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MINISTRIES

BONUS ARTICLE: BRINGING HOPE TO JUÁREZ

VICTORY

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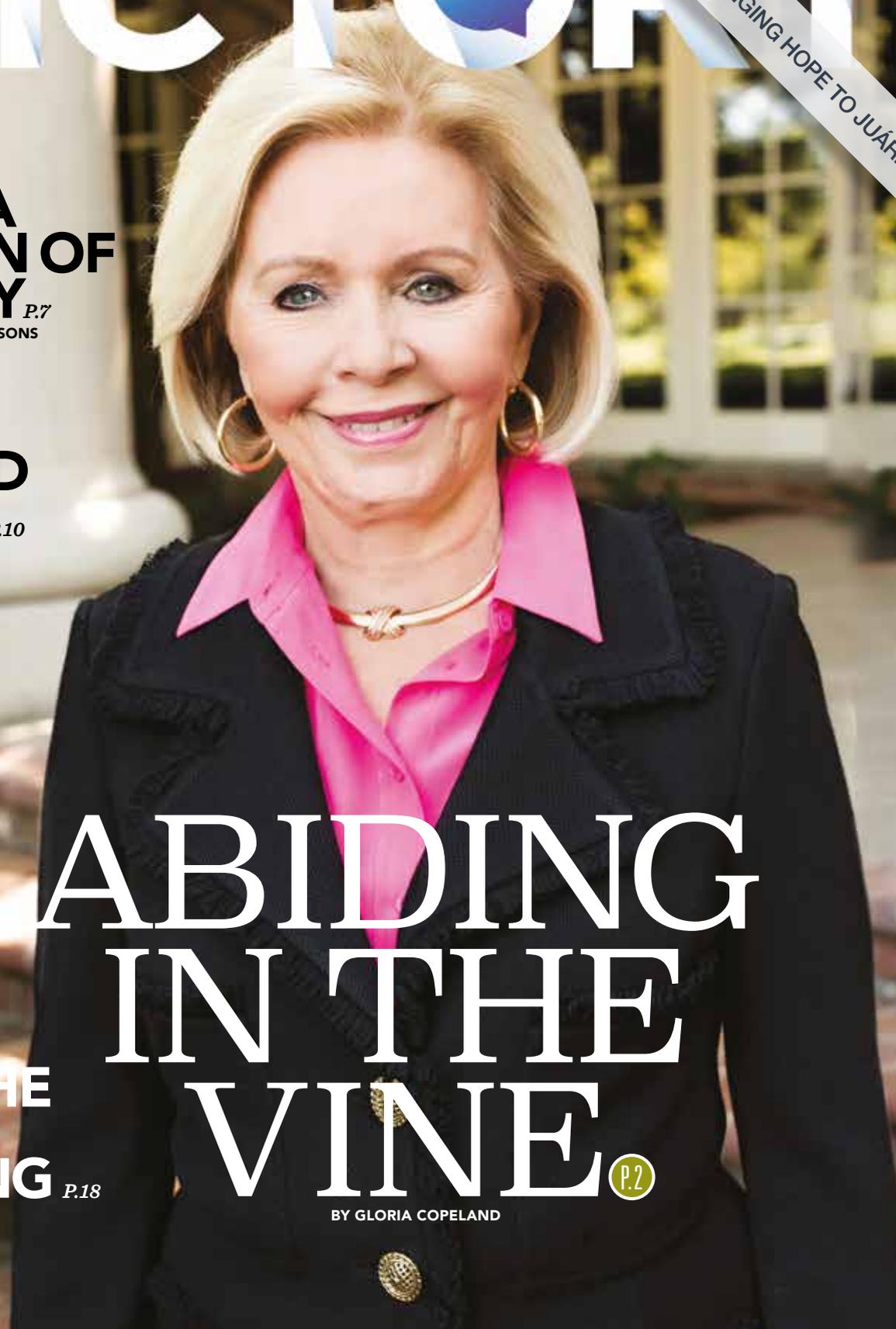
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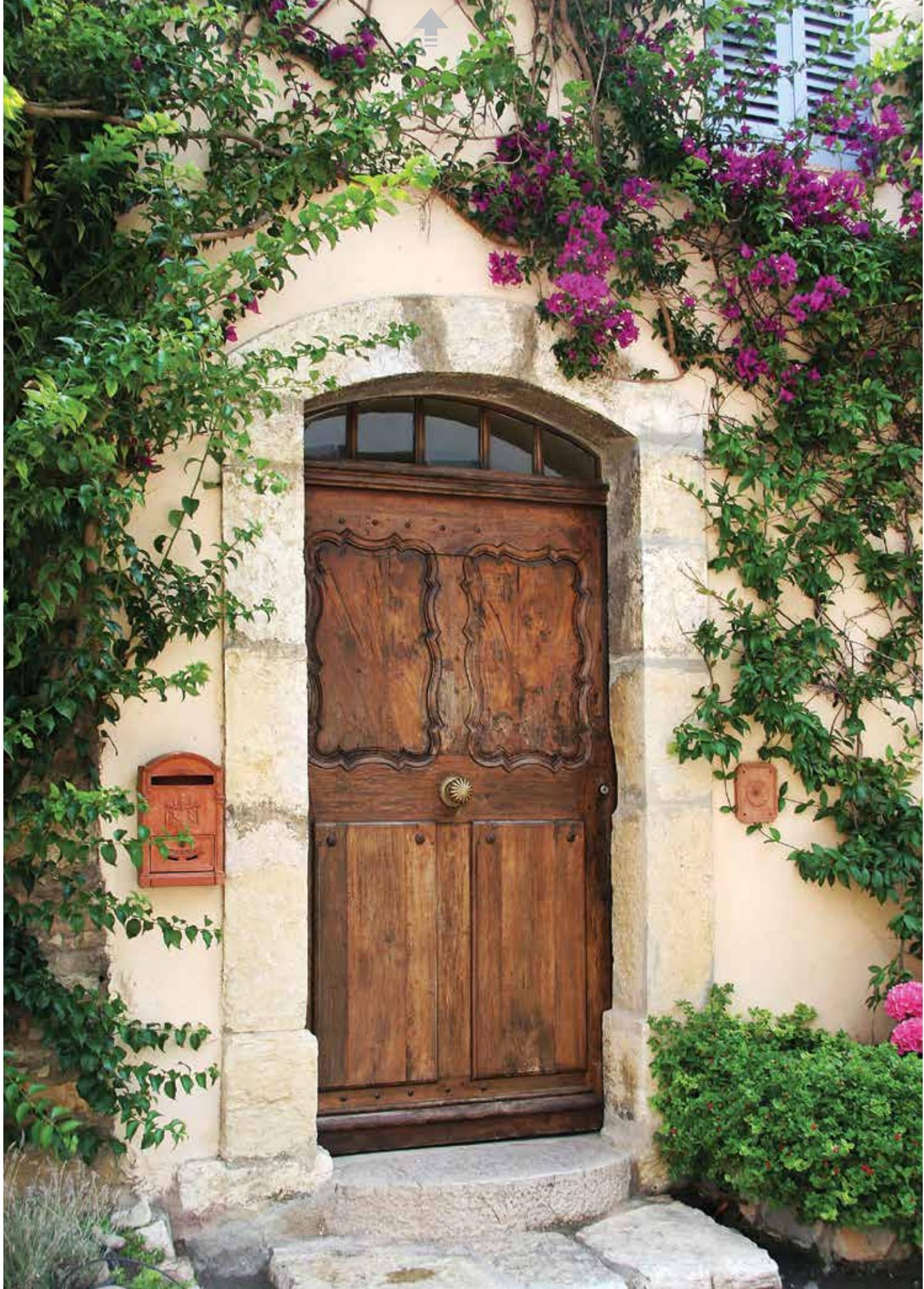
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BY KENNETH COPELAND

BY GLORIA COPELAND







by Gloria Copeland



ABIDING IN THE VINE

There are two approaches to living the Christian life. One is to follow a set of rules: to focus on religious do's and don'ts and endeavor to live by them. That's called legalism, and it's hard. It's a recipe for frustration and failure.

The other approach is to simply stay in living contact with Jesus, and to focus on cultivating union with Him. That's much easier than legalism and it works a whole lot better. It's a recipe for joy and victory because it's the God-appointed method of living the Christian life.

As believers, we're divinely designed to live in union with Jesus!

We've been made one spirit with Him through the new birth (1 Corinthians 6:17). He's living on the inside of us through the agency of the Holy Spirit. Our inner man has been recreated in His likeness and we've become partakers of His divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).

Talk about having it made! We don't need a bunch of religious rules to follow. We have within us the Good Shepherd who said, "My sheep hear my voice...and they follow me" (John 10:27). We don't have to struggle to keep a long list of laws, we're one with Christ Himself. We just have to choose to

walk in that oneness.

The choosing is our part of the program. As much as Jesus loves us and desires to be involved in our lives, He won't make our choices for us. He won't just barge in on us and take over. That's not His style.

Jesus isn't a dominator like the devil is. He waits for us to give place to Him. He operates according to the principle in James 4:8: "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

"But I don't know how to draw nigh to God," someone might say.

It's simple. You just turn your heart and mind toward Him in an attitude of faith and obedience. You just acknowledge His lordship and His presence and begin to fellowship with Him by faith.

Wherever you are and whatever you're doing, Jesus is right there. Day or night, no matter what's happening, His Holy Spirit is in you and with you, not even a breath away. You don't have to wait until you get



POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1

Through the new birth you have been united to Jesus.

(1 Cor. 6:17, NKJV)

2

Maintaining living contact with Jesus enables you to walk in that oneness and produce the fruit of it.

(John 15:4)

3

If you don't stay in contact with Jesus, you will shrivel up spiritually and become a victim of the world instead of a victor over it.

(John 15:6)

4

What you do with God's Word has everything to do with your abiding in Jesus.

(John 15:7)

5

When you make abiding in Jesus your top priority, you can tap into heaven's resources.

(Matt. 6:33)



to church on Sunday to be near Him. You don't even have to wait until you can get on your knees to pray.

You can talk to Jesus all week long, whenever you want, while you're driving your car, on the job, at home or wherever. You can stay in living contact with Him all the time!

In fact, that's exactly what Jesus has instructed us to do. He said in in John 15:4-8:

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.

The word *abide* means "to remain, to live, to dwell." It doesn't refer to coming in and going out, or to being in a place temporarily. It speaks of your permanent residence. For example, you might check into a hotel and spend some time there, but you wouldn't say you live (or abide) there. Your abiding place is your home.

The same is true spiritually. Abiding in Jesus means making Him your permanent dwelling place. It doesn't mean living for Him one day and for the devil the next. It's living for Him every day.

Being stable in your relationship with Him. Staying vitally connected to Him by walking in union and communion with Him all the time.

Don't Become the World's Firewood

According to Jesus, abiding in Him is the secret to living a peaceful, productive Christian life. It allows us to stop struggling and straining in our own strength to do all the right things, and instead rest in His strength. When we do that, we become like the branch on an apple tree. As long as the branch remains connected to the tree it bears apples automatically, because the life of the tree is flowing through it.

That's how it is with us. As we stay in living contact with Jesus, His life flows through us and we just naturally bear supernatural fruit. We do the works of Jesus, our prayers get answered, and God is glorified in our lives.

On the other hand, when we don't stay in living contact with Jesus the opposite happens. We cease bearing fruit and begin to shrivel up. We lose our spiritual energy, force and freshness. We become like the broken-off branches Jesus talked about that men gathered up and threw in the fire.

Jesus didn't say God burned up those branches. He said *men* (or in other words, *the world*) did. God is our heavenly Father. He loves us. He's never going to throw us away or destroy us. But He can't do much to help us if we don't stay in living contact with Jesus.

It's through our contact with Him that we access God's abundant life and delivering, overcoming power. It's our abiding in Him that enables us to be victors *in* this world rather than victims *of* it. When we get out of our abiding place, we not only cease to bear fruit, we fall prey to the world and the devil and experience defeat.

That's not what we want!

It's not what Jesus wants for us either, which is why in John 15:7, He gave us this major key to abiding in Him: "[Let] my words abide in you," He said.

What we do with God's Word has everything to do with keeping us from becoming a dried-up, barren branch. The more we esteem and give attention to God's Word, the more we grow in our union with Him. The more we feed on what He said in the Bible and live in the light of it, the more His life can flow through us.

Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). He also said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). So, really, God's Word is spirit food! When we feed our hearts on it, God's Word does for our spirits much the same thing eating good food does for our bodies. It becomes part of us. It builds us up and

“
You can talk to Jesus all week long, whenever you want, while you're driving your car, on the job, at home or wherever.
”





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makes us spiritually strong. It produces faith in us, and when combined with that faith it releases the power of the Word into our lives.

The first few years Ken and I were born again we didn't know this, so we just kept living in defeat. Despite our love for the Lord, we stayed broke and in debt and generally remained victims of our circumstances. Then, in 1967, we heard the Word of Faith and found out the written Word is God speaking directly to us. We learned that it's "living and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12, *New King James Version*), and we made a quality decision to put it first place in our lives.

Desperate for change, we immediately began immersing ourselves in the Word. Instead of reading the newspaper and watching television, we spent every moment we could reading the Bible. We continually went to meetings where the Word was being preached. In between meetings, we listened to tapes of anointed Word preachers and read their books.

In short, we followed the instructions God gave in Proverbs 4:20-22: "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not

You open your Bible, and even if you already know God's financial promises by heart you read them again and again. You put them in front of your eyes, keep them going into your ears, and say them with your mouth until they're bigger in you than the need, or the bill you have to pay.

That's what Ken and I did when we first started walking by faith and were facing a mountain of debt with no way to pay it off. I put together a list of financial BLESSING scriptures and read them multiple times every day. In less than a year, we were debt free and beginning to prosper.

What's more, we didn't stop there. We kept abiding in what God says about prosperity and growing in faith for finances year after year. Eventually, it became as easy for us to believe God for \$5 million to go on daily television as it was in the beginning for us to believe for food to put on our table.

The same principle works in every other area of life. When you need healing, you turn to the healing scriptures. You feed on them every day, believe them and act on them, and they become life and health to your flesh.

"What we do with God's Word has everything to do with keeping us from becoming a dried-up, barren branch."

depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

We still follow those instructions today, 54 years later. Why? Because we want to keep walking in the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. And since faith comes by hearing the Word of God, that means we must keep abiding in the Word. (See 1 John 5:4 and Romans 10:17.)

Faith can't be stored up for very long.

Abiding can't be done just every once in a while.

It's a lifestyle.

The Most Practical Thing You Can Do

When you're abiding in the Word and it's abiding in you, it becomes the way you think. Anytime a need arises in your life, your first thoughts are: *What does the Word of God say? What has He promised me about this?*

If you're facing a financial need, you go to the scriptures that contain God's Word about prosperity.

When you want to minister healing to others, you fill your heart with what God says about that. You abide in verses like Mark 16:18, "They [believers] shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Then you go out and act on the Word by faith and watch it come to pass.

"But Gloria," someone might say, "I can't afford to spend my time in the Word. I have a job and a lot of natural responsibilities. I have to be practical."

Abiding in Jesus and in the Word is the most practical thing you can do!

When you abide in Him, He gets involved in your job. His supernatural power flows through you and helps you with your natural responsibilities. You're no longer limited to the world's system and what it can supply. Through your connection with Him you can live on a higher level, as a citizen of the kingdom of God.

He doesn't want us, as His children, to wait until we get to heaven to tap into



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



George Pearsons

Sun., May 2
The Basic Fundamentals of Faith

Kenneth Copeland

May 3-7
Living a Life of Faith
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., May 9
Faith That Is Fully Persuaded
Kenneth Copeland

May 10-14
No More Limits Part 1
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons
First shown January 2016

Sun., May 16
Living an Abundant Life
Kenneth Copeland

May 17-21
No More Limits Part 2
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Choosing To Serve The LORD
Kenneth Copeland

May 24-28
The Absolute Goodness of God
Kenneth Copeland

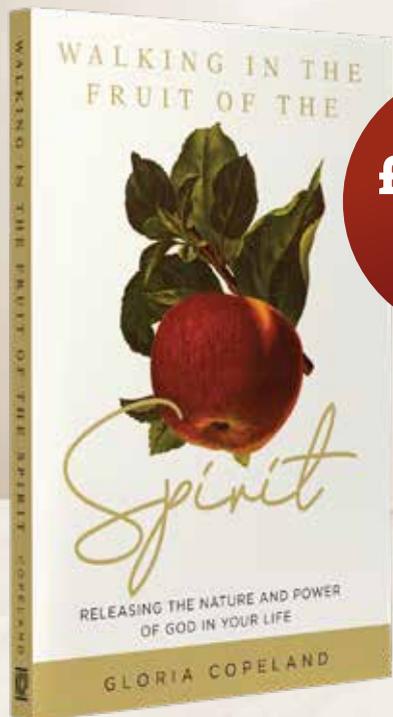
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Love, joy, peace, goodness and kindness are all supernatural expressions of the character and presence of God who lives inside us. When we yield to them, the Holy Spirit enhances and strengthens them in us to become a river of living water that flows out of us to help bless others!"

Gloria Copeland



our heavenly inheritance. He wants us to experience heaven here on earth by choosing to put Him first and living in the light of what Jesus told us in Matthew 6: "Do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or, What are we going to have to wear?... But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides" (verses 31, 33, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

How do we seek first God's kingdom? By doing the very thing I've been talking about! By determining above all to abide in Jesus. By staying in living contact with Him and letting His Word abide in us. When we do that, the kingdom of God manifests wherever we go.

One time, Ken and I were in Latvia on our way to preach a service and we drove down a street where some national embassies were located. As we passed by the Russian Embassy, the British Embassy, the United States Embassy and others, it struck me that each one of those embassies is considered part of the nation it represents. The ambassadors in them, even though they're in Latvia, live under their home country's jurisdiction. Every ambassador enjoys the same rights they would if they were in their homeland. And because they're on assignment representing their nation, they are fully supported and backed by its government.

Those embassies also serve as a refuge for those needing help. If someone gets in trouble and wants to request aid from the United States, they can go to the U.S. Embassy. They can take asylum there. As long as they're in the embassy, they're protected by U.S. law. They're treated just as if they were in America.

Thinking about that, I got excited. I thought, *As believers, we're mobile embassies of the kingdom of God! We are ambassadors for Christ!* (2 Corinthians 5:20).

We're in this world, but "our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20, *NKJV*). We're here on assignment as Jesus' representatives, and as long as we're abiding in Him, we're on His sovereign territory. We're backed by heaven's power and resources and under its protection.

We've even been given authority to extend that protection to others. Those in need can come to us for aid, and as Jesus' representatives we can offer help.

We can pray for people and our prayers will be answered.

We can cast out demons.

We can lay hands on the sick, and they'll recover.

We can tap into heaven's prosperity and give to those who are suffering lack.

Simply by abiding in the Vine of our Lord Jesus Christ, we can bear abundant fruit and bring great glory to God! 🍷

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by Terri Copeland Pearsons



Mary

A Woman of Destiny

MANY BIBLE FIGURES HAVE BEEN THE CENTER OF DEBATE OVER THE CENTURIES, BUT PROBABLY NONE MORE THAN MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

Someone once posed a question to my father, Kenneth Copeland, in what was obviously an effort to push him into choosing sides in one of those doctrinal, denominational debates over Mary. Not really sure how to best answer the question in a way that wouldn't promote strife, he asked the Lord, "What about this?"

The Lord was quick to respond: *Well, you will never get anywhere talking bad about a fella's mother!*

How precious!

As always, Jesus neutralized strife with love. But this was especially touching because it was clear He still has the utmost respect and love for His mother. Somehow that little peek into Jesus' attitude toward Mary made me want to know more about her. It seems she deserves to be treated with more respect



Terri Copeland Pearsons, the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland, is chief of staff of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and president of Kenneth Copeland Bible College®. Along with her husband, George Pearsons, she is also senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church at KCM in Fort Worth.

than just a doctrinal issue.

Many of us were deeply affected a number of years ago by the movie “The Passion of the Christ.” Though I am sure no man could ever fully capture the scope of His suffering, the vivid images of Jesus paying the price for our sin will forever be imprinted on my mind. For me, telling the story primarily through the eyes of His mother greatly deepened the emotional impact. I could identify with a mother’s love—something all of us relate to on one level or another. I became hungry to know more about her and exactly what her life speaks to us today. What I discovered was that Mary’s life is a divine example of the goodness of God, not only to her but to us all. She was so right when she declared in Luke 1:46, “My soul magnifies the Lord” (*New King James Version*).

Many Unfavorable Circumstances

It didn’t take much effort to learn about Mary’s life and the circumstances surrounding it. I don’t know why I hadn’t heard more about her before. We so often focus on the glory of the angel’s visit and forget there were nine months between that day and the delivery of her Child.

There were many unfavorable circumstances surrounding Mary’s life that might have caused a weaker, less-devoted woman to crumble. The Galilee area was then, and had for a long time, been a hotbed of revolt against the Roman government. Mary had most likely been witness to some very violent situations. The pressure and probable persecution from family and community concerning the suspicious timing of her pregnancy may have stayed with her even into Jesus’ childhood.

The dangerous journey to Bethlehem in the final days of her ninth month was, at best, harsh on both body and soul. There were phenomenal events surrounding Jesus’ birth that she didn’t understand and prophecies she couldn’t interpret. But through it all, she was unmoved, never complaining or giving voice to question the plan of God. She never gave her mouth to words of doubt or fear. Instead, she pondered those things in her heart and pressed forward, obviously raising Jesus in the fear and admonition of the Lord. That

is, until Jesus’ ministry began to challenge the hypocrisy of the synagogue leaders. At that point she and Jesus’ brothers would no longer attend His meetings but would call to speak to Him from “without” (Matthew 12:46-50; John 7:1-9).

It would be easy to criticize her for those actions and indeed she should never have backed away from Jesus’ ministry. On the other hand, she was probably under a kind of pressure few of us could ever relate to. The social as well as religious implications were hard to reconcile as part of the plan of God that she had so long envisioned.

Instead of Jesus embracing the religious community, He was challenging it head-on. It’s possible that there is no further record of her presence in His ministry because she just couldn’t bear to face what she could not understand. But then, glory to God, there she is at the foot of the Cross (John 19:25-27)! She was no doubt there for Him, loving Him and letting Him see that she had not abandoned Him.

What she most likely did not know was that she was there for herself as well. Surely what she saw that day still did not fit the picture of God’s plan that she had imagined. But then, maybe the word of Simeon the prophet came back to her: “A sword will pierce your very soul” (Luke 2:35, *New Living Translation*).

Maybe those words comforted her that somehow, in a way she could not yet comprehend, this was part of God’s plan. But whatever her thoughts that day, the important fact is that she was at the Cross and she was in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost. She was one of the 120 who were filled with the Holy Spirit. She staggered into the streets of Jerusalem with the others, drunk on new wine. No doubt, the Day Star dawned in her heart that day, and the plan that had been hidden from her for all those years suddenly became clear.

History tells us that she actually became part of Timothy’s church in Ephesus. I can picture the young women gathered around her time and again pleading with her to tell the story once more. How glad she must have been to recount the glories of God and His work of grace that rested on her life. How thankful to God she must have been that she had finally seen the plan of God, not only for herself but for all mankind.

“By divine design she was born fully equipped to carry out the plan of God for her life. The good news is: So were you!”



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An Assignment Only She Could Fulfill

Though it's true that Mary's moral and spiritual quality is worthy of great recognition, her life bears testimony to a greater message that specifically impacts our lives. There's a lingering idea that God searched and searched all over Israel to find a woman who could be worthy enough to be the mother of His Son, and that her worthiness created her opportunity for greatness. But the beauty of it is that we do not create our own destinies, we are simply privileged to discover and fulfill them. God had an assignment, an appointed plan for Mary that literally only Mary could fulfill. That plan was initiated when He created Adam and followed a bloodline down through the centuries (Luke 3:23-38).

Think of all the family infighting, wars, displacements and general craziness in the Old Testament. Think of the odds He had to overcome to produce a little girl in Nazareth with the perfect, royal DNA, with ideal stamina and fortitude, with the right parents to teach her to love God and hear His voice and to be the mother of our beloved Savior. Only He could see to it that *everything* that was necessary for Mary to fully complete her destiny was instilled within her. By divine design she was born fully equipped to carry out the plan of God for her life. The good news is: So were you! Thank God she yielded to His plan and thank God, we can too!

None of us can live a life so good and so holy as to earn our destiny. Your destiny is set, before you ever arrive here. And it, like Mary's, is a destiny of greatness. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God has a plan for us, and it is for good, not evil. There's no need to ever try to embrace another man's destiny. Yours is wonderful and everything you need to fulfill it is in you. God made it to be that way.

In Luke 1, the angel told Mary she was highly favored of the Lord. This doesn't just mean He liked her a lot. The word *favored* in English is from a Greek word also translated *grace*. He was actually telling Mary that because of the favor of the Lord she was highly graced, or highly equipped to carry out the assignment she was about to be given.

I believe being a mother is one of the weightiest assignments given by God to any woman. It, of course, is so much more than just giving birth. Somehow, we are to impart into

and draw out of our children all that is needed for them to fulfill their God-given destinies. We are accountable before God to do so in the might and power of His Word and His Spirit. That is an awesome task. But thanks be to God, we have within our very being all the DNA, both spiritual and natural, to get the job done! The same holds true for all the varying assignments from heaven



Your destiny is set, before you ever arrive here.

that our lives hold.

Even though Mary had been distant from Jesus during much of His earthly ministry, His glorious grace brought her to the foot of the cross, just like it did you and me. And it took her to the upper room, just like it did you and me. And if you and I will do what Mary did and simply say, "Be it done to me according to Your word" and then obey what He tells us to do, we too will have the opportunity to step up to greatness in the Kingdom. ⑦



Scarlett and David Horton

by
Melanie
Henry

A Deep Settled Peace

On Sept. 9, 2011, peace settled over the Horton home in Tulsa, Okla. Friday evening was winding down for David and Cherie Horton.

Cherie had slipped upstairs to check emails in her little study next to their bedroom. David stood at the kitchen sink rinsing a few stray dishes.

David sighed with contentment. As hard as it was to believe, it had been 34 years ago, in 1977, that Kenneth E. Hagin had hired him to play piano and organ for his crusades. He also taught Healing School.

David's parents, the Rev. W.M. (Doc) and Jeri Horton, had pastored Pentecostal churches and been friends with Kenneth Hagin, who'd loved Jeri's cooking. David had shared many meals with Kenneth and his wife, Oretha, and Kenneth and Gloria

Copeland around his mother's dining table.

During that time, David had met and married Cherie Bonnema. Cherie not only played piano for Healing School, but she was the first pianist for the Rhema Singers. Thinking of their wedding always gave David pause. It was no surprise that Brother Hagin had prophesied over them. What he prophesied, however, was unexpected.

"When the dark clouds come," he had said, "you will cling to each other, and many will rise up and call you blessed."

Brother Hagin often said, "The crises of life come to everyone."



Each time he heard it, David whispered, “I don’t receive that in the Name of Jesus.”

It sounded like a bad confession to him.

Besides, all these years later, he and Cherie had experienced very few dark clouds. They’d started David Horton Ministries, had three children and traveled the world preaching the gospel. From 1985 through 1995, David had preached inner-city tent meetings with Rosey Grier, a former professional football player, actor and singer.

They’d held tent meetings in some of the toughest cities in the nation. They’d led thousands to Christ and seen multitudes of drug addicts delivered and set free.

Back in 1997 and 1998, David had preached 18 “Miracle Mondays” at Eagle Mountain International Church, on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Texas. During that time, he and Cherie had also become close to Pastors George and Terri Pearsons. David was happy to admit that their wedding prophecy hadn’t come to pass.

A knock on the door shattered the quiet. David looked at his watch. Who would be arriving at 10 p.m.?

Opening the door, David saw their daughter-in-law, Jane. Married to their 26-year-old son, Chris, Jane stood flanked by two men in uniform. With a sinking heart, he realized that this couldn’t be good.

Inside, Jane breathed the words that would change their lives forever.

“Chris has been killed in action in Afghanistan.”

A Dark Cloud

“I don’t have words to describe how shocking that was,” David remembers. “I thought it had to be a case of mistaken identity. Surely he was wounded and not dead. When I walked upstairs to break the news to Cherie, one thought came to my mind: *Oh, there’s the dark cloud.*”

Chris had been a member of the Oklahoma National Guard when the governor sent them to Afghanistan.

“Somehow we made it through the funeral,” David recalls. “Chris was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The loss we felt was devastating. One of the first calls that I received was from Brother Copeland.”

Kenneth offered to send his plane to Tulsa, pick up David and Cherie, and fly them to Toronto to attend a prayer conference led by Terri Pearsons.

When Terri called to talk to David about it, he told her, “Terri, I can’t go to any prayer conference. We’re just reeling here. You can imagine. I’m sure the prayer conference will be wonderful and glorious, but I don’t know how I could even talk to people.”

“OK, I’ll tell Daddy,” Terri said.

The next day, Terri called again.

“He insists that you’re coming,” Terri explained. “He’s sending the jet to Tulsa, and you need to be ready to get on it. We’re going to put you up in a hotel in Toronto. You don’t even have to go to the meetings. If you want to go, you can. If not, just stay in the room and order room service. We feel like you need to get out of Tulsa and away from everything.”

David and Cherie flew to Toronto.

“When we arrived, we decided to go to the first meeting,” David said. “It was so wonderful that we ended up going to every session. Brother Copeland had heard from God. Toronto was a turning point for us. It was a glorious touch by God to our hearts and lives. It was during those meetings that I started thinking about peace. I realized that when you go through a violent tragedy, you need peace. It was through peace that the Lord protected our hearts.

“We’d been praying for three years about moving to Florida. Later, when we got the green light from God, we moved to Florida and established a church there. Life was good. Our ministry grew and I continued to travel the world preaching the good news.”



Another Dark Shadow

The Florida sun cast a golden glow through the windows two years later as David and Cherie dressed for church. It was Mother’s Day, 2013. “David,” Cherie said as she stepped into the bedroom, “I found a lump in my left breast.” They prayed together. Afterward, David said, “Whatever this is, it’s under the blood of Jesus.”

Cherie went to the doctor, who biopsied the mass. It was malignant.

While Cherie was in the hospital having surgery, the first person to call David was Kenneth Copeland.

“What can I do for you?” Kenneth asked.

“Just believe God with us,” David said.

Kenneth talked to David and Cherie, praying a powerful prayer.

At one point, Cherie was pronounced cancer-free. Then the cancer markers started rising again—this time, taking off with a vengeance. Tumors kept popping up, metastasizing to her spinal cord.

“You’re going to preach, no matter what,” Cherie told David. “You’re not sitting home with me.”

He agreed and flew to Chile to preach. Two women in the service had breast tumors disappear during the meeting. When David returned home, Cherie said, “David, you go preach and all these people get miracles. I’m here fighting the good fight of faith and yet haven’t experienced the success that I want to see.”

It wasn’t just the miracles that occurred when David ministered that marked a stark difference in Cherie’s situation. It was the legacy carried by David’s mother.

A Miraculous Legacy

“Before I was born, my mother was diagnosed with melanoma,” David remembers. “Doctors did a series

This is what I can say about Kenneth, Gloria, George and Terri: They weep when we weep and rejoice when we rejoice. Life doesn’t get better than that.



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

MAY

		Old Testament	New Testament
Sat	1	Jdgs. 1:16-3:11	
Sun	2	Ps. 56-59; Prov. 11:24-12:11	
Mon	3	Jdgs. 3:12-5:23	John 19
Tue	4	Jdgs. 5:24-7:14	John 20
Wed	5	Jdgs. 7:15-9:21	John 21
Thu	6	Jdgs. 9:22-11:11	Acts 1
Fri	7	Jdgs. 11:12-13:25	Acts 2
Sat	8	Jdgs. 14:1-16:22	
Sun	9	Ps. 60-63; Prov. 12:12-28	
Mon	10	Jdgs. 16:23-18:31	Acts 3
Tue	11	Jdgs. 19:1-20:35	Acts 4
Wed	12	Jdgs. 20:36-Ruth 1	Acts 5
Thu	13	Ruth 2-4	Acts 6
Fri	14	1 Sam. 1-2	Acts 7
Sat	15	1 Sam. 3:1-6:9	
Sun	16	Ps. 64-67; Prov. 13	
Mon	17	1 Sam. 6:10-9:10	Acts 8
Tue	18	1 Sam. 9:11-11:15	Acts 9
Wed	19	1 Sam. 12:1-14:23	Acts 10
Thu	20	1 Sam. 14:24-15:35	Acts 11
Fri	21	1 Sam. 16:1-17:37	Acts 12
Sat	22	1 Sam. 17:38-19:18	
Sun	23	Ps. 68; Prov. 14:1-14	
Mon	24	1 Sam. 19:19-21:15	Acts 13
Tue	25	1 Sam. 22:1-24:7	Acts 14
Wed	26	1 Sam. 24:8-26:4	Acts 15
Thu	27	1 Sam. 26:5-29:11	Acts 16
Fri	28	1 Sam. 30:1- 2 Sam. 1:16	Acts 17
Sat	29	2 Sam. 1:17-3:21	
Sun	30	Ps. 69-70; Prov. 14:15-35	
Mon	31	2 Sam. 3:22-6:11	Acts 18

of surgeries and finally told her there was nothing more to be done. This was in 1954, and there was no such thing as chemotherapy or radiation. My mother was 22 years old and had a 3-year-old daughter.

"My mother prayed and told the Lord that if He had any more for her to do on earth, that she would like to live and raise her daughter, and perhaps even have more children," David said. "That night, she was awakened when a figure in white came into the room. He told her not to worry, she would be fine. Then he walked through the wall of the hospital and disappeared."

The next day, the doctors told Jeri Horton she was dying. Her liver was not functioning and the melanoma had spread all over her body. Jeri called her husband and said, "I'm healed."

When Doc Horton arrived at the hospital, he found his wife a strange color of yellow and curled up in a ball.

The doctors said, "This is it."

"I thought you said you were healed," Doc said.

"I am healed."

"You don't look healed."

"What does that have to do with it? Jesus said I'm healed; therefore, I'm going with that."

Two weeks later, no trace of cancer was found in Jeri's body. The doctors, however, had removed her female organs and told her she would never have any more children.

David was born three years later.

Today, at 91, Jeri Horton is still alive!

The Shadows Darken

After four years of battling cancer, Cherie confided in a friend. "I won't say this to David, but I really feel like I'm done. I've seen and done everything I'm supposed to do."

Although the friend didn't share Cherie's secret, the Lord did.

"Listen," David told Cherie, "I'll never stop standing with you and believing God. But if you're tired and want to go home with Jesus, there's no shame in choosing to go to heaven."

Three days later, on Dec. 5, 2017, Cherie Horton left this earth filled with peace. She was 60.

Standing in the church next to his wife's casket, David looked up to see George and Terri Pearsons walk in. Kenneth Copeland had rented a Steinway for pianist David Ellis to play at the memorial service. A video celebrating Cherie's life was put together by KCM at no charge. Kenneth also told David he would fly him to all of Kenneth's meetings for the next year. During every crisis in his life, Kenneth Copeland had always been the first to respond.

With the long illness and death of his wife of 36 years, David had reached the darkest of shadows that Brother Hagin had prophesied on their wedding day. He was a minister of God. A man of faith. He believed in the blood and the Name of Jesus. He trusted in Psalm 91. He knew the grace of God's miraculous, healing power.

Yet, his wife and son were dead, far too soon.

How could he reconcile that?

"At first I didn't," David admits. "I just remembered some things Brother Hagin taught us. He said, 'If a person isn't healed, there's always a reason.' That doesn't sound very profound at first, but it is very profound. As much as I knew things were wonderful for Cherie, I was in a crisis as a minister. If I couldn't save my wife, how could I minister to other people? I was preaching at my church but nowhere else. I didn't know when or if I would ever hold another healing meeting."

A Crisis of Faith

That summer David's friend Mark Brazee called and asked him to fly to Tulsa and preach a Sunday night miracle service. A healing service.

"I had to wrestle with what had happened to Cherie. When it came right down to it, I didn't believe her death made the Word of God null and void. The Bible was true before she died, and it's still true. Healing belongs to us. It's available for everyone. It wasn't God's will that a 60-year-old woman die of metastatic cancer. That's not God's highest and best.

"The devil had attacked my family and our ministry for one reason. To stop it. I had two choices. I could give up and quit, becoming bitter, or I could go on with God and do more in honor of the memories of my wife and son. I told Mark that I'd do it."

David stood on the platform at World Outreach Church of Tulsa. He looked out over the crowd and knew he would preach, lay hands on the sick and expect miracles. With tears streaming down his face David said, "After everything I've been through, this is the hardest thing I've ever done. It's taking everything within me to stand here and declare that God's Word is true and do this."

The audience stood up, cheered and clapped. Mark's inviting David to continue doing what he'd been called to do, set David free. He ministered in great power with signs, wonders and miracles following.

David found great peace by standing on Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (*New King James Version*). That peace and trust caused David to preach the gospel, see the sick healed and lives transformed.

Revival at Shalimar Plaza

In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in October 2018, David saw a picture of Scarlett Stephenson on Facebook. She stood in front of the rubble that had once been Goodness of God Church in Panama City, Fla. There was nothing left of it. Friends since they'd met at Rhema, David texted Scarlett to see how he could help. He puzzled over the fact that she was going by her maiden name.

Scarlett had been raised in a Christian family who owned the Shalimar Plaza, a motel in Panama City. When her mother received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, her parents opened the motel for ministers to stay when they preached in the area. Soon, the entire family had received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit,

and a revival broke out at Shalimar Plaza.

“My parents started a little Word of Faith church and hired a pastor,” Scarlett remembers. “It was through that church that I was introduced to Kenneth E. Hagin’s ministry. One afternoon I was listening to his testimony on tape when I heard the Holy Spirit say, *You’re to go to that man’s school this year, or miss the will of God for your life.*”

“I didn’t tell anyone, but at church that night my pastor called me to the front. He said, ‘The Spirit of God wants you to attend Rhema this fall. You’re called into full-time ministry.’”

“I packed up and moved to Tulsa where I roomed with Candy Harrison and Patsy Behrman, who is Patsy Cameneti now. David Horton asked me out, and we had one date. Then we each met and married other people. I married a minister, and we pastored a church for 21 years. During that time, we became friends with Kenneth and Gloria. They invited us to go skiing with them, which we did for many years. Eventually, my marriage ended in divorce.

“I was devastated, but later married again. That marriage also ended in divorce. As a minister of the gospel, I carried a lot of shame over two failed marriages. Couldn’t I have done better? I made a decision to never marry again. I was happy being a single pastor. So, when David reached out to me and we started talking, I explained that I wasn’t interested in romance or marriage. Just friendship and companionship.”

David and Scarlett’s stories were different. David’s family had been devastated by death. Scarlett’s family had been devastated by divorce. Both had been overwhelming attacks of the enemy against their families and ministries. Both were at peace with their circumstances. Yet David had glimpsed something on the horizon which he knew was the hand of God.

Restoration.

Although they communicated by text and phone calls, David and Scarlett were both so busy that finding time to see one another was difficult. Scarlett was still trying to recover from the hurricane. David was preaching and traveling to all of Brother Copeland’s meetings.

On Dec. 17, 2018, they each drove to Tallahassee and met for dinner. As though no time had passed, they talked and talked and talked. They continued talking by phone afterward and saw one another again over Christmas.

In early 2019, David proposed and Scarlett accepted.

“Why don’t we get married at the Ministers’ Conference?” Scarlett asked. “All of our friends will already be there.”

Kenneth and Gloria, and Pastors George and Terri Pearsons were all ready to see restoration in David and Scarlett’s lives.

On Jan. 23, 2019, between sessions at the Ministers’ Conference, George Pearsons married them.

“The word that best describes our partnership with KCM is covenant,” David explains. “Partnership means that we commit to each other. We support one another in prayer and help. This is what I can say about Kenneth, Gloria, George and



“
My parents started a little Word of Faith church and hired a pastor.... It was through that church that I was introduced to Kenneth E. Hagin’s ministry.”

Terri: They weep when we weep and rejoice when we rejoice. Life doesn’t get better than that.

“Scarlett and I live in such peace that we laugh every day. We know stories of preachers with wayward kids or a cheating spouse or illness that didn’t get cured or a financial failure. So many Christians, pastors included, go through difficult things but are embarrassed and try to hide it. We believe that they need to be open and ask for help because help is available. People will stand with them for restoration. Scarlett and I are living proof of this.

“The Bible doesn’t promise you a life of roses. Psalm 34:19 (NKJV) says, ‘Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.’ Tests and trials will come, but God’s Word is a strong tower. You can run to it, because it will never change.”

David has written a book called *Deep Settled Peace*, for which Brother Copeland wrote the foreword. It describes how the peace of God is a strong force in our lives. It is a testimony of how God sustained them through peace.

Today, David and Scarlett Horton are living the last part of Brother Hagin’s prophecy. After the shadows, he said, “many will rise up and call you blessed.” Without a doubt, God has restored and blessed them. And He’ll do the same for you. 📌

JOIN DAVID & KRISTY IN TEACHING BELIEVERS
HOW TO USE THEIR FAITH.

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TESTIMONIES
OF REAL-LIFE
VICTORY

The Power of Agreement

In February 2020, I called the KCM prayer line for agreement regarding a new job for my son. Even during this time of COVID-19, he had several interviews, received some job offers and accepted a position with an established company. It makes my heart sing with gratitude to see how excited and happy he is. Praise God! I'm so thankful for the KCM prayer line.

K.S. | Festus, Mo.

VICTORY Fills the Void

Thank you for VICTORY Channel® and the excellent coverage of the election process and status. It has filled the void after turning away from the usual media news sources. I continue to look forward to *America Stands*, *Liberty Line* and other KCM programs. You are providing exactly what I've needed, and I know I am not the only one feeling this way. God bless you!

D.A. | Ankeny, Iowa

Effectual Prayer

My niece was rushed to the hospital, not knowing what was wrong. I called the KCM prayer line and someone there prayed for all medications and procedures to do what they're supposed to. The moment we believed together, my niece began to feel better: It was the medication that had made her so sick. Thank you, KCM, and all the prayer Partners.

S.K. | Kokomo, Ind.

Fear Had To Go!

I had mailed a cashier's check to pay my rent, but the express package got lost. When I began to fear, I told fear it had to go! The Word of God rose in me and I began to quote scripture, reminding myself who I am in God. I called the KCM prayer line and could sense God's

presence as we prayed. Today, I received a phone call that the check had arrived at the rental place. Thank you for your prayers in agreement. And thank You, Jesus!

V.R. | Jacksonville, N.C.



"You don't have to look to your employer, the government or anyone else. Jesus is your Shepherd and He will provide for you."

—Kenneth Copeland

Jesus Changes Everything

God bless you and your Jesus team. I watch you and Gloria on Church TV and have learned a lot from y'all. You tickle me when you get excited in the Lord—your eyes look like a child on

Christmas morning when they see all the gifts under the tree (like the gifts we receive in the Spirit). I was a homeless drug addict for 26 years and almost died a violent death one night when

I called on Jesus. He came right on down, saved my life and my soul. You know when Jesus comes on the scene it changes everything.

C.H. | Georgia

Grown Up in the Word

I attended EMIC for eight years. During that time, I attended Prayer School on Thursdays. Pastor Terri emphasized praying in the spirit and confessing the Word of God in prayer. I also worked at KCM. I had some hard times, but thank God I was at EMIC and KCM to overcome them and see the victory. When

I moved to another state, I couldn't find a Word of Faith church or fellowship. In fact, I was told I was arrogant about the Word. But thank God I was filled with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. I would just "hit it in tongues" so I could stand and walk confidently. I knew God was faithful to perform His Word and I was faithful to confess it. EMIC and KCM changed me and grew me up in the Word and now I never shrink back from any situation.

R.S. | Bowie, Texas

Symptoms Completely Gone!

I called for agreement for healing from an intestinal infection. After praying with a prayer minister, I was much improved the next day. The symptoms were gone within 48 hours. Praise the Lord! Thanks for praying with me.

C.P. | Two Harbors, Minn.

SALVATION PRAYER

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

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

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

connect with us

If you have just prayed this prayer, we have a **Free Gift** to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Call +44 (0) 1225 787310

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'LOVE and a Little Help'

I know all is well with the family because I watch EMIC and VICTORY Channel on my phone. I was experiencing hell on earth at the homeless shelter where I reside temporarily. All is now peaceful because when I opened the package sent with LOVE and a little help from y'all, the Lord was able to calm the storms of

life circumstances around me *suddenly!* The Prince of Peace on the inside of me manifested on the outside of me and my room! It literally saved my life. May you receive a hundredfold return on the seeds that you sow into your Partners' lives.

G.W. | Texas

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“
If you have children who have wandered away from God, don't give up on them. They'll come running back...
”

When God Says, 'Pssst!'

by Gloria Copeland

DID YOU KNOW YOUR CHILDREN ARE IN YOUR HEART? IT'S TRUE. YOU CARRY YOUR CHILDREN IN YOUR HEART THE SAME WAY GOD CARRIES YOU IN HIS HEART.

YOU CAN FEEL WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THEM EVEN WHEN THEY'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

If they're hurt, if they're lonely, if they're toying with sin and getting off track—when things are wrong or things are right, you can feel it.

I remember once when Ken and I were in Australia. We were flying from one city to another and suddenly thoughts of our son, John, flooded my heart. John was a teenager at the time and he was all boy. He rode everything with wheels—cars, trucks, motorcycles, dune buggies. And it seemed he was always turning something over.

That day on the plane, I was concerned about him. I knew how much the devil would like to sneak in and steal his life, and I was concerned that John's misadventures could give the devil the opportunity to do it.

But the Holy Spirit broke in on my thoughts. He spoke to Ken and said, *My mercy hovers over John*. When Ken relayed those words to me, all my fears vanished.

My mercy hovers over John. I'll never forget that promise. As I've prayed for John throughout the years, that wonderful word from God would often rise up and remind me that John's life was secure. It would assure me that God would keep him and hold him steady until the day he got things straight in his life.

My mercy hovers over your child. That is a wonderful word from God. If God will do that for my child, He will do it for yours. The covenant God has made with you in the blood of Jesus extends to your



children and your children's children. Psalm 103:17 says, "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children."

Our grandchildren are covered in our covenant with God. Everything God gives to me, He'll give to them. All the protection that I have, He passes on to my family.

If you're a believer and you're willing to trust God for the deliverance and salvation of your children, you will not be disappointed.

Study Zechariah 10:7-9. There God tells us about the outpouring of the Spirit of God in the last days—the days we're living in. He says:

And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD. I will hiss for [your children], and gather them; for I have redeemed them.... And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.

You may not even know where your children are right now. They may be in another city or another country. It doesn't matter. This scripture says when you rejoice in the Lord—not when you're depressed or worried or afraid, but when you trust God so totally that you're filled up with joy—then your children will see it and turn.

"I will hiss for them." What does that mean? It means God will signal for them. He'll say, *Pssst! Come here!* And they'll come running.

Let me tell you something. God knows how to get someone's attention. He knows how to signal for the ones His people are praying for. Kenneth's mother prayed for me and then one day God said, *Pssst, Gloria!* I heard Him and was born again.

I didn't know much about God before that time. I knew there was a God, but had no real knowledge about Him. Yet He still knew how to get my attention. He called and here I am today preaching His Word!

He'll do the same thing for your child. It doesn't matter what kind of wickedness that child has fallen into, God can still reach him.

I know a man who pastors a great church in Sacramento, Calif. His name is Phil Goudeaux. He used to be part of the militant Black Power movement. In fact, he was in charge of security for the Black Panther Party.

He didn't know God and he didn't want to know God. But one day when he was in college, a young white fellow came over to his lunch table and started telling him about Jesus. This Black Panther leader couldn't believe it. The nerve of this guy! He tried to get rid of him. He threatened him and even tried to hit him...but he couldn't.

For weeks this little white fellow followed this big, "bad" Black guy around, talking to him about Jesus.

Finally, the Black Panther prayed with the fellow just to get him off his back. After that, he tried to forget about it...but he couldn't. Two weeks later, all by himself, he made Jesus Christ the Lord of his life.

God knows how to get someone's attention! He'll knock them over and speak to them right out loud if He needs to. He proved that in the life of a man named Saul. Years after that man was saved, he wrote, "I am apprehended of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12).

God apprehended Paul one day on the road to Damascus. According to the dictionary, to *apprehend* means to "capture or arrest." God captured Paul's attention. The last thing he wanted to be was a follower of Jesus. He was a declared enemy of Jesus. But God was able to apprehend him anyway.

Don't you worry. God knows exactly how to apprehend your children. And when the time comes, He'll do it. After all, you weren't in your prayer closet when He found you!

But until then, you must stand fast in faith for them. No matter what they get into, no matter how far off track they seem to be, just keep saying what the Bible says about them. Keep your eyes focused on the covenant mercy of God and not on the symptoms of ungodliness that you see in their lives.

Don't ever give up on your child. If you've grown weak and discouraged lately, it's time for you to get that fire back in your bones. Dig into the Word of God and dig out the promises He's given you for your children. Lay hold of those promises and don't let go.

Learn to call things that are not as though they were (Romans 4:17). When you hear bad news about your children or you see them do something that hurts your heart, just say:

"God, I thank You that Your tender mercy hovers over my child. I thank You, Lord, that he is born again, filled with the Holy Ghost and obedient to You. I thank You that Your Word is in his mouth (Isaiah 59:21), that he is taught by Your Spirit and great is his peace (Isaiah 54:13). I am not moved by what I feel or what I see. I am moved by Your Word and I call it done in Jesus' Name!"

I'm going to say it one more time: You have a covenant with God that covers your children. So rejoice! God will be faithful to you. One day, your son or daughter will be going about their business doing their own thing when suddenly—*Pssst!*—they'll hear the voice of God.

When that happens, they'll come running.

You can count on it. 🙏



Digital issue

KCM.ORG.UK/MAGAZINE

“**It doesn't matter what kind of wickedness that child has fallen into, God can still reach him.**”





Keep the Power Flowing

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS ONE PLACE WHERE FAITH WON'T WORK?

It's true.

Even though faith in God has the power to move mountains. Even though all things are possible to them who believe, and faith in God's WORD *will* work in any nation, in any economy, and in any circumstances, there is one place where it *will not* work.



by Kenneth Copeland



“YOU HAVE THE POWER TO FORGIVE ANYONE FOR ANYTHING, ANYTIME YOU CHOOSE BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD INSIDE YOU.”

Faith won't work in an unforgiving heart. Jesus made this clear in the Gospels.

Although there are other hindrances to faith, He repeatedly put unforgiveness at the top of the list. When teaching on the prayer of faith in Mark 11, for instance, He said:

Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 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, if ye have ought against any:** that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses (verses 22-25).

Some years ago, I got a fresh revelation of how to put those verses into operation. At 4 a.m. I woke up to a vision of Jesus. I could see Him clearly in the spirit, standing at the foot of my bed holding a big tray heaped

with cookies.

You'd think since He was holding a tray of cookies, He would have been smiling. But He wasn't. He had a very stern look on His face.

Have a cookie! He said.

Not knowing exactly how to answer, I hesitated, and He spoke again.

Your response is: I believe I will. I take it. I have it. I thank You for it. And I forgive if I have aught against any.

Then, after just those few seconds the vision ended.

As I lay there thinking about it, I realized the cookies represented faith. The six "I" statements ("I believe, I will..." etc.) outlined how we're to respond to Jesus' command, "Have faith in God." They are, as I've come to call them, *the six I's of faith*.

I forgive is No. 6.

That means the prayer of faith isn't finished until all unforgiveness has been repented of and released. It means that faith and forgiveness are a package deal.

"But Brother Copeland, why would Jesus be so strict about that? Why would He make forgiving such a hard-and-fast rule?"

It isn't a rule. It's a spiritual principle or





2021 EVENTS

Detroit Live

Victory Campaign

May 27-29 | Southfield, Mich.

West Coast Believers' Convention

July 5-10 | Ontario, Calif.

Southwest Believers' Convention

Aug. 2-7 | Fort Worth, Texas

Word Explosion

Military Salute

Sept. 2-4 | Columbia, S.C.

Omaha Live

Victory Campaign

Oct. 28-30 | Omaha, Neb.

Washington, D.C. Live

Victory Campaign

Nov. 11-13 | Woodbridge, Va.

Kenneth Copeland

is also speaking here:

(Contact the host church for details.)

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion
Aug. 19-20 : Brooklyn Park, Minn.
lwcc.org

Healing of the Nations
Motorcycle Rally
Aug. 27 : Hidden Springs, Ariz.
cofaz.org

International Faith Conference
Sept. 13-14 : Forest Park, Ill.
billwinston.org or livingwd.org

Pathpoint Fellowship Church
22nd Anniversary
Sept. 17 : Amarillo, Texas
pathpointfellowship.com

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

For updated event information visit:

KCM.ORG/EVENTS



“
The prayer
of faith isn't
finished until all
unforgiveness
has been
repented of
and released.”



law, like the law of gravity in the natural. “Faith... worketh by love” (Galatians 5:6) and refusing to forgive is unloving. Therefore, holding onto unforgiveness short-circuits our faith.

It puts us in a place where faith in God won't operate because God Himself *is* Love (1 John 4:16). He doesn't just have love, it's who He is. So when we're operating outside of love, we're not operating in Him.

Jesus put it this way:

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Mark 12:30-31)

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” (John 13:34)

Those aren't suggestions. They're commands based on spiritual law. They're how we, as born-again believers and Holy Spirit filled people, live. We're to respond to Jesus' command to love by saying as He taught me in the vision, “I believe. I will. I take it. I have it. I thank You for it. I forgive!”

Don't Take the Poison

“But you don't know what those people did to me!” someone might say.

No, I don't. But whatever it was, you're still commanded to forgive them. If you don't, you're putting yourself in danger. You might not think you are. You might think you're protecting yourself and punishing the ones who wronged you. But that's a misconception.

It's like taking poison and expecting the other person to die! (That may be the answer to the question: How dumb can you get?) It doesn't work. Instead of hurting the other person, you're the one who suffers from the poison of unforgiveness. The person it damages is you.

Over time, you may even forget about that unforgiveness. You may go around making your faith confessions and saying, “Praise The LORD,” thinking everything is fine. But all the while that poison will still be there in your spirit. Doing damage. Destroying your faith.

Here's the good news though: You can get rid of it! As a believer, you have the power to forgive anyone for anything, anytime you choose because you have the love of God inside you. You're born of His love. You don't have to pray to get it, it was shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost when you were born again.



That means you're free to let go of unforgiveness. You don't have to let fear torment you into holding on to it because, as 1 John 4 says:

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love (verses 15-18).

Notice, perfect love (the living, growing, God kind of love) doesn't just manage fear. It casts it out. It gets rid of fear completely so that you don't have to harden your heart toward someone because you're afraid of being vulnerable. You can just love them.

"But, Brother Copeland, I don't feel loving toward them."

So? The God kind of love (*agape* is the Greek word used in the New Testament) isn't a feeling. It's an act of the will. It's making the quality decision: I will love you no matter what you do.

That's the decision God made about every one of us. He loved us before we were born. He loved us before we got saved—when we were mean and unlovely.

I look back at myself in my "before Christ" days, and I'm amazed at what God did for me. He not only sent Jesus to redeem me, even while I was still a sinner, He put me with Gloria—a woman who loved me unconditionally. Between the two of them, they taught me what *agape* looks like.

Gloria and I have been married going on 59 years, and she's loved me at my worst just like she's loved me at my best. More than once she's shown me such kindness it absolutely shocked me. Like the time some years ago when I was grumbling about how I'd messed something up. "Kenneth," she said sweetly as she reached over and put her hand on me, "Jesus finds no fault in you and neither do I."

Oh, my! I'll never forget that. It changed the course of my life!

Any born-again believer can walk in that kind of

love, but not without a decision. You have to decide to do it. You have to respond to Jesus' love command by saying, "I believe, I will. I take that kind of love. I have it. I'm so grateful for it, and I forgive if I have aught against any."

When you do that, things in your life will start straightening up.

Clean Out the Pipe!

I know you've heard this before. Most all of us have heard any number of sermons on love and forgiveness. But we need to keep on hearing them. We need to keep meditating on the command of love because so much depends on it. For as 1 Corinthians 13 says:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing (verses 1-3, *New King James Version*).

Talk about sobering! According to those verses, violating the law of love not only hinders our faith, but it also has a deadening effect on the supernatural operations of the Holy Spirit. It even robs us of the benefits of our giving.

We don't have to commit a major violation of love, or hold on to some great big unforgiveness, to experience those deadening effects either. They can be the result of our accumulating a lot of *little* unforgivenesses that don't seem big enough to matter.

I remember the first time The LORD really got this through to me. I was in Shawnee, Okla., preaching a series of meetings in Roy and Opal Sprague's church, back in the early years of this ministry. Between services, I was praying in the spirit and suddenly I had a quick little vision of a pipe. It looked to be about 4 or 5 feet long and 4 or 5 inches in diameter, and on the upper end a stream of water was gushing down



POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1

According to Jesus, to receive what we believe for when we pray, if we have anything against anyone, we must forgive them.

(Mark 11:25)

2

Forgiveness is an act of love, and apart from love faith won't work.

(Gal. 5:6)

3

Love is our New Testament commandment.

(John 13:34)

4

You have the power to forgive anyone anytime of anything because you are born of God who is Love.

(1 Jn. 4:16)

5

You don't have to be afraid to forgive those who've done you wrong; you can just love them.

(1 Jn. 4:18)



IF YOU DON'T WATCH YOURSELF, YOU'LL GO OFF IN A HUFF WITH ANOTHER LITTLE GRAIN OF UNFORGIVENESS IN YOUR HEART.



on it.

Instead of flowing through the pipe, however, the water was just hitting the end and splashing off. Clearly, the pipe was completely clogged.

"LORD, what is that?" I asked.

That pipe is your spirit, He said. *It's gotten clogged up with little grains of unrepented unforgiveness you aren't even aware of anymore.*

I tried to think of someone I hadn't forgiven, but I couldn't. So I asked for an example.

What about the man selling those cantaloupes down the street from your house? The LORD asked.

Oh, yes. I remember him. I thought.

Gloria had bought a bag of a half-dozen cantaloupes from him one time, and the two at the top of the bag had looked really good. When she got home however, we found out the four cantaloupes at the bottom were spoiled.

"Gloria, I'm not going to let anyone treat you like that," I said. "That man knew what he was doing, giving you that rotten fruit. I'm going down there and let him have it!"

"No, you're not," she said. So, I didn't. But I was mad about it for a week, and never did repent of the resentment I had toward him.

That kind of thing happens to all of us all the time. In stores, in restaurants, wherever you go, the devil will see to it that someone steps on your toes. If you don't watch yourself, you'll go off in a huff with another little grain of unforgiveness in your heart.

The same week I had the vision of the pipe, I also saw why keeping it cleaned out is so vital. After one of the meetings, Pastor Roy came to me and said, "I think you need to call Gloria." (She was at home at the time.) "I saw her this morning in the spirit, and she was in the garage with a paint spray gun in her hand. Brother Kenneth," he said, "the hot water heater is in that garage, isn't it?"

"Yes," I replied.

"Well, I saw her painting out there with the garage door closed. When the water heater came on, the fumes ignited, and the garage blew up."

I ran to the telephone and told Gloria what he said. Sure enough, she'd been intending to paint in the garage that day. She had the spray gun all ready, but she'd sensed in her spirit that morning not to do it. So, she had decided to wait.

Think what might have happened if Roy Sprague had been an unforgiving man? What if Gloria had been an unforgiving woman? That's how people get killed. It's how Christians can end up dying young. They get careless about their love walk and forgiveness and get themselves in a place where their faith and the gifts of the Spirit won't work.

But, praise God, we can keep that from happening to us. We can put love and forgiveness at the top of our list of spiritual priorities. We can keep the power of God flowing freely through us and confess over ourselves every day that what 1 Corinthians 13 says about love is true of us. Declare it right now:

"I have and live in the love of God; therefore, I endure long, and am patient and kind. I'm never envious, nor do I boil over with jealousy. I'm not boastful, and I do not display myself haughtily. I'm not conceited or rude, nor do I act unbecomingly. By God's grace, I never insist on my own rights or my own way. I'm not self-seeking. I'm not touchy or fretful or resentful. I take no account of the evil done to me and pay no attention to a suffered wrong. I do not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness. I rejoice when right and truth prevail. I bear up under anything and everything that comes. I am ever ready to believe the best of every person. My hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and because of it I endure everything without weakening. I never fail!" (verses 4-7, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*). 

THE Follow TEST



Commander
Kellie's Corner

WHEN I WAS A KID, WE PLAYED FOLLOW THE LEADER. HAVE YOU? WE ALL HAVE LEADERS WE SHOULD FOLLOW.

Playing a game is one thing but following in real life can be challenging. Let's see if you REALLY follow the leader.

There is one important question on this test: **Are you following Jesus?** When we learn how to follow Him, we will be better followers of the other leaders in our lives, like parents and teachers. For everyone from bosses and parents to kids, Jesus is the key to following and leading. He had leaders too!

When Jesus was 12, His parents took Him to Jerusalem for Passover. They headed back home without Him but didn't realize it until they had traveled a full day! Frantic, they returned to Jerusalem, and after three days found Jesus in the Temple. When His mom scolded Him, He said: "Why would you need to search for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be here in my Father's house, consumed with him? ... Jesus went back home with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them.... As Jesus grew, so did his wisdom and maturity. The favor of men increased upon his life, for he was greatly loved by God" (Luke 2:49-52, *The Passion Translation*).

This story tells us a lot about young Jesus. First, He wasn't being disobedient when He was in the Temple. He wasn't lost. His parents just didn't know where He was; Jesus thought they did. He went to see the priests and talk with them, wanting to know more about His Father's Word so He could do His will (or business!). He was where He was supposed to be AND was fixed on following the Father.

What do you think the priests discussed with Jesus? Maybe the Fifth Commandment and what it means to HONOR. Read the special commandment God gave to kids in Deuteronomy 5:16, *New Living Translation*: **"Honor your father and mother, as the LORD your God commanded you. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you."**

That is a command from God, so we know Jesus kept it. Luke 2:51 says that He went home with His parents and was obedient to them. Jesus grew in wisdom, maturity and favor; and was GREATLY loved by God the Father! He studied, obeyed and honored His Father and it made Him strong. Like sheep follow their shepherd, Jesus followed His Father saying, "Not My will but Your will" or, as in John 5:30, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, "I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord—but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision]... [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me."

Following the Leader causes us all (including adults) to grow in wisdom, maturity, favor and love! Superkid, look up *honor, wisdom, maturity and favor* in the dictionary. Discuss with your parents how Jesus lived and what it means to you, and to them.

This is the life Jesus wants for us, and He's here to help! When tempted to disobey, He didn't. But He doesn't expect us to be perfect. He wants to correct us when we miss it and get us back on track. We can follow Jesus like sheep follow the shepherd who cares for them. Your parents are your shepherds. You're under their care and authority. Follow them instead of doing your own thing. I know that can be difficult, but it's not as hard if you honor them like you honor Jesus.

Parents who follow Jesus' example don't expect you to be perfect. Honor them by obeying their instructions and receiving their correction when you miss it. As you become a listener (like Jesus was), following with honor and obedience is easier. Parents aren't perfect but they, too, are learning to follow Jesus. The benefit of being sheep-ish is that the more you follow Jesus, the easier it is to follow your parents. And every time you follow your parents, you are practicing and learning to follow Jesus! It's a win-win!

Here is a follow test to give yourself or to take as a family. Set a timer to go off every 15 to 30 minutes—all day or for a few hours. Every time it goes off, ask yourself, *Am I doing what Jesus and my parents want?* He will help you! If you aren't sure what you're supposed to be doing, go ask a parent! Give yourself a high-five at the end of the test, even if you messed up all day. The test isn't about being perfect, but honoring those who shepherd you—Jesus and your leaders.

Now, let's honor some extra-special shepherds—our moms. We could say many good things about our mothers and we should SAY them! So, I'll start with my mom, Gloria Copeland. She is smart, kind, a hard worker and takes care of everyone around her. What I love most is that my mom is full of Jesus. She talks like, acts like and loves like Jesus. My mom LEADS like Jesus!

SAY how you feel about YOUR mom today. Encourage her. No mom is perfect, but as she follows Jesus, she can love and lead like Him—especially if YOU act like a sheep!

A+, Superkids!

Commander Kellie ❤️





Bonus
article

Bringing Hope to Juárez

Kenneth Copeland Ministries has partnered with Alvarado Ministries International to build a soup kitchen, church and orphanage in the city of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, one of the poorest parts of that country.





The project was launched in October 2019 when AMI began construction of a two-story, cinder block church building in that impoverished area.

Last October, KCM held the Juárez Victory Campaign in the city. The event was to celebrate the progress of the future church and ministry center, which will be called *Centro de Fe Vida Abundante* (Faith Center Abundant Life). Hosted by AMI and its founder, Sergio Alvarado, the event brought the Word of God, as well as food and provisions, to hundreds of local children and their families.

Though construction of the center is still underway, that didn't stop the hands-on ministry from taking place. Sixteen people, including several pastors, traveled to Juárez from the U.S., and another 10 volunteers from the area came to love on the children and their families. In addition to being ministered to through the Word of God, more than 1400 people received nourishing meals, over 500 adults and children were given new shoes, and volunteers handed out more than 600 toys to children.

"The city of Juárez is considered one of the most





dangerous cities on earth,” Alvarado said when first announcing plans to build a church facility in 2019. As a child growing up in the heart of drug-infested Juárez, Alvarado watched helplessly as his alcoholic father abandoned the family when he was 2, and his drug-addicted mother turned to prostitution—lifestyles that eventually led to early deaths for both. Like almost everyone born into that culture, Alvarado never saw himself living any way other than in poverty—surrounded by drugs and early death.

“We lived in an area called ‘Heroin Alley,’” Alvarado recalls of his plight in a book he released in 2019, called *Prophet of My Own Life*. “Hundreds of people routinely crossed the Mexican border almost daily from the U.S. to buy heroin in Heroin Alley. The entire area was, and still is to this day, drug infested—littered with bars and brothels, and crawling with prostitutes. On any day, people could be seen sitting in public—smoking dope, shooting up with needles and syringes, or cooking crack cocaine in spoons over open flames. As a child growing up in Juárez, this is what I saw every day. By the time I was 6, I understood what poverty was. I also realized that we were steeped in it.”

Poverty a Real Concern

This area in Mexico is prime for the message of the gospel and move of God, says Alvarado. Juárez is

the largest city in the Mexican state of Chihuahua and sits right across the U.S.-Mexico border from El Paso, Texas. Over 1.5 million residents live in and around Juárez. Along with El Paso, it is the second largest dual-national metroplex on the U.S. southern border, just behind San Diego-Tijuana.

Poverty is a very real concern for those living in Juárez, as 70% of its population lives below the poverty line, says Alvarado. As one who grew up in Juárez, he knows firsthand the devastation of the impoverished area and the difference a relationship with God can make.

Alvarado credits God for delivering him from extreme poverty and a life of drugs, and enabling him to return to Juárez to share the love of God with the city, and especially its children.

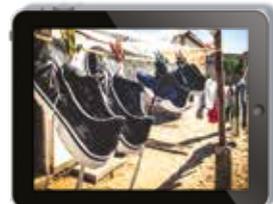
“Many of its children are still trapped in a vicious cycle surrounded by drugs with no way out,” Alvarado explained. “God has called me to help, and one of the ways He is helping me do that is by building a church right here in Juárez—a place where young children can find hope through God’s Word.”

When completed, the two-story facility will house a soup kitchen that can serve up to 160 people at a time, as well as a 300-seat sanctuary.





**Watch
more.**



kcm.org/HopeforJuarez



The facility will also include an orphanage and educational areas for Bible classes, services for kids, dormitories and more. Plans for the area surrounding the center include building educational workshops where young people will learn skills like woodworking, sewing and welding, which will allow them to provide for their own families in the future, according to Alvarado.

Alvarado and his staff continue to stand in faith for the remainder of the finances to come in to finish the ministry center debt free.

He is quick to point out that the center will not be a feeding program. Instead, it will be a place of transformation where children and their families will receive a fresh start—spiritually, emotionally and physically.

“This is where lives are going to be transformed,” says Alvarado. “It’s all about the kids because we want to reach this generation right here.”

Speaking to the children during the first day of the Victory Campaign, Alvarado told them: “Your life is about to be transformed. Things will never be the same. It’s only through faith in God. You look like God because He *is* your Father, and He loves you.”

Thank you, KCM Partners and Friends, for helping

***“It’s all
about
the kids
because
we want to
reach this
generation
right here.”***

— Sergio Alvarado

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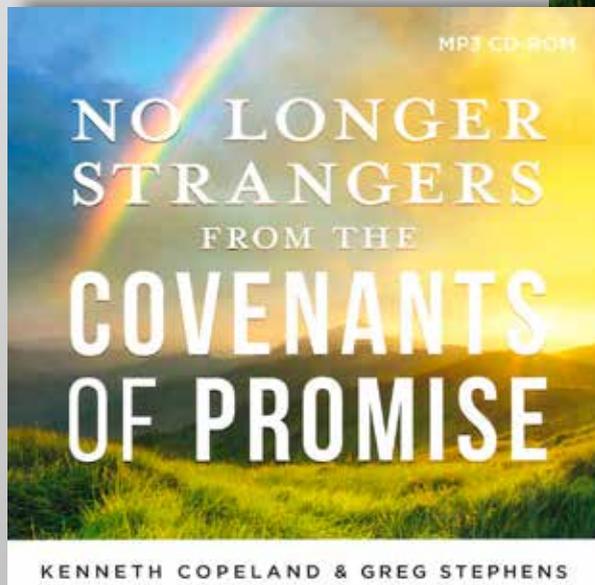
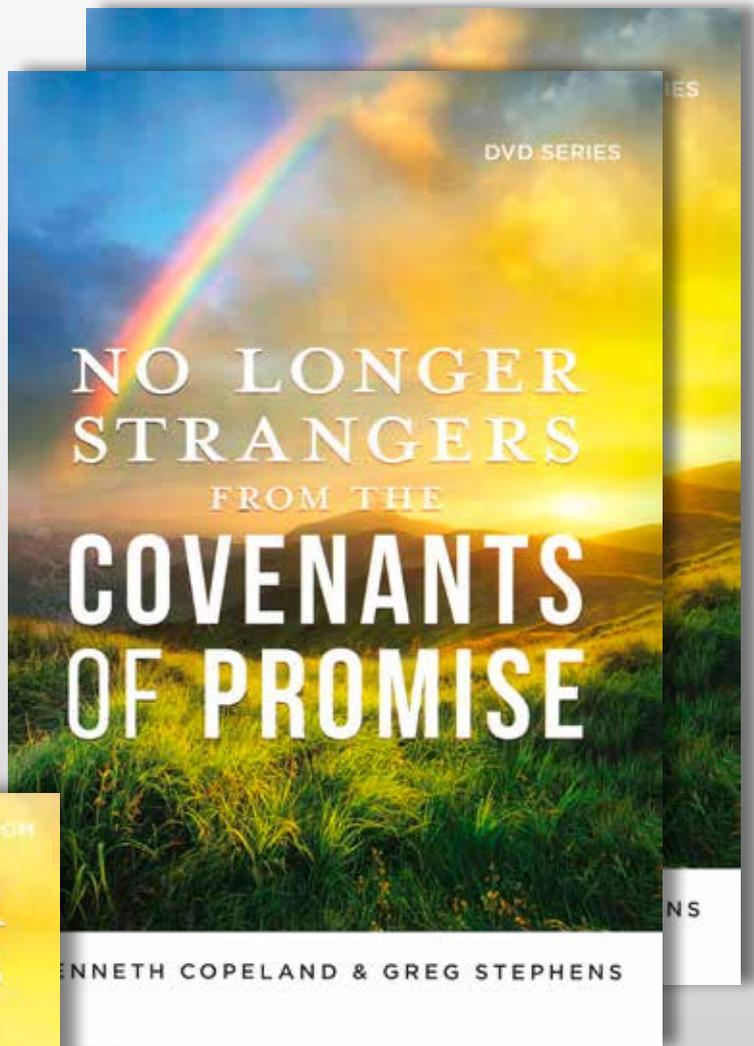
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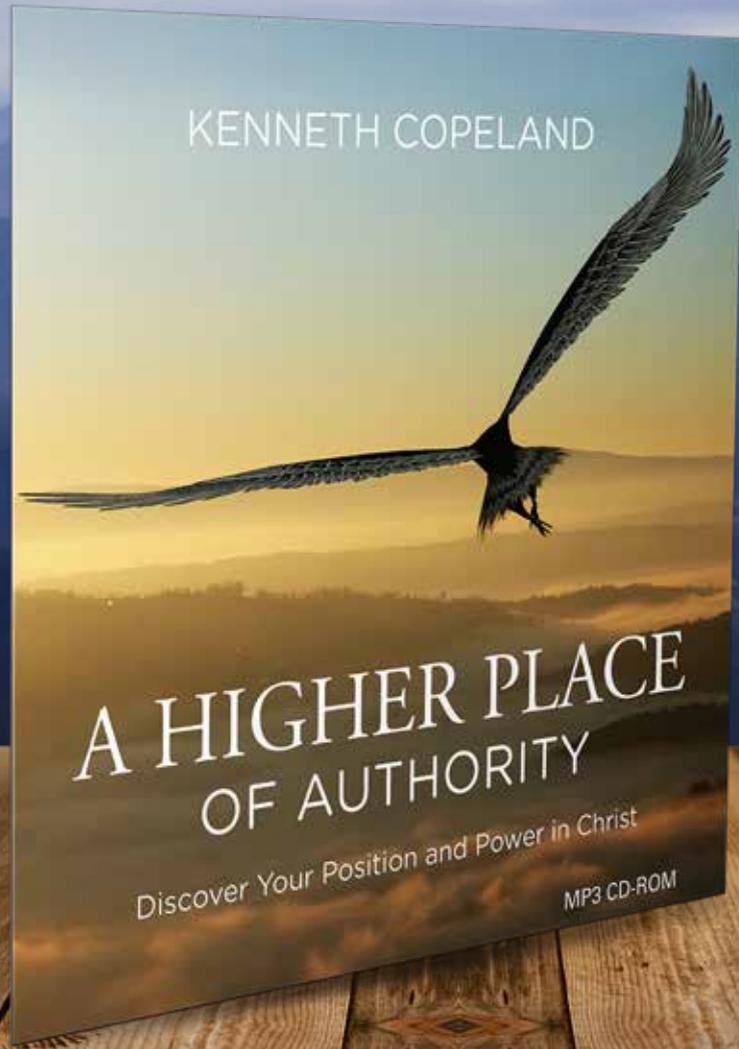
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