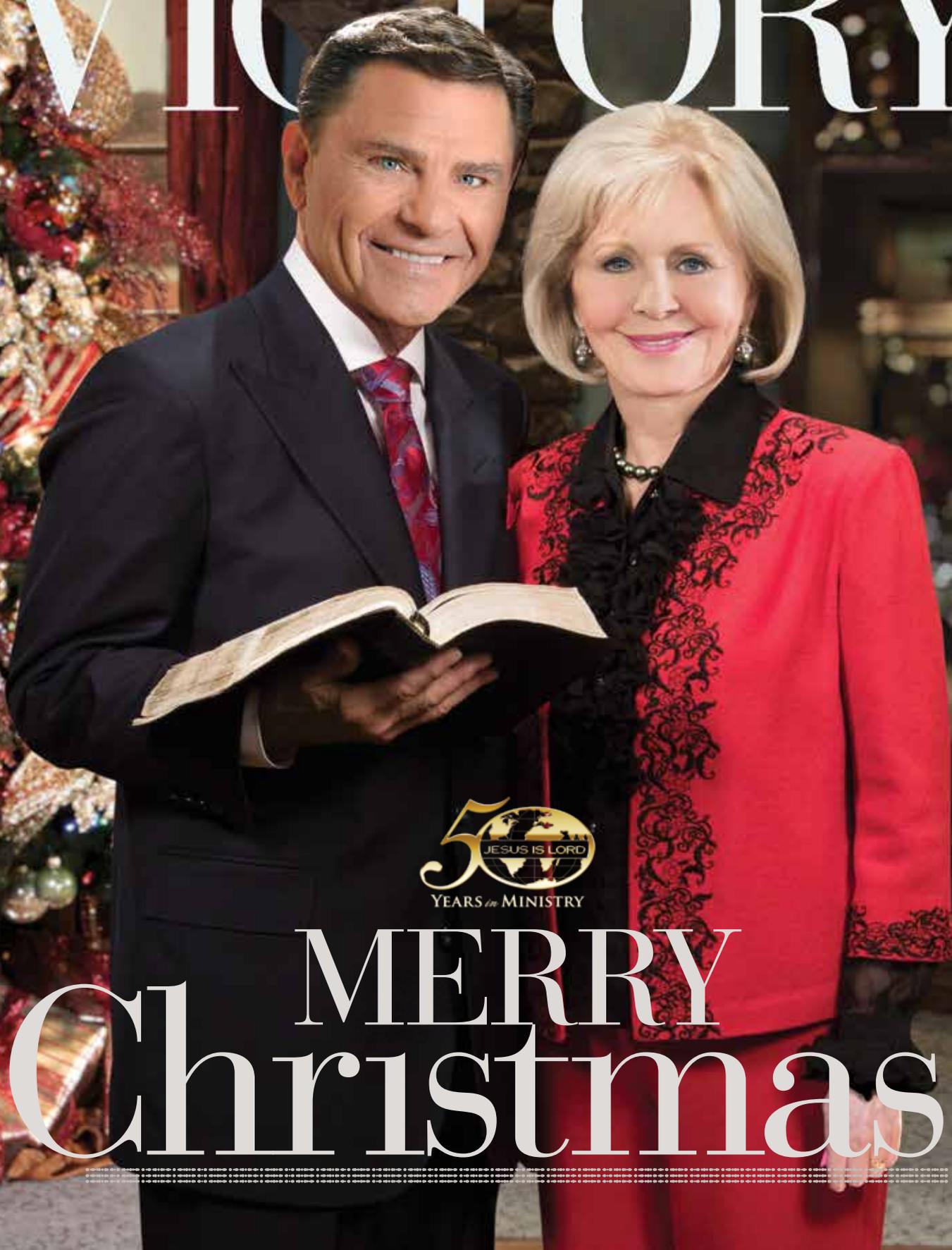




# VICTORY



50 JESUS IS LORD  
YEARS in MINISTRY

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"I was in a rhythm of learning and developing my faith as a new believer. I was also learning to hear from God. I felt a strong connection with Kenneth Copeland."

P.18

**P.4** HE IS PERSONALLY OVERSEEING THE DEMANDS OF FAITH YOU MAKE IN HIS NAME AND SEEING TO IT THAT THEY COME TO PASS.



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by Melanie Henry  
David Welsh got saved watching Kenneth Copeland videos and reading *BVOV* magazines that were part of an inheritance. A year later, at the Lord's direction, he and his family moved from Australia to the U.S. so David could attend Jerry Savelle Ministries Bible Institute. Upon returning to Australia, David was selected as the new director for KCM's Australia office.

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## 28 Peace on Earth Is Possible

by Gloria Copeland  
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*Christmas holidays*

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*It's a great way to recycle!*

**#kcm50years**

by  
*Kenneth  
Copeland*

# YOUR TURN TO TALK TO THE MOUNTAINS

**WHEN IT COMES** to learning how to live by faith, there's no more powerful passage of Scripture to study than Mark 11. That's where all faith teaching begins and ends. It's where Jesus dealt with the problem of the unfruitful fig tree by speaking to it by faith. It's also where, after it became evident His words had come to pass, He instructed us to follow His example and said:



**“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” (verses 22-23).

Those are exciting verses. If you’ve been around faith folks very much you probably know them well. You also know, if you’ve stepped out and put them into practice, that reading them is one thing, but acting on them is another.

While it’s easy to believe that Jesus could speak to fig trees and mountains and they’d do what He said, it can seem a lot more difficult to believe that you can do the same. Your boldness of faith can sometimes wane when it’s your turn to speak to the mountain.

Yet, according to the Bible, that’s not how it has to be!

It absolutely assures us that, as believers, we have full authority to speak by faith in God’s WORD and expect Him to back our words with His power. It tells us we can follow in the steps of Abraham, call “those things which be not as though they were” and see our words come to pass (Romans 4:17). It says we can ask anything in

Jesus’ Name, and as He said in John 14:13, “Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

“Yeah, but Brother Copeland,” someone might say, “that last verse doesn’t have anything to do with speaking to mountains. It’s just a prayer verse.”

No, it’s not. In the Greek, the word translated *ask* literally means “demand.” It refers to the kind of command Jesus gave to the fig tree. It speaks of the kind of thing Peter did in Acts 3 when he said to the lame man at the Temple gate, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” That was a faith demand, and it produced results. Immediately the man’s feet and ankle bones received strength and he got up “walking, and leaping, and praising God” (verses 6-8).

Some Christians think that happened because Peter was an apostle. But Peter told the amazed bystanders that day, it had nothing to do with his power or holiness. “The God of Abraham...hath glorified his Son Jesus,” he said (verse 13). “And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong” (verse 16).

If what Peter said there is true (and obviously it is), then if you have faith in Jesus’ Name, you can expect to get the same kind of results Peter got in that situation. You can be as confident as he was that when you speak words of faith they’re going to release God’s power and produce supernatural results.

Why?

Because Jesus Himself is backing those words! He is personally overseeing the demands of faith you make in His Name and seeing to it that they come to pass.

### ***A Front-and-Center Revelation***

This is something that for years has been little recognized and even ignored among

## ***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**

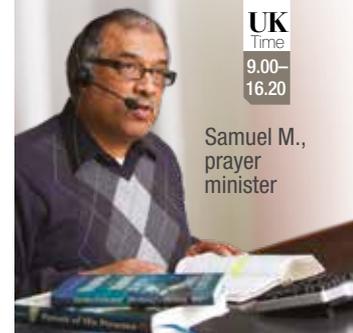
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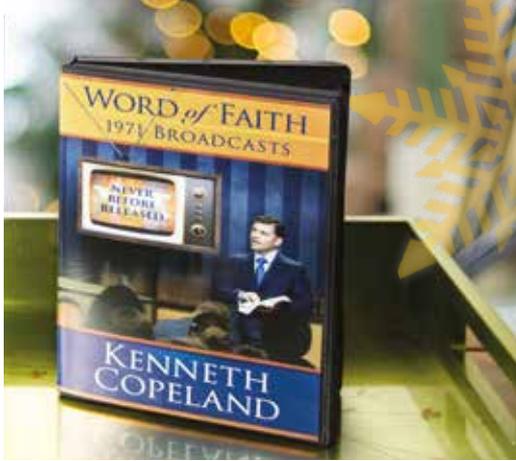
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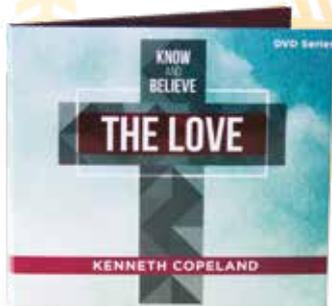
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Christians. Yet it's a revelation that should constantly be front and center in our hearts and minds. Instead of thinking so much about the size of the mountains in our lives, we should be thinking about the Almighty One who promised that what we say to them will be done. We ought to be doing what Hebrews 3:1 says: "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus."

Look again at the primary words in that verse. The word *apostle* is a Greek word that refers to one who's been sent to do something. In Scripture it's capitalized because it speaks of someone who's been sent of God.

Jesus has been sent and anointed by God to be our High Priest. The word *priest* means "administrator." It speaks of someone who officiates and performs certain duties; someone who causes certain things to come to pass in the area to which he's been called.

One area Jesus our High Priest has been called to administrate is our profession, or confession of faith. He backs what we say in His Name with the fullness of His power because we're His *holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling*. He's our big Brother and we are His joint heirs in God's kingdom. That kingdom along with everything in heaven and earth has been turned over to Him by the Father, and Jesus, as The LORD Advocate General of that kingdom, has turned it over to us!

This is what He was talking about in John 14:12 when He said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." He was saying, "You can operate just like I do, brothers and sisters! You can believe God's WORD, speak to the mountain, and I'll be right there with you in all My resurrected power and glory making sure that mountain *moves!*"

Recently, as I was thinking about this, The LORD reminded me of an incident I've told about many times. It happened years ago, when I was a student at Oral Roberts University, working for Brother Roberts as a part

of his flight crew. I'd flown with him to one of his big healing meetings, and when we arrived, the head of his ministry team gave me an unexpected assignment.

"We have a new job for you," he said. "We want you to listen to Brother Roberts' message, then go to the invalid room where the people who are too sick to go into the main auditorium are waiting to be prayed for. You'll have about five minutes to recap for them the primary points of the message. Then Brother Roberts will come in and lay hands on them."

It was my first time to ever do anything like that! I didn't feel at all qualified, but I did my best to get the job done. I summarized for the people what Brother Roberts had preached and just as I finished, he walked into the room. I stepped back out of his way; he looked around a little bit and then pulled me over next to him.

"You're going to do the praying and the laying on of hands," he said.

As all the color drained out of my face I thought, *You've got to be kidding me.*

Brother Roberts saw me change colors and laughed. "Don't worry," he said. "I'll be right here. If you make a mistake, I'll fix it."

The first woman we ministered to was dying of stomach cancer. She had a malignant tumor so big it had pushed her belly out until it looked like she was pregnant. Otherwise, she was just skin and bone. She was so weak her nurse had to prop her up just so that we could lay hands on her.

Brother Roberts had already preached about the point of contact and he'd specifically said to me, "Don't touch the people until you're ready to release your faith." I'd also been studying on the power and authority of the Name of Jesus, so it came up in my spirit that the Name of Jesus should be my point of contact. I thought, *I'm going to release my faith and touch them the moment I speak that Name.*

That's what I intended to do with that first little lady. But about the time I said, "In the Name of Je..." I heard a supernatural sound I'll never forget coming from right behind me.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 16, 2017

Reverend Kenneth Copeland  
Newark, Texas

Dear Reverend Copeland,

Melania and I send our warmest wishes as you celebrate 50 years of ministry.

For half a century, you have devoted your life to faith and humanity. Your enduring commitment to spreading the word of God has influenced the lives of people across the United States and around the world.

We hope your heart is filled with joy knowing your efforts to spread a message of hope are an inspiration to people who seek the love and mercy of the Lord.

Congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment. May God bless you, Gloria, John, Kellie, and Terri, and may He continue to watch over you in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

“Our ministry started in a jubilee year. It began in sync with the Jewish calendar for Jubilee. I didn’t know that for years. And here we are in our jubilee year, which is 50 years. And this is Israel’s Jubilee. Glory to God! Now, that’s special. That’s special for you, Partners, because you’re in that jubilee with us. It’s just marvelous!”

—Kenneth Copeland  
SWBC, Aug 4, 2017

It sounded like the roar of the Lion of Judah, but it was Brother Roberts. “You foul, unclean spirit!” he said. “In the Name of Jesus, whose I am and whom I serve, take your hands off of God’s property!”

Instantly, the woman coughed up that tumor and blew it out on the ground. She jumped off that cot shouting, “I’m healed! I’m healed!” and ran around the room with the nurse chasing her, thinking that she was going to die at any second.

### ***Do Your Homework and Inquire of The LORD***

Recently, it hit me in a fresh way as I thought about that experience. I realized I had confidence to pray for that woman because Brother Roberts was behind me. Yet, in reality, all of us, as believers, have Someone behind us—and it’s not Oral

ourselves trying to move the mountain in our lives and convince the devil who put it there, he has to do what we say. No, the devil knows he has to do what we say because he knows who we are, he knows who is with us, and he’s scared of both. All this time, he’s been afraid we were going to find that out, and now that we have, he’s not going to be able to shut us up!

“But Brother Copeland, sometimes when I’m faced with a mountain that needs to be moved, I don’t know what to say.”

Then do your homework. Find out what God said about that mountain in His written WORD, and meditate on it until you’re fully persuaded and faith rises up in your heart. Then inquire of The LORD, and as your High Priest, He’ll tell you exactly what to say. He’ll bring scriptures to your mind, and pattern

## **HE IS PERSONALLY OVERSEEING THE DEMANDS OF FAITH YOU MAKE IN HIS NAME AND SEEING TO IT THAT THEY COME TO PASS.**

*This is something that for years has been little  
recognized and even ignored among Christians.*

Roberts. It’s Jesus!

Think of it! The LORD Advocate General of the Church, the High Administrator of the universe is right here with us every moment of every day. Every time we give the command of faith He’s standing right there behind us. We need to build that into our consciousness. We need to become more aware of Him—to get to the point where we realize Jesus Himself is in us!

He is with us!

He is around us!

He is right here all the time!

This is why He could say to us what He did in Mark 11:22-23. It’s why He could tell us to have faith in God and believe that what we say comes to pass. When we speak in His Name, we’re not alone. We’re not standing there by

them to fit your situation, so when you speak to the mountain you’ll be surprised at how much your words sound like His. Don’t just do this when you’re dealing with major situations either. Put it into practice in dealing with the ordinary problems that crop up in daily life. Make speaking words of faith a lifestyle and do it all the time.

For example, there was a time a few years ago when I spoke by faith to the door on our ministry airplane. At the time, I’d just finished preaching at some meetings in Columbia, S.C., and was on my way to the airport when I was told we’d have to wait to take off because the airplane door wouldn’t open and no one knew why.

I didn’t want to wait to take off. I wanted to go right home. So, I called my

chief pilot. “Duane,” I said “what’s the matter with the door?”

“I don’t have any idea,” he answered. “It doesn’t matter what we do, it will not budge. I called Cessna and they said they’d be glad to send out a crew to get it open but they’ll have to drill a hole in it.”

“No,” I said, “no one is going to be drilling any holes in that airplane.” I told him I’d call him back, then I sat there in the car and prayed.

“LORD, I’m inquiring of You for words to speak to that door. According to Mark 11:23-24, I desire in my heart that door to function properly. Now I’m asking You what to pray and say, so I can speak to this situation and believe I receive.”

Immediately, I heard the voice of The LORD down in my spirit. He said, *You remember in Romans 8:28 where I said, All things work together for the good of those that love God and are called according to His purpose? That door is a thing. So say this, All things work together for the good of those that love God—that would be me—and are called according to His purpose—that would also be me—so, door open now, thus saith The LORD.*

Very quietly I spoke those words. A few seconds later, Duane called to tell me he’d decided to try the door one more time. “Boss, it just opened perfectly!” he said. “Come on to the airport. We’re going home.”

Over the years, I’ve received all kinds of things that way. I’ve spoken words of faith and received everything from healing to finances to solutions for problems that, in the natural, looked unsolvable.

You can too. It doesn’t matter what kind of problem you may be facing. When you know where you are with The WORD and with Jesus, that problem and every devil in hell that’s behind it, has to straighten up and listen to what you say, because your High Priest is right there backing you up. He’s the Commander of the heavenly hosts and He has enough angels to put the mountains in your life on the moon if He wants.

So say what He says about them. Then praise and thank Him by faith, knowing those mountains have not only heard *your* voice, they’ve heard the voice of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and they are on the move! 🗨️

*Pick Up Your  
 Shovel and Dig*

# ANOTHER WELL



look in the Bible, you'll see that the devil used past disappointments and present adversities to pressure every great man and woman of God.

How did those heroes of faith handle that pressure? What did they do when it looked as though everything had gone wrong?

*They picked up their shovel and dug another well.*

If you want to know exactly what that means, look in Genesis 26 at the story of Isaac. He was a man who faced trouble many times. During his lifetime, he experienced one setback after another. He was mistreated, rejected and robbed of his own accomplishments.

But when it was over, Isaac came out on top. He finished a winner. And if you'll follow his example, no matter how bad things are in your life right now, you'll end up a winner too.

## What Did You Say, Lord?

"Oh, but Pastor George, you don't know just how rotten my circumstances really are!"

Maybe not, but I doubt if they're much worse than Isaac's because Genesis 26:1 tells us "there was a famine in the land" where he lived.

...And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father.... And Isaac dwelt in Gerar (verses 1-3, 6).

Personally, I've never been in a famine, but I've seen pictures and read enough about it to know it's a desperate thing. I'm sure Isaac's natural inclination was to get out of that place, and to jump up and run to a country like Egypt where there was plenty to eat.

But Isaac didn't do that. Instead, he

*Walk into a church on Sunday morning. What will you see?*

*If it's a Spirit-filled, Word-believing church, you'll see rows of smiling people, standing tall, praising God. You'll see believers who look as though they're living from one victory to the next.*

*But as a pastor, I can tell you, looks are sometimes deceiving.*

Many of those people who are standing and smiling on the outside, are sitting down on the inside with tears of discouragement in their eyes. They've been beaten down by disappointments. They've been hurt and rejected by others. They've faced so many failures that they've given up on the hopes and dreams that once stirred their hearts.

The devil has come to them and said, "You're finished. Life is over for you. You have no future."

Do those words sound familiar to you? If you've been a Christian more than a week or two, no doubt they do. The devil says them to each one of us at every age and every stage of our lives.

That may surprise you. You may have looked around at all the other happy faces at church and decided you were the only one who felt like a failure.

But I can assure you, you're not. In fact, you're in good company. If you'll



**George Pearsons**

is CEO of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of KCM. For more information or ministry materials go to [emic.org](http://emic.org).

# One of my fondest memories

To help celebrate their 50 years in ministry, I was asked to share a memory of my time with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland.

A memory. How can I possibly share just one example after nearly a lifetime of amazing memories?

I was 23 when I came to work for the ministry in 1976. I was a student at Oral Roberts University, and engaged to Terri Copeland at the time. Brother Copeland was aware of my graphic arts background and invited me to start the in-house art department for his ministry. It was only going to be a summer job. But this has been the longest summer job I have ever had. It is now going on 42 years!

I often think what an honor it has been, and is, to serve Kenneth and Gloria. Of all the families in the world, and all the ministries to be a part of, God placed me in this one. How grateful I am to them for completely altering my life.

Of the many, many wonderful memories I have, one comes to mind that truly exemplifies the heart of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Those who are Partners will especially appreciate this.

I was publications director for many years. During that time, a company had written a draft of an “appeal letter” to help us raise money. I read the letter and thought, *This just*

*won't fly. It is not like Kenneth to send out a letter like this.* However, my boss told me to take it to Kenneth's house for his opinion so, like an obedient servant, I did.

Sitting across the kitchen table from Kenneth, I slid the letter over to him and explained my mission. He took the letter and read it—slowly and very carefully. Then, he placed the letter on the table and looked up at me with those piercing Copeland eyes—as if I were the spirit of compromise himself. He then pointed his finger at me, and with a stern voice spoke these words: “Don't EVER seek ways to get the money in. Seek ways to get The WORD out, and the money will come in.”

“Ye-ye-ye-yes, sir!”

I left his house and returned to my boss's office. As I sat across the desk from him with the letter, he asked: “So, what did Kenneth say?”

I pointed my finger at him, and with a stern voice said: “Don't EVER seek ways to get the money in. Seek ways to get The WORD out, and the money will come in.”

That incident occurred in the early 1980s, but those words continue to echo in my spirit to this day.

Kenneth and Gloria Copeland have taught me to always walk in integrity by never compromising The WORD of God or the principles of this

ministry. I have learned to always give The WORD of God first place and final authority—especially where provision is concerned. They have taught me to never put pressure on others to meet my needs. Instead, we are to put pressure on The WORD of God and exercise our faith. They are like the Apostle Paul, who said in Philippians 4:17, “Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” They are two of the most generous individuals I have ever known.

Thank you, Kenneth and Gloria, for setting high the ministry bar for all of us to follow. I dearly love you and appreciate all the life lessons you have taught me, and continue to teach all of us in the Body of Christ. ♡

Pastor George

listened to the voice of God. And when he heard that voice, he obeyed it. He stayed right there in that famine-stricken land and planted crops.

That sounds like such a simple thing when you read it in the Bible. When you're facing that kind of trouble in your own life, however, when the storms of circumstance are beating vehemently against your door, it isn't always easy to listen for God's voice.

The easy thing is to start thinking, *What am I going to do? How am I going to fix this situation?*

That's where we often miss it. We start running in fleshly directions, trying to figure things out for ourselves. But the human mind is not capable of figuring out how to overcome the obstacles the devil throws our way.

If we want to be victorious, we have to go to God and get instructions. We must turn away from all the screaming voices blaring worldly solutions, and tune in, instead, to the still, small voice of God Himself.

Isaac knew that voice. And you know that voice too. But to hear it, you must take the time to listen, to clear out the things of this world and get in the presence of God. If you'll do that, He will show you things to come. He'll reveal to you what steps to take.

Does that mean all your problems will be over? Let's take another look at Isaac and see.

## Dig Into Your Covenant

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth. And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we (verses 12-16).

Isaac triumphed over one obstacle just to run smack into another. He prospered so greatly despite the famine, that the Philistines got jealous and plugged up his wells.

A well was a very significant thing to these people. It contained the very substance they needed to feed their cattle and water their fields. Wells were literally a matter of life and death. So you can imagine what a blow it was



# THE HUMAN MIND IS NOT CAPABLE OF FIGURING OUT HOW TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES THE DEVIL THROWS OUR WAY.



to Isaac when he got up that morning, put the dipper in his well and all he got was sand.

Was he disappointed?

Without a doubt. His natural supply had been cut off! He was being forced to leave his home because of jealous, vindictive people. Yet Isaac did not throw himself to the ground and give up. He didn't quit. He didn't stop right there and say, "My life is over. I'm a failure!"

Why not? He was a man who was established in his covenant with God. Even in the face of seeming defeat, he still heard God's words ringing in his heart, "I will be with thee, and will bless thee." He dug down into that covenant and found the faith to go on.

So, "Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there" (verse 17). He said to himself, *God gave me these wells, He'll give me others! He took care of me before and He'll take care of me again!*

"And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father.... And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water" (verses 18-19).

Instead of sitting down and wailing, "Woe is me!" Isaac picked up his shovel and dug another well!

Sure enough, he found water. But the battle wasn't over yet.

## Leave Old Wells Behind

And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek [that means *contention*]; because they strove with him. And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah [that means *hatred*]. And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land (verses 20-22).

Can you imagine the frustration Isaac must have felt? Over and over, he would dig a well and someone would come and take it away from him. But when they did, the Bible says, "he removed from thence."

He departed. He left the past behind. He completely disregarded it. He kept his eyes on the future. He never looked back.

He did what the Apostle Paul tells us to do in Philippians 3:13-14: "... Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

If you want to finish as a winner, follow Isaac's example. Don't ever look back at the wells they've covered up. Don't look back at the hurt that has been caused. Don't look back at the painful words that have been spoken to you. Look forward. Reach toward the prize of the high calling of God!

Pick up your shovel and dig another well!

## Dig in Love

Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phichol the chief captain of his army. And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you? And they said, We saw certainly that the Lord was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us...that thou wilt do us no hurt.... And he made them a feast, and they did eat and drink (Genesis 26:26-30).

Talk about adding insult to injury! It wasn't enough that these people stopped up Isaac's wells and shoved him from one place to another. When it was all over, and

they saw how blessed he was, they wanted him to make covenant with them!

Most people—Christians included—would have told Abimelech and his bunch to take a long hike off a short pier. But not Isaac. He fixed dinner for them! He did exactly what they asked!

In other words, he walked in love.

And verse 32 tells us that "it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water."

When you walk in love, you find what you're looking for! When you walk in love, you succeed! For as 1 Corinthians 13:8 says, "Love never fails" (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Sometimes we lose sight of that. Sometimes when people mistreat us, we get so angry we want to explode. But at those times, remember: Love never fails. When you're operating in the love of God—without strife, without contention, without hatred—you put yourself in the presence of Almighty God. And He can bring you through a famine. He can bring you through opposition. He can bring you through anything, no matter how serious it is, and bring you out on top.

## Keep Digging!

So don't let those well-pluggers get you down. Don't sit around crying over the disappointments of the past. Move on with God. Pick up your shovel of faith and dig another well.

Dig for the living waters. Dig for the answers you need. Dig for health and healing. Dig! Dig! Dig!

Sure, the devil has thrown sand in your wells before—and, no doubt, he'll do it again. But you'll whip him in the end if you'll just keep following God and obeying His voice. Keep walking in love. Keep your heart stayed on God's covenant promises, and your eyes fixed on the future.

If you'll do those things, in the end, you'll succeed. Like Isaac, you'll be so blessed that even your enemies will want to be friends with you. You'll enjoy such great victory that people will marvel and ask how you achieved it.

When they do, you can smile and say, "I just picked up my shovel and dug another well!" 🗝️



THE ONE TO

# TRUST

GOD IS NOT A LIAR. // THAT MAY SOUND TO YOU LIKE A VERY BASIC TRUTH. YET MANY PEOPLE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST TODAY ARE TALKING AND BEHAVING AS IF HE IS. // WHAT MAY COME AS AN EVEN GREATER SHOCK TO YOU IS THE FACT THAT AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, YOU AND I HAVE BEEN AMONG THEM.

*by Terri  
Copeland  
Pearsons*



***It's true.*** In church, we've nodded our heads up and down and said, "Yes, Amen. God's Word is true." Then we walked outside and came face to face with sickness or some other kind of problem and we challenged the truth of the Word of God with our thoughts, our words and our actions. We followed the course of fear instead of simply expecting God to do what He said He would do for us.

Some people would say, "Well, it's not that I thought God was lying. It's just that we can never really know what He is going to do."

Yes we can! God has told us what He is going to do! He's literally given us His Word on it. Hebrews 6:16-18 puts it this way: "...An oath for confirmation is to [men] an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."

This simply means that men make pledges or contracts in order to settle disputes. In them responsibilities are clearly defined and obligations made. As long as everyone is true to their word, there's no room for questioning what anyone will do.

Well, God gave us His contract. He *is* true to His Word so there is no room for uncertainty about it.

God will do what He said He will do. You can count on it.

### **It Isn't Enough to Remember**

"But Terri, what about those times when things didn't turn out like the Word says?"

I can tell you this: If something failed, it wasn't the Word of God. Romans 3:3-4 says: "What if some did not believe and were without faith? Does their lack of faith and their faithlessness nullify and make ineffective and void the faithfulness of God and His fidelity [to His Word]? By no means! Let God be found true though every human being is false and a

There's no shadow of turning in Him. There's no weakness or shortcoming in His Word.

You will *never* catch God in a lie. You will *never* get in a situation where you exercise faith in God's Word and God fails to keep that Word. *Never!* The Bible says that God is active and alert, watching over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

Understand, however, that it's not enough just to know what the Word says. It must be reality to you—more real than the problem you face.

I faced the truth of that statement not too long ago. Even though I've experienced His healing power many times in my life, a couple of years ago, I found myself in a serious situation where the health of my children was concerned.

I was receiving one bad report after another. Over a long period of time, simple runny noses had become serious diagnoses. Finally, I had to sit down and ask myself, *Do you believe that Jesus bore your children's sicknesses and carried their diseases?*

## ***One of the mistakes holding many believers back from trusting the Word is that they think of God's Word as an item or a "thing."***

liar..." (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Everything that has to do with men, *everything* in this natural world, is subject to change, but the Word of God is not. *The Word of God is true even when everything else around you is telling you otherwise.* But notice the verse says you must let God be true in your life.

To do so, you must settle forever in your heart and mind, there is no fault in God.

I had to answer, *No. I know it happened, but I don't believe it.*

Then I said to myself, *Well, you're going to!* And I got my Bible out and meditated on 1 Peter 2:24 that says: By His stripes we were healed. I chose to believe that God cannot lie, that His Word is true regardless of what my circumstances are telling me. In my mind, I pictured Jesus on the cross with Jeremy and Aubrey's sicknesses. I also saw

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Him come out of the grave victorious over those sicknesses and then giving that victory to us. I did that for two hours. *Two hours.* Big deal! Yet those two hours changed the course of my children's health.

It's important for you to realize that throughout that time, I had a basic belief that God has healed us all by the stripes of Jesus. But I had been attempting to exercise faith in God's Word based on head knowledge. That is not enough!

That's why Proverbs 4:20-21 says: "My son, attend to my words; consent and submit to my sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of *your heart*" (AMPC).

For that reason, we must constantly center ourselves on God's Word, because it's that Word that produces faith in our hearts. In fact, you cannot deepen your faith in God without deepening your trust in His Word.

## It Becomes What You Need

One of the mistakes holding many believers back from trusting the Word is that they think of God's Word as an item or a "thing." But the Bible tells us that Jesus and

His Word are the same. John 1 says: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (verses 1, 14).

Think for a moment about that statement, *the Word was made flesh*. The world needed Jesus. He is what man had to have. So God's words and the faith that He released in those words became Jesus.

That is a fundamental characteristic of the Word of God. Mixed with faith, it becomes what you need. God's Word will become finances if you're facing shortage. It will become health when you're faced with sickness.

This one point is so important, I'm going to say it again. No matter what situation you may be facing, if you'll go to God's Word in faith, the Word will become what you need.

## The Word Is Alive

How can God's Word become one thing for one person and something else for another? Because it is alive!

For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12, AMPC).

The Word of God is full of life. Full! Therefore it administers life wherever it is applied. It doesn't matter how dark and deadly your circumstances may be. There is enough life in God's Word to totally overwhelm all the death that the world, the devil or circumstances can bring you.

Charles Capps likens the Word to a natural seed. (Actually, 1 Peter 1:23 says the Word is incorruptible seed which liveth and abideth forever!) Every seed has within it all the DNA required to produce whatever kind of seed it is. If it's a peach seed, all that is required

to be a peach tree is in the seed.

In the same way, the Word of God has the supernatural Life within it to fulfill the promises of God in your life. You plant it in your heart as a seed, but when it comes up, it produces salvation, prosperity, healing, deliverance—whatever God has said belongs to you!

## The Word Is Truth

John 17:17 says, "Thy Word is truth." Notice, it doesn't say, "Thy Word is fact." Truth goes beyond facts.

The fact may be that you don't have any money. The fact may be that the doctor said you have an incurable disease. But what does the truth have to say about it?

You see, truth is absolute. Truth doesn't yield. Truth doesn't change. Thus, facts are subject to truth.

It can be a fact that you are sick as can be, but God says you were healed by the stripes of Jesus when He died on the cross. That's the truth. Now you have a choice. You can apply the truth of God's Word to the fact that you're sick and the fact will change; or you can agree with the fact and things will stay like they are.

I'll tell you right now, it will be much easier just to agree with the fact because facts scream a lot louder than the Word of God does. God's Word will be quiet—until it starts coming out of your mouth.

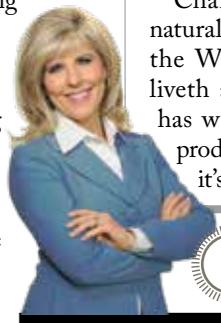
But once that Word begins to come out of your mouth in faith, it *will* be the final word. If it's God's Word about healing, you'll be healed. If it's His Word about prosperity, you'll be prosperous. If it's His Word about deliverance, you'll be delivered.

God has given you His contract. When you do your part by believing, speaking and acting on a heart full of faith, God's Word *will* come to pass. No circumstance on earth and no demon in hell can stop it.

So forget all those stories you've heard about how so-and-so believed the Word and it didn't work for him. Quit asking questions and settle it once and for all. God is not a liar.

People will lie. People will change. They'll say one thing today and another tomorrow. People will often fail to keep their promises. But God is the same yesterday, today and forever—and He keeps His Word. Always. Every time. Without fail.

He's the One to trust. 📌



 Terri Copeland Pearsons

is the chief of staff for Kenneth Copeland Ministries. The eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland, she and her husband, George Pearsons, also serve as senior pastors of Eagle Mountain International Church at KCM in Fort Worth. For information or ministry materials go to [terricopelandpearsons.com](http://terricopelandpearsons.com).

## One of my fondest memories

Fifty years of anything stirs up a lot of memories! For 50 years I've had a ringside seat, watching my folks faithfully seek the Lord's leading with a raw, determined faith to do precisely what He said at any cost. Jesus has always responded with countless miracles of all kinds. What a ride! But for me, going back to the first miracle touches me most deeply; like the first time I heard Dad preach in person. Walking down the aisle at Grace Temple Church, where I had often attended with my grandparents, I noticed the atmosphere seemed to be unusually saturated with expectation. I don't recall his message, but I do remember leaving hungry for more. At 10 years old, the message of faith had me hooked.

Then, there was my first out-of-town meeting at Life Tabernacle in Shreveport, La., where Brother Jerry Savelle was saved earlier that year. Sitting in a morning service, I first saw Dad operate his faith and authority in the midst of crisis—the first of many times to come. As he was speaking, a nursery worker came rushing in, carrying a screaming, blood-covered baby. Without hesitation he reached out, calmly took the baby in his arms and, with a firm compassion, spoke peace over the child. Immediately, she quit crying and relaxed into sleep. Then, as I recall it, Dad looked up and confidently called upon Jesus for healing. He handed the baby

back to the nursery worker and went on with his message. That baby was Terri Savelle Foy, Brother Jerry's daughter. Later, Brother Jerry came by. I listened intently as Dad gave him instructions on how to pray, stay in faith and refuse to fear because the doctor's report was that she would lose her fingertips and nails. Brother Jerry left fully expecting a miracle, and a miracle he got! Terri has all her fingers and a full set of lovely nails to go with them!

Watching and listening to Dad that weekend, I recognized a longing to do what he was doing, the way he was doing it. So, sitting in the driveway of that same house, I prayed with Dad and accepted the call to the ministry. What I saw in that meeting, and countless meetings since, was so real and so tangible, that I have never quit watching how Kenneth and Gloria Copeland operate in faith, love, obedience, boldness and integrity. And Jesus always responds! ▼

Pastor Terri





# GoodNEWSGazette

## BLESSED BY BROTHER COPELAND'S TEACHING

Thank you for the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast. It has helped me in my recovery in coming back to the Lord, and has helped me walk by faith. I thank God for Kenneth Copeland Ministries! I am a retired military veteran. I was in the Marine Corps for 22 years. I joined the Corps in July 1972. After graduating from boot camp in Parris Island, S.C., I was sent to Twentynine Palms, Calif. In the barracks one day, some guys came in witnessing. They were part of an outreach ministry for Campus Crusade for Christ. They shared a gospel tract with me called "The Four Spiritual Laws," and I prayed with them to receive Christ. I started going to a Bible study they had at the chapel once a week. I remember we were in a study of 1 John. With all the teaching lately by Kenneth about the love of God in 1 John, it has blessed me greatly, because that's the first book of the Bible I started reading.

Walter C.  
Midway Park, N.C.

## Protected From Hurricane Harvey

Kenneth called our home just before Hurricane Harvey came ashore. He prayed for the storm to be bound and for God's protection of us and our home. Praise God! God answered the prayer. We were safe and our home didn't lose power or have any water damage! R. & B.M. | League City, Texas

## HEALED WHILE READING KENNETH'S PARTNER LETTER

Praise the Lord! I was healed while reading Kenneth's May 2017 Partner Letter! In November 2016, I felt something in my lungs, and took notice of it about a month later. It caused numb pain, which I felt when I breathed in and sometimes when I was walking or lying in bed or sitting. It seemed like it could be something serious, which is why I didn't go to the doctors and I didn't even Google it. I really don't have time to be sick now. And I won't have time for it in the future either. I went only to the Lord! Praise God! So after inquiring of the Lord and believing for healing the thing disappeared three times, just to come back again in a few days. I kept believing. It was a numb pain and a feeling that something was in there.



In that May Letter, Kenneth Copeland says God wants you well and pain of any kind has to go. Amen. I read it and confessed it out loud. I knew it was for me and I praised the Lord! I also searched out and read all the scriptures from the list that Kenneth had included at the end of the letter. I believe my diligence to do that was part of why I received my healing. The thing is gone from my body—I am healed. I can now breathe in, and not only is the pain gone, but I can tell that thing is not there anymore either. Thank You, Jesus, I'm free! Bless You, Lord, for always being our Healer. And bless you, Kenneth and Gloria and EMIC. We love you and Jesus is Lord.

Sarah Z.  
The Netherlands

## 'She Got the Job of Her Dreams'

Thank you KCM prayer team for praying for my wife's new job. She got the job of her dreams and it's only a 10-minute drive from home. Thank you very much.

Lukasz M. | Galway, Ireland

## PERSISTENT COUGH HAD TO SUBMIT TO THE WORD

In April 2016, I was diagnosed with bronchopneumonia that resulted in a bad cough that lasted almost nine months. During that time, I received a call from KCM and a brother prayed with me for my healing. Before I was diagnosed, I had been confessing healing scriptures every morning and listening to Kenneth and Gloria's *Prayers of Agreement CD*. During the sickness I was taking both prescription and spiritual medication, but the cough continued. I asked God to reveal why the cough wasn't stopping.

On Jan. 3, 2017, with the cough persisting, I was watching *BVOV* when Brother Copeland said there was someone who has a bad cough that won't go away, and started praying. I immediately claimed

and received my healing. Whenever the enemy tried to bring back the cough, I reminded him that I had received my healing on Jan. 3, 2017, and there was nothing he could do about it. I have been healed since and the pulmonologist has put me off both the spray and tablets. I no longer have to see him. Praise the Lord! I would like to thank Brother Copeland for obeying the Lord when He spoke to him to pray for the person with the bad cough. I also would like to thank Kenneth and Gloria for teaching and preaching the Word of God all over the world.

Prudence Z.  
South Africa

## THE BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY, REALLY IS!

I would like to give a praise report regarding a positive healing response of blood tests and colonoscopy. Shortly before I left Malta in 2016, a hospital there told me they had found polyps in my intestine and that my blood was not OK, which was one reason I moved back to Germany. I

prayed according to scriptures from Gloria Copeland, sent in a prayer request and had new tests done in April. I went to a specialist and he didn't find anything! Also my blood is fine apart from some iron deficiency which is treated with an intravenous iron product now. The specialist even asked me who told me about those negative health reports in Malta.

Praise the Lord for the healthy, positive outcome and as well for your prayers. I'm so grateful that KCM exists and also this wonderful magazine, *Victory*. It helps me a lot and is valuable as gold. Bless you all richly in the Name of Jesus. Thanks again for the prayers.

Bridgette B. | Singen, Germany

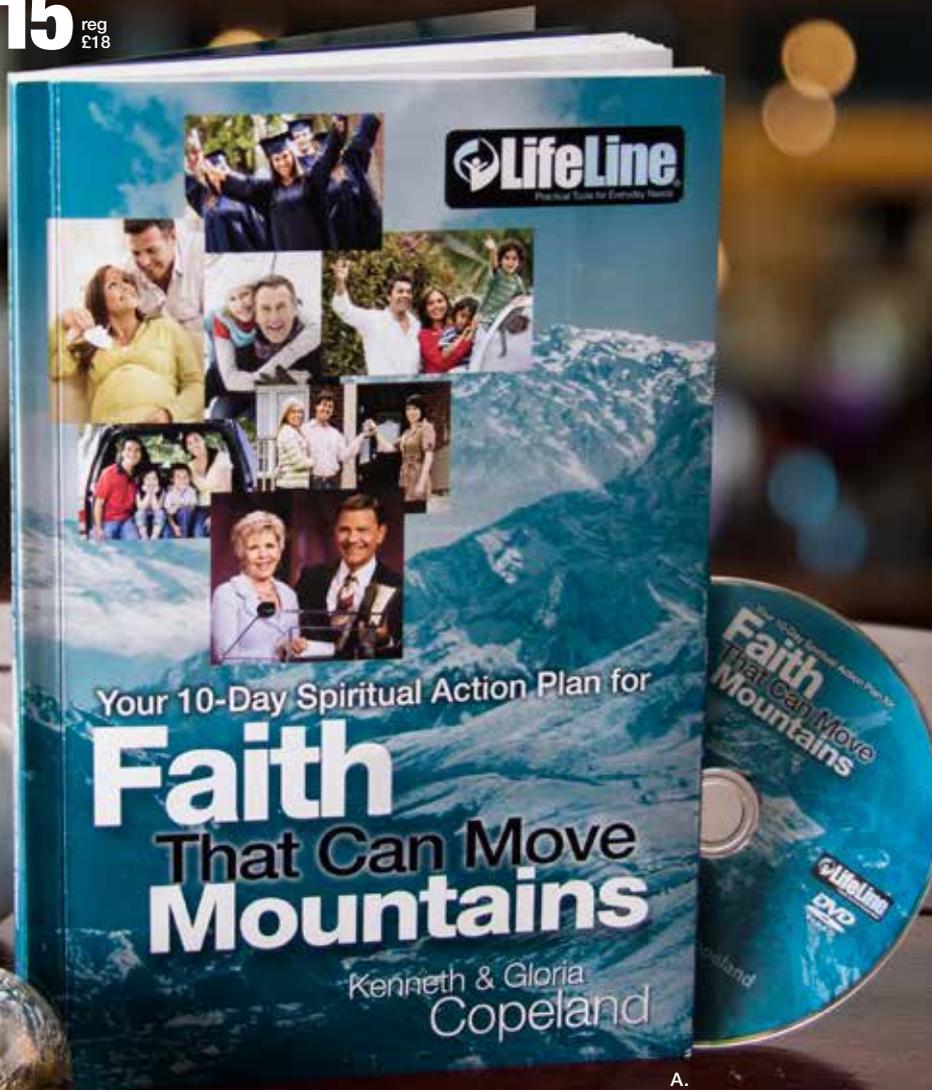


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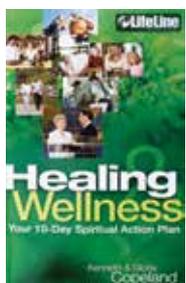
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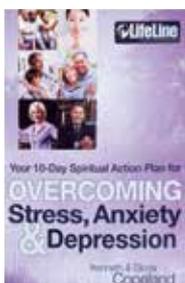
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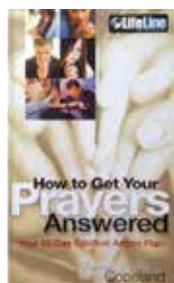
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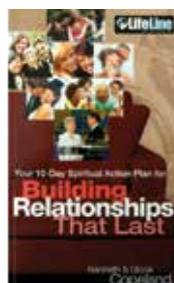
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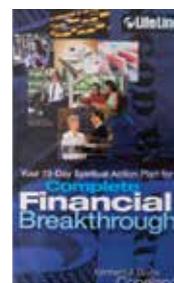
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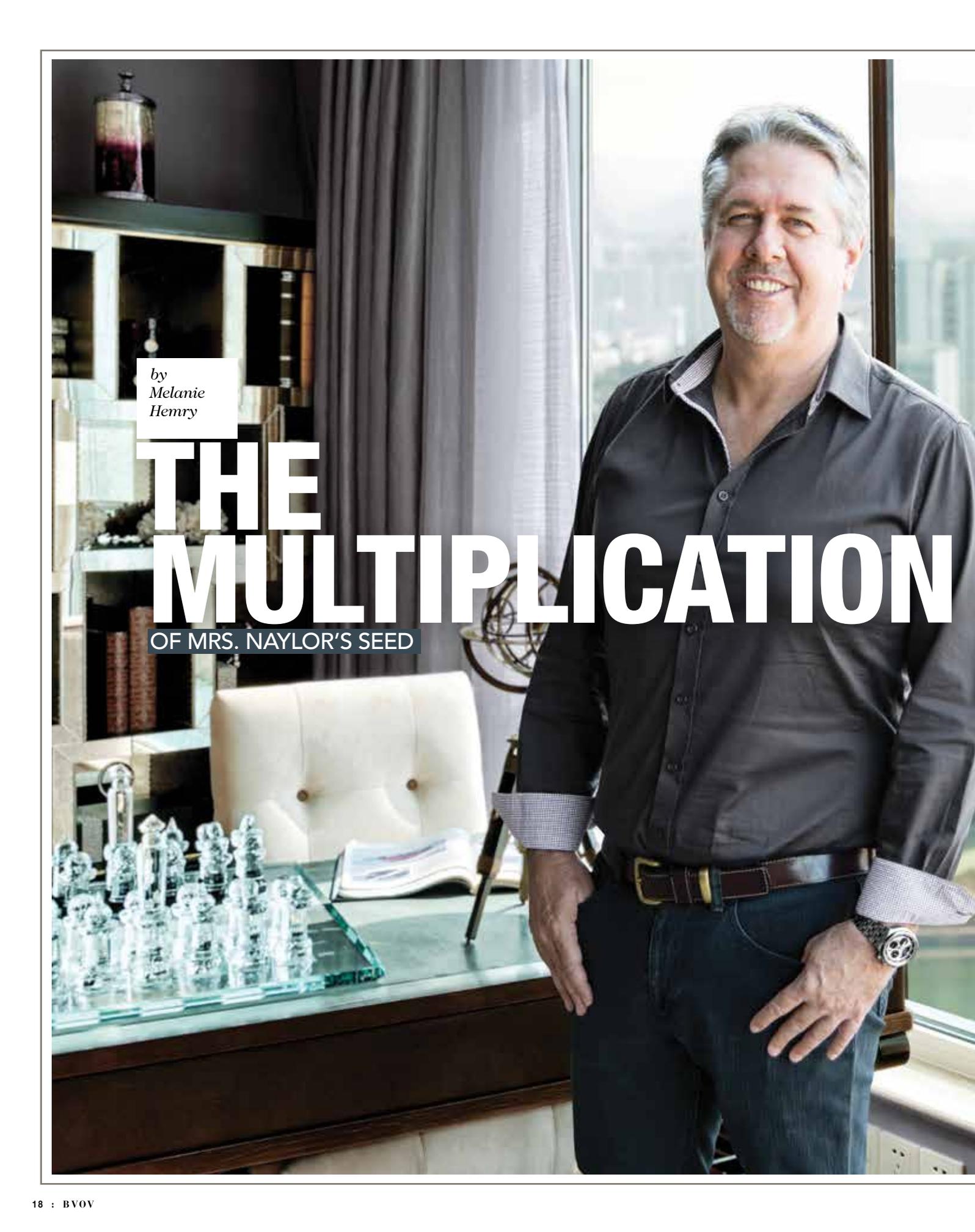
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F.

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A man with grey hair and a goatee, wearing a dark grey button-down shirt and dark jeans, stands in a study. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The study features a desk with a white tufted chair, a glass chess set, and a bookshelf with various items. A large window in the background shows a cityscape.

by  
*Melanie  
Henry*

# THE MULTIPLICATION

OF MRS. NAYLOR'S SEED



**THE SUN  
SET LIKE A  
SHIMMERING  
GLOBE OVER  
AUSTRALIA,  
CASTING RED  
BEAMS ACROSS  
THE LUSH,  
ROLLING HILLS  
AND BEAUTIFUL  
TREES.**

LEAVING WORK AFTER A LONG DAY RUNNING THE FAMILY BUSINESS, DAVID WELSH FELT HIMSELF RELAX AS HE WATCHED THE SUNSET. NO WONDER HIS IRISH ANCESTORS HAD SETTLED HERE—IT MUST HAVE REMINDED THEM OF HOME. IN ADDITION TO RUNNING THE BUSINESS, DAVID WAS A HUSBAND, FATHER OF FOUR CHILDREN, DIRECTOR OF A MAJOR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE, PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL CRICKET CLUB.

He had a lot on his plate, but life was good. His wife, Jane, was the love of his life. Their marriage was a slice of heaven on earth.

Well, except for one thing.

*God.*

That was a sticky wicket. They'd agreed not to raise their children in church. None of their children had ever so much as heard the Christmas story of Jesus.

The second eldest in a Catholic family of nine children, David had been raised in church and attended Catholic school. As a child, to please his priest, he'd often make up sins to confess—lying for the greater good. His penance for his pretend sins was to pray five Hail Marys. In his young mind, prayer equaled punishment.

When he left home at 21, David told his mother the truth.

"Don't expect me at Mass," he said. "I honored you while I lived here, but church has no meaning for me."

After earning a degree in business, he had gone to work in Melbourne's corporate world. At age 24, and now a non-practicing Catholic, David had married Jane, a former Baptist. They each had strong, differing opinions about God, church and religion, so they agreed not to discuss the subject.

#### **Mrs. Naylor's Seed**

"A woman I never knew named Mrs. Naylor, left all her Christian materials to Jane's uncle when she died," David explains. "He shared them with his sister, Jane's mother. Jane's mother in turn shared the material with Jane."

The first thing she brought was a copy of the April 1997 *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine. An avid reader, Jane was interested in an article about the Holy Spirit. Inside the magazine was a TV schedule. She started recording the

*BVOV* broadcast.

It was late by the time David finished a school council meeting and arrived home one evening. The children were already in bed, and Jane held a videotape in her hands.

"Mum gave me a videotape of an American televangelist," she told David. "Will you watch it with me?"

David felt himself flush with anger.

"It was bad enough she wanted me to watch someone preach," he recalled. "But this was an American televangelist. I kept telling myself not to get upset. I knew this must be important to her or she wouldn't have broken her agreement not to discuss the subject."

Jane started the video. It was Kenneth Copeland preaching a series called *The Anointed and His Anointing*. David had never heard anything like it. About 10 minutes into the message, Kenneth Copeland slapped his Bible and pointed straight at the television.

"Don't take my word for it," he said. "Check for yourself."

David paused the video and turned to Jane. "Do we have a Bible?"

"Let me see if I can find one," she said.

A few minutes later, she returned with a small Bible.

Each time Brother Copeland referred to a scripture, David paused the video and looked it up. He found each passage, reading the verse before and after the ones mentioned. When the video ended, David and Jane stared at one another in amazement.

#### **The Multiplication of Seed**

"Kenneth Copeland became my teacher in the things of God," David remembers. "Each evening, Jane and I watched another video. We didn't just listen. When we found something in the Bible, we



“ I FELT A STRONG CONNECTION WITH KENNETH COPELAND. I CONSIDERED MYSELF A SON BY FAITH. ”

implemented it. Soon the Word of God was transforming every part of our lives. About a month after we started listening, I wondered if Jesus was alive. If so, what did that mean for me? What did it mean for my family?”

Alone in a car on a business trip, David had an epiphany: “Jesus,” he said aloud, “I believe You’re alive. I believe You’ve been raised from the dead. I know what You’ve done for me. From this day forward, I’ll live my life according to what You say in the Bible. And the next time the census comes around, I’m going to check Christian, because that’s what I am.

“I didn’t know what the term *born again* meant, but I realized something in me had changed,” David recalls. “I was different, but I didn’t know why. On my way to work one day, I heard a news story about the impact of AIDS on the homosexual community and wept. That wouldn’t have been my normal response. I had a level of compassion I’d never known.”

Jane’s mother continued feeding them magazines, books and tapes. Each day during lunch with his mother, David shared what they’d learned. She loved it. Although she’d always been a praying woman, she had never heard the things he taught her. The first book David gave her was Kenneth Hagin’s *Authority of*

*the Believer* which had been purchased from KCM.

### The Good Life

Over the next three months, David and Jane spent most of their free time reading the Bible and devouring the materials Jane’s mother gave them. David set his alarm early to read his Bible and pray before work each morning. Growing from strength to strength, they spent the next year in intense Bible study.

“I was in a rhythm of learning and developing my faith as a new believer,” David recalls. “I was also learning to hear from God. I felt a strong connection with Kenneth Copeland. I considered myself a son by faith.

“Our lives were happy and full. Years before, after graduating with a business degree and working in the corporate world in Melbourne, my father had called and asked me to move home and help him with the family business, which had been in our family since World War II.

“Jane and I had left Melbourne, returning home to country Victoria. Dad was happy with my help and he semi-retired. During those years, as I got to know him as an adult, I fell in love with him. The business grew into a multimillion-dollar company. Jane and I had acquired 5 acres in the town of Cudgee, a small but beautiful rural

area. Our acreage had a gentle slope overlooking a tree-lined creek. It wasn’t a place you’d ever want to leave.”

### The Call

“That’s why, when I heard the Lord say, *I want you to go to Bible college in America*, I blocked the words. I didn’t want to hear it. I didn’t even tell Jane.”

One day, David was on the KCM website when he saw a link to Jerry Savelle. David clicked the link and read an article about Jerry Savelle Ministries International Bible Institute and School of World Evangelism. While he was reading the article, the Lord spoke again.

*I want you to go there.*

David shut down the website.

For weeks, the Lord continued to deal with David about attending JSMI. Finally, David said, “I’ll go next year.”

*No, I want you to go this year.*

Meanwhile, David heard that Kenneth Copeland was coming to Brisbane to hold a convention. He wanted to go, but the Lord insisted he send Jane and her parents. In April 1998, Jane and her parents attended the convention. When Jane returned, she brought with her several materials about Jerry Savelle.

David hadn’t told Jane what the Lord had told him. In part, because he knew when he spoke those words it would set things in motion. In addition, he couldn’t imagine how he was going to uproot his wife and four children. How could he tell his dad that he was leaving the business... and the continent?

One evening David came home from work and found Jane in the kitchen. Taking a deep breath, he said, “The Lord wants me to go to JSMI.”

### The Rich Young Ruler

“I knew it,” Jane said, handing him a piece of paper. “Here’s a list of things we need to fix around the house before we sell it.”

David felt nauseous. It was the end of April. To obey God, they needed to be in Texas by August. The circumstances seemed overwhelming.

Alone with God, David said, “If You want me to be there, then You need to make it happen.

“The hardest thing I had to do was tell my father,” David says. “In the end, three of my brothers stepped in to help him. I

didn't see how we could sell our house in time. A beautiful home up the road had been on the market for eight months and hadn't sold.

"A real estate agent was scheduled to list our house on the weekend. A friend of his saw the photos on the realtor's desk and bought it two days later. It never made it to the newspaper.

"The Lord told me I was like the rich young ruler, except I left everything to follow Him. I walked away from a multimillion-dollar business. We sold everything, left our families and our country and flew to Texas. I'd been a Christian for a little over 12 months."

They arrived in Texas a week before classes began, thinking it would be easy to rent a place to live. Starting over in a new country was far more complicated than he'd imagined. Leaving his family in a Best Western Hotel, David arrived at orientation only to find himself one of the oldest students. Someone tapped him on the shoulder.

"G'day mate!"

David twirled around. *Another Aussie!*

"Where are you from?" the man asked. "Do you have a car? A place to live?"

When David explained their situation, his new friend said, "I may be able to help." Another family had left Australia and moved to Texas to attend JSMI. They also had four children. They'd leased a house for a year and furnished it. Afterward, they felt that they weren't supposed to be there. They'd moved back to Australia and needed someone to take over the lease.

### Faith for the Future

By evening, David, Jane and the children were settled into a furnished house. The change in David's life seemed surreal. He'd gone from running a multimillion-dollar business to volunteering to work in the garden at Jerry Savelle Ministries in 100-degree heat.

"By January 1999, I was frustrated," David admits. "People kept asking me what fivefold ministry I was called to. I had no idea. I knew I was called to something, but what? I told the Lord that I was prepared to go anywhere He sent me, but I had no idea where that was. I really wanted to know what was next. I fasted three days and shared my frustration with Jane."

"What would you *like* to do?" she asked. "If you could do anything with your life, what would it be?"

That was easy. "If I could do anything, because of what he's done for us, I'd like to serve Kenneth Copeland."

All the students at JSMI had been asked to write a résumé. David wrote his and laughed. Everything on it was what he'd done in business. There was nothing about ministry. At the end of the school year, they were asked to update them. He added one line: "1999 completed Jerry Savelle Bible Institute."

"By this time, the Lord had directed us to return to Australia and upon departing Fort Worth, our pastor had prophesied that we would hit the ground running in ministry when we returned home."

### Trust and Obey

*I want you to send this to KCM*, the Lord said about David's résumé.

David obeyed, adding a cover letter: "I'll be back in Australia in June 1999. I know you have an office there. If there's anything I can do to help, please let me know."

He put it in the post and forgot about it.

David had no way of knowing that in March 1999, while still at JSMI, the director of KCM Australia had gone home to be with the Lord. Derek Turner, then the international director at KCM, had flown to Australia where he spent 12 weeks helping and interviewing candidates for the director's position.

When Derek returned to his office in Texas, he found David's résumé on his desk. While he was reading it the Lord said, *This is the person you've been looking for.*

Derek asked his assistant to contact David and set up an interview. Learning that he had already left Texas to head back home, she located where the family was staying, called and left three messages for David.

### A Divine Connection

"We were about to leave the country when I spoke to Derek Turner," David recalls. "We decided to meet in Sydney in July. During the interview, I learned that the former director had died in March. Suddenly, the Lord's insistence that I leave for JSMI when I did made so much sense.

"I was hired for the director's position, which was in Brisbane, about 1200 miles

from our families and the land we owned. My first day on the job, I was in Fort Worth, Texas, at the Southwest Believers' Convention.

"I've been the director of the Australian office now for 18 marvelous years," David says. "One of the greatest compliments Brother Copeland has ever given me is that he never troubles himself about how the office is run. I'm a leader in the Kingdom with a different gift, call and skill set than many people. We haven't built our dream home yet, but His promise of a harvest is still alive, and more importantly all our children are serving the Lord.

"I've thought often about Mrs. Naylor—a woman I never met. She has been in heaven now for over 20 years. Her seed caused me and my entire family to be saved. It impacted every area of our lives: our salvation, our gifts, our callings and our finances. It's still multiplying exponentially into eternity.

"Isaiah 9:7 says, 'Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.' We know that God's kingdom is always increasing and growing. But we didn't grasp what Mrs. Naylor realized—that the same thing is true when we plant the seed of the Word. It never stops multiplying.

"She realized that partnering with the Word Kenneth Copeland preached had phenomenal eternal impact. That seed produced in Mrs. Naylor. She planted it in the life of Jane's uncle, and it produced in him. It produced in Jane's mother. And it produced in Jane and me, our children and all our families. And it's continuing to produce in the thousands upon thousands of lives which have been touched through KCM Australia.

"I'm receiving a multiplication on the lives we influence for Jesus. Everything in God's kingdom has an eternal impact. Mrs. Naylor's seed is still producing." 🍷

**JOIN DAVID, JANE  
AND THE REST OF  
OUR HOLY GHOST  
GANG OF BELIEVERS.  
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# PROSPERING IN A WORLD OF CYCLES

*Have you ever learned a lesson the hard way?*

*Well, I have. One lesson in particular stands out in my mind.*

*A few years ago, I learned about something called “the cattle cycle.” I had decided to go into the cattle business when calves were selling for more than \$1 per pound. A reputable cattle dealer was having a “big liquidation sale.”*

I did the math and thought, *Man, in 2½ years I’ll have my money back and these cows will be good for another 10-12 years.* So, I bought some cows.

Now the fact that the dealer was liquidating should have raised a red flag for me. I should have realized that if this man was selling his cows, he probably knew something I didn’t.

As it turned out, he knew the bottom was about to fall out of the cattle market. The next year calves were down to 75 cents per pound, and by the second year they were down to 65 cents. The result was, I bought high and sold low.

I paid a hefty price for my lack of knowledge.

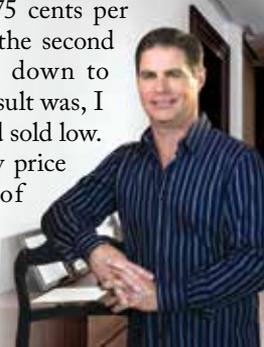
Later I decided to go to school and

get the natural knowledge I needed to understand how the cattle cycle works.

## Cycles Can Work for You

We live in a world of cycles or seasons. There are seasons of plenty and seasons of drought, good times and bad times. That’s just the nature of this world. The life cycle and the death cycle have been in operation since the Fall of Man. Thank God, Romans 8:2 tells us that “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made [us] free from the law of sin and death.” That means, as born-again believers, we aren’t locked into the death cycle anymore. We can step out of it and walk in the life cycle of God.

But still, we do live in this world and the Bible tells us that “while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*). Everything runs in cycles—from the food chain, to the weather, to economics.



**John Copeland**

is the son of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, and former CEO of Kenneth Copeland Ministries.



***I believe God can also show us things to come if we will stay sensitive to Him. He can tell us about an upcoming real estate crash or boom.***



If you understand cycles—even the bad cycles can work to your advantage. For instance, I didn't benefit from the cattle cycle when I started out, but the people who bought my cattle did. When the economy is down, the media would have us believe that everyone is losing money, but that's not true. People who are wise and have knowledge are prospering. Fortunes can be made by those who understand cycles.

If we're faithful to do what we're supposed to do, God can work in our lives no matter what's happening around us. One way to stay in that life cycle is to always stay focused on God, *especially* during the good times. I say that because it's human nature to become complacent and lazy when things are going our way. We may not be as motivated to spend time in the Word and prayer. We may tend to forget that we need God when all our needs are met. When we are doing well, we may not be seeking His will for our lives.

During the tough times however, we get serious about the things of God. We begin digging into the Word and shoring up spiritually. We begin preparing for the future instead of just living for the moment. We're desperately crying out, "God, what do You want me to do?"

You see, when we're in a cycle of good times, it's from the seeds we planted yesterday. When we're in the tough times, it's also from the seeds we planted, or didn't plant, yesterday. We should, however, level out the ups and downs by always being prepared spiritually for the next cycle.

As Christians, we should always be blessed. Our lives shouldn't be affected by what's going on in the world. People should see something different in us and be looking to us for answers.

### **You Can See It Coming**

The Bible tells us of a man whose life was just such an example. No matter what happened to him, Joseph always came out on top. Although he was well-acquainted with hard times—sold into slavery by jealous brothers and unjustly

thrown into prison—Joseph's life was blessed.

He stayed true to God, served others well and didn't complain. At one point, Joseph was called to interpret Pharaoh's dream about good and bad corn, and fat and skinny cows (Genesis 41:15-36). He made sure everyone knew God was the One with the answer, not him. Joseph honored God.

God gave Joseph the interpretation of the dream revealing that a cycle of plenty was coming and then a famine cycle would follow. As a result, Joseph was able to manage the resources of the nation so they would be prepared for the years of famine. Many lives were saved, and Joseph personally prospered too.

I believe God can also show us things to come if we will stay sensitive to Him. He can tell us about an upcoming real estate crash or boom. After all, Jesus has called us His friends and said He has made known to us everything He has heard from His Father (John 15:15). He is well able to tell us how to prepare for the future so we can prosper and be a blessing to others.

However, if we have no natural knowledge in a particular area, it's not as easy for God to show us things that pertain to that subject.

So, it's good to seek knowledge in the areas God is leading you to pursue. When you have natural knowledge and God's wisdom, you will have an obvious advantage.

### **Cycle Into the Good**

Now if you are presently experiencing a difficult time, make a quality decision to seek God and obey Him. Do your part. No matter how things look, don't let your mouth work against you—speak the Word over your life. Continue giving, sowing toward the next cycle. And be thankful to the Lord for the good things you have.

As you do these things and keep pressing on in faith every day, your situation will begin to change. You can

boldly declare: "Thanks be unto God, which always causeth [me] to triumph in Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Once you obtain the victory, begin preparing spiritually for the next season. You will soon be prospering—no matter what the cycle. 🍀

## ***One of my fondest memories***

One of my fondest memories over the years is one that reminds me of how steadfast and committed both Mom and Dad have always been in ministry. They have always been steady in whatever they've done, and in whatever they've believed, and they have never changed.

Mom was holding Healing School at the Tallahassee Convention Center in Tennessee, when a tornado hit the building and tore a big hole in the roof. She was preaching when she suddenly felt water dropping on her. She looked up and saw there was a hole in the roof, and said something like, "There's a hole in the roof. I can see the sky." She then spoke directly to the storm and said, "In Jesus' Name, we take authority over you, weather! In Jesus' Name, I will not tolerate this!" Then, she just kept right on preaching like nothing had ever happened. They ended up having to move everyone out of that room and into a hallway, but Mom went right back to preaching, and laid hands on everyone who needed it. 🍀

John

# NO MORE EXCUSES

by Kellie Copeland

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THE HEAD OF JERRY SAVELLE'S MINISTRY SCHOOL ASKED ME TO TEACH HOW TO RAISE A GODLY FAMILY. I WAS FEELING VERY UNQUALIFIED AT THE TIME AND ARGUED WITH THE LORD ABOUT IT:

"Lord, I can't go talk about this. I am having the biggest challenge with my own kids right now, because You know...we've been so busy, and I haven't been consistent with disciplining my children..."

In the middle of my great discourse, the Lord stopped me and said something to me that changed my life forever. I even wrote down exactly what He said: *If you make excuses for your condition, or the condition of your home, you won't change.*

I didn't talk back or argue for even a second. I said, "Yes, Sir."

Then He added, *If you make excuses for your children, you won't discipline them, and they won't change.*

God's words were so right to me that day. Growing up, I was proficient at making excuses. As I matured spiritually, I began disciplining myself about it. Even as an adult, I have to

watch myself to make sure I don't make excuses in my walk with the Lord.

Excuses are dangerous. The more I've studied God's Word on this subject, the more clearly I've seen just how dangerous they really are. Some of the most famous people in the Bible made excuses...and every time, it cost them dearly. Let me share a few of the excuses I've found in the Bible, because I believe they will open your eyes to the danger.

## Excuse #1: Self-Doubt

In Exodus 3, God told Moses all the things He wanted Moses to do concerning leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. Rather than taking on the assignment with faith and joy, every word out of Moses' mouth was an argument or an excuse that sprang from self-doubt:

"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" (verse 11, *New King James Version*).

"Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" (verse 13).

"But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you'" (chapter 4:1).

**REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU WERE RAISED, HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE, OR INTO WHAT FAMILY YOU WERE BORN, GOD CAN MAKE A WAY FOR YOU.**

“O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue” (verse 10).

Moses didn't have much confidence in himself, but God was patient until Moses said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.” Then we read, “So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses,” and God allowed Moses to use his brother Aaron as his spokesman (verses 13-17).

All of Moses' reasoning and excuses made the anger of God kindle against him—it did not change God.

God hadn't changed His plan for Moses' life, but because of Moses' lack of confidence, God allowed him to use Aaron. Consequently, because that wasn't God's plan, Aaron caused Moses quite a bit of trouble down the road. And the worst consequence was that Moses didn't enter into the Promised Land. It was all because of an attitude of disobedience, self-doubt and making excuses.

As I studied this example, the Lord said to me, *Excuses do not move God from His plan for your life, but they will move you from His plan for your life.* And that's what ultimately happened to Moses.

When we give God excuses, we move off His plan for our lives.

### **Excuse #2: Lack of Social Position**

The next excuse is something you hear all the time: “Well, I'm not rich.... My family is not that.... You are successful because you are this.... You have a lot of money.... You come from a family with good connections.... You are black.... You are white.... red, green....” and on they go.

This is the excuse Gideon tried to give to God: “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house” (Judges 6:15).

Gideon judged that he could not save Israel because he wasn't rich, he was the least in his father's house, he didn't come from the “right” clan. But that didn't matter to God, because God knew He was Gideon's supply. He was Gideon's way to victory.

God's response to Gideon was, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one

man” (verse 16). A lack of social position does not move God, so it's wrong to use that as an excuse to Him. There are race and socio-economic divisions in virtually all cultures, but God has given everyone the way to break through those barriers.

Regardless of where you were raised, how much money you have, or into what family you were born, God can make a way for you.

### **Excuse #3: It's Too Hard**

In Proverbs 22:13, we read of a third excuse that few would call by its real name. Solomon wrote, “The lazy man says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’”

Now, I never hear people say, “Oh, I'm just too lazy to do it.” No one would admit that! But they do say, “Oh, it's just *tooooo* hard.” And that's basically what the lazy man in Proverbs was saying.

We've all acted this way before...and too often we see it in our children.

A couple years ago, Rachel, my oldest daughter, needed to raise money for a youth trip. When my dad learned she was believing for money, he told her, “Rachel, I have a job for you to do out at the ministry.”

On the day he specified, we met Dad at his office in the airplane hangar. Rachel was pretty excited until he took us out to the main area where the planes were parked, handed Rachel a broom, and said, “Rachel, sweep the hangar.”

The hangar was huge, but Rachel just nodded to her grandfather. But after Dad disappeared into his office, she asked me, “Mom, don't they pay people to do stuff like this?”

I smiled and said, “Yeah, *you*. Now get to work.”

It was a daunting task. The floor was scored in 5-foot-square sections, so it looked like 5-foot squares of concrete all over. I told Rachel, “Just start one block at a time.” She did, and she did a really good job earning some money for her trip.

Many times what God tells us to do may look impossible...but if you just start, He will always tell you how to do it. Don't give Him excuses. Just say, “Yes, Sir.”

### **Excuse #4: Outside Distractions**

In Luke 14:16-17, Jesus tells a parable filled with excuses of outside distractions and considerations. The parable begins telling us, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’”

Verses 18-20 go on to reveal the excuses the people made:

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

God had a plan for all of these people to be blessed, but they all had excuses. The master didn't say, “You go get them, and you drag them in here. They need to be here. Go get them by force.”

No, he didn't do that. And God won't either. God won't force you into His plan for your life. If you make excuses, He will excuse you. He will excuse you from being blessed.

### **Excuse #5: Shifting the Blame**

When I was a child, I always shifted the blame onto my brother. Children naturally do this...and they grow up into adults who do it unless they are trained otherwise.

Adam did this to Eve in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3, we read that they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and they hid from God. When God called out to Adam asking, “Where are you?” they came out of hiding, and Adam told God he was afraid because he was naked (verses 9-10).

“Who told you that you were naked?” God asked (verse 11).

That was just a simple question that called for an answer—not an excuse. But Adam answered, “The woman whom You gave to be with me...” (verse 12). He tried shifting the blame.

Then the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate” (verse 13).

No one wanted to say, “I was wrong.” You see, excuses indicate three things: a lack of repentance, a lack of honor and a lack of attentiveness.

When I ask my children a question, I do not want to hear excuses—just like God doesn’t. I want an answer. All I want to hear is, “Yes, ma’am. I apologize. I was wrong.” That’s the way we need to respond, too. Excuses only train us for defeat. They will keep us from turning from error and getting back into the will of God—and one excuse will lead to another.

### Excuse #6: Lack of Supply

My dad always taught me that having money, or not having money, is no reason to do or not do anything.

Whether something is going to make you money, or cost you money, should never enter into the deciding factors regarding anything in your life. Jesus exposed this kind of wrong thinking and excuse making in Matthew 16:5-9:

Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.’ And they reasoned among themselves, saying, ‘It is because we have taken no bread.’ But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, ‘O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? Do you not yet understand, or remember the five

loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up?’

The disciples made excuses for not having bread with them, and they reasoned it all out in their minds. But Jesus didn’t accept those excuses. This is such an important lesson. If God tells you to start a church, or go help a certain minister or ministry, and the first thing out of your mouth is, “Well, Lord, I don’t have the money to do that,” you’ve just given Him an excuse.

Jesus’ answer to this problem every time is, “I supply.” That’s what He told the disciples, and that’s what He’ll tell you.

### Remember Jesus

Matthew 25 records the story of the talents. In verse 25, when the master confronted the servant about what he did with his talent, the servant answered, “I was afraid.” His excuse was fear.

In Jeremiah 1:6, Jeremiah told the Lord, “Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.” Boy, was he wrong. No one is ever too young to be used by the Lord. In fact, no one is too old, too fat, too skinny or too anything!

The bottom line to excuses is that we need to never give them. James 1:22 says we are to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. James goes on to say that one who is a hearer only deceives himself.

Excuses are Satan’s tools to cause deceit in your life and they will keep you from living in victory. By making excuses, you make Jesus’ sacrifice of no effect. Instead of allowing Him and His sacrifice to be your justification, you are justifying yourself.

When you feel an excuse about to pop out of your mouth, remember what Jesus said in the garden of Gethsemane. He didn’t want to go to the Cross. He didn’t want to be separated from God. “He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him” (Mark 14:35). But He also said, “Not what I will, but what You will” (verse 36).

Don’t allow yourself to argue with God. Don’t allow yourself to give excuses to others. Just say yes to the Lord and walk in the abundant blessings a life of no excuses provides. 🍎

**One of my fondest memories**

When I was about 11 years old, we were in Hawaii at a Full Gospel Business Men’s meeting where Dad was speaking. For some reason, I was asked to sing before a luncheon. I’m still curious as to why they asked—UNLESS my parents told them I loved to sing. In any case, it was my first time to sing in public. Dad took me aside and told me about his first time to sing. He was just a little boy singing at a church picnic. He said he had eaten too much at the picnic, so when he got up to sing, a big burp came out! I remember laughing, and not being nervous anymore about my debut! My big takeaway that day? Don’t eat too much before you sing!

One thing I love

about Mom and Dad is their love, support and belief in others. They didn’t require me to be perfected and developed in my gift and calling before allowing me to be part of ministry with them. I don’t consider myself to have a great singing talent, but I’ve always had a heart to sing for Jesus. They saw that, and made room for it. They may have even bragged on me to Demos Shakarian, the founder of FGBMF, who had a similar “love others, value others,” Jesus-kind-of-outlook on life. I don’t recall how it turned out, but I remember I felt valued by these love heroes in my life.

It inspires me to look beyond the surface for people’s value—to see beyond their troubles and look at the call. We’re all called by Jesus, and we have everything we need to live out that call. I’m grateful that I can see others through His eyes,

and be available to Him to give someone else an open door or a first opportunity. Giving someone that open door after Satan has tried to wipe them out is powerful. I am grateful to everyone who ever saw something in me that was a seed of what God had planted. Those doors, encouragements and platforms gave me the opportunity to grow up, and eventually become who I am today.

I can remember many people my parents believed in—people who received opportunities to shine. Fledgling ministers who were promoted, others forgiven and allowed to grow up and become great. These are memories that I love about my parents, and what Kenneth Copeland Ministries represents. 🍎

Kellie

# THE BEST GIFT EVER!

Commander Kellie's Corner

## Merry Christmas, Superkids!

YAY! It's Christmas! Are you excited to see what's in the packages under the tree? Or, maybe they're hidden in your parents' closet. But don't go looking! Parents don't like that! They like to keep some gifts top-secret until the last minute. In fact, I like to keep my family guessing about what the gifts might be. It's fun to wrap something small in a HUGE box, just to throw them off! It would really be awesome if you could wrap something HUGE in a tiny box! I wish I could manage that! Coolest mom ever! Sound impossible? Maybe for normal parents, but there is one Parent who thought that was a great idea! Who do you think I mean?

You got it! Our Father God! Truly the best and COOLEST—EVER! Definitely the best Christmas gift hider—AND giver!

Our Father planned to give Jesus to the world (to you and me) before the world was ever created.

Ephesians 1:3-4 (*The Message*), says, "How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son."

God was going to send Jesus to the earth! Imagine, the ultimate Gift, God Himself coming to earth! But how would He do it? God can't just show up on earth, can He? As people began to hear that God was coming, they imagined a King, riding on a white horse, coming to save the world and remove the enemy by force—a warrior King with battalions of angels behind Him who would



Kellie Copeland

wipe out the devil and all his followers. Sounds like a plan! But not God's plan. He gave people clues about His plan through the prophets, but for thousands of years only a few understood what He was planning.

Isaiah 7:14 (*New Living Translation*), says: "All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')." Wow! People probably thought that was impossible. God is so massive, so never ending! They were not expecting Him in the form of a child. ALL of God, in an itty-bitty baby? Only God could think of such a surprise packaging of Himself.

Have you ever wondered WHY He had to come as a baby? It was because of you and me. The Father wanted us to know, beyond any doubt, that just like this little baby named Jesus contains ALL of God, you and I can contain all of God. To be able to save you and me, Jesus had to come to earth just like you and me. It sounds so simple, but it's true. There is nothing you face that He didn't face too: no sickness, hurt, pain or struggle. There was no joy, love, laughter or grace that He walked in that we cannot have, because Jesus won the fight against the devil and He did it for us. Talk about Merry Christmas! The biggest gift ever wrapped in the smallest possible package.

I think the Christmas story in Luke 2 is like the most beautiful wrapping paper. And I think 1 John 4:9-10 is God's gift tag with His message to us: "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins" (*NLT*).



In fact, you could say that all of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, is like wrapping paper. As you tear into it you begin to see what is in this package, sent straight from heaven with your name on it. Jesus. There He is. Best gift ever.

I just have one question, Superkid: Are you going to open this package? It's so easy. John 3:16 (*NLT*), says, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son,



so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." And Romans 10:9-10 (*NLT*), says, "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God

raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

Give Jesus the gift of YOU this Christmas and pray this with me:

"Father, I thank You for sending Your Son to earth to pay the price for me. Thank You for loving me as much as You love HIM! I accept Your gift! Jesus, come into my heart. I believe that God raised You from the dead, and I believe You now make me a child of God. Today, I make You the Lord of my life! In Jesus' Name. Amen!"

Now, talk about a Christmas party! Just like heaven rejoiced the day Jesus was born into the earth in Luke 2, the Bible says that when YOU prayed that prayer, all of heaven rejoiced! YOU have been born into the family of God today, Superkid! That makes YOU my best Christmas gift! ❤️

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

# PEACE ON EARTH

*is possible!*

by  
Gloria  
Copeland

*In this day and time, peace is a precious commodity. And for many people, it's a rare one. Every day our eyes, ears and hearts can be bombarded by the media with glaring headlines of doom and visions of turmoil... anything but peace. People everywhere are experiencing all kinds of pressure and stress. And people everywhere have a choice to make—to either receive turmoil into their hearts, or to resist fear and refuse to allow it to chip away at their peace.*

I feel confident *you* will choose to resist fear and live in peace—regardless of what's happening. And there is only one way to effectively do that—you must go to God and His Word.

A key scripture for being established in peace is found in Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Peace comes as a result of trusting God—operating in faith, keeping your mind on His Word and acting on it.

It's interesting to note that in this verse the word for peace is *shalom*, which means “nothing missing, nothing broken.” The root word it comes from means “to be complete, sound, whole.” And there is another definition for peace that I especially like: “everything that makes for man's highest good.” Think about how that reveals God's heart—He has the “highest good” in mind for us.

That kind of peace means

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TO THE DEGREE YOU WALK IN THE LOVE OF GOD—LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS—THAT'S HOW MUCH YOU CAN ENJOY PEACE.

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## DEC READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

		Old Testament	Psalms
Fri	1	Dan. 9-10	Ps. 119:73-96
Sat	2	Dan. 11-12	Ps. 119:97-120
Sun	3	Hos. 1-3	Ps. 119:121-144
Mon	4	Hos. 4-5	Ps. 119:145-176
Tue	5	Hos. 6-7	Ps. 120
Wed	6	Hos. 8-9	Ps. 121
Thu	7	Hos. 10-11	Ps. 122
Fri	8	Hos. 12-13	Ps. 123
Sat	9	Hos. 14; Joel 1	Ps. 124
Sun	10	Joel 2-3; Amos 1	Ps. 125-126
Mon	11	Amos 2-3	Ps. 127
Tue	12	Amos 4-5	Ps. 128
Wed	13	Amos 6-7	Ps. 129
Thu	14	Amos 8-9	Ps. 130
Fri	15	Obad.; Jon. 1	Ps. 131
Sat	16	Jon. 2-3	Ps. 132
Sun	17	Jon. 4; Mic. 1-2	Ps. 133-134
Mon	18	Mic. 3-4	Ps. 135
Tue	19	Mic. 5-6	Ps. 136
Wed	20	Mic. 7; Nah. 1-3	Ps. 137
Thu	21	Hab. 1-3	Ps. 138
Fri	22	Zeph. 1-3	Ps. 139
Sat	23	Hag. 1-2	Ps. 140
Sun	24	Zech. 1-3	Ps. 141-142
Mon	25	Zech. 4-5	Ps. 143
Tue	26	Zech. 6-7	Ps. 144
Wed	27	Zech. 8-9	Ps. 145
Thu	28	Zech. 10-11	Ps. 146
Fri	29	Zech. 12-13	Ps. 147
Sat	30	Zech. 14; Mal. 1	Ps. 148
Sun	31	Mal. 2-4	Ps. 149-150

"Read Through the Bible in a Year Plan" written by Marilyn Hickey, and used by permission.

# NEW ITEMS



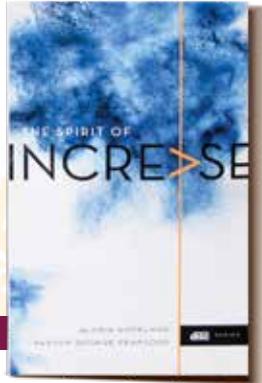
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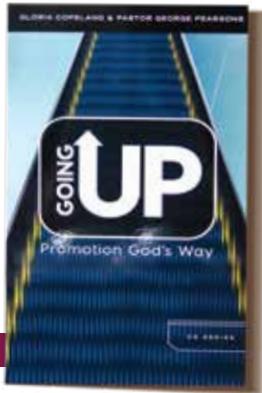


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living in a state of rest, quietness and calmness. It is the absence of strife—a place of tranquility. It generally denotes perfect well-being and includes harmonious relationships between God and man, and between men, nations and families.

Doesn't that motivate you to cultivate peace in your life?

## Obtaining Peace

Alexander Maclaren said: "True peace comes not from the absence of trouble, but from the presence of God and will be deep and passing all understanding in the exact measure in which we live in and partake of the love of God."

Think about that for a minute... peace isn't determined by the absence of trouble but rather by the presence of God.

Love, joy and peace issue out of your spirit as a result of fellowship with God. To the degree you walk in the love of God—loving God and loving others—that's how much you can enjoy peace.

Every fruit of the spirit depends on walking in love. It's impossible to walk in strife, unforgiveness and hatred and have peace at the same time. Hebrews 12:14 says, "Follow peace with all men..." If you have peace with God, you can have peace in every other relationship in your life.

This time of year we often hear the Christmas story from Luke 2:14 about the birth of Jesus and how the angels announced, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The word *peace* in this scripture is very significant. It means "to bind together that which has been separated."

Our peace comes from being joined to God. When Jesus was born, the way of peace was back in the earth making it possible for man and God to have peace with one another again.

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is our peace (Ephesians 2:14). When we accept Him as our Savior and make Him Lord of our lives, we are in covenant with God and it's a covenant of peace. The message of salvation

is also called the "gospel of peace" because Jesus paid the price for our sins, providing peace with God.

If I had to define *salvation* in one word, it would be "soundness." When you come to the Lord Jesus Christ, not only are you forgiven of your sins and born again, you also get to receive soundness, wholeness, in every area of your life—spirit, soul and body.

## Send Anxiety Packing

Jesus made the way for us to experience soundness when "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole" (Isaiah 53:5, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus bore all the bad things that could steal our peace—sin, grief, depression, anxiety, fear, mental illness and disease. He paid the price for us to live peacefully in this life!

But it's important to realize that peace doesn't come automatically—there is something for us to do.

It's true that Jesus has *given* us His peace. Like the rest of the fruit of the spirit, it becomes part of our new nature when we are born again. But just like the other fruit of the spirit, we have to *yield* to peace in order for it to manifest in our lives. And we must choose *not* to yield to anxiety and fear. It takes a conscious commitment to be obedient to God's Word and walk in the fruit of the spirit.

In John 14:27 Jesus comforts us with these words: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." Then He added this: "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

And in Philippians 4:6-7, Paul said, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts

and minds through Christ Jesus” (*New King James Version*).

Notice that after Paul said, “Be anxious for nothing,” he instructed us to take all our requests to God in prayer. When you pray in faith and *believe you receive* what you are praying about, then the peace of God is the result, slamming the door on anxiety. Get a visual picture that “peace...[will] garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (*AMPC*).

### Think the Way God Thinks

We saw earlier in Isaiah 26 that keeping your mind fixed on God and trusting Him brings peace. The Bible is full of scriptures that tell us God has always wanted His people to live in peace. That is clearly seen in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (*NKJV*). Peace is God’s plan!

According to 1 Corinthians 14:33, “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.” And we learn in 1 Corinthians 7:15 that He has called us to peace.

Then just look at this promise in Isaiah 48:17-18: “I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! *then had thy peace been as a river*, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.”

God has given us His commandments, His Word, so we can prosper and live in peace. In fact, “When a man’s ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Proverbs 16:7). That’s a wonderful promise! If we will walk in covenant with God, we can even have peace with our enemies.

### Live in Undisturbed Places of Rest

There is plenty of trouble in the world. Without the protection of God, things are unsure in this life. But Isaiah 32:17-18 assures us that, “The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest” (*New International Version*).

If we want to live in peace, we have to pursue righteousness—we have to follow God and obey His Word. The reward is substantial—quietness, confidence, peaceful dwelling places, secure homes and rest!

Peace is such a powerful force that even if your circumstances are turned upside down and inside out, or you’re caught right in the middle of a war, or you’re experiencing tremendous emotional turmoil—even then—the peace of God can rise up within you and bring you a sense of well-being.

It is a blessing of God that no matter what’s happening on the outside, you and I can live in peace.

The truth is, we can be undisturbed during any crisis situation when we’re vitally connected to God.

The Bible promises, “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 119:165).

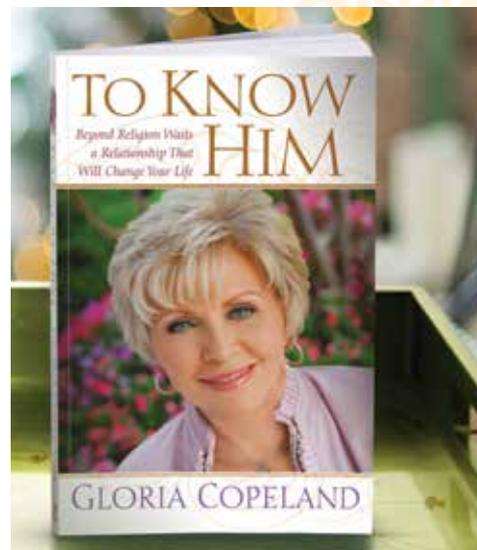
### Peace Is an Umpire

Another wonderful aspect of peace is that it acts as God’s signpost for guidance. When you have a question about what you should do, the Bible says to: “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...” (Colossians 3:15).

I like the translation in the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*: “Let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ’s] one body you were also called [to live].” You can allow God’s peace to act as an umpire and settle questions in your mind.

Peace on earth is possible. It’s God’s will for every one of His children... including *you*. There’s no peace outside of God and His Word—outside of believing and trusting Him. So choose to spend time in prayer and in the Word and let the peace of God rule and reign in your life.

This is my heartfelt prayer for you: “May God, the giver of hope, fill you with all joy and peace because you trust in Him—so that you may be overflowing with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13, *Weymouth*). 📌



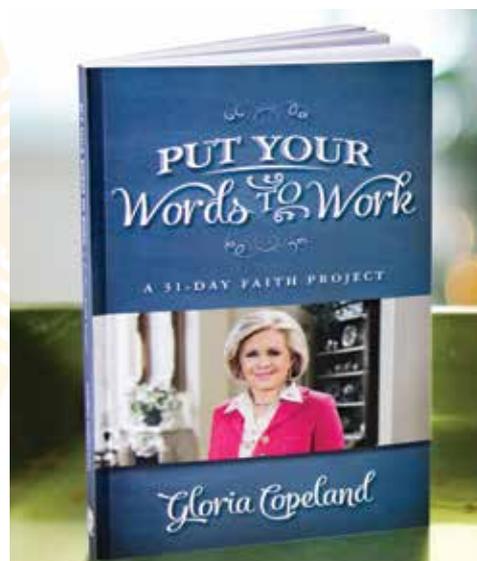
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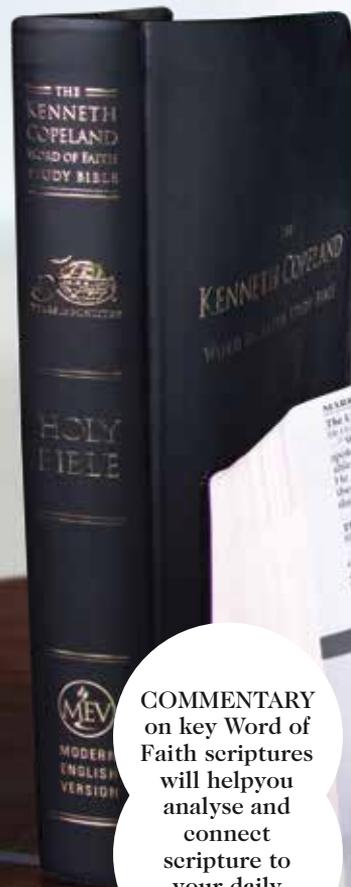
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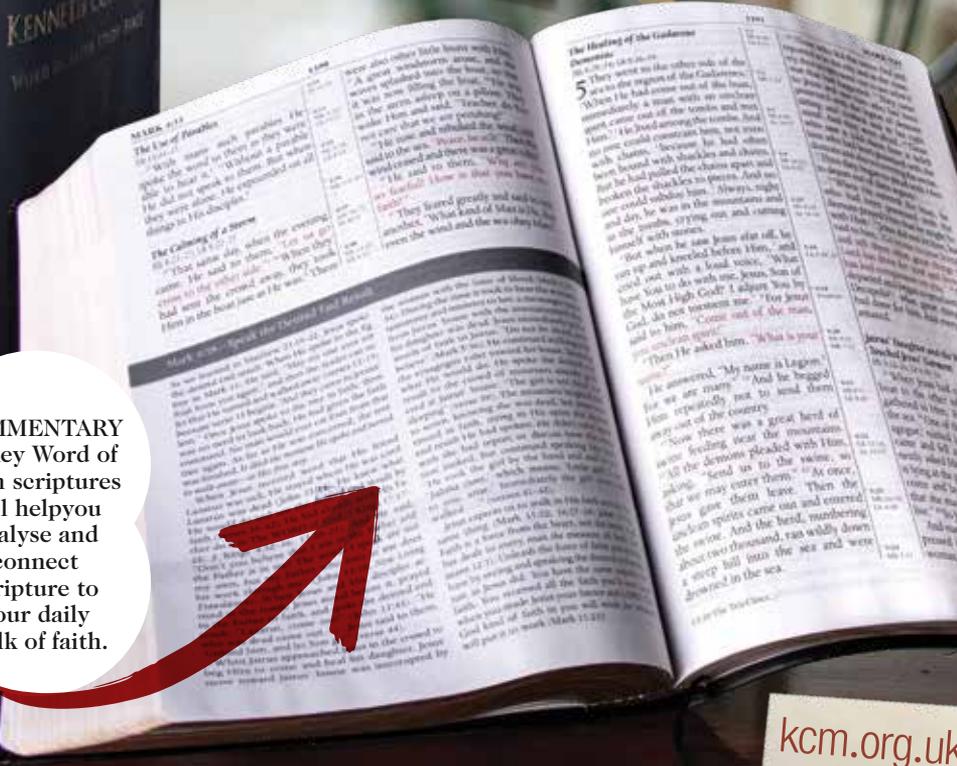
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