

VICTORY

Seventeen-year-old Bob Nichols was running from the call of God that was on his life when he fell asleep at the wheel and lost control of his car. Not wearing a seatbelt, he miraculously crawled out of the wreckage uninjured. Kneeling beside the car, he prayed and surrendered his life to God.

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“

God used faith-
filled words to bring
everything in this world
into existence, and

NOW WE ARE USING
OUR WORDS TO
CREATE OUR WORLD TOO.

”

by Kenneth Copeland

THE POWER OF Simple Faith

ONE THING that always thrills me about Jesus' teachings on faith is how wonderfully simple they are. He never made receiving from God by faith seem mysterious and incomprehensible. He never presented the process as complicated or difficult to do.

On the contrary, Jesus laid out the basic principles of faith so simply that even a child can understand them. He made them so clear that anyone can put faith to work in their life, just by doing what He said.

If you've read Mark 11, you probably remember how He did it. He began His teaching by speaking words of faith to a fig tree. The fig tree should have had fruit on it, but it didn't. So, having gone over to the tree to get something to eat and finding nothing on it, Jesus said to the tree: "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever" (verse 14). Then He turned His back on it and walked away.

His disciples who watched this demonstration heard His words, but at the time they saw no change in the tree. The next day, however, they



*“No matter who you
are, there is no way
to get around it:*

WHAT YOU HAVE TODAY IS WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY.”



passed by the tree again and saw it had changed. Peter said to Jesus: “Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (verses 21-23).

Talk about straightforward! That’s so plain we’ve had to have help to misunderstand it. Jesus didn’t say, like religious tradition does, that you just never know what God is going to do. He said that God does for you according to your faith. “Have faith in God” (verse 22), He said. (Or as it can also be translated, *Have the faith of God*, or *Have the God kind of faith*.) “Speak to the situations in your life that don’t line up with God’s WORD, just as I spoke to the fig tree, believing what you say will come to pass, and you’ll get the same results I did.”

“But Brother Copeland,” you might say, “surely we can’t do what Jesus did. He’s the Son of God.”

Yes, He is, but when He was on the Earth, He didn’t operate as the Son of God. He operated as a man. That’s why He didn’t do any miracles until He was 30 years

old. He couldn’t. He had to be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the anointing for service, just as we do, before He could do God’s supernatural works.

Jesus never did anything in His earthly ministry that is not available to us, as believers, today! He told us so Himself. In John 14:12, He said, “He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

You see, although Jesus will always be the Firstborn Son of God, as believers, we’re sons of God too. Just as He was born of the seed of The WORD, we’re born of the seed of The WORD. In our spirits, we’re His exact duplicates. We’re spirit beings, created in the God class.

Unbelievers, although they haven’t been born again in Jesus’ image, are spirit beings too. That’s the reason when Jesus explained the law of faith, He said it will work for “*whosoever*.” Faith is a spiritual law and it applies to every spirit being. “*Whosoever* shall say...[and] believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (Mark 11:23).

Set a Watch Over Your Mouth

Let me repeat, this is a spiritual law. It’s always operating. No matter who you are, there is no way to get around it: What you have today is what you said yesterday. As Jesus said in Luke 6:45, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”

We live in a word-created, word-upheld environment. God used faith-filled words to bring everything in this world into existence, and now we are using our words to create our world too. That’s been His plan since the beginning. He did not give us words primarily for communication. He gave us words to release power, and they’re always having an effect.

The Bible confirms it time and again: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21). So, our words are serious business. As Jesus said, “Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36).

Jesus wasn’t saying we should never laugh and joke around. We, as believers, ought to be laughing and joyful all the time. We just need to realize that words spoken in unbelief are no joke. They are “evil” (Hebrews 3:12), or idle, because they don’t line up



with The WORD of God.

We don't have any business saying stupid stuff like, "Yeah, I'll be there if a train doesn't hit me first. Ha-ha." Those kinds of words aren't funny. Whether they're said jokingly or in all seriousness, they license the devil to bring them to pass. So, stay away from them. Pray as David did: "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3), and make a quality decision before God to speak only words of faith.

"But Brother Copeland, when I'm dealing with difficult situations, I don't always feel like speaking words of faith."

It doesn't make any difference how you feel. If you want to change those difficult situations, you must believe and say only what God says about them. Instead of talking about how you feel, you must follow the simple instructions Jesus gave in Mark 11: Speak words of faith and believe what you say will come to pass.

But let me warn you in advance, to do that, you will have to take dominion over yourself because flesh is carnal. It gets its information from this natural realm. So, it wants to *see and feel* before it *believes and speaks*.

Left to itself, your flesh (and mine and everyone else's) will behave like Thomas did in John 20. When he heard that Jesus had risen from the dead, he said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, *I will not believe*" (verse 25, italics added).

Thomas chose to side in with his natural senses rather than the word he had heard. He chose doubt over faith, as an act of his will. A few days later he saw Jesus in person and exclaimed, "My LORD and my God!" He believed what he saw, but because his faith was based on natural evidence, Jesus said it was not the God kind of faith. "Thomas," He said, "because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that

have not seen, and yet have believed" (verse 29).

It is impossible to receive Abraham's BLESSING with Thomas' faith! So, don't follow Thomas' example. Don't say, like he did and like the world does, "Seeing is believing." Have the faith of God that says, "Believing is seeing." Follow the example of Jesus and say with the Apostle Paul: "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" (2 Corinthians 4:13).

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to realize that
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are no joke.**

Start With What Is Written

Notice that verse says the spirit of faith is "according as it is written." In other words, you get faith by going to The WORD of God first. "Faith cometh by hearing...the word of God" (Romans 10:17). So, start by finding a Bible promise or fact that guarantees you what you desire and believe it on purpose as an act of your will.

Do the opposite of what Thomas did and declare, "I will believe this good news! I don't care what I feel or see to the contrary, I choose to put my faith in what God said and not to be moved by emotions or circumstances. I choose to be moved only by God's WORD."

Once you've taken that stand, take the next step and follow the instructions Jesus gave us in Mark 11:24-25: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 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."

Once you've done that, maintain your stand of faith. Keep believing you receive and keep saying so. Keep declaring God's WORD and believing what you say will come to pass, and it will. Maybe not instantly, or in 24 hours, but eventually if you stay with the program,



POINTS
TO GET
YOU
THERE:

1

**Jesus illustrated
how faith works
by speaking to
the fig tree.**

Mark 11:14

2

**By the next day,
what He said to
the fig tree had
come to pass.**

Mark 11:21

3

**Jesus told us
to follow His
example.**

Mark 11:22-23

4

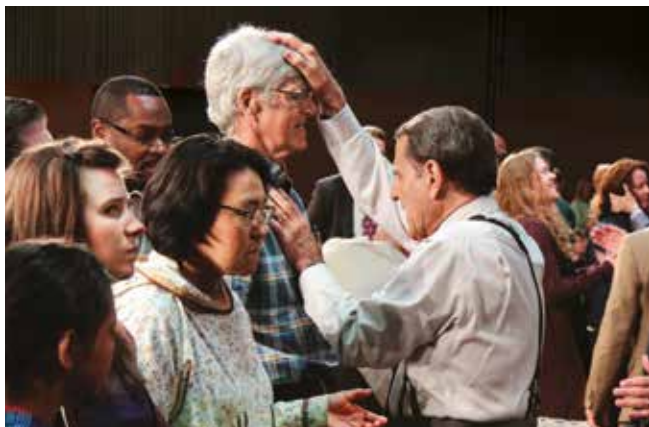
**The world says, "Seeing
is believing," but the
God kind of faith says,
"Believing is seeing."**

Mark 11:24

5

**Faith works by love, so
when you pray, make
sure you're walking in
love and forgiveness.**

Mark 11:25



VICTORY LIVE

2020 EVENTS

Southwest Believers' Convention

Aug. 3-8 | Fort Worth, Texas

Word Explosion Military Salute

Sept. 3-5 | Columbia, S.C.

VICTORYTHON™ Programmers' Event

Sept. 20-23 / Televised/Online Event Only

Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign

Nov. 12-14 | Woodbridge, Va.

Kenneth Copeland is also speaking here:

2020 Upper Midwest
Faith Explosion
Aug. 20-21
Brooklyn Park, Minn.
lwcc.org

Healing of the Nations
Motorcycle Rally
Aug. 28
Hidden Springs, Ariz.
cofaz.org

Pathpoint Fellowship Church
Sept. 11
Amarillo, Texas
pathpointfellowship.com

2020 International
Faith Conference
Sept. 14-15
Forest Park, Ill.
billwinston.org or livingwd.org

Word of Life Christian
Fellowship Church
Sept. 26-27
Concord, N.H.
wolfc.com/events

Greater Glory at Canaan Land
Nov. 5 : Autaugaville, Ala.
canaanland.com

New Year's Eve Service
Dec. 31 : Newark, Texas
emic.org



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update
We are monitoring travel and event restrictions.
For updated event information visit:

KCM.ORG/EVENTS

you will have what you say.

I really enjoy some of the testimonies about this that Brother Kenneth E. Hagin used to share. One was about a pastor he knew who had suffered with diabetes for 30 years. Brother Hagin ministered a number of times in his church, so when he and his wife were in the area one day, they stopped by to pay the pastor a visit.

Greeting them with surprising news, he said, "I haven't had a shot of any insulin for two years!" They asked him what happened, and he replied, "It finally dawned on me what you've been preaching about faith, or rather, what Jesus taught about it in Mark 11:22-24. I saw that what I needed to do was to believe I receive my healing, and Jesus will see to it that I have it."

"Every morning during my prayer time, I'd walk the floor and say, 'I believe I receive my healing from sugar diabetes.' Every time I gave myself a shot of insulin, I'd say it again. 'I believe I receive my healing from sugar diabetes.'"

As I recall, he did that for two years. Then, one day when he was at the doctor, they did a blood test on him.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life, particularly in someone your age!" the doctor said. "Your pancreas is making quality insulin. You are completely healed of sugar diabetes."

Brother Hagin went back to Rhema and told the students about it. A number of them who had been diagnosed with diabetes did the same thing and got the same results.

A woman Brother Hagin knew who was born cross-eyed had a similar testimony.

When she was born, her eyes were so badly crossed the doctors wanted to do surgery on her. Her parents had said no, so at 6 months old, they strapped glasses on her head to keep her eyes straight.

After she became an adult, she came up in the prayer line in one of Brother Hagin's meetings, still wearing thick glasses. He laid hands on her, and afterward she took her glasses off as a way of acting on her faith. She had the right idea. It is vitally important to act on The WORD and not be a hearer only. But when she tried to drive without her glasses, because her healing had not yet manifested,

“
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Have the
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”

it proved to be dangerous. Plus, she was breaking the law. Her driver's license required her to wear glasses.

"What should I do, Brother Hagin?" she asked.

"Keep wearing your glasses," Brother Hagin said, "but every morning as you put them on say, 'I believe I receive healing for my eyes.' Then every time you think about it during the day, say it again. I believe I receive healing for my eyes."

She committed to do it, and a few years later when Brother Hagin saw her again, her eyes were just perfect. He asked her what happened, and she said, "Every day, many times a day, I said it and said it: 'I believe I receive healing for my eyes.' Three months passed, and I couldn't tell any difference. But I kept at it and during the next three months I began to notice change. At the end of another three months I went to the doctor, and he said I had 20/20 vision."

Think about that! She could have given up after those first three months, when she didn't see any results. She could have given up at six months. But praise God, she didn't. And as a result, what she said came to pass—in nine months, 20/20 vision.

I remember one time the flu symptoms came on me and I could not afford to wait nine months to receive my healing. I needed to have it immediately because I was about to go preach. I was hurting so bad I just wanted to stay in bed, but instead I paced the floor saying over and over, "By Jesus' stripes I am healed. I believe I receive my healing. By Jesus' stripes I am healed. I believe I receive." "

I even kept track of the number of times I said it. (I don't know why, but now I'm sure glad I did.) I said, "I believe I receive my healing," 229 times, feeling so sick I wanted to quit every time. Then, the 230th time I said it, the power of God hit me right behind my heels, shot up through my body, and every symptom instantly left.

"But Brother Copeland, it's hard to stick with the faith program in those kinds of circumstances!"

I know it. But it's worth the effort. So, do it and don't quit! Whether it takes six seconds, six minutes, six months or six years for what you're believing to manifest, have faith in God! Keep believing His WORD in your heart, saying it, and believing those things you say come to pass; and faith will work for you just like Jesus said.

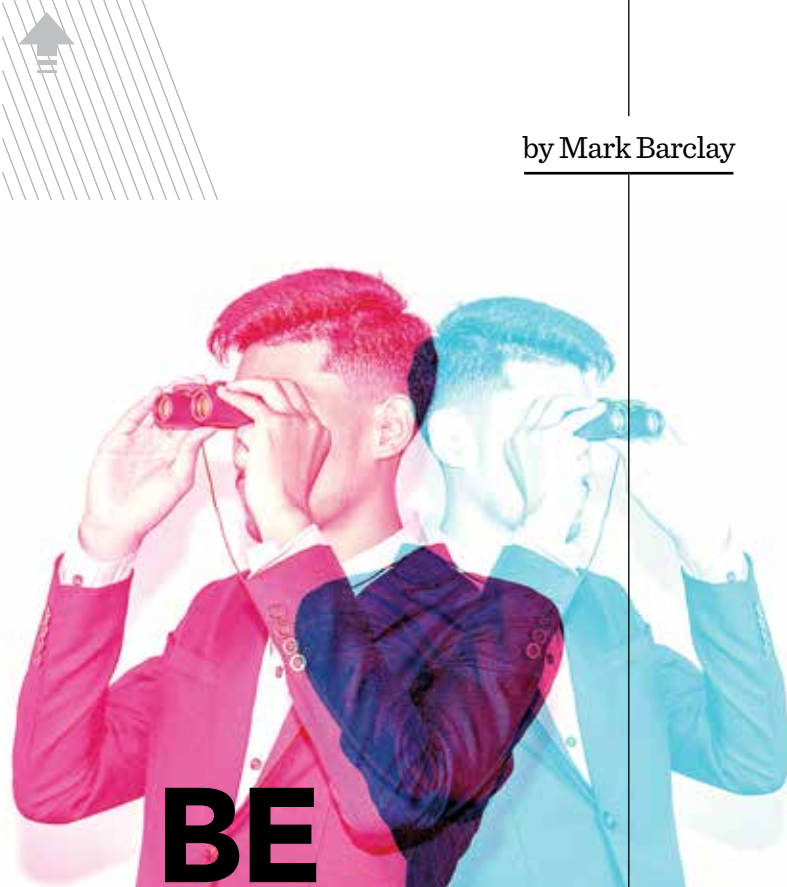
The mountain will move.

The healing will come.

The miracle will happen.

Jesus Himself will see to it.

It's as simple as that. ❶



VIGILANT!

My wife, Vickie, and I had just started out in ministry the first time we faced a targeted spiritual attack.

Barely out of Bible school, I was working at a church in San Diego. We noticed that Vickie would often get sick on Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Every single week!

If you knew Vickie back then, you knew she was a scrapper. She didn't let symptoms stop her from attending church. Regardless of how she felt, she got dressed, got our children ready and headed to church with me. But it wasn't easy.

With tears in her eyes, she'd say to me, "Every Saturday night and every Sunday morning I want to go and support you at church, but I'm *so* sick. Why is this happening to me?"

I was just as confused.

Then, I discovered the answer.

One Sunday I was scheduled to preach and we were sitting on the front row of the church. Just as the pastor was about to introduce me, Vickie cried out in pain. I turned to find her holding her side. All of a sudden, I got good ol', Marine Corps-level *angry*. Not at her; at *the enemy*.

I grabbed Vickie and shouted to the pastor, "You're going to have to preach, sir!"

We gathered our babies from the nursery and headed home. I didn't say a word the entire way. I'd



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had it. It was clear Vickie wasn’t sick; she was under attack.

We got home and gathered in the living room. With my family, I knelt down at the couch and started to pray, “You foul spirit...”

Immediately the Lord got my attention.

“Open your eyes!” He said. “Get off your knees and don’t you *ever* respect My enemy again by giving him any spiritual honor. That’s the posture you use when you talk to your God, *not* your enemy!”

I jumped up.

“That’s it! You foul spirit, you have no right to me! You have no right to Vickie! You have no right to my family!”

I ran over and swung open the door. “Get out!” I shouted. “And in Jesus’ Name, *stay out!*”

That devil left and never came back.

Be Vigilant

Spiritual warfare is real. Most Spirit-filled, spirit-led believers know that, but lately I’ve noticed a dangerous trend in the Body of Christ: We ignore the spirit realm. As believers and as ministers, we can’t fulfill what God has called us to do in the natural. We can never, ever forget that we’re primarily supernatural—not natural—beings.

First Peter 5:8 says, “Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

When we read “be sober,” our minds may go straight to alcohol, but that’s not what Peter is talking about. The next phrase clarifies it for us: “Be vigilant.”

Peter is saying we must be watchful and alert to our real enemy.

He goes on to say that the devil is “a roaring lion,”

who “walketh about.” That tells us he is neither omniscient, nor is he omnipresent. Satan is not God. In fact, he’s not even *like* God. In Luke 10, Jesus described Satan and his fall from heaven—as well as our authority over him:

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven (verses 17-20).

When Satan lost his position in heaven, it wasn’t simply an address change. He went from being a beautiful, worshipping cherub to being like a lizard in a tree. Then, he messed with God again and God demoted him even further.

God plucked his legs off and said, “You will crawl on your belly” (Genesis 3:14, *New International Version*).

We don’t want to overemphasize our enemy by making a big deal out of him and acting as though he’s like God and knows everything. Because he isn’t, and he doesn’t.

The Enemy Is Your Adversary

That doesn’t mean Satan should be ignored. He’s still our enemy. Peter refers to him as “your adversary the devil.” He will continue to be an adversary until he gets introduced to the lake of fire. He wants us stopped or sick or broke. He has declared every inch of this earth a combat zone. And if he can’t destroy what we’ve got, then he wants us dead. That doesn’t mean he’ll succeed at killing, destroying or tormenting us, but we must stay vigilant and pay attention to his schemes.

First Peter says he “walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Given a chance, the devil will devour us. That’s his desire, but here’s the key: We must give him permission for him to succeed.

Whenever I think about this, I always flash back to when I was just a kid in school. I’d raise my hand and the teacher would say, “What do you want, Mark?”

I’d ask, “Can I go to the bathroom?”

She’d answer, “I don’t know, *can* you?”



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For information or ministry materials go to marktbarclay.com.

She was teaching me that there is a difference between “can” and “may.” One asks ability; the other asks permission.

This verse says he “walketh about, seeking whom he *may* devour.” For Satan to function, we must give him permission to do his work.

The Lure of False Doctrines

Even Christians can fall into the trap of giving the enemy permission. First Timothy 4:1 says, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

The entire letter of 1 Timothy was written from the Apostle Paul to a pastor about Christians. He said believers would “depart from the faith.” Paul wasn’t talking about believers who gave mental ascent to faith, but rather those who actively walk with God. He said some of *those* Christians would depart. He didn’t say they would be thrown out; he said they would simply decide to depart.

Why would anyone do that? Because they gave attention to, or gave heed to, the seduction of demonic doctrines that are contrary to the Word of God. Those doctrines are still around today. In fact, they’re very popular with modernist preachers who are more concerned with collecting people than preaching the Word of God. They’re the ones teaching that there’s no healing, no hell and no Judgment Day. That may sound appealing to the world, but Jesus didn’t teach that. Jesus taught just the opposite, and if Jesus said something different, then we need to follow Him.

The Enemy, Not People

We can’t plow through life like there’s no spiritual opposition just because we’re now Christians. That’s ridiculous. We don’t have to look any further than social media to find it! A lot of people spend time engaging in or repelling anti-social media. Why? Why spend time fighting slanderous lies that can’t be substantiated? The people posting them are just people. The real enemies are the demonic forces that are using them like pawns and puppets.

Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin, who is now in heaven, used to say to pastors, “Stop dealing so much with people and start dealing with the demons that deal with your people.”



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He was right. If we focus on the people instead of the demons, we’ll never get rid of the problem. However, if we deal with the demons and stop them in their tracks, the demons will release the people. Then the people can start growing in God.

It’s like weeding a garden. If we get rid of the weeds (the demons), then the produce (the people) can thrive and bear fruit. But if we don’t, the demons will return.

We have authority, and the weapons at our disposal are not natural. Second Corinthians 10 describes them this way: “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (verses 4-5).

Physical weapons don’t work in a spiritual battle. Darkness, with its filth, is moving across the world at a rapid pace. We must counteract it by pushing back with boldness and presenting the truth and the light like Jesus commissioned us to do.

Are You a Double Agent?

We can’t be double agents either. We have to use our mouths to honor God, not the devil. Again, one of the easiest places to slip into the double agent role is on social media. What will you put on Facebook™ or YouTube® today? Does what you post honor God or the enemy? Can the devil count on you to stir up strife even though you are a born-again, Spirit-filled believer? Doing so is like having one foot in heaven and one foot in the world. That’s the reality of a double agent.

The enemy wants us to get depressed, mad and sad with people, so we’ll be ineffective or ignorant of his schemes. He would love to see us stirring up strife, gossiping and slandered each other. But we don’t war against flesh and blood! We’re in a spiritual battle. We’re supernatural commanders.

Instead, we must remain *vigilant*. We must recognize who our real enemy is, reject false doctrines and attack him, not those under his control. When we do, we must use the spiritual weapons that are at our disposal. We can never forget that we are supernatural, well-equipped, spiritual soldiers of the Cross, and praise God, we win! 🙌



by
Melanie
Hemry

DEEP ROOTS, BEAUTIFUL FRUIT



The needle on the yellow Mercury's speedometer hovered at 97 mph. It was 1952, and 17-year-old Bob Nichols floored the gas pedal with all his might. He wanted to hit 100... or more. The Mercury was new, but it didn't have the power to go as fast as Bob wanted.

The headlights cast a white path across the darkness. The two-lane road seemed to stretch into eternity as Bob made his way home to Fort Worth from East Texas. It was the summer before his senior year in high school. He needed to get back in time to start his summer job.

Bob's eyes felt gritty as he blinked to stay awake. His need for speed may have been more than a teenager testing his limits. The truth was he needed speed to run from the call of God on his life.

Long before he was born, the trajectory of Bob's life and the lives of his family had changed. In 1930, his Baptist grandmother had gone to Houston on a business trip. While there, she'd seen an ad in the newspaper announcing a meeting by Evangelist Raymond T. Richey. Richey was the Oral Roberts of his time, with healings common in his big tent revival meetings.

The newspaper announced: "Salvation, Healing and Holy Ghost!"

The church Bob's grandmother attended didn't teach those three things. But she needed healing and went to the meeting to get it. Many times over the years she talked with Bob about that time.

"Sonny, I was born again, healed and filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues."

Leaving Houston, she'd gone to Austin where her daughter attended the university. She and a local minister led her daughter in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. They all switched to full gospel churches.

Reflecting on that, Bob realizes, "It is so important to be planted in a good, New Testament church. Our family was so blessed during my formative years to have had a fiery pastor/evangelist who was in constant pursuit of souls and revival, and who brought in strong ministers like A.A. Allen."

When Bob was 14, Oral Roberts came to town and held a tent meeting. Bob stood by a group of youth and announced, "One day I'll preach the gospel of Jesus Christ." That's the moment he acknowledged the call of God was on his life.

The older he'd gotten, however, the more the lure of the world beckoned. Bob believed he'd have to give up too much to follow God. He had to admit, though, it was hard to run from God with a praying mother. Her prayers were like a magnet, drawing him back where he didn't want to go. Just two weeks earlier, Bob had tried to sneak in late one night. His mother had fallen asleep on the stairway with her Bible open, waiting for him. Trying to step past her, Bob stumbled and she awoke.

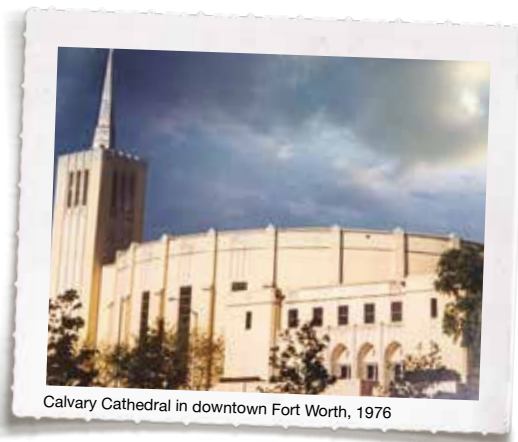
"Son, you'll go to hell over my dead body. You're *not* going to hell! The call of God is on your life."

Bob knew his heart wasn't right with God. How could it be when he refused to accept His call?





“
The
president
of Uganda
said
Lighthouse
Television
Station
had been
a major
stabilizing
force in
rebuilding
Uganda.
”



Calvary Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth, 1976

Shortly after that, at 2:30 in the morning, the sound of gravel hitting the car jerked Bob awake. He'd fallen asleep and lost control of the car. It rolled several times, spun like a top and landed on four wheels with the motor still running.

Looking up, Bob saw a helmet-shaped indentation in the roof. That's how hard his head had hit it. With no seat belts, it was a miracle he wasn't killed. Crawling out of the totaled car, Bob stood—without a scratch. Kneeling beside the wreckage he prayed, “Lord, You've got me. I'll do whatever it takes to fulfill Your call on my life.”

Deep Roots of Prayer

“Looking back, I shouldn't have been surprised,” Bob remembers. “My mother and Kenneth Copeland's mother had prayed together for years. That's how Kenneth and I met. They prayed for us a lot.”

“Everyone could recognize the change in my life. I preached my first sermon 90 days later. Following high school, I attended Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas. I met my wife, Joy, there. Her parents loved the Lord, and her father, the Rev. J.C. Thompson, pastored for 44 years. Her brother is Evangelist Dwight Thompson. Over the years, his ministry has been a great blessing to Calvary Cathedral International and the Body of Christ, holding large crusades in our church and around the world.

“I worked as an associate pastor with Joy's father for

eight years. In 1962, I received a strong prophetic word from the Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin to wait for God's perfect time and will. Hagin's life and faith ministry have continued to be a source of untold strength and encouragement to us to this very day. In 1964, we borrowed \$1,000 from a bank and started our church. Our little building was a former post office. During that time, First Baptist Church was building a cathedral downtown. It was still under construction when I walked into the back door of the auditorium and prayed, ‘Oh God, I'd give anything to have a building like this for the full gospel.’

“In 1970, I was dissatisfied with the lack of people and salvations we were seeing. I asked God to help me build a New Testament church. I wanted to see lives changed by the gospel. After a Sunday morning service where we had not seen anyone come to Christ, I returned to my study and cried out to God: ‘I'll do anything that's right and anything that works to reach more souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ.’

“A week later, a group of hippies arrived in their Volkswagens with their dogs. A hippie revival was sweeping the nation during that time. Many churches didn't welcome them because they looked and acted so different. Their presence was causing the biggest money-givers to leave. The hippies asked if they could hold a meeting with us. I almost said no, but God brought to my remembrance the words

I had prayed the week before, ‘anything that works to reach more souls.’

“We agreed on a week to see how it went. Sometimes they'd show up with their dogs. People tried to warn me, saying those hippies were going to ruin our church. To me, a church not winning souls was already ruined. Our chapel filled up, and instead of meeting for one week, the revival went for 13 weeks with around 2,000 salvations. Thank God for the move of the Holy Spirit.”

In 1976, 12 years after starting Calvary Cathedral, Bob received a call from the First Baptist Church.

“They admitted to having serious financial difficulties,

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and said they thought we were the most likely church to buy their property,” Bob recalled. “We had long since outgrown ours. I was so moved that I thought, *Thank You, Lord, for hearing my prayer so many years ago.*

The facility was 112,000 square feet, sitting on 13.5 acres in downtown Fort Worth. The auditorium could seat 2,000, and the building was large enough to house a kindergarten-grade 12 school (Calvary Christian Academy), and a two-year Bible college.

“Later, we established the Power Tower Prayer Ministry, where intercessors would come and pray around the clock,” Bob said. “When I knew God said to do something, no demon from hell could have shaken me. We moved in and, unable to get our own financing, began paying off First Baptist’s note.”

God Uses a Cowboy

As wonderful as the property was, all hell seemed to come against Calvary Cathedral’s plans to purchase it. On three occasions, they came close to losing the building. Not because they weren’t making payments—they were—but because the lender called the note. Bob went to the president of the church’s bank several times and explained a loan of \$1.5 million would resolve the issue. But each time, he got the same answer: “Sorry, we don’t finance churches. Just oil and land.”

Efforts to find financing elsewhere also failed.

One Sunday morning after service, a man placed his greasy Stetson hat on the platform. “I’ve been attending this church for a while and I like what you have to say,” he told Bob. “God’s with you, that’s clear. What can I do to help?”

“We need to get our note financed,” Bob told him. “We need \$1.5 million.”

Then, Bob described all their failed efforts to get financing.

The next day, the cowboy businessman went to see the president of the bank where the church’s money was deposited.

Placing his Stetson on the president’s desk, he said: “I’m attending that church downtown. That’s a good preacher, and you need to finance that church. You’ve been milking this cow long enough. It’s time you fed it.”

The banker roared with laughter.

“How much do you need, and when do you want it?”

The bank loaned the church the money, and by 1991 the debt was paid off.

“My mother and Kenneth Copeland’s mother had prayed together for years. That’s how Kenneth and I met. They prayed for us a lot.”

Global Doors Open

“We began our daily radio broadcast ministry in 1968, and I think Pastor Robert Tilton, in Dallas, heard me,” Bob remembers. “He called one day and said, ‘Bob, I want you to come and teach in my Bible college. Would you come share from your heart?’

“From 1979 to 1980, I drove over there sometimes twice a day to teach. I had no idea he was sending my messages around the world. It opened doors for me from Australia to Africa and Canada. A Ugandan engineer invited us to come and build a television station in Kampala, Uganda, and God put faith in our hearts to do it. God anointed our missionary, Mike Magnuson, to build the station. In partnership with Trinity Broadcasting Network, we began broadcasting full power 24/7 in July 1997. KCM partnered with us, and *BVOV* is broadcast six days a week. The president of Uganda said Lighthouse Television Station had been a major stabilizing force in rebuilding Uganda after the reigns of Idi Amin and Milton Obote.”

Over the years, Bob became closely connected with KCM.

“We’ve attended every Southwest Believers’ Convention and Ministers’ Conference unless we were out of the country preaching. In 1985, my grandson was going to be born during SWBC. I needed to go to the hospital, but stopped at the convention center for a little while. I had just slipped into the auditorium, and there was no way Brother Copeland could have seen me. At that moment he said, ‘Bob Nichols!’ and gave me a strong prophetic word.

“In 1993, we had a summer revival with Dr. Rodney Howard-Browne. It shook the entire metroplex. He held two services a day, six days a week. Many people came to the Lord and we baptized 1300 people in one night. All together, we baptized 1600 people.

“Soon after that, Dale Gentry came to Calvary and led a 24-week prayer revival. Based on Acts 5:42, we prayed at 5:42 in the morning and evening. One morning at 5:42, we saw over 400 people praying and interceding for our city and nation.”

Double for the Trouble

Bob had been away preaching when he read about a church that had been destroyed by a gas explosion. Back home, he had Calvary’s business administrator check on their insurance coverage.

“Pastor, we’re insured for only 50% of what it would cost to rebuild,” the administrator told him.

“Get the maximum insurance,” Bob replied.



READ
THROUGH
THE BIBLE
AUG

		Old Testament	New Testament
Sat	1	Neh. 4-6	
Sun	2	Ps. 90-92; Prov. 19:18-29	
Mon	3	Neh. 7	2 Cor. 5
Tue	4	Neh. 8-9	2 Cor. 6
Wed	5	Neh. 10-11	2 Cor. 7
Thu	6	Neh. 12-13	2 Cor. 8
Fri	7	Est. 1-2	2 Cor. 9
Sat	8	Est. 3-5	
Sun	9	Ps. 93-96; Prov. 20:1-15	
Mon	10	Est. 6-8	2 Cor. 10
Tue	11	Est. 9-10	2 Cor. 11
Wed	12	Job 1-2	2 Cor. 12
Thu	13	Job 3-5	2 Cor. 13
Fri	14	Job 6-8	Gal. 1
Sat	15	Job 9-11	
Sun	16	Ps. 97-101; Prov. 20:16-30	
Mon	17	Job 12-15	Gal. 2
Tue	18	Job 16-19	Gal. 3
Wed	19	Job 20-23	Gal. 4
Thu	20	Job 24-29	Gal. 5
Fri	21	Job 30-32	Gal. 6
Sat	22	Job 33-36	
Sun	23	Ps. 102-103; Prov. 21:1-15	
Mon	24	Job 37-39	Eph. 1
Tue	25	Job 40-42	Eph. 2
Wed	26	Eccl. 1-4	Eph. 3
Thu	27	Eccl. 5-8	Eph. 4
Fri	28	Eccl. 9-12	Eph. 5
Sat	29	Songs 1-4	
Sun	30	Ps. 104; Prov. 21:16-31	
Mon	31	Songs 5-8	Eph. 6

Six months later, on March 28, 2000, there was no hint of trouble brewing. Several stories up in the Power Tower, two women sat praying. Children were meeting in a small building on the grounds. Bob and Joy were sitting in his office working on an upcoming project when a security guard came rushing into the office.

"A tornado is heading straight for us!" he screamed. "Follow me!"

Seconds later, the tornado hit the church.

As Bob and Joy climbed out of the rubble, it looked as if someone had dropped a bomb. Cars were turned upside down. The children's teacher had sensed a leading from the Lord to take the children into the main building. Not one child had been injured. One entire wall had disappeared from the Power Tower. The two women inside were unscratched.

News media flooded to the site.

"Don't you consider this to be bad luck, or a sign that something is wrong?" one reporter asked Bob.

Out of his spirit, Bob replied: "No. As with Job, we'll come out with twice what we had before the tornado struck."

The next day, prison minister Mike Barber arrived with his tent, which would seat about 1500 people. The church held services in the tent for two months, then a Church of Christ offered to let Calvary Cathedral use their church on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. They also embraced their Christian school.

Bob had been praying for direction when his friend Dr. James Morocco, a pastor from Maui, Hawaii, came to preach.

"Bob," he said, "why don't you just buy this church?"

"I don't even know if it's for sale."

Approaching the Church of Christ leadership, he asked about it.

Turned out they had a vision of moving 10 miles away.

Calvary Cathedral bought the church property and moved from downtown to uptown—just three miles away. The new facility provided a church building and vacant land for a new school building. Instead of 13.5 acres, they now had 17.5.

"When it was all said and done," Bob explains, "we had twice as much as before."

A group of ladies Joy had begun praying

with in 1990 became the foundation of the Power Tower Prayer Ministry. For the next 29 years, they interceded for revival. They also prayed in response to 950,000 prayer requests, experiencing amazing miracles and answered prayer.

From 2012 through 2019, Calvary Cathedral conducted a Greater Fort Worth soul-winning outreach. During that time, more than 131,000 people prayed the prayer of salvation.

Today, the radio ministry Bob Nichols started in 1968 is still going strong. Calvary Bible College is 39 years old, and Calvary Christian Academy has existed for 41 years. This year marks Calvary Cathedral's 56th year in existence.

"Over all these years, I can honestly say that real Bible faith put me over with miracle after miracle," Bob says. "I can't explain how important it was to me that we always stayed Partners with Kenneth and Gloria. I'm writing a new book called *Partners Catch More Fish* which sums it up. We partnered with KCM in Uganda and not only won souls, we helped impact a nation. That's just one example of what faith partnership can accomplish.

"Iron sharpens iron, and there's something supernatural in having faith partners. My grandmother planted deep roots of faith. My mother and father planted deep roots of faith. Joy and I have planted deep roots of faith, as have our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. All our family is born again, Spirit filled and in church. However, by linking ourselves with KCM, together we've formed deep, deep roots and wonderful fruit, that we couldn't have done apart from one another."

In December 2019, Pastors Bob and Joy Nichols passed the reins of Calvary Cathedral International and Calvary Christian Academy on to Mercy Culture Church and Pastors Landon and Heather Schott. "I wholeheartedly support what they are doing to reach their city, nation and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ," says Bob.

"I've still got a fire in my belly," Pastor Nichols says.

Without a doubt, that fire will result in more souls being won for God's kingdom, more young ministers being raised up under his wisdom, and more people being freed from the chains of darkness. 🙏

The Question QUESTION

Commander
Kellie's
Corner



Superkid, this is very big in my heart to share with you, so I'll just throw it out there as a question. Are you afraid to ask questions? Sometimes adults laugh at kids' questions—admit it, you can be pretty funny! But it's not funny if you become ashamed to ask.

Do you remember us talking about the enemy last month?

He comes to try to confuse God's people with *his* questions. He would like you and me to feel shame for asking questions, especially if he can create in our hearts the idea that we shouldn't ask questions of Jesus or our parents. He can be sneaky, but his tricks won't work when we know what they are!

Jesus *wants* you to ask questions. How can you learn if you don't? Your parents and leaders also want you to ask questions. Do you worry that if you ask a question, you'll look stupid? That is the enemy talking. And all he does is lie, so don't believe it! The truth is, WISE people, SMART people ask TONS of questions. It's how you learn!

Satan would like it if we were too embarrassed and ashamed to learn the truth from JESUS and people like Him, who:

1. **KNOW** the truth,
2. **LOVE** you enough to tell you the truth, and
3. **VALUE** your curiosity and desire to learn.

We've read before that when Jesus was 12, He liked to go to the synagogue and ask the Jewish leaders questions, and He loved to listen to them. That is how He grew in knowledge and understanding. He didn't grow up perfectly just because He was the Son of God.

Have you ever noticed that He continued to ask questions? He asked questions of Peter, the other disciples, people He met, the woman at the well and many more, including people who were against Him. One of my favorite things about Jesus is that He would go to His Father with questions, especially when things were hard. And, He never turned His disciples away when THEY had questions, and He will never turn you away.

Jesus is our Savior. He puts people in our lives to help us. We've talked

in "Commander Kellie's Corner" about parents, teachers and pastors whom you can trust. Let's do an activity together this month! Moms, dads, are you in with us?

At Superkid Academy we like Dinnertime Devotions!

Let's do one now! Sit down together—no TV, phones or distractions. Look around. Can you trust the people gathered around you? You may be with family and friends from church or school. Everyone agree together that there is no wrong question to ask! One brave person can begin. Ask a question. It can be funny, serious, silly, about the Bible, life, school or whatever is on your mind.

Instead of asking one person, ask the whole group. Depending on how much time you have, it would be awesome to hear several people answer your question. Go around the group with each person asking a question. This can become a wonderful "game" that can build your confidence and courage to ask questions!

And you don't have to wait until DINNER!

It's a good car game too, and one that can be a game (or life) changer!

So I'll start with a question for you:
Do you have a question, Superkid? Ask away!



COMMANDER KELLIE ♥

Superkid, if you have any questions you'd like to ask Commander Kellie and her team, email them at commanderkellie@kcm.org.



Testimonies of Real-Life VICTORY™

Faith-Strengthening Prayer

I called the KCM prayer line—I was having a faith crisis. I want to give a “holy shoutout” to the prayer minister who was so amazing and helped strengthen my faith. I feel truly blessed for having him pray such a powerful prayer with me.

J.W. | Valencia, Calif.



Marriage Restored

A few months ago, I submitted a prayer request online. My wife had requested a divorce because she wasn't happy with our marriage. I am happy to say that God intervened and did a swift reconciliation between my wife and me. I thank God for Kenneth Copeland Ministries and the prayer ministers for interceding for my marriage. N.G. | Pine Mountain, Ga.

‘Surprise Healing’

God removed a scar from my left eye. I noticed it was gone during the testimony service Friday night while I was praising with the EMIC family. Praise God for the “surprise” healing. E.D. | Orlando, Fla.

Thankful for the Founding Fathers

Thank you for acknowledging the Founding Fathers of the United States in your January 2020 *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine. I am thankful that they were men of God, for their faith and trust in our Lord and Savior, and for all leaders of the Body of Christ preaching what is vital at this time in God's plan. The best is yet to be. R.B. | Boerne, Texas

‘Thankful to Be a Partner’

Three years ago, when I began my walk with the Lord, I was in a very poor state and couldn't afford any Christian materials. Then I found out that Kenneth Copeland Ministries would send me materials to help me grow in the Lord for free. I am so thankful to be a Partner and a part of this ministry.

R.A. | Livingston, Texas

Disease Disappeared!

A few years ago, my son's girlfriend was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Last year, she had a routine scan and doctors found some spots. I started praying that the spots would be totally gone. A couple of weeks ago, I called KCM to order a calendar and the person who helped me asked if I had a prayer request. I asked her to

pray in agreement with me regarding my son's girlfriend. Today, I received a text saying, “I had my appointment today and the spots on my lungs have straight-up disappeared!” Thank You, God! You are so good! And thank you, KCM, for standing with me.

J.S. | Sioux Falls, S.D.

The Gift of Spirit-Led Ministry

We've just returned home from one of the most exciting conferences we have been in for many years! Our spirits are marinating in all that was brought forth in *this KCM Spirit-Led Prayer Conference*. Such awesomely passionate, Spirit-led ministry—a gift to the Body of Christ. We thank God for the opportunity and privilege of being there.

R.M. | Australia

‘God Kept Us Alive’

I want to give God glory for our protection on Saturday, Jan. 11 from the F2 tornado that hit North Central High School in Kershaw, S.C. This tornado tried to come down on my house; I believe that when it couldn't do that, it hit the school. There is a path across my property where it came in and threw some things around. Then it jumped the house and bent the flagpole down to the ground. God kept us alive.

S.J. | Kershaw, S.C.

God's Loving Correction

A few months ago, I was in a lot of trouble—just a step away from losing my home. One of your prayer warriors called. It was a real surprise because I had not had contact with KCM for a few years. Your prayer was extremely encouraging. In the end my home was saved at no cost to me. But more than that, God showed me the iniquity in my life. I had let what seemed to be a little sin grow. I had become so comfortable in it, I wasn't able to recognize the wrong of it anymore. I thank God for His mercy and for correcting me because He loves me. Thank you also for your love and concern.

T.N. | South Haven, Mich.



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.

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'Blessed to Be a Blessing'

Watching your broadcast, my husband and I have really taken hold of the fact that we are blessed to be a blessing. I was seeking to be led by the Holy Spirit and felt strongly that we were supposed to help a couple we know. She was on unpaid maternity leave, and he had to miss work for knee surgery. I was led to make them several meals, and we gave them \$100. She told me later

she had been standing on Luke 12:29-32. They had not gotten a paycheck that month and came up \$100 short. The food I gave them lasted until they got paid again, and the \$100 caught them up on their expenses. God worked a miracle, and I was able to be a part of it! It was also a major blessing for me to know that God spoke to me and I listened.

J.C. | Inman, S.C.



Our Mission in Dangerous Times

by Pastor
George
Pearsons

"THE WORLD IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE."

THAT IS THE FIRST SENTENCE FROM A VERY SIGNIFICANT PROPHETIC WORD DELIVERED BY BROTHER COPELAND DURING HOMECOMING 2010 (THE 2010 SOUTHWEST BELIEVERS' CONVENTION).

THE SOBERING MESSAGE CONTINUED.

"Some very hard things are coming in different places around the world. Very difficult times in a lot of places. They are that way now but they will not get better. They will continue to get worse and worse and worse. It is on a downhill run that the world cannot stop."

We have all witnessed a number of very serious world events since that word was delivered.

"These are dangerous times. They are dangerous times financially. They are dangerous times in the earth because the earth is weighted under a gross weight of sin. There are things and places and situations underneath the earth, in the oceans, in the heavens. Things are being rattled and shaken. The earth is trying to break in different places."

There is no doubt that this is exactly what has been taking place.

But here is the good news.

You and I do not live under the dominion, rule or control of the curse. We have been redeemed from devastation and destruction. We are not subject to the times. Psalm 31:15 says, "My times are in Your hand..." (*New King James Version*). Jesus paid the full price for our protection in times like these.

Look at 2 Peter 1:4: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." The *Basic English Translation* says

we have been "made free from the destruction which is in the world." Galatians 1:4 reveals that it is God's will for us to be delivered "from this present evil world."

Jesus prayed for our protection in John 17:15-17 (*NKJV*): "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." Through God's WORD, Jesus has separated us from the collateral damage of the curse. He made a way for us to live in this world but remain totally and completely untouched by its effects.

You could say we are "The Untouchables"!

Proverbs 19:23, *New International Version*, says, "The fear of the LORD leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble." First John 5:18 tells us, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." Psalm 91:7-10 assures us, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." I often declare this scripture as a confession of faith, based on the *King James Version* and the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* of verse 10: "There shall no evil or calamity come near my dwelling!"

There is a "dwelling"—a place of protection where you and I can live untouched by any attack of the enemy. In Psalm 91:1, it is called "the secret place of the most High." In Psalm 32:7, it's called the "hiding place." And in Psalm 27:5, "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock."

In this prophetic word from The LORD, "Everything is going to be all right in the household of faith!" it is called "the household of faith."

That word has been such an encouragement to Terri and me. We have been standing on that phrase ever since it was uttered the evening of Aug. 6, 2010. Whenever we have faced tough times, we would just look at each other and simply say, "Everything



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



is going to be all right in the household of faith.” It would cause such faith to rise up in our hearts. I even found a scripture that perfectly corresponds with this statement. *The Message* translation of Jude 1-2 says, “I, Jude, am a slave to Jesus Christ and a brother to James, writing to those loved by God the Father, called and kept safe by Jesus Christ. Relax, everything’s going to be all right; rest, everything’s coming together; open your hearts, love is on the way!”

“The household of faith” is our untouchable place of protection from any attack of any kind. It is the place where everything is going to be all right. The way to stay in that “untouchable place” is made clear in our word from The LORD. Thank God for His instructions—His “how-tos” for walking out this victory. The LORD said, *You will have to make a stand. You will have to fight the good fight of faith. Stand on My WORD and it will not come near you. Praise and worship and preach The WORD. Don’t feed fear and trouble into your life and into your mouth. Feed on My WORD and not on the bread of sorrow. Fear not!*

When we stand on God’s WORD, we become rooted and grounded in something that is unshakable and unmovable. We are surrounding ourselves with God’s impenetrable shield. Psalm 91:4 (*NKJV*) tells us, “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth (His WORD) shall be your shield and buckler.” The Hebrew translation of this verse actually says He is our *circle of protection*.

As long as we stand on The WORD, stay out of fear, walk by faith and exercise our authority, we will remain completely protected in the household of faith.

Our End-Time Mission

We are not protected just to be protected. First Peter 1:9, *New Living Translation*, reveals that the goal of our faith is the salvation of souls. The Body of Christ has an important end-time mission to the people who have and will experience the ravages of the world’s evil.

When trouble comes, we don’t just “head to the hills and hide out in the household of faith” until the storm passes over. We walk right into the midst of trouble, being totally insulated by our circle of protection. Our mission is to rescue those who are

caught in the devil’s reign of terror and pull them into the household of faith. We are protected so we can get people to the place in their lives where everything is going to be all right.

If the word from The LORD is telling us conditions are going to get worse, and that hard things are coming, then we need to be ready to help.

That is why we are here.

It’s who we are, and it’s what we do.

That is our mission in these dangerous times.

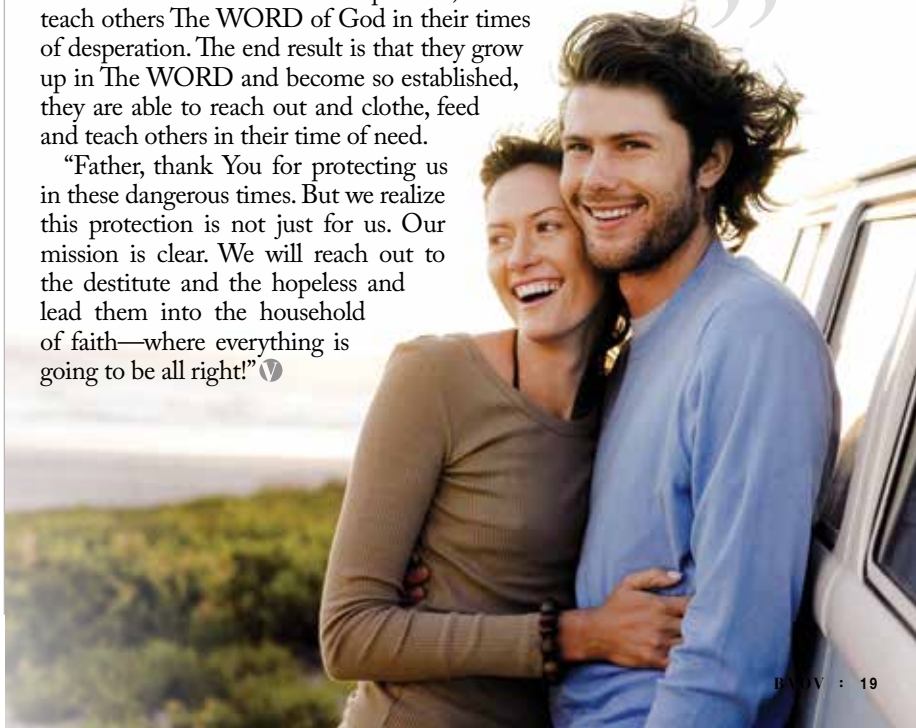
Romans 15:1 (*NKJV*) tells us, “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” *The Message* translation of verses 1-4 is amazing!

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?” That’s exactly what Jesus did. He didn’t make it easy for himself by avoiding people’s troubles, but waded right in and helped out. “I took on the troubles of the troubled,” is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it’s written for us.

Our end-time mission is to help clothe, feed and teach others The WORD of God in their times of desperation. The end result is that they grow up in The WORD and become so established, they are able to reach out and clothe, feed and teach others in their time of need.

“Father, thank You for protecting us in these dangerous times. But we realize this protection is not just for us. Our mission is clear. We will reach out to the destitute and the hopeless and lead them into the household of faith—where everything is going to be all right!” ⑦

“
**We have
been
redeemed
from
devastation
and
destruction.**
”





“

How can it be OK
for Christians to
make themselves
rich, but not OK
for God to do it?

”

by Gloria Copeland



Victory That Overcomes the World

People everywhere like to win.
It doesn't matter who we are, where we're from or what our background is, we all like to be on the victory side of whatever is going on.

If we're sports fans, we get so excited when our favorite team wins a big game, you'd think that win was really going to do *us* some good. You'd think it was going to put money in our bank accounts, heal our bodies or fix major problems in our lives.

But the next day when we wake up, everything will be pretty much the same. The thrill of that win will be gone, and we'll have forgotten all about it, because that kind of victory doesn't have any lasting impact. It doesn't really change our lives.

There is, however, a kind of victory that does.

It's the victory in God that belongs to us, as believers. First John 5:4 calls it "the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" and it will do for us everything we need. It's real, its impact is lasting, and we all ought to be extremely excited about it!

Our team winning the Super Bowl doesn't amount to a hill of beans compared to what world-overcoming faith can do for us. It actually *will* heal

our bodies, put money in our bank accounts, and fix major and minor problems in our lives. It won't just make us happy temporarily, it will give us reason to rejoice all the time.

When we're living by faith, we don't have to wait around for a bunch of super talented athletes to get out on the field and win victories for us. We can win them ourselves because, unlike Super Bowl-type victories, the victory that overcomes the world is available to everyone. All you have to do to qualify for it is to believe in Jesus, and make Him the Lord over your life.

Why does believing in Him qualify you to be a victor?

Because as 1 John 5:1 says, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." Verse 4 says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Being *born of God* isn't just a nice religious concept.



POINTS
TO GET
YOU
THERE:

1

As a believer, you're a supernatural-born winner.

1 Jn. 5:4

2

You have on the inside of you the God kind of faith that created the universe.

Rom. 12:3

3

Because God is your Father and you have His life on the inside of you, you have victory over sin and the devil.

1 Jn. 5:18

4

God is light, and although this world lies in darkness, it's light where you are because the Spirit of God is in you.

Matt. 5:14

5

Just as God created this universe by faith, you can create your world by believing and speaking His Word over your life.

Mark 11:23



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Kenneth Copeland



George Pearsons

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Kenneth Copeland

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Faith and Victory Are Inside You
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Kenneth Copeland

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Persistent Faith
George Pearsons

Sun., Aug. 30
God of the Possible
Kenneth Copeland

It's a reality. When you received Jesus as your Lord, spiritually you really were born all over again. God fathered you and you became a new creation. You were born of His Spirit, and you received on the inside of you His very own life. You became a new creature.

How could you be born of God and be defeated? Nothing can overcome Him, and He's your heavenly Father. Not only has He promised to take care of you—to be your Provider, Protector and Deliverer—but by re-creating you in His own image, He's made you more than a conqueror through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Talk about getting off to a victorious start! You don't have any business dragging around, all depressed and down. You're a supernatural-born winner. You ought to think about who you are: Throw your shoulders back and your head up and walk like a victor. Even the children of earthly kings walk around like they're somebody; and no king in the world compares to your Father.

You are a child of the Most High God, and "whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world" (verse 4).

The *world* refers to everything out there in this sin-darkened world system. It refers to all the effects of the curse that came into the earth through Adam's Fall—to all the hate, evil and trouble out there that's being authored by the devil. Verse 19 says, "the whole world lieth in wickedness," but, as believers, we've overcome it. For "we know that we are of God," and "he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not" (verse 18).

"Well," someone might say, "I don't really think we can take that verse literally. No one could walk through this world without being touched by the devil."

What about God? Don't you think He could do it? Don't you think He could walk through the most dangerous part of town, come into contact with the most contagious diseases, or even stand in the midst of a battlefield during a military conflict and come out untouched?

Certainly, He could! So, as one who is born of Him, if you're walking by world-overcoming faith in His Word, you can too.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee (verses 3-7).

How is that kind of protection possible? Think of it in terms of light and darkness. When Jesus was on earth He said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world," and the darkness of this world couldn't touch Him. He overcame it in every situation because light always overcomes darkness.

When He went back to heaven, He said to us, "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). So as long as we're walking by faith in Him, the darkness can't touch us either. Because we're born of God who "is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5), even though we're still in this dark world, it's not dark where we are because God is in us, on us, around us and for us. All we have to do is "walk in the light, as he is in the light" (verse 7) and wherever we go darkness has to flee.

This is why we can have victory!

It's why we can rebuke sickness and disease off our children and lack off our lives. It's why we can rise above temptation, say no to foul habits that try to take over our flesh, walk through danger, storms and threatening situations and come through them whole, undamaged and intact.

We can do all those things because believing God enables us to walk through the darkness and still be in the light. We can overcome anything by the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

Victory is sweet! And it's available to every believer because we all have faith. God Himself gave it to us the moment we were born again. (See Romans 12:3.) What we do with it though is up to us.

We don't have to walk in the faith God has given us. We don't have to develop it and put it to work for us by believing the Word and speaking it. God won't make us do those things.

It's our choice: Do we want to walk in victory by faith? Or do we want to walk by unbelief? Astonishingly, a lot of sweet Christians choose unbelief. They receive just enough light from God's Word to get saved, and that's as far as they choose to go. Rather than believing what God's Word says about healing, they'll actually fight to hold on to their sicknesses. They'll believe the religious lie that it's a

When Light Comes, Darkness Flees

"Oh, Gloria, that's too far-out!"

No, it's not. It's just simple Bible victory. It's the kind of untouchable protection we find described in Psalm 91. There, God promises that if you dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and you say that the Lord is your refuge and fortress, your God, in whom you trust:

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“blessing in disguise,” and then go to the doctor to get rid of that blessing. Rather than believe what God says about financial BLESSING, they’ll get mad at prosperity preachers, and then work 40 to 80 hours a week trying to get rich.

There’s something wrong with that kind of thinking! How can sickness be a blessing from God, and it be OK to go to the doctor to get rid of it? How can it be OK for Christians to make themselves rich, but not OK for God to do it? That doesn’t even make sense.

What does make sense is to believe what God says. To agree with Him and live as the healed, prosperous, victorious overcomers He created us to be. What makes sense is for us to develop our faith, as Romans 10:17 says, “by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Charles Capps used to say it this way, “Faith cometh by hearing...and hearing...and hearing...and hearing...and hearing the Word of God.” And that’s really the truth. It takes a lot of Word to get rid of the religious errors and devilish lies we’ve had crammed into our heads over the years. Uprooting unbelief with the Word of God is a continual process. It takes a lifetime, really, to learn how to live by faith.

But the more we learn, the more our level of victory increases. The more our faith develops and grows, the more we overcome. So, it’s worth the effort to stay with the program.

If you like having authority over the devil; if you like not having to be afraid of the world and all the evil that’s out there in it; you’ll like living by faith because faith overcomes the world!

The Labor That Results in Rest

“Yeah, but I tried living by faith for a while; it wasn’t very easy.”

I never said it was easy. But being defeated isn’t easy either. It’s hard going through life sick, broke, depressed and hopeless. I’ve been there, done that and I didn’t like it.

I’d rather make an effort toward faith every day of my life than be defeated for 24 hours. I’d rather spend time in the Word of God and do the work necessary to keep it in my heart and my mouth, than to be lazy, stay in unbelief, and go down the drain with the world.

What’s more, I don’t really even consider spending time in the Word and doing what it says, to be work. Although there is a kind of labor involved, it doesn’t make life more difficult; it makes life easier. The labor we do to develop our faith actually results in “rest” (Hebrews 4:11).

Before Ken and I learned about living by faith, we labored under not being able to pay our bills, and I can tell you, there was no rest in that! There was no

“Agree with Him and live as the healed, prosperous, victorious overcomers He created us to be.”

peace in it. No victory or joy. Now we labor in the Word of God, and not only is it a pleasant labor, our bills are paid, we’re BLESSED in every way and able to be a BLESSING to others.

God’s Word changed the course of our destiny! It brought us out of defeat and into victory.

In the natural, you wouldn’t think words could do that. But God’s Word can because it’s supernatural. It carries within it the power to bring itself to pass.

God’s Word will work for anyone. It will bring you rest and victory just like it did Ken and me, if you’ll attend to it, receive it and obey it.

How do you receive the Word? You take it into your heart and believe it. You put it in your mouth and apply it to your life. When you hear healing or prosperity preached, you say, “Yes, amen! I believe it. I’m going to say it and act on it.” When you read in the Bible that “faith...worketh by love” (Galatians 5:6), you say, “Yes, Lord, I see now that’s the answer to my problem. I’ve not been loving toward that person.” Then you repent, receive forgiveness and walk in the light of that Word.

That’s receiving!

Here’s not receiving: You hear the Word preached and you say, “Well, that’s not what my church teaches, so that can’t be right. It can’t be that God will heal us and prosper us, because He hasn’t done it for Brother So-and-So. He’s a precious Christian, and he’s sick and can’t pay his rent.”

You read in the Bible about walking in love and you say, “I can’t walk in love toward that person. They have ruined my life, and I can’t forgive them. Even though the Bible says, ‘When you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any,’ I just can’t do it.”

That’s *not receiving* the Word of God. That’s *not* walking in faith. It’s holding onto unbelief and disobedience and it will keep you in defeat.

You weren’t born again to live in defeat! You’re a born winner. You have within you the faith of God—the faith that created this universe.

You don’t have to bow to the darkness of this world. You’re a child of the light, and light overcomes darkness. You can believe and speak God’s Word, and create whatever needs to be created for your life to line up with His wonderful will.

You can change in your life whatever needs to be changed. You can put the devil on the run and come through every battle as more than a conqueror by the victory that overcomes the world, even your faith! How? Receive and believe God’s Word and act on it! ⑦





by Gloria Copeland

THE UNBEATABLE Spirit of Faith

No matter how difficult a situation you may be facing today, God can turn it around! The doctors may have told you there's no hope. Your bank account may be empty and the creditors knocking on the door. There may be trouble in your family or on your job. Your problems may be stacked so high, you feel like you can never overcome them. But don't let the devil fool you. He has never devised a problem that faith in God can't fix.





Nothing intimidates God. It's just as easy for God to heal cancer as it is for Him to heal a headache. It's as easy for Him to buy you a new home as it is for Him to pay your rent.

Even in times like these when the whole world seems to be in trouble, God can bring you through in triumph. He can do for you what He did for the Israelites. Exodus 10 says when darkness covered the nation of Egypt in which they lived—a darkness so thick the Egyptians couldn't see each other or move for three days—"all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings" (verse 23).

Think about that! If you'll dare to believe God's Word, you can have light in the middle of a dark world. You can have protection in the middle of a dangerous world. You can live healed in the middle of a sick world. You can live prosperously in the middle of an impoverished world. You can live free in the middle of a captive world.

But let me warn you, you can't do it by dragging around in an attitude of defeat. If you want to walk in that kind of constant victory, you must develop a spirit of faith and persevere in that spirit even when the devil is putting pressure on you.

People with the spirit of faith always receive the blessings of God. They may go through tests and trials but they come out supernaturally every time.

I like those odds, don't you? I like to beat the devil every time. And, glory to God, we can do it if we'll walk continually in the spirit of faith.

The Apostle Paul gives us some powerful insight about how to cultivate that spirit in 2 Corinthians 4. Read carefully what he says: "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is

written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (verses 13, 18).

Open the Window

The first and most fundamental fact these verses reveal about the spirit of faith is that it *believes*.

What does it believe? The Word of God. What's more, faith believes God's Word just because God said it—whether natural circumstances seem to agree or not.

That means if you want to maintain a spirit of faith in the area of healing, for example, you must start by getting your Bible and finding out what God has said about healing. Then you must choose to receive that Word as the truth. Don't shut your heart to it by saying, "Well, that's not the way my church teaches it," or "That's not what my grandmother taught me." Just say, "The Word says healing belongs to me and I believe it!"

Then keep putting the Word in your heart day after day until faith rises up within you and your body begins to line up with that Word.

"Well, Gloria, I tried that one time and it didn't work for me. I guess I just don't have as much faith as you do."

Certainly you do! The Bible says, "...God hath dealt to *every* man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3). Since that scripture was written to born-again people, you can be assured that if you've made Jesus the Lord of your life, you have





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faith within you.

You may not be acting on it. You may not be speaking it. But it's in there and the more you hear the Word of God, the more it will develop and grow, for “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Why is it so important for you to develop your faith? Because faith is what connects you to the blessings of God. It's the force that gives those blessings substance in your life (Hebrews 11:1). And besides all that it pleases God (verse 6).

It's faith that reaches into the realm of the spirit, grasps the promise of God and brings forth a tangible, physical fulfillment of that promise. It brings spiritual blessings. It brings the car you need, or the healing for your body. It brings action in this earth.

Romans 5:2 says we have access by faith into the grace of God. Therefore, if you want grace for the new birth, you must receive it by faith. If you want God's grace for healing, you must receive it by faith. If you want God's grace in your finances or any other area of your life, you must get it by faith.

I like to think of it this way: When you believe the Word of God, you open the window to your life to give God the opportunity to move there.

Oddly enough, that bothers some people. They can't understand why God needs *an opportunity*. After all, He is God. Can't He do anything He wants?

Yes, He can. And He wants to respond to our faith.

You see, He is not like the devil. He doesn't force Himself on you. He waits for you to give Him an opening by believing His Word.

We Believe...Therefore We Speak

That's what Abraham did. When God told him that he and Sarah were going to have a baby, Abraham just took God at His Word. In light of the circumstances, that was quite a step of faith. After all, Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 and barren.

Most people would have been overwhelmed by those problems. But not Abraham. He “believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Romans 4:3). Even though in the natural realm it was impossible for what God said to come to pass, Abraham believed God anyway.

That's what the spirit of faith does. It stands in

the midst of the most impossible circumstances and believes God anyway! Then it begins to speak.

It doesn't say just any old thing, either. It speaks the Word of God. When cancer attacks, faith doesn't say, “I'm dying of cancer.” Faith says, “I'm healed by the stripes of Jesus. Therefore I'll live and not die, and declare the works of the Lord.”

“Well, I'm just not comfortable with that confession business. I like to believe God quietly.”

That may be what you like, but it's not what the Bible teaches. The Bible says, *we believe, therefore we speak* (2 Corinthians 4:13). If you want to change your circumstances, you must have faith in two places—in your heart and in your mouth.

That's why God changed Abram's name to Abraham. *Abraham* means “father of many nations.” So every time Abraham introduced himself after his name was changed, he was actually saying, “Hello. How are you? I'm the father of many nations.” To most people that probably sounded ridiculous because, at the time, Abraham was still a childless old man married to a barren old woman. I'm sure they thought Abraham was a little crazy.

But he wasn't. He was simply following the example of God Himself, “who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were” (Romans 4:17). By speaking in faith, Abraham was doing exactly what God did when He created the earth.

Read Genesis 1 and you'll see what I mean. There the Bible tells us that in the beginning “the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep” (verse 2). Yet God didn't look at that darkness and say, “Oh my, the earth sure is a dark place!” If He had, the earth would have *remained* a dark place.

No, God changed the natural circumstance by calling things that be not as though they were. He looked at the darkness and said, “Light be!” and light was. God spoke out by faith what He wanted to come to pass.

All the way through the first chapter of Genesis we see God creating by speaking His Word. Over and over again it says, *God said...God saw...and it was good*.

That's how we operate too, when we're living by the spirit of faith. We say God's Word...we see the result...and it is good!

One thing you must understand. I'm not just



talking about saying God's Word once or twice. I'm talking about consistently speaking words of faith. If you get on your knees in prayer and say, "I believe I receive my financial needs met, in Jesus' Name," then go to dinner with your friends and say, "I'm going bankrupt. I can't find a job. I'm about to lose my home. I don't know what I'm going to do," you won't get anywhere.

It's what you say *continually* that comes to pass in your life. So if you're believing God for finances, make it a habit to say things like this: "According to Deuteronomy 28, lack is a curse of the law. And Galatians 3:13 says Jesus has redeemed me from that curse. Therefore I'm redeemed from the curse of lack! My needs are met according to God's riches in glory by Christ Jesus!"

Then every time your bills come to mind, call them paid in the Name of Jesus. Call yourself prosperous. Call yourself debt free. Be like Abraham and by the spirit of faith call things that be not as though they were.

Keep Your Eyes on the Word

Right now you may be thinking, *I really want to do that. I want to walk and talk by faith. The problem is, every time I look at the mess I'm in, I get discouraged.*

Then stop looking at that mess! Instead, focus your attention on the promise of God. Keep His Word in front of your eyes and in your ears until you can *see* it coming to pass with the eyes of your spirit.

That's what the spirit of faith does. It looks "not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Of course, I'm not saying you should ignore your problems or close your eyes to them as if they aren't real. They are real. But according to the Word they are *temporal*. That means "subject to change." And you can be assured that if you keep looking at the Word, they *will* change!

Once again, we can look at Abraham's life and see proof of that. Romans 4:18-21 says that he:

Against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred

years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Abraham didn't consider his body. He didn't focus his attention on the fact that he was 100 years old. He wasn't looking at his wrinkled, old self saying, "Come on, old man. You can do it!" No, he knew he couldn't bring forth a child. He'd known that for some time.

He wasn't looking at his own ability. He was looking at God. He kept his attention on the power and promise of God until he was fully persuaded that God could *and would* bring it to pass.

That's What I Call Victory!

If you want to develop the spirit of faith, that's what you'll do too. You won't consider the natural impossibilities of your situation. God certainly doesn't. Ken and I have found that out by experience!

More than 50 years ago, when Ken was praying down in the riverbed in Tulsa, Okla., God began speaking to him about preaching to nations. God said way back then he'd have a worldwide ministry.

It was clear God hadn't considered our bank account. We hardly had enough money to get across town—much less go to the nations! But God didn't expect *us* to fulfill that call. He intended to do it Himself with our faith. He intended to provide the power, the resources, the ability—everything! All He expected us to do was believe.

That's all He expects you to do: *Only believe.*

Isn't that simple?

If you'll just believe, if you'll just spend your time considering God's Word instead of focusing on your own limitations, you'll end up just like Abraham.

Exactly how did Abraham end up? Very well, I'd say.

He and Sarah not only had that baby God promised, they also lived long enough to raise him. Then, after Sarah died (at 127 years old), Abraham (who was 137) remarried and had six more children. He became exactly what he and God said he was—the father of many nations.

Now that's what I call victory!

That's what I call the *spirit of faith!* ⑦



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