good program, but what got me free was God's Word in big doses. It took listening to Kenneth Copeland, Bill Winston, Creflo Dollar, Jerry Savelle and Jesse Duplantis. The more I listened, the more I gave. As I was transformed by the Word, changes started happening in our finances.

"I received an incredible pay raise. Shelly attended a nurse practitioner program and got a new job with a great salary. We gave our tithe the first thing out of every check. And we gave our possessions. Dad had moved into our neighborhood, and when he moved into assisted living, he let us move into his house. We sold our home and made enough money to pay off a lot of debt.

Within 18 months, Jessie and Shelly were totally out of debt, with no mortgage.

"Debt will never touch my family again," says Jessie. "It's been defeated. Without debt, and with our good salaries, we had to start learning how to be stewards of wealth. One of the greatest blessings during that time was that Dad gave his heart to Jesus. We celebrated with him on April 1, 2018, when he went to heaven, ready to meet God."

Following his dad's death, Jessie learned that he had left them two houses that he had owned. They also discovered that Jessie's dad had left them a small insurance policy. Shelly decided to use the money to buy Jessie something he'd wanted for most of his life—a Harley-Davidson® motorcycle.



“
**DEBT WILL
NEVER TOUCH
MY FAMILY
AGAIN.... WE
HAD TO START
LEARNING
HOW TO BE
STEWARDS
OF WEALTH.**
”

To their surprise, the insurance check was the exact cost of the motorcycle—to the penny, Shelly said.

"We believe it was God's way of saying, 'See, Jessie, I really do love you,'" Shelly explains.

Over the past two years, they've received 100 times the seed they have sown. They realize that what the devil meant for evil, God turned for good. ❶

**THE
BLESSING
of The LORD,
it maketh rich
and He addeth
no sorrow
with it.**

1

On the cross
Jesus took on
Himself the
curse of poverty
so that you could
be set free.
2 Cor. 8:9

2

Even if you're
starting at zero,
God can prosper
and promote
you.
Ps. 113:7-8

3

What looks hard
to you isn't hard
for God.
Matt. 19:26

4

When you get
your eyes off
yourself and
begin to give,
God will turn
your financial
desert into a
Garden of Eden.
2 Cor. 9:7-8

5

Jesus blesses
what you put in
His hands, and
THE BLESSING
causes it to
multiply.
Prov. 10:22

HER FAITH WORKED

Dear Pastor George, as I'm listening to your message on using our faith, this very thing happened to me last week! I woke up with a very painful earache. The first thing I wanted to do was call the pastor to pray. The Holy Spirit spoke to me, *What is wrong with your faith?* I began to plead the blood and tell the devil he had no authority in this body, for it is the temple of the Holy Ghost. In just a few minutes there was no pain.

Every few minutes a pain would reappear and again I would tell the devil it is over, "You are defeated through the blood." He left me alone and I have had no more pain. God is faithful to His word. EMIC is such a blessing.

V.D. | Farmington, N.M.

MY STRENGTH RESTORED

I've been praying for the past month, yet feeling defeated. Since I started watching your webcast, *Developing a Strong Spirit*, my prayer life has an attitude of authority. And, my spiritual and physical strength have not only been restored, but surpassed what I could ever have imagined!

Each evening, I look forward to watching your series on YouTube®. I love watching the enthusiasm on Pastor Pearsons' face, as he and Gloria Copeland teach this message. Thank you for being so faithful!

E.B. | New Castle, Del.



"If you want peace in your life, give peace to others. Walk in love. Be quick to forgive and overlook an offense."

—Gloria Copeland

Anxiety Gone and Standing Strong

I want to thank KCM. Eight years ago I was released from a lifetime of severe anxiety and agoraphobia. I had been unable to drive or get my mail. Then, I began a journey of healing and driving.

I consumed every available teaching, and then BVOVN®. I now work full time and drive 50 miles or more per day. To combat anything from the past trying to come back, I listen to Gloria Copeland and Pastor George, and any other preachers

I can from BVOVN.

When the weather is bad, or I'm going to a new place, I always put in a CD of Gloria and George to listen to. I feel like they are my mother and brother, since all my immediate family have passed. I once drove through a snow squall and Kenneth was praying in tongues at that moment on my CD! Thank you!

B.R. | Brainerd, Minn.

Thank You for Your Kindness

Thank you so much. I recently lost my beloved husband, and I am getting so much out of the materials you sent me—the *Sorrow Not* booklet and *Hidden Treasures*. I can't thank you enough for your kindness. E.G. | Winter Park, Fla.



"I wanted to take a moment and thank you for Superkid Academy!"

Thank You for Superkid Academy

When I was a child, my mom bought the very first Superkids story on cassette and we would listen to it on the way to church. I can vividly remember being [stirred] by the story and enamored with the songs. It was the first time I thought God wasn't boring. Ha!

Sara T. | Edmond, Okla.

THE WORD WAS WORKING, EVEN WHEN I COULD NOT

The last seven years (in our personal and ministry lives) have been challenging. So many things have happened, that I battled against grief and despair. Yet, KCM never gave up on its Partners and commitment to take this gospel to all the world. There were times I listened to teachings but was so numb, I didn't know what was being said. Yet, the Word was still working. Light was coming, despair was leaving, righteousness was taking over! I want to personally thank Gloria for her teachings on walking in the spirit—game changer! I sensed that she is walking in a new season; I want her to know I'm praying for her. The impact of her life on me as a born-again, Spirit-filled believer, woman, wife and mother, has reached my world.

Pastor Rosemary D. Pleasant Prairie, Wis.

HEALED AND STAYING HEALED

This is a written thank-you for teaching, preaching and applying the good news! The *Healing and Wellness* action plan you prescribed, as well as Proverbs 4:20-22, have helped me to be healed and to stay healed. Mere words cannot reveal how thankful I am! BVOV is doing exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us. Jesus is Lord!

D.G. | Water Mill, N.Y.

'I KNEW HE WAS TALKING TO ME!'

I had lesions break out on my legs, itching horribly, as I sat in the arena last year on the first day of the Southwest Believers' Convention. They had not cleared up, and in December, I began to break out with psoriasis-type lesions on top of my hands and wrists. The scales and itching have been miserable. I have not sought medical treatment, because Jesus Christ is my Healer. I have continued to declare the Word of God, speaking to them, standing on the Word in Isaiah 53:5 that says I was healed at Calvary. I know that these are not mine and are lying symptoms!

Today, when Pastor George started speaking,

the burning and itching on my hands and wrists was so intense it was almost unbearable. When he had everyone stand, I stood in my bedroom and made Sister Gloria's confession. Then Pastor Greg said to the viewers to anoint themselves with anointing oil. He also said, "Lady, that's it!" and I knew he was talking to me! I obeyed and prayed, declaring and seeing myself touching the hem of Jesus' garment and being healed! All itching and burning stopped on my hands and wrists, and now the redness has started to dissipate. Hallelujah! I am healed! Praise You, Jesus! Thank You, Lord!

T.C. | Somerset, Ky.



RISE UP TO HIS WAY OF THINKING

by Kenneth Copeland

God's words are living forces. Powerful forces that, if you allow them to take up residence in you, will produce holiness in your life.


To be holy is to be separated to God's use. Therefore, if you allow your choices to be bathed in the Anointing of God's WORD, those choices will separate you from the destructive bent of this natural world and take you into the blessings of the supernatural realm.

Just think how far-reaching the consequences of such a change would be. Your choices can affect an entire generation. You can make certain choices that can either damage or enrich lives all around you. What may not seem like a very important decision to you, may ultimately make vital differences in your own future and that of your family.

But God sees the whole picture. He knows what's around the corner that you can't see. So when you are walking in His choices, your life starts to fit. Things start working. All the pieces of the puzzle start coming together.

You can save yourself so much heartache and headache it isn't even funny, just by spending some quality time in God's presence and in His WORD. If you'll let Him, He will help you with every choice you make.

To have abundant life on this death-bound planet, you'll have to live a supernatural lifestyle by making supernatural choices every day of your life!

So start now to put The WORD into your heart. Start now to let the force of it and the anointing on it direct your choices—big and small. Let God begin to lift you up to His way of thinking. 

**"GOD HAS HAD
HARVEST TIME IN HIS
SIGHTS ALL ALONG."**

— Kenneth Copeland



by
Kellie
Copeland

a Good Work *in progress*

After each day of Creation, God would step back and examine all He had done, and all He could say was, “It is *good*.” And when He was done with all His good Creation, He rested from all His work.

There is such love reflected in that simple word *good*.

As I have studied the plan of God, I have come to realize how meaningful to God *good* really is. Just any old plan and just any old thing is not good enough for His children.

Because of His great love for us and His desire that we have an amazing life here on earth, He gives us only His *good* stuff.

As we look into His Word for evidence of His great plan for us, we should always keep these things in mind. God is never random, and He is never off course. He has a very pleasing, precise plan for our lives. Actually, that plan was

developed before the foundation of the world. He planned your life before you were ever born; a plan that spans from start to finish just for you—the plan that He calls *good*.

Ephesians 2:10, *Amplified Bible, Classic*



paint, they don't just start slapping paint on the canvas. They plan. What is the background going to look like? What will be the focal point? What details will be in the painting? A masterpiece is painted by an artist who is an expert, highly skilled visionary.

You—A Masterpiece!

Well, *you* are a masterpiece, born into the good life God planned for you long ago. Just look at Psalm 139, *New Living Translation*, and you'll see just how skillfully and expertly you have been made. See for yourself how God has truly planned your life as carefully as He planned the universe.

Verse 13 says, "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb." And in verses 15-16 we read, "You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."

Verse 15 in the *AMPC* says it's as if He embroidered us with various colors.

When I was a kid, I always wanted craft things for Christmas. I loved to start projects, although I don't think I finished many of them. In the 1970s, embroidery was very popular so, of course, I had to try it! My mother bought me a hoop, needle, thread, iron-on transfers and a denim shirt to try my new skills. I learned how different stitches, widths and colors of thread completed each unique part of the pattern. In the same way, when each of us was in our mother's womb, God was embroidering all the different things that we were going to be—that He *designed* us to be.

Everything you need to be what He designed *you* to be is already inside you. That's why it's very difficult to fit

Edition, makes it clear, "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]."

What a statement. The Creator of the universe has declared us to be His masterpiece! When artists begin to

“He planned your life before you were ever born; a plan that spans from start to finish just for you—the plan that He calls *good*.”



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

yourself into the mold of someone else. Satan tries to convince people to want to be something they weren't designed to be. They look at someone else, thinking, *They're so talented. They're so smart. I want to be this or I want to be that.*

Wanting to be something God hasn't called you to be is an expression of a spirit of covetousness. He didn't put things in you to make you like someone else; He put them in you to make you into His one-of-a-kind masterpiece. But unlike my unfinished creative projects, He will stick with you until you look like His original design. I'm so glad God won't quit on us!

We must grasp the truth in verse 16 and keep it in our thinking. It should shape and mold our choices in life. God didn't only plan our general future, but He wrote every moment of every day for our entire life...before we were born! That is life-changing!

A Good Plan for a Good Life

Before a single day had passed, He looked at that plan and said, "This is good." Look at Ephesians 2:10 again. God planned that we would not only do *good* works, but that He would lay out a *good* path for us to walk out. Remember that word *good* in Genesis 1? I have given much thought to His reasons for such an elaborate Creation. Why did He check His work so closely? Why did it have to be "*good*"? Why such attention to detail, and why so many different varieties of mammals, birds and fish?

How many fish do you imagine are so deep in the ocean that mankind will never see them all without God's help? How many species of dogs are there? How many kinds of birds do you think are in the world? What could God's purpose be?

One Christmas, I put a puppy in a box and gave him to my son, Max. He was a big, happy, wrestling retriever named Duke. Boys seem to prefer dogs you can roll around with. Most girls want something they can carry around. One type of dog wouldn't do the job, so what did God do? He made different kinds and sizes.

Why make flowers? Why make them beautiful? I can see only one reason for all of it—just because He loves you—because He wants you to enjoy it all. That's the reason He took the time to step back and check His work. He created it all for the pleasure of His ultimate creation—you and me! It had to be *good*.



POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1

God is never random, and never off course. He planned your life before you were ever born; a plan that spans from start to finish just for you—a plan that He calls *good*.
Eph. 2:10

2

You are a masterpiece, born into the good life God planned for you long ago.
Ps. 139:13, 15-16

3

Since God has already seen your life from beginning to end, His work now is to help you live the life He has planned out and finished—to help you do the *good* works which He predestined for you.
Ecc. 3:15

4

God is watching over the plan He designed. He's working in you, giving you the desire and the power to paint the picture—for you to be what He designed you to be and do.
Phil. 2:12-13

5

When you made Jesus the Lord of your life, you were born into the ultimate fulfillment of God's great plan.
Eph. 2:10

Do you see in Ephesians how He described the plan He has for you? He planned you with the same intensity He used to plan all of creation—with the same attention to detail. He made sure it was *good*. You are a masterpiece... you are His pleasure...painted by God Himself. And when you made Jesus the Lord of your life, you were born into the ultimate fulfillment of His great plan.

Ecclesiastes 3:11, *AMPC*, tells us: "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy]..."

That sounds like Psalm 139 to me. He has planted these things inside us. The only satisfaction we can find is to live out the plan as He designed it, to be the masterpiece He has painted us to be.

Ecclesiastes 3:15, *AMPC*, goes on to say, "That which is now already has been, and that which is to be already has been; and God seeks that which has passed by [so that history repeats itself]." In other words, God has already seen your life from beginning to end. His work now is to help you live the life He has planned out and finished—to help you do those *good* works which He predestined (planned beforehand) for you.

The Finished Work

We are His masterpiece...a painting that He has already painted, but hasn't been painted yet. Confusing? Not really. Think about it like a paint-by-number set. Remember those? What is always on the box lid? A picture of the finished painting.

Before you were ever born, God painted a picture of your life, like that box top. Your life is like the canvas, and He put inside you all the colors needed, along with His instructions—His Word. He knows every step it will take for you to be all He planned. He knows the end from the beginning. He's already thought your life through and to Him, it's already happened.

Once you leave your mother's womb He is there, helping you walk through each stage to bring you to that place He's already painted for you. It is just like a paint-by-number picture...He created the painting but He's given you the brush. You always hold the brush.



VICTORIOUS
LIVING

by Kenneth Copeland

When Your Mouth Speaks, Your Mind Listens

"There is no truth in him [the devil]."
John 8:44

You might as well face it.

As long as you are on this earth, the devil is going to talk to you. He has a right to test your faith by bringing you circumstances and lies to see if you'll receive them.

But when he does, refuse them. Cast down those fearful imaginations and every thought that is contrary to the promise of God (2 Corinthians 10:5). Say, "The Lord is on my side. I will not fear!"

Then open your mouth and speak The WORD of God. Use it to contradict the devil's lies. If he tells you, "You won't have enough money for your house payment this month," don't just struggle silently with that thought. Speak up. Say right out loud, "I will have the money for my house payment. I know I will because my God supplies all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus!"

I found out a long time ago that when my mouth speaks, my mind has to stop and listen to what it's saying. Maybe you won't fully believe that confession the first time you make it. But if you'll keep saying it, you'll keep hearing it. And what you hear, you'll believe. Eventually your faith will be so strong and your heart will be so full, you'll start speaking with total confidence.

That's when the devil will run for cover, because fear has no chance when faith comes on the scene. Faith is the original. Fear is the counterfeit. And the real overcomes the phony every time. ⑦

You can mess up your painting any number of ways. You mess it up with disobedience, foolishness, pride...doing things your own way. You may try to talk God into something He didn't have in mind for you...you get off the plan. Or, you can take your brush in hand and follow the outline God has given you.

He sees His masterpiece as complete, just the way He planned it. His design may include a career, spouse, family, home—everything that will give you the *good* life He has in store for you.

Now, I'm here to tell you, you aren't going to convince Him that you know more than He does, so why bother trying? Just take the brush and paint by His perfectly designed plan—the plan He laid out for you before the foundation of the world.

You will not and you cannot come up with anything better. It's not possible. The devil may tell you, "There's something better than this plan. You need to go for that. God is keeping something from you."

That's exactly what he did in the Garden of Eden, and he's been doing it ever since. And if you're foolish enough to listen to that, you're going to mess up just like Eve did. I define foolishness as turning your back on wisdom from God's Word, from the Holy Spirit, from the people He has put in your life to help you. You're foolish if you turn your back on the plan, thinking you know better. But you don't have to be foolish!

You can be sure of one thing: Everything God tells you to do corresponds to creating your masterpiece—your *good* life. Everything!

Let Him Complete You!

Proverbs 20:24 tells us the Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way? He's got our path lined out for us. His goal is to complete the masterpiece of you!

He's taken care of everything. In the Garden, He provided Adam and Eve's food, their clothing, their spouse and even their occupation. He gave them THE BLESSING. He gave them seed because He had already planted everything and made it grow. He did all the work. They didn't have to toil at all. They just had to do what He said and THE BLESSING would make it all work. All Adam and Eve had to do,

and all we have to do, is "keep it." Keep THE BLESSING. Keep the promise. Keep the plan. Philippians 2:12-13 makes it clear: "Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him" (NLT).

God is watching over that plan He designed. He's working in you, giving you the desire and the power to paint the picture—to do what pleases Him. And what pleases Him is for you to be what He designed you to be and do.

He has provided every tool we will ever need to paint our lives according to His plan. He's given us His Word...the

complete and true picture of each of us. He has given us His Spirit...not just our step-by-step instructor, but our moment-by-moment power source. He has given us Jesus—our example of what living the good life God planned is all about. He has given us the Body of Christ—the ones who encourage us that we can and will be all He has designed us to be.

You are not out there alone, trying to accomplish a near-impossible task. God loves you so much, He has master-planned your good life and totally supplied every good thing you need to pick up that brush and see your life turn out just as He desires it to be. You are God's masterpiece. You are His *good* work in progress! ⑦

You're foolish if you turn your back on the plan, thinking you know better.



by Gloria Copeland

H O L I N E S S

the final
frontier



**Nothing thrills me
more than experiencing the glory of God. I love being in meetings where
He moves in His magnificent power and works miracles, signs and wonders.
I love it when His presence manifests to such a degree that people
get healed and delivered.**

Increasingly, such things are happening in our meetings these days, but I'm hungry to experience them even more. I'm looking for the day when the glory of God manifests like a cloud. When it rolls in over entire congregations, like a fog so thick people can't see each other through it.

In times past, that used to happen. Back in the early 1900s, during the Azusa Street Revival for instance, the glory often manifested visibly during the meetings. It hasn't done that as much in our generation though, and I want that to change.

I don't want to just hear about the glory cloud or read about it. I want us to see it firsthand.

Do you know who else wants that?
God!

He desires for us to walk in His glory even more than we do. He desires to fellowship with us so fully that the results of His presence become clearly visible not only to us, but to the whole world. That's always been God's dream.

It's what He had in mind in the

beginning with Adam before the Fall, when He walked with him and talked with him in the cool of the day. It's what He wanted for the Israelites thousands of years ago. He told them if they'd listen to His voice and obey Him, they could be His own possession and treasure above all peoples. They could be a holy nation, consecrated, set apart for fellowship with Him.

After He delivered them out of Egypt, God even told the Israelites He would come down and meet with them in person. He told Moses, "Behold, I come to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak.... Go and sanctify the people, [set them apart for God] today and tomorrow, and let them...be ready by the third day, for the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai [in the cloud] in the sight of all the people" (Exodus 19:9-11, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Sadly, on that occasion the Israelites didn't really want God to come down to them in a cloud. They were too afraid of Him. "You meet with God," they told



POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

God desires to pour out manifestations of His glory among us that will astound the world.

1

Even in the Old Testament, after the Israelites came out of Egypt, God wanted them to see the cloud of His glory.

Ex. 19:11

2

When Solomon's Temple was dedicated, God filled the whole place with His glory cloud.

2 Chr. 5:13-14

3

God began the Church with a glorious outpouring of His Spirit, and His plan is for the Church to finish with even greater manifestations of that glory.

Acts 2:2-3

4

Sin and the glory don't mix, so for God's glory to be seen among us we must sanctify ourselves in holiness.

2 Cor. 7:1

5

We don't use our own natural willpower to walk in holiness, we do it by faith in Jesus.

1 Cor. 1:30-31

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Moses. "If we hear His voice ourselves, we might die."

Their response didn't cause God to give up on His desire to manifest Himself among them though. Many years later, when Solomon's Temple was dedicated: "Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord... the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God" (2 Chronicles 5:13-14, *New King James Version*).

Talk about an unforgettable meeting! I've been in some wonderful church services and Believers' Conventions over the years, but I've never been in one where the glory manifested so powerfully that everyone in the place, including the preacher, fell under the power of God and couldn't get up. That would really be something.

Get Ready for the Greater Glory

"But all those things happened under the Old Covenant," someone might say. "As believers today, we're living under the New Covenant."

That's right! And according to Hebrews 8:6, ours is "a better covenant... established upon better promises." We have all the benefits God's people enjoyed under the Old Covenant, *plus* all the rights and privileges that belong to us as born-again children of God. We shouldn't expect to experience less of God's glory under the New Covenant, we should expect to experience more.

Just look back at what happened on the Day of Pentecost. Not only did God come down in His fiery glory, other things happened that had never been seen. As Acts 2 says, while the disciples were praying together in the upper room, "suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with

other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (verses 2-4).

What happened as a result? Multitudes of people came to see what was going on. Drawn by the outpouring of God’s glory, they came and heard the gospel and thousands of them got born again.

What’s more, that was just the beginning. Shortly thereafter, during another prayer meeting, God’s power manifested in such magnitude that it literally shook the building. And not long after that, God’s holy presence manifested so strongly during a church service that when Ananias and Sapphira came in with a wrong heart and lied to the Holy Spirit about their offering, they died on the spot.

Why did they die?

Because God’s manifested glory doesn’t mix with sin. One or the other must give.

That’s why at Mount Sinai God told the Israelites to obey His voice and sanctify themselves. He was about to come down in the cloud of His glory and He wanted them to be ready. He wanted them to be able to handle it.

God wants the same for us today.

He’s saying to us, just as He said to the Israelites, “Get ready, so that I can manifest Myself among you in greater glory and power.” He’s saying to us what Hebrews 12:14 says: “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

Jesus is coming soon. We have a lot of work to do before He gets here, and to help us get it done, God is going to come down among us in manifestations of His glory that will astound the world.

We haven’t seen anything compared to what’s just ahead! We’re about to see the grand finale, and God is calling us to be ready for it. He’s calling us to let go of the sins and weights that have held us back and to live in holiness.

What exactly is holiness? It’s not legalism. It’s not keeping a bunch of religious rules. The word *holy* simply means “to be separated and set apart.” It refers to being cut out from the world and devoted to God. Inwardly, we were made holy when we were born again. Our spirit was separated from the

kingdom of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son (Colossians 1:13). On the inside, we were re-created in God’s image and set apart for Him.

Now what we’re to do, is live on the outside like who we are on the inside. We’re to follow the instructions in Romans 12:1-2 where the Apostle Paul said: “Give your bodies to God.... Let them be a living and holy sacrifice.... Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think” (*New Living Translation*).

That’s all walking in holiness is! It’s just devoting yourself spirit, soul and body to God. It’s living in vital contact with Him, listening to what He says, and doing it.

The more we give of ourselves to God, the more we can receive of Him in our lives. The more we separate ourselves from the downward drag of sin and the world, the higher we can go and the more of heaven we can experience on the earth.

What Communion Has Light With Darkness?

Given our new identity in Christ, living a holy life just makes good sense. After all, we’ve already been made the righteousness of God in Jesus. Where once we were darkness, now we are light in the Lord. And, as 2 Corinthians 6 says:

What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (verses 14-16, *NKJV*).

Think about that! God has made you His temple. He didn’t just touch you with His power when you got born again. He didn’t just send an angel to watch over you. He moved into you Himself. He

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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Boost your spiritual antioxidants!

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Imagine if the devil sent a demon of lust into someone. What would that demon be in them to do? It would be in them to impart to them that spirit's nature, right? It would be in them to cause them to lust.

On the opposite side, the same can be said of the Holy Spirit. When He comes into you, He comes to impart to you His own nature. He comes to cause you to be holy so God can reveal His glory to you; so He can walk with you and talk to you and do things through you.

God wants to manifest His supernatural, delivering, miracle power through every one of us believers!

"Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.' Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (verses 17-18, 7:1, *NKJV*).

Some Christians these days act like those are Old Testament verses. They've gotten the idea that holiness is just something God required under the Old Covenant. But these verses are in the New Testament. They make it clear that holiness is for us, as believers, today. They tell us plainly that we're to live differently than the world; that we're to disconnect from worldly ways

of thinking and behaving and connect to the kingdom of God.

In the 50-plus years Ken and I have been walking with the Lord, we've progressively become so disconnected from the thinking of the world that we don't even realize anymore what fanatics we are. We've focused so much on connecting with God that His way of thinking and doing things just seems normal to us now. Living like He says just looks to us like the prudent thing to do.

After all, His way brings victory. It brings healing, and abundance, and power. When we operate according to His ways, God can be a Father to us. He can be our El Shaddai and take care of us.

The world doesn't have anything to offer that compares with God! He'll meet all your needs, give you a good place to live, and put clothes on your back. He can keep your body well, watch over your children, and send His angels to surround you to protect you wherever you go.

It's Not About Willpower, It's About Faith

God has a life for you that's so wonderful, it's above what you can ask or imagine. He has the glory for you. But He can't do what He wants to do in your life if you won't do what He says to do. He can't pour out on you the fullness of His glory if you're still holding on to the



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“HE DESIRES TO FELLOWSHIP WITH US SO FULLY THAT THE RESULTS OF HIS PRESENCE BECOME CLEARLY VISIBLE NOT ONLY TO US, BUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD. THAT’S ALWAYS BEEN GOD’S DREAM.”

trash of the world.

So, go ahead and sell out to Him. Don't hold anything back. Dedicate yourself to His Word and live in contact with Him, so you can walk in love toward all men and in holiness, just like He said.

"But Gloria, I just don't have enough willpower to do that."

You don't do it by willpower. You do it by faith. You do it by believing what 1 Corinthians 1:30 says: "[You are] in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption."

Let me ask you something. Do you receive wisdom from God by exerting your willpower? No. According to James 1:5-6, if you need wisdom, you just ask and receive it by faith.

Do you receive righteousness and redemption by willpower and your own human efforts? No. According to Ephesians 2:8, you receive them by faith, as a gift from God.

Obviously then, sanctification (or holiness) must be received the same way. It wouldn't be the only one in that list that you have to work up on your own. Holiness becomes yours the same way wisdom, righteousness, and redemption do—through faith in Jesus.

Those of us who've been around faith teaching have learned a lot over the years about how to believe and receive. We've learned to believe and receive healing. We've learned to believe and receive prosperity, and to believe for souls to be saved. Now the time has come for us to believe and receive the power to live godly, sanctified lives. For us to become known not only as faith people, but as holy (holiness) people.

First Corinthians 1:2 says we are the Church of God, "consecrated and purified and made holy in Christ Jesus" (AMPC). Let's believe it and make a quality decision to go for God 100 percent. Let's move into this final frontier of holiness, expect God to manifest Himself in greater ways among us, and let all men see the glory of God! ⑦



DON'T

Duct Tape

THE HOLY GHOST

If you look at your life, you can probably see strong evidence of the Lord's work as far back as you can remember. Our lives are proof of His work.

The book of Acts says that after Jesus ascended, after He was seated at the right hand of the Father, "he through the Holy Ghost...showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:2-3).

That's you and me! Our lives are the infallible proof of His love and power.

When I look, I can see God working in my life all the way back to when I was a dirt-poor sinner boy, hating everything and everyone. From that point forward, I see miracle after miracle after miracle. I see infallible proof in those around me, too.

There was the time my wife, Vickie, was supposed to die of cancer within 32 days...and she was healed. My daughter-in-law, Trish, had killer cancer, too, but the Lord intervened. You may have heard the



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story about the time my granddaughter drowned in our pool and was pronounced dead...and then she was raised from the dead moments later. The infallible proofs of the Lord's work and love go on and on. I'm sure that's true for your life, too.

But that really shouldn't be too surprising. You and I are *supposed* to have the power of God flowing through our lives.

Acts 1:8 declares, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...unto the uttermost part of the earth." The power of the Holy Ghost in our lives is our witness. The Lord shows Himself to the world through us—we are His infallible proof.

Why is it then, that so many Christians duct-tape the Holy Ghost somewhere in the back room of their lives, nervous to ever let Him out?

Not Without My Boss

This also happens in some of the fastest-growing, most popular churches around the world.

One pastor called me and said, "Brother Barclay, we'd like you to come preach at our conference, but we've changed the format a bit. We don't want that Holy Ghost stuff."

"I appreciate the invitation," I said, "but I'm not coming without my Boss. I love you, but I won't be there if you're telling me the Holy Ghost isn't invited."

Believe me, no one wants to hear Mark Barclay without his Boss!

Another time, right before I preached, a pastor told me, "Just so you know, we don't go for that 'speaking in tongues.'"

"Wait a minute," I said. "I thought this was a Spirit-filled church."

"Yeah, but we don't do that anymore."

Then he added, "If you say *one phrase* in tongues, we're going to keep your offering."

Good thing I had enough gas to get home because he kept his word *and* the offering. Imagine! Trying to bribe a guy who walks with God....

Another young pastor once told me, "Brother Barclay, we've changed some things in our church to try to attract people."

That's ridiculous. The truth is, if sinners are comfortable in your presence or in your church, you have horribly failed Jesus. Acting like the world isn't going to get sinners saved. What brings salvation is showing them *hope* that they can get out of their mess.

We don't compromise! We were

chosen by God to shine light where there's darkness, and to turn the lost from the darkness into His marvelous light (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9). You can't do that if you compromise...and you can't do that without the Holy Ghost!

An Eye-Opener

When I was filled with the Holy Ghost, it wasn't "a little dab will do ya." I was *filled* with the Holy Ghost.

I was still in the Marines when I attended my first *pente-colossal, charismatic* church service. It was a real eye-opener! At the altar call, I went up to receive the Holy Ghost and had hands laid on me. As far as I could tell, nothing happened. Of course, something *did* happen.

I was an instructor for the San Diego Recruit Battalion, and one day shortly after that service, we had young Marines on the firing line who were getting ready to qualify with their rifles.

But my heart wasn't in it. My thoughts kept going back to that church meeting. I found myself praying, *I need to be filled with the Holy Ghost! Please, Sir!* I wanted it so badly.

All of a sudden, from somewhere deep inside, came a river. As young men shot their weapons, I started shouting in the spirit. In fact, I got so caught up in God, I didn't realize when they had ceased firing. I was jumping and shouting, "I got it! I got it! I finally got it! Thank You, Lord!" Then I realized every recruit was staring at me.

As the range officer stepped out of his shack onto the tarmac, the Holy Ghost said to me, *Decide right now if you're going to be ashamed of Me or not.*

So, I did the smartest thing I knew to do. I shouted at the range officer, "I'm just praying in tongues, sir! Doing a little dance!"

He didn't appreciate that. "Get back to work!" he yelled.

I've loved being Spirit-filled ever since.

Once you receive His power, praying in tongues should become a regular occurrence. Remember, the Apostle Paul said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (1 Corinthians 14:18).

Burning More Than the Toast

One of my mentors, John Osteen, taught me that I should pray in the Holy Ghost over a service, even after I've prepared my message. "Take time to get before God and find out what your assignment is," he told me. "Find out what the Holy Ghost wants to accomplish."

I once had a major, secular TV station invite me to come on one of their shows for an interview. I had no idea what they were going to ask, so I did what John Osteen said and prayed in the Holy Ghost, asking Him to give me the words to say.

When I showed up, they sat me in a chair and started a countdown—and I suddenly realized it was a *live* broadcast.

The host smiled at the camera and said, "We have the good Reverend Mark Barclay with us today, and we're going to ask him some questions." Then she turned to me.

"I understand that you speak in tongues?"

Her face looked like someone had just burnt the toast. I'm sure she was expecting me to flinch and hide, or that I was going to panic at the thought that the world was discovering my secret.

Far from it.

Instead, with the Holy Ghost's conviction rising inside me, I turned to her and said, "Yes! You want to hear some?" Then I broke out in tongues.

Suddenly, like cockroaches, TV crew appeared out of every nook and cranny in that studio.

The teleprompters read, "CUT TO COMMERCIAL!"

A floor manager ran into the room holding a big sign that read, "Go to commercial now! *Now!*"

They did.

Then the floor manager approached me, wiping sweat from his brow.

"Now Reverend, you're not going to do that again, are you?"

"I didn't bring this up," I said. "She asked me."

He stammered, "OK...but you're not going to do that again, are you?"

I shrugged. "I don't know."

"What do you mean 'you don't know'?"

"Well, when I'm happy, I pray in tongues. And when I'm bothered, I pray in tongues. Even when I'm angry, I pray in tongues. So, I don't know. It could happen again."

That turned out to be the shortest live broadcast the station ever had!

As they pointed the way to the door, they said, "We can't have you back on."

"I didn't ask to come on," I said. "*You* asked me."

So I got my Bible and left. But not before turning around and letting it loose one more time!

I could have let that experience rattle me. But by seeking the wisdom of the Holy Ghost, I found myself full of boldness in a situation where I could have easily been embarrassed and shrunk back. Whatever

story about the time my granddaughter drowned in our pool and was pronounced dead...and then she was raised from the dead moments later. The infallible proofs of the Lord's work and love go on and on. I'm sure that's true for your life, too.

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I was an instructor for the San Diego Recruit Battalion, and one day shortly after that service, we had young Marines on the firing line who were getting ready to qualify with their rifles.

But my heart wasn't in it. My thoughts kept going back to that church meeting. I found myself praying, *I need to be filled with the Holy Ghost! Please, Sir!* I wanted it so badly.

All of a sudden, from somewhere deep inside, came a river. As young men shot their weapons, I started shouting in the spirit. In fact, I got so caught up in God, I didn't realize when they had ceased firing. I was jumping and shouting, "I got it! I got it! I finally got it! Thank You, Lord!" Then I realized every recruit was staring at me.

As the range officer stepped out of his shack onto the tarmac, the Holy Ghost said to me, *Decide right now if you're going to be ashamed of Me or not.*

So, I did the smartest thing I knew to do. I shouted at the range officer, "I'm just praying in tongues, sir! Doing a little dance!"

He didn't appreciate that. "Get back to work!" he yelled.

I've loved being Spirit-filled ever since.

Once you receive His power, praying in tongues should become a regular occurrence. Remember, the Apostle Paul said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (1 Corinthians 14:18).

Burning More Than the Toast

One of my mentors, John Osteen, taught me that I should pray in the Holy Ghost over a service, even after I've prepared my message. "Take time to get before God and find out what your assignment is," he told me. "Find out what the Holy Ghost wants to accomplish."

I once had a major, secular TV station invite me to come on one of their shows for an interview. I had no idea what they were going to ask, so I did what John Osteen said and prayed in the Holy Ghost, asking Him to give me the words to say.

When I showed up, they sat me in a chair and started a countdown—and I suddenly realized it was a *live* broadcast.

The host smiled at the camera and said, "We have the good Reverend Mark Barclay with us today, and we're going to ask him some questions." Then she turned to me.

"I understand that you speak in tongues?"

Her face looked like someone had just burnt the toast. I'm sure she was expecting me to flinch and hide, or that I was going to panic at the thought that the world was discovering my secret.

Far from it.

Instead, with the Holy Ghost's conviction rising inside me, I turned to her and said, "Yes! You want to hear some?" Then I broke out in tongues.

Suddenly, like cockroaches, TV crew appeared out of every nook and cranny in that studio.

The teleprompters read, "CUT TO COMMERCIAL!"

A floor manager ran into the room holding a big sign that read, "Go to commercial now! *Now!*"

They did.

Then the floor manager approached me, wiping sweat from his brow.

"Now Reverend, you're not going to do that again, are you?"

"I didn't bring this up," I said. "She asked me."

He stammered, "OK...but you're not going to do that again, are you?"

I shrugged. "I don't know."

"What do you mean 'you don't know'?"

"Well, when I'm happy, I pray in tongues. And when I'm bothered, I pray in tongues. Even when I'm angry, I pray in tongues. So, I don't know. It could happen again."

That turned out to be the shortest live broadcast the station ever had!

As they pointed the way to the door, they said, "We can't have you back on."

"I didn't ask to come on," I said. "*You* asked me."

So I got my Bible and left. But not before turning around and letting it loose one more time!

I could have let that experience rattle me. But by seeking the wisdom of the Holy Ghost, I found myself full of boldness in a situation where I could have easily been embarrassed and shrunk back. Whatever

the Lord tells you to do—whether it's to pray, or lay hands on people, or cast out demons, or heal the sick—do it without shame or compromise.

Naturally Supernatural

Jesus said, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18). Some Christians have been so "naturalized" that living supernaturally like that is hard to believe. But casting out demons, speaking in tongues, laying hands on the sick—this is all part of the empowered Christian life.

We're Holy Ghost people. It should be nothing for a believer to believe that God could do the miraculous. Why do we so often quench Him? Why do we grieve Him? Why do we resist Him? Why are we ashamed of Him? Why do we duct-tape Him and hide Him in the back room of our lives?

Really, it's just a trick of the devil. If he can't get us to turn from the Lord, he at least wants to make sure we're ineffective. He'll try to convince you that you need to live a nice, quiet Christian life—go to church, drop in your offering, sing a few songs and go home. He'll tell you that you need to keep from rocking the boat, and to put up with whatever the world throws at you.

But that's not you. You're a supernatural being!

Live What You Believe

You're not a mere man or woman. You are *God possessed*. You're the temple of the Holy Ghost. You're *enabled*. You're *empowered*. You have the gifts of the Spirit. You have the armor of God.

Believe it.

Every day I tell myself, "Mark Barclay, you're not carnal. You're not natural. You don't use natural weapons anymore. The weapons of your warfare are mighty through God. Go to war on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Don't duct-tape the Holy Ghost in the back room of your life. Don't pray in tongues at home and pretend like you don't believe when you're in public. Every moment of your life is infallible proof of His love and work. Now is the time to receive His *full* power and start walking in all He has for you.

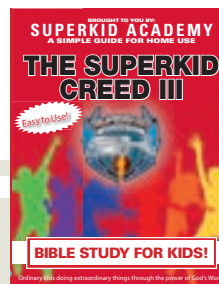
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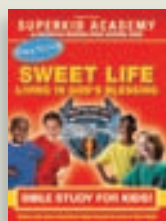
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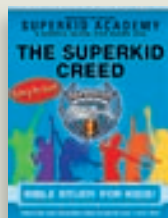
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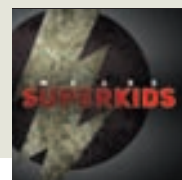


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