

SEPT 2018

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF



KENNETH  
COPELAND  
MINISTRIES

# VICTORY

## THE KEY TO BEING FREE

### *Mary Colbert*

tried to negotiate with God. She had no intention of forgiving her father. But her obedience in doing so led to changes that put her on a path to fulfill her destiny and calling — to teach God's people the five principles of faith God revealed to her.

by  
Melanie  
Henry

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## NO MORE SHAME

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## CONFESSIONS FOR TRUE PROSPERITY

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A woman with reddish-brown hair tied back, wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved, button-down shirt with thin blue and white stripes, is smiling and watering a garden. She is holding a green garden hose with both hands, and a spray of water is directed towards a bush. The background is a lush garden with various green plants and flowers. A white picket fence is visible in the distance. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is overlaid on the image, containing text. Several white lines with small circles at the end point from the text box to various elements in the garden, such as the trees, the hose, and the water spray.

**"DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT ALL THESE  
THINGS ARE  
MADE OF?..."**

**THEY'RE  
MADE OF A  
SUPERNATURAL  
SUBSTANCE  
CALLED FAITH!"**



# the God Kind of Faith

by  
Kenneth  
Copeland

When you're believing God for something and the devil tries to convince you that faith doesn't work, here's something you can do: Go outside and point out to the devil all the things you see around you.

Tell him to take a good look at the grass, the trees, the birds, the sun, the sky and everything else. Then ask him a few questions.

Say, "Mr. Devil, do you know what all these things are made of? Do you know what the basic substance is that produced them? I do. They're made of a supernatural substance called faith! Everything in this universe was produced by that substance. It's the spiritual force that brought into existence every divinely created thing. As Hebrews 11 says, 'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Through faith...the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear'" (verses 1, 3).

I can pretty much guarantee you, before you even get finished quoting those verses, the devil will have heard enough. He'll be out of there,

and you'll have preached yourself happy. Instead of being discouraged and tempted to doubt, you'll be ready to double down on your believing. You'll be thinking, *Whooo-boy! I'm surrounded by living proof of what the God kind of faith can do!*

"That sounds great, Brother Copeland, but there's a big difference between my faith and the force God released at Creation. I do the best I know how but I certainly can't operate in God's kind of faith."

Yes, you can! Jesus confirmed it in Mark 11:22 when He commanded us as His disciples to "have faith in God." According to Greek scholars, what He said there can literally be translated, *Have the God kind of faith.*

"What?! How on earth am I supposed to do that?" you might ask.

It's actually very simple. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). So,

## POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

- 1 As a believer you already have the capacity to operate in the God kind of faith.  
Romans 12:3
- 2 You develop and increase your faith by feeding on The WORD of God.  
Matthew 4:4
- 3 You release your faith and put it to work for you by speaking words that align with God's and believing that what you say comes to pass.  
Mark 11:23
- 4 Don't wait until you can see or feel something to believe God has given what you asked for; believe you receive when you pray.  
Mark 11:24
- 5 When you pray and say things based on God's WORD, you can be confident in the outcome because God's WORD is His will.  
1 John 5:14-15

you can get as much of God's faith as you want just by availing yourself of His WORD.

God's WORD has His faith in it! That's why it's called "the word of faith" (Romans 10:8). When you read it, hear it, meditate on it and speak it, it empowers you to believe. It creates in you God's very own faith because He filled it with that faith when He released it.

Just as your physical body is designed by God to feed on certain natural substances, your spirit, which is created in God's likeness and image, is designed by Him to feed on His WORD. His WORD is spirit food! It strengthens and nourishes your inner man with the very life of God.

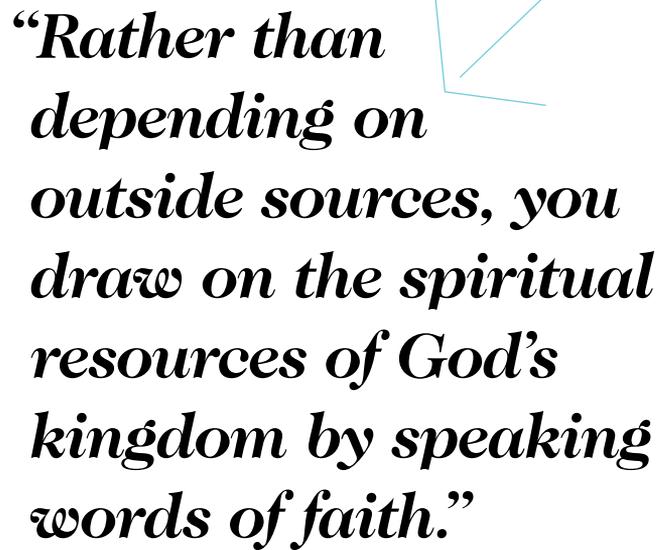
Matthew 4:4 says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." So, if God said it, you can feed on it. You can receive it and it will produce in you the force of divine faith. Then you can release that force to go to work in your life.

"Is the releasing part hard?" you might ask.

No, I'm happy to say it's quite simple. You just follow the example Jesus set in Mark 11 when He released His faith in the situation with the fig tree. You've probably read about that. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when He got hungry: "And seeing a fig tree...he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it,

No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it" (verses 13-14).

Notice, all Jesus did to put His faith into operation there was speak the desired end result. He didn't say anything about how it was going to happen. He didn't talk about the tree drying up from the roots or anything like that. He just released His faith by



***“Rather than depending on outside sources, you draw on the spiritual resources of God’s kingdom by speaking words of faith.”***

saying what He heard the Father say in His spirit. Then He walked away and left it up to the Father who dwelt within Him to do the work. (See John 14:10-12.)

#### **Operating as an Inside-Out Person**

What happened as a result?

For a while it didn't look like anything happened. That's apparent because later that evening, when Jesus and His disciples passed that way again, the disciples didn't say anything. You know they must have looked at the tree as they went by.

Having heard what Jesus said to it, they probably expected it to be gone, or at least appear to be sickly. But even after 12 hours had gone by, it showed no visible signs of change.

That's often the way it is when the force of faith goes into operation. It usually takes some time for the visible effects to show up because faith goes to work first in the unseen realm of the spirit. It works from the inside out.

This inside-out way of operating can seem strange when you're first learning to walk by faith because in the natural you were raised to be an outside-in person. From the time you were born, everything you needed was outside you and someone else had it. At first, it was your mother and father who had it and you depended on them to get it. Then you grew up and it was your employer who had it, or the government or some other outside source.

When you received Jesus as your LORD, however, you became an inside-out person. You were born

into the kingdom of God, and Jesus said that kingdom is within you. So now you increase and deal with the situations you face in life in an entirely different way. Rather than depending on outside sources, you draw on the spiritual resources of God's kingdom by speaking words of faith.

That's what Jesus did in Mark 11. He understands that words are the most powerful things that exist. He knows they govern everything because this is a word-created, word-dominated, word-upheld universe. So, He got rid of the unfruitful fig tree by

speaking words of faith. He essentially said to it, "You're done. It's over for you." And, as a result, roughly 24 hours later when He and His disciples passed by the tree the third time, it was dead—dried up from the roots—from the inside.

Of course, Jesus wasn't surprised but His disciples were astonished. Mark 11:21 says, "And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away."

What did Jesus say in response? Something that most likely astonished the disciples even further. He told them if they'd do what He did, they'd get the same result.

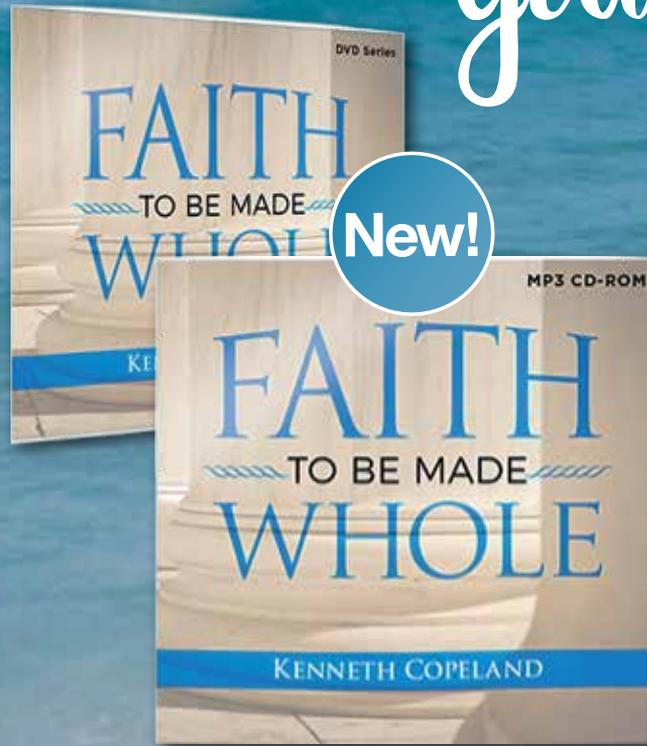
Jesus didn't say to His disciples, like religious tradition does today, that He was the only One who could release that kind of power with His words. He didn't say, "Now boys, this worked for Me because I'm the Son of God. But I don't want you to try it. You don't have what it takes."

No, He said the exact opposite.

Have faith in God. [Or, "Have the God kind of faith."] For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive... (verses 22-25).

Those verses contain the most detailed teaching on faith in the Bible, and one of the first things they say is that it will work for "whosoever." It will work for anyone because it's spiritual law. Like the laws of physics, it functions the exact same way every time and it can be depended upon. What you believe in your heart and say with your mouth without doubting, will come to pass.

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In 2 Corinthians 4:13, the Apostle Paul, who not only understood the law of faith but lived by it, taught it this way: “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.”

### The Secret to Having Confidence

“Well,” someone might say, “certainly Jesus and Paul could operate in that kind of faith! Jesus is the Messiah and Paul was a mighty apostle. Of course, they could be confident their words would come to pass. But what about me? I’m just an ordinary believer. How can I have that

kind of confidence in my words?”

Make sure you’re saying what God says in the Bible!

The Bible is His written WORD and His WORD contains His creative power. It has within it the ability to do anything He can do. It doesn’t matter who you are, His WORD spoken by faith out of your mouth will do the same thing it does when it comes out of His mouth: It will come to pass.

You’ve already proven this in your own life. It’s how you got saved! You heard The WORD about Jesus dying for your sins and reconciling you to God, you believed that WORD in your heart and confessed it with your

mouth (Romans 10:10), and it made you a new creation. You were “born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Peter 1:23).

You can do the same thing with any other Bible fact or promise. All the promises in God’s WORD are yes and amen in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). Therefore, you can believe and speak any one of them and confidently expect them to produce for you just like they would for Jesus Himself.

You won’t have that kind of confidence if you just make up something on your own. The secret to it is basing what you say on the Scriptures. When you do that, you can be certain you’re on solid ground and that He’s going to back you. You can be sure that the things you’re praying and saying are in line with God’s will because His WORD IS His will! And 1 John 5:14-15 says: “This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

“But Brother Copeland, sometimes even when I pray according to The WORD, I don’t feel like God hears me. Sometimes I don’t feel like I have any faith.”

Feelings don’t have anything to do with this. You can’t feel faith! It’s a spiritual force. There are times when that force becomes perceptible (as it does when the anointing manifests in a tangible way), but you don’t judge it by feelings or any other kind of natural evidence. You base your judgments on God’s WORD. You simply believe what He said.

This is where Jesus’ disciple, Thomas, missed it. He’s often referred to as “doubting Thomas” because he refused to believe Jesus had risen from the dead after the other disciples told him about it. “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails,” Thomas said, “and

## HOW'S YOUR FAITH WORKING?

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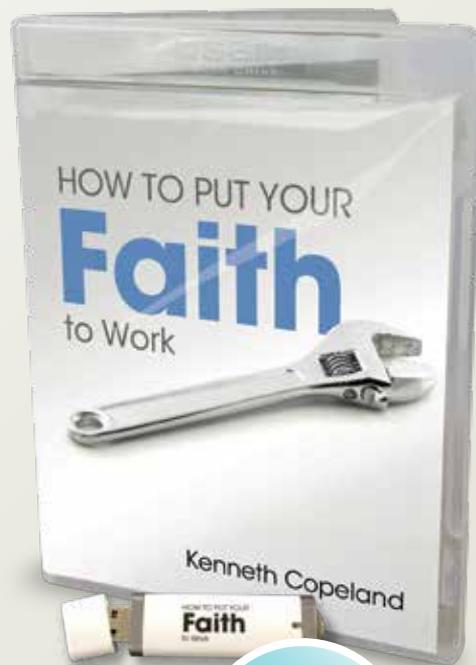
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put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).

That’s the attitude a lot of Christians have today when it comes to the Bible. They can see in 1 Peter 2:24, for example, that by Jesus’ stripes we were healed, but they won’t believe they’ve received healing until they can feel or see some outward manifestation of it. As a result, they keep pushing their healing away. They pray...and pray... and pray for it, but they keep waiting for tomorrow to see if God’s WORD is going to work, and tomorrow never comes.

You don’t want to do that! You want to believe you receive, as Jesus said, *when you pray!* You want to be like Abraham. He believed God’s WORD before he saw any evidence of it in the natural. He called “those things which be not as though they were. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform” (Romans 4:17, 20-21).

You can’t walk in THE BLESSING of God by acting like a doubting Thomas! You do it by following the faith of Abraham. You do it by having the God kind of faith.

Romans 12:3 says God has already dealt to you the measure of that faith. The instant you got born again, He deposited it in your reborn spirit. He put on the inside of you the same kind of faith He used to create the heavens and the earth. So, go ahead and do something with it: Feed it. Increase it. Release it!

Open your Bible and read and meditate on the promises of God. Say about yourself and your life what He said and believe that what you say comes to pass. Then stay with it. Don’t be on again and off again about it. Keep believing and confessing, and don’t ever give up.

“Have the God kind of faith!”

It will create a whole new world of BLESSING for you! 🙏

# PUTTING A RUMOR TO REST



by Gloria Copeland

YEARS AGO, THE DEVIL STARTED A RUMOR. HE TOLD A FEW CHRISTIANS THAT AS LONG AS THEY LIVED IN THE WORLD, THEY HAD TO SUFFER AS THE WORLD DID. HE TOLD THEM THEY HAD TO SHARE THE DISEASES AND THE DEFEAT, THE POVERTY AND THE FAILURE OF THOSE AROUND THEM.



He told them to not even hope to escape those things (not until they got to heaven anyway)...that to do so would be selfish.

It was a crafty lie. And it worked. Believers accepted it and began to spread it among themselves. You may have even heard it yourself. If so, I want to help you put that rumor to rest today. I want to help you get the facts straight once and for all.

You see, despite what you may have heard, health, prosperity and victorious living aren’t concepts some comfort-hungry believer selfishly dreamed up. They’re God’s ideas.

Since the beginning of time, God has desired for His family on earth to enjoy those things. He’s longed for a people who would take Him up on His many gracious promises and live in victory over the beggarly elements of this world.

And through the Lord Jesus

**“HEALTH, PROSPERITY  
AND VICTORIOUS  
LIVING AREN’T  
CONCEPTS SOME  
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BELIEVER SELFISHLY  
DREAMED UP.**

**THEY’RE GOD’S IDEAS.”**

Christ, He’s made it possible for us to do that. As 1 John 5:4 says, “Whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith” (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

The simple truth is, if you’re born of God you’ve got what it



## Some people make the mistake of thinking they won't be able to live in the kingdom of light until they die and go to heaven.



takes to live in victory. Don't let the devil talk you into anything less!

You may say, "That sounds good, Gloria, but we've got to be realistic. We live in a world that's full of problems. And as long as we live in this world, it seems to me we're going to have our share of them."

Yes, that's true. Even Jesus said, "In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration." But notice, He didn't stop there! He went on to say, "but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you]" (John 16:33, *AMPC*).

Most believers don't have any trouble believing the first part of that verse. They know all too well how many tribulations, trials, distresses and frustrations surround them. But they're less certain about the last part. They haven't yet experienced for themselves exactly what Jesus meant when He said He had deprived those things of the power to harm them.

And the reason they haven't had that experience is because they're still living as though they're part of the world.

Let me show you what I mean. In John 17, as He was praying for all of us who would become His disciples, Jesus said: "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (verses 15-17).

In other words, although you as a believer must live *in* the world, Jesus never intended you to live as though you were *part of* the world. He didn't intend for you to share in its sins or its sicknesses, its poverty or its perversions.

You see, there are two kingdoms in operation on this earth. There's the

kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. As children of God, you and I are citizens of the kingdom of light—even though we're surrounded by darkness.

Some people make the mistake of thinking they won't be able to live in the kingdom of light until they die and go to heaven. But that's not the case. Colossians 1:12-13 makes that clear. It says: "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

Notice that the verbs in those verses are *past tense*. That's because your transference into the kingdom of light isn't something that's going to happen to you some day in the future. It's something that happened to you the day you made Jesus the Lord of your life. You've already been brought out of the darkness into the light.

Yes, even though your feet are firmly planted on the earth, as a born-again child of God you are already a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. And that citizenship gives you certain rights—including the right to experience victory over all the evils of this world.

You are however, as Jesus said, to be "sanctified" or separated from them.

Just exactly how are you to separate yourself from the world when you are surrounded by it on every side?

Look again at that last verse we read in John: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

It's the Word of God that separates you from the world. It's His Word and His Word alone that will set your victory in motion. If you'll receive it, believe it, speak it and act on it, that Word will set you apart from those around you. It will take you from trouble to triumph again and again.

We already found in 1 John 5:4 that "this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Well, since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, we could also say that scripture this way: "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our believing God's Word."

Faith is believing God's Word under any circumstances (and usually *in spite of* the circumstances). It's believing God's promises of prosperity in spite of the negative balance in your bank account. It's believing God's promise of healing in spite of the pain.

I know that sounds tough, and it is at first. But anyone who's lived by faith for very long will tell you that if you'll just keep on feeding your mind and your heart with the Word of God, one day that Word will start to take hold inside you. You may be facing some obstacle that you haven't quite been able to conquer. You may have prayed about it and read the Word and yet still struggled with doubts.

But if you will just keep at it, then one day the reality of God's Word concerning that obstacle will start to dawn on you. And suddenly that impossibility you've been dealing with will become a possibility. Victory will start to well up within you from the inside out.

You'll begin using the Word to draw boundaries around your life, to paint spiritual warning signs for the devil, that say:

Off-Limits!

According to God's Word.

I don't belong to you anymore.

My family doesn't belong to you.

My health doesn't belong to you.

My future doesn't belong to you.

My money doesn't belong to you.

My ministry doesn't belong to you.

I belong to a different Kingdom.

Now, back off in Jesus' Name.

If you'll put the Word to work in your life, you can stake out your territory! You can live a life of peace and victory right here in the middle of the anxiety and defeat of the world.

God gave us a physical illustration of that principle during the time the nation of Israel was held captive in Egypt. Pharaoh had refused to set the Israelites free, so God had allowed

a thick darkness to cover the whole land. The darkness was so dreadful throughout Egypt that no one moved for three days.

“But,” says Exodus 10:23, “all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.”

What a thrilling illustration of how God desires us to live. He desires us to live in the light in spite of the thick darkness around us.

God doesn't intend for us to share the ailments of the world. He's never had that in His heart for His people. He intends for us to stand out from the rest, to be a living testimony of His power and His love.

That was His plan for the children of Israel and that's what He has planned for us.

Years and years after the Israelites had been delivered from bondage in Egypt, Rahab the harlot said to the spies who came to Jericho, “The Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt...for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath” (Joshua 2:10-11). God's fame had been established because of the miracles He had worked for His people!

The same thing should be true with you and me. We should be glorifying God by the miraculously victorious lives we lead. We should constantly have people telling us, “I've heard how God saved your children from drugs.” Or, “I've heard how God prospered you.” Or, “I've heard how God healed you.”

Can you see now why Satan would try to spread a rumor that would make you believe you have to suffer with the world instead of live as victor over it? Sure you can! He doesn't want the people of the world running after you asking where you get your power, your prosperity, your health and your peace. He doesn't want you to be a living demonstration of the saving power of Jesus Christ.

But your heavenly Father does!

So don't hold back. Put the Word of God to work in your life and dare to receive the rich blessings that belong to those who believe. And let the light of your life help put the devil's dark rumors to rest. 

## CONFESSIONS FOR TRUE PROSPERITY

I WALK IN TRUTH, IN THE  
LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD,  
ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS  
AND HIS WISDOM. I KNOW  
THE TRUTH AND THE  
TRUTH MAKES ME FREE.

John 8:31-32

I PROSPER AS MY  
SOUL PROSPERS IN  
UNDERSTANDING OF  
THE WORD.

3 John 2

BECAUSE I FEAR THE  
LORD, HE TEACHES ME  
HOW TO CHOOSE THE  
BEST AND I LIVE WITHIN  
HIS CIRCLE OF BLESSING.

Psalms 25:12-13, *The Living Bible*

HIS TRUTH IS MY  
SHIELD AND  
ARMOR.

Psalms 91:4

I LIVE A GODLY LIFESTYLE,  
IN OBEDIENCE TO WHAT  
GOD SAYS IS RIGHT.

BECAUSE I'M  
WILLING AND  
OBEDIENT,  
I EAT THE  
GOOD OF  
THE LAND.

Isaiah 1:19

*I separate myself from darkness  
and God is a Father to me.*

2 Corinthians 6:17-18



This is about the January *BVOV* magazine. I was on a minivacation with my daughter and the grandkids, and early in the morning, I went down to the lobby for coffee before everyone woke up. I brought the January issue of *BVOV* to read. The first article was on forgiveness and I thought, *I listen to Brother Copeland all the time and I know all this, and like he has said, "Little foxes spoil the vine," and to keep forgiveness close.* So I almost skipped over that article, but I had lots of time and good coffee and was just waiting for everyone to wake up, so I read it.

Soon, I was wrapped up in the article and at the end, I just said in my heart, *All right Lord, is there anything I haven't forgiven?* About five things immediately popped into my heart and I tell you, I forgave and repented superfast. I told the Lord then, you can never take for granted that you know something and have it down. It's a constant learning and growing, even on the subjects we feel we know the best. Lesson learned. Just wanted to say thank you for the *BVOV* print version of the magazine, which is certainly a blessing. I love you all and thank you, thank you, and I hope that I never again think, *I have heard this before.*

Duchess M. | Missouri



I had lupus many years ago. I was an alcoholic and did not have a very good life. It is hard to talk about it all, but I have been totally healed of lupus! The doctor always says it is in remission, but it has been at least 38 years, and no signs of it. I say, "Healed in Jesus' Name!"

L.P. | Rock Falls, Ill.

### FRUITFUL INCARCERATION

God bless Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. In my earlier years, I did time in prison, and while I was there I got close to the Lord. I went to every Bible study and church service available. I read devotionals and daily devotions, including the *From Faith to Faith* yearlong devotional, and I was truly blessed. I took notes each time I watched the Copelands' services on TV. I spent five years in

what is called a "serve-out" of my sentence. I clung to God and grew closer to Him as He changed my heart. Out of this incarceration I wrote a book of poetry, and also other books of everyday life in prison. Reading, writing, listening to such Christian people as Kenneth and Gloria, I became strong in the Lord. I want to thank you both for your prayers and encouragement and love.

R.W.T. | Louisville, Ky.

## My Son Has Been Delivered



I called asking for agreement in prayer for my son—that he be delivered from alcohol and rededicate his life to Christ. He has done so, praise God! He is walking in sobriety and serving the Lord. God is so good. C.J. | South Carolina

### 'THE TUMOR HAD GONE!'

I want to testify about healing that I received through Gloria Copeland. At the time, I was not a believer and didn't know the living God. Once, I was watching TV and saw a woman. She said to put hands on our sick places and Jesus would heal us. So I did. I was not a believer and didn't realize Gloria was saying God's Word and Jesus was healing. Doctors had found a tumor in my body and prescribed medicine. They said it would be a long process.

Two weeks after the prayer, I went to make tests and the tumor had gone! The doctor could not believe her eyes. She told me it was the first time in her practice a tumor had disappeared in such short time. It was impossible. But for God everything is possible! Now I am already six years with God and I understand that He loves all of us, believers and unbelievers. I am so grateful to Him for the healing!

G.T. | Kharkov, Ukraine



### PRAYER RELIEVED HER BACK PAIN

I just want you to know I am feeling so much better since you prayed for me. I am so grateful to the Lord and to you for your ministry. I have had back pain for many years and it is such a blessing to be healed! I feel like another person! I am 77 years old and now look forward to the rest of my life without pain! I had not felt like being in active ministry...well, I do now! Many blessings on you faithful ones! Darlene H. | Valencia, Calif.

### 'BELIEVING GOD FOR A HOUSE'

Gloria had put her "Believing God for a House" scriptures in the October 2017 *BVOV* magazine. In November we put our house on the market. The next day, the second people who looked at it, bought it. The road of selling had a few bumps, but we kept standing on the Word and everything went through very quickly.

We found our new home and it is such a blessing. We know we are in the right place at the right time. We moved into our

You can read the October '17 digital issue here: [kcm.org.uk/magazine](http://kcm.org.uk/magazine)

new house Dec. 21, and this is home. My heart is full! Praise the Lord! Thank you for all you do and for teaching me about my authority and standing on the Word. We love you all!

C.S. | Alabama



## *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.

"ABOVE ALL THAT YOU DO, KEEP YOUR HEART *FULL* OF THE WORD BECAUSE OUT OF THE HEART ARE THE FORCES OR ISSUES NECESSARY TO LIVE THIS LIFE SUCCESSFULLY."

Kenneth Copeland

## *connect with us*

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

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## THE KEY TO BEING FREE



AN ORGAN PLAYED HYMNS AS MARY HOLLAND SLIPPED INTO THE PEW OF AN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA. SHE'D BEEN INVITED THERE BY A FRIEND.

AT 21, MARY WAS NO STRANGER TO CHURCH. ONE OF EIGHT CHILDREN, SHE HAD BEEN RAISED IN A BAPTIST CHURCH WHERE HER DAD WAS A BELOVED AND ESTEEMED DEACON. OF COURSE, NO ONE AT CHURCH KNEW HOW HE ACTED AT HOME. THEY HAD NO IDEA HE WAS A HEAVY DRINKER, AND A VIOLENT MAN.

No one knew Mary's home was like a war zone—except the police. They had been called there many times, only to find Mary's mother beaten and bloody and the children cowering in fear. Their usual response was equal to no response: "Keep it down," they warned. "You're disturbing the peace."

Not once was Mary's father arrested, likely because the police knew her mother would not press charges.

"Don't tell anyone how he acts," she would plead to her children. "If he goes to jail, how can I support eight kids?"

Mary was 12 the first time she woke to find her father on her bed—massaging her feet, his hands creeping higher. She had witnessed her mother suffer at his hands for years. She refused

to be his passive little victim. She would *never* give in to him. She fought, kicked and screamed.

“Mom! Tell Dad to get out of my room!”

Frustrated that Mary thwarted his attempts to molest her, he had begun to beat her instead. When he turned his sexual attentions to Mary’s younger sister, Mary became the furious young protector and started sleeping in the room with her sister.

Pulling her attention back to the sermon, Mary heard the pastor speak these words: “According to Mark 11:25-26, God won’t forgive us our sins unless we forgive others.”

*What?*

That couldn’t be in the Bible.

Mary turned to the person beside her.

“May I see your Bible?”

There it was, in black and white: “And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses” (Mark 11:25-26).

The pastor opened the altar, asking people to do business with God by forgiving. Mary walked down front, but she had no intention of forgiving her father. God *knew* what went on behind their closed doors. She went to the altar to negotiate her right *not* to forgive him.

At the altar, Mary saw a vision of Jesus standing beside her, weeping. *Why are You crying?* she asked. *I’m the one who lived through it.*

Mary, the Lord said, *If I could make an exception for anyone, it would be you.*

### No Exceptions

“The Lord told me He couldn’t make an exception for me,” Mary remembers. “I forgave my dad that day. I realized that forgiving my father didn’t mean what he did was OK. I knew it wasn’t OK with God. Forgiving him wouldn’t spare my father the consequences of his behavior. Still, God required that I forgive him, so I obeyed.”

Early in her parents’ marriage, Mary’s dad had been in a car wreck and went through the windshield, Mary explained. “He had a metal plate put in his head and was in a coma for months. He recovered, but afterward he had a hair-trigger temper.

“He was a brilliant man who, after serving in the military, worked for NASA. He helped develop the space shuttle and helped train astronauts. I was in seventh grade when he came home from his second tour in Vietnam, where he ran a MASH unit. I believe that while in Vietnam he developed a demonic taste for young girls. Although he beat me, he never succeeded in raping me.

“I was the oldest of four girls, and I was worried about the sister just younger

“*Offenses are weights, and God wants His people to walk in total freedom. Keeping a record of wrongs will hinder your faith.*”

than me. I turned 18 while still in high school, so I got a job, rented an apartment, and worked to provide for my sister and me. I knew my mother was being beaten, and I ached for my two younger sisters still at home.”

One evening, Mary received a frantic call from her mother. Her dad had tried to rape one of the younger girls.

“Where is he now?” Mary asked, her calm demeanor masking cold fury.

“He went to Dunkin’ Donuts®.”

Mary went there and confronted him.

“You have exactly 30 minutes to check yourself into a hospital and tell them what you’ve done,” she said. “If you haven’t done that in half an hour, I will go to the police and file charges.”

Her father knew she wasn’t spouting empty threats. So, he did as she said. In the hospital for three months, he received shock treatments and medication. He came home medicated and calm.

While Mary had been changed at the altar when she forgave her dad, as the months passed, she continued to change. *I want to fill you with My presence, the Lord told her, but oil and vinegar don’t mix.* Returning to the altar of prayer, Mary poured out the vinegar.

### Free From Bitterness

“I wept so much that day, I made sure the tears didn’t run into my mouth,” Mary

recalled. “I knew bitterness was flowing out of me, and I didn’t want to taste it again. No one prayed for me, but I started speaking in tongues.

“For years, I’d been filled with hatred and fear, but now I found myself laughing and full of joy. The hatred gone, I felt deep compassion for my father’s torment.”

Later, Mary went home and found her dad in the living room.

“Something happened to me today,

## SEPT READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

		Old Testament	New Testament
Sat	1	Isa. 1-3	
Sun	2	Ps. 104; Prov. 21:16-31	
Mon	3	Isa. 4-6	Phil. 2
Tue	4	Isa. 7-9	Phil. 3
Wed	5	Isa. 10-12	Phil. 4
Thu	6	Isa. 13-15	Col. 1
Fri	7	Isa. 16-19	Col. 2
Sat	8	Isa. 20-24	
Sun	9	Ps. 105; Prov. 22:1-16	
Mon	10	Isa. 25-27	Col. 3
Tue	11	Isa. 28-29	Col. 4
Wed	12	Isa. 30-32	1 Thess. 1
Thu	13	Isa. 33-35	1 Thess. 2
Fri	14	Isa. 36-37	1 Thess. 3
Sat	15	Isa. 38-41	
Sun	16	Ps. 106; Prov. 22:17-29	
Mon	17	Isa. 42-43	1 Thess. 4
Tue	18	Isa. 44-45	1 Thess. 5
Wed	19	Isa. 46-48	2 Thess. 1
Thu	20	Isa. 49-51	2 Thess. 2
Fri	21	Isa. 52-55	2 Thess. 3
Sat	22	Isa. 56-59	
Sun	23	Ps. 107; Prov. 23:1-28	
Mon	24	Isa. 60-63	1 Tim. 1
Tue	25	Isa. 64-66	1 Tim. 2
Wed	26	Jer. 1-2	1 Tim. 3
Thu	27	Jer. 3	1 Tim. 4
Fri	28	Jer. 4	1 Tim. 5
Sat	29	Jer. 5-6	
Sun	30	Ps. 108-109; Prov. 23:29-24:22	

Dad,” she said. “I want you to know that I love you. I forgive you for everything you ever did.”

Leaning over, Mary kissed his cheek.

He didn’t know how to handle forgiveness. Weeping, he suffered a nervous breakdown and was hospitalized for another three months.

“I felt terrible about what happened to Dad,” Mary says. “But since being baptized in the Holy Spirit, I was so full of the love of Jesus that I couldn’t keep quiet. I witnessed about Jesus to so many people at work, I lost my job. My car was repossessed, and I had to move back home. My mother thought I was a religious nut, and kicked me out. I was officially homeless.”

### The Man in the Upper Room

Months earlier, Mary had started a Friday evening Bible study at the Assemblies of God church. It started with five young people, but within two months 110 to 120 people were attending.

“The pastor had given me a key to the church,” Mary recalls. “I used that key to slip inside after hours. I slept on a sofa in the upstairs room where the youth met. I showered in the pastor’s study. No one knew I was there. I snuck home for food and was incredibly happy.”

Mary had been living there for about three months when something strange happened.

One Friday evening, she let herself into the church to get ready for Bible study. Walking upstairs, she found a man with dark hair sitting on the sofa.

“Excuse me?” Mary said. “Who are you?”

“Oh, sorry. I came for your meeting. The side door was open, so I just came on in. I hope that was OK.”

Everyone arrived, and it was obvious that no one knew the man. After Mary taught, he spoke.

“Can I say something?” the man asked.

“Mary, the Lord’s hand is upon you. He will take you places you’ve never dreamed. You will do great things for Him. Tomorrow at noon,

you’ll get a phone call at your mother’s house. You need to be there to take it. The caller will tell you to do something. The Lord wants you to do what he tells you. This is His will.”

She wanted to ask questions, but the man had disappeared.

“Mary,” someone asked, “was that man an angel?”

Mary was more concerned that he was a stalker.

Afraid that he was hiding in the building, and too scared to sleep, Mary stayed up all night. Arriving home the next day just before noon, Mary asked her mother if she could get some things from her room. As she went inside, the phone rang.

“Mary, it’s for you!”

“Hello?” Mary asked, quaking.

She listened as a man explained that he was a student at Oral Roberts University and a friend of Jim, the young man who had invited her to the Assemblies of God church. “I was in Jim’s room and saw your picture,” he said. “Last night, while at Bible study, I saw your face flash through my mind. The Lord told me to call and tell you that He wants you to attend ORU.”

Mary hung up, stunned.

“What was that all about?” her mother asked.

“I’m going to ORU!”

### One Large Step of Obedience

“After Dad was released from the hospital, my parents allowed me to move home,” Mary recalls. “Dad went to the junkyard and bought me a wrecked 1968 Pontiac. It wouldn’t go in reverse, and it guzzled oil and transmission fluid. But in August 1976, with a little money I’d earned and a \$76 love offering from my Bible study, I left Jacksonville, Fla., and drove to Tulsa, Okla.

“I got a job at ORU, which allowed me free tuition. I loved ORU but didn’t want to get into the dating scene. I told the Lord I wanted my Boaz. I asked Him to tell me a little bit about the man He’d chosen for my husband.

“He said he was 6 feet, 3 inches tall with sandy-blond hair. He loved to play the guitar, and he had a nickname with three letters. He also told me my husband would look for me and find me.”

After attending a Christian concert, Mary walked up to the T-shirt table beside a gorgeous man—220 pounds of pure muscle. Since she had been at ORU a while, she thought she knew most of the students. But she didn’t know this man.

“Are you a student at ORU?” she asked. “I don’t think I’ve seen you before.”

“Yes, I’m pre-med. My name’s Buz Colbert. You may not know me, but I know you,” he said. “I’ve seen you preach on street corners to drug addicts and prostitutes. I told the Lord that I’d never seen a girl who loved Him as much as you do.”

“Thanks,” Mary said.

Buz, Mary learned, was a big man on campus who dated cheerleaders and beauty pageant queens. She could have cared less.

One night, she heard Buz calling her name as he rushed across the parking lot.

“Mary! I’ve been looking everywhere for you! I’m glad I finally found you.”

*I’ve been looking everywhere for you. I finally found you....*

The words echoed in Mary’s heart and she remembered how the Lord had described the husband He had chosen for her.

*Lord, You can’t mean Buz!* she thought. Soon after, Mary learned that Buz’ real name was Don Colbert.

### Pieces of a Puzzle

The next time they had a conversation, Mary asked him questions. “How tall are you?” He was 6 feet, 3 inches tall.

“Do you play the guitar?” He loved playing guitar.

While Buz stayed at school that summer, Mary accepted a job as youth pastor at a local church. When she planned events for the group, he often joined them.

“We became fast friends over the next year, but it was nothing romantic,” said Mary.



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The following year, Don asked her out. A few months later, he proposed. They married during Don's first year in medical school.

Meanwhile, Mary had dropped out of ORU and graduated from Rhema Bible Training Center in Tulsa, becoming a licensed minister.

"During Don's third year in medical school, he suffered a heatstroke while running a race in 100-degree heat and humidity," Mary recalls. "He was admitted to the ICU at City of Faith with acute kidney failure. His legs had shrunk to smaller than the size of his arms. A biopsy of his muscles showed he'd suffered massive rhabdomyolysis—the breakdown of muscle fiber that damaged his kidneys. His doctors gathered at his bedside and reviewed his biopsy report. 'You'll never walk again,' they told Don. 'You'll be in a wheelchair for the rest of your life.'"

Furious, Mary fired them all.

"What have you done?" Don asked. "Those were my professors!"

Mary, however, had a word from the Lord.

*He will run and not grow weary. He will walk and not faint.*

Together, she and Don stood on that word, refusing to be moved by their circumstances. After three months, Don was discharged from the hospital. He left in a wheelchair. Arriving home, his legs flaccid, Don pulled himself up two flights of stairs to their apartment. Mary followed with the wheelchair.

Three weeks later, Don was home alone when the Lord spoke to him.

*Get out of bed and walk.*

Mary returned home to find him standing.

Later, Don walked back into City of Faith and asked to see the doctors who had read his biopsy report. Not only were his muscles restored in his legs, they were a full inch larger than they'd been before the stroke.

This, the doctors agreed, was a creative miracle.

That year, Don not only graduated with his class, he walked to receive his diploma.

Following medical school, Don and Mary moved to Orlando, Fla., for Don's residency. Afterward, he started his practice there. Oral Roberts had just featured Don's miraculous healing from

heatstroke in his ministry's magazine, when Don and Mary attended a new church in the area. There were 300 people in the service when the minister called Don out.

"Aren't you the man featured in Oral Roberts' magazine?" he asked. "I want you to know that you're my doctor!"

That man was Benny Hinn.

### Divine Connections

When Pastor Benny dedicated the church, Kenneth Copeland attended the service. Don and Mary had begun following Kenneth Copeland's ministry when she was a student at Rhema. Later, when Oral Roberts asked Mary to sit on his board of regents, Mary would sit next to Kenneth during board meetings and their friendship began to grow.

"A year after Benny met Don, he asked Don to help with his healing crusades by verifying miracles," Mary remembers. "Don agreed to do it but wouldn't take any money. He worked in his office Monday through Thursday. Thursday evening, we flew to Benny's crusade. Don would determine which healings were verifiable miracles. We did that for 20 years."

In March 2015, Don had finished examining one of his patients, Mark Taylor, when he called Mary into the room and handed her a folder.

"This is a prophecy God gave to Mark in 2011," he said. "Would you read it?"

Back in her office, Mary read the prophecy aloud. She recognized the rhythm and the way the Lord spoke. Rushing back to Mark and Don, she said, "This is the voice of God! Donald Trump will be our president!"

Three months later, Donald Trump announced he was running for president of the United States.

"Lord," Mary prayed, "I believe the



You can read Don Colbert's story in the October '15 digital issue.

[kcm.org.uk/magazine](http://kcm.org.uk/magazine)

word Mark received was from You. But would You give me independent verification?"

*Watch the races at Churchill Downs. I have a message for you.*

The morning after the race, the headlines said it all: *Creator Wins by a Photo Finish!*

Afterward, the Lord told Mary to get people praying. From Labor Day weekend in 2016 until the election, she held a conference call every day for 65 days, inviting guest ministers to lead prayer. Thousands of people joined in.

Today, everyone knows the outcome of that election. God did what He said He was going to do. Mark and Mary have since told their story in the book titled *The Trump Prophecies*, which was published in 2017. They were both surprised to later learn that ReelWorks Studios, a Charlotte, N.C.-based film company, was working with the cinematic arts department at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., to produce a feature movie adaptation of the book. Titled *Commander*, the film is scheduled to be released in October 2018.

### An Assignment From God

Following a full day of cooking and celebrating Christmas with family, Mary fell into bed that night. As soon as she put her head on the pillow, the room lit up and she heard a loud voice: *Mary, you've been summoned by Me.*

The voice sounded like Kenneth Copeland, but Mary knew it was the Lord.

*I want you to teach My people five principles of faith. Write this down. First, faith must be in action. In constant motion, like a river constantly moving. If not, it's dead. Next, I want you to have the kind of faith that excites Me! The third principle is that faith IS the substance of all THINGS.*

"That word threw me out of bed," Mary says. "I came to myself standing beside our bed at midnight shaking all over. God knew I was at my tipping point. There were two more principles, but He realized that this was more than my little teacup could handle.

"The next morning, I called Kenneth. He was in his truck on his way to go hunting. I told him what had happened, and that the Lord spoke to me in his voice. I told him the first principle. Then I told him that God wants us to have faith that excites Him. Kenneth told me to hold on a minute. He stopped his truck and got out. I could hear him shouting, 'Praise God! Glory to God!'

"After a while he got back in the truck and said, 'The fire of God is all over me!' I told him the third principle and asked if he knew the other two."

"No," Kenneth said, "this is holy. I'm not going to touch it. God will show you, but you have no idea what this has done for me."

Several months later, the Lord gave Mary the other two principles.

*The fourth principle is to see the thing you want Me to do and begin to praise Me. You must see it as being done, and I will hasten to perform it. The fifth principle is that love is the fuel. It is the combustion that moves faith forward. Tell My people to walk in love. Praise Me and walk in love. Keeping a record of wrongs will hinder your faith.*

With full understanding of all five principles, Mary knew she was armed to do what God had called her to do—the message she was assigned to deliver to others. Her experiences, from her childhood on to becoming an adult, she said, have also taught her another valuable lesson: "Don't take offense at anything," Mary says. "Offenses are weights, and God wants His people to walk in total freedom. Keeping a record of wrongs will hinder your faith. You can't keep a record book. Burn it...and be free." ▼

"SHAME LEADS PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE SEES THEM AS A FAILURE."

# NO MORE SHAME

by Creflo Dollar

GOD HAS EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES AND EXTRAVAGANT BLESSINGS FOR YOU. THE DOORS ARE OPENING! I KNOW IT, YOU KNOW IT...AND THE ENEMY KNOWS IT. AND HE'S GOING TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO STOP IT—INCLUDING USING ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS IN HIS ARSENAL: SHAME.

The enemy loves shame because he can use it to try and convince you that you're unworthy to receive what's *already* been given to you in Christ. If you need healing or a financial breakthrough, Satan will come and try to make you think, *I don't have a right to receive that*. But you absolutely do.

Jesus faced shame head-on: "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked

off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed" (Isaiah 50:6-7).

When you made Jesus your Lord, you became someone who is *in Christ*. Now, God wants to set you free from shame through Jesus becoming your shame substitute. He paid for your



Creflo Dollar is the founder and senior pastor of World Changers Church International in College Park, Ga.; World Changers Church-New York; and several fellowship churches across the country. For more information, visit [creflodollarministries.org](http://creflodollarministries.org).

# "YOU'RE NOT RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE YOU BEHAVE RIGHTEOUSLY.

## YOU WERE MADE RIGHTEOUS FIRST, AND THEN OUT OF THAT YOU BEGAN TO BEHAVE RIGHTEOUSLY."

sins once and for all. He didn't just cross them out. He *erased* them (Colossians 2:14). They were nailed to the Cross so you wouldn't have to experience them. Jesus has already become the object of your shame. He has completely dealt with it. Now it comes down to whether you believe what Jesus has already done, or the condemnation that the enemy sends your way.

Many believers struggle with shame—so we need to learn more about this vile weapon of the enemy.

### What Is Shame?

Shame is the sense of failure in the eyes of another person. It carries with it the intense pain of feeling unworthy, disconnected and unloved—both by God and by people. It's different from guilt. *Guilt* is an awareness of a failure; shame is seeing yourself as a failure. Guilt is feeling bad about *what you do*; shame is feeling bad about *who you are*. Guilt says, "I made a mistake and I need to confess it so I can get it off my chest." Shame says, "I am a mistake, so I must hide what I've done so others don't find out."

Shame must be dealt with because hiding it has serious consequences. First, shame can lead to paranoia. Shame leads people to believe that everyone sees them as a failure. They find themselves afraid to go places, afraid others will reject them because of their failure. Shame can also lead to excessive perfectionism. Some people hide behind perfectionism because they don't want anyone to see who they really are. Others find shame turns them into doormats for people to walk on.

Shame ties people to a point of shame in the past, affecting the way they act in the present and sabotaging the future God has for them. It will extinguish hope. They find themselves walking around with no earnest expectation, because they feel unworthy of anything more. They feel like they fall short, that they're not the

ideal spouse, parent or minister. Shame is a weight designed to keep people down. It will so occupy their attention that they find it hard to receive God's finished work in their lives.

### Fear Is Tied to Shame

It should come as no surprise that since shame is a tool of the enemy, it's tied to fear. You can see that at work in Adam and Eve after they sinned in the Garden. Right after they ate the forbidden fruit, God called to them and Adam said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10).

He was ashamed.

But shame can only control and define you when you live in fear of it. Isaiah 54:4 says, "Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth..."

You've got to stay free from this fear because the worst bondage in the world is people bondage. When you're afraid of what people think about you, you can't do what God's told you to do because you're so occupied with what people are going to think about it. How can you dare step out and be bold about doing something that's out of the norm, if you're preoccupied by what people are going to say? When you're bound by that fear, you only feel safe doing what's already been done. God wants you to break down barriers, but if you are focused on the past, how are you going to discover what God is trying to do right now? It's shame that keeps you in that place—walking in the fear of it and allowing it to control and define you.

### When Jesus Encountered Shame

Luke records the account of a young girl who met with Jesus and suddenly faced shame:

And [she] stood at his feet behind him

## SEPT BROADCAST CALENDAR

**Sun., Sept. 2**  
**The Name of Jesus Is the Believer's Power Tool!**  
Kenneth Copeland



Kenneth Copeland

**Sept. 3-7**  
**The Fundamentals of Faith**  
Kenneth Copeland

**Sun., Sept. 9**  
**Pray in His Name**  
Kenneth Copeland



George Pearsons

**Sept. 10-14**  
**The Hindrances to Faith**  
Kenneth Copeland

**Sun., Sept. 16:**  
**Believers Are Joint Heirs With Christ**  
Kenneth Copeland



Buddy Pilgrim

**Sept. 17-21**  
**Prayer That Brings Results**  
Kenneth Copeland



Michele Bachmann

**Sun., Sept. 23**  
**Receive the Name of Jesus by Covenant**  
Kenneth Copeland

**Sept. 24-28**  
**Faith for Our Nation**  
George Pearsons,  
Buddy Pilgrim and  
Michele Bachmann

**Sun., Sept. 30**  
**The Model for Success in Trouble**  
Kenneth Copeland



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# 2018 events



## TEACHING YOU HOW TO USE YOUR FAITH

### ORLANDO VICTORY CAMPAIGN

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

### HOLIDAY, FLA. : SEPT. 2

Grace Harvest Church of God / 1-727-940-5607

### DALLAS, TEXAS : SEPT. 7

Jesus Regional Dallas / [jesusimage.tv](http://jesusimage.tv)

### FOREST PARK, ILL. : SEPT. 10-11

2018 International Faith Conference  
[billwinston.org](http://billwinston.org) or [livingwd.org](http://livingwd.org)

### CHARLOTTE VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Sept. 20-22 / Charlotte, N.C.

### BRANSON, MO. : OCT. 19-22

Autumn Assembly of Prayer / [billyebirim.org/events](http://billyebirim.org/events)

### AUTAUGAVILLE, ALA. : OCT. 26

Greater Glory Canaan Land / [canaanland.com](http://canaanland.com)

### WOODLAND PARK, COLO. : NOV. 3

Charis Bible College Building Dedication  
[andrewwommackministries.ticketspice.com/building-dedication](http://andrewwommackministries.ticketspice.com/building-dedication)

### WASHINGTON, D.C. VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Nov. 8-10 / Woodbridge, Va.

### Built to Last Men's Conference

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weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner (Luke 7:38-39).

There it was; that woman's opportunity for shame. She was looked down on by a Pharisee—but Jesus knew how to deal with it. "And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (verses 48, 50).

How did Jesus help this woman battle the crippling effect of shame?

*He gave her a promise.*

Suddenly, how the woman responded became a matter of belief or unbelief. She had to choose between believing Jesus and accepting the condemnation from the Pharisees.

It's the same for you and me. In our lives, every time there's a potential for shame, God has provided a promise. It's up to us to believe it. I'm convinced that we're working so hard to live right, when we need to be working hard to *believe* right.

#### When You Encounter Shame

Shame remains because of unbelief in the promises of God and His finished works. We battle unbelief by taking hold of God's promises. Romans 10:11, for example, says, "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." That's talking about you. You are in Christ. You are the righteousness of Christ. You are redeemed. You have wisdom. Your identity is in Him...and you shall not be ashamed!

When you got born again, an instant miracle took place. The old man died, and the new man came alive. You are now *in Him*—in Christ. Instantly, He made you righteous. You are righteous *right now*. You are holy *right now*. You don't need to be buffed out or spit-shined. You're ready *right now*.

"Yeah, but Brother Dollar, you don't understand..."

Oh no, it's you who doesn't understand. If you've been born again, your identity is in Christ—even though the fruit of



#### Watch Creflo Dollar on [bvovn.com](http://bvovn.com)

your identity may not be seen in your behavior yet.

Here's the truth: You are the righteousness of God even when you don't do right. Am I giving you a license to sin? Of course not. You've been sinning without a license! You are as righteous right now as you're ever going to be—and when you do something unrighteous, it does not *undo* the righteousness that you have by faith in Jesus Christ. You're not righteous because you behave righteously. You were made righteous *first*, and then out of that you began to behave righteously. Don't allow shame to work its way in when you do something unrighteous. You are righteous *right now*. Accept that and watch things change.

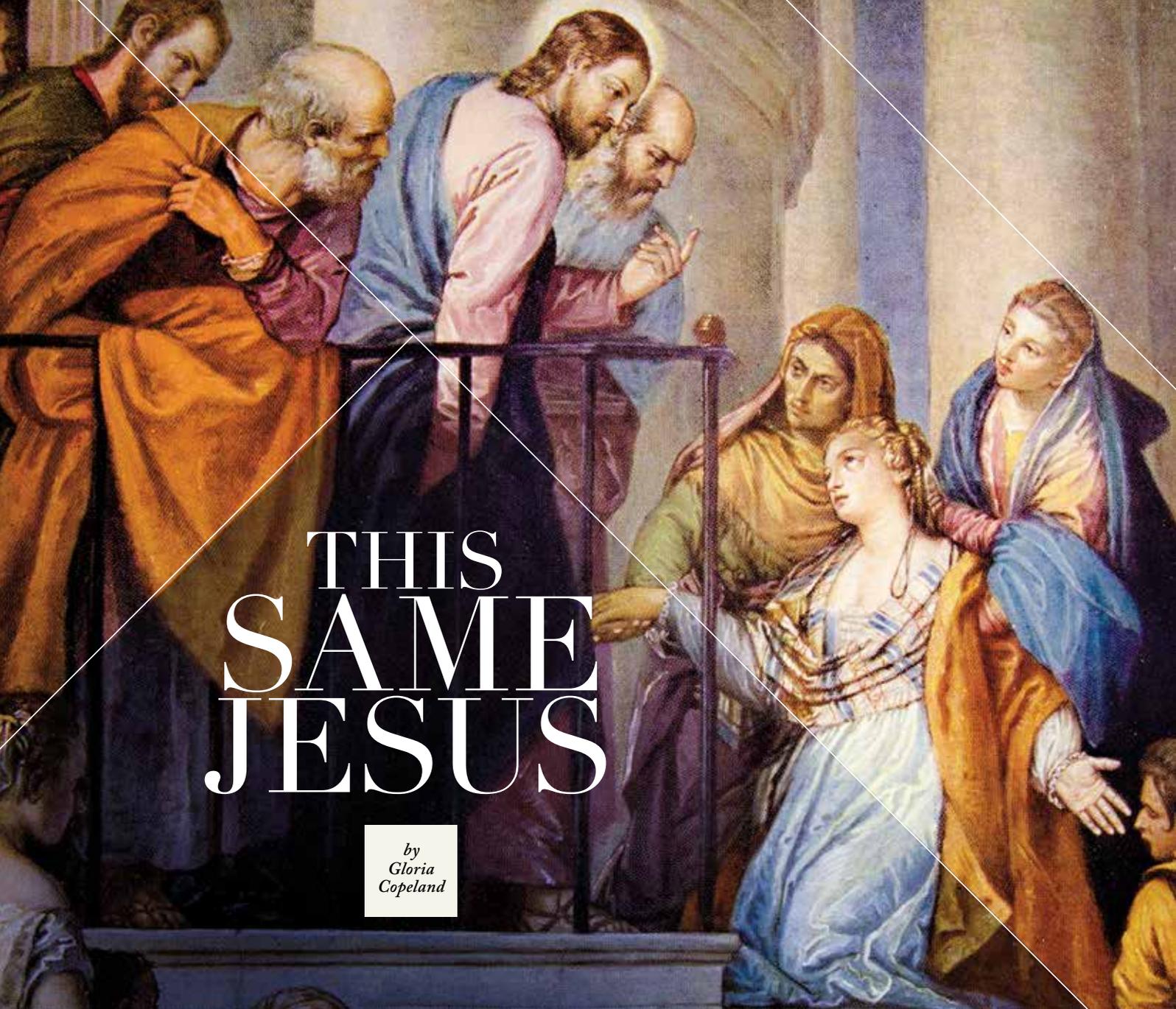
#### How to Overcome Shame

You overcome shame by taking hold of the revelation in Hebrews 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, *despising the shame*, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (emphasis mine).

What does it mean to "despise the shame"? It means you call shame a despicable fool, unworthy of your attention. That's what Jesus did. Don't allow shame to influence your identity. Don't allow it to influence your actions toward others or even your perception of them. Despise it. Then allow God to begin His work in your life.

Don't try to deal with shame on your own. Cast your care on Him and take hold of His promises. Remember, the battle against shame is a battle against unbelief. It's a battle to make sure you stay with the promises of God (2 Timothy 1:12). When you do, you will make a way for the great blessings of God to come your way! How? No more shame. 📌

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



# THIS SAME JESUS

by  
Gloria  
Copeland

A

LOT OF BELIEVERS HAVE THE IDEA THAT RECEIVING HEALING FROM GOD IS HARD.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY GOT THAT IMPRESSION. MOST LIKELY THEY PICKED IT UP THROUGH RELIGIOUS TRADITION. BUT ONE THING IS FOR SURE: THEY CERTAINLY DIDN'T GET IT FROM THE BIBLE.

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The Bible doesn't say anything about it being difficult to receive healing from the Lord. It says just the opposite! It says, "The Lord is gracious [which means *disposed to show favors*] and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works" (Psalm 145:8-9).

Does that sound like someone it would be hard to receive from?

No, it sounds like Someone who's easy to receive from! It sounds like Someone who is tenderhearted, easily entreated and eager to bless anyone who comes to Him.

Someone who, in today's vernacular, might be called a "soft touch."

You may not be accustomed to thinking of God in those terms, but that's how He is. Even in Old Testament times, He always healed His people when they gave Him the opportunity. He was always trying to get them to believe Him so He could manifest His goodness in their lives.

That's why Jesus did the things He did in the New Testament! He's just like His heavenly Father, so He was disposed to show favor to people. He was so easily entreated that every time someone in need reached out to Him, He helped them. Anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power, as Acts 10:38 says, He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

There's not one instance recorded in the New Testament where Jesus made it hard for someone to get healed. He never turned anyone away or told them they were too sinful or in such bad shape that He couldn't do anything for them.

On the contrary! Jesus preached the same exciting message to everyone. It didn't matter who they were or how impossible their situation might have seemed, He told people everywhere he went: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.... The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Luke 4:18; Mark 1:15).

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (Matthew 4:23).

Notice that last verse says Jesus healed *all manner* of sickness and disease. He healed everything from blind eyes to twisted limbs to terminal cancer. He even made the maimed whole (which means He restored missing body parts). And even in the worst cases, He always made it easy for people to receive.

That's good news for us!

It means we don't have to despair if we get a dire report from the doctor. We don't have to agree with him if he says we're going to die from some incurable disease. We can look to Jesus the Great Physician for healing, knowing that He can cure anything. He can repair damaged body parts or, if necessary, provide us with totally new ones. He can give us a new heart or a new liver or new kidneys because He made those organs in the first place and they're easy for Him to replace.

What's more, it's easy to receive from

***"He never turned anyone away or told them they were too sinful or in such bad shape that He couldn't do anything for them."***

Him because He's still the same today as He was 2,000 years ago when He walked the earth!

Acts 1:9-11 confirms this. It says that when Jesus ascended back into heaven after the resurrection, as His disciples watched Him disappear into the clouds, two angels appeared to them and said, "Why stand ye gazing up into heaven? *this same Jesus*, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come [again] in like manner...."

One time I was reading that verse and this revelation hit me: If Jesus will be the same when He returns as He was when He left, He's still the same right now. He's still easily entreated and quick to heal. He's ready to do in our generation what He did in the Bible.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

He is still "this same Jesus"!

### **The Time for Healing Is Always Now**

One of the wonderful things we see about Jesus in the Gospels is that He always responded right away when

people came to Him to receive healing. He never procrastinated. He never told them they had to stay sick for a while because God was trying to teach them something. He didn't even make people wait because He was too busy for them or it wasn't an opportune time.

No, Jesus ministered the power of God to people the moment they reached out to Him. No matter where He was or what He was doing, He healed them immediately right then and there.

Luke 4:38-39, for example, tells about a time He went to Peter's house and found Peter's mother-in-law sick with a great fever. Although He'd come primarily to rest and eat dinner, when the family asked Him to help their sick mama, He made her healing His first priority. "He stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose...."

In Luke 5:12-13, He responded the same way when He encountered the man who had leprosy. He met the man's need immediately. Even though in the natural that man was a hopeless case. Even though his body was filled with disease. The moment he saw Jesus, he "fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean: And [Jesus] put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. **And immediately the leprosy departed from him**" (my emphasis).

In Mark 10:47-52, we see the same pattern repeated in the story of blind Bartimaeus. You've probably heard about him. He was sitting by the highway begging one day when Jesus and His disciples were passing through Jericho:

And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him,

What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

I love that picture of Jesus! He's the Son of God, the Anointed Messiah, and that day in Jericho He was on His way to do something important. He had multitudes following Him and He had a mission to fulfill. **Yet He heard a cry of faith coming from one blind beggar and it stopped Him in His tracks.**

Everyone else had told that beggar to shut up. They didn't think he was important. But Jesus thought Bartimaeus was so important that He called for him and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" (verse 51, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*). Isn't that amazing? Instead of telling Bartimaeus what to do, Jesus let Bartimaeus tell Him what to do. And—immediately—He did what Bartimaeus said!

That's also what happened in Luke 7 in the story about the centurion. He came to Jesus in faith and what he said, Jesus did. That man wasn't even an Israelite! He was a gentile, an officer in the Roman army. Yet, according to Matthew 8:

There came unto [Jesus] a centurion, beseeching him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: **but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed** (my emphasis). For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.... And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour (verses 5-10, 13).

***“He never told them they had to stay sick for a while because God was trying to teach them something.”***

### **Believe It, Say It, Act on It and Receive**

Talk about simple! In every one of those situations, Jesus was so easily entreated that whatever people said, that's what He did. Bartimaeus said, "I want to receive my sight," and Jesus gave it to him immediately. The leper said, "If You will, You can make me clean," and Jesus immediately said, "I will, be clean." The centurion said, "Speak the word only and my servant shall be healed," Jesus spoke, and immediately the servant was healed.

That's how easy it was to receive from Jesus when He was on earth. And that's how easy it is to receive from that same Jesus today.

"But those are isolated instances," you might say. "Jesus didn't minister healing that freely to everyone."

Yes, He did! The Gospels testify to it over and over. They say:

"The blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them." (Matthew 21:14)

"They brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick." (Matthew 8:16)

"They brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them." (Matthew 4:24)

"And great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all." (Matthew 12:15)

And that was before Jesus finished the work of Redemption and set us free from sin and the curse! That was before He became our substitute on the Cross and bore all our sicknesses and pains.

Even during His earthly life, sickness and disease weren't any problem for Jesus. He healed people of every nasty thing the devil had put on them. How much easier for Him is it now that He's been crucified, raised from the dead, and given all power and authority?

## **POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:**

**1**

Jesus heals today just like He always did because He never changes.  
Hebrews 13:8

**2**

When Jesus ascended into heaven, as the disciples watched Him, an angel appeared and told them that this same Jesus would return just as they had seen Him go.  
Acts 1:11

**3**

During His earthly ministry Jesus proved He can heal any sickness, disease or physical infirmity.  
Matthew 4:23

**4**

When sick people came to Jesus, He always healed them right away.  
Luke 5:12-13

**5**

Although Jesus isn't physically present on earth today, His Anointing to heal is always present and you can draw on it by faith anytime.  
Mark 5:34

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When Jesus was resurrected He stripped Satan of everything he had! He took away from him the keys of hell and death. The devil doesn't have those keys anymore. He can't shut the door on your healing or anyone else's. He doesn't have the power.

The only thing he can do now is try to talk you into believing something other than God's Word. That's what he did in the Gospels to the people in Nazareth. He convinced them to doubt that Jesus was Anointed and got them hung up on the fact that they'd known Jesus ever since He was a child. Because they refused to put their faith in Him, even though Jesus endeavored to minister to them, "He could there do no mighty work...because of their unbelief" (Mark 6:5-6).

You don't want to get yourself in that kind of situation! You don't want Jesus marveling over your unbelief. You want to be like the other people we've seen who believed and received. You want to be like the woman in Mark 5 who got healed of the issue of blood.

That woman is one of my favorite people in the New Testament!

She's a great faith example to follow. She not only believed Jesus is Anointed to heal, she confessed it by faith. Even though she'd been sick for 12 years with an incurable issue of blood she kept saying, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole" (verse 28).

Then she got up and took action. She went to find Jesus, pressed through the crowd that surrounded Him, and touched the hem of His garment. What happened as a result? She got what she kept saying. "Straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague" (verse 29).

Think of it! That woman didn't even ask Jesus for healing. She didn't even wait for Him to give her a special word. She simply touched Him in faith, and the Anointing in Him and upon Him flowed into her and made her whole.

That's how easy it is to receive from Jesus! It was easy for her and it can be the same way for you.

Even though Jesus isn't here in the flesh anymore, by the power of the Holy Spirit His Anointing to heal is always present. It's everywhere, all the time, ready to move into you. You don't even have to go anywhere special to find it! You can wake up in the middle of the night, release your faith and that anointing will be there.

So, plug into it by faith. Be like the woman with the issue of blood. Believe the Word, say it, act on it and take it...and the healing power of this same Jesus will be released in you! 

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# Jesus Is Your SUPERPOWER!



1. Go find the lost sheep.
2. Preach the love of Jesus.
3. Bring healing to ALL those who are sick.
4. Break off the demonic presence from people.
5. Raise the dead back to life.
6. Don't hold back in any way when giving Jesus and His LIFE to others.

Hey Superkid! I'm sitting here thinking about you and remembering all we've talked about this year: Jesus in you, you in Him, how He's called you and what living IN Him looks like. Last month we began to talk about what living FOR Him looks like.

It really comes down to this, Superkid, you are just like Jesus.

You may not feel like it, you may not know it and you may even not SHOW it, but you are.

You've been designed to be extraordinary by the Father who created you. You've been called to be extraordinary! Called as in assigned (like homework is assigned) and equipped. Also, called as in "Hey you! Come here and live in Me and be EXTRAORDINARY!"

It's so easy to think of ourselves as anything but extraordinary, because it's normal to think of our own lack of abilities or skill. When we watch superheroes in movies, we picture superpowers as in the super abilities that Superman or Wonder Woman have. The enemy loves it when we see ourselves as only that—OURSELVES. But we are NOT just that! OF COURSE, we don't feel super in ourselves! We were not designed to be more than human on our own.

Look at 2 Corinthians 3:18, *The Living Bible*, "But we Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, **we become more and more like him.**"

The Spirit of the Lord has been at work in you since you asked Him into your heart, but this year, we purposely set out on a journey with Jesus, and He has changed us. In His presence, we have become a mirror that reflects to others the glory of Jesus.

The glory is His power, love, healing and His presence. *The Passion Translation* says it like this, "...We are being transfigured into his very image as we move from one brighter level of glory to another.

And this glorious transfiguration comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Picture Superman changing from mild Clark Kent to Superman! The super man must be on the inside of Clark Kent but Clark doesn't act anything like Superman NORMALLY. This is where we are different, Superkid. We don't change what we look like to be super and extraordinary, **Jesus is super and extraordinary on the inside, and He changes us!**

Second Corinthians 4:6-7, *New Living Translation*, tells us, "For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves."

Jesus is your **SUPERPOWER**, your **EXTRAORDINARY!**

He will never abandon us or leave us hanging without His power, when we know and believe who He is on the inside of us. Last month, from Matthew 10, we talked about MISSION THRUST, where Jesus gives us this job:

Sound impossible? Remember, Superkid, He never expected us to do this without Him! THAT'S impossible! His GREAT AND MIGHTY POWER works IN us and THROUGH us! We are SUPER from the inside out! So, it's not we who SAVE THE DAY for others, IT'S JESUS! In Matthew 10:9-39, after He gave His disciples their mission, He told them not to trust in any other thing to accomplish it. Then, He said in verse 40, "Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me" (NLT).

This is HUGE! If someone listens and believes when you tell them about Jesus, it's just like Jesus is the One standing there! It's true, HE IS! Superkid, never, ever, ever forget this. This is who you are and how you roll!

So, like Jesus said in Mark 16:15-18:

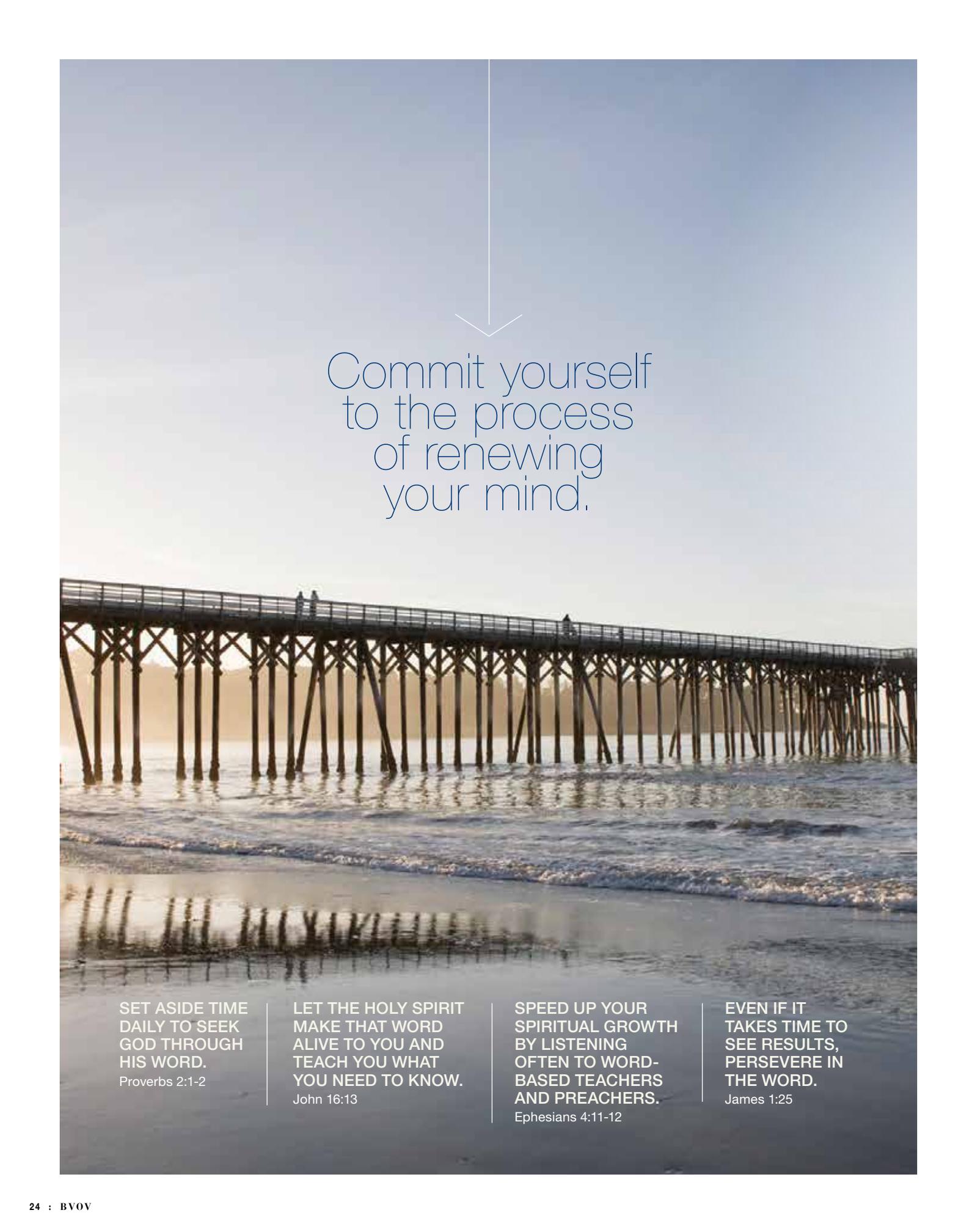
**Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed (NLT).**

OK. Now you can strike a superhero pose. And yeah, you are SUPERCOOL! (Don't pick up snakes or drink poison on purpose, just sayin'!)

Now, get outta here!   
Commander Kellie



**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.



Commit yourself  
to the process  
of renewing  
your mind.

SET ASIDE TIME  
DAILY TO SEEK  
GOD THROUGH  
HIS WORD.

Proverbs 2:1-2

LET THE HOLY SPIRIT  
MAKE THAT WORD  
ALIVE TO YOU AND  
TEACH YOU WHAT  
YOU NEED TO KNOW.

John 16:13

SPEED UP YOUR  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH  
BY LISTENING  
OFTEN TO WORD-  
BASED TEACHERS  
AND PREACHERS.

Ephesians 4:11-12

EVEN IF IT  
TAKES TIME TO  
SEE RESULTS,  
PERSEVERE IN  
THE WORD.

James 1:25

# Guarantee THE SUCCESS OF YOUR PRAYERS

by  
 Kenneth  
 Copeland

ARE ALL YOUR NEEDS MET TODAY? // IF NOT, WHY NOT?

I COULD ASK A THOUSAND BELIEVERS THAT QUESTION, AND MOST OF THEM WOULD JUST SHAKE THEIR HEADS BEWILDERED. "I DON'T KNOW, BROTHER COPELAND," THEY'D SAY. "NO MATTER WHAT I DO THIS ILLNESS, THESE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THESE AWFUL CIRCUMSTANCES KEEP DRAGGING ON. I'M JUST WAITING ON GOD TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT."

weapon he can get his hands on. At the same time, he is stirring up strife and dissension, trying to disarm the Body of Christ that has the power and authority to stop him.

We're being pressured from every side. But don't cave in and give up. Pray! Pray accurately. Pray expecting results, and you'll come out on top!



## Pray Accurately!

Did you notice what I just said? I said, "Pray accurately."

You can't just toss any old prayer God's way and expect Him to answer it. You must pray according to the guidelines He's given you in His WORD.

Now don't get the wrong idea. You don't have to sit around tongue-tied, terrified of saying the wrong thing to God. He loves you. He's for you, not against you. He isn't looking for you to be perfect before He'll answer your prayers. But He does expect you to pray according to His instructions.

Not because He wants to make it tough for you to get an answer, but because He wants to make it tough for satan to get in and mess things up.

Think of it as a security system designed to keep the devil out of the powerhouse of prayer. God has given you the secret code. So, don't just stand around outside bellowing about your problems; use the code and go on in!

Am I saying that if you pray and pray accurately, you can expect to receive what you ask for every single time? Yes! Isn't that a little presumptuous? No, but it is bold! And you have got a scriptural right to be bold.

According to The WORD of God, you have a standing invitation from your heavenly Father to "come *boldly* unto the throne of grace, that [you] may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). That word *obtain* is a word of certainty. The dictionary says it means "to get possession of." Pray, expecting to get possession of what you need—not just once in a while, but every time!

**T**hat's tragic! Because while they're waiting on God, He's waiting on them!

The book of James says, "You have not because you ask not. You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss." In other words, if your needs just keep on not being taken care of, it's either because you're not praying at all, or because you think you're praying and you're not!

That news may come as a shock to you. Especially if you're among those who've used prayer as a kind of spiritual wishbone, going through the motions but not really expecting results. If that's been your attitude, then change it! The time has come for you to get serious

about prayer. You need to stop praying just because it's proper. You need to stop praying just because you always pray at this point in the church service. You need to start praying to get results!

In Luke 18:1, the Bible says, "[Jesus] spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." A version that really speaks my language puts it this way, "Men ought to always pray and not cave in and give up." I like that!

If there ever was a time we needed to pray, it is now. We are facing an extremely critical hour. The devil is literally killing people with disease, drugs, depression and every other

***"Pray expecting results, and you'll come out on top!"***

# Watch Kenneth Copeland on **bvovn**<sup>®</sup>

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In years past, you may have actually had that kind of confidence in prayer. But, if you're like most people, you've suffered some disappointments. You have seen some of your prayers go unanswered. And instead of tackling the problem and wrestling with it in prayer and in The WORD until it was solved, you simply wandered away saying, "I guess you never know what God's going to do."

Well, let me tell you something. You DO know what God's going to do when you go to Him in accurate, WORD-of-God, Spirit-inspired prayer. He's going to answer you! He's going to do exactly what you've asked Him to do. How can I be so sure? He's given us three guarantees!

### Guarantee No. 1: The Name of Jesus

In John 16:23, Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."

Look at that verse again. How did Jesus say we should address the Father? In Jesus' Name. His Name is one of the guarantees we have that our prayers will be answered.

If you'll look in Philippians 2:9-11, you'll see why. There, the Apostle Paul tells us, "God also hath highly exalted [Jesus], and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The Name of Jesus carries authority over all other names! It is one of the most powerful guarantees you have that your prayer will be answered. Use the influence that Name carries every time you pray. Then expect every circumstance in your life to bow its knee to the Name of Jesus!

Beware of religious slang that robs you of this guarantee. I've heard many a well-meaning believer end his prayer with the phrase, "for Jesus' sake." But Jesus didn't say to pray "for His sake." He said to pray in His Name.

I used to make that mistake myself. One night I was praying because I was suffering from a stomachache. "Oh, for Jesus' sake," I prayed, "heal my stomach." After I'd said that a few times, The LORD spoke up on the inside of me.

*Wait a minute, He said. Whose stomach is hurting here—Mine or yours?*

"Mine!" I answered.

And very plainly, He said, *Then pray in My Name over your stomach.*

### Guarantee No. 2: The WORD of God

In John 15:7, Jesus gives us another guarantee. He says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

So many believers wring their hands and worry about whether they're praying according to God's will. "Oh, dear me," they say, "I certainly can't expect God to do something for me that's outside His will." And they're absolutely right. But they don't need to waste time standing around looking puzzled! They need to grab their Bibles and find out what the will of God is! God's WORD IS His will.

My friend, God has made us some very specific promises in His WORD. And it's His will to fulfill every one of them in your life. In fact, those promises are divinely guaranteed by a contract that's been signed in the blood of Jesus.

Think of it this way. Your Bible is the last will and testament of Jesus Christ. It is a record of your inheritance. Everything that belongs to you has been written down in that book. And the smartest thing you can do is to use it. You sure don't want to leave it up on the mantle and just hit the floor crying, "Oh, God! Oh, God! I'm searching for the truth."

The LORD would just say, "Well, it's right there on your mantle!"

Get your Bible off the mantle, find out what it says about your particular problem, and then base your prayer on it. Don't just base your prayer on what you *remember* The WORD of God says. Read it! Even if you've read that promise a hundred times, read it again.

Let me explain why that's so important. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." The WORD of God is to your spirit what bread is to the body. Can you feed on the *memory* of a steak?

Try this. Close your eyes and see yourself slicing a lemon. Now stick that lemon slice between your teeth and when I say three, bite down on it so hard that the juice squirts into your mouth. One. Two. Three. Bite!

Chances are, you have such a vivid memory of what it's like to bite on a lemon

that your mouth is watering right now. But let me ask you this. Have you received any nourishment from that memory? No! Remembering The WORD of God isn't enough. Feed on what it says again and again. Get it out and read it. Go to church and hear it preached.

One day, you'll read a familiar verse—a verse you've read thousands of times before—and suddenly God will give you the greatest revelation you've ever had in your life. A completely fresh revelation from that old familiar verse! And it's likely to be exactly what you needed to know to pray effectively about your current situation.

Yes, prayer can be prayed on the spur of the moment. Yes, it can be prayed from memory. Yes, it can be prayed from The WORD that is on deposit in your spirit as you're walking down the street. But I dare say this: You won't get results from the prayer you pray while you're walking down the street if you haven't spent some time on your knees in front of The WORD of God, allowing the Spirit to develop your prayer life. If you haven't taken the time to put any WORD in, none will come out!

If I pray over something any length of time and sense in the spirit that I'm not getting any results, I go to The WORD of God and see how I need to change. That sounds logical, doesn't it? But there are a lot of folks who don't do that.

Instead of going to The WORD and seeing how they need to change, they try to change God. You've probably heard some of them pray. They'll go on and on trying to convince God just how badly they hurt or how poor they are. They'll beg and plead and wheedle, all the while acting as though they had to somehow change God's mind about the situation. Unfortunately, those folks are in for a long wait.

God is *never* going to change. Hebrews 13:8 says, “[He’s] the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” And if you're having problems getting your prayers answered, it's not because He's holding out on you, it's because you've somehow gotten out of line with His WORD.

A few years ago, this ministry was over a million dollars behind. I prayed about it, but the situation failed to improve. In fact, it just kept getting worse.

I went to God in prayer and said, “LORD, I need a million dollars!”

Finally, I went to The WORD. I did my homework and prayed as accurately as I

could. That's when The LORD answered me. But He didn't answer me by giving me a million dollars. Instead, He said, *I told you in My WORD I'd meet all your needs, right?*

I said, “Yes, that's what You promised, and I need a million dollars.”

*No you don't*, He answered. That shocked me.

“I don't?”

*No*, He said. *You need to make some changes in the way you're operating your ministry because you're out of line with My WORD in an area of your finances and you have been for a number of years.*

My mouth fell open when I heard that. I had no idea. But I got into The WORD, found out what He was talking about, and made the changes I needed to make. That's when the money I'd been asking for started to come in.

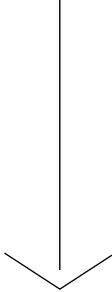
The same thing will happen in your life when you get serious about prayer, get yourself in line with The WORD, and start expecting results. God will begin dealing with the root problems in your life. He doesn't just waste His time fiddling with the leaves like we do, He goes right to the root of the problem.

First John 5:14-15 says, “This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” If you pray in line with The WORD, you can be sure you're praying according to God's will. And you're guaranteed—the answer is on the way.

### Guarantee No. 3: The Holy Spirit

The effectiveness of your prayer life depends on the degree of confidence you place in the Holy Spirit. He is God's power arm. He's the One who's going to guarantee that the work gets done. If you want to see how the Holy Spirit operates, just look in Genesis 1. Read verses 1-3: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

The Holy Spirit was present, moving on the face of the waters before Creation. But the simple fact of His presence didn't accomplish anything. It was when God *spoke* and said, “Let there be light!” that the Holy Spirit exploded into action. He



**“Think of it this way.**

YOUR BIBLE IS THE  
LAST WILL AND  
TESTAMENT OF  
JESUS CHRIST.  
IT IS A RECORD  
OF YOUR  
INHERITANCE.

EVERYTHING  
THAT BELONGS  
TO YOU HAS BEEN  
WRITTEN DOWN  
IN THAT BOOK.”

brought forth the light with such vigor that it's still radiating through the universe, devouring the darkness at a rate of 186,000 miles per second!

The next time you start to pray about a seemingly impossible problem—think about that.

If you're born again, the Holy Ghost is present inside you just as He was present on the day of Creation. And He responds to God's WORD today just as powerfully as He did then.

The more faith you have in Him, the more confidence you place in Him, the more awesome the results will be. Just think about that! The power that created the universe, the power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead, is activated in your life when you speak The WORD of God in prayer. Hallelujah, what a guarantee!

I urge you from this day forward to make prayer the bedrock of your life. Build your marriage, your career and your ministry on it. If you don't, you'll be ensuring your own failure. If you do, God will guarantee your success! 🙏

# 45

YEARS  
IN PRINT

Dear Partners and Friends:

More than 50 years ago, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland stepped out in faith, boldly committing to answer the call of God to go around the world preaching the uncompromised Word of God, proclaiming His unconditional love for all mankind and declaring that Jesus Is Lord. And for the past 45 years, the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine has been a major catalyst in helping to fulfill that God-given assignment.

The first issue of *Believer's Voice of Victory* was published in 1973 as a four-page newsletter and distributed to about 3,000 people. Since then, it has played a vital role in helping to bring believers from the milk to the meat of the Word and into full maturity in their walk with God. Today, the publication is a 32-page, full-color magazine distributed free of charge to more than 400,000



George Pearsons, in the art department with Kenneth Copeland



Cover of the newsletter's first issue, 1973

subscribers in 202 different countries and territories on five continents around the world—from Asia to Australia, from Europe to Africa, from remote islands in the Pacific to North and South America.

Each month, *BVOV* delivers Bible-based articles on topics such as faith, love, healing, prosperity, righteousness, Redemption and the principles of victorious Christian living—all written by anointed ministers of the gospel like the Copelands, George and Terri Pearsons, Jerry Savelle, Jesse Duplantis, Creflo Dollar, Billye Brim, Keith Moore, Bill Winston and Keith Butler. Through these teachings, thousands have learned how to exercise their authority and rights as believers and walk in THE BLESSING

God has provided for them in every area—from marriages and relationships, to health and finances, to ministry.

When reports come of lives changed through the ministry of Kenneth and Gloria, *Believer's Voice of Victory* has endeavored to share that good news, and let you know He will do the same for you. We've introduced you to people from all over the world and nearly every walk of life—people who have faced trouble, and dared to take God at His Word and believe Him for victory. They have been real people with real needs who experienced real victories at critical times in their lives—people who learned how to trust God and saw Him turn tragedy into triumph, defeat into victory, poverty into prosperity. We tell their stories to inspire and motivate you to a deeper faith and trust in God and to encourage you in your faith journey. Through their experiences, you have seen the greatness of God's love and how real people facing real needs can gain real victories through applying the truths of God's Word.

At Kenneth Copeland Ministries, we take God's Word as final authority. The *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine is committed to keeping that Word at the forefront of your thinking—teaching you how to live victoriously so you are rooted and grounded enough to overcome your own adversities, reach out to others, and share those same principles. As we continue to bring you inspiring teachings, revealing truths and strong testimonies of God's life-changing power, we trust you will allow the Word to energize you to the point of renewal, refreshing and blessing. Just as a single word from God has transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands over the last 45 years, one word from God will do the same for you.

Thank you, Partners and Friends, for your support of *BVOV* over the last 45 years, and for your faithful prayers and support for Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

Ronald C. Jordan | Managing Editor

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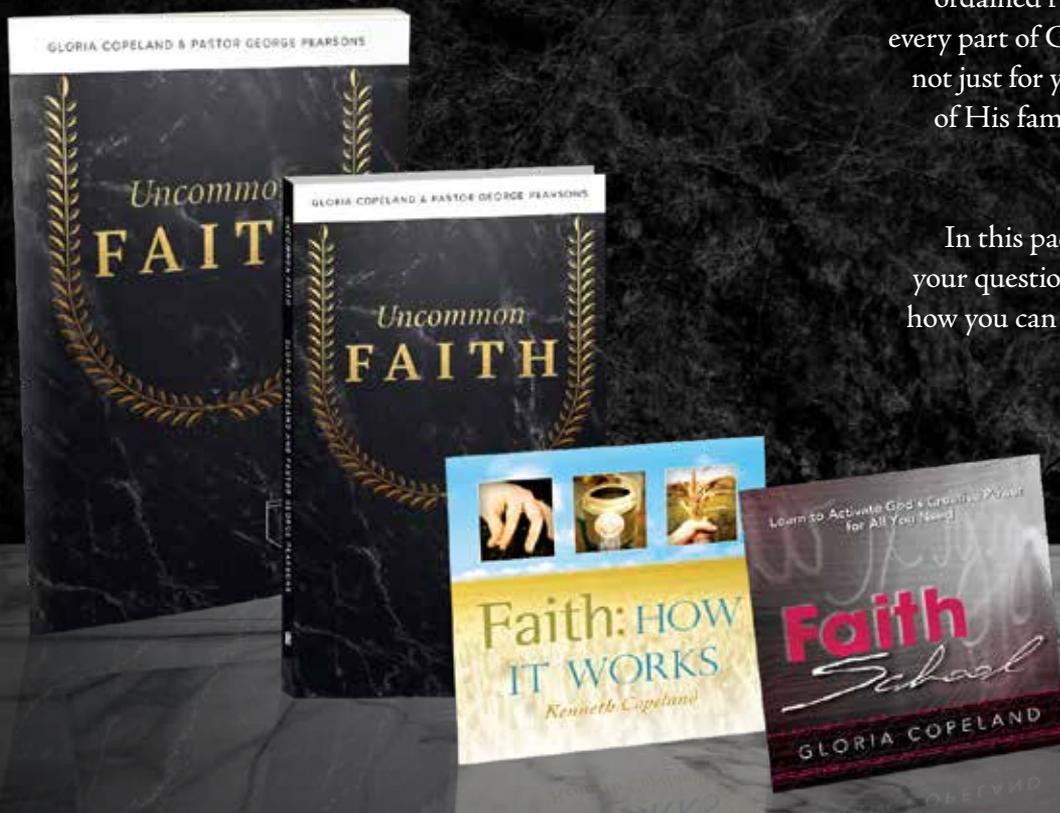
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