

JAN 2018

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Never base your faith on your feelings. Base it on God's Word. — Kenneth Copeland



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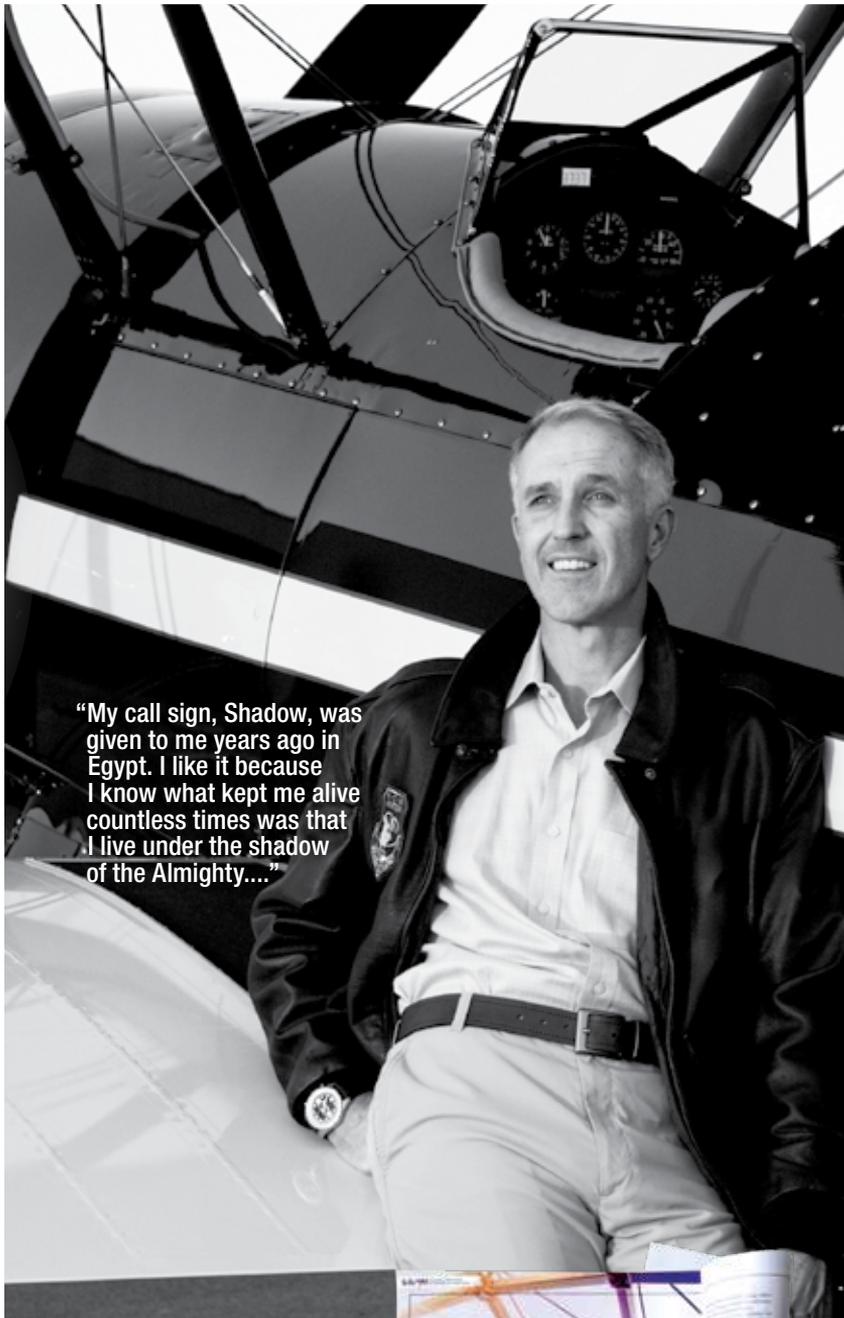


new!



COMMENTARY on key Word of Faith scriptures will help you analyse and connect scripture to your daily walk of faith.





“My call sign, Shadow, was given to me years ago in Egypt. I like it because I know what kept me alive countless times was that I live under the shadow of the Almighty....”



JAN

4 When Faith Boils Over
by Kenneth Copeland
Faith always comes when you hear The WORD. Meditate on The WORD every day and your faith level will rise. That's how the woman with the issue of blood received her healing. She kept thinking and saying that when she touched Jesus' garment she would be healed...and she was!

9 Stand Your Ground!
by Pastor George Pearsons
Find out how to step out in faith, stand your ground and receive God's promises.

12 Call Sign: Shadow
by Melanie Hemry
Air Force fighter pilot Pete “Shadow” Ford spent his adult life fighting high above the earth, enjoying the life of constant danger. When a warning from his mother that he would experience “a great fall” materialized in his aircraft malfunctioning, and Pete falling 6,000 feet, nosediving toward a rocky desert floor, he remembered what he had learned as a child from “Papa” Kenneth Copeland: that as a believer, he lived under the shadow of the Almighty.

21 Fully Persuaded, Completely at Rest
by Keith Moore
Decide today to trust, and be fully persuaded that what God has promised He is faithful to perform. Then enter the rest and stay there until you get the answer you're waiting for!

24 Building a Wall Between You and Sin
by Kenneth Copeland
When we remember Jesus by taking Communion frequently, we build a wall of His righteousness between us and sin. It determines what we say and do, and the amount of power in our lives.

28 Ready for His Coming
by Gloria Copeland
Throughout history, God has kept His appointments, so we can expect Jesus to come right on time to catch away the Church. Make sure you're ready!

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



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It's a great way to recycle!

EVERY DAY YOU AND I CAN BUILD A WALL THAT WILL HELP KEEP US FROM BEING OVERCOME BY THE WORLD'S DARKNESS.

P.24



WHEN FAITH BOILS OVER

THERE'S NO SUCH THING
AS WATER THAT WON'T
BOIL. YOU HEAT IT UP TO

212°

FAHRENHEIT, OR 100°
CELCIUS, AT SEA LEVEL
AND IT'S GOING TO
BOIL EVERY TIME. IT'S
PREDICTABLE BECAUSE
IT'S A LAW, A LAW OF
PHYSICS.

Have you ever been praying about some persistent need in your life and found yourself wanting to ask The LORD, "Aren't You ever going to do something about this?"

If so, I want you to pay close attention because I'm going to give you the answer to that question. I'm going to tell you something that will set you free from ever having to ask it again.

God has already done all He's ever going to do about meeting your needs.

"Oh, no, Brother Copeland! You mean God isn't going to heal me of this sickness I've been battling? You mean He's not going to provide the money I need to pay these bills?"

That's not what I said. I said He's *already* done it.

by Kenneth Copeland

POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:



As you keep feeding on the Word, faith keeps coming until it eventually boils over and you receive what you've been believing for.

1

Through Jesus, God has already provided everything you'll ever need to live a BLESSED, victorious life.
Ephesians 1:3

2

You just need to find out what God said about it, believe it, and confess it.
Romans 10:8

3

You can have faith for anything if you will feed on what The WORD says about it.
Romans 10:17

4

Words are the starter button when it comes to receiving from God so make sure you only speak words of faith.
Proverbs 18:21

5

Like the woman with the issue of blood, keep meditating on The WORD and the moment will come when your faith comes to a climax and you see the results.
Matthew 9:22

This is the way we receive everything Jesus has provided—from healing, to prosperity, to any other aspect of THE BLESSING of God. We hear what The WORD has to say about it, and as we hear The WORD faith comes. It rises up in our heart until it overflows through the words of our mouth and produces the desired result.

You can see an example of how the process works in Matthew 9. It tells the story about the woman who was healed of the issue of blood. You've probably read about her. She was sick for 12 years, spent all her money on doctors and just kept getting worse.

Then, one day she heard the good news about Jesus. She heard The WORD He was preaching about how He was Anointed by God to heal the sick and she started meditating on it. She started saying within herself, "If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole" (verse 21).

The more she said it, the more faith came. Eventually her faith got so strong she got up and acted on it. She pushed her way through the crowd where Jesus was preaching, touched His clothes, and was immediately made whole.

"Yeah, but that woman's situation was unique," someone might say. "She was healed because Jesus was standing there."

No, she wasn't. She was healed because she had faith in The WORD. Jesus said so Himself. He said to her, "Daughter...thy faith hath made thee whole" (verse 22).

Your faith will do the same thing. It will enable you to receive from God whatever it takes for you to be whole in any area of your life. You don't need Jesus to be standing there with you to get it, either. You just need your Bible and some good faith preaching—because that's how faith comes. It comes by hearing and hearing The WORD of God.

Words Are the Starter Button

As Brother Kenneth E. Hagin used to say, "You can school yourself right into faith by confessing and meditating on the Scriptures." You can fill your heart so full of The WORD that when you're faced with a need, the first words that come out of your mouth are words of faith.

This is the way we receive everything Jesus has provided....

WE HEAR WHAT THE WORD HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT, AND AS WE HEAR THE WORD FAITH COMES.

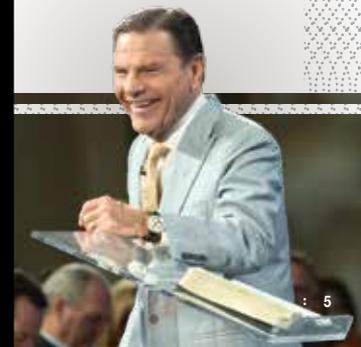
When He sent Jesus to the cross and raised Him from the dead, God provided everything you'll ever need to live a victorious, abundant life. The only thing that remains is for you to receive it.

How?

By doing the same thing you did when you received the new birth. You remember how you did that. You simply heard the gospel, believed that through Jesus salvation had already been provided, and you confessed Him as LORD. You took God at His WORD and got born again by faith.

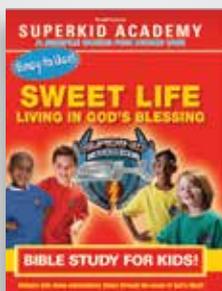
Faith doesn't ask God questions, like "When are You going to do something for me?" It says just the opposite. As Romans 10 says:

The righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say *not* in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; that 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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (verses 6-10, 17).

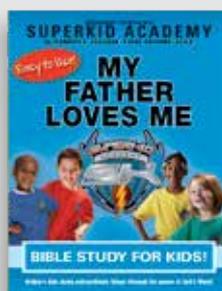


KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR

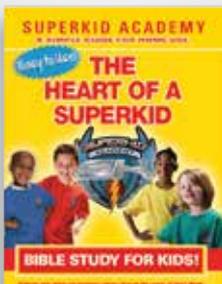
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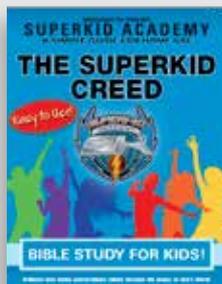
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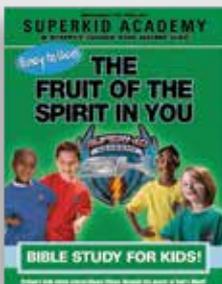
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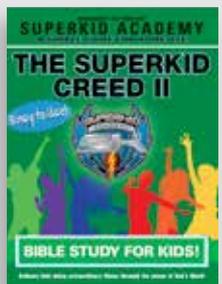
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That's important because words are the start button when it comes to receiving from God. They put spiritual laws in motion and, depending on whether you're speaking words of faith or words of fear and unbelief, those laws will either work for you or against you.

I remember one particular experience I had with this years ago. It was back when we were first getting started in ministry. We'd just gotten back from preaching out of town for three weeks, and I'd stayed up late just enjoying being at home. When I finally decided to go to bed, I switched off the light and walked through the living room in the dark. I'd forgotten about the big, green ottoman that was positioned in my pathway and I kicked the thing full force.

Talk about pain! I heard a pop and knew instantly I'd broken my toe. Aware of the power of my words at a moment like that, I shouted "Jesus, I praise You! Glory to God! Hallelujah!"

I went on for a while declaring The WORD of God over my toe, and then went to bed. I was able to go to sleep by faith, but the next morning when I woke up the devil was right there waiting for me. As soon as I opened my eyes he said, "You'd better look at that toe! It's black and blue!"

Given how it was throbbing, I knew that was probably correct, but I refused to look and see. I even kept my eyes closed while I was putting on my socks. I headed into the kitchen where Gloria was fixing breakfast and, of course, the first thing I wanted to say was, "Gloria, my toe is broken and it's hurting something awful!"

I knew, however, if she agreed with that I'd be in trouble, because spiritual laws were still functioning. So, I just said, "Gloria, I kicked the ottoman in the dark last night, and in the Name of The LORD Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I believe I receive my healing."

She said, "I agree with that," and turned around and laid hands on me.

I had an appointment that morning to go see about a little single-engine airplane I was interested in buying for the ministry, so after breakfast I drove

to the airport. All the way there, my toe was talking to me about what bad shape it was in. So, I talked back. I told it that by the stripes of Jesus I am healed.

When I arrived at the airport and went into the office, the receptionist noticed I was limping and asked me what happened. "I kicked an ottoman last night and broke my toe," I told her. "But Jesus said when He was on earth, 'Whatever thing you desire when you pray, believe you receive them, and you shall have them.' So, I believe my toe is healed."

She hurried away as quickly as she could, and I went on down to where the plane was parked. It wasn't very far but I certainly wasn't going to walk, so I drove, saying to myself the whole time, *Glory to God! I believe I receive my healing. I have a good toe. Amen.*

Why am I telling you all this? Because this is what it looks like to live by faith.

When I stepped out of the car to have a look at the plane, the moment my foot hit the ground I realized all the pain had gone. My healing had manifested, and my toe was perfectly fine.

Keep Turning Up the Heat

This is the reason you need to be constantly meditating in the Scriptures! You want to be spiritually prepared for such situations. Even if you're too smart to kick an ottoman in the dark and break your toe, you're going to run into trouble of some kind in this world, and when you do you want to be ready to respond in faith.

Faith is a connector. It connects you to what God has already provided for you and it comes by constant, diligent, prayerful study and feeding on God's WORD.

"But Brother Copeland, I *have* spent time in The WORD, and so far, faith hasn't come."

Yes, it has. You just need to stick with the program. Keep reading your Bible, listening to CDs and watching DVDs of The WORD being preached. Keep meditating on what

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God says and calling things that be not as though they were. Keep calling yourself well instead of sick; prosperous instead of broke; victorious rather than defeated. As you keep doing that, faith will keep coming. It will keep bubbling up in your spirit, rising higher and higher until it eventually overflows.

Gloria refers to this as the point where "faith boils over." I like that! It's a good way to say it because in the natural, there's no such thing as water that won't boil. You heat it up to 212 degrees Fahrenheit, or 100 degrees Celsius, at sea level and it's going to boil every time. It's predictable because it's a law, a law of physics.

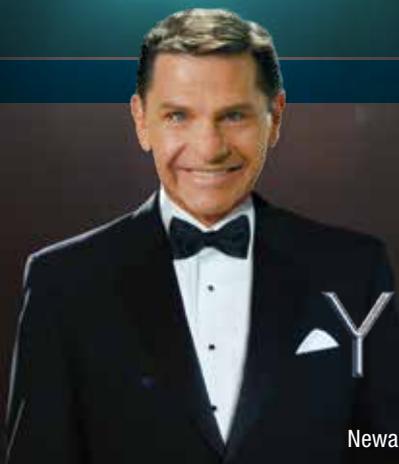
The same is true about faith. There's no such thing as faith that doesn't come. It works by spiritual law. If you keep heating it up with The WORD, it's going to boil over and you'll receive whatever you've been believing for.

Once you receive it, though, if you're going to have the spiritual strength to hang onto it, you have to keep feeding your faith. You can't just go back to spending all your free time watching cop shows and cable news. If you do that, the devil and the contrary evidences of your senses will get the best of you. You'll lose your grip on The WORD and God's provision will slip away from you. Why? Because you've starved your faith. You haven't given it enough to eat, so it can't keep doing its job.

Spiritual starvation is a serious thing. I saw that for myself through a vision God gave me back in 1967, when Gloria and I were at Oral Roberts University attending a partner meeting with my parents. During the meeting, Brother Roberts was laying hands on people and after he laid hands on me I stepped to the side and just watched as people came up for prayer.

All of a sudden, right before my eyes, the physical bodies of the people disappeared. It's like they became transparent and I could see their spirit on the inside of them. It was a heart-wrenching sight! Their spirits were horribly emaciated. They looked like the pictures you've seen

Schedule is subject to change without notice. Contact the host church for details! *Except where a fee is noted



events

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Kenneth Copeland // Dec. 31, 7p.m.
Newark, Texas // Eagle Mountain International Church : emic.org

San Diego, Calif. : Jan. 4

2018 Morris Cerullo Legacy World Conference
mcwe.com
(registration fee required if not a San Diego resident)

Murrieta, Calif. : Jan. 5

World Harvest Church : dufresnemministries.org

North Miami Beach, Fla. : Feb. 23-25

Word of His Power Conference : wordsoflife.com

BROTHER COPELAND ON THE MOUNTAIN—WINTER 2018

Newark, Texas / Feb. 28-March 2
Eagle Mountain International Church

New Albany, Ohio : March 7

Faith Life Church : faithlifechurch.org

VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Branson, Mo. / April 5-7

VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Lima, Peru / May 18-19

VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Sacramento, Calif. / May 31-June 2

Southfield, Mich. : June 15-16

Word of Faith Convention : woficc.com

BROTHER COPELAND ON THE MOUNTAIN—SUMMER 2018

Newark, Texas / June 27-29
Eagle Mountain International Church

VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
July 12-14

SOUTHWEST BELIEVERS' CONVENTION / Fort Worth, Texas

July 30-Aug. 4

Hidden Springs, Ariz. : Aug. 17

Healing of the Nations Motorcycle Rally
cofaz.org

Brooklyn Park, Minn. : Aug. 23-24

2018 Upper Midwest Faith Explosion
lwcc.org

VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Orlando, Fla. / Aug. 30-Sept. 1

VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Washington, D.C. / Nov. 8-10



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MEETINGS WITH PASTOR GEORGE AND/OR TERRI PEARSONS



Miracles on the Mountain

Services with Billy Burke
Newark, Texas / Feb. 16-17
Eagle Mountain International Church

Built to Last Men's Conference

Newark, Texas / Sept. 28-29
Eagle Mountain International Church

Radiant Women's Conference

Fort Worth, Texas / May 4-5



YOUTH MEETING // 14forty Spring Retreat 2018

Waxahachie, Texas / March 11-14

of Holocaust victims in concentration camps. They were so malnourished, weak and sickly, they appeared to be almost dead. They had great big heads and frail, shriveled-up spirits.

Weeping with what I later realized was the compassion of God, I said, "LORD, what is this?"

These are My people, He said. Their spirits have been starved. Their heads are full of religious knowledge at the expense of their spirit man.

"Oh, God!" I cried. "Why did You show this to me?"

I've called you and anointed you to do something about it, He answered.

I saw right then I had to obey God and fulfill that assignment—and that's what I've been doing ever since. I've been teaching people how to develop

their faith. I've been feeding them The WORD of God and helping them keep it in front of their eyes, in their ears and in their mouths until it fills their spirits to the point of overflow.

Brother Roberts used to talk about the point of overflow as the moment when faith comes to a climax. He used to give the example of the woman with the issue of blood and said that the moment her faith climaxed, she touched the hem of Jesus' garment and—boom!—she received her healing.

How do you know in your own life when that moment has come?

The best way I can answer that is by telling you what my mama told me when I was a youngster and I asked her, "How will I know when I fall in

love?"

"You'll know," she said.

That's the way it is with faith. You just keep putting The WORD in your heart and, although for a while nothing may appear to be happening, one day you sense a stirring in your spirit. Like water starting to boil in a pot, little faith bubbles start to erupt, and suddenly you know that you know that you know that what The WORD says is yours.

You can see yourself with it.

You've got a grip on it in your spirit.

You're not wondering anymore if God is ever going to do anything about meeting your need, you're fully persuaded He's already done it, and you can declare it with confidence.

"It's mine! I take it now!"

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by Pastor George Pearsons



I had no idea, however, what kind of a learning experience lay ahead. I did not realize to what degree I had to learn how to stand my ground.

I discovered that standing is not always easy—especially when building a debt-free church. The “easy road” would be to borrow the money. “Get a loan and get it done,” they say. But as you know, Kenneth Copeland Ministries does not borrow. Everything at KCM is debt free—including our sanctuary. Praise God!

Construction of our sanctuary began with a bang. We celebrated. We broke ground. Offerings were received. But, as time passed, the cost of construction increased. The process got complicated. The pressure began to mount.

At one point during construction, I had to get away. My family and I were on vacation when the phone rang. Someone from our construction team was calling. “Pastor George, the price just went up \$1 million.”

“It did *what?*”

The next day they called again. “It’s gone up another million.”

“Did I hear you correctly?”

Third day: “Another million.”

I said, “I’m coming home.”

I had to cut short our vacation in order to return home and keep the price from escalating any further.

I discovered something very interesting. The finances were not the problem. The real problem was that I got under pressure. I let down on my faith and began to waver. That eventually opened the door for the devil to step in and bring confusion.

My faith was up and down and all around throughout the project. There were too many sleepless nights and stress-filled days. We eventually finished the building, but not without a fight. After a time of deep reflection, I realized what I should have done: I should have cast the care, entered God’s rest and stayed in faith. I should have stood my ground!

Stand Firmly in Your Place

In Ephesians 6:10-11, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, Paul talks about standing. “Be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. Put on God’s whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.” We *can* stand against the devil. It *is* possible. We can stand against fear, lack and sickness. We



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.

“
IF YOU'RE
WILLING
TO STAND
FOREVER, YOU
WON'T HAVE
TO STAND
VERY LONG.
”

—Kenneth E. Hagin

can even stand against an overwhelming building project—and succeed!

In verses 13-14, he says: “Therefore put on God’s complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. Stand therefore [hold your ground]” (*AMPC*).

We must get to the place in our lives where, no matter what happens, we stand firmly and hold our ground. Throughout the years, I have personally observed Kenneth and Gloria Copeland in every kind of pressurized situation possible—in life *and* ministry. They have stood on God’s WORD in every instance. They have solidly held their ground—staying in His rest and refusing to allow pressure to enter their hearts. They have remained fixed and stable. They really are the consummate examples of Psalm 112. Their hearts are established!

How Do We Stand Our Ground?

Second Corinthians 1:24 has the answer: “...for by faith you stand” (*New King James Version*). Our stand comes from one place: faith in God’s WORD.

The more of God’s WORD we deposit in our hearts, the more effectively we will be able to stand our ground. The stronger we are, the easier it is to believe and receive. As a pastor, I often ask congregation members what they are believing for. When they tell me, I usually follow up with

this question: What scriptures are you standing on?

Sometimes people don’t know. That’s a big mistake.

The stand you take is founded on The WORD of God that is in your heart and on your lips. That WORD must be so real to you it becomes part of your DNA. You must live, breathe, think, walk and talk that WORD.

If you were to ask me what I’m believing for this year, I would tell you this: I am standing for God’s perfect will in my life, my family and my church. There really isn’t time for anything else. Proverbs 19:21 (*AMPC*), says: “Many plans are in a man’s mind, but it is the Lord’s purpose for him that will stand.” I want God’s strategic plan. Only that plan will stand.

In addition, I am also standing on Hebrews 13:20-21 (*AMPC*): “Now may the God of peace...strengthen (complete, perfect) and make you what you ought to be and equip you with everything good that you may carry out His will; [while He himself] works in you and accomplishes that which is pleasing in His sight.” I have been depositing these verses into my spirit for quite some time. The WORD I’ve been meditating and confessing is becoming such a stronghold on the inside, it is helping me to confidently stand my ground.

I have read those verses over and over again. They have become so real to me, I fully believe God’s perfect will is being

accomplished in my life, in my family and in my church. I am standing my ground on those scriptures. The stronger I have become in The WORD, the easier it has become to stand my ground.

The Second Time Around

Our church is presently constructing another building. It is our new youth and children’s facility. And, of course, we are building it debt free! Like the main sanctuary, it has taken a while. Issues have come up we didn’t expect. We are believing for all the finances. But, something is very different this time—I am handling it differently. I am armed with my “new building” scriptures, walking in God’s rest, casting all my care on Him and staying in faith. And this time, I am aggressively standing my ground!

I have not lost one wink of sleep over this project! God has given me His WORD; a great plan; and a wonderful, faith-filled team and congregation. That is an unbeatable combination. My days of worry, care, stress and anxiety—especially concerning building projects—are over forever!

We are making tremendous progress. We are calling our youth and children’s building, “Finished, Furnished, Full and Free!”

Let me ask you this: Have you backed away from standing *your* ground? Has discouragement settled in over the passage of time or the lack of provision? If so, it’s time to get back up on your faith. It is time for you to stand your ground.

As Kenneth E. Hagin once said, “If you’re willing to stand forever, you won’t have to stand very long.”

What are you believing God for? Write it down.

What scriptures are you standing on? Write those down as well.

Confess them. Meditate on them. Become rooted, grounded, anchored and established in God’s WORD.

The more rooted you are, the stronger you will stand.

Now, say this out loud: “I make the quality decision to stand my ground. I am strong in The LORD. I stand firm on God’s WORD. I refuse to back down, give up or quit. I cannot be shaken and I will not be moved. I stand my ground in Jesus’ Name!” ①

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Call Sign: Shadow

PETE FORD

GAZED OUT THE COCKPIT AT THE SNOW-TIPPED PEAKS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS BELOW. FOR SOME PEOPLE, FLYING MEANT STRAPPING THEMSELVES IN AN AIRCRAFT. BUT FOR PETE, FLYING WAS A FULL-BODY EXPERIENCE. IT FELT AS THOUGH THE PLANE WAS STRAPPED ONTO HIM.

HE BANKED, MAKING A STOMACH-DROPPING TURN BEFORE SOARING STRAIGHT UP—SO HIGH HE COULD ALMOST TOUCH THE FACE OF GOD.

THERE, SOARING FAR BEYOND THE CONFINES OF EARTH, PETE SENSED GOD'S PRESENCE IN A MORE TANGIBLE WAY THAN IN THE HOLIEST OF CATHEDRALS. HE'D APPLIED TO THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY TO GET A COLLEGE DEGREE. IT HAD PROVEN TO BE MUCH MORE THAN A MEANS TO AN END. HE HAD FOUND HIS PASSION. HIS CALL.

PETE UNDERSTOOD A LOT ABOUT THE CALL OF GOD. HIS FATHER, KEN FORD, HAD ANSWERED GOD'S CALL TO PASTOR. PETE KNEW HE HAD A CALL ON HIS LIFE AS WELL. HE'D ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT, LIKE HIS FATHER, ONE DAY HE WOULD BE A PASTOR. BUT ALONE WITH THE LORD IN THE HOLY HUSH OF FLIGHT, HE KNEW THAT WASN'T HIS CALLING. *I'VE CALLED YOU AS A WARRIOR*, THE LORD HAD WHISPERED.

by
*Melanie
Henry*

Pete thought of the mighty men of valor who fought alongside King David in biblical times. That was his call. Not a pulpit. A plane.

His call meant facing danger every time he strapped himself into the cockpit. He'd made Jesus the Lord of his life as a child. As a fighter pilot, he had to live his life prepared to meet Him every day.

Pete landed the plane with a contented sigh. This had been his last flight at the Air Force Academy. He'd been selected for Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training in Wichita Falls, Texas. There he would begin his fighter-pilot training.

Packing his bags, Pete loaded his car and left Colorado for the long drive to Texas. During the trip, he spoke to his pop in Tennessee by phone.

"Hey, bud," his pop said, "if you've got time before you start, see if you can come here. I'm not feeling the greatest and would love to see you."

"Sure, Pop."

Pete drove all night, reaching his new apartment the next morning. He was signing the lease agreement when his mom phoned. "Son," she said, "Papa died last night."

Foundation of Faith

"My pop was only 46 years old," Pete explains. "Doctors think he died of an aneurysm. Mom hurt her back trying to resuscitate him. I went home in shock. Mom had to bury Pop and move out of the parsonage. After the funeral, I stayed to help her move.

"I was grateful for the solid foundation of faith my parents had given me. I knew no matter how bleak things seemed, God was good, and He had a plan for us. Pondering this situation and the call of God on my life, I knew I had to live by faith.

"The other voices from my childhood I remember as early as my parents' voices were Papa Kenneth and Mama Gloria Copeland. Listening to their teachings on faith was an integral part of our family life. When I was a teenager, on the way to my high school job, I played a tape of Papa Kenneth singing, 'He Is Jehovah.' I had it cranked up as loud as

it would go and took a turn too fast. My car flew sideways off the gravel road, through a fence and landed in an empty field. Papa Kenneth was still singing.

"This foundation of faith in the Lord and trust in His Word—regardless of the circumstances—was a foundation that became fundamental to who I am today. I was already a Partner with KCM when I went to the Air Force Academy. I tithed and gave to both local churches and to KCM."

In the years to come, Pete would come to understand even better how vitally important this foundation of faith really was in his life.

Following his pop's death, Pete arrived at pilot training already behind. Three months into the program, an accident blew out a ligament in his right knee. After surgery, he was grounded until he recovered. Still, he graduated in the top of his class. Finally, he was ready to start his career as an Air Force pilot.

As he graduated, Desert Storm ended, which meant the Air Force didn't need as many fighter pilots. He'd been grounded before he ever got a chance to start! Pete felt as though he'd been hit by three hard punches. First, his pop's sudden death. Next, the knee injury and surgery. Now, there were no flying jobs available.

Weapons School

Pete regrouped on God's Word and trusted Him for the future. A fighter squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho needed a lieutenant to run their executive office. Although it wasn't a flying position, Pete hoped that within a few years he'd be back in the cockpit.

During his free time, Pete volunteered as a river guide, led people through Yellowstone National Park, and taught kids to ski. He enjoyed the camaraderie and the brotherhood of warriors, realizing this was also the identity of the Christian brotherhood. He met a colonel (the group commander in charge of flying) on the base, a man he admired.

"The colonel said I should meet his daughter, Jen," Pete recalls. "She was studying to become a physical therapist.

She was smart and beautiful. We were friends for a long time before we began courting. A year later, I proposed and she accepted. God not only brought me my wife, after being sidelined for a year and a half, I was also qualifying to fly the F-15.

"After our first assignment in Idaho, I was selected for an assignment in Florida where we developed flight tactics for next generation combat conditions."

Pete attended the Air Force Weapons School, where the best of the best refined their skills. A very intense program, he graduated in 1999 at the age of 31. Commissioned as an officer, highly trained as a fighter pilot, he was fulfilling his calling and enjoying the Lord's plan.

Being a fighter pilot was hard on one's body. During takeoff on a commercial plane, the force a passenger feels pressing them back against the seat is about half a G-force. At 6 feet 1 inch, Pete weighed 180 pounds (200 when wearing his equipment). Half a G-force made Pete the equivalent of 300 pounds. Flying an F-15 was like flying a roller coaster sideways. He'd pull 9 G's during flight, which felt like 1800 pounds of pressure.

After a dogfight sortie in an F-15, Pete could ring the sweat out of his shirt! He thought it was the best workout ever. Although each day was a grueling 12 hours, he loved every minute of it.

Flying in Combat

Pete's first combat tour was over northern Iraq. His second was over southern Iraq. On his third tour, he flew from Bahrain—an island in the Arabian Gulf—over Iraq.

Just before leaving Florida, Jen gave birth to their first daughter, Anna. A month after her birth, the family moved to Okinawa, which sits about 400 miles south of Japan's Kyushu Island.

"On Okinawa, it took a long time for mail and Partner materials from KCM to reach us," Pete says. "We got the *BVOV* magazine and Jen got to listen to the broadcast while I flew. We didn't

have cable TV. While we were stationed there, our many deployments literally meant I flew around the world in an F-15, which is a twin-engine fighter with no bathroom. Our squadron flew from Okinawa to Alaska, to Portugal and on to Turkey. Then we flew from Okinawa in the East China Sea, around the South China Sea to Singapore and on to Saudi Arabia.

“Days before 9/11, I ran a combat air intercept and got to fly over Mount Ararat. I locked an Iraqi aircraft that was sent to shoot down one of our planes. I was a few seconds from firing when the enemy pilot decided to retreat. Instead of shooting at our plane, he turned away. We all lived that day and I was completing my calling!”

On Sept. 11, 2001, while flying combat sorties out of Turkey, Pete received an email from Jen, who was in Okinawa, on their slow dial-up: “Babe, I love you. Things are good. Anna’s birthday was great. We’re praying for you. BTW, America was just attacked... Okinawa under typhoon alert.... I’m getting cable.”

A Great Fall

Following this assignment at Kadena Air Base in Japan, Pete was chosen to attend a new master’s degree program in Monterey, Calif. He studied international relations and nuclear proliferation/counterproliferation, which involves knowledge of nuclear materials between nations. He wrote his thesis on Israel’s counterproliferation action and strike on Iraq. He traveled to Israel on research and the Institute for National Security Studies published his thesis as a book, *Israel’s Attack on Osirak: A Model for Future Preventative Strikes*.

“I take Jen on a honeymoon once each year,” Pete explains. “At the end of one of our trips, we visited KCM and attended a Bible study at EMIC. When they learned that I was a pilot, we were taken to the TV studio where we met Papa Kenneth and Bill Winston. They were filming, so the meeting was brief, but it was a great blessing.”

Having finished his master’s degree, he was selected for another flying job.



**THE OTHER VOICES
FROM MY CHILDHOOD
I REMEMBER AS EARLY
AS MY PARENTS’ VOICES
WERE PAPA KENNETH AND
MAMA GLORIA COPELAND.
LISTENING TO THEIR
TEACHINGS ON FAITH WAS
AN INTEGRAL PART OF
OUR FAMILY LIFE.**



Things were great for the growing family. Pete and Jen’s second child, Zachariah, had been born in Okinawa. Now, in 2004, Jen was pregnant with another daughter, Julia. Over Christmas, Pete visited his mom, Karen, in Tennessee. While Pete was a fighter pilot, Karen was a powerful prayer warrior.

The two were having coffee on Saturday morning when Karen blinked back tears. “Son, this is hard for me to say,” she began. “The Lord showed

me that you’re going to have a great fall. It’s going to be hard on you. But remember that God has a plan for you. Don’t give up.”

“Three months later, on March 25, 2005, I was flying at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas,” Pete remembers. “By now, Jen was six months pregnant. The Air Force was fielding F-22s, which are phenomenal airplanes. The F-15s I flew are bad boys in combat. We’ve never lost one in battle. The score is 105 to zero. The F-22 is the next generation

air fighter, and we had to do operational tests to prove it could be a good replacement for our Air Force's air-to-air needs.

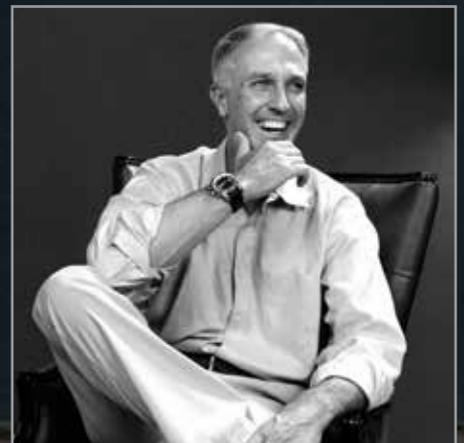
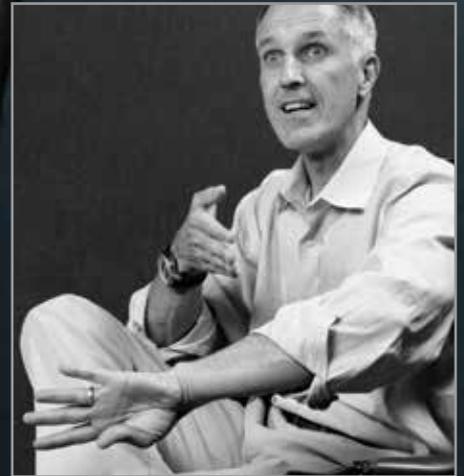
Flat Spin

"It was Good Friday, a beautiful day. I was scheduled to dogfight an F-22. We started with the F-15 in a defensive position. In one of these dogfights, it's nothing to pull 9 G's, and aggressively maneuver in close quarters. When we started, the F-22 was 6,000

“

This foundation of faith in the Lord and trust in His Word—regardless of the circumstances—was a foundation that became fundamental to who I am today.

”



feet away. This type of fighting uses basic fighting maneuvers.

“During this fight, I aggressively maneuvered the F-15, and it went out of control.... Rotating upside down at 180 degrees, it was the wildest ride. I put in anti-spin controls, but the F-15 nosedived into a vertical spin and then a flat spin.

“In most aircraft, it’s difficult to recover from a flat spin. The F-15 didn’t respond. It wouldn’t recover. Less than a second later, I initiated emergency procedures. That was hard! I knew this plane. It was a treasure to the nation. I’d just fired a missile from it a week earlier. Now I was going to have to ditch it.

“Then I realized I may have hesitated too long—and could die in the fireball. I was spiraling fast. At 2,000 feet above the ground, I pulled the ejection seat, knowing a lot of good pilots die from ejecting.”

The ejection shot Pete straight up at 30 to 40 G’s. The incredible force slammed his head against the seat and yanked his shoulder while the jet continued to spin. At 1800 feet, Pete maneuvered the parachute to avoid landing in the fire from the crash. Looking down at rocks, cactus and the fireball, Pete prayed, “Lord, take care of my knees and back.”

The parachute worked, breaking the impact as he crash-landed into a small section of sand. He rolled, landing with his back against a tumbleweed, 300 yards south of the burning F-15.

Awaiting the Verdict

Whisked to the emergency room, Pete’s injuries were being treated when Jen got there. Six months pregnant, and with two younger children in tow, her elegant grace reminded Pete of the eye of a storm. Peaceful and quiet, while all those around her spun in circles, she bent to kiss her husband. “I’m glad you’re still here.”

No tears. No drama. Pete would have married her again right then.

“The word the Lord had given my mother was accurate,” Pete recalls. “I had a great fall. Although no bones were broken, my injuries weren’t the end of the fall. I was grounded for three months while two different boards investigated the accident.

“If the boards ruled that pilot error caused the crash, I would be grounded forever. The first board determined it was my fault. That was one of the blackest times of my life. I couldn’t imagine my last flight ending on such a note. Nor could I imagine being grounded. The only thing that kept me going was the word of the Lord through my mom. I clung to His admonition not to give up.

“The second board exonerated me. A flight control surface called “the elevator,” makes the nose move up or down. There’s one on the left and the right. They found that an elevator had malfunctioned, which meant the plane couldn’t recover. I was restored to flying.”

Life After the Crash

From 2006 to 2010, Pete and Jen lived in Florida where he became a squadron commander, shooting and evaluating live air-to-air missiles. While there, Jen gave birth to their fourth child, Jacob.

Afterward, they were sent to Hawaii where Pete spent two years working joint military efforts in the Pacific. His function was to develop new technologies for use by the military. Pete and Jen’s backyard overlooked Pearl Harbor.

“I was sent to Fort Worth to attend a meeting at Lockheed Martin,” Pete recalls. “Following that, I drove to KCM. Jen and I had sown faithfully into the Citation X, and I hoped to see it. The plane wasn’t there, but I got to visit the hangar. I had a painting of an F-15, signed by the artist, which said *Undeclared in Combat*. I thought it would look great in the hanger and decided to give it to Papa Kenneth.

“A month later, I heard that Papa Kenneth and Mama Gloria were going to speak in Hawaii. I called KCM and explained that I wanted to contact the flight crew to give them the painting. On the night they spoke, the six of us were in line with hundreds of people waiting to get a seat when Papa Kenneth’s chief pilot escorted us to the front row. We were invited to have dinner with them the next evening! Papa Kenneth and I talked about flying and faith for three hours. Afterward, he took off his watch and gave it to me. He said, ‘You go flying

with this, and pray for me when you do.’

“I gave him my grandfather’s watch which my grandmother had given me. We agreed to fly wearing those watches and pray for one another. He liked the painting so well that he hung it in his office. It was the beginning of a wonderful friendship that was established on faith, flying and fellowship.”

Having been promoted, now Colonel Pete Ford was placed in charge of hundreds of people at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. As the adversary tactics commander, for two years he simulated the bad guys in combat training. Ready for his next assignment, he was surprised when asked, “Would you work with scientists to help them understand what we need in the defense department?”

Pete traded in his flight suit for a business suit and moved with his family to the San Francisco area, near Napa Valley. The Lord’s calling moved them from advanced flying to advanced science.

In 2016, after 26½ years of service, Pete retired from the Air Force.

“Now I’m an executive near Silicon Valley,” says Pete. “As I look back over my life, I often say partnership with KCM meant everything to me. The camaraderie you experience in combat is the same with those of us who are Partners with KCM. It’s a different kind of warfare but it has greater eternal consequences.

“Learning to live by faith from an early age was crucial to my success. My call sign, Shadow, was given to me years ago, after a training flight in Egypt. I like knowing what kept me alive countless times was living under “the shadow of the Almighty,” from Psalm 91.

“One thing I know is that the Holy Spirit *loves* to fly. I think God is happiest inverted (upside down). When I get to heaven, some of the first words I want to hear from the Lord are these: *Shadow, do you want to take a ride in My chariot?*”

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& THE REST OF
OUR HOLY GHOST
GANG OF BELIEVERS.
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'SET FREE OF ALL MY DEBTS'

In April, I attended the 2016 Living Victory Chicago meeting. During the preaching I was seated on the front row and was taking notes. Brother Copeland asked me for a sheet of paper for an illustration during his message. He was speaking about becoming debt free. After the illustration was done, he gave me the sheet of paper back. I took the tightly folded sheet and saved it in my wallet, believing that one day I would be set free of all my debts. A year later, my husband received a lump sum of money from unpaid vacation that covered all my debts with money left over for the rest of the year!

C.S. | Wisconsin

ONE MIRACLE GIVES BIRTH TO ANOTHER

I want to thank you for your free monthly magazine. In the June 2017 edition, you published an article by Melanie Henry called "Beyond the Flames" about Desiree Kerns. We know God rewards our faith and this lady's face miraculously grew back—no evidence of scarring. As I received this, I was so excited and I could hear my spirit saying, *You can believe for this now.*

The next day, my 85-year-old mother fell over in the garden and suffered the most dreadful bruises to her face. She went to hospital and I was called. She told me that she was too embarrassed to go out or have anyone come and visit her because of the bruises. The testimony I had read sprung to mind as soon as I put the phone down. I went to battle in prayer asking Abba Father to miraculously heal my mother of all her bruises and back pain from the accident.

A couple of weeks later there is no trace at all of

bruising on my mother's face, so she can now go out and celebrate her wedding anniversary with my father today with joy and no embarrassment. Thank you for that testimony! It was a seed that gave birth to another miracle that I will always praise God for. You are an awesome ministry and I am so grateful for yet another answered prayer as a result of me partnering with KCM.

J.C. | Dorset, United Kingdom

PROTECTED FROM THE STORM

Thank you, Kenneth Copeland, for your two phone messages during Hurricane Harvey! Our home did not flood and we even had electricity the whole time. Praise God! Jesus is Lord!

J. & N.K. | Sugar Land, Texas



'Oh that just blows me away!' God corrected Gloria from saying that. She took authority over her words and said, 'I will never be blown away.'



—Kenneth Copeland

PRAYER PREVAILS: NO DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE IRMA

My parents and I were in Illinois doing ministry work and were not able to be in Florida to board up or prepare in advance of Hurricane Irma. We received a phone message from Brother Copeland to his Partners. We set ourselves in agreement with his words of faith against flooding, wind and rain damage, and that our houses would not fall for they were founded on the rock. Our area had wind gusts of 120 mph, sustained around 90-100 mph; torrential rainfall; and several tornado warnings. But glory to God, our houses were in perfect shape when we returned home three days after the storm. There were many branches and limbs down, but none of them on the houses! As for the flooding

situation, our property is low-lying. During summer rainy season, we have standing water regularly, but there was not a drop of standing water anywhere! GLORY TO GOD! I want to thank Brother Copeland for his call to us and his aggressiveness in standing against floods! This is the first hurricane where we did not have a flooded yard, and we have weathered several. Thank you again for showing us how it's done!

R.S.
Okeechobee, Fla.

From Despair to Deliverance

I called your prayer line requesting prayer for my son who was drunk and suicidal. The woman who prayed with me prayed a powerful prayer with all the right promises from God's Word. My son was delivered and rededicated his life to the Lord the very next day! Thank You, Jesus! Thank you, KCM! B.C. | Kingston, Idaho

LED AWAY FROM TERROR

Thank you for your concern and your prayers in the Turku [Finland] terror attack.

I'm glad to say my family and I are well. My daughter was actually at the place where the attack occurred, maybe 20 meters away. She had intended to visit some shops but felt led to change the order for the visits.

This change brought her out of the way of where the terrorist went.

One lady in the church I'm pastoring had plans to take the bus downtown, but was led to do her shopping in the

convenience store in her neighborhood instead. If she had taken the bus, she would have exited right at the location of the attack. Thank God He directs and protects!

B.B. | Finland

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.

'A Brand-New Set of Knee Joints'

I worked an overnight shift from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. It was rainy and damp, which caused my knee joints to start feeling sore. When I arrived home and walked up the stairs to go to bed, a sharp, extreme pain hit my right knee. A few more steps and the pain shot up just as strong as before. I went to bed and woke up about 1 p.m. Going downstairs, I again felt that sharp pain in my right knee especially. My wife was watching the Southwest Believers' Convention. "Do you want to watch it?" she asked, giving me the iPad which had the livestream convention. As soon as I started watching, a speaker called out a word about knee joints. "If you will take off running right now, the Lord has got new knee joints for you,"

he said. I was in the house without much room to run, so I ran up and down those stairs a bunch of times in a row, and the pain was gone! I knew before I ran, it was not going to hurt, and it didn't. Just about 10 minutes before, a slow walk up those stairs hurt real bad, so running up and down again and again was surely a miracle! I got a brand-new set of knee joints. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ!

J.H. | Thorold, Ontario

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**WORDS
ON FAITH**

WHAT YOU
COMPROMISE
TO KEEP, YOU'LL
EVENTUALLY END
UP LOSING. BE
FAITHFUL TO GOD'S
WORD AND DON'T
COMPROMISE.

As you stand on The
WORD and refuse to
compromise, instead of
getting weaker under
pressure, you get bolder
in your walk with God.

Daniel 6:10

**Follow the example of
Daniel, who lived his
faith boldly in the midst
of a heathen nation.**

Daniel 6:3

AS A JOINT HEIR WITH
JESUS AND PART OF
HIS MINISTRY, YOU
HAVE AN EXCELLENT
SPIRIT, TOO. Hebrews 8:6

**Stay connected
to God by faith
and even in the
most impossible
situations He'll
make you a
winner every
time.** Daniel 6:23



by Keith Moore

FULLY PERSUADED, COMPLETELY *at rest*



HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED WHEN A CHILD HAS SOMETHING HE OR SHE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE, THEY WILL HOLD IT TIGHTLY AND SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "NO, IT'S MINE!" THEY WON'T LET GO OF IT, OR LET YOU PRY IT OUT OF THEIR HANDS WITHOUT A FIGHT! THEY HAVE WHAT THEY WANT, AND THEY'RE NOT AFRAID TO SAY IT'S THEIRS—THAT IT BELONGS TO THEM!

IF ONLY CHRISTIANS HAD THE SAME TENACITY WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE DEVIL!

It's a fight all right! In fact, in a letter he wrote to encourage Timothy, Paul called it "the good fight of faith." He said, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12).

How do we fight this good fight of faith? That verse we just read tells us. It says to "lay hold on eternal life, whereunto you are also called, and have professed a good profession." *Profession* is a King James word for *confession*. So, we can see that *laying hold* is a part of fighting the good fight, and so is *confession*. Like that child, we have to lay hold of what we want, confess that it's ours, and not give up without a fight!

What do we use to fight?

Our faith!

Second Corinthians 4:13 says, "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak." Here, Paul refers to the spirit of faith. The Bible also says we've not been given the spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7). The spirit of faith is not knowledge of faith,

and the spirit of fear is not just feelings of fear. Faith is not knowledge, and faith is not understanding. Understanding is not required for faith. You don't have to understand in order to believe or trust. That's because faith is a choice. Believing is a choice, and trusting is a choice.

You hear people say, "I just can't believe that! That's not true!" But that's an untrue statement because faith is not based on any kind of understanding or any kind of knowledge. It's a choice. Brother Kenneth E. Hagin once said that, as a little boy, he could not understand how a brown cow could eat green grass and give white milk, and then that milk would be churned to make yellow butter. Yet all the while he's trying to figure it out, he's enjoying milk and butter. He's enjoying ice cream. You don't have to understand in order to believe. You don't have to understand to enjoy.

Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." So faith and understanding are not the same thing. He's drawing a contrast. What part of your being do you trust with? Not your head. In fact, Brother Hagin used to say, "Faith will work in your heart with doubt in your head." The enemy will try to make you believe a fleeting thought is the same as wavering and you won't receive a thing (James 1:6-7). Just because a feeling or thought crossed your mind doesn't mean you changed your decision to believe in your heart.

Walking in Faith Doesn't Mean You Won't Have Challenges

Why does he tell you not to lean to your own understanding? Because you'll be tempted to. He's telling you upfront not to lean to your own understanding—your own head, your own reasonings, thoughts or feelings. If the enemy can get you in the reasoning realm, he'll defeat you. But if you'll stay in the faith realm, he can't do anything with you. No matter how many negative

If the enemy can get you in the reasoning realm, he'll defeat you. But if you'll stay in the faith realm, he can't do anything with you.

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thoughts he brings to you, no matter how many bad feelings, you won't yield. You'll push them aside and say, "No. I've decided what I believe." You're settled in your heart.

Second Corinthians 4:8-9 says, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

"We are troubled on every side."

That word *troubled* means "to be crowded, pushed or pressed." Do you ever feel like something is pushing against you? That something is pressuring you? Paul said it's on every side. It's not a lack of faith to acknowledge something you're dealing with. Faith is not calling those things that *are* as though they *are not*. No, faith is calling things that are *not* as though they *are!* The physical is real! It's temporary, but it's real. Something is going to push on you. That's a reality. You can't control everything that tries to push on you. But what you are in control of is your response to it.

Paul says we've been troubled on every side. We've been pressed and pushed, yet with all the trouble, with all the pushing and pressing, we're not distressed. Is it possible to not be distressed, even in the midst of stuff pushing against you and pressuring you? Yes. Is it easy? This is where the fight of faith comes in.

What Are You Fighting to Do?

Hebrews 4:11 says we are to "labour therefore to enter into that rest." That's where the fight comes: Staying in that rest after you've entered in. The enemy will do everything in his power to keep you out of that rest. And once you've entered in, he'll do everything possible to get you out. Out of rest, out of peace, out of trust, out of faith.

The Lord has heard your prayer. Your seed is in the ground, your work is done and faith has been released. But that's not the end of it, because at that point, you haven't seen anything yet. You don't feel it. And, in the natural, you need it. You need the money. You still hurt. You're still uncomfortable. This is where the fight comes in.

Can you be pushed, can you be pressed and not be distressed?

This is the spirit of faith. We are

perplexed, meaning we're at a loss. But although we're perplexed, the scripture says we're not in despair. Can you be perplexed and clueless and still be up instead of down? If you're in faith you can. You can be clueless and happy. It's possible!

Faith people would never say something like, "Why isn't it working?" Why would you believe it's not working? Because of what you see and feel, or don't see and feel? If that's the case, then you're walking by sight, not by faith. Faith is up. Anyone can be up when the money is in your hand, or the symptoms are gone and you feel great. But when you're hurting and you rejoice because you're healed, that's real faith. Real faith has real joy and real peace in the midst of contradictions and symptoms and lack.

The Spirit of Faith Is the Spirit of Victory

If God were moved by needs and people acting pitiful, miracles would be popping up all over the planet. But that's not what moves God. God is moved by faith. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. Faith will never acknowledge that it's whipped, because it can't be whipped. It will never acknowledge that God's Word didn't work, because God's Word works—always!

Faith will never concede defeat!

There are many Christians who don't always understand, but that doesn't mean they can't trust God with all their hearts. Whatever is going on that's troubling your understanding or feelings, don't lean on or rely on that. If your thoughts counter what God says, then learn to cast them down. Negative or troublesome thoughts are one way the enemy tempts you. But the Bible says we are to slap those thoughts down: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

God said I'm healed. He said my needs are met. He said my steps are ordered. He keeps me. He protects me. With long life He will satisfy me. Those are the thoughts I choose to dwell and meditate on.

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Psalm 5:11 says, "Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice." Almost every psalm has in it the idea of trust and praise. Why? Because if you're trusting, you're praising. One of the easiest ways to get in faith and rest, and stay there, is to thank God and praise Him genuinely all the time. You don't do this if you believe it's not working or it's no use. You're not going to say it's not working because it is working! It has worked! No one will be able to get you to say, "What if?" because you don't believe in what ifs. You don't have to understand it. You don't have to have all the answers. You just trust.

Frustration Is Not Faith

Some years ago, I was believing for a specific thing when it occurred to me that I'd been believing for a year and a half, and it seemed like I was further from it than I was when I started. I thought, *What's the deal?* I was perplexed. I didn't understand. And the Spirit of God said something I wasn't expecting. He said, *Keith, frustration is not faith.*

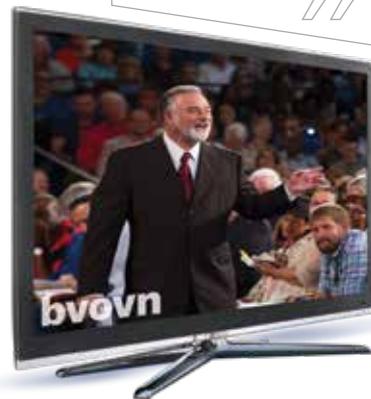
Have you ever been frustrated? When you're frustrated, you begin to waver and doubt. Before you know it, you're in fear. Whether it's mild dread or full-blown panic, it's the same spirit only different degrees. There's a spirit of fear, but there's also a spirit of faith. And there are different degrees of faith. There's a little persuaded, partially persuaded, getting-there persuaded and sleeping-better persuaded. And then there's father-of-faith Abraham, change-the-world, fully, fully persuaded. Fully persuaded is completely at rest. It's fully persuaded just like you are about gravity or breathing oxygen out of the atmosphere.

What are you struggling about? Are you struggling over God's Word being true? Are you struggling over His faithfulness? The good fight of faith is the fight, or the struggle, to enter into and stay in rest.

Faith is a decision. Make the decision today to trust, being fully persuaded that

what He has promised He is faithful to perform. Then enter the rest and stay there until you get the answer you've been waiting for! 🙏

“
IF GOD
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BUT THAT'S
NOT WHAT
MOVES GOD.
”



Watch Keith on bvovn.

JAN BROADCAST CALENDAR



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



George Pearsons



Billye Brim

Sun., Jan. 7
The Effect of God Inside You
Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 8-12
40th Anniversary of God's Will Is Prosperity—Part 2
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

Sun., Jan. 14
The Way God Sees You
Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 15-19
The Importance of Speaking Faith-Filled Words
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., Jan. 21
The Anointing of God Within You
Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 22-26
Speaking Power Through Prayer
Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sun., Jan. 28
Manifestations of God's Spirit
Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 29-Feb. 2
Releasing the Firepower of Prayer
Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Jan. 1-5
40th Anniversary of God's Will Is Prosperity—Part 1
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

MORE WAYS TO WATCH



Keith Moore is founder and president of Moore Life Ministries and Faith Life Church in both Branson, Mo., and Sarasota, Fla. For more information or ministry materials visit moorelife.org.



"These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate...Jesus Christ." 1 John 2:1

BUILDING A WALL BETWEEN *you and sin*

ONE OF MY HEROES OF FAITH IS SMITH WIGGLESWORTH, AN EARLY 20TH-CENTURY HEALING EVANGELIST FROM ENGLAND. MR. WIGGLESWORTH WAS PERHAPS ONE OF THE BOLDEST MEN OF FAITH EVER TO WALK THIS EARTH. BUT HE WASN'T ALWAYS THAT WAY.



Being raised in a poor family, and forced to work hard-labor jobs from the time he was 6 years old, Mr. Wigglesworth had no formal education and didn't learn to read until he was an adult.

He became a plumber by trade, and a successful one. But when he married a woman who was called to preach, Mr. Wigglesworth soon came face-to-face with the calling of God that was on his life as well—a calling which he did everything he could to avoid.

You see, Smith Wigglesworth was extremely introverted, and very embarrassed of his lack of education.

When he first entered public ministry with his wife, Mr. Wigglesworth was scared out of his wits just to stand on a platform and say his name. When he read scripture out loud, he would stutter and stumble through the reading. Afterward, he would say, "If anyone has anything to say, let them say it now—I'm done." Then he would walk off the platform and sit down. His wife usually ended up doing the preaching.

Nonetheless, deep in the heart of this stuttering introvert was great conviction and passion for God. Mr. Wigglesworth

absolutely refused to let the sun go down without his having witnessed to, and won, at least one soul to Jesus each day.

So where was all that boldness for which Mr. Wigglesworth became so well known?

Well, when Mrs. Wigglesworth passed away, she had done all she knew to do to get him to yield to the call of God on his life. But he just would not give in to it—at least, not while she was around to do the preaching. So before she died, she made an agreement with The LORD that she would go on to heaven in order to get Smith in the will of God. But even that almost didn't work.

On the day Mr. Wigglesworth's wife died, he prayed for her to be raised from the dead...and she was.

"You're not leaving me!" he told her when she came back to life. "What will I do?"

"Smith, you are going to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ!" she said. "I'm leaving—now do the will of God!"

Then she laid her head down on the pillow and left.

Once she was gone, Mr. Wigglesworth repented and repented and repented and repented, and finally accepted his call. But that was only the beginning. The real change in Smith Wigglesworth did not come until he started getting up every day at 4 a.m. to take Communion.

Like clockwork, every day he would begin the day remembering his covenant with Almighty God by taking the bread and the cup. Every day, he lived under the influence of that covenant. And every day, he became more and more bold—until, finally, he became one of the boldest men of God in history.

A Wall of Righteousness

Like Mr. Wigglesworth, as you and I continue to walk out our salvation on this earth, there are times when we mess up and sin. Even as mature believers, we step outside of God's will for our lives. When we do, our natural tendency is to run from God in shame. We want to hide from Him like Adam and Eve did when they first sinned.

Instead of hiding, though, I want to encourage you to run as fast as you can into the arms of God. We can do that because

Every day you and I can build a wall that will help keep us from being overcome by the world's darkness. It's a wall of righteousness.

we have an Advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1). We have "One Who will intercede for us," the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says. That Advocate is Jesus.

But simply *knowing* that Jesus is our personal Advocate is one thing. Tapping into His ministry as Advocate is another.

That's why I want to show you a practical way we can bring Jesus—our heavenly Lawyer—into our conscious, everyday-life situations where, even if we've sinned and repented by faith, we can use some help in standing our ground where the devil's attacks of guilt and condemnation against us are concerned.

Or, maybe we haven't sinned, but we just need help in standing our ground where the temptation to sin is concerned.

In either case, each and every day you and I can build a wall that will help keep us from being overcome by the world's darkness. It's a wall that will turn away sin, guilt and condemnation. It's a wall of righteousness that will reinforce our confidence and boldness in God.

How do we build this wall? By faith, and by The WORD of God.

What do we build it with? The cup and the bread.

A Wall of Remembrance

In early 1998, the Spirit of God convicted me about not taking Communion as often as I should. Certainly, I knew the benefits of taking Communion on a regular basis, and for specific situations I faced from time to time, but The LORD was telling me I needed to do it more often.

At about that time, The LORD also used a friend of mine to stir inside

me this principle of building a mighty wall, between us—believers who have been made the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)—and sin. It was a principle I had practiced over the years, but I needed fresh revelation.

The Apostle Paul, who had received great revelation concerning The LORD's Supper, wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26:

The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

As you and I come to the Communion table and take the bread and the cup, we are representing, signifying and proclaiming the fact of Jesus' death (verse 26, *AMPC*).

Why is that so important?

Well, Jesus said Himself, in verse 25, "This cup is the new covenant [ratified and established] in My blood" (*AMPC*).

Jesus' blood—His death—ratified our covenant with God. God honors that blood. In fact, when you and I sin, that blood is in the way. The blood of His Son is between Him and our sins.

But now, let's step back for a moment and take a look at that *bloodline* that encircles us.

Using the television as an example of

[HE] WAS NOT BOLD BECAUSE HE TRIED TO BE BOLD. HIS BOLDNESS CAME FROM THE FACT THAT HIS IDENTITY WAS NO LONGER THAT OF A POOR, UNEDUCATED BOY FROM NORTHERN ENGLAND.



Brother Copeland shares more about the importance of partaking in Communion. kcm.org/communion

something that can allow the world's darkness to enter our lives, let's say I sat down and watched a program that I knew I should not have watched. By doing so, I opened my mind and heart to ungodly images and words. I was convicted by the Spirit of God not to watch the show in the first place, yet I did anyway.

So I went to God and confessed that what I did was wrong, and I repented for having disregarded the Holy Spirit's warning.

But let's say this has been a recurring issue in my life, so to settle it once and for all, I get a Communion cup and some bread and set them on a table in front of the TV set.

First, I judge myself—I don't condemn myself—dead to sin (1 Corinthians 11:31-32). Galatians 2:20 says, "I am crucified with [the Anointed One, Jesus]: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but [the Anointed One, and His Anointing] liveth in me..."

After I judge myself as dead to sin, I take the bread and the cup—the body of Jesus broken for me, which established a covenant before God's throne of grace...the blood of Jesus shed for me to eradicate, remit and remove all my sin—and I take those elements into my body.

Now watch this. I then purposely set those elements on the table between me and the television. Why? Because it helps me to visualize what actually exists in the spiritual realm. A ratified blood covenant is between me and sin.

So there's a wall between the TV and me. The blood covenant

of God, in the person of Jesus, has stepped in between the TV and me, which represents sin. The sin I've been delivered and cleansed from. That means, if I were to choose to sin again, I would have to cross that line. I would have to cross the bloodline.

It also means, now that I've repented, the TV program is no longer between God and me. Sin cannot remain between us. Sin—and all its guilt and condemnation—can no longer lord it over me. A wall has been built, and I'm on God's side and He's on mine, and together, we're against the sin.

A Wall of Power

The Communion table can be a powerful force in our lives. It's what made the difference in the life of Smith Wigglesworth.

Mr. Wigglesworth was not bold because he tried to be bold. His boldness came from the fact that his identity was no longer that of a poor, uneducated boy from northern England. His identity was hidden in the Anointed One, Jesus, and in His Anointing.

Once Mr. Wigglesworth began building a wall with bread and the cup, he never gave another thought to himself. He only thought about Jesus. His covenant with God was constantly on his mind, influencing everything he said and did.

You just don't show up at a funeral, as Mr. Wigglesworth once did, and drag a dead body out of its casket and command it to walk—and it come to life and walk—without having taken Communion that morning. In fact, you'd better have that bread and cup with you all day if you want that kind of boldness!

Jesus said, "Every time you do this, you remember Me."

When you and I remember Jesus, through the bread and the cup, we build a wall of righteousness. We build a wall of Jesus' righteousness that stands between us and sin. It determines what we say and do. It determines the amount of power in our lives.

If you desire to see God move mightily through you this year, take Communion frequently, and build yourself a wall. Develop a greater sense of honor for the blood and body of Jesus. Take the bread and the cup...and remember Jesus. 🙏

Word of Faith Broadcasts

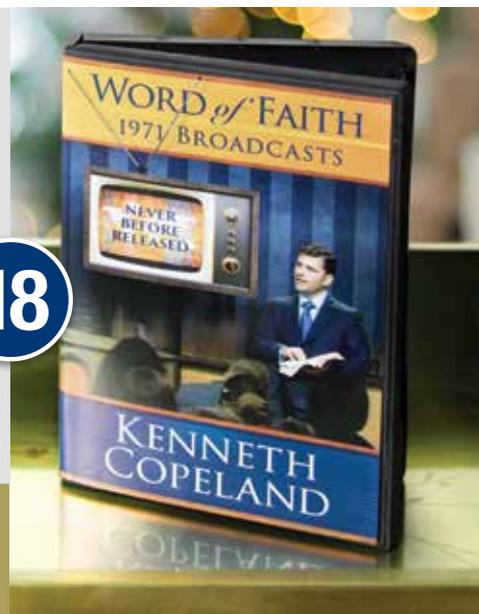
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TAKING OUT THE TRASH!

Commander Kellie's Corner

Happy New Year, Superkid!

This past year went by so fast! I always say that, but this one in particular just seemed to fly by. You may feel the same, but I hope you can look back and say that 2017 was packed with good things from the Lord.

Looking back on a year can be like sitting around the Christmas tree AFTER all the gifts have been unwrapped. Sure, there is a lot of paper and trash lying around, but that's easy to pick up and get rid of. What's really important are the wonderful things that your loved ones gave you—the things that were a mystery only hours before. Sitting there, you may think, *How will I use that thingamajig?* or *Where will I put my whatsit?* That's part of the Christmas day fun—the planning and excitement for your future with your new gifts.

Superkid, I want to use this illustration to remind you of a few BIG truths at the beginning of this brand-new year. This month, we should deal with the garbage or negative things scattered throughout last year. If you don't deal with the trash, it just messes up the whole picture and makes it difficult to focus on the gifts! So, let's think about 2017. Did you have some hard or hurtful things happen; disappointments or even unrepented sin in your life? How can we get rid of those things?

Let's deal with sin first. That's easy! In fact, Jesus has already taken care of it! Romans 8:3, *New Living Translation*, says, "God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins." All we have to do is to confess our sin and repent.

First John 1:7 tells us that the blood of Jesus, the Son of God, cleanses us from ALL sin.

Verses 8-9, *NLT*, say, "If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." We all need a clean slate, not just every year but EVERY DAY! Pray with me now:

Father, I confess my sins to You. If I've sinned and didn't realize it, please show me. I repent of all sin and I thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for me. I know You are faithful to forgive me. I am CLEAN, in Jesus' Name! Amen.

Now, Superkid, let's deal with the hurts, hard circumstances and disappointments. The Word says *Jesus will NEVER abandon or leave us*. So, even if you are still in a hard time, you can trust Him to work things out! Have faith and confidence in His Word. Here are some scriptures that will help:

Jesus says in John 14:18, *NLT*, "No, I will not abandon you as orphans."

Hebrews 13:5-6, *NLT*, says: "God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.' So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?'"

HE'S ALREADY WON OUR FIGHT!

"I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong. God's word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one." (1 John 2:14, *NLT*)

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57, *New King James Version*)

WE CAN TRUST HIM TO WORK THINGS OUT FOR US.

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." (Romans 8:28, *NLT*)



HE IS ON OUR SIDE.

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us....No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:31-35, 37, 39, *NLT*)

Now, knowing that nothing that happened last year can stop you from all you are called to do and destined to be, Superkid, you can enjoy the good gifts that Jesus unwrapped in you throughout 2017. Next month, we'll dive into the fun stuff!

Until then, take some time and open your heart to the Lord. Ask Him to show you things you need to know. I'll leave you with a thought for next month from Hebrews 13:20-21: "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

**THAT'S YOU, SUPERKID!
YOU ARE A GIFT TO HIM
AND FROM HIM! ○**



Kellie Copeland

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.



READY FOR HIS COMING

ONE OF THESE DAYS,
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK FOR HIS
CHURCH. AT A MOMENT WHEN THE WORLD IS LEAST
EXPECTING IT, HE'S GOING TO APPEAR IN THE CLOUDS TO
THOSE OF US WHO ARE BELIEVERS, AND CATCH US AWAY
TO GLORY TO BE WITH HIM FOREVER.

That's going to be a thrilling moment! And according to the Bible, as Christians we're to live in the awareness that it's rapidly approaching. We're to live every day "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). We're to be ready all the time for the upward call of the "last trumpet," because before very long now that trumpet is going to sound (1 Corinthians 15:52).

When it comes to being ready for your in-the-air meeting with Jesus, when it comes to being dedicated and consecrated to Him, no one else can do that for you.

Jesus spoke to Ken very clearly about this some years ago.

“Lord,” Ken told Him, “I think You’re coming soon!”

Well, Jesus answered, I’m coming sooner than you think!

All of us, at times, need to be reminded of that. Otherwise we tend to get overly occupied with the natural things of this earth. We start thinking things, as we know them right now, are going to continue forever, when the reality is they’re not!

This age is like a book. It has a final page that says, “The End.” When we get to that page, if we’ve received Jesus as Lord and Savior, we’re going to take off with Him and begin a wonderful, new adventure.

In the meantime, according to the Bible, we’re to purposely look forward to that adventure. We’re to stir up our anticipation about it because that anticipation has a powerful effect on how we live. As 1 John 3:3 says, the believer who focuses on the hope of Jesus’ appearing “purifies himself, just as He is pure” (*New King James Version*). He runs his race here on earth in such a way that at the end of it he can say, like the Apostle Paul said to Timothy: “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Personally, whether Jesus returns in my lifetime or not, I want that to be my testimony when I stand before Him someday. I don’t want Him to just look at me with a sigh and say, “Well...?” I want Him to be able to say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

If you love the Lord, then that’s what you want to hear too! When the last trumpet sounds, you don’t want to realize you haven’t yet gotten around to doing what Jesus called you to do. You want to know you’ve been fulfilling your

assignment so you’ll “have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming” (1 John 2:28). You want to have been living and walking with Him every day so that you’re excited and ready to meet Him.

If you’re not ready when that time comes, it will be too late to do anything about it. You won’t be able to convince Jesus to change His schedule for you. He won’t be able to give you a few more years to prepare for His return.

No, I believe the time of His coming has already been set! God has already fixed an appointed date for it, and He’s never late. He always keeps His appointments right on time. That’s just the way He operates.

You can see that by reading in the Old Testament about the appointment He made with Abraham to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. God set the date for that appointment before the Israelites even existed. He told their forefather Abraham, “They’ll be enslaved by the Egyptians for 400 years, and then they’ll be delivered.”

Sure enough, that’s precisely what happened.

The Israelites lived as free men in Egypt for 30 years, and then became slaves there for the next 400: “And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:41).

Isn’t that amazing? Hundreds of years after God spoke to Abraham, He delivered the Israelites just as He said He would—on the exact, appointed day!

Safe, Dry and Ready to Sail

I’m telling you, God is an operator! You need never worry about Him getting His plans finished and keeping His appointments. He gets the job done!

He set an appointed time for Jesus to come the first time, and at that appointed time He was born as a Man into this earth. He’s set an appointed time for Jesus to come back for His Church and,

JAN		READ THROUGH THE BIBLE	
		Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	1	Gen. 1-3	Matt. 1
Tue	2	Gen. 4-7	Matt. 2
Wed	3	Gen. 8-10	Matt. 3
Thu	4	Gen. 11-15	Matt. 4
Fri	5	Gen. 16-18	Matt. 5
Sat	6	Gen. 19-22	
Sun	7	Ps. 1-5; Prov. 1:1-19	
Mon	8	Gen. 23-25	Matt. 6
Tue	9	Gen. 26-28	Matt. 7
Wed	10	Gen. 29-30	Matt. 8
Thu	11	Gen. 31-33	Matt. 9
Fri	12	Gen. 34-36	Matt. 10
Sat	13	Gen. 37-39	
Sun	14	Ps. 6-9; Prov. 1:20-33	
Mon	15	Gen. 40-41	Matt. 11
Tue	16	Gen. 42-44	Matt. 12
Wed	17	Gen. 45-47	Matt. 13
Thu	18	Gen. 48-50	Matt. 14
Fri	19	Ex. 1-2	Matt. 15
Sat	20	Ex. 3-4	
Sun	21	Ps. 10-13; Prov. 2	
Mon	22	Ex. 5-6	Matt. 16
Tue	23	Ex. 7-8	Matt. 17
Wed	24	Ex. 9-10	Matt. 18
Thu	25	Ex. 11-12	Matt. 19
Fri	26	Ex. 13-14	Matt. 20
Sat	27	Ex. 15-16	
Sun	28	Ps. 14-17; Prov. 3:1-18	
Mon	29	Ex. 17-18	Matt. 21
Tue	30	Ex. 19-20	Matt. 22
Wed	31	Ex. 21-22	Matt. 23

BETWEEN NOW AND THE TIME JESUS COMES, HE'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO DO WHAT YOU'RE CALLED TO DO.

BUT YOU HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH HIM.

you can rest assured, that's going to happen too—right on time.

“Therefore...God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has *fixed a day* in which He will judge the world in righteousness through [His] Man [Jesus] whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31, *New American Standard Bible*).

“But Gloria,” you might say, “that verse is talking about the fixed date when God will judge the world. From what I can see in the Bible that's the time called the Tribulation, when things on this earth are going to get really bad. I certainly don't want to be around for that.”

You won't be if you're born again! You'll be caught up beforehand to be with Jesus. Because you've already been made and judged righteous in Him, He's going to snatch you out of here before the final season of world judgment begins. At that time, as 1 Thessalonians 4 says: “The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:

and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (verses 16-17).

Talk about a thrilling adventure! When I read those verses I get so excited I can hardly wait. I'm like the little boy who came up to my daughter, Kellie, after he saw the Superkids movies. Looking up at her with great longing, he said, “Commander Kellie, I want adventure *so* bad!”

That's how I feel about the catching away of the Church. I'm looking forward to it with all my heart and I want to be fully prepared when it happens. I want to be so in tune with the Lord and so light on my feet that I can just sail out of here with no regrets, as happy as can be.

I actually think on the day Jesus comes for us, even before we see Him in the clouds, those of us who are living in fellowship with Him will sense He's on His way. We won't know in advance the exact day or hour of His arrival, but when we get out of bed on the morning He's about to appear, I think it will be like our hair is standing straight up, and we'll feel the Anointing of God flowing through our bones and our flesh. We'll just know something is about to happen.

We won't be like the people in the world who will be taken by surprise by Jesus' coming. That day will come upon

them as a thief in the night. They'll be as shocked by it as the unbelievers were in Noah's day, when the flood swept through the earth. As Jesus said:

For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore... [and] be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Matthew 24:38-42, 44, *NKJV*).

Notice the last thing Jesus said there sounds very similar to what He told Ken. He said, *I'm coming sooner than you think...so be ready!*

What does it mean *to be ready*? According to the dictionary, it means “to be prepared or equipped to act immediately.” It means to be like the Israelites were on the night before God delivered them out of Egypt. They were prepared to act immediately and leave that place. They were doing what the Lord had commanded—eating the Passover meal with their traveling clothes on, their shoes laced up, and their walking sticks in their hands (Exodus 12:11, *The Living Bible*). They were ready to go!

That's how we, as believers, need to live all the time. We need to consecrate and dedicate every fiber of our being, every moment we have and everything we do, unto the Lord's service. We need to get rid of anything that would hinder us from walking in the spirit so we can be immediately available to do whatever the Lord tells us.

After all, we're in the last days and He's doing great things right now! He's pouring out His Spirit and gathering in the last great harvest of souls on the earth. We don't want to miss out on that because we're out there in the world somewhere doing our own thing. When God is pouring out His glory somewhere we want to be right in the middle of it. We want to be doing our part in the plan and work of God.

If we're doing that, when the trumpet sounds and Jesus appears in the clouds, we'll know exactly what's happening and we'll be ready to go. We'll be like Noah was when the flood came. He was prepared when the rain started falling. He wasn't in the dark about what was going on, he was in the ark. He was safe, dry and ready to sail.

No One Else Can Do It for You

Jesus gave us another vivid picture of this kind of readiness in Matthew 25:1-8. He said:

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Think about those foolish virgins for a moment. Who decided they weren't going to take any oil? They did. It was their decision. They made the choice not to be prepared. When the bridegroom came, they realized they'd made a mistake, but by then it was too late to correct it. They asked the wise virgins to help them:

But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh (verses 9-13).

One thing this parable makes very clear is that when it comes to being



POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:



One of these days soon the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back for His Church. When that moment comes you don't want to realize you haven't prepared for it. You want to be ready to go!

1

Live every day in the awareness that the day of Jesus' return is rapidly approaching.
Titus 2:12-13

2

Let the anticipation of the Lord's future coming inspire you to live a holy life now.
1 John 3:2-3

3

Fellowship with Him in the Word and in prayer and walk with Him every day.
1 John 2:28

4

Watch for His leadings and listen to what He's saying to you on the inside.
Matthew 25:13

5

Be excited about His coming because it's going to be the greatest adventure of your life!
1 Thess. 4:16-17

ready for your in-the-air meeting with Jesus, when it comes to being dedicated and consecrated to Him, no one else can do that for you. The pastor can't do it. Your husband can't do it. Your wife can't do it. It's your responsibility to see to it yourself that you're fully prepared.

God will help you with that preparation, of course. He'll strengthen you and speak to you through His written Word. He'll teach and lead you by His Holy Spirit. Between now and the time Jesus comes, He'll provide you with everything you need to do what you're called to do.

But you have to cooperate with Him. You have to be watching and listening to what He's saying to you on the inside. You have to be attending to His Word, praying and walking with Him day by day.

He may have a work for you to do that you don't even know about yet. But if you'll give Him access to your time, He'll tell you about it. He'll show you the steps you need to take and help you fulfill His plan.

I remember how He did that many years ago for our dear friend, Ed Dufresne. When he first got turned on to the Lord, he sensed a calling on the inside to preach but he didn't feel like he could do it. So, the Lord led him to get some people together for a Bible study, play tapes of Kenneth's messages for them, and then pray for them.

After doing that for a while, one day Ed was heading out for one of those meetings and the Lord said to him, *This time leave the tape recorder at home.* He obeyed and stepped into a mighty ministry of the Spirit that even today—years after Ed has gone home to heaven—is still impacting people's lives for the Lord!

God has steps like that for you to take, too. Even if you're not in full-time ministry, He wants you to be laying hands on people for them to be healed. He wants you to be sharing the gospel with signs following, praying for people to receive the Holy Spirit, and impacting their lives for the Lord.

So watch and pray, and be quick to obey. Do what God is calling you to do and stay ready because Jesus is coming—soon! 🙏

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