

Believer's Voice of

VICTORY

January 2008



Sacred Instrument

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by Melanie Henry

Blessed to
Change Your World

by Kenneth Copeland

You Can Have
Fearless Faith

by Gloria Copeland

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Kenneth & Gloria Copeland Jerry Savelle Jesse Duplantis Creflo A. Dollar Keith Moore¹ Bill Winston²

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BY KENNETH COPELAND

You don't have to put up with darkened conditions. Discover how to put on the armor of light and change your world!



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God has hidden wisdom *for* you—not from you. Learn how to tap in to that wisdom through His Word.



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You Can Have Fearless Faith

BY GLORIA COPELAND

Faith is a full-time lifestyle—not a part-time activity. Get charged to live a life of bold, unwavering faith today.

features article

When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 35 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His Word and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

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Blessed to
CHANGE
your world

BY KENNETH COPELAND

Have you ever been afraid of God's will for your life? | For most believers, the honest answer to that question is yes. At one time or another, they've worried that God might ask them to spend their lives serving Him in some dark, barren place—as a missionary to a poverty-ridden village in Africa, for example, or preaching the gospel in some gang-infested inner city, or working in a sin-filled office surrounded by spiritual darkness.

I just don't think I could take that kind of life! you might think. I love the Lord and desire to please Him, but I'm just not cut out to live in those kinds of conditions.

No, you're not.

I'm not either.

Neither is any other born-again child of God.

"Oh, Brother Copeland, I just don't know how you can say such a thing!" someone might argue. "God needs

They brought THE BLESSING of God to that place in such measure that it brought forth a church full of people totally in love with Jesus and one another.

A church where there was no strife, no lack and no sickness.

believers who are willing to go to places like that. He needs witnesses to take the light of the gospel into the darkest spots on earth.”

Sure He does. But when God sends a believer to such a place, He doesn't expect him to live in those darkened conditions—He expects him to change them. He expects us to overcome the darkness with the light.

That's what light is designed to do. It's made to illuminate the area around it. That's true of natural light and it's true of the spiritual light of God. If we'll walk in that light, it will fill the circumstances and conditions around us with the glory of God so we're surrounded with blessing wherever we go.

No matter how dark the conditions around us, “The Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it” (John 1:5, *The Amplified Bible*).

Living Like the Early Apostles

The first few chapters of Acts reveal just how true that is. There we find the apostles pouring out of the upper room on the day of Pentecost, ablaze with the fire of God and facing folks so hardhearted that just a few weeks earlier they'd been in favor of crucifying Jesus. Talk about a tough mission field! The devil had been having great success with that bunch.

But when the light of God shined on them through that first group of Holy Spirit-baptized believers, things changed. Thousands were born again in a single day. Right in the middle of that spiritual darkness, a fellowship of believers sprang up—believers so in love with one another and so excited about giving they wiped out lack from their midst almost overnight (Acts 4:34). God's healing power flowed among them at such a flood tide, the citizens of the region dragged sick people out into the streets “and they were healed every one” (Acts 5:16).

Within days, those first apostles turned one of the roughest mission fields in history into a veritable Garden of Eden. They brought THE BLESSING of God to that place in such measure it brought forth a church full of people totally in love with Jesus and one another. A church where there was no strife, no lack and no sickness.

“Yeah, but those first apostles had a special calling. They had walked and talked with Jesus.”

That's true. But, according to 2 Peter 1:1, we can walk in the same measure of faith because we got our faith the same place they got theirs. We have “obtained like precious faith” with them through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

We can also have the same kind of fellowship with Jesus

those first apostles had. The Apostle John—a personal friend and disciple of Jesus—assured us of it. He wrote: “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full” (1 John 1:3-4).

I realize it goes crosswise with religious thinking, but in simple terms what John said was this, “If you'll pay attention to the message I'm about to give you, you can walk in the same place with Jesus that we, as apostles, do. You can live the faith life the same way we live it.”

I don't know about you but that statement puts me on the edge of my seat. What message could possibly propel us into the kind of power and fellowship with Jesus the first apostles enjoyed?

The next verse gives us the answer: “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that *God is light, and in him is no darkness at all*” (verse 5).

God's Glory Light: The Ultimate Force

Look again at that last phrase. *God is light, and in him is no darkness at all*. At first glance, you might wonder why John considered that simple statement so vital. What's so earthshaking about the light of God?

Go back to Genesis 1 and you'll see.

There, we find the greatest mass of darkness and confusion ever recorded in Scripture. We read about a time when “the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep” (verse 2). If there had ever been a place too dark and barren for God to bless, this surely would have been it. If God were ever going to throw His hands up and say, “I just can't change this miserable place,” He would have done it in Genesis.

But He didn't.

Instead, He said, “Let there be light: and there was light” (verse 3). Or, as the Hebrew text reads, “God said, Light be! And light was.”

People often assume the light referred to in that verse was the sun. But the rest of the chapter reveals God didn't create the sun until the fourth day. So what kind of light did God speak into existence on the first day? What kind of light carried the power to transform that dark, formless void?

It was the light of God's glory—the luminous force of



God is light,
and in him is no
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His creative power which is the source of all matter. It was the light that comes from God Himself. Until God released that glory light through His Word, it was on the inside of Him. But once He said, "Light be!" it shot forth from Him at a speed of 186,000 miles a second and began to bring into material manifestation the blueprint of the earth God had within Him.

Let this truth sink in for a moment: Every aspect of creation, every natural material substance that comprises this universe came from the glory light of God. In recent years, science has caught up with the Bible and declared light energy is the ultimate force and source of all material things. And according to John 1:9, that force is "the true Light, which lighteth every man."

That's right! When God said, "Let us make man in our image" and "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life"

(Genesis 1:26, 2:7), He spoke into mankind the same creative, illuminating glory that brought the earth into manifestation. He energized the spirit of man with the glory light that came from within Him. Then He crowned mankind with that same glory (Psalm 8:5) by blessing them and saying to them: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

The Hebrew phrase translated *replenish the earth* in that verse actually means *fill it up*. What did God expect mankind to fill the earth with?

With God's glory. With His light.

God's blessing empowered Adam and Eve to take the glory light throughout the whole earth. It equipped them to bring everything on the planet under the influence of God's glory and turn the whole place into a Garden of Eden. But they never fulfilled that commission. They messed things up and fell into sin. As a result, the earth is still waiting for the manifestation of THE BLESSING. It is still begging to be filled with the glory light that is within and upon the sons and daughters of God.

That's the reason God sends His born-again children—people like you and me—into every dark corner of the world. Not so we can suffer in the darkness for Jesus, but so we can light up the darkness with His glory. He sends us there to bring THE BLESSING and change the most barren places on this planet into little Gardens of Eden.

That's what THE BLESSING does. It releases the glory light of God that exploded within us when we were born again and puts that light to work in our circumstances and surroundings. It changes them from the curse that came on this world through sin, back to the original plan of God. It empowers us to be fruitful, multiply and fill up the earth with divine glory everywhere we go.

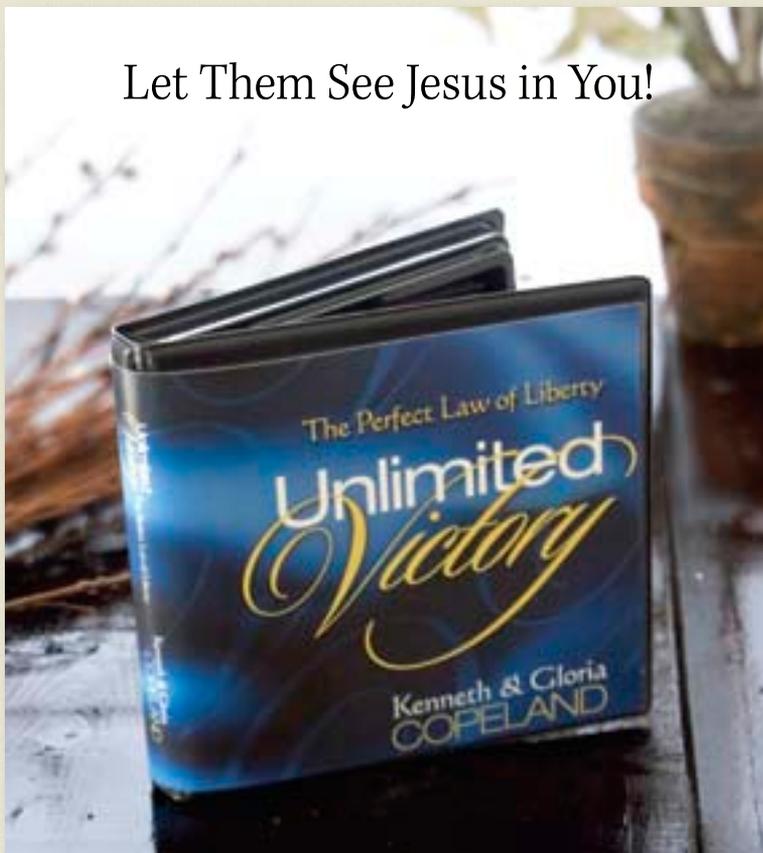
That was, and always will be, the perfect will of God for His people.

God Ain't About to Change

"But what about the Fall of Man?" you might ask. "Didn't that change things?"

It changed mankind but it didn't change God. He is still "the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). In Texas terms that

Let Them See Jesus in You!



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means, He ain't about to change! He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. What He said first is what He'll say last. So His blessing is still in effect.

Satan tried to steal it in the Garden of Eden, but God kept it in the earth by making covenant with Abraham and his descendents. He said the same thing to them all—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Daniel and the rest. He said, “I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2).

Eventually, Jesus came and secured THE BLESSING for the rest of us by going to the cross to redeem “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 (the rest of us) through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13-14).

That's why Jesus is called “the last Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:45). He got THE BLESSING back and made it available again to all mankind.

He started a whole new race of men and women—born-again believers whose spirits are compacted with enough of the light of God's creative glory to produce more than any human being could ever need or desire for an eternity. Think about it! Everything that comes from heaven, every earthly substance, is a material manifestation of that glory light, and those of us who have made Jesus our Lord are filled with it. We're born of it.

Ephesians 5:8 says it this way: “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.” First Thessalonians 5:5 also calls us “the children of light.”

We haven't just “seen the light.” We *are* light. The light of God's glory is our spiritual DNA!

The first thing the glory light of THE BLESSING does is free us from the bondage of sin. It blasts the sin nature out of our inner man and replaces it with God's own righteousness. Just as it can be said of God that He is light and in Him is no darkness, it can be said of us that we are light and in us (that is, in our reborn spirit) is no darkness at all.

That doesn't mean we'll never again commit a sin. Because we aren't yet walking in the full revelation of who we are in Christ, sometimes we'll fall prey to it. But 1 John 1:9 assures us: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The second thing the glory light of THE BLESSING does is strengthen our bodies. When we release it by faith, it drives sickness out and heals us. There was no sickness in the Garden of Eden so healing is part of THE BLESSING.

THE BLESSING will also drive out poverty. It produced silver and gold in the life of Abraham and it will do the same for us. That's the job of THE BLESSING.

“Well, I just don't see how any gold could come to me.”

It's not your job to see how. It's your job to believe. It's your job to walk in love and release the light of God by speaking words of faith just like God did. If you'll do that, God will get finances to you, and He'll come by them honestly, so there's no need for you to worry about how He is going to do it. There was no poverty in the Garden, so prospering in God is part of THE BLESSING.

Put On the Armor of Light

Of course, if we don't walk in love, we'll mess up the whole process. We'll shut down THE BLESSING and end up stumbling around in darkness because: “He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes” (1 John 2:9-11).

When we get into strife and bitterness, when we stop acting in love, it's like we put on a coat of darkness. We're still light on the inside, but because that light is covered up, we find ourselves in the dark.

We don't belong in the dark! We're not designed to live there. We are light in the Lord.

It's time we started being aware of that fact and walking “as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8). It's time we “cast off the works of darkness, and...put on the armour of light” (Romans 13:12).

That's what our heavenly Father does. Psalm 104:2 says He covers Himself with light as with a garment. He is light inside and out; and He made us to be the same way. He has energized us and made us alive with the light of His creative glory. He has crowned us with that glory by giving us THE BLESSING. He has commissioned us and equipped us to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth with the light force of His glory.

What a privilege! What an opportunity!

When we grasp the fullness of it, we won't shrink back in fear when we think about God sending us into some dark, barren place. We'll volunteer for the assignment. We'll be eager for the chance to charge into it and set it ablaze with the light of God. We'll be saying, “Send me there, Lord! I can bring THE BLESSING to that place. I can bring the glory into it.

“Here am I. Send me!” **VICTORY**

2007 Meetings

Impact *the* Nations

International participation and outreaches reached a new level in Victory Campaigns and Believers' Conventions in 2007—a year in which believers were challenged to go through the doors God had opened for them and be a worldwide blessing.



Lagos, Nigeria

For Gabrielle from Australia, attending the West Coast Believers' Convention was the realization of a dream. A Partner with KCM for 36 years, attending her first Believers' Convention, Gabrielle said she received healing from the remaining symptoms of a stroke she suffered several years earlier.

Then, at the Southwest Believers' Convention four weeks later, 11-year-old Leo from Yorkshire, England, reported he'd been healed of congenital arthrogryposis. And Pastor Cramer from Puerto Rico was healed from a spinal cord injury he suffered in an Army parachute accident.

Gabrielle, Leo and Pastor Cramer are representative of believers from more than 30 nations who attended KCM meetings in the U.S. in 2007. International participation swelled to more than 80 nations for the live webcasts. Pastor Tracy Harris from Texarkana, Texas, referenced Psalm 67:2, declaring at the SWBC Healing School: "His healing health is going to all nations."

Going Through Open Doors

Much of the focus in the meetings surrounded the prophecy that 2007 would be the Year of the Open Door. That

word was given to the Body through Brother Copeland at the 2006 Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign:

...2007 will be known as the year of the open door. My Word states in Revelation, Chapter 3, that I open doors no man can shut. I shut doors no man can open.

There are those of you who over the years have set out with commitment and resolve to do things that I have assigned you to do, and over a period of time it looked like the devil just slammed the door in your face.... But you hear Me now, *saith the Lord*, I am opening your door! I am opening your door! I am opening your door, and in 2007 neither the devil nor anyone else will be able to close it on you!

Don't quit! Don't give up! The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Don't give up on this nation. Don't give up on your church. Don't give up! Don't quit! Don't stop! 2007 is the year of doors open and held open. Go through them with great faith and stay on the Word! Stay on the Word! Stay on the Word! You stay with

From Rome to Washington, D.C.,

Brother Copeland showed believers how to activate THE BLESSING in their lives and to release it wherever they go.

Me, I'll stay with you, and together we will see victory beyond anything you or anyone else has ever seen before!

Speak THE BLESSING

Throughout the year, prophetic words and teaching challenged believers to receive and minister THE BLESSING God spoke in creating Adam: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

Accounts of open doors worldwide filled the Copelands' reports to their Partners and Friends. The Citation X aircraft, purchased with designated gifts from Partners and Friends, took the Copelands to Lagos, Nigeria; Rome, Italy and mainland China.



Rural China

In Lagos, they ministered to more than 4,000 pastors by day, and a congregation of more than 34,000 by night, through the ministry of Bishop David Oyedepo. He credits the Copelands' books *The Laws of Prosperity* and *God's Will Is Prosperity* with laying the foundation for building his ministry and multi-thousand-seat facility debt free.

In Rome, the Copelands ministered at the Chiesa Evangelica Internazionale and at a church service to evangelical believers, some of whom came from regions with no Bible-based churches. Writing to KCM's Europe office, one participant expressed gratitude for the encouragement she received during the meetings, observing that everyone listened "with enthusiasm and awe to the messages preached."

Kenneth and Gloria had a rare opportunity to minister in mainland China to a group of key leaders representing millions of believers in thousands of small, home-church groups that make up the fast-growing underground Church. The Copelands' meeting coincided with the release of 50,000 copies of the new Chinese *From Faith to Faith* devotional which was given to church leaders for distribution throughout the nation.

The Tokyo leg of their China mission literally fulfilled the word the Lord gave Brother Copeland years ago about believing for the international-range aircraft: *I want you to believe Me for a Citation X right now. If I call on you to go to Tokyo in the morning, I don't want you to have to ask someone if you can go.*

Ministry to the nations was not defined by geographical and political boundaries alone. Brother Copeland also ministered to members of the Crow (Apsáalooke) Nation in Montana, and preached on bringing THE BLESSING inside prison walls to inmates of the Coffield Prison Unit near Palestine, Texas, and to the Louisiana State Prison facility at Angola. He reported that Angola Prison, once notorious for the murder rate among its inmates who had no hope of parole, is now receiving national recognition as a facility where a majority of prisoners are Christians and its accredited seminary is sending out ministry teams to other prison units.

The Word of Prophecy

At the meetings, prophetic words spoken through Brother Copeland made it clear



Lagos, Nigeria

Pastor Cramer from Puerto Rico was healed from a spinal cord injury he suffered in an Army parachute accident.

Nigeria

Italy

China

every believer has a part to play in manifesting THE BLESSING worldwide:

Branson

I will not, I will not, I will not push you through that door. I will lead you through that door, but you must be determined to rise up and declare your blessing. And when you do, together we will go through the door.... *Branson, Mo., March 8, 2007*

My Scripture says the whole creation is moaning and groaning for a manifestation of the sons of God—someone to take authority over it, someone to have dominion over it in the power of the love and the faith of the Almighty and release THE BLESSING on this creation.... *Branson, Mo., March 9, 2007*

Anaheim

You are approaching a blessing manifestation of glory that is an explosion in ways and in intensity that the human race has never seen before.... And if you'll take it, THE BLESSING will surround you, THE BLESSING will encase you, and you will learn to walk in the secret place of the most High God. Blessed in His blessing, blessed in His glory, blessed in your comings, blessed in your goings, blessed in your pocketbook. All debt will have to get up and leave you the way leprosy left the lepers of old.... *Anaheim, Calif., July 9, 2007*

A new breed of spiritual warrior is in the land...a new breed of men and women and children filled with the Holy Ghost who have learned who they are in Christ, and have the audacity...faith and...boldness to just step out in what belongs to them and take the land for the Word of the living God and spread the gospel of the kingdom in power and authority. And all the demons of hell are trembling. They know it's here, and they know they can't stop it, *saieth the Lord*.... *Anaheim, Calif., July 12, 2007*

Fort Worth

GO! I'm not asking you to go with Me, *says the Lord Jesus Christ*, I'm telling you I'll go with you. I'll go with you into all the world and as you preach the gospel I'll bless you, I'll anoint you, I'll work with your words and I'll confirm them with signs following. I will cause manifestations to come. *Fort Worth, Texas, Aug. 6, 2007*

Milwaukee

So rise up in words of faith and words of joy and fill your mouth with victory.... Run, don't walk, run over your enemy and victoriously give your Lord praise.... *Milwaukee, Wis., Aug., 20, 2007*

Releasing THE BLESSING

From Rome to Washington, D.C., Brother Copeland told believers how to activate THE BLESSING in their lives and to release it wherever they go.

Abraham was declared “Blessed...of the most high God” and “possessor of heaven and earth” (Genesis 14:19), the one through whom “all families of the earth [shall] be blessed” (Genesis 12:3), Brother Copeland reminded believers at the Branson Victory Campaign.

God's covenant with Abraham reinstated to man THE BLESSING originally spoken to Adam to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...” (Genesis 1:28). And it has now been promised to believers through Jesus, who was made a curse for us “that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:14).

That dominion, Brother Copeland explained, is the dominion of love and can only come through a people who have committed themselves to live by the rule of love—the rule of their Creator, who is Love Himself.

“God is sending you empowered to places that need THE BLESSING,” he told believers at the WCBC. “The Great Commission was Jesus saying, ‘You go. I am assigning you to take THE BLESSING in My Name.’”

Just as God's first words to Adam were the commission to be fruitful, and multiply and take dominion, Jesus' commission to the believer is to take dominion by going, making disciples, laying hands on the sick and casting out demons, Brother Copeland instructed at Great Lakes. Believers are to live through Jesus, taking authority over death, fear and sin and ministering forgiveness, healing and life (1 John 4:9; Hebrews 2:14-18).

Learning to Abound

In Branson, Gloria gave a checklist for having and enjoying life. Laying out the benefits and simplicity of a life lived in God's Word, she encouraged believers to accept no less than a life lived by putting the Word first place. It is not what you know that makes a difference, but what you receive and act on that changes your life and your world.

At the West Coast and Southwest Believers' Conventions she taught on seven things that bring increase into the believer's life: (1) walking in truth, (2) faithfulness, (3) diligence, (4) tithing, (5) sowing, (6) believing and (7) saying.

The diligent believer, who steadily and consistently applies the Word of God, will walk in THE BLESSING of God, who rewards “those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]” (Hebrews 11:6, *The Amplified Bible*).



At Great Lakes, Gloria launched believers into a refresher course on faith—anchored in the declaration of Habakkuk 2:4: “Look at the proud; his soul is not straight or right within him, but the [rigidly] just and the [uncompromisingly] righteous man shall live by his faith and in his faithfulness” (*The Amplified Bible*).

She challenged believers to exercise their faith, resist the devil and seek the Lord with the intensity He described through His prophet: “Seek Me [...and require Me as you require food] and you shall live” (Amos 5:4, *The Amplified Bible*).

Joining the Copelands at the West Coast, Southwest and Great Lakes meetings were Jerry Savelle, Jesse Duplantis and Creflo A. Dollar.

Jerry Savelle encouraged believers to enlarge their picture of God who, in pronouncing THE BLESSING on man, marked us for increase.

“God is always revealing Himself as I AM—I am whatever you need,” Brother Savelle said. “Whatever your need is, get a revelation of God as the One who is superior to that need.”

Jesse Duplantis ministered on how to live out the will of God on the earth, “Childlike faith believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible. If you bring heavenly ways of thinking and talking to earth, it will disrupt the devil’s plans to steal your childlike faith or joy.”

Answering basic questions believers ask, Brother Dollar noted that Satan’s No. 1 attack is on confidence. “Sin attacks confidence and makes cowards of men,” he said. “If your faith isn’t working, first check the condition of your confidence, then make sure your love walk is in place. Real Bible faith is faith in the love of God.”

Keith Moore, pastor of Faith Life Church in Branson, Mo., joined the WCBC team. He challenged young believers to not slip back into walking by sight instead of by faith, and mature believers to go beyond knowing and confessing, and to start taking what God has revealed is His will for them.

Bill Winston, pastor of Living Word Christian Center in Forest Park, Ill., ministered at the GLBC that believers need to become assignment-minded. “We have missed creative assignments because we have been preoccupied with provision,” he said. “When money is on your mind, you can’t think creatively.”

Adults were not the only ones to benefit from KCM meetings in 2007. Under the leadership of Jeremy Pearsons, junior-high and high-school students focused on how to live every minute of every day to the glory of God.

Brother Dollar noted that Satan’s No. 1 attack is on confidence.

“Sin attacks confidence and makes cowards of men.”

Registration totaled more than 1600 at the WCBC and SWBC 14forty meetings.

And at West Coast, Southwest and Great Lakes, children participated in Superkid Academy with Commanders Dana and Linda Johnson and special appearances by Commander Kellie (Kellie Copeland, children’s pastor at Eagle Mountain International Church).

Under the theme “Be the One,” registration exceeded 2600 Superkids for the three meetings.



Flooding the Earth With THE BLESSING

Addressing the growing Internet and international audiences at the 2007 meetings, Gloria said at the Great Lakes Believers’ Convention, “The Internet makes this truly an international convention. People will get healed and learn faith just as if they were in the meeting with us.”

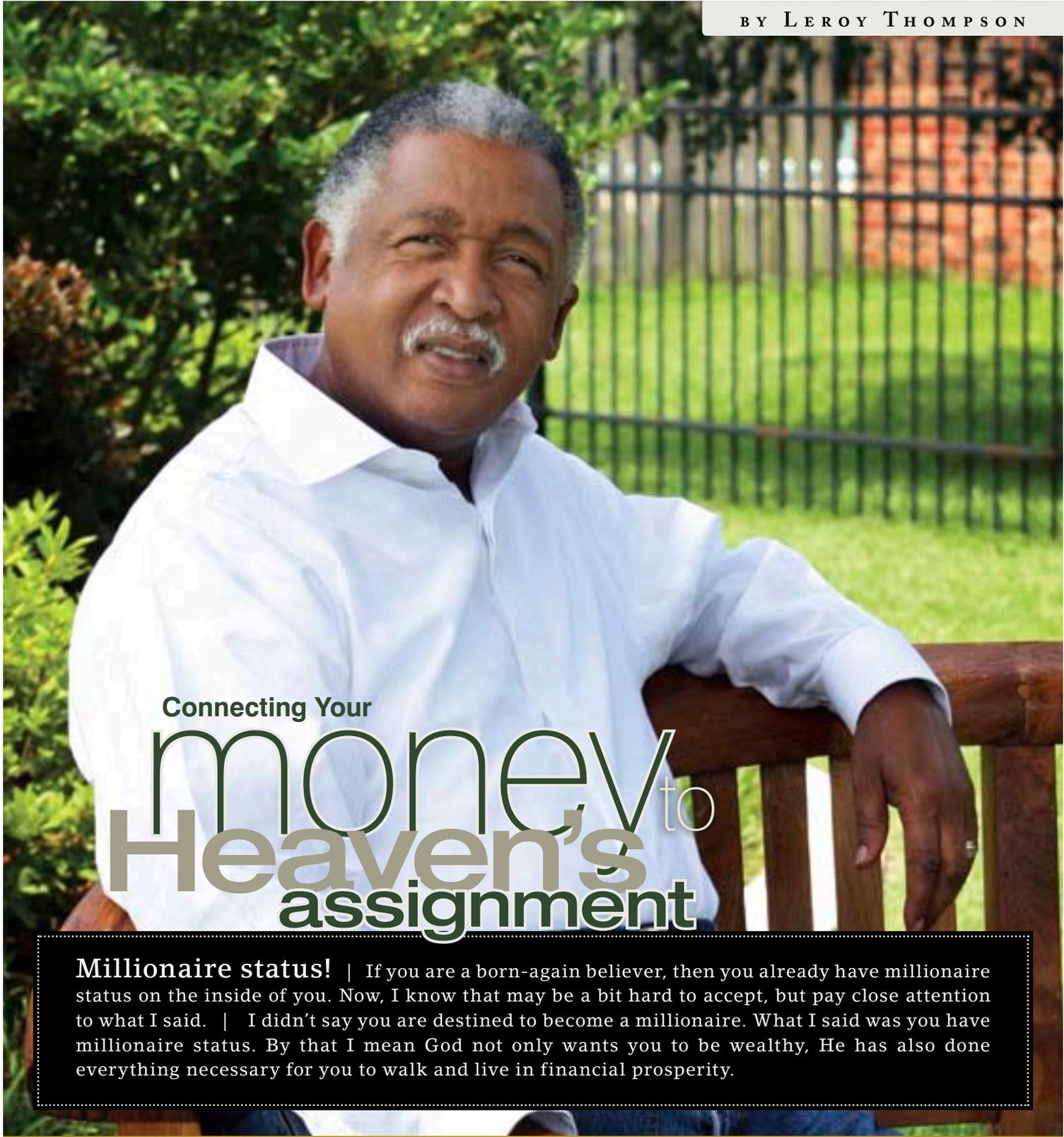
The faith every believer brings is important—whether participating at the meeting or over the Internet, Brother Copeland said. “You are not just watching. Your faith affects us. The Word says we are so closely connected to one another, that if only one is in pain, the whole Body is affected—all of it. As we come closer together all over the world, this is becoming very evident.”

To have spiritual promises energize us the same way certain words create an instantaneous response in the emotions and flesh, we must spend time meditating the Word and taking hold of it with the spirit, he said.

“Then as it energizes your spirit, your spirit man gets excited and informs your mind. That is the reason we set up these conventions 30 years ago—to have a place you can totally immerse yourself in the Word of God and allow the promises of God to change your thinking.”

When that happens, believers will fulfill their commission to flood the earth with THE BLESSING. VICTORY





Connecting Your
money to
 Heaven's
assignment

Millionaire status! | If you are a born-again believer, then you already have millionaire status on the inside of you. Now, I know that may be a bit hard to accept, but pay close attention to what I said. | I didn't say you are destined to become a millionaire. What I said was you have millionaire status. By that I mean God not only wants you to be wealthy, He has also done everything necessary for you to walk and live in financial prosperity.

This is not something He has made available to a select few—it is part of the inheritance of every believer. But unfortunately, due to a lack of knowledge about their purpose for being financially prosperous, many Christians are not on the path to the kind of prosperous life God has ordained for them.

I'm not saying they don't know what money is all about, or are not already seeking ways to get lots of it.

The problem is they don't understand *why* God wants His people wealthy. They don't understand that while God has purposed for them to be wealthy—to have all the financial resources they need—He has also attached a heavenly assignment to their finances.

You see, the same scripture that tells us it is God Himself who gives us power to get wealth, also gives us a better understanding of why God wants us to be

financially prosperous, and how our being wealthy benefits His kingdom and His purpose.

Look at what Deuteronomy 8:18 says: “But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, *that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*”

The Power Source

First, we must understand what this verse means when it says God gives us “power.” The word “power” in this scripture has nothing to do with strength or authority. It’s talking about our ability. Or, in other words, it’s saying God has placed inside us certain skills, talents or abilities that, when properly applied, can be used to cause us to gain wealth.

But what I really want you to notice is what that verse says before power is even mentioned. It says we are to “remember the Lord thy God.”

Why? Because, according to the Bible, He is our Provider. He is the One who gives us the power. That’s the key to this verse, and it’s also the key to walking in prosperity.

You see, before we can ever begin to deal with the power God has given us to “get wealth,” we have to first settle the issue regarding the Provider. The power is already there. But we can’t just exercise power to get wealth, or anything else for that matter, without first acknowledging the power source. If we don’t, we are headed for trouble because we will mess things up.

Money exerts a great influence on our lives, because it takes us from one level of living to another. If we don’t have the proper connection with God, and a real understanding of wealth, then we won’t know how to handle what God has given us.

When we have achieved success—when we’re living in our dream houses or driving our nice cars, and have plenty of money in the bank—it’s easy to fall into the trap of pride. We look at all we have, and the next thing you know we’re bragging and boasting about what we did, or how we made things happen instead of giving God the glory.

Sure, our prosperity may have come as a result of exercising our gifts and talents, but that doesn’t mean we can take the credit. God gave us those gifts and talents. We simply put them to work the way He intended, and now we’re reaping the benefits.

Anything short of giving God the glory amounts to pride. And the Bible is strong in its stand against pride. Proverbs 16:18 warns, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

God is the source of our power to get wealth. He is our Provider, and we should acknowledge that from the very beginning.

A Covenant-Keeping God

So, why does God want us wealthy?

There are at least two reasons, one of which is found in the last part of Deuteronomy 8:18, which says: “that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”

The Old Testament tells of the many covenant promises God made with Abraham and his descendents. These promises now belong to you and me, because we are numbered among those descendents. We are the seed of Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-2 says, “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.”

God said to Abram in Genesis 17:2, “And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.” And in verse 6 He adds: “And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.”

These covenant promises of wealth, prosperity and abundance all came from God Himself. With



If we don't have the proper connection with God, and a real understanding of wealth, then we won't know how to handle what God has given us.

each covenant agreement, God said, “And I will.” He was always the Provider—the Source. John 3:27 says, “A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.”

Just as God made provision for His people back then, He does the same for you and me today. His plans and methods never change.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” In the *New International Version*, which translates the word *thoughts* as “plans,” the verse reads: “For I know the plans I have for you’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

What that tells us is because God is the source of our power to get wealth, He has already mapped out a strategy to get us to the place of prosperity. Not only that, He has made sure as long as we follow His directions we won’t fail.

Look again at what the first part of Jeremiah 29:11 (*New International Version*) says: “For I know the *plans* I have for you.” Notice God says “plans,” which is the plural form, and not the singular word “plan.” In other words, God is saying He has designed more than one plan to get us into our wealthy place. If we can’t get it one way, God says *I’ve got another plan for you*. And if that one doesn’t work, then He’s got another. He says, *I am the Lord thy God. I am the One who brought Israel out of bondage, and I’ll do whatever it takes to get you out of your situation*.

Provision Is Already There

There is a second reason I believe God wants us wealthy. It has to do with His kingdom.

I began by saying everyone has millionaire status. Let me explain why that is. God has commissioned us, as the Body of Christ, to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). That is part of our heavenly assignment.

For us to do that, and to be effective in reaching the lost, we are going to need money and lots of it.

The good news is that we don’t have to try and figure out ways to get the money we need. We’ve already seen in the Word that God has done that for us, because He gives us power to get wealth.

But there is something else God does to get money into our hands.

Second Corinthians 9:10 says, “Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.” From this, it is clear that God doesn’t just see to it that we have money. He brings it to us Himself.

Notice that verse doesn’t say God “sends” us seed to sow. No. It says He ministers seed to the sower. That word *ministers* is another way of saying “serves.” So, in a sense God actually becomes our servant and personally brings us the seed He has for us.

Why would He do that? you wonder.

For one thing, I believe He becomes our servant to teach us about service. If He can get us to see how important it is to Him to serve, then we will understand the importance of rendering service back to Him.

But I also believe He wants us to make sure we don’t misuse the seed. By that, I mean He wants to be sure we don’t use money intended for kingdom work for our own personal needs.

How does He do that?

Look at the verse again.

It says, “Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food.”

The same God who ministers seed to us to sow back into His kingdom will also minister bread to us so we have substance—so that our needs are met. He gives us seed to sow into His kingdom, but He also provides for our daily needs.

God has a plan for His kingdom and your life, and the two are connected. The building and promotion of His kingdom depends a lot on your ability to give. And until you settle in your mind and heart that God has given you ample supply so you can give in abundance, you will never connect your money with your heavenly assignment.

The reason some people can’t give like they want to is they have not recognized their source. They give out of their own ability, thinking they’re limited.

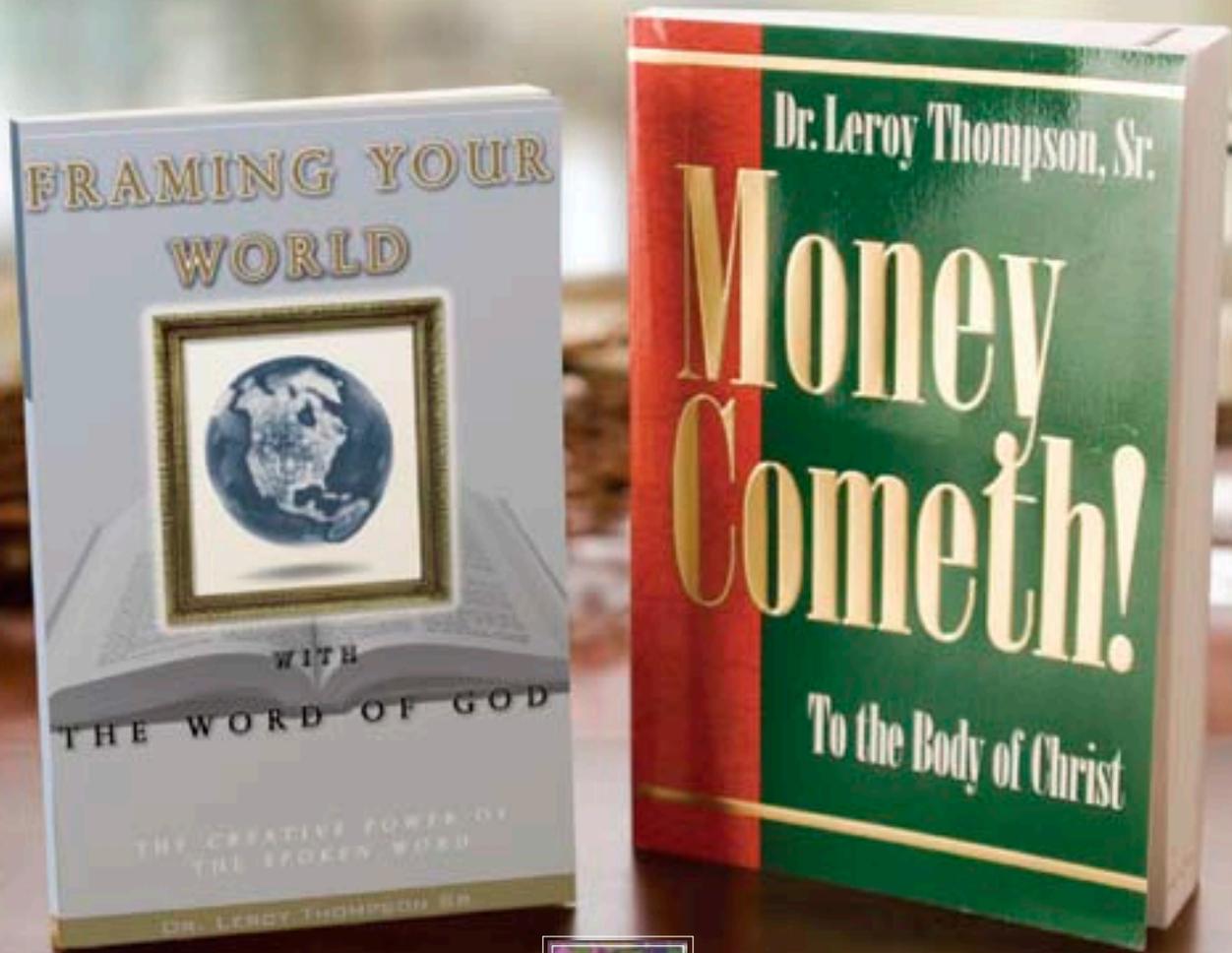
If your finances are connected to the world’s resources, then you will always be limited in how much you can give. You’ll always be holding back, trying to keep something in reserve for a “rainy day.”

But when you acknowledge God as your source, when you recognize He is your Provider and make giving into His kingdom your top priority, then you never have to worry about money. In fact, you’ll find yourself getting hilarious in your giving because you know God’s blessings are headed your way.

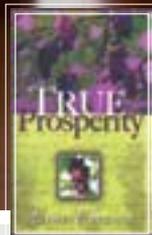
You have millionaire status on the inside of you. And God is doing everything possible to bring it out. Connect your money with heaven’s assignment and you’ll never be broke another day in your life. **VICTORY**

Dr. Leroy Thompson Sr. is pastor and founder of Word of Life Christian Center in Darrow, La. For more information or ministry materials write to Word of Life Christian Center, PO Box 7, 40066 Hwy 22, Darrow, LA 70725, or call 1-225-473-8874.

Connect Your Finances



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GoodNewsGazette

Enjoying Life Fear Free

By the time I was 42 years old I had received 22 electric shock treatments to wipe out my memory due to fear. I lost my ability to add, read and write. I asked God to teach me from the Bible again, turned on the TV and found Kenneth. I am now 84 and loving life! I'm excited because I got to start life all over again. On my 80th birthday I announced that I had just found out I could live to be 120, so I am going for it. The Holy Spirit is the One who helps me remember the Word of God.

B.A. | Canada

'It's a Good Day to Live!'

About three years ago I was very depressed. One day I was listening to Kenneth's teachings while writing a suicide note. All of a sudden Kenneth said on the tape, "It's a good day to die," so I stopped and listened. Then he said, "No it's not! Get your mind off that! Today is a good day to live!" I immediately stopped writing the note and just listened. God helped me shake off the depression and I went back to work! Today I am still listening to Kenneth and sometimes battle with sadness, but I always hear Kenneth's voice saying, "It's a good day to live!"

R.G. | Canada

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).

(HEBREWS 10:23)

Death Assignment Canceled Through Prayer

I called the ministry and spoke with one of your prayer ministers. My friend's 15-year-old son, Christopher, had been admitted to the hospital in great pain and the doctors thought it was Crohn's disease. They were going to have to do surgery. The minister prayed with me agreeing for his complete and total healing and for wisdom for the doctors. One thing she said jumped out at me: "Satan's assignment against Christopher is canceled."

He was taken to the hospital and surgery was scheduled. They told his mom it was extremely serious and didn't look good. The CAT scan showed a perforation in his colon and gangrenous infection. The doctors expected to remove part of his colon and he would have a colostomy. We stood against that report and repeated what the prayer minister had said. The surgery lasted four hours, but the doctors did *not* have to remove any of Christopher's colon. The perforation must have been healed because it closed up and they couldn't find it! All they did was clean out the infection and insert drains so it could continue clearing. Thank you for the powerful prayer of agreement you prayed with me. God is so good.

Ann Musico | New York

Prosperity Proven

I am a minister but did *not* understand the prosperity message until just a few years ago. I thought it was a "con game" to get people to turn loose of their money. But after listening to Kenneth Copeland on TV one day, I was astonished when he said that if he wanted to increase, he didn't try to get us to give more, but he increased his own giving! That was startling to me! After studying what the Bible says about it, God gave me the revelation of this biblical doctrine.

I started partnering with you and our income doubled in 30 days. This was back when you said you wanted to double a few years ago. I decided to help you double and in 30 days *our* ministry doubled.

We now have a nondenominational Bible college where one of the classes I teach is called "Principles of Prosperity." I want to thank you for teaching me this truth that I had never heard in church and I believe in it now wholeheartedly. Since becoming a Partner with your ministry, we have been truly blessed!

Dr. Keith Slough | Kannapolis, N.C.

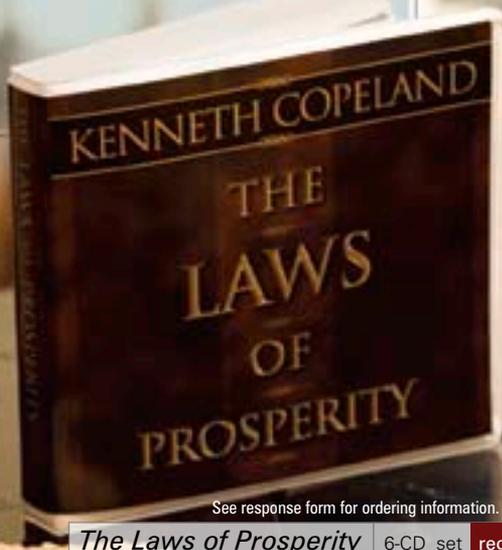


Transformed, Renewed and Set Free

Several years ago I was medically diagnosed with depression. Medication didn't seem to work, so when I partnered with KCM, I began to pray that God would heal, transform and renew my mind. I recently made a decision to submit myself to God fully, humbling myself to Him. And I started to receive a lot of deliverance. He reminded me of James 4:7: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Well, he fled and took all his cronies with him!

Because of my depression, I had left my job as a full-time police officer in London. But now I am going back in again, after recently passing my interview. This really is the year of the open door and the opened floodgates of heaven. I truly am a new creation. Thank you, KCM, for standing with me. When I connected with this ministry, I felt like a river flowed into me. Now, it can flow out. Hallelujah!

M.O. | England



See response form for ordering information.

The Laws of Prosperity 6-CD set reg. £18.00 | €27.70 **NOW! £15.00 | €23.10** #B080111

Consistency Is the Key

My husband and I watched your TV broadcast and it really spoke loud and clear. The message was “In Consistency Lies the Power.” We realized we had confessed the Word and the Lord’s promises, but we were not as consistent as we should have been.

When you prayed over the offerings, we had nothing but an empty envelope. We took the envelope and prayed with you over it, believing God would send seed to put into it. When you finished praying, you began to rebuke the devourer—I received an awesome revelation how that if we have to confess His blessings, we also have to name what the devourer is rebuked from. Afterward, I felt impressed to write a check by faith and place it in the envelope and wait on the Lord. We had previously committed that 20 percent of all our income would be sown into the kingdom. I told my husband I desired \$1,000. By faith I placed it in the envelope and thanked the Lord for seed for the sower and bread for the eater.

Early the next morning we received a \$1,000 check from a man we don’t know personally, but God impressed upon him to send us this check. He had mailed it the day before so we would receive it two days later. Surely the Word of God is true when He said, “Before they asked I heard them.”

L.T. | Mississippi

Delivered From Pain

I am really blessed and I take this opportunity to share the blessings Jesus has bestowed upon me.

Last year, I attended a prayer cell and fasted for seven days. During the fast, Jesus healed me of my breathing problem, gastritis, shoulder pain and stomach problems. I had been praying to the Lord for nearly a year that I didn’t want any medicine, but I just wanted healing from Him. He answered my prayers and now I am having a blessed and healthy life. I give all glory and honor to our loving Almighty God. Thank you, KCM, for your prayers.

T.N. | India

No Longer Barren

I would like to thank KCM for answered prayers. Two years ago I was diagnosed with endometriosis and doctors said I would not be able to have children. My age was also a factor. I am now 37 years old, but I prayed to God that endometriosis is just a name and age is just a number. I meditated on 1 Samuel 1, about what God did for Hannah. I also listened to Marty Copeland’s CD “Hannah’s Miracle Child,” and I believed. I am happy to announce that my husband and I are expecting a baby! Praise be to God and many thanks to KCM. May God continually bless you abundantly.

Y.C. | United Kingdom

Words of Life Bring Healing

As a faith Partner with KCM, I wanted to share my testimony of faith and healing. I thank you for speaking the words of life to me every day on your programs and CDs. In my journey to perfect healing according to God’s promise, I played your healing CD day and night; I slept with the scriptures in my ears and I knew in my heart and soul the cancer I was diagnosed with was not of death to me. And now I am cancer free!

My husband and I came to EMIC in January 2005 and Kenneth was speaking that night. My husband, who was not a believer at the time, drove me to the meeting so I could see Kenneth, praise God. He heard and repeated the sinner’s prayer and asked Jesus into his heart that night! One year and one month later he died of a massive heart attack. Thank God for your God-given words that night; they saved his life for eternity.

Janet C. Wright | McKinney, Texas

BY KENNETH COPELAND

Hidden for you

How do you know what you know? The answer to that question can mean the difference between standing and falling, between success and failure in the kingdom of God. | Remember when you went to school and learned your ABCs and your multiplication tables? You know them because you learned them. Someone taught them to you.

That kind of knowing took you all the way through school. It's called natural knowledge. You get it by using your five senses and your logical abilities to gather information and sort it out.

But in the kingdom of God there's another kind of knowing. One that works its way from the inside out—instead of from the outside in. It's called revelation knowledge.

Jesus spoke about this kind of knowledge in Matthew 16. He'd just asked the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered Him by declaring, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

"Blessed are you, Simon," Jesus responded, "for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven" (verses 15-17, *New King James Version*).

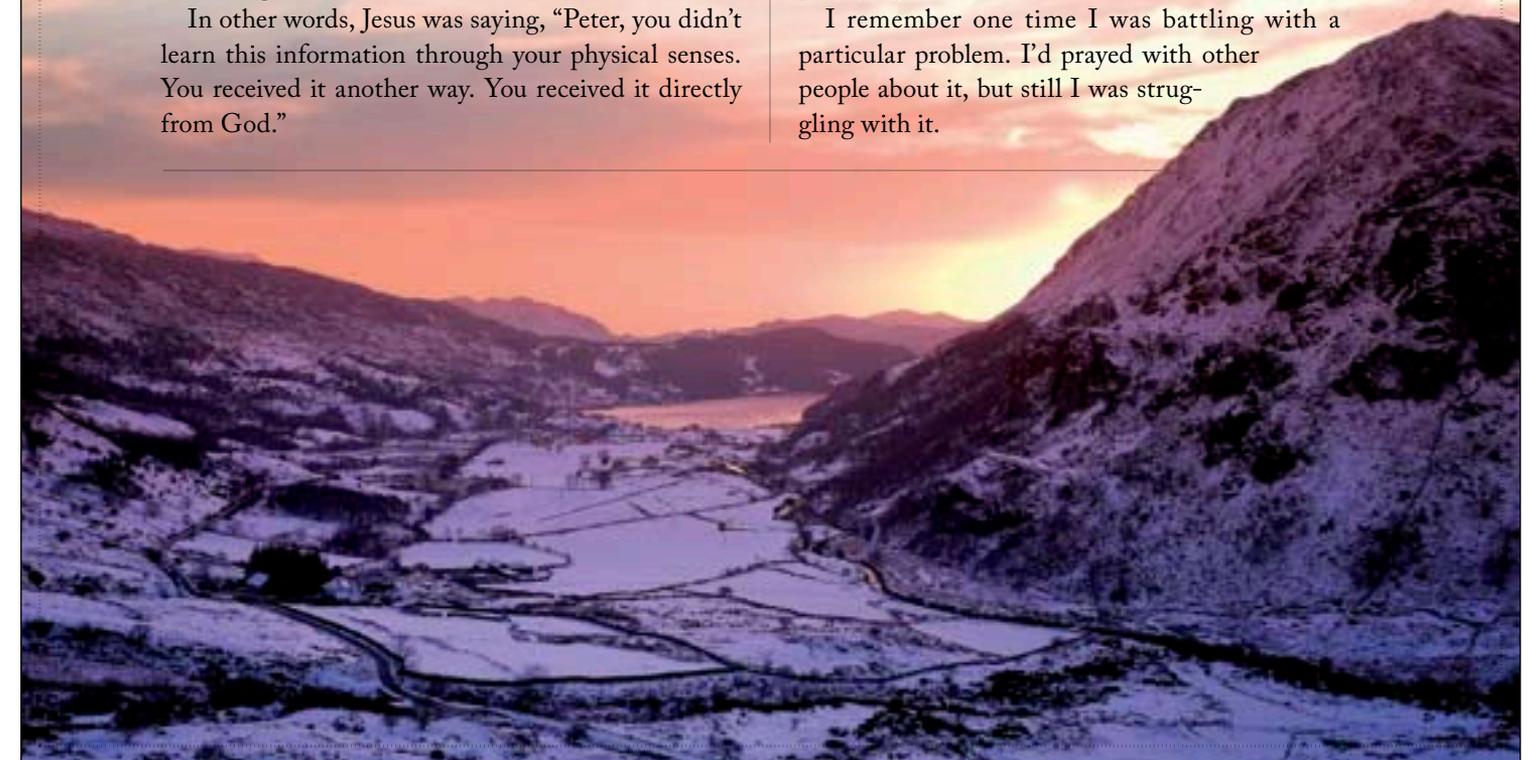
In other words, Jesus was saying, "Peter, you didn't learn this information through your physical senses. You received it another way. You received it directly from God."

Actually, Peter did have to learn that truth later. He had to begin to grasp it with his mind. But he knew it in his spirit first. If you've never experienced this, it may seem hard to understand. But if you've ever had Jesus reveal something to you by the Holy Spirit, you know exactly what I mean.

First you received it—you knew it in your spirit. Then you learned it with your mind.

It can also work the other way. You may have already learned some information about a subject. But when the revelation comes, you begin to see that information in another light entirely. Suddenly it has depth and dimension it never had for you before. It becomes such an unshakable reality in your life that, as Jesus said to Peter, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

I remember one time I was battling with a particular problem. I'd prayed with other people about it, but still I was struggling with it.



As I studied and meditated about it, suddenly it seemed as if a ball of light exploded in my spirit concerning two people agreeing in prayer. Several scriptures popped into my mind.

“One [can] chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight” (Deuteronomy 32:30). All at once, I understood that when believers agree, the power doesn’t just double, it grows 10 times!

Then the Spirit of God said on the inside of me, *Don’t you see that two born-again people agreeing, bring Jesus on the scene?*

I remembered Matthew 18:20, “Where two or [more] are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

And why do you think I’m in the midst? Jesus asked me. *It’s to carry out the agreement.*

That revelation burned away the turmoil I’d been wrestling with. As far as I was concerned, the thing was done. It was settled in my spirit.

Now that revelation didn’t come to me instantly or easily. I had to meditate the Word and search the Spirit of God for it because it was “hidden” in Him.

You see, God has purposely arranged it so truths like that can only be understood by revelation. He hasn’t just left them in the sense realm where anyone can pick up a book and discover them. After all, the devil can read; and God doesn’t want him taking that information and using it to destroy you.

God doesn’t cast His pearls before swine. Instead, the Bible says He’s hidden that wisdom *for* you, not *from* you. That’s why Jesus said that nothing is hidden but what it shall be revealed.

Don’t think, however, that God is just going to drop great revelations in your lap while you’re watching TV. Jesus said, “If any man have ears to hear, let him hear” (Mark 4:23). God has given you inner ears to hear His Spirit with. But *you’re* responsible for the hearing. You’re responsible for seeking out this revelation knowledge.

God isn’t doling out revelations one at a time. Instead, He sent the Holy Ghost, and He has all the revelations in Him. When we get ourselves in a position to receive by meditating the Word, praying and fellowshiping with the Lord, we begin to receive those revelations from Him. So it’s on our end that the responsibility lies now.

Peter tells us that grace and peace are multiplied to us through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord (2 Peter 1:2). That Greek word *knowledge* doesn’t mean something you learn through your senses. It means “exact knowledge, revealed in such a way that it’s not

hindered by the physical senses or by someone’s ability to communicate.”

Notice too that Peter says, “Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of *God*, and of Jesus...” Did you realize you need more than a revelation of Jesus?

You need a revelation of God the Father. You need to know that the Almighty One is your very own Father. You need more than a mental understanding of it. You need to *know* it on the inside—and that kind of knowing comes only by revelation.

I remember the day I got the revelation that my natural father really loved me. I was 21 years old in the Army in Fort Bliss, Texas, standing behind a truck, reading a letter from him.

My dad just hated to write letters. You could count on one hand the number of letters he’d ever written in his life. But I was standing there reading these three handwritten lines from my dad telling me he missed me.



It’s when you walk in revelation knowledge that the power of God flows in your life. That’s why Satan goes to great lengths to get the Word out of your life before it can take root.

I remember I stood behind that truck and just cried. Guys were tiptoeing all around me. They thought I’d gotten a “Dear John” letter. But something big had just happened in my heart.

It changed my life. Changed my whole attitude toward my dad forever. That’s what a revelation will do.

I know a widow who got hold of that kind of revelation one afternoon. She’d been meditating in the scriptures that say if you’re a widow, God Almighty has taken His place as your provider and leader of your household.

She’d been feeling a little sorry for herself up until then. But when she received the revelation that God was actually head of her household now, she started talking to Him like she would a husband.

“I’m telling You, Lord, the plumbing in this house is pitiful. Ever since Mr. So-and-So died, it’s just gone to nothing. Will You please get it fixed?”

Do you know God fixed it? From that moment on she never had any more trouble with her plumbing.

Now don’t say, “I’m going to try that out!” This isn’t something you can try. You have to get a revelation first. You have to stay before God until His Word to you becomes reality.

If you need healing, what you need is a revelation of the Healer. I remember I used to get upset over people I'd lay hands on who wouldn't get well. I was praying one day and seeking God about this when He spoke to my spirit and said, *Healing always comes.*

I remember I said, "What do You mean? Not everyone gets healed."

He said, *I didn't say they all received it. I do My part.* Then He spoke very sternly to me. *I said they would recover!*

Those words hit me like a ton of bricks. He said they would recover. If He said they would recover, then that means healing always comes. It's not God who's holding back. It's the receivers who aren't receiving.

Since that revelation, I've never had any trouble laying hands on people and believing for their healing. Whether they walk away well or not, I just keep standing with God about their healing.

In fact, I know that if that fellow who went away still

sick ever agrees with God and me—I don't care if it's five years from now—he'll wind up healed.

How can you maintain a walk of faith like that? The only way is to stay in the Word of God until you can see it so clearly on the inside of you, you don't need to see it on the outside to know what's going on.

Now and then I've had a revelation of something good that was coming. Later, when it happened, people asked why I didn't go wild over such a great thing. I didn't because I wasn't a bit surprised.

Why do you think the Spirit of Truth would show me something to come? It's so I could walk by faith in that situation. So I could plow in hope instead of quitting in the heat and saying, "Oh well, the ground's too hard for anything to come of this anyhow."

Listen, if God is calling you out into the field, there's only one way you're going to make it. You have to pray and meditate in the promises of God until He reveals

what He's called you to do and how to do it.

There are specific things in your life that need to be settled and made solid by revelation because the devil is going to fight you over them. He's going to do everything he can to steal them from you—and it's going to take a revelation from God for you to hang on to what you've got.

When you start walking in revelation knowledge, it's no longer a matter of whether you're going to win or lose. It's only a matter of how long you have to hang in there until you win! It's when you walk in revelation knowledge that the power of God flows in your life. That's why Satan goes to great lengths to get the Word out of your life before it can take root.

In fact, Jesus said that's the reason behind persecution and affliction. It comes for the Word's sake (Mark 4:17)—for the sake of the revelation. Satan puts the pressure on because he's after that revelation.

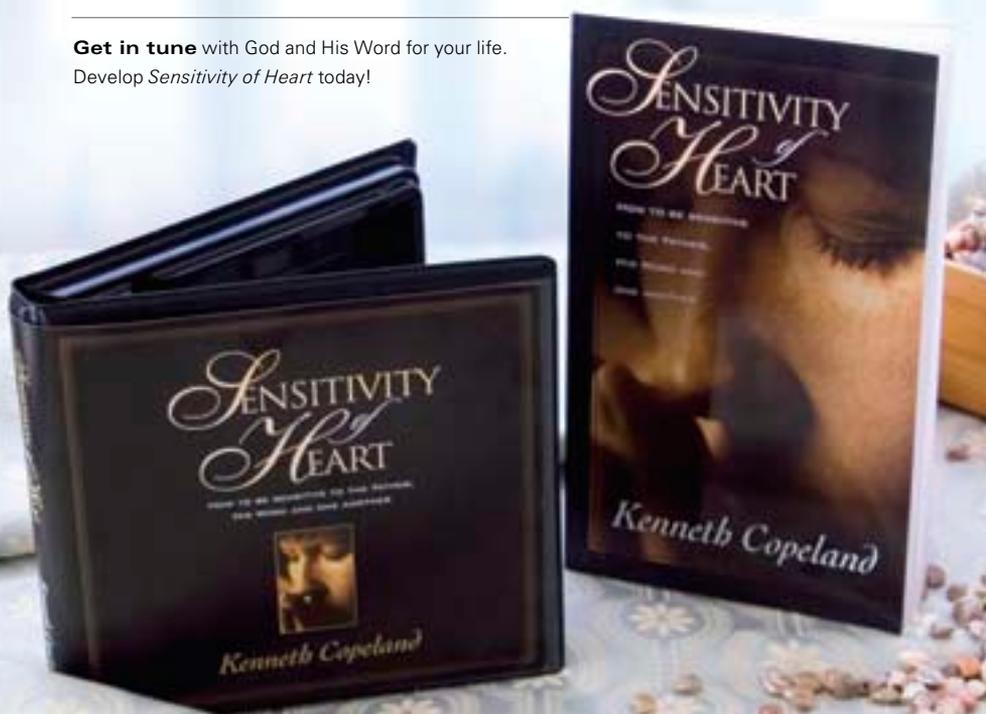
He has to get it out of you

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"Thank God for the Internet," says Kenneth Copeland. "That's part of this open door. It is open and the devil can't shut it!"

Podcasting! It's just one more way KCM is using "every available voice" to share God's life-changing, uncompromised Word with you...and the world. **VICTORY**

before it has time to grow. If he lets it grow up, he knows you'll beat his brains out with it. Satan will literally fight us one at a time to keep us from all coming together and getting the same revelation—because when that happens, he's in big trouble.

Once you begin to see Jesus and His authority, you'll put the devil under your heel and he knows it. But if he can keep you away from revelation knowledge, if he can keep you operating in the realm of the physical senses instead of the realm of the spirit, he can keep that from happening.

I'll tell you this: If there's any way the devil can get your eyes away from the promises of God, he'll do it.

When Peter jumped out of the boat that day in response to Jesus' call, what happened? He walked right along across that water without a problem. His whole being was fastened on that word Jesus spoke to him, "COME!"

But when he took his eyes off that word, he started looking at the storm. He started looking at the impossible thing he was doing. Fear was the result. As soon as fear gripped him, he began to sink.

Can you see it was Peter's revelation of who Jesus was that kept him on top of that water? It kept his faith operating—and faith is the supernatural force in revelation that causes it to come to pass.

But then Peter turned his eyes away from the revelation and began looking at the natural. After all, he was a fisherman. All his training and experience told him when the waves were that high, you were going under. He started to focus on what he knew in the natural instead of what Jesus said; and when he did that, his faith slipped out of gear and he started to sink.

That's exactly how it works. Once you get a revelation from the Word of God, you must hang on to it. The devil will do everything he can to take it away from you. He'll stir up things around you. He'll try to get you into fear. He'll push every button he can from the past to get you back into your old way of thinking.

But don't let go. Keep your eye on the promise of God until it's more real inside you than anything else.

When you do that, you'll know that you know that you know. It won't be a bit like the ABCs or the multiplication tables. It won't be a theory or doctrine or theology.

You'll know what you know because you received it from the Spirit of God. Then, one of these days when what was revealed to you on the inside comes to pass on the outside, you won't even be surprised. You'll just nod and grin and say, "Bless God, I knew it all along!"



Sacred Instrument

Ten-year-old Johnny Barbone stretched and yawned before crawling off the sheepskin where he slept inside a hogan on the Navajo reservation. His heart hammered in his chest as he gulped down the food his mother prepared over the fire. His long, black hair tumbled down his back in tangles as he pulled on his ill-fitting clothes. A gust of wind sent a tumbleweed pinwheeling as he stepped from the hogan into the morning sun.

BY MELANIE HEMRY

This day brought trouble...Johnny could feel it. He'd seen it in the closed look on his mother's face ever since the Bureau of Indian Affairs had visited and demanded that Johnny and his brother attend school in nearby Gallup, N.M.

What was school? Johnny wondered as he trudged down the dusty road toward the highway. And why did he have to go?

Johnny didn't know that according to state law, he should have started school years earlier. In fact, he didn't even know how old he really was. Maybe 10 or 11, his family guessed. There had been no birth records on the reservation when his great-grandmother delivered him into the Navajo world.

Today he would leave it.

At school, he sat at a desk as a woman looked at him and uttered strange words he couldn't understand. Why didn't she speak Navajo? Fear made his mouth dry as the other children laughed at him. The teacher assigned a Spanish girl to teach him words in English.

"Yes," she said, nodding her head up and down.

"No," she said, shaking her head with an angry look.

"See Dick run," she said, pointing to words in a book.

It took awhile for Johnny to understand what the children called him.

"Wild Indian."

That's what he was, a wild Indian who couldn't speak a word of English.

A year later, the Bureau of Indian Affairs intervened in Johnny's life again. This time he and his brother were sent by Greyhound bus to live at a Navajo boarding school in Utah, along with 1500 other Navajo children.

Johnny was assigned to building 41, his brother to building 25. They were not allowed to visit. Each day they were marched from their barracks to class and back again. At night, Johnny lay in his bunk and ached for his family. He longed to sleep on his sheepskin and wake to the smell of food cooking over the fire.

Johnny was certain he would die of loneliness.

Far From Home

"Somehow I survived those first two years, only going home for the summer," Johnny recalls. "By the third year, I had gotten used to school food and sleeping on a bed. Instead of spending the summer at home on the reservation, I worked on a farm in Idaho, visiting my family for two weeks before school started again in the fall.

"We were taught to speak English, trained for a vocation and given an education through high school. We were told we could do anything we wanted: work at a trade or pursue a college education. After graduation, I moved to San Diego and worked as a welder, but eventually I moved back to Utah and took college entrance exams. When the college officials saw my scores they laughed at me. They said I had the equivalent of a seventh-grade education."

Giving up his dream of college, Johnny was drafted into the Army and later served several tours of duty overseas—an experience that proved so traumatizing Johnny later became addicted to cigarettes and alcohol.

Johnny's heritage in the traditional American Indian way was strong. Both of his grandfathers were medicine men, and Johnny soon sought help for his addictions from one of them. From that day, Johnny never touched cigarettes or alcohol again.

Having failed to get into college, Johnny decided on another route—he became a student, but under his grandfather's tutelage.

Johnny learned the sacred way of traditional Navajo worship.

He became a medicine man.

Sacred Sacraments

"Never turn your back on the sacred ways or you'll die," Johnny's grandpa warned. "They're from God."



"One of the things that helped me most was Brother Copeland's teaching on creation," Johnny explains. "When American Indians tell me we are all praying to the same God, I explain it isn't true."

Johnny's grandfather not only taught him the sacred ways of a medicine man, but also the use of sacred objects for worship. One of them, used as a sacrament, is the hallucinogen peyote. Made from a cactus, many Native American tribes use peyote as a sacred rite that opens their senses to the creator.

Soon, Johnny Barbone, medicine man, became a peyote priest—presiding over the most sacred sacrament in the American Indian church.

"I married while I was in the military," Johnny explains. "Although the marriage didn't last, we had two children who stayed with me after the divorce. My second marriage produced no children, but we adopted my wife's 3-year-old niece, Jessica. During all those years, I ran a business as well as fulfilling my duties as medicine man and peyote priest. In 1994,

because of our use of peyote, the U.S. government said the American Indian church was not under the Freedom of Religion Act. As a peyote priest, I joined with others and went all the way to Washington, D.C., to fight their ruling—and eventually we won."

Only Four Steps Left

Comfortable with his roles as husband, father, medicine man and peyote priest, Johnny felt a sense of satisfaction as the years marched by. Then, in 1998, he got so sick he had to sell his business.

"Brother," a friend said, "I know a family who used to be part of the Native American church and they got sick. When they left the peyote meetings and went the Christian way they got well. Maybe you should think about that."

Johnny shook his head in disgust.

"Why don't you go visit your daughter in Hawaii," Johnny's wife suggested. "Maybe it will make you feel better."

Taking his wife's suggestion, Johnny flew to Hawaii. Two weeks later, he tried to take a deep breath but the pressure on his chest made it impossible. Gripped with searing chest pain, Johnny Barbone lost consciousness. In his sleep, he saw a vision.

A Man Johnny could only see from the waist down approached him. He wore sandals and brought great peace. *What are you doing?* the Man asked.

"Looking for Jesus," Johnny replied. "I heard He saves people."

This is the road you're on, the Man explained, showing Johnny his path in a vision. *You're four steps to the graveyard. The peyote way is not My way.*

The Man put His hand on Johnny's shoulder and spoke two words.

Follow Me.

Two Steps From the Grave

Johnny blinked as he looked around. He was in the intensive care unit of a hospital. A beautiful Polynesian nurse sat next to him, holding his hand.

Johnny thought long and hard about the vision he experienced. It was the first time he'd experienced anything like that apart from peyote.

Home from the hospital, the words of Johnny's grandfather almost drove out the words of the holy visitation. "Never turn your back on the sacred ways or you'll die," he recalled his grandfather had warned.

Which way was the way to life? a confused Johnny Barbone wondered.

Two years later, April 1, 2000, death struck another blow. A second heart attack sent Johnny to open heart surgery. This time he died....

"Stand back!" the surgeon barked, placing electrical paddles on Johnny's heart, trying to shock it back to life. In yet another vision, Johnny saw Jesus.

Jesus stood beside him. *You are only two steps from the grave,* He said. *If you stay on your grandfather's road you will take two more steps and be gone from this earth.*

Or...you can take this road and find life.

With everything in him, Johnny fought to live.

"He's back!" the doctor announced as Johnny's heart started to beat, its pattern marching across the cardiac monitor like warriors in formation.

He'd been dead 20 minutes.

The Only Way!

Recovered from surgery, Johnny knew what he had to do. He packed up all his sacred instruments, including the beautiful eagle's feather fan, and took them to the mountain. There, alone, he destroyed each one.

"Lord, I believe Jesus is the Son of God," Johnny prayed. "I believe He died on the cross and rose again. I repent of all my sins and ask You to come into my heart."

What happened next was an experience that no peyote button could give. Johnny Barbone's sins were washed away. He felt 10 feet tall and 16 years old.



Johnny and his daughter Jessica.

victorious living!

After years of practicing the creation-centered religion of his ancestors, Johnny Barbone's life changed when he met Jesus and became a believer! Through the power of partnership and the foundational teaching of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, today Johnny has gained victory over the strongholds of tradition. As he has helped his American Indian brothers and sisters understand the truth about God and His creation, he has introduced many of them to Jesus.

teach worldwide

Entering their 41st year of ministry, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland's No. 1 priority remains the same—teach Christians worldwide who they are in Christ Jesus and how to live a victorious life. Every day we hear from Partners around the world, like Johnny Barbone, who have become rooted and grounded enough in God's Word to reach out and teach others these principles.

boldly living

Today, you can become our Partner—boldly living your faith and sharing the Word. You will be continually held up in the prayers of Kenneth, Gloria and the entire KCM team...prayer that, in your corner of the world, your victorious life will be an invitation to many to meet Jesus and make Him Lord of their lives!

We're here for you.

If you're not a Partner with us, pray about making The Partnership Connection with Kenneth Copeland Ministries. If you want to find out more about partnership, we'll send you a **free information pack** that includes the **DVD Get Connected**. Just follow the instructions below.

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Lifting his arms to heaven he shouted, "Thank You! Thank You, God!"

His words echoed off the mountains. They echoed through all eternity as praise to God. Angels caught the chorus and sang them in heaven.

"My grandfather's warning didn't come true," Johnny says. "I didn't die when I turned my back on the traditional ways and destroyed the sacred instruments. I realized we had been duped by the devil. The truth is we worshiped peyote. We worshiped the earth, the sun, the stars and the animals. Then, around Christmas, we added Jesus to the mix.

"But Jesus will never be one of the ways to God. He is the only way! He is the Door through which all men must travel if they are to find God. It was turning to Jesus that saved my life, both now and for eternity.

"But that's not to say I haven't had to die to some things since I chose Jesus." Shortly after his conversion, Johnny and his wife of 26 years broke up. Jessica stayed with her dad.

"Jessica and I moved in with my sister. Then I met a minister who told me about Kenneth Copeland Ministries. I started watching the broadcast and sent to the ministry for more information. The Lord Jesus Christ used them to help me."

A Living Epistle

In addition to what he learned from KCM, Johnny and his sister enrolled in Bible college. Since then, Johnny has formed It's Just Me Ministries, a ministry to American Indians.

"One of the things that helped me most was Brother Copeland's teaching on creation," Johnny explains. "When American Indians tell me we are all praying to the same God, I explain it isn't true. I explain how God created the earth and how a third of the angels fell with the devil. I tell them they are praying to fallen angels."

Today, Jessica is a senior in high school, making plans for college. To date, Johnny has won three peyote priests to Jesus.

Johnny appreciates the sacraments of Communion. But aside from his Bible, he does not need sacred instruments to worship God.

Johnny Barbone *is* a sacred instrument of worship to God.

He is the righteousness of God in Christ.

He is a joint heir with Jesus.

He is a living epistle, and many people are reading his message. **VICTORY**

Live your faith...share the Word! • Live your faith...share the Word!

you can have

fearless

Faith

Everyone needs a refresher course on faith, even if things seem to be going well. Maybe things in our lives seem to be going too slow for us. Perhaps we are in a hard place. Whatever the case, we need to be sure we are actually walking by faith. We need to be sure we have all the things working for us that it takes to walk by faith and not by sight.

You may say, "Oh, yes, I'm a faith person. I go to a faith church." But just take a few minutes to examine what your life has been like recently. It doesn't matter how long you've been a faith person, or how long

you've been in a faith church. The real question is: Have you lost your "edge"? Is your trust and confidence in God still so strong that nothing the enemy throws your way bothers you? Or do you approach

negative situations with less assurance that you can overcome them than you used to?

The truth is, we all need to be sure we are always walking in faith—fearless faith.

Ken and I have walked by faith for a long time, but we go back and refresh ourselves on the principles of faith so we don't let things slip. We make certain we're not missing some of the elements that bring the power of God into our lives. *The Amplified Bible* says it this way: "Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves..." (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Live by Faith

You see, living by faith is neither an option nor a part-time activity.

Habakkuk 2:4 says it and Paul repeats it in Hebrews 10:38, "The just shall live by faith." *By faith* is the way God planned for us to live out our lives, day in, day out, minute by minute.

When you were born again, you were born into a new way of life...the faith life. Faith simply believes what God says about any circumstance in our lives rather than believing what we feel, what we see or what we hear.

One of the greatest challenges to this new walk is that most people don't live there. When you begin to walk by faith, you may face opposition from the people in your life. Most people believe they just have to take what comes and that's the way it is. They don't know about faith so they are not going to encourage your faith walk. They don't know God has the plan for everything in life. They don't know He directly addresses the issues of life in His written Word, and gives guidance from our born-again inner man.

But even those who do know He has a solution to every situation we encounter in life, must still answer a very important question: How do we get to the place where we totally believe and rely on the Word of God?

The answer is this: You have to start where you are and let the Lord help you.

How Do I Do It?

The good news is God is not going to tell you to live by faith then fail to tell you how to do it. We simply have to continue to keep His Word in front of our eyes and in our ears. What you hear and see gets down into your heart. Whether good things or bad things, what you focus on becomes what you believe. Focus on what the Word says and you will have victory in every situation. Because "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

You are the one in control of what goes into your eyes and ears. You are responsible for what gets into your heart—for what you believe. Put your eyes and ears on the Word of God. Receive it and believe it. This is how faith comes.

Once you begin to focus on the Word, faith develops within your spirit. Faith in the Word becomes the first response in your heart when challenges come. Faith is activated when you speak from your mouth the Word that is active in your heart... *your* words begin to agree with *God's* Word. Good things happen!

Agree With the Word and Don't Quit!

When you say from your heart what God says about anything in your life, you can be sure the thing you're believing for will manifest. Just don't quit!

Hebrews 10:35 tells us, "Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward" (*The Amplified Bible*).

I like to call it "fearless faith," because fearless confidence in God's Word *is* faith.

When you get so full of the Word that it becomes bigger in you than the situation, where you are not moved by what you see or what you hear, you have moved into a place of fearless faith.

Salvation Prayer

If you do not know
Jesus
as your Saviour & 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.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please contact us and let us know of your decision. We have a free Salvation Package we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Simply write and ask for offer #70801, tick the circle on the order form that comes with this magazine or call **+44 (0)1225 787310**.

How do you develop fearless faith? Well, you grow up into it.

Ken and I grew up in our faith and today it is easy for us to walk by faith when needs arise or challenges come. We have no doubt or fear even when the answer to our challenge seems to be delayed. We know it's coming. In the early days I knew that from the Bible, but today I also know it from experience. Faith in God's Word always produces results!

The Word you continue to place in your heart through your eyes and your ears—the Word that you speak in agreement with God—will increase your faith. You may have been the world's worst worrier.

You may have been someone who believes things won't change unless you change them yourself. Or you may have even been someone whose tendency has always been to just throw in the towel and give up.

Don't fall back into your old ways. Keep on the Word. Replace worrying with believing. Agree with the Word of God, and don't give up. Stand fast and be patient. Eventually, you will receive what God has promised. You will inherit the promise!

Faith keeps us moving in the direction and on the path God has planned for our lives. We hear, we believe, we speak, we receive—we get there!

Yes, God Can Turn It Around

It doesn't matter whether it's cancer, divorce, financial problems or depression—God *can* turn it around. He only requires that you have a spirit of faith! In this four-CD series, Gloria Copeland will inspire your faith as you learn:

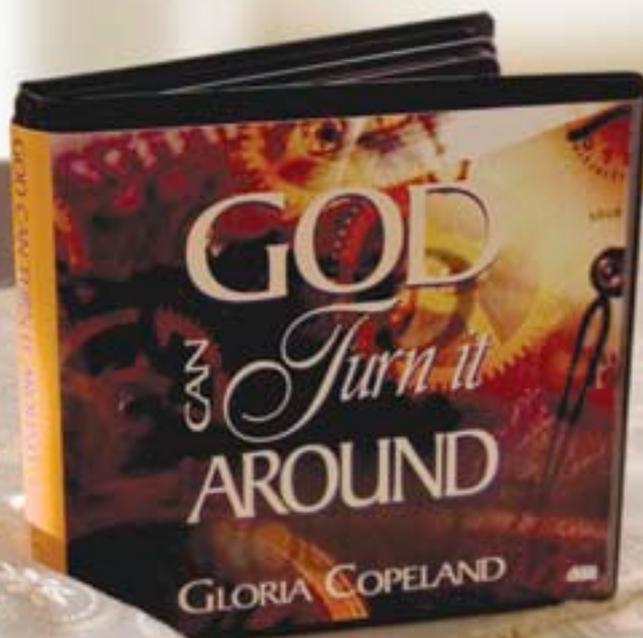
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See response form for ordering information.

Keep Company With Strong Believers

One of the ways to develop your faith is to watch the company you keep. You have to make sure you don't surround yourself with people who think and speak negatively.

The smartest thing you can do is to keep company with people who are more turned on to and tuned in with God than you are. Those are the kind of people who will help you develop your faith. Choose friends who believe God and know how to stand fast—even in the hardest of times. If you want to develop fearless faith, seek out people who are full of faith and led by the Spirit—then stick with them! You have to help each other. Once you have developed strong faith yourself, you will be in a place to help other people who are growing. But always be connected to someone who has stronger faith than you.

You can grow by yourself if you have to, but when the Lord brings people into your life to help you grow, hang on to them and learn

all you can about the fearless faith you see in them.

Preserve Your Soul

Hebrews 10:39 says: “We are of those who believe [who cleave to and trust in and rely on God through Jesus Christ, the Messiah] and by faith preserve the soul” (*The Amplified Bible*).

Do you see that? We believe and preserve our soul *by faith!*

What is our soul? It is our mind, will and emotions...what we think, how we make decisions and how we express ourselves. Our faith in God’s Word changes our soul to agree with Him.

Our way of thinking, making decisions and expressing ourselves begins to line up with the Word of God. Our changed soul is where “walking by faith” is played out. Our soul should come into agreement with our reborn spirit and allow God to direct our steps every day.

Before we were born again we weren’t even thinking about God, or how He would do things. We didn’t know, and we didn’t care. Now that we’re believers, things are different. We have His Word in our hearts and we’re growing in faith. Our soul has been changed and everything we do now, we should do in line with the Word.

We know things change by faith. And much of it has to do with your soul changing and being obedient to the Word of God. You change and things change!

Blessing Comes

When Ken and I began to live and walk by faith over 40 years ago, things changed for us! As we took hold of God’s Word and became students of faith, everything about our lives began to move in a different direction. We began to hear from God, both in His Word and in our hearts, and we began to walk in His direction for our lives.

Today, we are still walking by faith and learning. The blessing of God gets bigger for us every day. And every day we wake up knowing God is good. He has the best for us when we get in step with Him. We know He will continue to change us where we need to be changed, because He loves us. We also know He will keep us going in the right direction.

Blessing comes when you walk in His direction. And faith is required for the walk. Without faith you can neither see nor hear God. But by His Word and by His Spirit speaking to your heart, you receive faith, direction and blessing.

When we stay in the Word—studying and meditating

it—it makes adjustments in our lives. The Word changes things and changes us.

It Starts With a Choice

Habakkuk 2:4 says, “The righteous will live by their faith” (*New Living Translation*). There are actually two meanings we can get from that verse. For one, it means *the way you live* or *your manner of life*. In other words, your way of living is faith thinking, faith talking, faith acting. It also means your *means of life*—your very life and well-being is by faith.

To live by faith, you have to give God His place in your life. He’s not going to barge into your life and take over. He doesn’t operate like the devil does. The devil is a liar and a thief. He comes into your life uninvited to kill and steal all he can from you. He will do everything he can to keep you from the life of faith.

The choice is yours. Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). John tells us Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). If you don’t choose Jesus and go the direction God has for you, you’re choosing to walk right into the plan of the devil to destroy your life.

The starting place for your life of faith is to say, “Come into my life, Lord Jesus. I accept You as my Savior. I want You to lead and direct my life. Take my life and do something with it.”

Receive Him and all that He has in store for you.

Grow in Unwavering Faith

As Christians, we should believe what God says more than what we see with our eyes or what the world or the devil says to us. We refuse to be moved off our faith.

Paul declared in Hebrews 10:23, “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).” The key is to never let go, never give up and never stop growing in faith. You keep faith growing by staying in the Word of God. Keep faith alive in your heart by relying on God to be true to His Word.

Lay hold, and don’t let go! Nothing on this earth can take your faith, and you certainly are not going to give it up. If you hold fast to your fearless faith, you will receive the reward—because *He is faithful who promised!*

You are born again to live a life of bold, fearless and unwavering faith. **VICTORY**

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Faith Life Church | 3701 W. Highway 76 | Branson, MO 65616

Bournemouth

Victory Campaign | April 17-19

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Basel

Victory Campaign | April 24-26

Congress Center Basel | Exhibition Building 1 | Basel, Switzerland

West Coast

Believers' Convention | June 30-July 5

Long Beach Convention Center | 300 E. Ocean Blvd. | Long Beach, CA 90802

Southwest

Believers' Convention | August 4-9

Fort Worth Convention Center | 1201 Houston St. | Fort Worth, TX 76102

Great Lakes

Believers' Convention | August 18-23

U.S. Cellular Arena | 400 W. Kilbourn Ave. | Milwaukee, WI 53203

Washington, D.C.

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January



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Gloria Copeland



Billye Brim



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21 22 23 24 25

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28 29 30 31 1

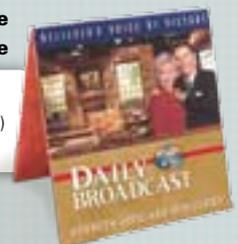
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