

Believer's Voice of

VICTORY

KENNETH
COPELAND
MINISTRIES



April 2016

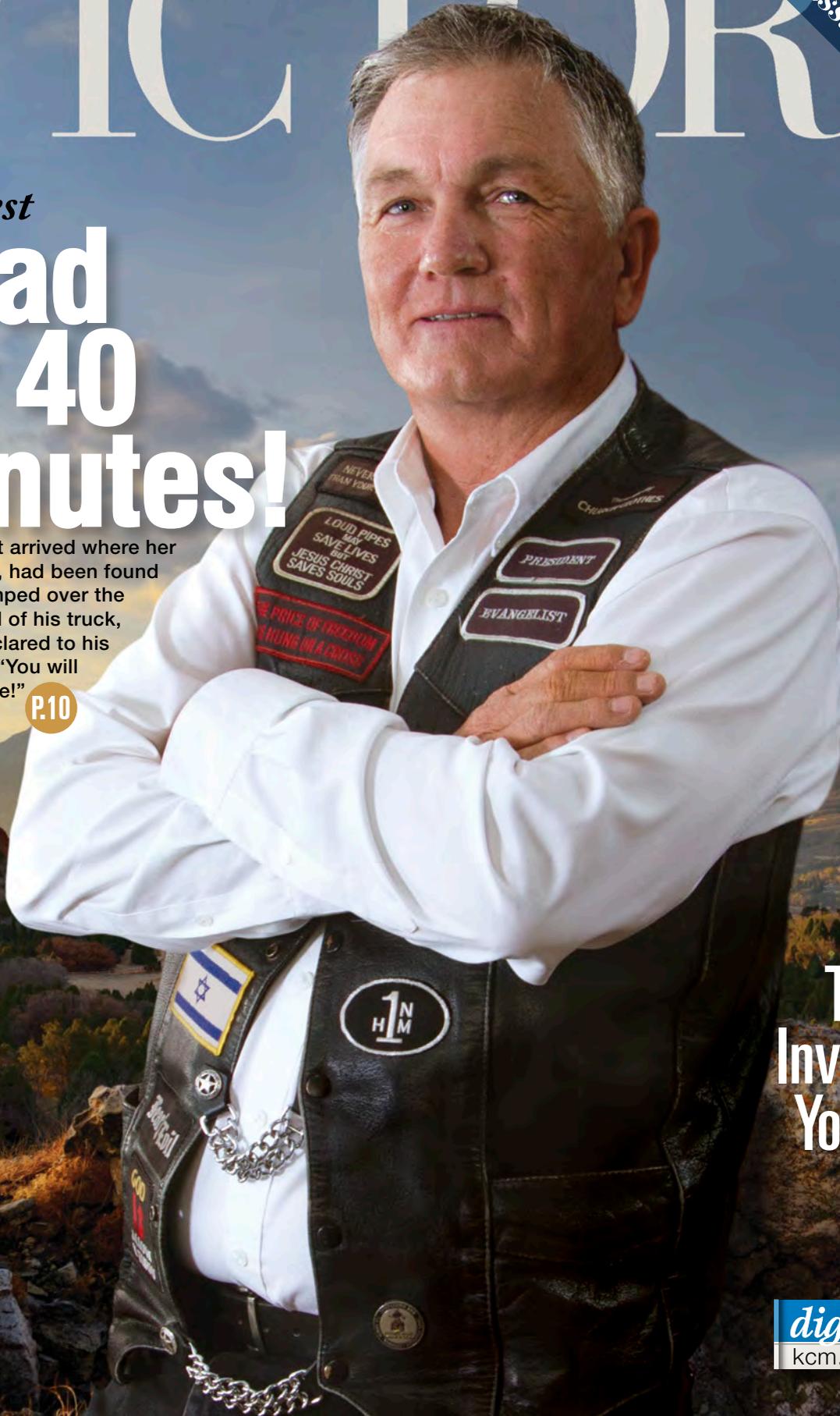
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Don West

Dead for 40 Minutes!

When Jill West arrived where her husband, Don, had been found dead and slumped over the steering wheel of his truck, she boldly declared to his lifeless body: "You will live and not die!"

P.10



A
Picture
of God's
Grace
*Kenneth
Copeland*

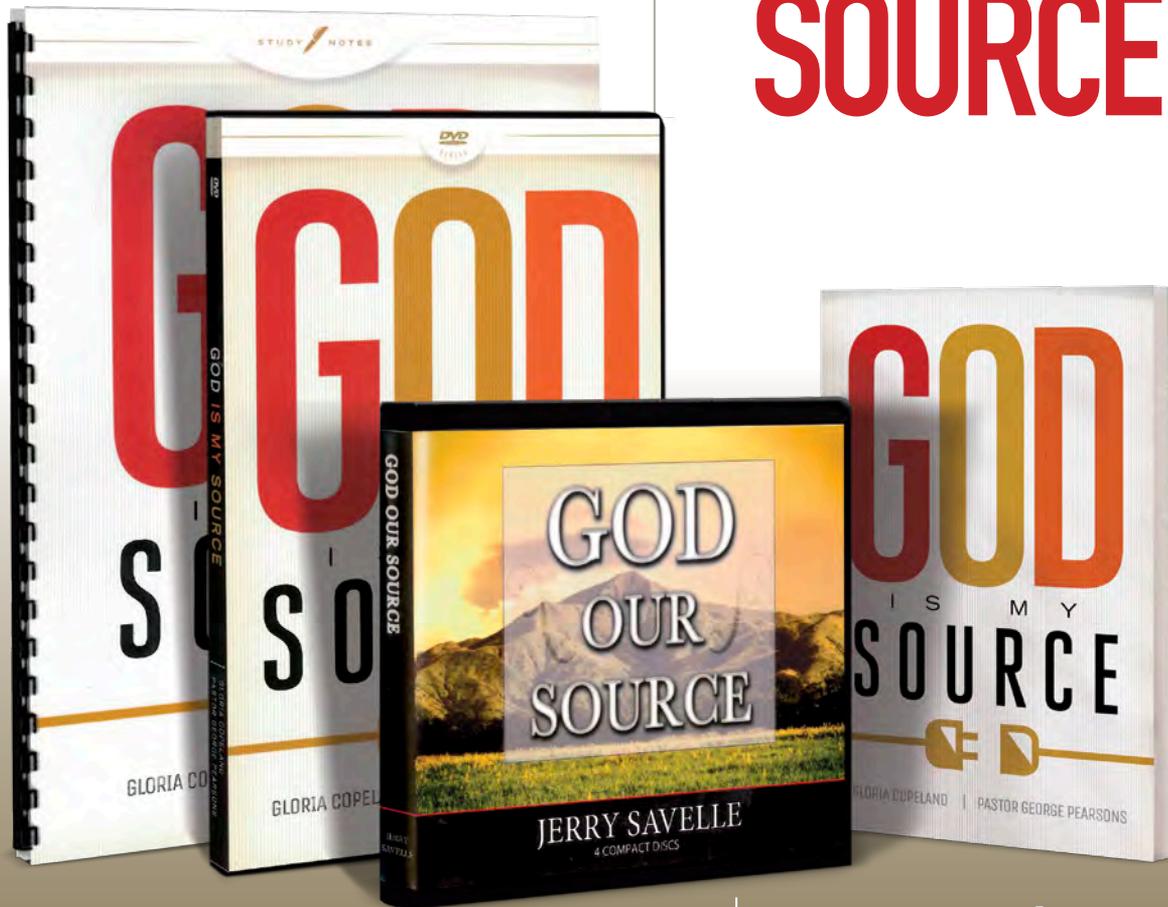
The Best
Investment
You'll Ever
Make
*Gloria
Copeland*

digital issue

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*“God Is my source”
is what you can
boldly decree
in every situation.*

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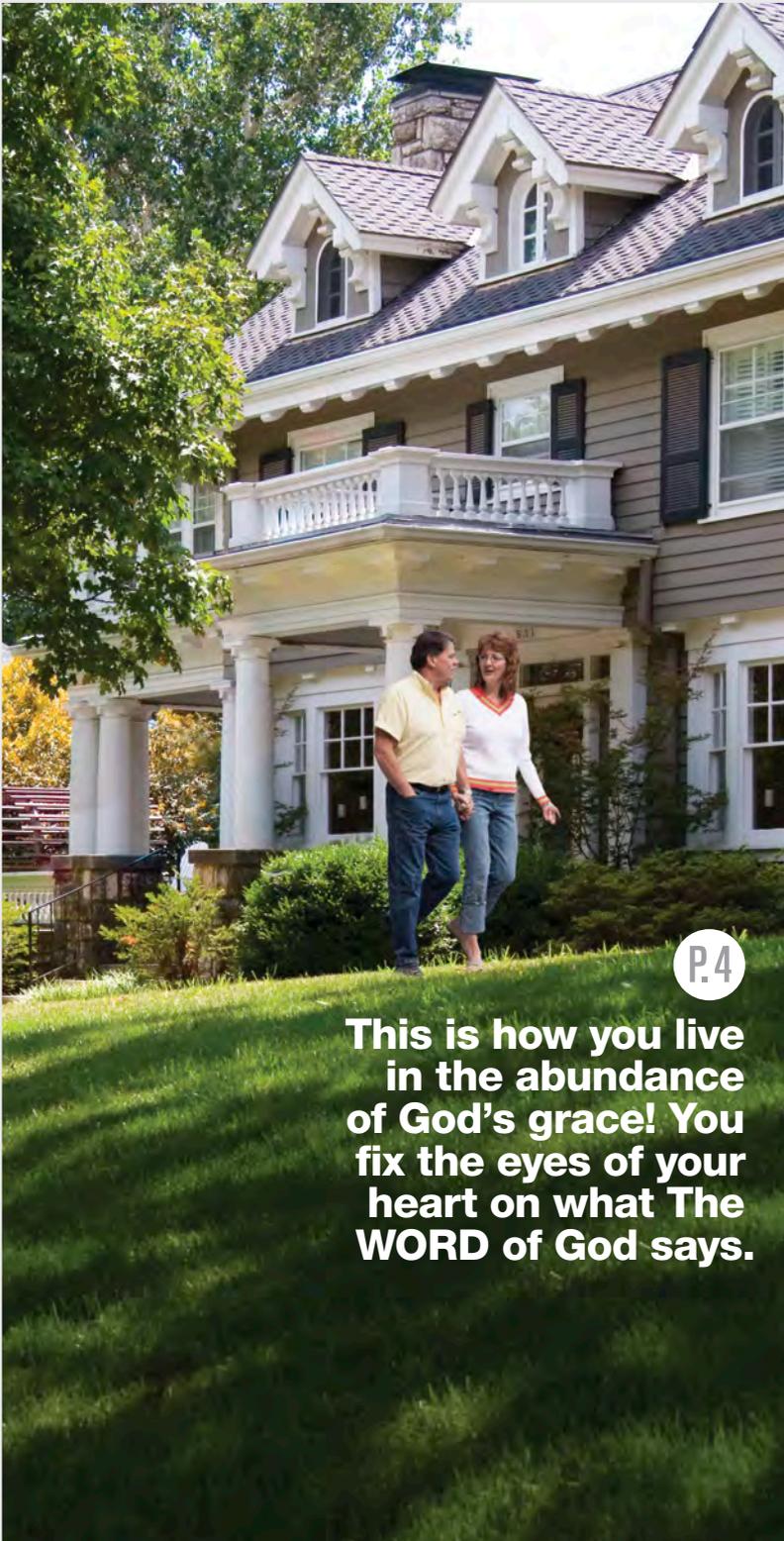
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April



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Gloria and I consider partnership a very sacred thing and are convinced that the principles of partnership are KEY TO VICTORY in these last days.



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It's a great way to recycle!



**“Grace...My overwhelming
desire to treat you like sin
never happened.”**



by Kenneth Copeland

A Picture of GOD's GRACE

One night Gloria and I were in the kitchen with the television on and a commercial caught my attention. You've probably seen it. It's an advertisement for some kind of restoration company. It begins with images of a house that's been gutted by a flood or a fire. Kitchen cabinets are destroyed. Carpet and furniture are ruined. The place is a mess.

Then the scene changes. Restoration crews in green uniforms show up at the house in green cars and trucks and go to work making things right again. In the final scene, the house looks brand new inside and the announcer says, "Like it never even happened!"

TV commercials don't usually excite me. But when I saw that one, I jumped straight up. It

reminded me of what The LORD said to me a few years ago when I asked Him to give me a working definition of the word *grace*. *Grace*, He'd said, *is My overwhelming desire to treat you like sin never happened.*

When I saw that commercial, those words went off in me like fireworks. I pointed to the TV and said to Gloria, "That's a picture of grace!"



When you walk in the fullness of God's grace, you can live in such BLESSING it's like sin never even happened. Here are some points to get you there:

- 1 Grace doesn't work in our lives automatically; we only experience its benefits when we receive it by faith. Romans 5:2
- 2 Faith is the secret to walking in THE BLESSING God's grace makes available to us. Romans 1:17
- 3 If we walk in faith like Abraham did we will be BLESSED with him. Galatians 3:9
- 4 Abraham developed strong, unstaggering faith by meditating on and confessing God's WORD. Romans 4:20
- 5 Think thoughts based on God's WORD and you'll grow stronger in faith and in grace. Isaiah 55:8-9

Grace completely redeems us from the gutting the devil and sin have done on us. It doesn't just cover sin over and put us back under some legalistic law. It doesn't just halfway redeem us. It turns us into new creations and makes us the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. It opens the door for us to live so fully in God's BLESSING, it's like sin never even happened.

"Brother Copeland, that sounds like a wonderful way to live. But if that kind of grace is available, how come I don't seem to be experiencing the full effects of it?"

Because grace doesn't just fall on us automatically, like a ripe apple off a tree. Although it's been freely provided for

is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17).

▶ "Cast not away therefore your confidence [or faith], which hath great recompence of reward" (Hebrews 10:35).

▶ "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham" (Galatians 3:9).

▶ "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we

citizens of the kingdom of God, and His written WORD is the Constitution of our government. His WORD—not the world—tells us who we are, what we have, what we can do.

Walking in the Steps of Abraham

What does The WORD tell us to do about living by faith? It says we're to be those who "walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had..." (Romans 4:12, *New King James Version*). It says, if we function in faith the way he did, we'll be BLESSED with him.

For the promise, that he should be

UNSTAGGERING FAITH IS ALWAYS FOUNDED ON WHAT GOD HAS SAID. IT'S ALWAYS GROUNDED ON THE WORD.

us in abundance through the plan of Redemption, grace only goes to work in our lives when we receive it. How do we receive it? By faith! As Romans 5:2 says, "We have access *by faith* into this grace wherein we stand..."

Faith is the secret to walking in God's grace! That's why the Bible repeatedly confirms how vital faith is to the life of a believer. It says so in one verse after another:

▶ "For by grace are ye saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8).

▶ "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it

might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:13-14).

Look again at those last two verses. Although they don't actually use the word *grace*, they give us a good description of it. Grace redeems us from the curse that's on this world through sin and empowers us to live in THE BLESSING of Abraham. That means when we're living by real Bible faith we can be BLESSED no matter what's happening around us.

We don't have to change our lifestyle when the world is going through bad times, because we're not tied to this world. We're citizens of heaven. We're

the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.... Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (as it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to

that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform (verses 13, 16-21).

Notice Abraham didn't try to get by on faith that was weak and wavering. He developed faith that was strong and untaggering. So, to walk in his footsteps, we'll need to develop that kind of faith, too—and we can do it if we'll do the same thing he did.

First, he based his faith on The WORD of God. He founded it on the promise God gave him that he and Sarah would have a son. In our lives, as in Abraham's, unstagginger faith is always founded on what God has said. It's always grounded on The WORD.

Second, Abraham refused to focus on natural conditions and contrary circumstances. He refused to fix his attention on his 99-year-old body and his 90-year-old wife, who'd been barren all her life. Instead, he fixed the eyes of his spirit on God's promise and walked "by faith, not by [natural] sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Third, he called things that were not, as though they were. He gave glory to God and called himself the "father of many nations," until he became "fully persuaded" God could and would do what He said.

Being fully persuaded is a powerful thing. It's more than just mentally assenting to God's WORD or knowing a lot of Bible verses about a situation. It happens in the spirit. You become fully persuaded when you meditate on The WORD and fellowship with God over it in worship and prayer until a lightbulb comes on inside you, and you say, "Oh, yeah! I've got it! That's mine!"

In addition to God's promise of a son, one of the things that made the

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we asked



What does God's grace mean to you?



Steven W.

Getting the revelation of God's grace

completely transformed my relationship with God—given my religious background was steeped in works and always feeling like I was under condemnation. Thank God for this teaching!

Jennifer A.

It's referred to as "Amazing Grace" for a reason! When I finally learned that God's grace was not about my own personal performance, it was really about allowing Him to preform through me, it set me free! No more pressure, no more guilt, shame or condemnation!



Vivian M.

Grace has little to do with what I do or don't do and and everything to do with what I allow the Lord to do through me. Once I realized that He is looking for availability, it left me free to receive His ability flowing through me. In Him, the results are marvelous!



Hayley R.

I am so blessed to have a God who wears "Love Glasses." He only sees us as pure, through the blood of Christ.

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lightbulb of faith come on for Abraham was the blood covenant God made with him. Before that happened, his faith kept wavering. But after God appeared in all His fiery glory, walked up and down in the blood of sacrificial animals, and made a covenant with him, saying, “Unto thy seed have I given this land” (Genesis 15:18), Abraham’s faith rose to a whole new level!

If a covenant ratified in the blood of bulls and goats could do that for Abraham, imagine what the New Covenant can do for our faith! Our covenant isn’t ratified in the blood of bulls or goats. Our covenant with God has been ratified in the precious blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Every mark the whip left on His body was a covenant mark. Every drop of

Isaac shall thy seed be called,” that he bound Isaac and put him on the altar, “accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (Hebrews 11:18-19).

There’s no scriptural evidence God had ever raised anyone from the dead at that point in time! Yet Abraham was certain God would raise up Isaac. He’d already seen it happen, “in a figure,” on the inside of him. Why was he able to see it? Because he was still walking by faith and not by natural sight. He was still doing the same thing he did when he became fully persuaded he and Sarah were going to have this boy in the first place.

He was meditating on God’s promise and His covenant BLESSING. He

receive her healing. She spent time meditating on what she’d heard about Jesus—about what He preached and the miracles He’d done. She spent time thinking, *If He healed those other people He can heal me.* Then she started saying, over and over, “If I but touch His clothes, I know I’ll be healed...If I but touch His clothes, I know I’ll be healed.”

The more she said it, the more she saw it. Until, finally, she couldn’t stand to sit there in her house anymore. Despite the fact that for years she’d gone to one doctor after another and only gotten worse, despite the fact that it was against the law for her to go out in public in her condition, she got out in the street and went to find Jesus.

She intended to just slip up to Him unnoticed—to crawl through the crowd and quietly get her healing. But that’s not what happened. When she touched the hem of His garment, He stopped and said, “Who touched Me?”

“And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague” (verses 32-34).

Come Up and Think God’s Thoughts

This is how you live in the abundance of God’s grace! This is how you walk in such victory and dominion in this world that it’s like sin never even happened! You fix the eyes of your heart on what The WORD of God says. You keep thinking it, talking it and seeing it “in a figure” on the inside, until God’s WORD comes to pass in your life just like it did for Abraham and the woman with the issue of blood.

Recently, I was preaching along these lines, and the word of The LORD came to me saying:

Don’t you remember I said in My WORD that My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts are higher than

This is how you live in the abundance of God’s grace! You fix the eyes of your heart on what The WORD of God says.

blood He shed was covenant blood shed for us. Think about that! Spend time meditating on the fact that you have a blood covenant with Almighty God and, like Abraham, you can have strong, unstaggering faith!

Out of the Ashes

Exactly how strong was Abraham’s faith?

It was so strong that, years after Isaac was born, when God told Abraham to offer him up as a sacrifice, Abraham was willing to do it. He was so confident God would fulfill His promise, “In

was talking about it. He was raising his son to believe it. (Isaac must have had faith for resurrection, too, because he was almost full grown when Abraham agreed to sacrifice him, and he apparently went along with the plan.)

Abraham had spent some time with this! With the eye of faith, he’d already seen how this situation had to turn out. He’d already seen Isaac come up out of the ashes. He’d already seen him raised from the dead.

If you read over in Mark 5 about the woman with the issue of blood, you’ll find she did much the same thing to

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your thoughts? I want you to come to the place where you and I are thinking and talking on the same plane. My thoughts are healed and well thoughts. My ways are prosperity beyond your wildest dreams.

Come up and think My thoughts with Me. Come up and act on My WORD with Me. I have set this up so that you and I can walk together and do things in this earth that, heretofore, people have thought impossible.

I'm not just saying this to preachers and those in full-time ministry, I'm talking to believers. I'm talking to the person who will take My word for it that "these signs shall follow them that believe...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18). I'm looking for people who would dare say, "Yes! Everyone I lay hands on recovers."

Right now you might be wondering, *Would The LORD really say that kind of thing to me?*

Let me assure you, He is saying it to you!

Every believer, including you, has Jesus' own faith on the inside of them. Every born-again child of God, including you, has His Name, His WORD and His Spirit. So quit staggering in your faith and wondering about it. Grow strong in faith by thinking like God does. Practice saying, "I lay claim to what God said about me in His written WORD. He said I am BLESSED and I'm a BLESSING, and I believe it. He said the sick recover when I lay hands on them, and I believe it!"

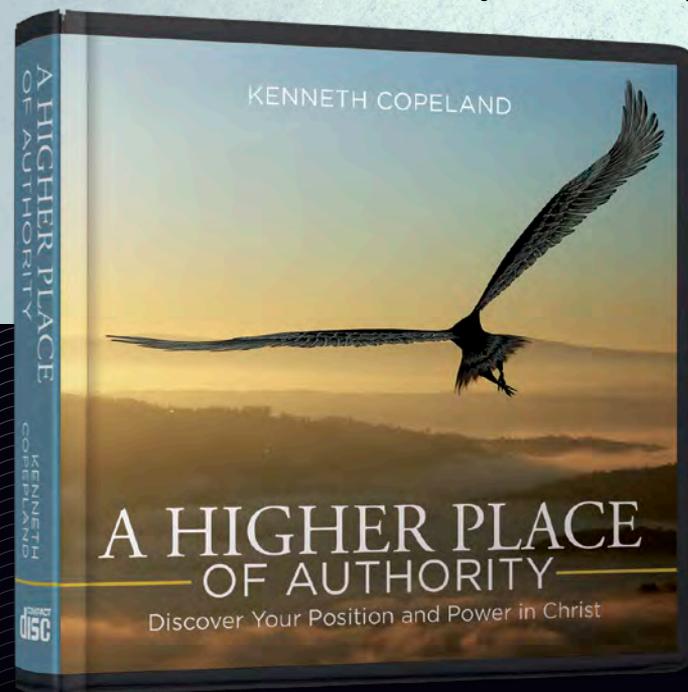
The more you think those things and say them, the clearer you'll see them on the inside of you. Before long, your faith will be so strong, you'll be itching to lay hands on people. You'll be walking so free from the curse and so surrounded by God's BLESSING you'll be like an advertisement for God's redemptive restoration program.

When people look at you, they can jump up like I did when I saw that commercial. They can say, "That's a picture of God's grace!"

Jesus won it all through mighty conquest over death, hell and the grave. He defeated the power of darkness and every principality, power, might and dominion in the earth and under the earth.

As a believer, in covenant with Him, that victory is yours. You

are a partaker of His divine nature, and now you have His authority over all the power of the enemy. Learn to walk in the fullness of your God-given authority over sickness, death, poverty, lack and fear, and to carry the good news of His overcoming love to a dying world. Live a new life of victory from *A Higher Place of Authority!*



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by *Melanie Henry*

Victory over Death

Don West leaned against the bar, sipping his longneck beer. It was a fall night in October 1993, and the band from Nashville, Tenn., was rocking. Don's 6-foot-3-inch frame towered over the crowd as he watched the dance floor. The beer was cold and the music hot. It didn't get much better than this.

So why did it feel like the walls were closing in on him? *What am I doing here?* Something seemed off. Wiping the sweat from his brow, Don felt the hair on the back of his neck lift as though someone was watching him. Turning around, his face slammed into the chest of the biggest man he'd ever seen. He was *huge*. Don looked up...and up...and up until he met the man's eyes.

"I don't know what I'm doing here," Don blurted. "I love the Lord."

"He knows that," the giant said. "He loves you too. He loves all of them," sweeping his arm toward the crowd on the dance floor. Don looked at where the man pointed for just a moment before turning back.

The massive man had disappeared.

Don left the bar and went home where he fell into a deep sleep. He dreamed he





APRIL

		Old Testament	New Testament
Fri	1	Deut. 34; Josh. 1	Acts 15
Sat	2	Josh. 2-4	Acts 16-17
Sun	3	Josh. 5-6	Acts 18
Mon	4	Josh. 7-8	Acts 19
Tue	5	Josh. 9-10	Acts 20
Wed	6	Josh. 11-12	Acts 21
Thu	7	Josh. 13-14	Acts 22
Fri	8	Josh. 15	Acts 23
Sat	9	Josh. 16-18	Acts 24-25
Sun	10	Josh. 19-20	Acts 26
Mon	11	Josh. 21-22	Acts 27
Tue	12	Josh. 23-24	Acts 28
Wed	13	Jdgs. 1-2	Rom. 1
Thu	14	Jdgs. 3-4	Rom. 2
Fri	15	Jdgs. 5-6	Rom. 3
Sat	16	Jdgs. 7-9	Rom. 4-5
Sun	17	Jdgs. 10-11	Rom. 6
Mon	18	Jdgs. 12-13	Rom. 7
Tue	19	Jdgs. 14-15	Rom. 8
Wed	20	Jdgs. 16-17	Rom. 9
Thu	21	Jdgs. 18-19	Rom. 10
Fri	22	Jdgs. 20-21	Rom. 11
Sat	23	Ruth 1-3	Rom. 12-13
Sun	24	Ruth 4; 1 Sam. 1	Rom. 14
Mon	25	1 Sam. 2-3	Rom. 15
Tue	26	1 Sam. 4-5	Rom. 16
Wed	27	1 Sam. 6-7	1 Cor. 1
Thu	28	1 Sam. 8-9	1 Cor. 2
Fri	29	1 Sam. 10-11	1 Cor. 3
Sat	30	1 Sam. 12-14	1 Cor. 4-5

was partying at the lake with his friends. The embers from a bonfire popped and crackled against the night sky. Don stood at the end of a dock, one foot on the pier and the other in a boat with Jesus. He looked back at the people partying around the bonfire. Then Jesus spoke.

Are you coming or staying?

Don sat up in bed, wide-awake, aware that Jesus had asked him a question and wanted an answer.

"I'm going with You, Lord," he said. "But I pray that You send me someone who knows Your Word."

Divine Connections

"Three days later I met Jill," Don remembers. "We'd both been married before and Jill had no interest in ever marrying again. However, we met in October 1993 and married in January 1994. We both loved God but Jill had received something more from Him. She'd been baptized in the Holy Spirit. I wanted what she had but the enemy kept reminding me of past mistakes. He assured me that I'd already blown it. It was too late for me.

"After our wedding, I felt someone touch my feet and the presence of the Holy Spirit moved all the way up my body. My hands were in the air and I tried to tell the Lord that I loved Him, but another language poured out of me—I was baptized in His Spirit! Even as it happened, I knew the Lord wanted us to start our marriage equally yoked."

During the mid-70s, long before Don and Jill had met, Jill's parents had given her some materials by Kenneth E. Hagin and Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Their teachings had shocked her! They taught about the goodness of God, His faithfulness and His promises. Working from home where she hand-engraved trophies, Jill listened to cassette tapes for eight to 10 hours a day. She spent years meditating on God's Word, allowing it to form so deeply within that when circumstances pressed her, faith spoke.

Jill's life had shifted again when she was called out of an audience

by Nora Lam who said, "You're supposed to go to China with me." Before fleeing Shanghai in 1958, Nora had refused to deny Christ while being tortured under Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution. Her book, *China Cry*, was later made into a movie.

God in a Box

On their way to China in 1985, they'd stopped to minister in Taipei, Taiwan, where hundreds of people had gathered to hear Nora's story. Jill had been handing out Bibles when Nora announced, "Americans, administer healing!"

"I was shocked," Jill recalls. "Then it seemed as if the throng of people disappeared and I only saw one woman. I thought she was crippled and was about to pray for her when, in the spirit, I saw Jesus walk up and clear His throat."

She's blind, Jesus said.

Jill looked into the woman's eyes and tried not to recoil. She didn't have any pupils.

Spit in her eyes.

"What?"

Would you just spit in her eyes?

Jill spit in her hands and then laid them over the woman's closed eyes. "I loosed her from the spirit of blindness and from all generational curses."

Moments later, the woman screamed. She described everything she saw to an interpreter, but she still didn't have any pupils. As Jill watched, a dot appeared in the center of each eye, circling like a computer processing, until a pupil had been formed.

I don't get it, Jill thought. I'm the same person from Henrietta, Texas, but all I've done there is pray for headaches.

You're all so civilized, Jesus said. You have Me in a little box and if I don't perform the way you think I should, you say it's not Me. I'm not allowed to do what I want.

"I'll let You out of the box!" Jill insisted. "I'm not into flakey but if You'll let me know it's You, I'll say or do whatever You tell me!"

In Manila, Jill ministered to an elderly man whose eyes were covered with thick cataracts. After she prayed, the cataracts melted and ran down his face like hot wax. Those miracles were so common that whenever someone on the team saw a person with cataracts they said, "Jill, we've got another one for you!"

Back home in Texas, Jill sat at her kitchen table and studied the Bible. "It says here that these signs will follow those who believe. I believe that through God, I can heal the sick and raise the dead! I walk in authority and anointing!"

Divine Reversal

Jill continued to pray for those the Lord put in her path until 1998, when she and two other women formed a ministry team. They met every Monday, praying in the spirit until they received direction from the Lord for the week. In March of that year, they were asked to pray for Carolyn, a woman in their church. Carolyn had been in a Dallas hospital for eight months. For the past four months, she'd been in a coma. Now the medical team was pressing her husband to turn off all life support.

The Lord instructed Jill and the two other women to go to the intensive care unit and declare *divine reversal*. He also instructed them not to be moved by what they saw. That was easier said than done. Carolyn, a petite woman who'd formerly weighed about 90 pounds, was mammoth. "I'd never seen a human head that large," Jill remembers. "It looked like she weighed 500 pounds. I had to snatch myself out of my mind and get over in the spirit."

In the ICU, the women prayed divine reversal over Carolyn, following all the Lord's instructions. The whole time her doctor stood in the hallway with his arms crossed.

"We left without a single manifestation of her healing," Jill explains, "but that night her kidneys

“What does partnership with this ministry mean to me?”



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and other organs started working. She lost 75 pounds overnight! Two weeks later when I went back to the hospital, her doctor took me to his office.”

“You don’t understand,” the doctor said. “Her death had progressed to the point that it was *irreversible!*”

“That’s right,” Jill said, “but God told us to declare *divine reversal!*”

“I’ve made it mandatory that all the nursing students go to her room to see a documented miracle,” he said.

But Carolyn’s healing wasn’t the only miracle.

“I was an atheist!” the doctor announced. “But now *I believe!*”

Carolyn is still well today.

Death Strikes Back

Don and Jill owned a small trucking business, hauling building supplies. No matter what time Don left for work, he and Jill made their faith declarations each morning. On Jan. 31, 2014, Don was ready to leave at 2 a.m.

“Our greatest blessing ever is coming to us today because great grace is upon us!” Don shouted. “This is the year of victory over death! Everything we’ve been believing for is coming today in Jesus’ Name!”

Jill shouted the same confession right back at him.

That afternoon around 3:30, Don called sounding breathy.

“Something’s wrong.”

“Where are you?”

“I’m at Jim’s Truck and Trailer.” After that, all she heard was a gurgling sound.

“Don!”

A man’s broken voice came over the phone. “Jill? It’s bad. Real bad.”

He’d been found slumped over his steering wheel...dead.

Jill drove to the scene without a single shred of fear. Climbing into the truck, she saw Don, purple and black in death.

“You shall live and not die!” Jill shouted. “You will declare the works of the Lord in the land of the living! No weapon formed against you will prosper! The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in your mortal body! The prophet of God has

spoken! This is the year of *victory over death!*”

When a fire truck and ambulance arrived, Jill said, “I’ll meet you at the hospital.” In the car she phoned KCM’s prayer department. When a man answered she shouted, “Listen to me! Get in agreement with me! Kenneth Copeland prophesied that this is the year of victory over death! My husband *shall not die!*” The man had put her call on speakerphone and she heard people shouting praises to God!

Jill’s daughter-in-law, Amy, arrived at the hospital first. She saw Don’s body on a gurney shoved up against a wall. His feet were purple. His arm, hanging off the side of the gurney, was black and purple. But that wasn’t what caused her own heart to lurch.

There was no resuscitation in progress.

Don had been without oxygen for 44 minutes.

They’d given up.

When Jill arrived at the hospital, so did the top cardiologist in the area. “Mrs. West,” he said, “I’m going to try and save him.”

“It felt like I was wrapped in Jesus,” Jill says. “I sat in that waiting room and used the sword of the Spirit, God’s Word, to slice and dice the spirit of death. I was in such a place with God that it seemed like only 15 minutes had passed when the elevator opened and the cardiologist stepped out.”

“He’s alive! He’s alive!”

Don’s largest coronary artery had a 100 percent blockage, which the cardiologist opened with stents. He was in the hospital for three days and every test came back negative. No brain damage. No heart damage. No death.

It was a miracle.

Faith for Finances

The Word of God brought Don West back to life and Jill never suffered a moment of fear. If her faith was going to stagger at anything, it would have been at the hospital bill of \$64,000. That didn’t include the doctor bills, cost of MRIs or rehab. She and Don remembered the words of their

confession that fateful morning, that everything they’d been believing for was theirs. They’d been believing to be debt free. In obedience to God’s Word, they refused to worry or fret. They refused to let it steal their peace.

Eighteen months later, Don and Jill had just returned from attending the 2015 Southwest Believers’ Convention when they received a call from the hospital.

“Someone has paid \$50,000 of your hospital bill!”

Shouting glory to God, Jill emailed Pastors George and Terri Pearsons to give them the praise report. Sunday morning, they made their usual hour and 40-minute drive from Wichita Falls to Eagle Mountain International Church. Pastor George opened the service by reading the email. Spontaneous praise erupted all over the sanctuary!

“I want everyone who feels led, to throw money at them!” Pastor George announced. Before it was over, they’d thrown \$6400. At the close of the service, Pastor Terri took the microphone. “I got a text from someone watching online who said they wanted in on the giving,” she explained. “They’ve thrown another \$10,000!”

Just like that, the hospital bill was paid in full, the cardiologist was paid in full, the rehab and all associated debts were wiped out.

“I attended the first convention that KCM held,” Jill recalls. “And in all the years since then, the only time I missed Southwest was 2006 when there was a death in the family. Even then, I watched it by live streaming. My faith is strong because I continue planting the Word in my heart. What does partnership with this ministry mean to me? KCM taught me how to bring my husband back from the dead!”

Don and Jill West aren’t resting on the laurels of yesterday’s faith. They keep sowing the living Word, replenishing their supply and sharpening their sword of faith. It is a vibrant, tangible manifestation of the power of God. It’s called ever-increasing faith. ♣

by
Billye
Brim



Cooperating with
HOLY
the
SPIRIT

June 29, 2008, in our Sunday afternoon corporate prayer meeting here on Prayer Mountain, we were praying enthusiastically about the upcoming presidential election. Suddenly, the Lord interrupted us with a strong word:

*One thing will save America.
And it is not the election.
It is an awakening to God!
One thing will avail for Israel
and the nations. It is an
awakening to God!*

The best person in the world could be elected president of the United States and it would do no good if the people do not awaken to God.

We were silenced. Even rebuked!

A spirit of repentance, for misplaced faith that a man or a party held the answers to America's condition, enveloped us.

Holy Spirit-guided thoughts raced through my mind: *The best person in the world could be elected president of the United States and it would do no good if the people do not awaken to God. America. American history. The Great Awakening. The place of prayer in an awakening. Study.*

And so I did. And ever since, I've shared the things gleaned in that study. The *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast with Gloria Copeland has allowed me to share those timely, life-changing instructions from the Lord, and the study that evolved.

By My Spirit, Saith the Lord

The Lord impressed us with this absolute necessity for an awakening—we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

A relatively small group of Jews came back from Babylonian captivity and were faced with the formidable task of building the second Temple. The word of the Lord came to Zerubbabel as to how it would be accomplished: "...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith [Jehovah] of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

The word *hayil* (might), which also means an "army," or "host," probably stands for the strength of many, while *koach* stands for that of "one man."

It is not by human strength—not of many, nor of one—but only by the power of the Holy Spirit that things of God are accomplished. Therefore we must learn to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. And cooperation always means, perhaps above all else,

yielding—whether as an individual, or as a corporate body.

In Our Individual Lives

Tremendous promises are given us regarding the Holy Spirit. For example: He abides in us (John 14:16-17). He teaches us (John 14:26). He speaks to us; He guides us and shows us things to come (John 16:13). He leads us (Romans 8:14). But all His wondrous doings in our behalf are predicated upon our yielding to Him. He's always teaching, always speaking, leading and guiding. But we must listen. We must yield.

Dr. George Washington Carver, the renowned scientist, born of a slave, is credited with saving the agriculture of the South. He is a wonderful example of listening and yielding to God. Rising early every day, he sat before the One he called "Mr. Creator," and learned secrets to bless mankind. In the book, *The Man Who Talks With the Flowers* by Glenn Park, Carver is quoted as saying:

There is literally nothing that I ever wanted to do, that I asked the blessed Creator to help me to do, that I have not been able to accomplish. It's all very simple, if one knows how to talk with the Creator. It is simply seeking the Lord and finding Him...all my life I have risen regularly at four o'clock and have gone into the woods and talked with God. There He gives me my orders for the day...when people are still asleep I hear God best and learn my plan... after my morning's talk with God I go into my laboratory and begin to carry out His wishes for the day.

Speaking at Macalester College in Minneapolis, Dr. Carver prophesied:

"...there is going to be a great spiritual awakening in the world...it's going to come from people...plain, simple people who know—not merely believe—but actually *know* that God answers prayer."

Cooperating With the Holy Spirit in a Meeting

A more literal translation of 1 Corinthians 12:1 would be, "Now concerning spirituals [things of and pertaining to the Holy Spirit], brethren, I would not have you ignorant."

The chapter then illuminates us regarding nine wonderful, supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, (special) faith, the gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, kinds of tongues, the interpretation of tongues (verses 8-10). Verse 11 declares, "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

Donald Gee, an early Pentecostal leader, said verse 7, which introduces the list of nine gifts, is the key verse to the chapter: "The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." Gee added that our meetings ought to be marked by manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

Ministers (preachers) need to yield to the Holy Spirit in their own preaching. We have been guilty of overriding promptings of the Spirit of God as we preach. I know, for I have done this.

There must also be place for the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's gifts. For according to God's plan and provision for our profit, there must be manifestations of the Holy Spirit—in our meetings as well as in our individual lives.

Maria Woodworth-Etter's meetings were known by great manifestations of the power of God. She gave a wonderful message on "How to Cooperate With the Holy Spirit in Meetings." You can find it posted on our website at billyebrim.org, but here are some excerpts from it:

We too often draw back, or compromise, and 'use wisdom' of the wrong kind, and are just as well satisfied when the power of God is not manifested so much, and the nice, quiet, imminently respectable, and precise modern Christians are not offended. We should be praying and looking for God to work more and manifest His power more, to draw back is not pleasing to God, and therefore, the marvels and miracles, the manifestations of His Presence and power are, to a great degree, lacking....

Meet the conditions. Come at peace with all the brethren, with love for God and man. Come with the desire that Jesus may be glorified. Meet together in one accord.

Lose sight of yourself and each other in the supreme desire that God should work, that He should manifest His power. Then pray the prayer of faith and something supernatural will happen. God will answer. His power will flow in and through you. He will give you fresh courage and enable you to do your part, to speak the word of God with boldness, and to give witness to the Resurrection with great power and the signs following will give positive and unmistakable evidence that the Lord is working with you. Fear and convictions will fall on unbelievers...His words must abide in us. Keep reading and practicing the New Testament teachings.... One case of healing in the Name of Jesus, accompanied by the knowledge of sins forgiven, and the peace which passes all understanding, is sufficient to demonstrate the divinity



“
The
future
of this
nation
is not in
the hands
of the
politicians.”

and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and therefore, convict and convince sinners.

The Lord has made me to know that to awaken the walking dead in the world, and even to awaken sleeping church members, a manifestation of His power must and, thank God, will come. We must know how to cooperate with it. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit. John G. Lake said, "Electricity is God's power in the natural, the Holy Spirit is God's power in the supernatural."

Prayer and Awakening

In studying awakenings, we saw that prayer always preceded them. And I am happy to report that the Spirit of prayer is enveloping believers everywhere in a way I have not seen in my life. The Lord has touched a prayer meeting we stream live every Wednesday at noon (CT) from Prayer Mountain. Thousands from more than 50 countries join in each week. Their letters and emails often speak of the strong sense of unity they feel with the knowledge we are praying together in faith for an awakening to God.

June 29, 2008, we began to follow the Lord by praying for an awakening. He has now further instructed us to pray for a manifestation of His power. 📌

There isn't a politician anywhere who is wise enough to guide this country safely through the challenges and threats it is facing these days.

Only God can do it. And it is prayer, not politics, that brings His power and wisdom on the scene.

—Kenneth



**Billye
Brim**

She is president and founder of Billye Brim Ministries aka Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks. For ministry materials and information go to billyebrim.org.



YOUR VOICE. YOUR VICTORY. YOUR MINISTRY.

GoodNEWSGazette

God Wouldn't Leave Us Without Work

In 2012, I got your magazine where it was written: "Your Exodus Has Begun." My husband's work was very hard with little salary and his boss wanted to fire him because he was a retiree. My husband tried to please him, saying: "If I left my work, it would be very difficult for us to live on our social support." Feb. 6, my husband was sent to Tashkent for a business trip. He felt sick and that day he didn't go, he took tickets for the next day. His boss called to Tashkent, learned that my husband was not there and fired him. There was a question: What shall we do? I answered: We have our God, and He wouldn't leave us without work. The next day there was a call, and my husband was invited to work that now is paid twice more (Zechariah 9:12). It is not hard and gives him pleasure. We are so grateful to God for this!

R.M. | Uzbekistan

"Take the time to open your Bible and meditate on what it says about that impossible situation you're facing." —Kenneth Copeland

God Has Provided

Just two weeks after partnering with Kenneth Copeland Ministries, God has given me His provision to buy an apartment in a few hours. We went to register the house and we've got it! Praise God for what He has done! What an amazing God we serve. Thank you, Kenneth and Gloria, for your prayers. E.M. | Andhra Pradesh, India

His Back Was Healed!

I prayed with a prayer minister last week about discomfort in my back after a fall. The Lord answered our prayer. Then, Sunday night while I was watching the EMIC service with Mark Hankins, the Lord healed my back of a separate issue that had been bothering me! Praise the Lord!

R.P. | Albany, Ga.



watch the service

emic.org/media/services

Pass It to God Like a Football

I called to request prayer for my daddy and his situation. I have been taking care of him for close to a year now, and we needed to sell his farm to be able to continue his care. We ran into all kinds of obstacles and hurdles when my brother and I began the process. I quickly became overwhelmed and called KCM for prayer. The gentleman who prayed for me said, "You don't know what to do here, so take this situation and pass it to God like passing a football to the quarterback, and He will run with it! This ain't God's first rodeo."

From that very day, the situation started to straighten out. People came together to help us, we got legal situations worked out, and it culminated with the sale of my daddy's farm, which brought 35 percent *more* than the mark we had to hit! Even the real estate agent was impressed. So many times I would remember what the prayer minister said, "Pass it to God like a football and He will run with it..." He did run with it, and brought it all the way home! Thank You, Father, for running with it. And thank you, KCM, for praying for me and giving me words to carry me through.

K.J. | Kentucky

'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God'

Today, during his message at the Southwest Believers' Convention, Keith Moore was preaching on, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). My uncle, who was like a second dad, just passed away and my aunt needed some additional money to buy her daughter a new car. We said we wanted to buy a car under \$10,000. By the leading of the Holy Spirit, I sowed \$100 into the SWBC during Jesse Duplantis' message, and at the same time, my mom's boss handed her an envelope with \$8,000. Thank You, Jesus. Take care of God's kingdom and He will take care of yours. Amen.

Carla A. | Rochester, N.Y.

A Great Big Thank You!

Just want to send a great big thank you! My husband and I, and three of our five children, attended the Southwest Believers' Convention on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for the first time ever. It was so amazing and wonderful to be immersed within such a large body of believers. The services were wonderful and we can't wait to go back... and stay longer. Love the way you are *so* strong and believing in your faith. God is great! Thank you so much. God bless you!

Susan W. | St. Peters, Mo.

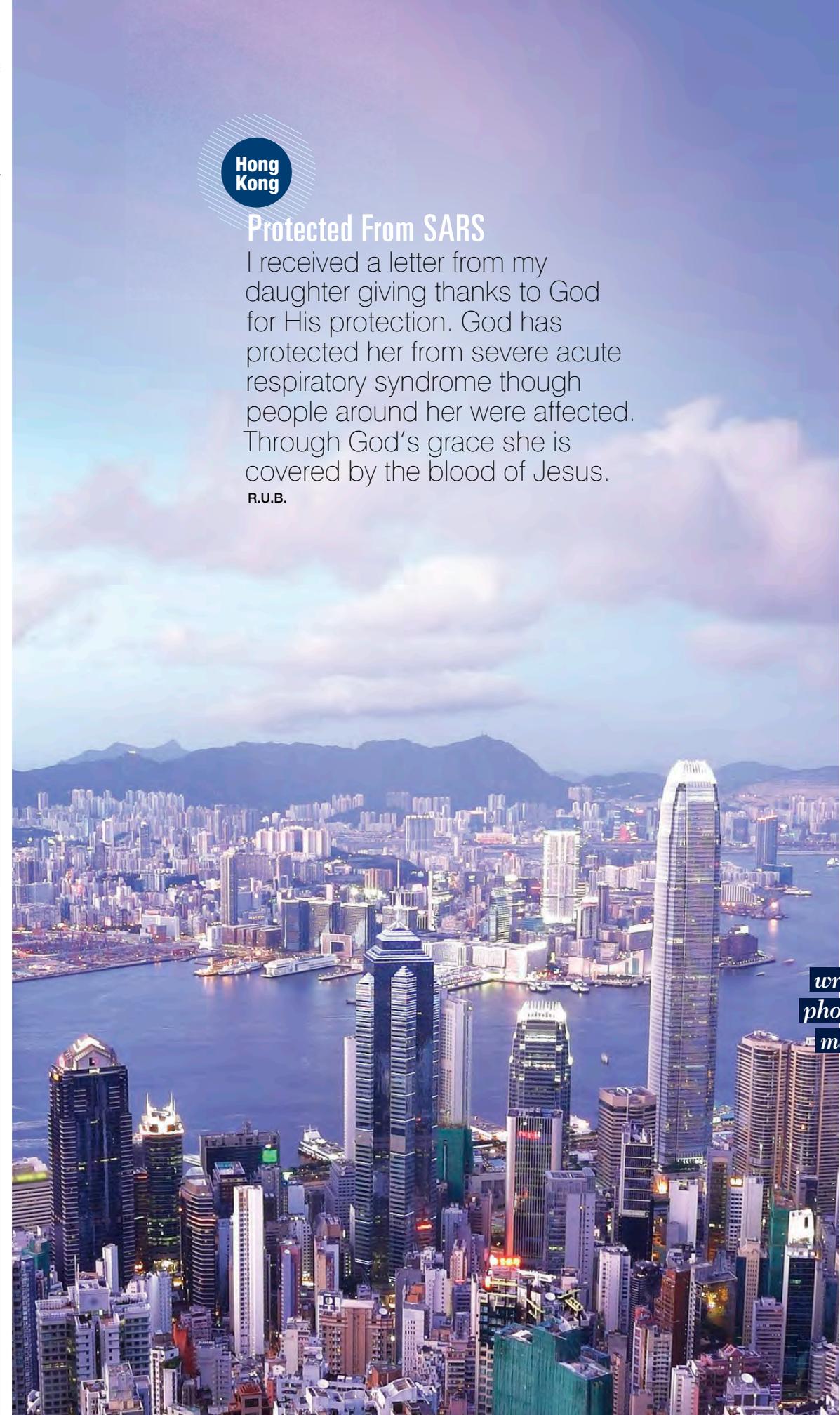


'Growing in the Word Like Never Before!'

Thank You, God! And thank you, Kenneth and Gloria,

for obeying and pressing on to distribute the Word through every medium possible. BVOVN Channel 265 is on our TV *every* day and we are growing in the Word like never before! Hallelujah! Amen.

The Myers | Michigan



Hong
Kong

Protected From SARS

I received a letter from my daughter giving thanks to God for His protection. God has protected her from severe acute respiratory syndrome though people around her were affected. Through God's grace she is covered by the blood of Jesus.

R.U.B.

salvation prayer

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

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

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

connect with us

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

and ask for offer #K0602

+44 (0)1225 787310

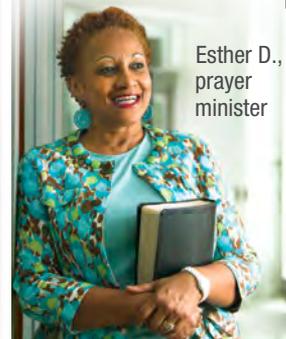
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Fear has been a spiritual bully far too long. Don't let it bully you. Stand up to it. Confront it. Go toe-to-toe, face to face, eye to eye with it. Learn how to...

Put Fear on the Run

The newspaper [in 2001] stood up and shouted at me from across the room.

Death to America
Death to Israel
We Have This Anthrax
Are You Afraid?

My response bypassed my thinking. I stood defiantly and pointed at the front page. The answer flew out of my mouth: “NO! I AM NOT AFRAID!”

I lifted my hand to my heart. Again, I spoke out loud: “No fear here. No fear here.” Over and over again: “No fear here.”

Fear approached me that day. Walked right up to me, waved its arms and shouted at me: “We have this anthrax. Are you afraid?”

My response to fear—our response to fear—must be to attack it. Nail it. Cast it out before it ever has the chance to dig in. If we don't, a newspaper headline will become another brick of fear in the fortress of terror.

Remember, we don't cope with fear, manage fear or put up with any fear anymore. We must enforce a “zero tolerance policy” against fear.

We must train ourselves to immediately act whenever fear comes knocking. We must learn to do what Jesus did—confront fear and cast it out. We must learn how to put fear on the run.

A Coward Named Fear

Look at James 4:7. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Since the devil is at the root of all fear, we can say, “Resist fear and fear will flee from you.” One dictionary defines *flee* as “running away as in terror.”

Remember the bully in school? As long as we allowed him to intimidate us, we were paralyzed. But, the moment we challenged him and won, he backed off. We discovered that down deep, he was a coward.

Fear is a bully—and a coward.

Unchallenged, the bully will have his way.

To effectively defeat him, you will have to stand toe-to-toe, face to face

and eye to eye with him. You will have to confront him, resist him, oppose him, attack him. *The New English Bible* translation of James 4:7 says for us to “stand up to the devil and he will turn and run.”

Think about David and Goliath.

Goliath had the entire army of Israel frozen in a state of fear—until David showed up. David stood toe-to-toe, face to face and eye to eye with fear himself. His covenant was his defense, his words were his weapons. Fear was confronted and defeated—its head was removed. As a result, the Philistine army turned coward and “ran in terror.” David put fear on the run.

Satan came to terrorize Jesus in a desert confrontation. He waited until Jesus fasted 40 days, thinking he would hit Him at His weakest moment. Not so. Jesus confronted the temptations with the most powerful weapon against fear—His faith-filled words.

“It is written!”

“It is written!”

“It is said!”

“And when [fear] had ended all the temptation, he departed from Him for a season” (Luke 4:13, *21st Century King James Version*). That coward ran in terror. Why? Because Jesus stood against him. Toe-to-toe. Face to face. Eye to eye.

Jesus stood up in the boat during the storm and confronted fear. “Peace, be still!”

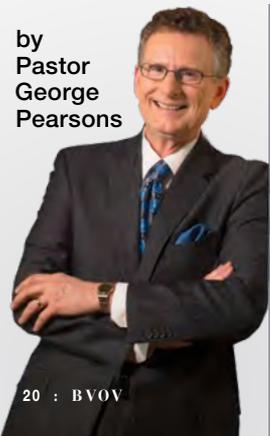
Jesus stood up against death and confronted the evil report to Jairus. “Fear not. Believe only.”

Jesus stood up to a legion of devils running toward Him at Gadara. “Come out of the man thou unclean spirit.”

Jesus confronted and resisted fear. He put fear on the run with His greatest weapon—words. You and I confront and resist fear the very same way, by speaking faith-filled words.

The understood subject of James 4:7 is the word *you*. *You* resist fear and fear will turn and run. Let me paraphrase Mark 11:22-23: “Have faith in the love of God which casts out all fear. Whosoever shall stand up to fear and say, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea, and shall believe that what he says shall

by
Pastor
George
Pearsons



come to pass, he will be entirely free from fear.”

You and I have the same authority Jesus had to speak to fear. Our faith-filled words will pick up fear and cast it into the sea. Think about the professional wrestlers you may have seen on TV. The champion picks up his opponent and throws him out of the ring. Got the picture? When we speak to fear, we do the very same thing.

Our words eat away at fear’s life force. We chew it up and spit it out with our words. Sound crude? Just read my paraphrased version of Isaiah 41:15: “Beloved, I will make you to be a new, sharp, threshing instrument which has teeth (sounds like our mouths). You shall thresh fear and beat it small. You shall make fear like chaff. You shall winnow fear and the wind shall carry it away. The whirlwind shall scatter fear and you will rejoice in the Lord. You shall glory in the Holy One of Israel.”

Showdown in Guatemala

I remember full well the day Terri and I confronted and resisted a paralyzing onslaught of fear, and won! Except this time, it didn’t happen while reading the cover of a newspaper in my mother’s living room. It happened while lying facedown on a remote road in Guatemala caught in a firefight between communist guerrillas and Guatemalan military.

At the time, I was publications director and Terri was the television producer at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. We were sent to Guatemala to report on a KCM-supported outreach.

During our stay, we traveled to a small village to conduct a ministry campaign. It took many hours on small, winding roads to get there. While driving over a hill, we noticed some activity ahead. As we approached, we realized it was a military roadblock.

Our driver pulled out a small pistol and handed it to the woman sitting in the back seat with Terri and me. She stuck the pistol in her knee stocking. We began to wonder what was going on.

The driver pulled up to the roadblock, stopped and rolled down his window. Questions were asked, answers given and

we were allowed to pass through—only to be stopped again by another soldier.

This time we were ordered to get out of our vehicles. These people weren’t officials making a routine check. They were rebel communist guerrillas noted for their reputation as thieves, kidnappers and killers.

As soon as we stepped out, gunfire exploded. We froze. For a moment we were stunned as our once quiet ride was interrupted by the noise of machine guns.

What we hadn’t realized was that we had been followed by a truckload of Guatemalan military who had opened fire when they spotted the guerrillas.

We came to ourselves when our host leader yelled, “Hit the dirt!”

Terri was still standing, looking around, obviously very interested in what was happening. I put my hand on her head and shoved her to the ground. We were now caught in the crossfire of guns and grenade launchers.

We felt the dirt fly up around us as bullets hit the ground. The full force of fear moved in. It had a chokehold wrapped around my heart.

Rapid-fire thoughts attacked my mind.

Why did I even come here? I could be home.

I wonder what it feels like to be shot.

I had a vision of the face of my then 2-year-old daughter and thought, *Aubrey can’t grow up without a daddy.*

My heart was pounding so hard it lifted me off the ground with every beat.

Fear on the Run

But only a moment later, fear was on the run. Why? I heard someone praying in tongues. That was all I needed. My heart stopped pounding. My thinking became clear. Courage took over as I shouted in tongues. We all caught on. Taking our authority over the devil, we commanded the gunfire to stop.

We confronted fear with faith-filled words.

Toe-to-toe. Face to face. Eye to eye.

And it worked!

The gunfire stopped. The guerrillas ran into the jungle. The Guatemalan military sped by us. We got up and looked around. It was quiet once again. The storm was over. Fear was gone—vanished. It ran from us in stark terror.

We found out later that people were killed that day. But every one of our team made it. That evening, I reread Psalm 91 in a fresh light. It took on a new meaning. “Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day.”

You and I confront and resist fear... by speaking faith-filled words.

Fear showed up. We confronted it with faith-filled words. And the coward turned tail and ran. Score another victory for Jesus!

Now, It’s Your Turn

What fears are you facing today?

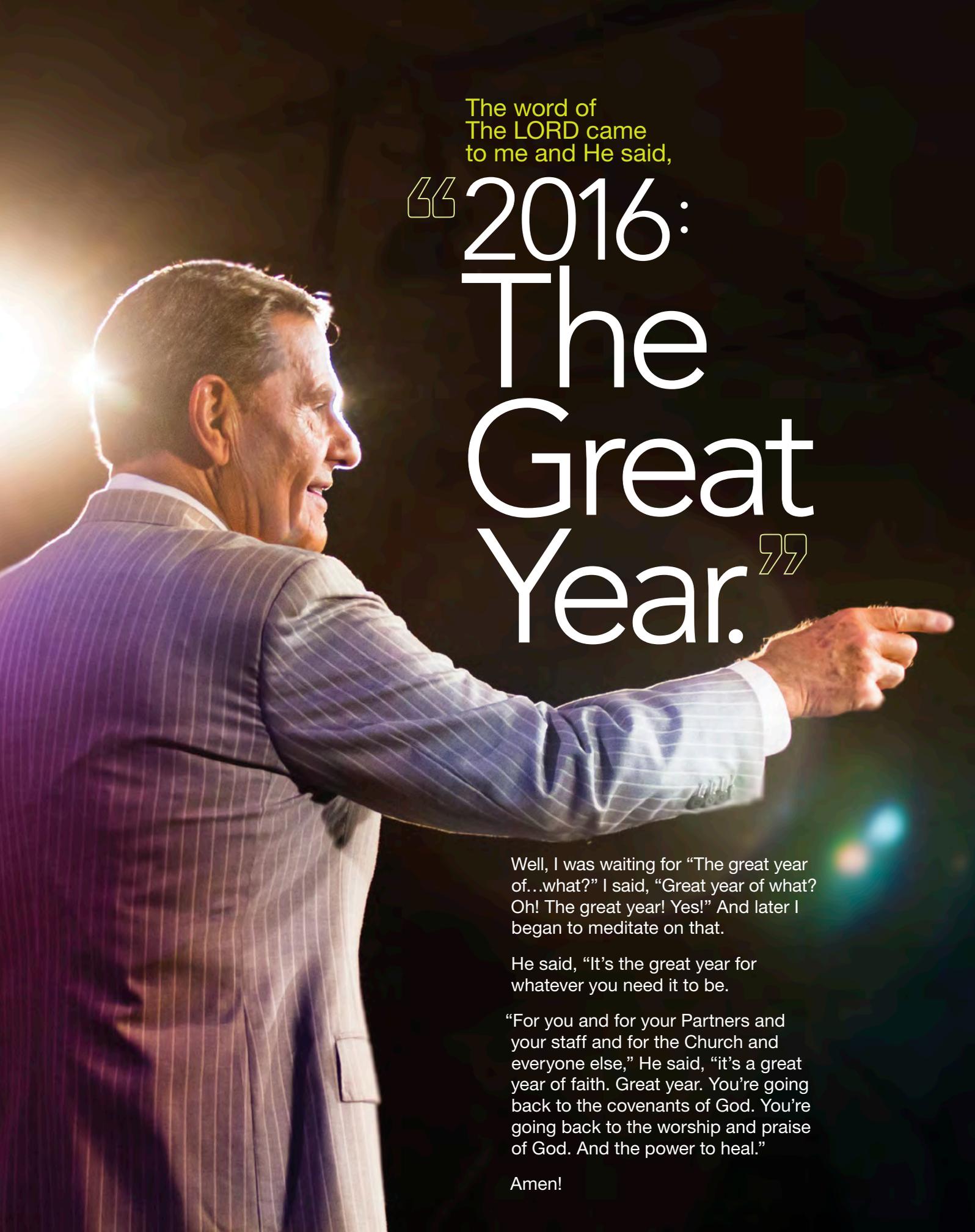
What bully has you terrified?

Stand up to fear! Confront it. Oppose it. Resist it. Attack it. Toe-to-toe. Face to face. Eye to eye. Put fear on the run. Speak to it, “Fear, in Jesus’ Name, I command you to leave my presence. The Lord is my Helper and there is no fear in love. I cast you out of my life.”

Write down fear-free scriptures and confess them often. As you do this, courage will rise. You will confidently put your hand over your heart and boldly say, “No fear here. No fear here. No fear here.”



Pastor George is senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For more information or ministry materials go to emic.org.



The word of
The LORD came
to me and He said,

“2016:
The
Great
Year.”

Well, I was waiting for “The great year of...what?” I said, “Great year of what? Oh! The great year! Yes!” And later I began to meditate on that.

He said, “It’s the great year for whatever you need it to be.

“For you and for your Partners and your staff and for the Church and everyone else,” He said, “it’s a great year of faith. Great year. You’re going back to the covenants of God. You’re going back to the worship and praise of God. And the power to heal.”

Amen!



Faith Is...

Superkids, I am excited about the next three months!

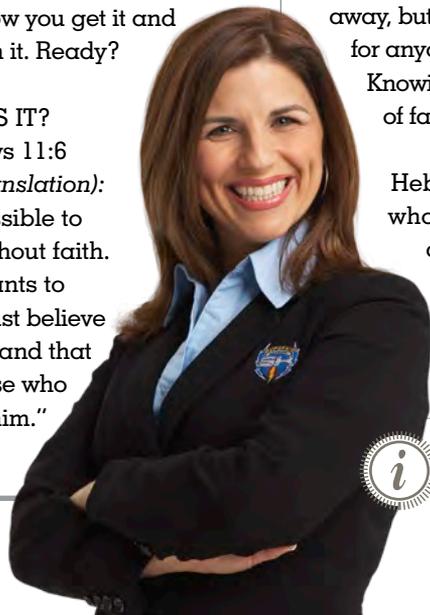
We will be digging into the Word of God to learn about FAITH. Like many of you, I was raised in a household and an atmosphere of faith. Faith was, and is still, a way of life to me.

But what is faith?

When I was your age, my quick answer would have been, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." That is certainly a correct and biblical (Hebrews 11:1) answer. Good job if you have that memorized, but does it bring any real understanding of what faith is?

Superkid, I want you to not only understand what faith is, but be able to explain it to someone else. So we are going to look at three things: what faith is, how you get it and how you walk in it. Ready?

FAITH: WHAT IS IT?
Look at Hebrews 11:6 (New Living Translation): "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."



Kellie Copeland Swisher

This tells us two things.

One, that God requires faith from us. And I know you want to please God, Superkid! So right now make a decision and say this out loud, "I AM A FAITH PERSON; whatever that means and whatever I have to do, I will do!" Superkid, that decision is life-changing. Congratulations! You are on your way.

The second thing is, there are two starting steps in your walk of faith. Step 1 is to believe that God exists. Did you know that every Christian qualifies for step 1? Even many people who are not Christians believe that God exists. I know you believe it, but without step 2 you can't walk in faith. If all you know about God is that He exists, then you may not know how much He loves and cares for you, or that He wants to answer your prayers. Superkid, God rewards those who look for Him with their whole heart. He is not a God who is far away, but One who is always there for anyone who looks for Him.

Knowing this is the beginning of faith.

Hebrews 11 tells us of people who knew that God was God and that He would reward them. If we dig more, we find the real key to understanding faith.

Look at some of these faith heroes and you will notice something. Noah obeyed what God SAID; Abraham obeyed when God CALLED; Isaac, Jacob and Sarah believed His PROMISE. They all believed what God SAID. If you say, "I have faith in God," then that means you know God loves you and that He wants to answer your prayers. You trust Him to do what He says He will do for you.



For example, you could believe that I, Commander Kellie, exist (and I hope you do), but what good does that do you? You could believe I am going to give you a new bike. But why do you believe that? You might wish it, but if I didn't tell you I was giving you a new bike, then you can't trust or have faith in me that I will.

But if I SAY I will give you a bike, you can count on it. You can BELIEVE my PROMISE. How much more we can believe what God says!

It's this simple: God makes you a PROMISE in His Word, then you BELIEVE what He SAID, then you ASK in FAITH. What happens then? You RECEIVE!

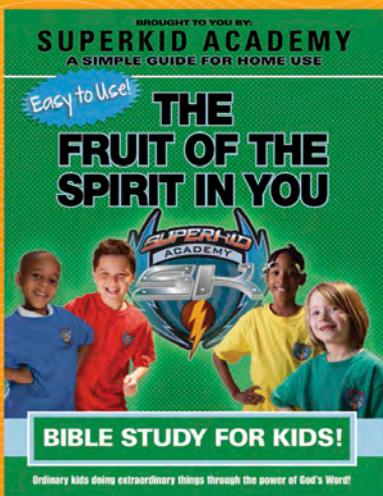
Next month: Faith and how you get it.

STAY TUNED! ♥

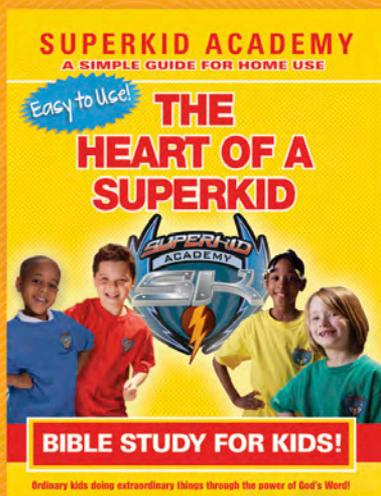
An outreach minister at Kenneth Copeland Ministries, she is the developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ.

Parents, Get in the Game!

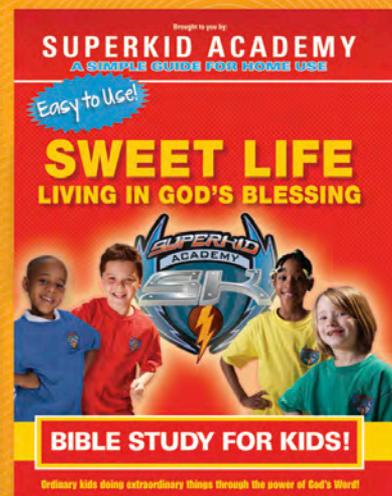
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A lot of people have been wondering lately if there's any such thing as a safe investment anymore.

From a natural perspective, it's hard to tell. The world has been on such an economic roller coaster the last several years, even financial experts are left scratching their heads over what might happen next.

As unpredictable as the natural economy might be, however, there's one investment you can make that's always guaranteed. Regardless of what's going on in the world, it will consistently produce rich dividends. It will make you a success and bring you great BLESSING in any kind of economic climate.

What kind of investment could possibly provide such surefire returns?

The Word of God.

Investing your time in the Word is the wisest move you can ever make. It's the secret to living in certain victory even in the midst of an uncertain world. If you fill your heart with God's

Word about prosperity, you can prosper even when the market plunges. If you fill your heart with His Word about healing, you can be healed, even when the doctor says you can't. If you fill your heart with the Word about your inheritance in Jesus, even when the world is going through times that are anything but heavenly, you can enjoy "days of heaven upon the earth" (Deuteronomy 11:21).

"Yeah," someone might say, "but you have to remember we're living in the last days and even the Bible says that in the last days things are going to get bad."

I know. That's why we need to spend time in God's Word! We need it to counteract all the



With enough of the Word in your heart, you can be BLESSED in good times and bad. Here are some points to get you there:

- 1 Even when the world is going through bad times, God's will for us is good. Psalm 145:9
- 2 Faith to receive the good things God has for you comes through His Word. Romans 10:17
- 3 Invest in the Word by spending time in it and putting it first place in your life. Proverbs 4:20-21
- 4 Don't wait for God to chase you down and speak to you; go after His Word. James 4:8
- 5 There's nothing more beneficial you can do than invest your time in God's Word. Galatians 6:7-8





**As unpredictable
as the natural
economy might be,
however, there's
one investment
you can make
that's always
guaranteed.**

negativity we're seeing and hearing around us. We need it to overcome all the bad news and lies of the devil we're being told. Now, more than ever, we need it to remind us that, no matter how bad things might get in this world, God's will for us is always going to be good.

The Bible confirms it time and again. It says:

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

"The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him" (Psalm 103:17).

Good relationships require communication.

If you want to get to know God, you have to spend time with Him in His Word.

"The Lord...daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation" (Psalm 68:19).

"As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

No question about it: Our God is a good God! He's so lovely and kind and full of mercy, we can't wrap our natural minds around it. The only way we can even begin to see the magnitude of His goodness is by letting Him speak to us through His Word by the voice of the Holy Spirit.

I'll be forever grateful that our God is a speaking God, won't you? Listening

to someone talk is how you get to know them. If you have friends who don't say much, you can't develop a very good relationship with them.

Good relationships require communication. If you're a wife, that's how you get to know the man you've married. If you're a husband, that's how you get to know your wife. You communicate with each other. You spend time together.

In much the same way, if you want to get to know God, you have to spend time with Him in His Word. If you want to experience all the good things He's prepared for you, you have to communicate with Him about them. You have to hear what He has said to

you in the Scriptures and treasure His words in your heart, and then speak those words with your mouth to put them to work!

It takes faith to receive from God, and Romans 10:17 says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." But faith doesn't come to you as a result of the Word *I've* heard. Faith comes to you as a result of the Word *you* hear and do. It comes because you've followed the instructions in Proverbs 4:20-23: "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Taking the First Step

Notice, according to those verses, the first step to investing in the Word is this: You *attend* to it. That means you "pay attention" to it. You focus on it. You don't give all your attention to the newspaper. You don't spend all your time watching television and listening to what other people are saying. You put the Word first place in your life.

How exactly do you go about that?

Start by making the Word your final authority. Determine that whatever you see there, that's the way it is. What God says goes.

Don't try to make His Word fit with what you've experienced in the past or what you've been taught. Believe God's Word without qualification. When you see in the Scriptures that God's tender mercies are over you, believe it! Put your faith in God's mercy to cause you to succeed in whatever you do.

The second thing you must do to put the Word first place in your life, is to plan your schedule around it. Make time in the Word your top priority every day. Granted, this will take a lot of determination. Like all of us, you have a lot of other things competing for your time. So if you're going to fellowship with God in the Word on a daily basis, you can't be haphazard about it. You have to be disciplined and committed.

You also have to be ready to fight off the attacks of the devil. He'll always encourage you to do anything with your time except spend it in the Word. The devil doesn't want you in the Word because it makes you free from his dominion. It equips you to keep him under your feet.

Satan would rather you do good deeds—take potato salad to the church picnic, bake cakes for the bake sale or whatever—than spend time in the Word because, although those are nice things to do, they won't guarantee you victory. They won't make you an overcomer. The Word of God will!

"But Gloria, I'm a businessman. I just don't have time for the Word."

You'd have time for it if you realized how much being without it has cost you. If you knew how many mistakes

you've made—how much time you've had to spend in the lawyer's office, or the banker's office, trying to straighten out some problem you got into because you weren't walking in the wisdom of God's Word—you'd realize you can't do without it.

There's not anything more beneficial to you than attending to God's Word, because that's where your success is in every area of life. So do whatever it takes to spend time in the Word every day. If you have to get up early in the morning, do it. If you have to go to bed later at night, do it. Whether you're a businessman, a doctor, a homemaker or a construction worker doesn't matter. If you want to succeed, you've got to have the Word. It's vital to your well-being and necessary for your victory!

Invest Fully in the Word

You don't have to limit your investment to just the amount of Word you can fit into your daily devotional time, either. Proverbs 4:20-21 says to incline your ear to the Word and *keep it* in front of your eyes to the point that it's always in the midst of your heart.

Although that might sound hard to do, with the technology available these days, it's actually easy. In addition to reading your Bible at home and going to meetings where you can hear the anointed Word being preached in person, you can listen to the Word in your car, on your CD player, your smartphone or whatever other device you use. You can even turn on the television or the computer and watch Word-filled broadcasts like *Believer's Voice of Victory*.

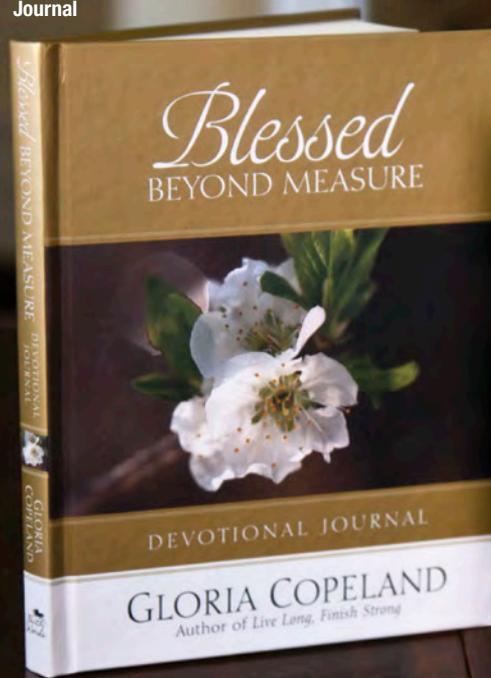
Back when Ken and I first started putting the Word in our hearts, we didn't have all those resources available to us. We could go to meetings, of course, (although there weren't nearly as many people preaching the word of faith then as there are now) and we could read the Bible. But other than that, the only way we could hear the Word was by listening to messages by Brother Kenneth E. Hagin on a big box-like tape recorder that played reel-to-reel tapes.

For months, we spent almost every

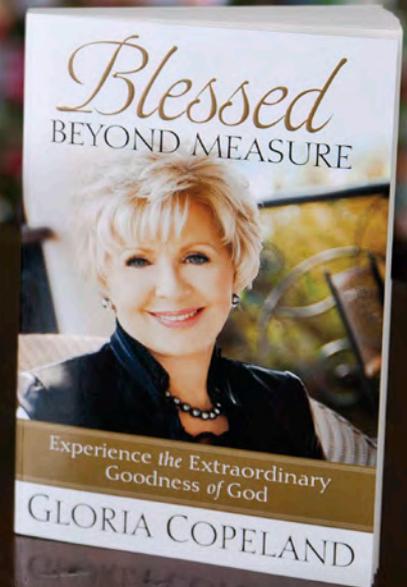
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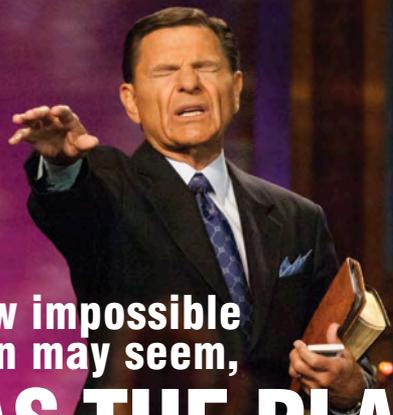
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available waking moment listening to those tapes. We so immersed ourselves in them, we lost track of everything else going on in the world. We didn't know what was on television or what was showing at the movies. We didn't know anything except the Word of God. I'm sure the world went through several crises we never even heard about.

In those days, we didn't have enough money for me to go with Ken when he went out preaching, so I stayed home with the children. They were just toddlers back then, and since I didn't get much opportunity to get out and see anyone else, I didn't have a lot of fellowship with other believers. But I didn't care. I was in revival all by myself.

I was finding out about the integrity of God's Word. I was learning I could count on His Word the same way I count on the word of a trusted friend. I was seeing in the Scriptures and hearing from Brother Hagin that God means what He says, and if I believe His Word it will work for me.

That was the best news I'd ever heard!

To me, studying the Word was like being on a treasure hunt. I made it my first priority and stayed with it. Sure enough, the time I invested paid off. One day, right there at home all by myself, something happened in my spirit. I got to the point where the Word was in my heart in abundance.

From then on, things began to change fast! The mountains of negative circumstances in my life began to move. Our family began to walk in healing. We were able to pay off the massive debts we owed. We started to prosper.

Your Desire Follows Your Attention

I would have never seen those kinds of results if I'd just spent a little dab of time in the Word. A little dab won't do it! It takes a lot of the Word to live in divine health. It takes a continual, constant inflow of the Word to live in divine prosperity and BLESSING.

Why? Because we have an outlaw to deal with. His name is Satan. He's continually trying to kill our bodies and steal from us. Although we have authority over him, to consistently exercise that authority we have to

stay spiritually strong—and to stay spiritually strong, we have to continually feed on God's Word.

In other words, we can't be lazy. We can't just sit around waiting for God to chase us down and speak to us. Chasing us down is not God's responsibility. On the contrary, the Scripture says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8); "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). God has already made His move by making the Word available to us. Going after it is our responsibility.

"But Gloria, somehow it seems like I've just lost my desire for the Word."

Then get it back!

Your desire follows your attention, so you can change your desire by changing where you put your attention. I've found in my own life, I can stir up my desire for the Word in one day's time. All I have to do is say, "OK, I'm going to spend some extra hours studying the Word today. I'm going to set aside everything else and spend time fellowshiping with God."

One of my favorite ways to stir up my hunger for the Word is by going to a Believers' Convention. Many times, when the convention starts on Monday, I have other things on my mind. I might have a project I'm working on at the office and I'll think to myself, *Sometime on Tuesday, I'll call and check on that to see how things are going.* But I end up never making the call. By Monday night, after spending a whole day hearing the Word and worshipping the Lord, I'm not thinking about that project anymore. All I have on my mind is what God has been saying to me.

Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

It's impossible for the Word of God to fail. When it's invested in properly, it always produces marvelous returns. So become a big-time spiritual investor. Make major deposits of the Word in your heart. In any economy, it will be the wisest investment you'll ever make. The dividends are wonderful! 🍷



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& Gloria
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Kenneth & Gloria Copeland



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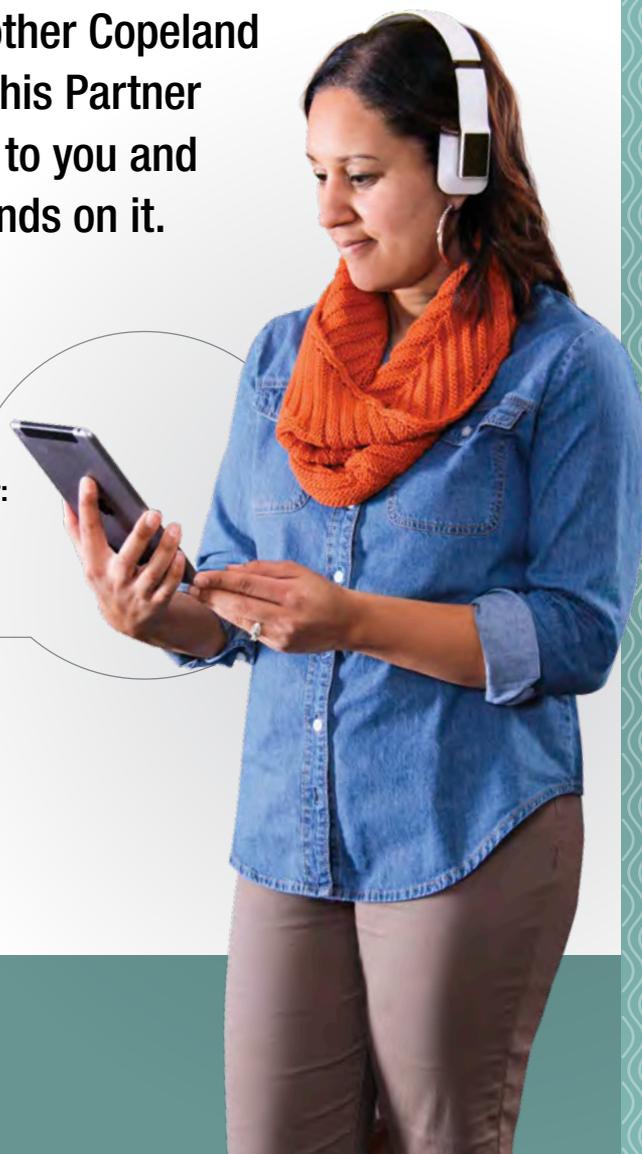
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