



# VICTORY

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# Financial Restoration

by  
*Melanie  
Henry*

**JOHN BENEFIEL** had seen much success as a stockbroker and registered investment advisor when Black Monday, the stock market crash of 1987, suddenly wiped out 95 percent of his business. Recalling what he had learned through Kenneth Copeland's teachings on biblical prosperity, John knew exactly what to do to turn his situation around.

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## Get a Grip

by Kenneth Copeland

The WORD of God will do for us what human sympathy can never do. God's WORD will bring us victory in times of trouble! It will hold us steady and empower us to triumph in every circumstance.



## Faith for Restoration

by Melanie Henry

John Benefiel was a successful financial planner when, in 1987, the events of Black Monday wiped out 95 percent of his business. Recalling Kenneth Copeland's teachings on biblical prosperity, John knew where to find the answers he needed to turn his situation around. And God was faithful!

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## The Spirit of Prophecy and Prayer

by Terri Copeland Pearsons

God is speaking to His people! Hear what He's saying to the Body of Christ today and understand the importance of calling on Him.

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*"The effects of the curse are here on the earth, but they don't have any right to dominate you or have any power over you unless you yield to them."*

—Kenneth Copeland

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## Time for a Spiritual Checkup

by Gloria Copeland

The faith life is not for wimps. Faith is for the strong of heart who will take the Word of God and act on it regardless of the circumstances.

Gloria and I consider partnership a very sacred thing and are convinced that the principles of partnership are  
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A man and a woman are walking two large brown dogs on leashes in a park. The man is wearing a light blue polo shirt and jeans, and the woman is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and jeans. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a lush green park with trees and a white building in the distance.

by  
*Kenneth  
Copeland*

# *get a grip*

When Gloria and I first found out what the Bible teaches about the power of words, we made a decision that I was occasionally tempted to regret: We agreed to hold each other accountable for what we said. ∴ I gave her permission to correct me when I talked unbelief and said things contrary to The WORD of God, and she gave me permission to do the same for her.



# The problem was,

I didn't get to correct her very much. I was always the one fouling up. I'd get upset about some situation and start spouting off about how it was "irritating me to death," or "about to kill me," or whatever, and she'd smile at me real big and say, "That's your confession and I believe every word of it."

I'll admit, at the time I didn't always appreciate this. But eventually her help proved to be invaluable. I'm not the only one who benefited from it, either. Our children did, too. They started at a very young age learning to live by faith and, when they said things contrary to God's WORD, she corrected them much like she did me.

Try as they might, our children never got anywhere with Gloria by whining when things went wrong and trying to get her to feel sorry for them. She wouldn't

pet their self-pity and say, "Poor baby." On the contrary! If they started wallowing around in upset and unbelief, she was more likely to respond by saying something like "Sweetheart, get a grip!"

*Get a grip!* Gloria has said that phrase so many times, with such love and wisdom, that over the years it's become one of my favorites. I even use it myself sometimes when I'm preaching, because I'm convinced that all of us, as believers, need to hear it now and then. When our soul is running wild, and our thoughts are trying to go crazy over some disturbing situation or attack of the devil, we all need to be reminded to get a grip.

What do we need to get a grip on?

The WORD of God!

His WORD will do for us what human sympathy can never do. It will accomplish in us what someone agreeing with us about how terrible things are will never accomplish.

God's WORD will bring



us victory in every time of trouble! If we'll grab it—yes, I mean literally pick up the Book—start reading it out loud, and say, "Soul, you have to shut up now and listen," God's WORD will hold us steady and empower us to triumph in every circumstance.

Why?

Because God's WORD is His unbreakable, unchangeable covenant with us! It's full of promises of victory He has sworn to us in the precious blood of Jesus. It's a divine contract God takes so seriously that Hebrews 6:17-20 says:

[He] confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation,

His WORD will do for us what human sympathy can never do.

*If we'll grab it—yes, I mean literally pick up the Book—start reading it out loud....*

who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Notice, according to those verses, when we “lay hold” on The WORD, it anchors our soul. It makes us sure and steadfast in our faith so that the winds and waves of adversity can’t shake us.

“But, Brother Copeland,” someone might say, “what I’m facing is overwhelming! I’m about to go bankrupt. My life is in danger. People have mistreated me. I can’t help but be shaken.”

You can if you grab onto the

anchor God has provided. No matter what you’re up against, that anchor will hold. It will take you from being overwhelmed to living like an overcomer. It will make you so bold you’ll turn the tables on the devil and, instead of you being terrorized by him, he’ll be the one who’s terrified of you.

“Well, I can’t imagine the devil ever being afraid of me!”

Then you need to read Revelation 12:10-11. It shows what happens when believers truly get a grip on the power of their blood covenant with God. Describing a victorious scene witnessed in a vision by the Apostle John, it says: “Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And

they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

Talk about one of the devil’s worst nightmares! In the hands of born-again believers like you and me, those verses are like a loaded spiritual weapon. We ought to be using them against him all the time.

### Not Just a Religious Slogan

To use them effectively, however, we can’t just go around repeating those verses like a religious slogan. We can’t just parrot them without really understanding what they mean. But that’s what a lot of Christians do. They hear someone say, “I plead the blood!” and instead of finding out what the Bible says about it, they just add it to their vocabulary. When they face anything dangerous or threatening, they’ll cry out almost in a panic, “I plead the blood! I plead the blood!”

As powerful as those words can be, saying them like that—out of fear and tradition—does little to no good. To produce the intended result, they must be said in faith; and to have faith we must get a grip on the Truth that backs them up. We must know what the Bible says the blood of Jesus has actually done for us.

Many Christians have never heard the whole story. All they’ve been told is that Jesus died and made it possible for them to go to heaven. Yet the reality is He did much more than that.

On the cross, Jesus took into His own spirit, soul, and body the fallen condition of all mankind. He was made sin with our sin. He bore all our sicknesses and diseases. Though He Himself was sinless and perfect, He actually used His faith to take into Himself the entire curse that had been released on the human race through Adam. It ravaged Him with such fury that, during the crucifixion, His appearance was so marred that He no longer looked like a man (Isaiah 52:14).

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What's more, Jesus didn't just suffer and die physically. He also died spiritually. Having shed every drop of His blood on the cross, He laid down His life and descended into the pit of hell. There, He suffered until He satisfied all the requirements of divine justice.

Once He'd fully paid the sin debt of the entire human race and heaven's legal books were closed, God the Father stood up in heaven and declared over Him the words recorded in Hebrews 1. In a voice that reverberated through the entire spirit realm, He said to Jesus: "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee[.] And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son[.]... Let all the angels of God worship him.... Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom" (verses 5-6, 8).

Still in the very depths of hell, Jesus heard the Father's words and believed them. He said, "Yes, amen!" and became the first Man ever to be born again from spiritual death to life. The demons that had piled on Him, trying to annihilate Him, fled in terror in every direction. They hadn't thought there was any way He could ever get out of that pit, but they were wrong.

Jesus, operating as one Holy Ghost-filled believer, ripped the devil's keys away from him, busted hell wide open, and rose from the dead!

The Gospel of John tells us that, just moments after the resurrection, as Jesus walked out of the tomb, He crossed paths with Mary, one of His beloved friends and followers. When she recognized Him, she was so thrilled to see Him she reached out to take hold of Him, but He wouldn't let her. He said in John 20:17: "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."

With those words, Jesus began



## Victorious Christian *living*

by Gloria Copeland

# The Most Critical Time

The most critical time when you're believing God for something is *after* you pray in faith believing you receive (Mark 11:24)—but *before* you see any evidence of the answer.

This is the crucial time when things are changing and being set in motion by your faith, even though you can't see anything. It's the time when you're the most tempted to say, "Nothing is happening. I prayed and believed, but I don't have it. It looks like I never will. I guess I just don't have enough faith."

You may want to say that—but don't! The Bible says that every believer has received "the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3). When you're tempted to give up, you don't necessarily need more faith. What you need is something to strengthen and undergird your faith so it will continue working until the answer comes. What you need during this critical time is patience.

Patience is a fruit of the re-created human spirit that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial. Patience doesn't quit believing. Patience undergirds faith to keep it stable and strong when circumstances say, "It's impossible!"

Patience keeps you steadfast in your faith and steadfast in your

confession. It keeps you from becoming weary in well-doing.

Patience is the very opposite of despondency. Despondency is a condition of hopelessness. Ephesians 2:12 says that people who are not born again have "no hope" and are "without God in the world."

But we're not in the world without a Savior. We have "the hope of the gospel" (Colossians 1:23), and patience is associated with hope. Patience, you see, will hold on. Its hope is built on the promises of God. It knows, "I have a word from God, and I *will* stand. I *will* endure until the answer comes."

The force of patience is so powerful that it cannot be overcome, if exercised. If yielded to in a time of test or trial, it comes to your aid to help you stand. It will undergird your faith to keep you believing until the answer comes.

So, the next time you're tempted to say, "It's not working," yield to the force of patience instead. Faith and patience working together will make you a winner every time. ⑦



His ministry as our High Priest. He ascended into heaven in His freshly resurrected body, presented Himself to the Father, and put His own blood on the mercy seat before the very throne of God where it would forever make legal our redemption.

The book of Hebrews tells us all about this. It says that once Jesus had offered His blood before the Father, God swore an oath of promise to Him. He promised every WORD of the New Covenant and all THE BLESSING of the Old, not only to Jesus but to all of us who have been “forever completely

cleansed and perfected...and made holy” by His blood (Hebrews 10:14, *The Amplified Bible*).

This is the reason pleading the blood is so powerful!

When we do it by faith we bring the entire covenant of God to bear on our situation. We leave the devil with no place to operate because the blood cancels out all his claims on us. It declares us forever forgiven, forever righteous, forever delivered from the curse of sin and Satan’s dominion, forever victorious, and forever BLESSED!

### A Major Part of Activating Your Covenant

“But Brother Copeland, what about the part of Revelation 12:11 that says the overcoming believers *loved not their lives unto the death*? What does that mean?”

It means they didn’t just talk about their blood covenant with God, they walked in it. They fully committed themselves to Him and His plan. Instead of living as if their lives were their own and they could just do anything they wanted, they dedicated themselves completely—spirit, soul,

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and body—to The LORD.

You and I are called to do the same. We're to begin every day by saying, "LORD, I am Yours to command and I am reporting for duty!" Then we're to do whatever He tells us. We're to walk in love, forgive anyone who wrongs us, obey The WORD, and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit—no matter what.

Although at times this may be hard on our flesh, it's what the New Testament clearly instructs us to do. It says: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

"Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own...ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Turning loose of your life and dedicating yourself to the Master's service is a major part of activating your covenant with Him. Even if He sends you somewhere dangerous, you'll be a lot safer there than you would be anywhere else because He alone has the power to protect you. And when you quit making your own decisions and put them all in His hands, He assumes full responsibility for taking care of you.

"But doesn't Jesus take responsibility for everyone?" someone might ask. "Doesn't He love every person in the world?"

He loves everyone, yes; but He's not responsible for everyone. He's responsible only for those who have accepted His offer of blood covenant.

To understand why this is, think about how insurance works. When a big storm blows through and

demolishes a block full of houses, the only ones an insurance company will pay to rebuild are those owned by people who have policies with their company. If someone on the block who doesn't have a policy calls them and says, "Hey! My house is blown down, too, and you haven't done anything about it," that person won't get anywhere.

The company representative will simply ask them, "Did you enter into an agreement with us?"

"Well, no. But I'm going to sue you anyway because your company has a lot of money. It can afford to rebuild my house."

"How much money we have is irrelevant," the company representative would answer. "We have no covenant with you. You didn't sign a policy with us, and we didn't agree to cover your house."

With that, the matter would be settled, and all the suing, crying, hollering and carrying on in the world wouldn't make any difference.

The same principle applies to God's covenant of BLESSING. Although He's offered it to all mankind, its benefits are promised only to those who accept it—and as believers you and I are part of that group. That means when the devil comes around trying to blow us away with some kind of storm, we don't have to cry, holler and carry on to get God to pity us enough to do something for us.

We can just get a grip on God's WORD and the covenant He ratified with us in the precious blood of Jesus. We can commit our lives to Him, do whatever He tells us, and by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, we'll overcome the devil every time. ❶



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# points to get you there

## *Steady in Troubled Times*

The WORD of God will hold you steady in times of trouble. An unbreakable, divine covenant, it's filled with promises of victory sworn to you in the precious blood of Jesus that will empower you to triumph every time. Here are some points to get you there.

1

**When the storms of life threaten to shake you, use God's WORD to anchor your soul.**

Hebrews 6:17-19: "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that...we might...lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast..."

2

**Remind the devil that God's promises to you have been ratified in Jesus' blood.**

Revelation 12:10-11: "The accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

3

**Meditate on the fact that Jesus' blood cancels all Satan's claims on you.**

Colossians 2:14-15: "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us...nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

4

**When the devil accuses you, plead the blood of Jesus.**

Hebrews 10:14: "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

5

**Don't just talk about your blood covenant with God, walk in it by committing yourself fully to His plan.**

Romans 12:1: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

“ I wouldn't have had the wisdom to do it if I hadn't spent years learning to live by faith. I don't remember ever being as excited as I was in 1973, when Kenneth Copeland proved through Scripture that God wanted us to prosper. ”





by  
*Melanie  
Hemry*

## FAITH FOR RESTORATION

On Oct. 19, 1987, John Benefiel stared at the computer screen on his desk at the Waterford business complex in Oklahoma City. His mouth felt as dry as the Sahara in summer and his heart raced, fueled by adrenalin. He watched in shock as the  
**DOW JONES STOCK INDEX PLUNGED IN A FREE FALL.**

He broke out in a cold sweat when it closed, down 22.6 percent, which translated to a loss of \$500 billion. Forever known as Black Monday, it was the largest one-day stock market crash in history.

In a single day, John had lost 95 percent of his business.

For the first time in his life, thoughts of suicide circled John's mind like a vulture circling a carcass. What would he do? How would he support his wife and three children?

John made his living as a stockbroker and registered investment advisor. He had built his business around option strategies which averaged 3 to 4 percent a month and 35 to

40 percent a year. Without the benefit of a salary, he had lived well on his commissions.

Except now the commissions were gone.

John had earned a master's degree in business administration, and he understood economics. There was no question about what he should do: Stop spending money for anything except the bare necessities; try to find a job somewhere, anywhere, which offered a salary. He suspected that a lot of people were already talking to their attorneys about filing bankruptcy.

His mind drifted back to 1973, in the early days of his career. A local pastor, U.L. Harshfield,

had led a pioneer charismatic church in Oklahoma City and brought in a young man by the name of Kenneth Copeland to speak.

John had carried his tape recorder to the first row, where he sat stunned as Kenneth Copeland taught on the laws of prosperity. Line upon line and precept upon precept, the young preacher had shown the scriptural basis for God's economics. John had never heard those concepts in his college curriculum; nor had he heard them in church.

Now on the brink of financial ruin, he knew he had to take his thoughts captive—and seek the Lord. Leaving his office,



John and Judith Benefiel

## September

		Old Testament	Psalms
Tue	1	Eccl. 5-6	Ps. 18
Wed	2	Eccl. 7-8	Ps. 19
Thu	3	Eccl. 9-11	Ps. 20-21
Fri	4	Eccl. 12; Songs 1	Ps. 22
Sat	5	Songs 2-3	Ps. 23

Sun	6	Songs 4-5	Ps. 24
Mon	7	Songs 6-7	Ps. 25
Tue	8	Songs 8; Isa. 1	Ps. 26
Wed	9	Isa. 2-3	Ps. 27
Thu	10	Isa. 4-6	Ps. 28-29
Fri	11	Isa. 7-8	Ps. 30
Sat	12	Isa. 9-10	Ps. 31

Sun	13	Isa. 11-12	Ps. 32
Mon	14	Isa. 13-14	Ps. 33
Tue	15	Isa. 15-16	Ps. 34
Wed	16	Isa. 17-18	Ps. 35
Thu	17	Isa. 19-21	Ps. 36-37
Fri	18	Isa. 22-23	Ps. 38
Sat	19	Isa. 24-25	Ps. 39

Sun	20	Isa. 26-27	Ps. 40
Mon	21	Isa. 28-29	Ps. 41
Tue	22	Isa. 30-31	Ps. 42
Wed	23	Isa. 32-33	Ps. 43
Thu	24	Isa. 34-36	Ps. 44-45
Fri	25	Isa. 37-38	Ps. 46
Sat	26	Isa. 39-40	Ps. 47

Sun	27	Isa. 41-42	Ps. 48
Mon	28	Isa. 43-44	Ps. 49
Tue	29	Isa. 45-46	Ps. 50
Wed	30	Isa. 47-48	Ps. 51

he drove to the church to pray.

At home that evening, John discussed the situation with his wife, Judith. "There's only one thing I know to do," he said.

"What?"

"Double our percentage of giving."

### God's Economics

"When you've lost 95 percent of your business, it's scary to give *more* instead of less," John admits. "Increasing our giving flew in the face of every wise economic strategy, except God's. To this day I can't explain how we survived financially, but we never missed a payment. God gave me such favor with my clients that they stayed with me, but options had been 95 percent of my business and we weren't doing them anymore. We gave our way out of the situation because of what I'd learned from Kenneth Copeland.

"I wouldn't have had the wisdom to do it if I hadn't spent years learning to live by faith. I don't remember ever being as excited as I was in 1973, when Kenneth Copeland proved through Scripture that God wanted us to prosper. That revelation changed my life. The first change I made was to tithe. I was a young man in my 20s at the time, and we were struggling financially. It seemed crazy to try to live on 90 percent of our income when we weren't making it on all of it. But we tithe and prayed as Kenneth Copeland instructed that, as Malachi 3:10 promises, God would prove Himself and pour out a blessing. The next day, a woman I'd never met called and asked me to invest \$3 million for her. God had my undivided attention.

"From then on, I went to hear Kenneth Copeland each time he came to town. We became Partners with his ministry, listened to his broadcasts, read his books and attended the Southwest Believers' Convention almost every year. The same pastor who brought him to Oklahoma City also brought Kenneth Hagin, Charles Capps and Fred Price in to speak. We took every opportunity to build our faith."

### Childlike Faith

John and Judith weren't the only ones growing in faith. Inspired by the testimony of Kellie and John Copeland believing God for a boat, the Benefiel children—Dana, Rhett and Troy—were having faith adventures of their own. When 9-year-old Dana realized her parents were going on vacation to Maui without them, she said, "That's not fair! We want to go to Disney World!"

"Then you'll have to use your faith," John and Judith explained. "The last time we went it cost \$1700. We suggest that you write a letter to God and pray."

"And," John added, "the money can't come from my regular paycheck."

Dana wrote a letter asking God for \$1700, adding that she didn't want it to cost that much. After releasing her faith, she posted it on the refrigerator and thanked God for the answer. By faith, she called her grandmother and told her they were going to Disney World. She also told her teacher.

Months passed and nothing happened.

Later, John was offered a business deal outside his normal work; the commission check was \$1700. Knowing that was Dana's money, he went to Continental Airlines to buy five tickets to Orlando. The woman looked at him with a stunned expression. "This has never happened before! We were just notified of a discount. Your tickets are half price!"

John mentioned the trip to a friend, who gave him vouchers for a free hotel room and a free rental car. When John read a magazine featuring the head of public relations at Walt Disney World, he sent her a copy of the magazine with a note. Although she got hundreds of pieces of mail each day, one of her employees handed her the magazine and John's note. She called John to thank him, met them at the gate and gave them park passes for a week!

### Faith Doesn't Quit

In 1975, John had felt the Lord stir his heart to bring Christian television to Oklahoma. In truth, he'd never seen any Christian broadcasts, but he caught the vision. He and four other men filed an application for Channel



14 in Oklahoma City. Having done so, they realized they would need programming and researched who was doing it. They found three companies: PTL with Jim and Tammy Bakker; CBN with Pat Robertson; and a third little outfit called TBN with Paul Crouch, which only had two stations. Opting for the third, they called Paul Crouch, who flew out to meet with them. Together, they formed Trinity Broadcasting Network of Oklahoma City in January 1976.

As soon as they filed for the station, several other companies filed on top of them. One was a large company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Because of its size and resources, John was advised to pull his application and forget about it. He would have done so except for one thing.

“Faith doesn’t quit. It never gives up,” John said.

The FCC attorneys told them to give up, but John believed that it wasn’t the size of the corporation that would determine the outcome; it was his faith and the words of his mouth. Every day he confessed, “Thank You, Lord, for Trinity Broadcasting of Oklahoma City, broadcasting the full gospel of Jesus Christ 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to tens of thousands—even hundreds of thousands of people—who are being saved, healed, delivered and filled with the Holy Spirit; operating in the black, managed by the people of Your choosing, no more and no less.”

He made that confession every day for five years, until the large firm pulled their application and TBN of Oklahoma City got the station. Representing the company, John bought a studio and land for \$650,000 and paid another \$50,000 for equipment. A year later, he sold half the land for \$350,000. On March 4, 1981, the station went on the air with Kenneth Copeland, and Paul and Jan Crouch in attendance.

#### New Journeys of Faith

“In 1985, Judith and I went to Switzerland,” John recalls. “While we

were there we traveled to Campione, Italy, to visit our missionary friends Frank and Tommy Farnsworth. They asked me to speak to a group, and I thought it odd that the Lord impressed me to tell the story of how we believed God for Christian television in Oklahoma. I had no way of knowing that a man in the group, who’d just been born again under the Farnsworths’ ministry, owned a television station in Campione. After I spoke he said, ‘I’d like to sell my station to Paul Crouch

and Trinity Broadcasting.’

“Paul flew in and bought the station, naming it TBN Europe as an act of faith,” John recalled. “One month after they closed the deal, the rules changed, forbidding outsiders from owning television stations in Europe. But because Paul already owned one, he was grandfathered in, which meant that TBN was able to expand all over Europe.”

Following Black Monday in 1987, John and Judith thought they were

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supposed to move to Texas where John would take another job. They decided to seek the Lord with all their hearts for His will. For the next three-and-a-half years, John prayed in tongues for one to two hours a day. Judith prayed in tongues for two to eight hours a day. Afterward, they knew one thing for certain: They'd been wrong. John wasn't supposed to take a new job in Dallas. God wanted them to start a church in Oklahoma City.

"We started Church on the Rock—Oklahoma City on May 5, 1991," John says. "Because we'd prayed the whole thing out in tongues, it was the easiest thing we'd ever done. Everyone warned me that in order to build a church I would need to quit my job. That didn't make economic sense to me so I worked full time for the first five years."

One summer after starting the church, John and Judith sowed a large offering into KCM during the Southwest Believers' Convention, as seed for a new house. A few years later, Judith dreamed about a house nestled among large trees alongside a lake. Soon afterward, a member donated the house to the church as a parsonage.

### Faith for Recovery

In addition to working full time and leading a church, John also started a prayer network, working with local pastors of various denominations. Not long after, a pastor said to John: "When I read the Bible, it doesn't mention the First Pentecostal Church of Ephesus or the First Baptist Church of Jerusalem. It talks about the church of each city: the church of Jerusalem, the church of Antioch, the church of Ephesus." Then, the man asked: "If the Lord was going to write a letter to the church in Oklahoma City, who would receive it? How would they get it to all the believers?"

No one imagined how valid, or prophetic that question would prove to be.

In the months leading up to April 1995, when internationally recognized prophet Chuck Pierce received a warning about looming disaster, there

was no way to get the message to key leaders. When intercessors of different denominations across the state picked up on the warning, there was no centralized way to get it to various denominations, churches, pastors or intercessors.

On April 19, 1995, Pierce was on the phone with a minister in Oklahoma City, trying to get someone to heed the warning, when a bomb exploded in downtown Oklahoma City. It was the first act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

"While the prayer network began before the bombing," John recalls, "the bombing drove us together in prayer with a new fervor. Our city was traumatized, and the Church in the city and state was fractured. What began as prayer for the city grew into the Heartland Apostolic Prayer Network. To me, it stood to reason that if the kingdom of God was advancing, there would be tangible results in our neighborhoods, cities and states. Those were the markers of success I wanted to see.

"As we gathered corporately to repent and ask God to heal our land, we began seeing those changes. For instance, in 2006 and early 2007, the lakes and rivers in Oklahoma were so low that meteorologists predicted it would take eight years to recover. After our corporate meeting, it began to rain, and within a short time the drought was broken. Each time we went to a different state, we saw the same results. Time after time, when we met to deal with issues and stand in the gap through identificational repentance, God fulfilled His promise to heal our land, each time with undeniable results."

Twenty years ago, Oklahoma City was so spiritually disjointed that when God sent a prophet to warn of impending disaster, he could find no cohesive group to tell. The bombing in downtown Oklahoma City left it looking like a war zone. The state's economy had a long history of poverty and Oklahoma stood at the back of the class in most areas of society.

Today the Church in Oklahoma is strong and Christian leaders have

taken their places in city and state government. While the U.S. suffered wide-scale recession from December 2007 through June 2009, *Forbes* magazine listed Oklahoma City as the No. 1 most recession-proof city in the nation. *USA Today* headlines declared, 'OKC Defies Recession.' *Business Week* listed Oklahoma City as third among the 40 strongest economies in the nation. However, one of the most telling changes may be that Oklahoma can mobilize prayer across the state within minutes.

When Dr. C. Peter Wagner investigated what was happening in Oklahoma, he said, "In the position that I have, I am in contact with a lot of people who are doing things around the world as well as in the United States.... The reports that I get from HAPN are the most tangible, measurable results of high-level prayer and spiritual warfare that I have heard yet in my life."

"We don't take the credit for the transformation in Oklahoma City," John says, "because following the bombing, Oklahoma City was prayed for more than any city on earth except Jerusalem."

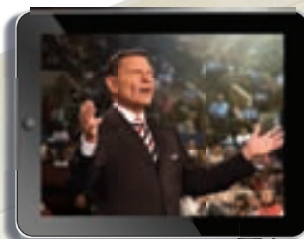
Today, HAPN ([hapn.us](http://hapn.us)) has grown to include all 50 states and 63 nations. Dr. Benefiel's book, *Binding the Strongman Over America*, describes their over-25-year journey.

The church and the prayer network weren't the only things growing. Today, John and Judith Benefiel's family has grown to include 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

"We learned faith for ourselves beginning in 1973, when we partnered with KCM," Judith explains. "We used the same principles to grow the church and the prayer network. The same faith that changed our lives is transforming cities, states and nations."

God will do for you the same thing He did for John and Judith Benefiel and for Oklahoma City. If you will believe, He will restore everything you've lost, but He won't stop there. Faith will take you further than you ever dreamed you'd go. ⑦





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# the Spirit

*of prophecy and prayer*

Now more than ever, we must pay attention to prophecy and the word the Lord is giving through the Holy Spirit.

We must be able to recognize Jesus *as* He is coming so we can recognize Him *at* His coming. Much of our recognizing Him will come through the operation of the Holy Spirit through prophecy. "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: *for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*" (Revelation 19:10).

We can see in Acts 2:17-18 that the spirit of prophecy is vital in the last days: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy." The spirit of prophecy not only brings the outpouring, but it perpetuates the operation and moving of the Spirit during the outpouring.

by Terri Copeland Pearsons

# Too often believers call upon the Lord but in the same way they did as sinners, with a sense of unworthiness and panic.

Some Holy Ghost inspired utterances concerning the future (or we could say words that come by the spirit of prophecy) are no more automatically fulfilled than the written Word. Mark 4 tells us the devil comes to steal the Word and he has many strategies to accomplish his goal. Paul charged Timothy to wage warfare for the words of prophecy he had received. "This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare" (1 Timothy 1:18, *New King James Version*).

## Waiting on God

Waging war or standing in faith "against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil" is primarily done through prayer (Ephesians 6:11, *The Amplified Bible*). Without it those precious words from the Lord may never come to pass. None of what the believers experienced as recorded in Acts 2 would have happened without prayer. Acts 1:14, *The Amplified Bible*, says, "All of these with their minds in full agreement devoted themselves steadfastly to prayer..." That says so much to the Church. Those 120 gave up their schedules and obligations. Their priorities were completely rearranged to do what Jesus had told them: "...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

Even though the promise of the Holy Spirit had been given, there was still a need for waiting on God in prayer like they did in the upper room. It's that kind of waiting that brings power upon us. Nothing, absolutely nothing, takes the place of waiting. Jesus said, he who has ears

to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. This means that when He chooses to speak, it is still up to us to hear.

The following word of the Lord came forth while I was ministering in Wales in 2006:

These final hours of the closure of this time, of this generation, are but the beginning of all ages yet to come. And for centuries yet to come, men will look back on these days and reflect and say, 'Ah, those days, those hours, those times when the signs and wonders of God and the miraculous expressions of His abounding grace poured forth out into the streets, and were demonstrated in men in such great strength, such great power, such great might, that men could hardly stand to behold the goodness of God.'

Though God has demonstrated a degree of His wrath in the earth (as seen in Exodus), there is still an outpouring of His wrath yet to come. But not before the great outpouring of His goodness. Not before the great demonstration of His blessed love. Not before the great demonstration of the great manifestations of His presence be poured out in all the earth so that all men might see and might know. For only in God's justice would He pour out His wrath, and never would He do so before all men had opportunity to see and to know the depth of His goodness, mercy and compassion that flow in streams of love from His throne. It is this throne of mercy and abounding grace that you approach. Look toward Him and gaze upon His grandeur and

know that every light, every gleam of light that glows from His Brilliant Being are manifestations of love.

## 'Demonstrations!'

"Demonstrations of the Spirit!" This must be the call of the Church, for it is the call of His Spirit.

Call for Me and I will demonstrate for you. Call for Me and I will demonstrate for you the goodness of the Lord. *[Don't read past this lightly.]* I will show you His abounding, great wisdom in ways that you did not know were possible. I will demonstrate for you His knowledge that abounds beyond the human scope of reasoning. I will demonstrate for you the vastness of His kingdom. I will demonstrate for you how deep and how wide and how humanly fathomless the goodness and mercies of our great God are. *[Can we even picture what that would look like?]*

Call upon Me. Call upon Me that My mercies pour forth on those who do not know the mercy of God. Call upon Me that mercy would reach out and rescue those who blindly move toward darkness, raising men from all the depths of darkness that can be experienced on the earth. I will demonstrate the goodness of God...not only to those who have been blinded by the deceit of sin, held captive by darkness so highly developed you cannot begin to comprehend it...but I will demonstrate mercy *to you*. I will show you what Love has done. I will show you what Love can do.

Call upon Me and I will demonstrate to you. Call upon Me in faith. Call upon Me, believing. Call! I will hearken to the voice of His Word in you. I will hearken to the voice of His command through you. I will hearken to your request. Call! And I will move upon the nations. I will move upon the streets. I will move upon the governments of this world. Call! I will move in the bush. I



will move in the jungles. I will move on people you know nothing of....

Notice the Lord says, *Call on Me, believing*. That means we call in the Spirit of faith expecting Him to respond. Then notice He said He will respond to the voice of His Word through us. Too often believers call upon the Lord but in the same way they did as a sinner, with a sense of unworthiness and panic. If we pray that way, our prayer is diminished in effectiveness and I dare say may be useless altogether. Unworthiness was wiped out at the Cross and we were re-created in His image. So we don't come to the Lord with a sense of inferiority but boldly with unquestionable submission to His lordship. Sin consciousness is diminishing but righteousness in submission is empowering.

With that in mind, let's continue to look at the instructions received in the word from the Lord:

You must come to Me, you must approach Me, you must know Me and you must know My ways. You see, the authority that I have given you is not an

authority of your own. Remember Jesus said in His earthly ministry that "My authority is not My own. I speak only what I hear Him (the Father) speak. I do only what I see Him (the Father) do...." Do you not understand that you are in *your* earthly ministry? You now must walk in your earthly ministry the same as He walked in His earthly ministry. You must listen for My voice, but to hear My voice, you must know My voice. You must be acquainted with the things that I say. You must be acquainted with the things that I do. All that you need to know for the future is recorded in My Word as records of the past. For everything that I have done in the past is quick and alive for your present and it will be quick and alive in your future. *[Think on this statement. And remember, His Word is alive!]* If you will walk with Me, if you will seek My ways, if you seek My counsel, if you will seek Me in all you say, seek Me in all you do, then I will show you My ways and My words by My Spirit. Then My words and My ways

will become My miracles. And My words and My ways will become My outstanding signs for this hour, and they will become the signs and miracles for this hour through you and through your earthly ministry.

What marvelous promises! Let's hear and heed the great cry of the Spirit to *Call on Me!* The Word of God clearly calls us all to prayer, and the Holy Spirit has spoken to us and said, *Call on Me!*

The world is crying out. The Church is crying out. If you'll listen, you'll know that your own heart is crying out for those streams of the Spirit to flow through your spirit, your soul and your body, just as powerfully as in the early days of the Church. We want God and the nature of His Being to flood us until we sound like, act like and are like Jesus, the Anointed One. If we will but call upon Him and then seek out His ways through prayer and His Word, He will not only answer us with the greatest awakening the world has seen, but He will do it through us! ❶

### About

Terri Copeland Pearsons is the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland. She and her husband, George, pastor Eagle Mountain International Church located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For information visit [emic.org](http://emic.org)

**"God is not looking for the government to change...He is looking for the Church to pray."**

—Kenneth Copeland

September 17-19 Fort Worth, Texas

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by Kenneth Copeland

# prayer— *a lifestyle*

Over the years I have learned some truths about prayer. I don't know all there is to know about it, but I have learned key principles from The WORD that have helped me walk in victory. These principles will work the same for you.

Before I go further,

understand that I'm not saying you will never have any problems or challenges. Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against

spiritual wickedness in high places." Challenges will come. But the problem is never with God. Nor is it with people. The problem is in the area of receiving. We also must wrestle with the forces of darkness—the devil.

By the grace and mercy of God



and the power of your faith, you can overcome those obstacles and receive prayers answered. Thank God you have the Name of Jesus, God's WORD and the power of His Spirit—"the weapons of our warfare"—that guarantee results when you pray (2 Corinthians 10:4).

In the many situations my family and I have had to pray our way through, we have learned that believers can live victoriously in Christ Jesus, overcoming the problems. If Jesus is your Savior and LORD, you have victory in Him.

### God's Will Is Heaven on Earth

But first, you must establish your thinking in the truth that when you were saved, you were set free from the curse and all its effects listed in Deuteronomy 28. Galatians 3:13-14 says, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ."

You may wonder why the effects of the curse are still on you if that's true. They are on you because you haven't cast them off. You haven't believed and received what is yours.

The effects of the curse are here on the earth, but they don't have any right to dominate you or have any power over you unless you yield to them and don't take advantage of what is yours in Christ Jesus. James 4:2 says, "Ye have not, because ye ask not." Verse 3 goes on to say, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss." Just like a bank has set procedures for withdrawing money, God has given us a proper way to pray so that we will see results.

When you begin to see that, you will realize the world's idea of prayer is not prayer at all. Prayer is not trying to get God's attention. Prayer is not trying to get God to do something. He has already done it. He sent Jesus to the cross.

*Prayer is communication with God, believing and receiving what He has already given you in Christ Jesus.* Everything you will ever need is in Jesus, and when you made Him LORD of your life, it was given to you. All that

## God created the earth for man as a copy of heaven, a place to live like God lives.

remains is for it to be received. It has to be brought from the spiritual realm to this natural, physical realm. Philippians 4:19 declares, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

God's plan for answered prayer is what Jesus was telling us when He prayed, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). God created the earth for man as a copy of heaven, a place to live like God lives. But because of the curse that came on the earth, not everything here is in line with God's plan. God didn't create man to be burdened with the effects of the curse like sin, sickness, fear, unbelief or evil spirits. His will is that heaven and earth run parallel to one another.

### Live a Life of Prayer

So prayer—real Bible prayer—must be a lifestyle, not just a backup plan. In Luke 18:1, Jesus taught in a parable that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint." He wasn't talking about using prayer and faith as an escape hatch after everything has come apart. He was saying that your entire life should be built around prayer.

The Apostle Paul agreed. He said, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Don't leave it up to your pastor to do your praying for you. Don't wait until things become bad to pray. Build communication with God every day. Listen to Him. Learn how He talks, what He does, how His prayer system works.

Prayer is always available to everyone. There is no situation that disqualifies anyone from prayer, because God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). Acts 2:21 declares that "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

According to Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is

neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." God is an equal-opportunity blesser. He doesn't just hear "good" people. The deepest of sinners in the deepest sin can pray the prayer of repentance and receive Jesus as LORD. From that point on, he is qualified to continue in the other fields of prayer.

The only situation from which there is no deliverance is the rebellious refusal to pray at all. "Ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

Don't let that be you. Instead live a life of prayer, receiving what God has for you.

### Come Boldly... Through Jesus

When you pray, you don't have to get God's attention. You already have it. According to Hebrews 7:25, Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us. Hebrews 4:13 says, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

God knows all about you and your situation. That is vitally important to your prayer life. Verses 14-16 go on to say:

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

When you make Jesus The LORD of your life, then

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**New Albany, Ohio : Sept. 5-6**

Faith Life Church  
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1-740-964-7400 | faithlifechurch.org

**Forest Park, Ill. : Sept. 14**

2015 International Faith Conference  
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Catch the Fire Toronto | Cost: \$120  
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Family of Faith | 12161 N. Park Centre Drive  
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your prayer life, your approach to God, is through Him. You pray to the Father, in Jesus' Name. It's in His righteousness, in His Name.

You pray in His "new and living way" as Hebrews 10:19-20 says: "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh."

Why can you come so boldly to the throne of grace? Because Jesus is your High Priest. You don't come based on how good you are. Jesus' blood has put you in right-standing with God. You've been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21). First Peter 3:12 says, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers."

You have a right to pray and expect results. Jesus made this promise: "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you" (John 16:23).

### Your Right to Believe and Receive

It doesn't matter who you are or what you have done, you have a right to believe.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that *whosoever* believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jesus died for the whole world. If you are a human being, you have a right to believe that Jesus is LORD.

Once you step over into the realm of declaring Jesus as your LORD and Savior, you have every right before God that Jesus has when it comes to praying, believing and walking with God. You share with Him in every privilege of having God lead, teach and develop you, keep you well, and keep your family.

Galatians 3:29 says, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." If you have made Jesus LORD, you are the seed of Abraham, and you have a right to believe and receive the

Schedule is subject to change without notice.



promises of God.

Romans 4:16 says, "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all." If you are the seed of Abraham, God's promises are sure in your life. A sure promise is one that comes to pass when you stand on it.

The WORD of God is a concrete foundation you can stand on. It undergirds all effective prayer. So make it final authority in your life. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

#### Always Start at the End

Base your prayer life on what God has

already said and done. God's WORD—the sword of the Spirit—is His part of your prayer life, and it's available to "whosoever will." The WORD is a copy of your covenant with God, signed in Jesus' blood between God the Father and Jesus His Son. There is no failure in either of them.

It's easy to believe God if you know what He said. Faith comes when you know what is His will for you to have. And His will is His WORD. Find promises in The WORD that cover your area of need, and pray based on those promises. When you do that, you are starting with the answer. You are starting with the truth.

Always go to God based on the answers you find in The WORD. When you have faith in God and what He has said, faith will begin to grow

up on the inside of you. Once you know what God said about something, believe you receive it. Believing is an action word, so praise and thank God for the answer.

Praying in the Name of Jesus, based on what God has said, puts you in position to receive from Him. It licenses Him to function in your life. It isn't based on feeling. It's based on believing what God said—believing is the key.

Remember, you have a right to pray and you have a right to believe. Jesus died for the whole world so whosoever believes can receive the victory He has paid for. God is no respecter of persons, but He does respect faith.

Learn to pray and stand on His promises for your every need. When you take God at His WORD, He will answer. 📖



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# GoodNewsGazette

“For [God] has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.” Colossians 1:13-14, *New Living Translation*

## A Perfect Match

My husband was in the hospital diagnosed with chronic lymphatic leukemia. His hemoglobin was down to 5.2 and he needed a blood transfusion. The blood was expected in a few hours, but a few hours turned into a day, and a day turned into five days. We were told that his antibodies were difficult for a match.

I called the KCM prayer line and got into agreement with them that a perfect match would surface. On the sixth day, we were preparing to fly my husband to a big-city hospital when THE blood (a perfect match) arrived and brought up his hemoglobin to over 8.0! Thank You, Jesus! You heard, and You answered. I praise You and love You. Amen.

J.M. | Pennsylvania

## It's a Boy!

After a long journey of five years and several miscarriages, on July 27 I gave birth to a perfect baby boy. Our pregnancy was a complete surprise—no complications and very easy. Our baby boy came four weeks early and is just such a blessing! Thank you for standing and believing with us.

S.O. | Australia

## Wrist—Free of Pain

I had a challenge with my left wrist for some time with pain and I had been believing God for my healing. However, while watching Brother Copeland with Brother Savelle at about 4 a.m., Brother Copeland mentioned my case and I claimed my healing. My wrist has been free of pain since then. Thank You, Jesus! S.O. | Nigeria



Watch Online  
bvovn.com

DISH Channel 265

## He Healed My Wrist

Praise God! He healed my left wrist. It felt like a tendon was strained. My wrist was weak and at times painful. I stood in faith on the healing promises, thanking God for my healing every time it hurt, and now it is completely restored!

Joel P. | Ponoka, Alberta

## Look What the Lord Has Done!

I am so excited about what the Lord is doing! While watching you and Brother Jerry, you called out that eyes were being healed. I was ironing at the time, and put down my iron and began jumping around and yelling, “That’s mine! I claim it now, in Jesus’ Name.” I had been believing for my eyes for quite some time. I had an eye appointment that afternoon. The doctor checked my eyes and then asked, “Bernice, how old are you?” I told him, “70 years, why?” He then said, and these are his exact words: “Well, amazingly your eyes are better.” He had wanted me to have cataracts removed at my last appointment. This time he never mentioned that, or new glasses. I already told him I wasn’t wearing glasses anymore.

I’m standing in faith and believing for 20/20 vision in Jesus’ Name. I believe the scales of cataracts are gone. I say daily: “I’m strong. I’m rich. I can see. My youth is renewed like the eagle’s. No weapon formed against me will prosper. I’m out of debt, my needs are met and I have plenty...and I’m able to give to others, in Jesus’ Name.”

I remember going to Southwest Believers’ Convention a few years ago, and you said there is coming a day when people will come to one of these meetings and whatever they have need of they will receive. I never forgot it. I believe the set time for the manifestation of that is now. God is going to demonstrate His power and His great grace!

Bernice D.  
Woodslee, Ontario

## Down Syndrome Had to Go

I called in and I asked you to pray for my nephew, who was born 15 August [2014], and the doctor diagnosed Down syndrome. We all started praying and stood on our Lord Almighty’s Word for healing and His promises day and night. We prayed with faith, reading and incorporating the healing scripture which our Lord has given us. Your prayer minister prayed with me. During the visit to the doctor one month later, the doctor himself was amazed to see the change and the difference in the baby. Praise God, my nephew is perfect.

Every cell in his little body is normal and perfect; every chromosome is normal and perfect. To God be all the glory and praise. Thank you, KCM and the prayer group, for your prayers. Our Lord is so faithful—we have a prayer-answering God. Jesus is Lord!

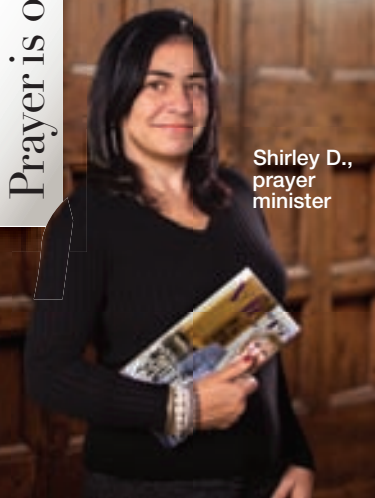
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## *salvation prayer*

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

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

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

### *connect with us*

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

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KCM Canada

### **My Dad Met Jesus**

It's been a year and a half since I submitted a prayer request to you, and then received an answer to that prayer. Thank you for praying. My dad was very ill and not saved. The day before he died, he met Jesus in a special way. He was able to communicate with me that he could see Jesus. At that moment, I knew Dad was saved. It blesses me every time I think about it. What a gracious Father we have!

Sandra G. | Calgary, Alberta

# Watch

Jerry Savelle

Jesse Duplantis

Creflo Dollar



# dish

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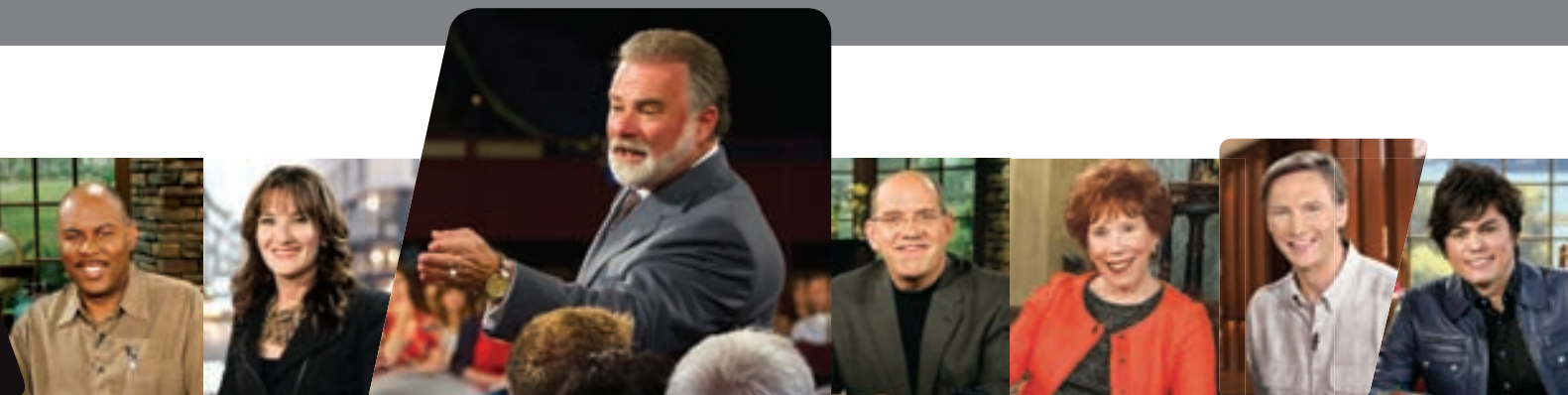
In 1967, God gave Kenneth and Gloria Copeland a word of direction that would alter history. He said:

I am coming so soon. I want this uncompromised message of faith on every available voice.

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## 2015 An Inevitable Expansion

In 2015, as the Copelands continue to obey the Lord's leading, the inevitable expansion of that voice of victory has arrived—with the launch of the Believer's Voice of Victory Network.

Starting with 24/7 delivery through **DISH satellite TV channel 265**, on BVOVN.com and Roku streaming devices, Christians now have available a dream Kenneth and Gloria have long

held: a 24-hour-a-day network with *nothing* but word-of-faith preaching from the most trusted Bible teachers available.

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# *time for a* Spiritual Checkup

Getting regular checkups is a good idea. Ken and I make a habit of it. Even though we're extremely healthy, full of energy and feeling good, we go to the doctor for routine exams because it's a wise thing to do. It helps us make sure that physically we're staying on track.

Spiritually, we follow much the same protocol. Even when everything in our lives is going fine, we check up on our faith on a regular basis. We don't wait until some major problem arises and then rush around trying to find our Bibles. We spend time in the Word daily, and routinely examine ourselves in light of it to make sure we're walking by faith in every area of our lives.

It's a practice I highly recommend. In fact, I'd go

so far as to say it's essential for every believer who wants to stay on track.

That's not just my opinion. Second Corinthians 13:5 confirms it. It says to all of us: "Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it" (*The Amplified Bible*).

Notice, according to that verse, it's *ourselves* we must examine. We're the ones who need to be checked up on, not God. We don't

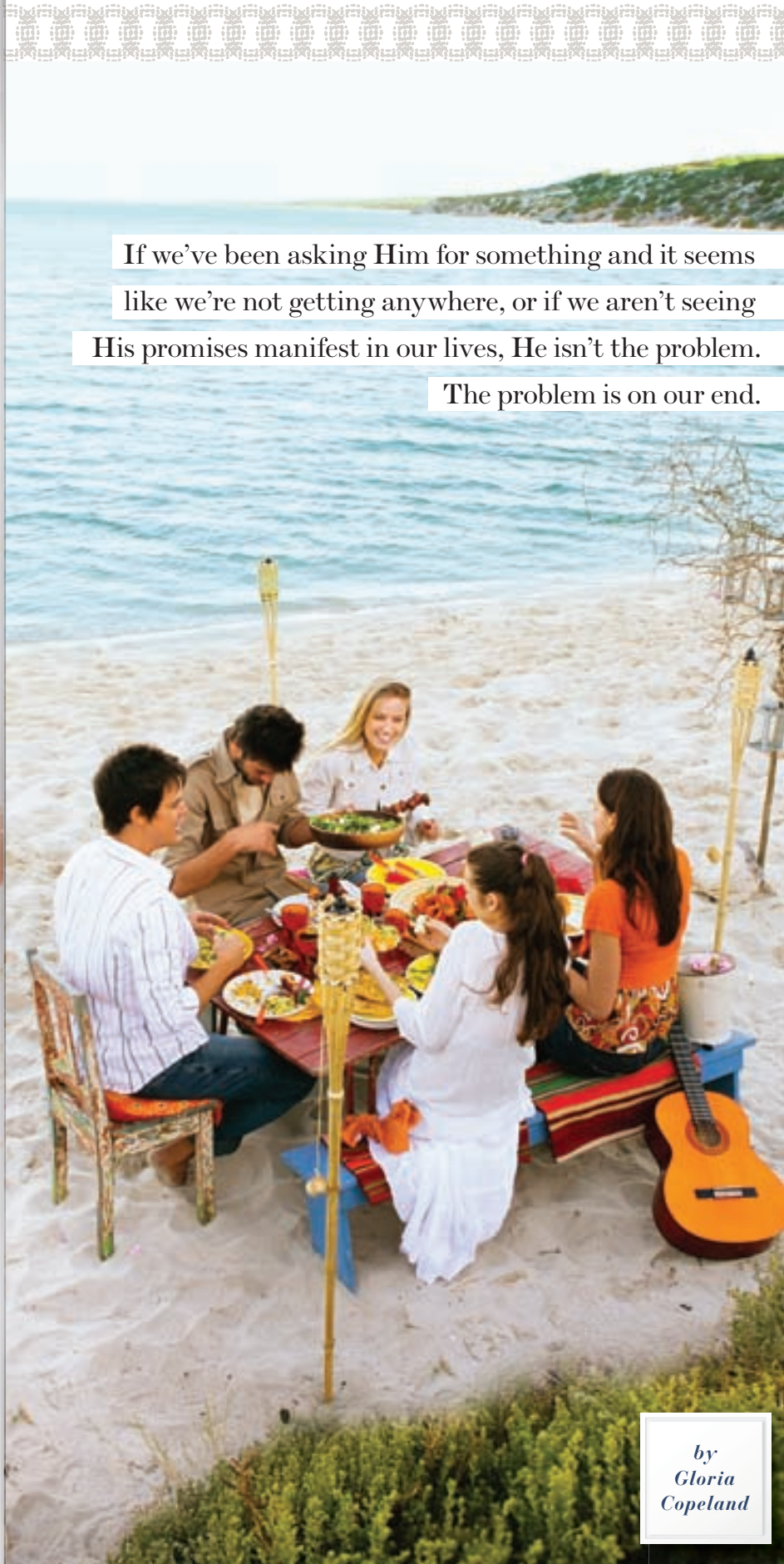




have to evaluate Him to see if He's getting things right, because He never misses it. If we've been asking Him for something and it seems like we're not getting anywhere, or if we aren't seeing His promises manifest in our lives, He isn't the problem.

The problem is on our end.

"Well, I don't know about that," someone might say. "I think I'd be doing fine if the people in my church were just more supportive. They aren't



If we've been asking Him for something and it seems like we're not getting anywhere, or if we aren't seeing His promises manifest in our lives, He isn't the problem.

The problem is on our end.

by  
Gloria  
Copeland

praying for me and standing with me like they should. So in my case, they're the problem."

No, they're not. If they were, the Bible would tell you to examine *their* faith. But it doesn't. It tells us to evaluate *ourselves*.

First John 5:4 says, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." So when it comes to living in victory, our own faith—not someone else's—is the issue. Other people can't do our believing for us. Although at times we can and should help each other, ultimately our faith is our own responsibility. We're the ones who must get it going and working the right way—and that requires us to expend some effort. It requires us to be attentive to the things of God, and to apply some diligence, discipline and determination.

The faith life is not for wimps. It's not for lazy people who just want to do

what's easy on their flesh. Faith is for the strong of heart who will take the Word of God and act on it regardless of the circumstances. It's for believers who will operate according to what Jesus taught in Mark 11:22-24 where He said to His disciples:

Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

#### Be Proactive: Have Faith in God

When it comes to living by faith, those verses are the big guns. Ken and

I can testify to it! We've depended on and lived them for 48 years. Time and again, they've helped us do supernaturally what we could never have done on our own.

So, let's take a quick faith checkup right now by reviewing what they say.

The first thing they tell us is to "have faith in God." What, exactly, does that mean?

It's believing what you see in the Word regardless of what's happening in the natural realm. It's believing, even when you have symptoms of sickness in your body, that by Jesus' stripes "ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). It's

believing, even when your stack of bills looks bigger than your bank account, that "God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

How do we get that kind of faith? It's simple. According to Romans 10:17, it comes "by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

You can believe God for anything you want that's in accordance with His Word! It doesn't matter how big it is or how impossible it might seem. "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26) and "all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23) so, with faith, you can have anything God has promised.

You won't get it, however, by just sitting around waiting for it to fall on you like ripe cherries off a tree. You have to be proactive about it. You have to do your spiritual homework. If you want something, you must search the Word and find out what God says about it.

Personally, I like to put together lists of scriptural promises that pertain to all different aspects of my life. I have lists of verses about healing, for instance, and about family matters. I also have a list of prosperity promises. Those lists help me a lot.

If you haven't already done so, I'd encourage you to put some together for yourself. That way, when you face a challenge, you'll know right where to go. When the flu starts going around at the office, you can say, "Let me get out my list of healing scriptures," and immediately shore up your faith.

Better yet, you can go over those lists all the time. You can stay strong and ready by feeding your spirit every day on God's promises. If things aren't moving along in some area like you think they should, you can double up on your intake of the Word in that area and get rid of any doubt that's crept into your heart.

That's what Ken and I have been doing ever since we first started hearing about faith. As a result, we've become absolutely addicted to the

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# choose to love



Word of God. We've learned from experience that whatever we might come up against, we can come through it in victory by standing on the Word.

## Don't Leave Your Prayer Place Without It

The next thing you want to examine during your faith checkup is what Jesus taught about receiving in Mark 11:24: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." The word translated *receive* there literally means "take," so that verse is telling us we'll have what we take in prayer.

How do we take something when we pray? With the words of our mouth!

We say to the Lord, after we've made our request, "Thank You, Heavenly Father, for giving me what I asked. I believe I receive it. According to Your Word, it's mine. I have it now, in Jesus' Name."

A lot of believers neglect to do this. They pray for what they desire, all right, but then they walk out of the place of prayer without it. Say, for instance, they need healing. Instead of saying, "I take my healing now, Lord. I thank You that I'm healed!" they say just the opposite. As soon as they finish praying, they call their cousin on the telephone and say, "I'm so sick I can hardly see straight! I just feel terrible."

I know what you're probably wondering. *What am I supposed to say at times like that? If I pray for healing, and someone calls before it manifests and asks me how I'm doing, what am I supposed to tell them?*

Just say something like, "I believe I received my healing." You don't have to start listing all the symptoms you're experiencing. If the person persists in asking you about them, just start praising God and quoting the Word. Most likely, whomever you're talking to will either praise God along with you or find a quick way to end the conversation.

"But Gloria, is what I say really that important?"

According to Jesus, it is! He said, "Out of the abundance of the heart

Hey Superkid,

It's home improvement time!

Wait! Don't get your toolbox out just yet. We're going to be doing a different kind of home improvement and using a different set of tools.

Last month I spoke to you about arguing, or more accurately—NOT arguing. I hope that discussion made an impact on you and your family, because the Lord desires our homes to be a representation of heaven on earth—a place full of Jesus, full of worship and full of His love.

So, Superkid, if that's what the Lord wants, then you know it's the exact opposite of what the devil wants. The devil's goal is to create strife in our homes and families. He doesn't want us to have a place that feels safe and trusting. Instead, he comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10), and the family, the home and that trusting environment is the first fortress in your life that he has to bring down to defeat you.

It's amazing what an effect happy, unified families can have. As children grow up, their lives, their sense of worth, the way they deal with conflict and their life skills are molded and developed within their families. The ability to trust God and others is greatly affected by families. This has nothing to do with how much money they have, or how nice their homes may be. Growing up in a home where Jesus is acknowledged can give them an important sense of confidence in the Lord, and in others.

On the other hand, if Satan can bring division and hurt into the family, he can

separate a person from his first support system, leaving him

feeling alone and maybe even unloved. It may even be a lie, but how a person FEELS is often more real to him than the truth. Can you see how important it is that we guard our homes? That we don't let things creep in to destroy? Yes, the devil is a CREEP, and we have to keep him OUT!

Satan would love to come into our homes and keep us from being strong families and strong Superkids.

In Matthew 12:25, Jesus said, if a house is divided (split into factions and rebelling) against itself, that house will not be able to last. Verse 26 goes on to say that if Satan fights himself he can't stand but will come to an end. That is true for him and it's true for our families, too. It is so important that our families be strong and whole! Then Satan cannot come in and steal from our FORTRESS, our HOME!

Now, you may be thinking, *But my brother gets on my nerves! Or, You just don't know how irritating my sister can be.*

Oh, yes, I do! My brother, John, and I fussed A LOT. We went round and round, and always over nothing. If I could, I would go back and change all that. I would tell my younger self that those little arguments weren't important. Of course we got in trouble with our parents, just like you probably do now. But even though you may be disciplined for fussing and fighting, only

you can decide and choose to walk in LOVE.

I wish I could go back and tell young Kellie that very thing. But since I can't, I'll tell you: Choose to love, Superkid! You can learn today, inside the safety of your family, how to love, how to get along with others, and how to be a team member instead of a competitor.

Family squabbles begin with differences, and differences lead to either STRIVING or COOPERATION. Our families can be like a tug of war, where opposing sides are pulling and striving against each other. Or, we can be like a hand, where all the parts must work together to get things done. Neither the thumb nor the index finger can accomplish anything when it tries to work alone. But when the thumb has the cooperation of all four fingers working together, they can accomplish much.

Our decisions to be strong, loving families, regardless of differences, can make us the most super families on the planet, creating the most powerful Superkids in the world. And we can become the most powerful group of loving, Jesus-filled people who are bringing His love to a hurting world. This is what the Bible says Jesus is all about in Ephesians 4:16, *New Living Translation*: "He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

That's us, Superkids! We will be the ones in Ephesians 5 who are living a life filled with love, impacting and blessing everyone around us. Think about these things this month and I may have more to say about our "toolbox" in the next Commander Kellie's Corner so...

Stay Tuned! 🍷

## About

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

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the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34) and we shall have whatever we say (Mark 11:23). So, obviously our words are vital. They determine what happens in our lives.

Proverbs puts it this way:

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” (Proverbs 18:21)

“Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.” (Proverbs 6:2)

“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.” (Proverbs 21:23)

The bottom line is, if you don’t want it, don’t say it. If you do want it, take it, talk it and don’t deviate. If you happen to get discouraged and mess up, then repent right away and get back on track. Keep believing and declaring God’s Word.

The bottom line is, if you don’t want it, don’t say it. If you do want it, take it, talk it and don’t deviate. If you happen to get discouraged and mess up, then repent right away and get back on track.

off my children. They’re not yours. They’re mine. I’ve committed them to God and His will shall be done in their lives.” Then you keep right on standing in faith until it comes to pass.

### The Power Twins Always Win

“But what if that takes a long time? What should I do while I wait?”

Obey James 1:4 and Hebrews 6:12. “Let patience have her perfect work.... [And] be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Patience is a powerful force. It holds you up when you’re under pressure.

tree looked just the same right after He spoke to it as it did before.

But Jesus didn’t let that bother Him. Instead, He exercised patience and kept believing what He said would come to pass. Sure enough, the next day when He and His disciples walked by the tree again, they saw that it had “dried up from the roots” (verse 20).

What if Jesus hadn’t exercised patience that day? What if He’d gotten discouraged because the fig tree didn’t keel over the moment He spoke to it? What if He’d said, “Well, I guess My words didn’t make any difference?”

What would have happened?

Nothing! If Jesus had pulled back on

## KEEP BELIEVING AND DECLARING GOD’S WORD

This is how you receive everything—healing, financial provision, divine protection and the rest of God’s BLESSINGS!

It’s even how you receive your children coming into the kingdom of God. You claim their salvation according to the promises in the Word (Isaiah 54:13, 59:21), then you thank the Lord for bringing them to Himself. You say, “Satan, you’re not getting my children. I break your power over them in Jesus’ Name.”

Although for a while you might not see any change in them, you just keep on saying, “I believe I receive. My children are coming into God’s kingdom. I have it and I’m not going to be moved by what they say or do to the contrary.” You continue to believe God and don’t waiver.

If your children are grown and off somewhere acting crazy, when you hear about it you just hold your ground. You say, “Satan, I bind you

It undergirds you so you don’t let go of your faith in times of trial. Even when you’re faced with contrary circumstances, patience doesn’t quit. It keeps you believing God’s Word and saying the right things.

Faith and patience working together are the power twins! So when you’re doing your faith checkup, it’s important to examine your patience, too.

To be frank about it, I wish that wasn’t necessary. I wish everything we prayed for and took by faith would happen instantly. That would be great. But it’s not generally what happens. Although some things we believe for might come quickly, other things will come more slowly.

This was even true in Jesus’ life. Read in Mark 11 about His encounter with the fig tree and you’ll see what I mean. When He cursed that tree by saying, “No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever” (verse 14), there was no immediate visible change in it. The

His faith, that fig tree would have just gone right on living.

The same principle holds true in our lives. If we don’t let patience have her perfect work; if we pull back on our faith and give up when we don’t see instant results, we’ll cut off our supernatural receiving. We’ll miss out on what we’ve been believing for.

If we’ll put God’s Word first place in our lives, however, and give ourselves regular faith checkups, just the opposite will happen. We’ll fight the good fight of faith by taking what God has promised us and hold onto it until it manifests in our lives.

Faith with patience always wins the fight. So stay on the winning side! No matter how long it takes, keep believing until the fig tree withers... or the symptoms leave your body... or money comes...or the situation changes. Keep saying with confidence, “This is the victory that overcomes the world, even my faith!” ❶



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Kenneth & Gloria Copeland and Dr. Caroline Leaf

**Sun., Sept. 6** **The Holy Spirit Empowers**  
Kenneth Copeland

**Sept. 7-11** **Dare to Believe God's Plan**  
Kenneth Copeland and Terry Law

**Sun., Sept. 13** **The Holy Spirit in You**  
Kenneth Copeland

**Sept. 14-18** **The Healing Anointing**  
Kenneth Copeland and Richard Roberts

**Sun., Sept. 20** **The Holy Spirit—Your Helper**  
Kenneth Copeland

**Sept. 21-25** **Ezekiel and the Glory—Part 1**  
Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

**Sun., Sept. 27** **The Holy Spirit—The Spirit of Truth**  
Kenneth Copeland

**Sept. 28-Oct. 2** **Ezekiel and the Glory—Part 2**  
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