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BY KENNETH COPELAND

Moving the MOUNTAIN

If you've been around faith teaching at all, you know what Jesus said in Mark 11:22-24—and you know it well.

You've read it many times. You've heard sermons about it. You may even be able to quote by heart Jesus' earthshaking, mountain-moving words: "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."

When you're facing a mountain range, it doesn't work to just shoot scattershot faith at the whole mess because each of those mountains has a root.

Those powerful words are foundational to the life of faith. But many believers forget that those verses do not stand alone. Mark 11 doesn't begin with verse 22 and end with verse 24.

All too often, we read verses 22 through 24 as if Jesus just rattled them off out of the blue. But that's not what happened. He set an example that, if we'll pay proper attention to it, will enable us to get the same results with our faith that He got with His.

If we back up a few verses, we find those events began with Jesus' celebrated entrance into Jerusalem.

Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve. And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; and would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves (Mark 11:11-17).

Notice that Jesus didn't do or say anything to the fig tree or to the money-changers in the temple the first day He went there. He simply made the trip, saw what was going on and walked away.

Jesus must have gotten angry when He saw the Babylonian system of corrupt commerce operating in the house of God! He must have been grieved to see merchants selling sacrifices and other necessities at inflated prices, gouging worshipers who, because they had to travel many miles to get to Jerusalem, had no way to bring what they needed. It was a shameful

scene. But instead of reacting to it, Jesus just looked around, walked out and went back to Bethany.

Why?

Jesus said, "I only do what I see My Father do, and I only say what I hear My Father say." (See John 5:19, 12:50.) The Father didn't do or say anything, so neither did Jesus. Therefore, He needed time to pray. He had to find out what God wanted Him to do. So He spent the night getting direction and His Father's wisdom about the situation.

He had to receive it the same way you and I do. He had to go to the Word of God which says that *wisdom is the principal thing* (Proverbs 4:7) and believe for it. Then, once He knew what He was supposed to do, He headed back to the Temple to clean house.

Vital Information

For those of us who desire to operate in faith like Jesus did, it's important for us to realize Jesus had to pray and receive the wisdom of God before He operated in faith. And if He had to do that, so do we. We can't just jump up with no preparation and start commanding mountains to be removed and get results. We can't just pile up the problems that have been dogging us and, without praying and seeking God's counsel, blast the whole mess out of our lives at once.

Why not?

For one thing, they're not all the same mountain. More often than not, we're facing an entire mountain range that has been built up over a period of years through fear and unbelief. That range may include a mountain of debt, a mountain of sickness, a mountain of depression and other devilish things. Each of those things must be dealt with individually.

When you're facing a mountain range, it doesn't work to just shoot scattershot faith at the whole mess because each of those mountains has a root. There's a reason it's there. Satan will do his best to hide those roots from you, but if you're determined to remove that mountain so it never rises again, you must find out what caused it. Press in to the Lord in prayer and in the Word and say, "Lord, open the eyes of my understanding where this is concerned. Give me Your wisdom."

If you'll pray that prayer in faith without wavering, James 1:5 says God will give you His wisdom liberally

without upbraiding. That means even if you built that entire mountain with your own unbelieving words and disobedient actions, even if its existence is totally your own doing, it won't stop God from giving you His wisdom about it.

He'll deal with you in grace, and great mercy. So as soon as you ask, you can start rejoicing and say, "The wisdom of God is mine! He is revealing to me what I need to know to cast this mountain into the sea!"

Don't Try to Shout It Down

Since the Word of God *is* the wisdom of God, the primary way the Lord will show you what you need to know is through the Scriptures. He'll reveal to

you in the Bible the things in your life that need to be changed. By His Spirit, He'll lead you to specific verses and passages that apply to your situation.

When He does, you'll get excited about it. You'll get stirred up, and that's good. But don't confuse that initial enthusiasm with faith. Don't just fly off the handle and start shouting scriptures at the mountain as if by sheer volume and repetition you can make them come to pass. Mountains aren't impressed by how many times you can holler Bible verses at them. They cannot be blown away by your much speaking. That's not the way the command of faith works. Jesus spoke to the fig tree just once and it withered away within 24 hours, because when He spoke to it, He believed what He said would come to pass.

Speak to the mountains in your life when you know you can do it with unwavering faith. Take time to meditate on the Word God has quickened to you. Settle in your heart what He has said about the situation. Fellowship with the Lord over the Scriptures and strengthen your spirit and your mind with them.

That's what Jesus did the night before He cursed the fig tree and drove the money-changers out of the temple. He spent the night in the Word and in fellowship with His Father, getting God's wisdom and strengthening His spirit. As a result, the next day He was ready to operate in faith.

Reprogram Your Mind

Sometimes it will take us longer than it took Jesus to reach that place of faith. We may have to spend days (or weeks or months) meditating and feeding on the Word before we're ready to speak to the mountain—especially if that mountain is a major issue in our life.

Unlike Jesus, you and I are still in the process of renewing

When that old hurt reaches up and grabs at your soul,
instead of yielding to it,
act by faith on your forgiveness.

our minds to God's Word. We still have some carnal thoughts and ideas programmed into our brains. We must deal with those worldly thought patterns to keep them from blocking the operation of our faith, and we do that by purposely taking God's thoughts and reprogramming our minds with them. We do it by following the instructions in Isaiah 55, where God said:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it (verses 7-11).

According to Jesus, we *take thoughts* not just by thinking them but by saying them (Matthew 6:31). God's thoughts are expressed in His Word, so we take His thoughts by putting His faith-generating Word into our mouths, feeding it back into our spirits, then bringing it back out of our mouths again.

That's the process we use to renew our minds. We choose the Word then decide to think it. We think the Word, then say it. Think it, then say it. Think it, then say it...until eventually we're speaking that Word without even thinking about it. When that happens, the Word is in our hearts in abundance (Luke 6:45) and we're ready to speak to the mountain.

We're ready to say, "Be removed and cast into the sea!"

Out of Sight and Gone!

"Brother Copeland, why do I have to command the

mountain to be cast into the sea? That doesn't make sense to me."

It doesn't matter whether it makes sense to you or not. It's not supposed to make sense—it makes faith. You're using God's faith and following Jesus' example. Those are the words He used, and when you use His words, He backs them with His own power.

Jesus knew that if, instead of commanding the mountain to be cast into the sea, you just moved it to the other side of the road or someplace else, you'd still have a mountain. It would still be around to get in your way. You'd still end up looking at that debt, disease, weakness or family problem. That mountain would still be somewhere talking to you saying, "Yeah, I'm still here. Me and the credit-card bills, we're still here."

When you cast it into the sea, however, it sinks out of sight and is gone. There's no evidence it ever existed! So follow Jesus' instructions exactly and command the mountain to be cast into the sea. Once you've done it, obey the rest of the command: Do not doubt in your heart but believe that those things you say will come to pass.

The word *doubt* is the root word for double. So doubt is double-mindedness. It comes from looking at God's Word one minute, and looking back at the circumstances the next—believing one then the other. Don't do that. Set your faith on God's Word and refuse to let the devil talk you out of it.

Consider It Done

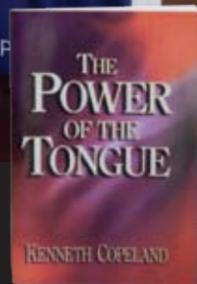
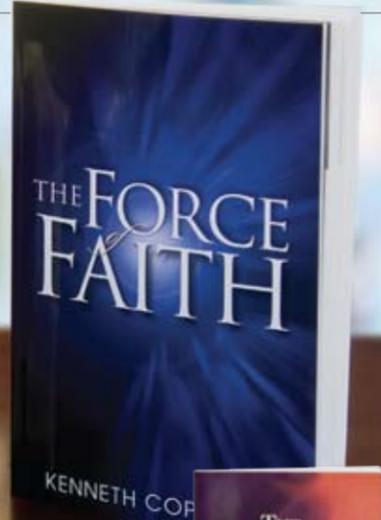
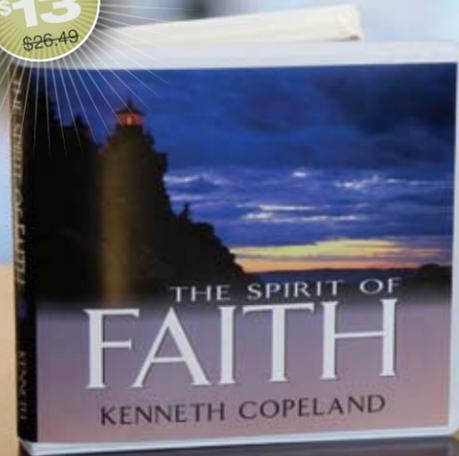
Now, here's where many faith people stop. They act as if the last thing Jesus said about the prayer of faith and speaking to the mountain was "...believe that ye receive...and ye shall have." But it's not. In the very same breath, He went on to say, "And when ye stand praying, forgive..." (Mark 11:25).

Because faith works by love, if we don't obey the command to forgive, verses 22 through 24 won't work for us. So, before we finish the prayer of faith we must forgive (not two months later after we've worked through our emotions, but immediately, while we stand praying). We must do it on purpose as an act of our will, not because we feel like it but because Jesus told

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us to do it. We don't need any other reason than that. Then immediately receive your own forgiveness which is included in verse 25.

If you have unforgiveness in your life, deal with it! Call it what it is. Don't tell the Lord you have a *problem with some hurt feelings*. Acknowledge it as the sin of unforgiveness. Then go to 1 John 1:9, confess it, repent of it, spew it out of your life and get rid of it.

According to the Scripture, when we do that, God is "faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

"Yeah, but I still feel bad about it."

Forget your feelings and believe the Word. God would have to be unfaithful and unrighteous not to forgive you when He said in His Word that He would, so just receive His forgiveness by faith. Thank Him for cleansing you, then write down the name of the person you've forgiven. Write, "I've forgiven So-and-So in the Name of Jesus and I'll never pick up that offense again. I find no fault in that person. I roll all the care of anything he has done to me over on Jesus, knowing He'll take care of me." Then sign and date it.

That will help you later when you see that person and start to think about the offensive, hurtful thing he said or did. You'll remember what you wrote down and your interaction with God about it, that you truly did forgive that person as an act of your will, and what you're dealing with now are just fleshly feelings.

"But I don't understand why, if I've really forgiven, I still have those ugly feelings."

It's because your flesh has been trained to have that negative emotional reaction. What you must do now is retrain it. When that old hurt reaches up and grabs at your soul, instead of yielding to it, act by faith on your forgiveness.

Say to that person, "Hello, how are you doing?" Ignore the fact that he is trying to duck away from you, catch him by the hand and say, "Hey, I've been acting stupidly toward you long enough. Jesus said when I stand praying, forgive; and I have to obey Him. So, I'm asking you to forgive me for anything I've done to offend you. I won't blame you if you don't, but either way, I'd like you to know I love you."

It would take a real gold-plated jerk to walk away from that kind of interaction, because the love of God flows through it and that love will melt the hardest heart. Even if he does refuse it, even if he says, "I'm not forgiving you now or ever!" you can answer, "Well, God bless you anyway."

Then you can go on about your business without it affecting your faith. You can step out with boldness on Mark 11:22-24, say to the mountain that's been standing in your way, "Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea," and that mountain will respond to you just like it would to Jesus.

It will obey. **VICTORY**

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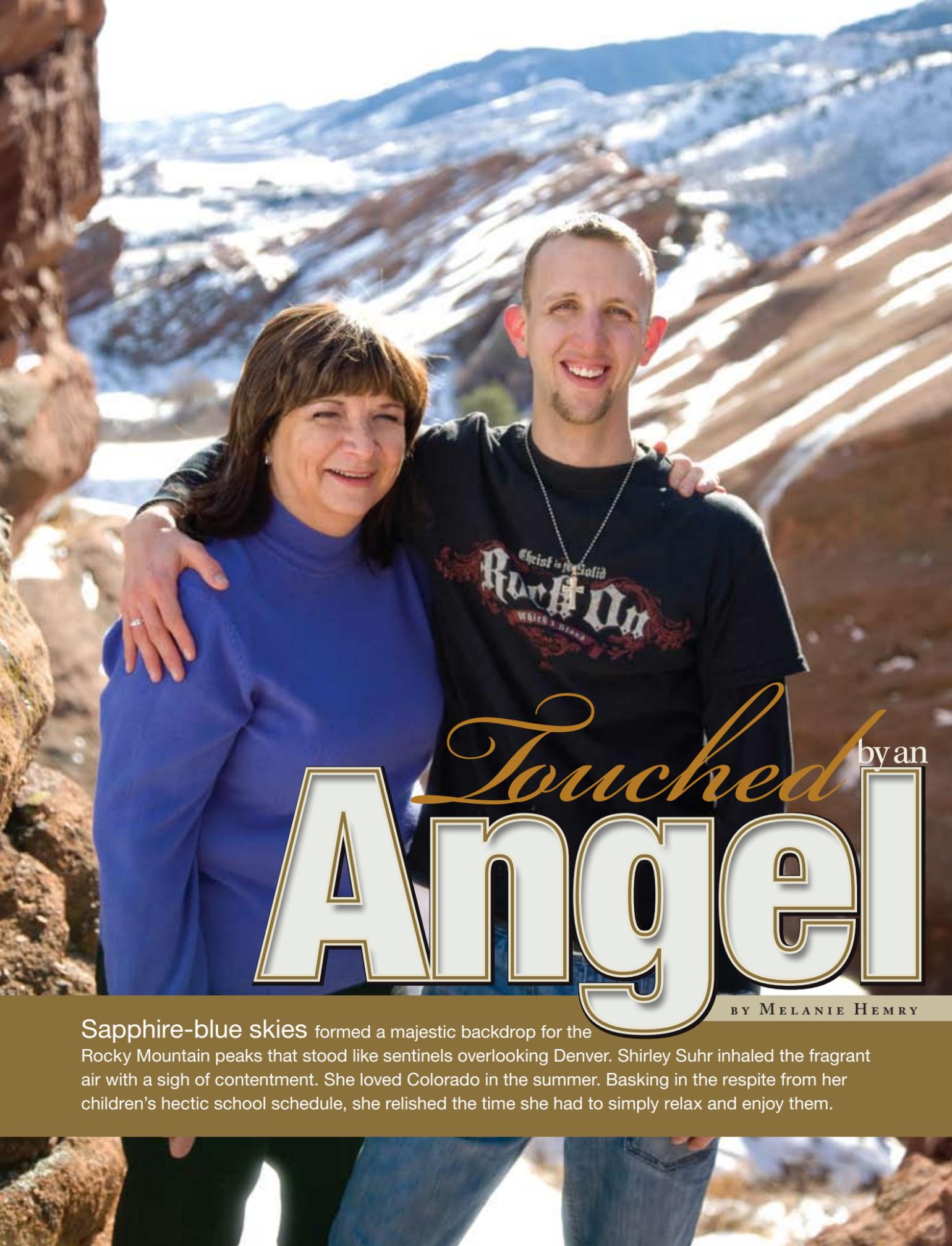


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Touched by an Angel

BY MELANIE HENRY

Sapphire-blue skies formed a majestic backdrop for the Rocky Mountain peaks that stood like sentinels overlooking Denver. Shirley Suhr inhaled the fragrant air with a sigh of contentment. She loved Colorado in the summer. Basking in the respite from her children's hectic school schedule, she relished the time she had to simply relax and enjoy them.

The first car slammed into Adam's door, spinning Shirley's Altima across three lanes of screaming traffic and flinging it atop a stack of boulders.



With their oldest, Kyra, out of the nest, 16-year-old Adam, 14-year-old Catelyn and baby Alyssa kept life interesting. Shirley delighted in most of their antics, but drew a line against strife. She'd been raised in a home where strife had been an unwelcome guest, and she knew firsthand the Bible's admonition against it was true—envy and strife were keys that opened the door to every kind of evil.

While most kids had their childish squabbles, Shirley and her husband, Neil, taught theirs the power of their words, the importance of forgiveness and working out differences in peace. Although some days she felt like a referee, for the most part Adam and Catelyn were friends and looked out for one another.

Adam, a wealth of knowledge gleaned from driver's education, loped down the stairs from his driver's ed class. "You know, they say 10 percent of kids get into an accident within six weeks of getting their driver's license," he announced as he got into the car. "But I didn't receive it."

"I'm glad you didn't," Shirley replied as she turned the car toward home.

Back home, Adam and Catelyn got into a heated debate over who would choose the next TV show. Unaware of the argument upstairs, Shirley called to Adam, "Let's go to the video store and rent a movie. You can drive." She had no idea strife had reared its ugly head. Sliding into the passenger seat as Adam started the car, Shirley would have stopped the engine if she had been aware of Catelyn's parting shot.

"I'm so mad at you! I hope you get into a wreck and die!"

Rush-hour traffic on Friday with everyone speeding home for the weekend kept Adam so focused that he missed his exit. Positioned to turn left, the road dipped and he didn't see two cars hurtling toward him. As he turned, the first car slammed into Adam's door, spinning Shirley's Altima across three lanes of screaming traffic and flinging it atop a stack of boulders. The car careened to a teeth-jarring halt as Shirley tried to get her bearings. Her knee had hit the glove box with such force it had quickly swollen to several times its normal size.

"What do we do now, Mom?" Adam asked.

"Pray in tongues," Shirley replied.

"OK..." Adam uttered one word and fell silent.

"Adam?" Shirley asked, turning to her son. His face and lips were bluer than the Colorado sky. Was he breathing? She couldn't tell.

The Bible says angels are ministering spirits sent to minister to us, Shirley reminded herself. "God, I need an angel, and I need one now!" she shouted out loud.

As she finished her sentence, she looked up to see a man tapping on her window. He wore surgical scrubs with a half dozen angels pinned to his lapel. "Lord," Shirley prayed, "I don't need some yahoo speaking death over this situation. If he isn't from You I don't want to give him entrance."

The man on the other side of the glass resembled her brother, Shirley thought. His face and demeanor exuded gentleness and peace.

"What do you want?" she asked through the glass.

"I'd like to talk to your son."

Odd. He didn't ask to *help* Adam. He didn't suggest that he could *treat* him. He asked to *talk* to him. With almost superhuman strength, Shirley threw herself against her door and forced it open. Struggling, she freed herself from the wreckage. The stranger slid across the seat and began whispering into Adam's ear.

Outside, the cacophony of noise rattled Shirley's senses. Traffic passed, horns honked and people milled around the car. The area was covered with landscaping rock that crunched each time someone stepped on it. Ambulance sirens screamed in the distance.

Keeping watch on the man whispering to Adam, Shirley prayed in tongues and circled the car much like a lioness might circle a wounded cub. She stopped and put her hands on the hot hood, watching through the windshield and wondering what the man was saying.

Shirley glanced at the street littered with debris. A bumper lay on the cement like a victim on a bed of shattered glass. She let the scene take her attention for only a few seconds. When she looked back at her car, the stranger was gone. She hadn't seen him climb out of the wreckage. She hadn't heard his footsteps on the rock.

"Where did that man go?" she asked the people standing around her car.

"What man?"

"The man wearing scrubs. He was in the car talking to my son."

Everyone shook their heads, the same look of pity crossing their faces.

“No one has been in the car,” they all agreed.

Shirley turned to the police. “Did you see where he went?”

“Ma’am, no one has been in the vehicle. Stand back, we’re going to cut your son out of the car.”

The Power of Praise

“I’ve never seen such confusion as greeted us in the emergency room that night,” Shirley recalls. “The place was packed and gurneys lined the halls. They rushed Adam to a cubicle and closed a green curtain around him. Frantic nurses and doctors ran in and out of the room. My husband, his parents and our children arrived and went with me when I was taken to a room in ER. We’d never faced this situation before, yet we knew our response was critical.”

Looking around the room at her family, Shirley suggested, “Let’s sing.”

“People in the ER must have thought we were crazy as we sang, ‘Look what the Lord has done! Look what the Lord has done! He healed his body, He healed his mind, He saved Adam just in time!’” Shirley said. “Right in the middle of the darkest day of our lives, we held a praise fest. While we praised God, it felt as though a soft blanket of peace descended from heaven. The peace was indescribable, but it didn’t just affect us. It affected that whole region of the hospital. Confusion fled the ER and peace reigned.”

A doctor asked for permission to send Adam by helicopter to a trauma hospital in the city for surgery to repair a torn aorta. Shirley and Neil agreed, and Adam was whisked off to another hospital, while Shirley stayed behind to be treated. Meanwhile, Neil arranged for a friend to go to the hospital and stay with Adam, and pray in tongues until they arrived.

Nine and a half hours after Adam was taken into surgery, the weary surgeon came out to talk to Neil and Shirley. Adam had a torn aorta, a ruptured spleen, one collapsed lung and the other one pierced. In addition, he had internal bleeding, a hole in his diaphragm, a broken collar bone and two breaks in his pelvis.

Measuring his words carefully, the doctor prepared them for the worst. Although Adam had made it through the surgery, there was still the possibility he might not survive. If he did live, Adam could spend as much as six weeks in intensive care, another three or four months in a rehab hospital and still never walk again.

“God’s on our side and everything is going to work out all right,” Shirley declared.

Taking a Stand

Still wrapped in peace, Shirley felt reality slap her in the face when she stepped into the intensive care unit and saw her son. More than a dozen machines forced life into his body. His skin was whiter than any white she’d ever seen, even though he’d received seven units of blood. At 6 feet tall, Adam was gangly and thin, but now he appeared bloated and huge. Even with the ventilator forcing air into his lungs, each breath was shallow, his chest barely moving due to the damage to his lungs. He was getting so little oxygen his face was dusky blue. His neck looked misshapen and abnormal.

Catelyn ran out of the room sobbing. Neil grabbed Shirley’s hand and said, “We’re going to get through this and God will get all the glory.”

Shirley watched her son struggle to live and took a firm grip on her emotions. Even though he was in a coma, she sensed that his spirit was receptive. She couldn’t afford to let him hear tears in her voice. She had to be strong and filled with faith. It wasn’t enough not to speak death—they had to impart *life* to their son.

“Adam, you’re not going to die. God has great plans for you and you’re going to fulfill them all,” Shirley said.

“You’re doing great, Son. It’s exciting what God has in store for you,” Neil encouraged.

Normally not a confrontational person, Shirley met every visitor with the same words: “If you’re going to speak words of death, I don’t want you here.” Some shook their heads in pity and left. Others honored her request.

“We played praise music and sang to him,” Shirley remembers.

To feed Adam’s faith, she went home and got her collection of *BVOV* magazines. She and Neil took turns reading each magazine aloud, cover to cover. “We read the articles, the praise reports and the testimonies,” she said. “We read one article on how to stand strong. When we went home to sleep, a couple of our friends sat at Adam’s bedside and read Scripture to him all night.”

God Healed His Body

Three days after the accident, Adam’s breathing was still shallow. The doctor told Shirley and Neil they would have to resort to “extreme measures.” Looking at the misshapen V in Adam’s neck, Shirley asked if they could hold off on any extreme measures for a while. The doctor agreed.

Shirley then contacted a Christian chiropractor who, after examining Adam, made an adjustment that returned his neck to normal. Within 15 minutes Adam was breathing normally. An hour later, doctors took him off the ventilator.

“When he first started talking he spoke backward and

Partnership with KCM is the best thing in the world,” Shirley says.

“The spiritual ramifications are so powerful.”

his words were slurred,” Shirley remembers. “You could tell he knew what he wanted to say, but he couldn’t get the words out. When he wrote, he couldn’t spell simple words. We prayed, and before long his speech returned to normal.”

“Mom,” Adam said during the second week of his hospitalization, “I’m going to walk around this place as much as I can. I don’t care how much it hurts.” Using a walker, his right leg dragged behind him scraping the floor. Undeterred, he timed each lap and forced himself to go faster and faster. After spending 13 days in the hospital, Adam was discharged to a rehabilitation facility.

A week later, he was sent home on crutches.

God Healed His Mind

“After Adam came home, Catelyn told me about the fight they’d had and the words she’d spoken to him in anger,” Shirley said. “We both wept and she repented to her brother. I prayed that the Lord would heal her heart.”

As a toddler, Adam had been slow to develop. By the time he entered kindergarten he hadn’t been able to draw a circle. He was diagnosed with learning disabilities of such severity his parents were told he would never learn past the third- or fourth-grade level.

“I claimed Psalm 33:10, which says God will bring the council of the heathen to nothing,” Shirley said. “For years, it seemed as though every January he experienced a mental breakthrough and understood things he hadn’t grasped before. Although he was still in special-education classes for math and science, by the time he reached high school, other students were asking for his help in English.”

Adam’s high school was huge and had lots of stairs, so when school started he went only partial days and Shirley drove him to and from school. He hadn’t been back for long when she got a call from his teachers and counselor. “We have no explanation for this,” they said, “but Adam no longer has any learning disabilities! In fact, he’s *10 times brighter now* than before the accident!”

God had brought the council of the heathen to nothing. From that time forward, Adam made mostly A’s.

One day when Shirley dropped him off at school, Adam said, “I’m going to walk home from now on.” By the first of November, he burst into

the house dripping with sweat. “I ran all the way home!” he shouted. “The doctors told me I’d never walk again! *Take that, Devil!*”

“Partnership with KCM is the best thing in the world,” Shirley says. “The spiritual ramifications are so powerful. Someone has our back!”

Today, Adam Suhr is 26 years old. He has filled out, developed muscles and stands 6 feet 4 inches tall. His demeanor is as kind and gentle as the angel who whispered mysteries to him July 21, 2000. Adam and Catelyn both attend Bible college in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Neil and Shirley Suhr live a life of praise and thanksgiving. At any given moment they might break into song. “Look what the Lord has done! Look what the Lord has done! He healed his body! He healed his mind! God saved Adam just in time!”

Take a good long look at your own life and see what the Lord has done. Then give Him praise! VICTORY

Partnership

The Best Thing in the World!

Neil and Shirley Suhr give God praise and thanks for their partnership with Kenneth Copeland Ministries—for the support and the years of teaching they’ve received. As Shirley says, they know from experience “the spiritual ramifications are so powerful.”

We’re here to help you take hold of faith in God that will bring victory in any and every situation the world or the devil may throw in your path.

Ask the Lord if now is the time for you to become a Partner with KCM—we believe partnership will be the best thing in the world for you, too!

Become our Partner today!

Contact KCM today and ask for our FREE “New Partner” package with complete information about partnership, complimentary gifts and more. Simply check the circle on the response form in this magazine, call 800-600-7395 or visit kcm.org.

Inside your Partner package:

- ▶ Welcome letter from Brother Copeland
- ▶ Brochure explaining the benefits of partnership
- ▶ Covenant Partner Card—good for a 10-percent discount at KCM-meeting book tables
- ▶ Ministry report DVD
- ▶ Scripture promises CD
- ▶ *The Anointing in Partnership* CD



BEHIND *The Mission* W E E K E N D

Join us
February 19-20 in Scottsdale, Ariz.
at the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort.
Event begins Friday at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit behindthemission.com or call 800-600-7395.

Just Confirmed:

April 16-17 : Atlanta, Ga.
at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta

June 25-26 : Lombard, Ill.
at The Westin Lombard Yorktown Center

September 24-25 : Orlando, Fla.
at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek

Your Hosts



Dr. Stephen and
Kellie Swisher



John Copeland

Special Music by
Strand of Pearls



Important video message from Kenneth and Gloria Copeland...just for you at each event.

2010
KCM



new

Behind the Mission Weekends:

February 19-20 : Scottsdale, Ariz.
Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort
5401 N. Scottsdale Road | Scottsdale, AZ 85250

April 16-17 : Atlanta, Ga.
Grand Hyatt Atlanta | 3300 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30305

June 25-26 : Chicago, Ill.
The Westin Lombard Yorktown Center
70 Yorktown Shopping Center | Lombard, IL 60148

September 24-25 : Orlando, Fla.
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
14100 Bonnet Creek Resort Lane | Orlando, FL 32831

Long Beach Copeland Family Meeting

July 8-10
Long Beach Convention Center
300 E. Ocean Blvd. | Long Beach, CA 90802

Join Dr. Stephen and/or
Kellie Swisher at:

Living Word Bible Church: February 17
3520 E. Brown Road | Mesa, AZ 85213
480-964-4463 | livingwordonline.org

25th Anniversary Celebration: March 19-21
Kern Christian Center | 4701 Gosford Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313 | 661-664-1000
kernchristiancenter.org

Spring Men's Advance: April 16-17
Burchfield Ministries | 1423 County Road 101
Columbus, TX 78934 | 979-732-9200
burchfield.org

New Life Fellowship: April 18
1211 N. 24th St. | Council Bluffs, IA 51501
712-332-1982 | gotnewlife.org

**Breath of Fresh Air
Women's Conference: April 22-24**
Family Worship Center | 3649 Frontage Road
Port Orchard, WA 98367 | 360-874-0903 | skfwc.com

Embracing His Grace: May 2
1001 Airport Freeway | Bedford, TX 76021
817-280-0302 | ehgchurch.org

River of Grace Church: May 27-30
16 Queens Road | Slacks Creek
Brisbane, Queensland 4114
Australia | +61732903610
riverofgracechurch.org

New Life Fellowship: September 11-12
1211 N. 24th St. | Council Bluffs, IA 51501
712-332-1982 | gotnewlife.org

**The Master's Touch International Church:
September 19**
555 Markham Woods Road | Longwood, FL 32779
321-304-4111 | tmtic.com

Father 2 Daughter Women's Conference: October 8
Pneuma Christian Center | 7345 Old Cleveland Pike
Chattanooga, TN 37421 | 423-855-8226
pneuma.org

**2010 Tony Orlando
Salute to Veterans Events: November 11**
Welk Resort Branson (Theater)
1984 State Highway 165 | Branson, MO 65616
800-734-5515 | welkresortbranson.com

**Soul's Harbor Word
of Faith Church: December 4-5**
110 Evergreen Road | Canton, GA 30114
770-345-2715 | soulsharborchurch.com

Join us
at these events

Enter into these meetings as a place of rest,
laying aside your own works and expecting
THE BLESSING to meet every need in your life.

—Kenneth Copeland

Branson Victory Campaign

March 4-6 Faith Life Church | 3701 W. Highway 76
Branson, MO 65616

Homecoming 2010

August 2-7 (Southwest Believers' Convention)
Fort Worth Convention Center | 1201 Houston St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Washington, D.C.

Victory Campaign
November 11-13

Hylton Memorial Chapel | 14640 Potomac Mills Road | Woodbridge, VA 22192

Admission
is Free:
Preregister
today!

Join Kenneth and/or Gloria at:

Women's Conference 2010 Rome:
April 9-11 International Church of Italy
Via Giuseppe Chiovenda, 57 | Rome, Italy

Word of Faith Conference: June 18
Word of Faith International Christian Center
20000 W. Nine Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48075 | 248-353-3476
woficc.com



Join Terri Copeland
Pearsons at:

Inside Out Women's Conference 2010: March 26-27
Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center
3050 Green Mountain Drive | Branson, MO 65616
417-239-3920 | millerhopecenter.org/InsideOut2010.htm
(Registration required)

Living Word Bible Church: March 31
3520 E. Brown Road | Mesa, AZ 85213
480-964-4463 | livingwordonline.org

Women of Destiny: March 31-April 1
Living Word Bible Church | 3520 E. Brown Road
Mesa, AZ 85213 | 480-964-4463
livingwordonline.org

The Women of the Word Conference: April 8-10
Lake Lawn Resort | 2400 E. Geneva St. (Highway 50)
Delavan, WI 53115 | 262-728-1463

Christian Life Center: April 11
North 4521 County Road F | Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-728-1463 | clcdelavan.org



Join Jeremy and/or
Sarah Pearsons at:

Living Word River Valley: February 21
4510 Highway 71 N. | Alma, AR 72921
479-632-2340 | lwrv.org

Victory Christian Church: February 28
212 Portland St. | Columbia, MO 65201
573-499-9087 | victorychristianchurch.info

The Lighthouse Church: March 20-21
10 Hollenbush Lane Route 61N
Orwigsburg, PA 17961 | 570-366-1300
thelighthousechurch.com

Calvary Christian Center: April 18
2355 Jacksonburg Road | Hamilton, OH 45013
513-868-3265 | mycalvaryonline.org

Meetings are subject to change without notice.
For details and updated information, please log
on to events.kcm.org or call the KCM office
nearest you. Partners and Friends within the
U.S. call 800-600-7395.



REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

“...For the Lord God is my strength and song: yes, He has become my salvation.” (Isaiah 12:2, *The Amplified Bible*)

Renewed and Raised Up

I watched your broadcast on God TV and you asked the attendees at the meeting and the viewers at home to pray with you for healing.

At that point in time I had been out of work sick for three months. I was unable to function properly because of chronic back pain. It plagued me for over three years and was growing worse day by day. That was the worst episode I had experienced to date. While the pain was growing worse, my employer was putting pressure on me to attend work and implying that if I did not, my job was not secure.

I followed your prayer at that time and received my healing the very same day. After the prayer, I felt a warm heat on the area of my lower back where the pain used to be so intense. Later, I felt God's hands gently repairing the damage that was two compressed disks. I thank God for my healing every minute of every day and I thank God for both of you, Kenneth and Gloria, with all my heart. I trust God completely. Job or no job, Almighty God is my source.

S.C. :: England

We Have Hope

My family and I want to say thank you to God for this ministry and for all of you working for Him. He has been so faithful and good to us! The teachings we have received through tapes, books, the *BVOV* magazine and TV have opened our eyes. We no longer see our situation as hopeless and helpless.

Since partnering with KCM we have so many testimonies. The spirit of fear which ruled our house has been broken. *From Faith to Faith* has been a tremendous blessing. It lifts me up, encourages me and gives me great hope. In applying confession of the Word, one of our debts has been completely canceled and we are paying the other two off faithfully, knowing they will eventually be canceled.

My husband had brain surgery three years ago. The aftermath was he started having epileptic fits which were very life-threatening. To the glory of God, in partnering with KCM, all last year he didn't have a seizure and he is getting better by the day. We know all your intercessors are praying. Thank you for feeding us the Word of Life, which has helped us grow in the Lord.

P.K. :: United Kingdom

We no longer see our situation as hopeless and helpless.

No Room for Grief

My mother died suddenly in January of last year after we had just made it through her having cancer surgery. I called your prayer-request line and the man who prayed with us was a prayer warrior. He touched heaven with his prayer and God touched me and my brother.

We were a close-knit family. God gave us a great gift: a mother with a heart for her family. She put family first. Praise God, for He lifted the grief. It was overwhelming until your prayer warrior prayed for us. Thank you for your prayer line and the love you and your ministry showed us.

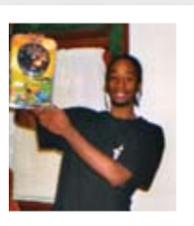
Lydia Odom :: Auburn, Ga.

Divine Intervention

I had to write you this praise report. My son, for whom I am standing in faith for his deliverance, called me one night and said he was hit with a gun, bleeding badly, drunk and for me to call 911. Well, I didn't know where he was—so I began to pray in the spirit. He went to a girl's house and she called 911. When I found him, after the police came, there was blood everywhere.

When we got to the hospital he said, “Mom, I was set up by someone, robbed and as I began to wrestle with the guy, he pulled out a gun and began to shoot. But it wouldn't go off so he hit me in the face with the gun.” I know without a doubt the angels of the Lord didn't allow that gun to shoot my son because THE BLESSING is working in me and that includes my children. Thank you, Ken and Gloria, for living a life of faith and teaching me the integrity of the Word of God. I declare Psalm 91 over my children continually.

Sandra Harris :: Cincinnati, Ohio



Instant Return

I have been listening to *Kingdom Principles* with Kenneth Copeland and Bill Winston. They encouraged me to sow seed in a time of need. Well, the power-steering pump went out on our truck. The next day I was preparing our giving and the enemy was prompting me about our need to keep it back for the repairs. In the past I would have given in, but I trusted God and sowed my seed, including a \$100 gift to this ministry.

At church I was talking to someone and they said their husband would love to help out. So I called him and he said he would fix it for the cost of the part and just a minimal labor amount—probably a savings of \$400! Then we had some new flooring installed in a couple of rooms at home. When it came time to pay the installer for his labor, out of his own initiative he reduced his bill by \$89. When I asked whether he preferred cash or check, he told me that if we paid cash he would take another \$50 off the bill. So, within 48 hours of sowing the seed into this ministry and a couple of others, we had seen over double back on our seed. Now that is a much better return than any bank these days! Thanks for the teaching!

N.D. :: Canada

Confident in Christ

I'm a Partner with KCM and I thank you for prayers at all times. I used to struggle with a fear of being around people. I once wrote to you and told you about this and you comforted and prayed for me.

I used to feel worthless and shy, but you supported and uplifted me with some booklets and magazines to read. I want to thank KCM for everything and let you know I appreciate it. May God bless you because right now I'm not afraid of anyone, I'm confident and extroverted. Praise the Lord!

H.K. :: South Africa

Smoke Free and Thankful

I was watching your broadcast, as I do every morning, but on this particular morning Keith Moore was speaking. He was talking about a friend who wanted to quit smoking. Someone said to his friend, “All you have to say is ‘I am smoke free’ and believe it.” I started using that phrase: “I am smoke free in the Name of Jesus.”

Guess what? I've been smoke free from that day on. Thank you so much.

S.Q. :: California

Great Favor

My husband had been laid off for six months and during that time we put our house up for sale. When we received a low offer on the house we decided to take it off the market. A few days later my husband was hired at a job with the highest wage he's ever made! I am very thankful for this ministry and all the prayer support.

S.M. :: Canada

Attitude of Gratitude

I wanted to thank God and give glory to His Name. I recently called the UK office to pray for my little girl, because doctors said she was having some kind of cancer in her blood. I received the *Healing and Wellness* package also.

I was praying every day—night and day—by faith and confessing the Word of God. Then after three weeks the doctor said she was healed. Glory to God! By His stripes my daughter was healed. Praise to God and thank you for KCM. It is such a privilege for me to be a Partner with your ministry. Thank you again. I know she continues to fully heal. Praise God!

H.S. :: France

God's Goodness Prevails

I just cannot thank you enough for all you are doing in my spiritual life through your teachings on TV, and in your monthly letter and magazine. Some months ago, I asked your prayer team to agree with me for a good, new home. They prayed with me and sent a letter as a contact between you and me. God is good and He answered our prayer. I moved to a good, new and warm home. I thank my loving Lord for all His goodness and blessings in my life.

K.K. :: Cyprus

He Leads and Guides Me

I am so excited about my walk and journey with the Lord. I am filled with so much peace and happiness, even here in prison. I've been set free! Jesus pulled me out of the pit I was living in almost all my life. I can now clearly see the light to a future that is so bright and wonderful.

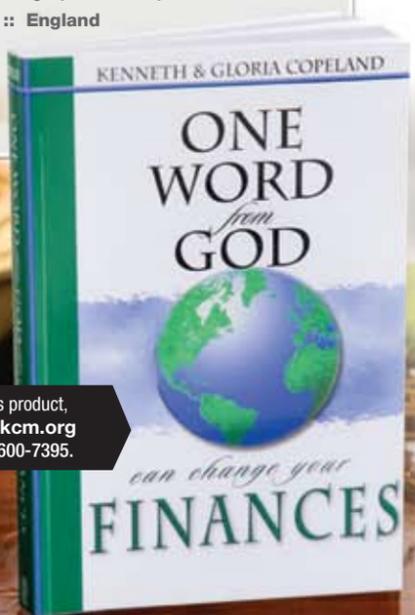
I want to thank you for inspiring me so much to give Jesus a chance. Praise God!

S.P. :: Tennessee

Promotion From Above

I thank God for increase and promotion in my life. I am off welfare! The Lord has given me a good job and I thank KCM for being there for me and my children.

M.T. :: Germany



To order this product, please visit kcm.org or call 800-600-7395.

Prayer Is Our Priority Call 800-600-7395 for prayer 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We're Here for You!

the Power of *Partnership*

It's the heartbeat of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. It's a plan, set in motion by the Lord, that allows us to take the uncompromised Word of God to the world...together! It means standing as one, praying for each other daily, believing for God's best for each other and supporting one another to accomplish the Lord's work. | It's Partnership!

"Gloria and I are privileged and honored to have more than 263,500 anointed, praying and believing Partners around the world who have joined their faith and love with KCM," said Kenneth Copeland. "These are believers who are committed to support KCM in every way the Spirit of God leads them."

By working together, KCM has been able to share God's Word through the *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast, this magazine, best-selling books, teaching DVDs, children's movies, the Internet, events around the globe and more.

Brother Copeland added, "I don't mind telling you

it's a great source of joy and strength just knowing that more than 263,500 Partners are out there standing strong with us, wherever we might be in the world, facing whatever storms we might have to face. After all, it takes far more than what Gloria and I have to get the message of victory in Jesus into the hands of God's people. It takes partnership!"

What's more, partnership has given KCM the ability to extend its ministry through like-minded outreaches such as El Mexicanito Orphanage to children, Mike Barber Ministries to inmates, Air Transport for Christ to medical missionary teams and many, many more.



Partners can be assured that every Partner Letter is, in fact, written by Brother Copeland himself.

Together, we're reaching more people than any of us could reach by ourselves.

Blessings for All

Partnership not only blesses KCM and its outreaches, it also shares the anointing that is on Kenneth and Gloria Copeland with those who have become their Partners...people like *you!*

"In these days especially," said Brother Copeland, "it is important that we partner with anointed, praying people because—as we are about to see—our individual anointings and prayers of faith flowing together in one direction are far more powerful than any one of us alone could ever be."

Sharon, a Partner from Singapore, expressed it this way: "Standing together to make sure we are helping each other walk in the blessings of God—that to me is partnership."

KCM receives thousands of letters from those who have experienced great things in their lives, which they attribute to partnering with a ministry like KCM. Jump back to the Good News Gazette on page 16 of this issue to see some of the real letters sent in from Partners and Friends this month. And you've probably already read how the spiritual blessings of partnership caused Neil and Shirley Suhr's 16-year-old son, Adam, to shout, "Look what the Lord has done!" (See page 10.)

Partnership isn't just a one-way street. It's a regular, ongoing relationship that's not only about reaching the world, but also delivering God's best to you and your family.

Connecting Regularly

Many Partners of KCM count Kenneth Copeland's Partner Letter as the point-of-contact that has made the biggest difference in their lives.

"Years ago, God called me to write a letter to my Partners every 30 days for the rest of my life on this earth," said Brother Copeland. "He called me to pray in the Holy Spirit until I receive an anointed letter that will encourage and strengthen them in their daily faith walk."

Partners can be assured that every Partner Letter is, in fact, written by Brother Copeland himself, who, after writing it, delivers it to the KCM editorial staff to be prepared for mailing to all our Partners.

In the spirit of partnership, the Partner Letters have also blessed Brother Copeland, who says that writing them has been "one of the most powerful things I've ever done. I began to discover what Paul meant when he wrote to his partners, 'I have you in my heart, I'm interceding for you and I will not let you fail!'"

Changing Lives Together

Dan, a Partner in the United States, said, "It's been a [point of] stability in my life to get the encouragement every month [through] Partner Letters and the magazine.... It's been wonderful knowing we're together in this."

Indeed, KCM, together with its Partners and Friends, is making a difference in the world and in one another. If you haven't yet become a Partner, and you feel the Lord directing you to connect with KCM, simply contact us and ask for our *free* Partner Package. You'll receive complete information about partnership, a complimentary gift and more. Simply check the circle on the response form in this magazine, call 800-600-7395 or visit kcm.org.

As we eagerly await the Lord's return, we look forward to partnering with you, reaching the world together and changing lives together—including your own.

Always remember: *We're here for you!* **VICTORY**

"It's been a [point of] stability in my life to get the encouragement every month [through] Partner Letters and the magazine.... It's been wonderful knowing we're together in this."



BY MARTY
COPELAND

The power to change

With all the change going on in the world today, it's time for Christians to make an impact in the earth. But to walk in the kind of world-changing power necessary to impact our communities, our nation and the world, we must allow the Holy Spirit to change us.

What do we need to empower us to change? Sure, we need knowledge, but knowledge alone isn't enough. We need the power of God that effects change. Take weight loss, for example. We all know how to lose weight: move more, eat less. But how many are actually doing it? To be truly *free* from the bondage of weight we have to allow the Holy Spirit to change and empower us to go higher—spirit, soul and body.

Change is deep within the purpose of why God created us. The power to change is within His glory—His presence. A revelation of His glory, of His honor and of the power of His love is enough to change anything. That's what we need if we are to change.

We are from God. He created us in His image, so we come out of Him, just like natural children come out of their parents and are a combination of their DNA. When we wonder, *How do I get God to help me change?* we are forgetting that we were created out of Him. We were predestined before the earth was ever created to be like Him. His power is in us.

When we hear things repeated over and over they can become so familiar to us that we miss the revelation. One thing we often hear is that we are God's children and He is in us. But are we really getting it? When I look at my three children, I see in them a combination of my husband, John, and me. In one I see more of me, and in another I see more of John. They have our DNA—they're from us.

We Identify With Him

Because we are born of God we have *His* DNA. Our righteousness is not because of our works, but because of His goodness and because we are of Him. If we're going to change, we have to understand who God is because our identity is in Him.

We also have to know why we are here, and that He has a plan and purpose for our lives. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." The *New International Version* says, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint." In other words, they run wild or fail to practice self-control. If we want to change, we must have restraint or self-control. If we don't know why we're here, what we're called to do or who we're called to be, we're not going to be restrained in our eating or any other area. But when we catch the vision of our purpose and destiny, it produces the restraint we need to bring change.

God's love has the power to change us. His love is the weight of His divine presence that resides inside us. It is a force that never fails, fades or becomes obsolete. It doesn't matter if trends change, or the economy fails. Love never quits because God never quits. If your life, family, job or whatever it is you're seeking

God about is not changing, more than likely it's because you haven't experienced the love of God and His Anointing in that area.

If you're having financial trouble, the only way to enjoy the blessing of prosperity is to experience God and His love in the area of finances. Spending time with Him is spending time with the real Provider. Wealth is not a blessing unless you know God. It will destroy your life if you don't know Him—it will amplify your sin. God wants us to know Him.

Experiencing God's love and Anointing is how I got delivered from overeating. When I was at the lowest point in my struggle, after having spent most of my life defeated—doing diet after diet, failing, gaining weight, losing it and then gaining it back—I realized I was in bondage. Food had become an idol. I thought about it all the time. My self-esteem was based on how I looked and how much I weighed, and I judged my righteousness on whether or not I ate the right foods and exercised. On the inside I said, *God, if You will deliver me from this, I'll tell people how You did it.* I made a decision. I knew God was good and that my freedom was in His Word, even though it didn't specifically talk about losing weight.

A Revelation of His Love

By spending time with Him and in His Word, I found out that we are re-created in Him and predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus the moment we are born again. I realized self-control was put into me by the Holy Spirit. It's who He is. God *is* self-control. If you can't control your eating, you haven't experienced His love and Anointing in the area of self-control. If you can't exercise regularly, you don't know God well enough in the area of faithfulness and endurance.

Second Corinthians 5:14 says, "The love of Christ constraineth us." Allowing His love and purpose—knowing who we are and who we're called to be—to rise up in us brings victory. Who *are* we called to be? We are called to be like Jesus—to sit with Him and to rule with Him in heavenly places. We have been crowned with His glory and honor.

I was with a wonderful Christian woman one time who was talking to me about a challenge she was having. Because of an injury in her life and some things that had happened



Our righteousness is not because of our works, but because of His goodness and because we are of Him.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34

LOVE BY GLORIA COPELAND is NOT an OPTION



Have you ever wondered why Jesus commanded us to live by love? It's because He desires for us to succeed and be blessed—spirit, soul and body. And He knows love is the primary key to that success.

If we actually understood the blessing that walking in love brings, we wouldn't be so willing to abandon it when we encounter pressure or aggravation. If we knew, for example, that becoming fretful or resentful was going to cost us a great, supernatural revelation, we might be more apt to set those unloving attitudes aside.

“What does love have to do with spiritual revelation?” you ask.

Plenty! Read Colossians 2:2 and you can see for yourself how closely they are tied together. But the benefits of love don't stop with wisdom and revelation. They also include divine power. Jesus said in John 14:21 that He will manifest Himself to the person who walks in love.

I think this verse in John is very interesting, especially in light of how eager we are to have Jesus manifest Himself among us in power. We long for Him to reveal Himself by signs and wonders and miracles. And, surely, as the time of His Second Coming draws closer, those signs and wonders must come in greater manifestation.

But do you know where they will manifest in greatest power? Among the people who are living and walking in love. That's what happened in the book of Acts. God poured out His Spirit in mighty power at Pentecost with tongues of fire and the sound of a mighty, rushing wind, not upon people who were squabbling and arguing with one another, but among people who “continued with one accord” (Acts 1:14).

He shook the building and filled every believer with the Holy Ghost and boldness—not when the Church was fussing and working up denominational splits, but when they were “of one heart and of one soul” (Acts 4:32).

Need power in your life today? Need harmony in your family, in your marriage and among your children? Then walk in love. Walk in love at all costs... walk in love and decide that for your life, love is a command, not an option. **VICTORY**

(This article was reprinted from the devotional book by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland *Pursuit of His Presence*. To order a copy of this faith-filled devotional, please log on to kcm.org or call 800-600-7395. You can also read the daily devotion online by going to kcm.org.)

years ago, her self-esteem was so low she felt powerless to change what she knew needed to be changed in her life. A year or two before, we had had a similar conversation. Nothing had changed. She was continuing to face the same challenges, and her insisting, “I can't because...,” was still holding her back.

The more you understand God's love and why you're here on this earth, the more you understand *His* power to change you—not what you can or can't do. Faith to change works by revelation of His love.

We live in a world of stress and pressure—all brought on by the cares of this world. Whether it's family matters, problems on the job, health issues or finances, they can all distract us and cause us to take our eyes off the true power source.

There is also good pressure. Good pressure is when you have to use your faith to believe for your victory.

Do you ever feel stressed out about finances or health issues? Not enough time? Too much to do? Life too fast?

There are all kinds of pressures in parenting, for example. I talk about that a lot because that's the season I'm in right now. It's not easy to be a good parent. There's football practice, basketball practice, piano practice, cheerleading, grocery shopping, meal planning, dirty dishes, laundry. Need to clean the car, need to clean the house, need to lose 20 pounds, need to eat better, need to exercise more—pressure, pressure, pressure! But Jesus said, “My yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:30). To overcome stress and pressure, and to make our lives as easy and light as possible, we have to stay in constant communication with Him.

If we trust Him and don't quit, not only will we change, but things around us will change, too.

To truly change means you must first want to change.

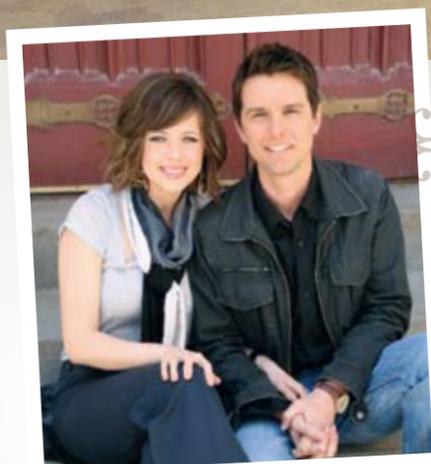
Let the Holy Spirit reveal to you what changes are needed in your life. Then, release your faith and allow His power to change you.

VICTORY

Certified by the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas, Texas, Marty Copeland is a personal trainer, nutritional counselor, author and minister of the gospel.



get to know the author and the artist



In Jeremy Pearsons' book, *Hello. My Name Is God*, Jeremy teaches how you can know Jesus firsthand. In Sarah Pearsons' CD, *Love Songs for the King*, Sarah shares 12 heartfelt songs that will bring you to His throne.

In a recent interview, Jeremy and Sarah—the author and the artist—talked about their projects and their relationship with God.

For those who want to know Him, what's the first step...especially for those who need help now?

Jeremy: Just talk. Open your mouth and let words come out. It's really pretty simple. I've heard people say, “I have never asked God for a thing”—as though their asking will break Him and He will bless them out of guilt. But God loves to be asked. Why would anyone NOT want to talk to God? Just start a conversation and let Him continue it in you throughout the day.

Sarah: Be THANKFUL. So many people spend their time complaining about how rough their situation is instead of being thankful for what they already have. Psalm 100:4 says, “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.” When I thank Him for what He's already done, it opens the gates of my heart wide to His presence and true fellowship with Him. Thanksgiving is the language of faith.

As you've gotten to know the Lord, what aspect of His character is the most meaningful to you?

Jeremy: Do I only get to pick one? Impossible. But I have come to appreciate Him more and more over the last several years for His never-ending, ever-growing mercy. Sarah and I share a blessed life together and I know it's because of the mercy of God.

Sarah: I love every attribute of His character, but if I have to pick one, it would be Jehovah-Rophe: The Lord Who Heals (Exodus 15:26). You could describe Him as the One who mends you back together and restores you to normal. As I look back over my life, I can be sure that it is the Lord who has kept my family healthy and whole, and IT IS HE who is faithful to sustain us so that we can finish our race with joy!

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"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)

BY BILL WINSTON



who's got Your Soul?

Christians are not to be conformed to this world. | My paraphrased definition of the word *conformed* is "to fashion and configure ourselves like this world, to adopt the customs of this world, and to be squeezed into the world's mold." | From the moment we are conceived, the world and the spiritual enemies of God are bombarding us with thoughts that run contrary to the Word of God. They are in the business of keeping us from Jesus Christ so they can control us.

If the world and the devil do not succeed at keeping us from Jesus Christ and we get saved, the real battle begins! We are not to continue to be conformed to this world; we are to be conformed to the image of Jesus. How does that happen? We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds with God's Word. We have to change the way we think about everything.

The word *transformed* is translated from the Greek word *metamorphoo* (met-am-or-fo'-o), which is where we get the English word *metamorphosis*. In elementary school we learned about metamorphosis by watching how a caterpillar spins its cocoon and later breaks out of the cocoon as a butterfly. The caterpillar completely changes its shape, coloring and function. It goes from a worm-like

creature that crawls on the ground to a brightly colored creature that flies gracefully through the air.

How are we to be transformed? What is our process of *metamorphoo*? Romans 12:2 says it is the renewing of our minds. The word *renew* could also be translated *renovate*. When we renovate a house, we tear out and throw away all the old, unwanted walls and decorations and replace them with new ones. Sometimes we put in new furniture and appliances.

That is the picture the Holy Spirit gives us when He tells us we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. He moves in and begins to renovate our souls with the Word of God. He tears down strongholds of deception and lies and replaces them with the truth. And one of the first things He begins to show us is who we are.

Because Adam and Eve no longer lived in the state of eternal life, their souls and bodies began to decay.

Who Are You?

It's a sad thing when people live their whole lives and never understand what it means to be a human being. They spend all their years trying to find out who they are and why they were created, but they never go to their Creator. If they did a little reading in the Bible, they would see that God created man in three parts—spirit, soul and body: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Our spirit, soul and body are intimately connected and work together. Our spirit is the part of us that communicates with God. We were created to walk in communion with Him at all times. Under this spiritual headship is our soul, which is our mind, emotions and will. Then, our soul, in agreement with our spirit and God's Spirit, tells our physical body what to feel, say and do. Although our physical body is our contact with the natural, physical world, it is not supposed to be in charge. Our spirits are to be in charge.

Our spirit life is superior to the physical, natural and material life. The spirit is the highest form of living because our spirit man communicates with the Holy Spirit, who connects us back to God, our Source. The senses constitute a lower level of living, so we must not allow our five senses to dominate. Therefore, we must renew our mind to the Word of God or it is carnal.

We were originally created to live from our spirits in full submission to our Lord. God placed in human beings the desire to love and to be loved by Him. Our souls, which contain our thoughts, emotions and will, are supposed to operate according to our communication with God. We were never meant to operate on the basis of our contact with the natural, physical world.

The fall of mankind occurred because Adam and Eve acted upon communication from the outside world, from the serpent, instead of communication with God on the inside, in their spirits. When we act according to our senses and our natural thinking, we can be easily deceived and sin against God. That's what happened to Adam and Eve.

What Went Wrong?

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were living the high life. They had every material thing they needed or wanted. They were healthy and happy. They loved and honored each other and accomplished great things together. Their life was ideal. Their environment was perfect. And it was all based on their intimate relationship with God.

One day God told Adam, "Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or you will die" (Genesis 2:17), and disaster ensued. Adam exercised the free will God had given him and ate of that tree. He acted on the counsel of the serpent instead of God's Word and made the wrong decision. He chose to disobey

God, ate of the forbidden tree, and everything God had warned him about the tree came to pass. He immediately died.

Obviously, Adam and Eve didn't die physically. Death is permanent separation from a state of being, whether spiritual or natural. Initially, they died spiritually, which meant permanent separation from God. The Spirit of God and the eternal life of God left their human spirits.

Because Adam and Eve no longer lived in the state of eternal life, their souls and bodies began to decay. Without God's spiritual life in them, eventually they would die physically. Furthermore, they now lived primarily by their physical senses and natural minds. They had sunk to a very low level of living.

The result of Adam's sin not only affected him, but the whole human race. As Adam's descendants, we are all born spiritually dead to God—cut off from Him for eternity. From the moment we are born we have to fight physical sickness and death. Satan is our spiritual lord and our minds are caught up in the material world instead of the spiritual kingdom of God. Thank God, that is not the end of the story!

God sent Jesus to pay the price for Adam's sin and give us the opportunity to restore our spiritual life connection with Him. When we accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, surrendering our lives to Him, we are born again spiritually. Our dead spirits are made alive by the Holy Spirit, who comes to live in us. We can communicate and fellowship freely with our heavenly Father again. He returns us to the high life!

Your Divine Connection

When you are born again your spirit is brand-new, and it comes in line with the supernatural. The Holy Spirit lives in your new spirit. But your soul and body are another matter. Although they will be dramatically affected by the rebirth of your spirit, they are not brand-new. They have not been regenerated yet. If you had dentures before you were saved, you probably have dentures after you are saved unless God does a miracle. If you had a bad temper before you got saved, you probably have to deal with your temper after you are saved. The difference is now you are spiritually connected to God and your nature has changed. You are no longer under the influence of the devil. You are a child of God!

Believers are instantly restored to all the blessings of knowing God intimately, but the full manifestation of your new state of being is a process of maturity. As a believer you still have battles with the devil, the world and your flesh—only now you have God's ability to overcome and win the victory! Your divine connection is the difference between living the low life and living the high life.

The Power of Choice

The Holy Spirit, your teacher, gives you understanding about

who you are, what you were created to do in life, and divine guidance concerning every choice you make.

God wants you to make the right decisions so you can fulfill the destiny He has for you, and in the process a whole lot of other people get touched and blessed by Him. But to make the right decisions you have to have revelation and understanding, which you will not get unless you renew your mind with God's Word.

Your soul is your mind, emotions and will. It is where you make decisions. Therefore, your destiny and the quality of your life are determined by your soul. That is why the Bible stresses that you must be transformed by the renewing of your mind. You have to get your mind transformed by the Word of God,

which means it comes under complete submission to the Holy Spirit in your spirit. Then you begin to think, speak and act like Jesus instead of that old selfish, sinful person you were before you got saved. You act from your communication with God instead of your physical senses and carnal thinking. You will cease living the low life and live the high life!

Your soul is where the battle lies. Whoever and whatever controls your soul possesses your thinking, your emotions and your will and determines the course of your life. The enemy knows this, and he and his demons will do everything they can to get your mind on anything but the Word of God.

Your life today is a result of the decisions you have made in the past. God gave you free will and He will guard and protect it. He has such respect and regard for your free will that He will let you choose hell over Him in your lifetime. The enemy also knows this, and he will try to influence your decisions by capturing your soul.

The devil and demons influence your decisions through circumstances and your physical environment. They introduce thoughts to your mind and get you focused on what your five physical senses perceive. They will use people they can influence to harm or offend you. Some people have no idea they are being used by the enemy. They are either unbelievers or believers with unrenewed minds. They can think they are doing the right thing, but they are deceived.

They live the low life under Satan, but we live the high life in Jesus Christ!

Unbelievers may not be aware of Satan's influence, or even that they have the power of choice. As believers, however, we know from God's Word that He will always give us the final decision: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

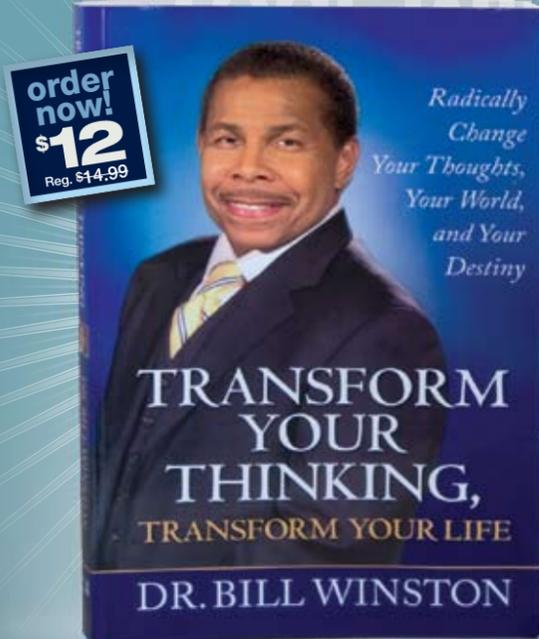
Life is choice-driven, and your soul is where the choice to live or die is made.

Whoever you trust with your life is who possesses your soul, and whoever has your soul is going to influence your decisions and your destiny. You want God to completely possess your soul so that His good, acceptable and perfect will can be proven in your life. And when the people around you see all the love, peace, joy and success you have, they will want to know Jesus and begin living the high life, too.

I challenge you to check yourself throughout the day. From time to time just ask yourself, *Who's got my soul right now?* This will do two things. It will give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to expose any ungodly influence or thinking, and it will put you in remembrance of God's Word and will for your life. Just asking yourself that simple question can make the difference between success and failure, misery and happiness, and even life and death. **VICTORY**

This article was adapted from the new book by Bill Winston, titled *Transform Your Thinking, Transform Your Life*. For more information about Bill Winston Ministries, go to www.bwm.org.

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Take it or Leave it

BY GLORIA COPELAND

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."
(Mark 11:22-25, New King James Version)

Yes, here we are again—in Mark 11! THERE'S A REASON I KEEP COMING BACK TO THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE. AFTER I WAS BORN AGAIN AND LEARNED THE TRUTH OF THESE WORDS FROM KENNETH HAGIN, THEY BECAME MY LIFELINE. KEN AND I HAD MANY "MOUNTAINS" IN OUR LIVES, AND WE BEGAN TO DO WHAT JESUS SAID. WHEN WE BEGAN SPEAKING GOD'S WORD, THOSE MOUNTAINS BEGAN TO MOVE. WE HAD MANY NEEDS, AND WHEN WE TOOK HOLD OF JESUS' WORD THAT SAID WE COULD ASK ANYTHING, BELIEVE AND RECEIVE IT, OUR LIVES BEGAN TO BE FILLED WITH EVERYTHING HE HAS TO GIVE. AND WHEN WE BEGAN TO WALK IN FORGIVENESS TOWARD PEOPLE, WE WERE SET FREE OURSELVES—FREE TO HEAR FROM GOD AND TO BE AND DO ALL HE HAD PLANNED FOR US.

That's why Mark 11:22-25 holds such an important place in my life. God's Word can make all the difference in your life, too. But it's up to you whether it does or not. When you hear the Word, and what God says to you in His Word, you can either take it or leave it. The wise person will take it!

Applying Faith

Some people don't even know the Bible is God speaking to them—that God speaks to us today through His Word. But, praise the Lord, you and I know it! We know God's Word. We know it's true and that we can depend on it.

That's the whole purpose God has in giving us His

Word. We are dependent on it...on Him. Our part is to apply faith to the Word.

The Word is where we get our help and strength. It is the foundation on which our faith acts. Faith applied to the Word changes our situation—it changes our lives.

The reason we read the Word is to let it talk to us. The Holy Spirit in our spirit will translate the words on the page, or what we hear preached, and put it into our hearts. He will make God's Word understandable, and show us how it applies to our lives.

When we sit down with God's Word, we should always do so convinced that it is going to change our lives. We should think, *God has something to say to me and I'm listening. I'm expecting to have my faith built up. I'm ready to hear what He has to say to me and I'm ready to receive it!*

When we approach the Word with that attitude we can expect things to happen. Whether we are after something specific or we are simply fellowshiping with God, the Word will reveal things to us. It will show us more clearly who we are in Christ, and who He is in us. It will direct our thoughts and actions, bring us to our knees in worship, and bring to our remembrance people who need our intercession.

We should never approach the Word with a "ho-hum" attitude, thinking, *Well, I've done my duty today.* No, our attitude should be something like, *Wow, I'm looking forward to how the Word will guide my day.*

Our expectations for revelation from the Word should be so high that we're never *surprised* at what God speaks to us, but we're *amazed*—ready and willing to allow the Word to work in our lives. We are always expecting our faith to increase and to take everything the Word has to give us!

So, we apply our faith to the Word.

Jesus describes the wise application of faith in His words in Mark 11. The complete application of faith involves several things: believing, speaking, receiving and possessing. And above all, it involves forgiving (verse 25).

Whoever—Whatever!

Jesus didn't put any limits on faith in God in Mark 11:22-25. He simply said, "Whoever...whatever!"

The only prerequisite to receiving *from* God is to have faith *in* God. That's it.

Do you have faith in God? Do you believe, trust in and rely on Him as your source for everything that pertains to your blessed life? Is He the source of your salvation, good health, provision and relationships? Do you trust Him to bring only His best into all areas of your life—to always come through when life's challenges show up?

Your faith in God—your belief in the truth that what He says, He will do—is absolutely all you need. When you apply that faith to your situations, you can receive all that He promises (verse 23)!

Whatever He has given His Word on is yours. You can take it! Your faith in God will rise up in every situation and take what He has to give!

Faith Takes It!

In Mark 11:24, and in other places in the New Testament, the word *receive* means "to take"! When someone offers you a gift, laying it on the table in front of you, you take it. They offer...you take. That's exactly what we have to do with every good and wonderful thing that God's Word lays out for us. God has laid it all on the table for us, and by faith in God we take it!

That's how we received His gift of salvation and eternal life. We heard it preached or read about it in the Bible, and our faith rose up and we took it. And that's exactly how we receive every provision God has laid out for us. Faith takes it all!

Sometimes we have to take it by force. We have to stand firm and not let anything keep us from it. We have an enemy, and his biggest deception for all of us, just like it was for Eve, is to convince us that God is holding His best back from us. Eve fell for Satan's lies, and lost eternal life and all the benefits God had prepared for her and the family of earth.

When we're facing a challenge, listening to the devil can either delay or cause us to miss the blessings God has for us. Think about it. God has laid all His goodness and blessings on the table—His gifts for us—and we let the devil talk us out of them by telling us things like: "You're not worthy. You're not educated enough. God doesn't mean *you* when He says *whoever*."

When we develop our faith in God by listening to Him all the time, by hearing the Word preached or spending time in it, we become aware of the deception of the enemy because we are tuned in to God! Just like people who are trained to recognize counterfeit money by handling *only* the real stuff, we can quickly identify and ignore the devil because we are so familiar with the voice of God.

Building Faith

Faith takes what God has given! How does faith take it all? It takes it by God's Word on everything that pertains to life.

Faith takes the Word into its eyes, and it puts the Word into its ears. Faith gets the Word into its heart and speaks it out its mouth. That's the way faith takes—the way YOU take—the things God has prepared for you.

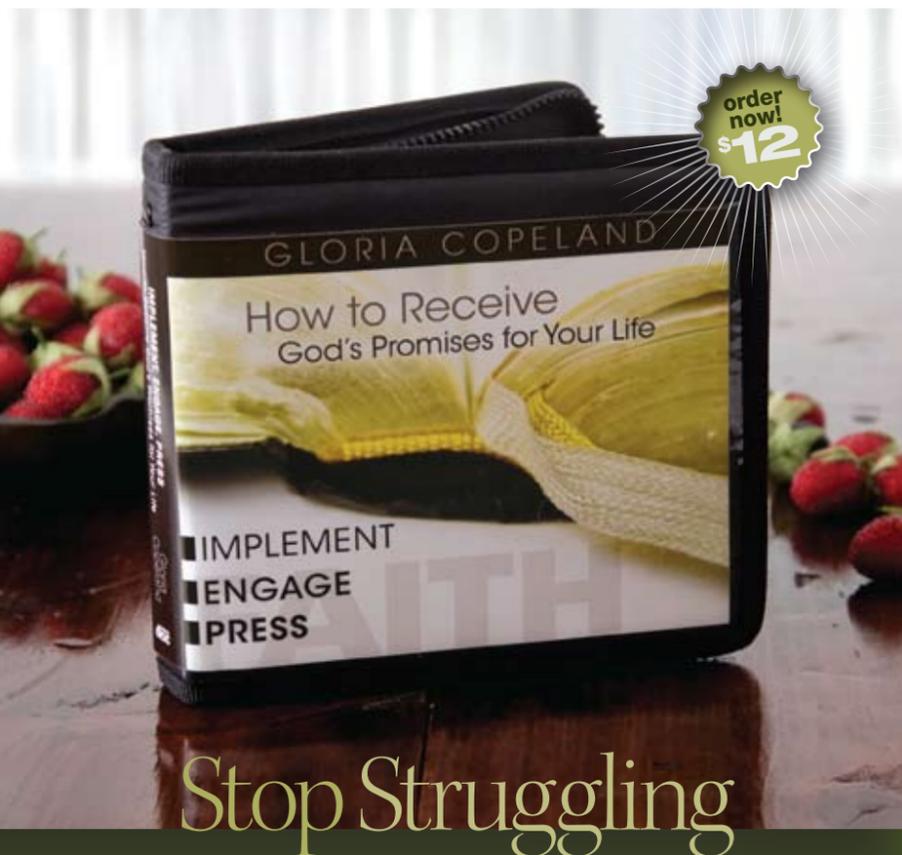
That's the way Jesus said faith in God receives!

Whatever you see in the Word of God that you desire or need, ask for it according to that very Word, and be bold about it. If it's healing you need, it's in



The only prerequisite to receiving from God is to have faith in God. That's it.

Whatever He has given His Word on is yours.



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When we understand and believe that **God's ultimate purpose** in our having faith in Him is *to bless someone else, then nothing is impossible.*

the Word. Ask for it. Do you see prosperity in the Word? Do you need it? Ask for it! Do you need love, or just to forgive someone? Then, ask for them. They're both right there in God's Word.

And when you ask for whatever it is, keep that word right in front of your eyes, and read it out loud again and again so it can get into your ears and grow in your heart. When that happens, when the Word is in abundance in your heart, your mouth will speak it! The Word will talk to you right out of your own heart. You will begin to believe that Word of God above every circumstance and it will drown out any negative words about the situation. You will begin to anticipate receiving what you have asked for, and then, glory to God, your faith takes it!

That's the way Ken and I have received every single thing we have in our lives today: our health, our prosperity, our loving family...this ministry we are blessed to share with the world.

Has it all come overnight? Of course not. Today I'm living in my dream home...the one I waited over 20 years to receive. But all the time I was waiting, I was planning and speaking God's Word about my home and the treasures it would contain—the physical beauty and comfort we would enjoy there, and the peace, love and joy that would permeate it. And, when the time came for my home to show up, I took it! That is, my faith took it!

God guided every step of building that house, just like He guides every step in building our faith. Is it worth it to stand firm and aggressively hear, speak, believe and receive? Yes, it is. I encourage you today, stay with your faith. Don't leave anything lying on the table that God has to give you! It will be worth it all when the time comes for faith to take it...you will receive it!

It's All About Taking and Giving

Now, you can't depend on someone else's faith. You must let God build your faith. As He is doing it, He's preparing you to receive even bigger and better things. He's preparing you to be a channel for Him to use to help others take what their faith is expecting.

You see, God uses people! So, while none of us can depend on someone else's faith, we all do have a connection of faith. It's a connection that will speak God's Word to me when I know someone is in need, to "love your neighbor as yourself."

Remember, faith works by love...out of a loving heart!

Love fuels faith in our own lives and in the lives of people God brings across our path. "When we stand praying," Jesus said, "forgive." Why? Because that's what love does.

When we understand and believe that God's ultimate purpose in our having faith in Him is to bless someone else, then nothing is impossible. When our faith "takes" all God has to give, we can be the next person to whom He can say, "OK, you've got it, now give some of it away!"

Nothing is better than living by faith in God! He will never run out of the stuff His people need and desire. When we see that His plan is to use each of

us to be a participant in His blessing, why would we want to leave anything on the table?

Starting today, put your faith on something you need or desire according to God's Word, then ask for more! Look around you: Someone out there needs it, too. They are using their faith and asking Him. And

He is going to use you to give to them—to help their faith take it!

It's a great plan, a great reason to take everything God has to give us—so we can be part of all He is doing. And He gets the praise and glory for it all!

VICTORY

Salvation Prayer

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

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

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

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March

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SUNDAY				
7	8	9	10	11
<p>Kenneth Copeland <i>Walking Out God's Plan for Your Future</i> God has a job for you to do on this earth. Discover how your thoughts affect your every step!</p>				
14	15	16	17	18
<p>Gloria Copeland <i>Receive Your Healing Today</i> Don't wait until everything is "right." Today, take hold of the healing Jesus paid for on the cross!</p>				
21	22	23	24	25
<p>Gloria Copeland <i>Jesus, You're My Healer</i> See why it's time to proclaim Jesus the Healer of your spirit, soul and body!</p>				
28	29	30	31	1
<p>Kenneth Copeland <i>Jesus Is Your Hope and Your Future</i> This Palm Sunday, celebrate the victory Jesus won for you on the cross so you can inherit THE BLESSING!</p>				
			2	
<p><i>Transformed by the Love of God</i> George Pearsons welcomes Mac and Sandra Gober as they share how God's love transformed Mac from a "motorcycle hoodlum" to a victorious man of faith.</p>				
<p><i>Heaven Is a Real Place</i> Whenever Billye Brim joins the BVOV broadcast, revelation flows! Gloria Copeland welcomes her as they discuss the reality of heaven and the hope of the believer.</p>				
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