

VICTORY

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GATEWAY to the Supernatural

As a born-again believer, you will never be satisfied just living a natural life. You'll never be truly fulfilled just operating in the flesh as if there were nothing to you except your humanity. You have divinity on the inside of you!

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GATEWAY

TO THE SUPERNATURAL





by Kenneth Copeland



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AS A BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER, YOU WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED JUST LIVING A NATURAL LIFE. YOU'LL NEVER BE TRULY FULFILLED JUST OPERATING IN THE FLESH AS IF THERE WERE NOTHING TO YOU EXCEPT YOUR HUMANITY.

YOU HAVE DIVINITY ON THE INSIDE OF YOU!

Your spirit has been re-created by God in the image of Jesus and He's called you to live supernaturally just as He did.

What's more, in your heart you know it. When you read John 14:12, where Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do," your spirit leaps because you know that verse is talking about you!

If you're like a lot of believers, however, you may wonder how you're actually supposed to live up to that standard. You might think, *I can't do the kinds of things Jesus did in the Gospels. I'm just a normal Christian. He's God!*

Yes, He is, but when He came to earth, He didn't minister as God. He ministered as a man baptized in the Holy Spirit.

That's why there's nothing in the

Bible about Jesus working any miracles until after He received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Until the Anointing of God's Spirit came upon Him, Jesus didn't have the power to work miracles. "The Son can do nothing of himself," He said in John 5:19.

As believers, we're in the same position. We can't do anything of ourselves either. Even though we're born again, until we're baptized in the Holy Spirit, we're like Jesus' first disciples were right after His resurrection. They had His Spirit *within* them (see John 20:22) but they didn't have the power to carry on Jesus' supernatural ministry. So, before He ascended back into heaven, He told them how to get it.

"Wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water;



1

Jesus said you're called to do the same kind of supernatural things He did when He was ministering on earth. (John 14:12)

2

You receive the power to do the works of Jesus the same way His first disciples did, through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)

3

The first supernatural thing the Holy Spirit empowered the early believers to do was speak in other tongues. (Acts 2:4)

4

Speaking in tongues is the gateway to the supernatural. (1 Cor. 14:2)

5

When you pray, you build up your spirit so that the divinity on the inside of you rises up and dominates your humanity. (Jude 20)



“You can find out from God anything you need to know about your life and future.”



but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.... [And] ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." (Acts 1:4-5, 8).

They took Him at His word, and if you've read Acts 2, you know what happened.

Ten days later, as 120 were praying in the upper room in Jerusalem, they heard a sound from heaven like a mighty wind, saw heavenly tongues of fire engulfing them, and "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave

them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

Because it was Pentecost, Jews from every nation were in Jerusalem at the time. They heard what was happening, and the multitude came together and were confounded. "Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaean?" they said (verse 7). "And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" (verse 8).

Notice those verses don't say the disciples were speaking the languages of all those people. It says the people *heard* in those languages. So, the miracle may have been in the ears of the multitude as well as the mouths of the disciples. But either way, it was undoubtedly a miracle.

Think about that! Speaking in tongues was the first miracle the Holy Spirit empowered those first believers to do. It was their gateway to the supernatural—and the good news for us is that God hasn't changed His plan since then. Praying in tongues is still the gateway to the supernatural for us, as believers, today.

Ask and You Shall Receive

Why is this good news?

Because speaking in tongues is something every believer can and should do. We don't have to wait 10 days for God to give us the ability to do it, either. Unlike the first believers who had to wait for Pentecost to come, we can be baptized in the Holy Spirit whenever we're ready. All we have to do is ask our heavenly Father, believe we receive, and start speaking out of our spirit, trusting the Holy Spirit to give the utterance.

"But Brother Copeland, what if I say something wrong? What if instead of getting words from the Holy Spirit I get words from some evil spirit?"

That's a biblical impossibility!

In Luke 11:9, Jesus told us it will never happen. "Ask, and it shall be given you," He said.

"If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (verses 11-13).

Any fear you have about praying in tongues is unfounded. It's just carnal junk the devil is using



to try to keep you from doing it. He knows that once you start speaking in other tongues, he's had it. You'll be able to open your mouth and go through that supernatural gate whenever you want, and he won't be able to stop you.

"I don't know," someone might say. "I've been told, even after receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we can only pray in tongues when God gives us some kind of special spiritual feeling."

Sadly, that's what a lot of believers have been told, but it's not true. There's no basis for it in the Bible at all. It's just religious tradition.

Happily, when I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in 1963, I'd never been taught that tradition. I'd just been born again about six months and I hadn't yet spent enough time around churches to have much religion to unlearn. Gloria and I had attended a service with my parents. At the end, the man conducting the service invited anyone who wanted to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit to come forward.

I turned around and asked my mother, "Is that something we ought to have?" She said, "Yes." So, Gloria and I both jumped up and went to the front of the room.

We didn't know what to expect, and no one gave us any instruction about how to receive. The women of the church just gathered around Gloria while the men gathered around me and they all started praying for us. Some of them hollered, "Hang on!" Others shouted, "Let go!" I had no idea what to do.

When they got tired of praying and sat down, Dr. Reed told me to lay hands on Gloria. At first, I said, "No." (Can you imagine? I wouldn't even lay hands on my own wife!) But in his big booming voice he said again, "Lay your hands on her!" so I did.

Afterward, I was sitting in a chair on the platform praying in English and he touched me on my forehead and said to me, "That's enough English!" and I took off praying in other tongues!

Later that night, I was flying back to Little Rock, Ark., to be at work the next morning, and I kept thinking about what had happened to me. So I prayed, "LORD, I'm not really sure what happened to me tonight," I said, "but

I'm going to say some of those words again. If there's anything to it, anoint it." (I don't know how I came up with the word *anoint*. I guess I'd heard it during the meeting.)

I tried to remember something I'd said in tongues, spoke the first syllable, and that's all it took. I took off again praying in tongues and prayed all the way to Little Rock. When I saw the lights of the city on the horizon, I realized I was going to have to talk to the control tower and wondered what was going to come out.

I was shocked when I said, "Little Rock approach," and it came out in English. *Hey, that's good!* I thought.

After I landed, I was so thrilled I jumped out of the airplane and danced around. Still talking and shouting in tongues, I BLESSED the airplane...I BLESSED the hangars...I BLESSED the concrete I was standing on and everything else I could find. And I've talked in tongues just about every day since!

Not Just for a Select Few

"But Brother Copeland, that was just God's will for *you*. Not all Holy Spirit-baptized believers can pray in tongues like that."

Sure they can. The book of Acts confirms it. In every account it gives of believers receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit there's an indication they spoke in tongues. You can just go down the list:

In Acts 2:4, the 120 in the upper room "were *all* filled with the Holy Ghost, and [they] began to speak with other tongues."

In Acts 8, the believers in Samaria received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and, verse 18 says, Simon (who'd previously been a sorcerer) "saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given." Obviously, what he saw was believers speaking in tongues, and it so impressed him that he actually asked the apostles if he could buy this supernatural gift. Peter said no and rebuked him. "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter" (verse 21). Or as it literally says in the Greek, "in *these spoken words*."

Acts 9 records how Saul (later known as Paul) received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit after his conversion on the road to Damascus.

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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

Redeeming Love Christian Center
40th Anniversary Celebration
Oct. 3 : Nanuet, N.Y.
redeeminglovecc.org

Greater Glory at Canaan Land
Nov. 5 : Autaugaville, Ala.
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We know he spoke in tongues because he later wrote in his letter to the Corinthians, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (1 Corinthians 14:18).

The pattern continues in Acts 10 in the account of the Gentiles receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit at Cornelius' house. It says, "that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost," and they began to "speak with tongues, and magnify God" (see verses 45-46). In Acts 19, the newly born-again Ephesian believers did the same. "When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues" (verse 6).

Put all those passages together and the message is clear: God's will is for all believers to pray in other tongues. His plan is for every one of us to go through that gateway to the supernatural because there are a lot of benefits to it. According to the New Testament, by praying in other tongues:

We can speak mysteries to God and pray out beyond our natural understanding. (1 Corinthians 14:2)

We can build ourselves up in the spirit on our most holy faith. (Jude 20)

We can intercede for others according to the perfect will of God in utterances given to us by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26-27)

We can receive revelation from the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised "will guide you into all truth...and he will show you things to come." (John 16:13)

If you pray in tongues long enough you can find out from God anything you need to know about your life and future. You can get into a place in the spirit where you experience what Jesus was talking about when He said that the Holy Spirit "shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you" (John 16:14).

Have you ever heard athletes talk about "getting in the zone"? The zone is the place where, after pushing themselves until physically they don't have anything left, athletes experience a breakthrough. They get a second wind and

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”



by Mark Barclay



suddenly something other than just their five senses takes over.

When you pray in tongues, if you persist long enough, you can experience that in the spirit! You can step over into a supernatural place where there's no time and no distance. A place where your awareness of the reality of God supersedes the reality of the natural realm.

When you're in that place, the divinity on the inside of you rises up and dominates your humanity. You're able to receive from God whatever you need to walk in victory through whatever situation you may be facing.

I've experienced this time and again. I remember one time, for instance, in my early years of ministry, I was preaching some meetings in Oklahoma City and woke up one morning aching all over with symptoms of the flu. When I tried to stand up, the room would start spinning and I'd fall over. I couldn't even get out of bed.

Unable to stand up to shave, I asked Gloria to help me. With me still lying in bed, she caught me by the hair, lifted my head up off the pillow and shaved my face. I don't know what I looked like when she was finished, but with her help I made it to the church.

When I walked up to the pulpit to preach, however, the room started spinning and I almost fell on the floor. "I'll be right back," I said. Turning around, I walked into the little choir room behind the platform. Once there, I let the devil have it.

"Get your filthy hands off my body! This body belongs to Jesus, not you!" I said. Then I let loose in other tongues at the top of my voice. (I've learned that sometimes you have to get loud, especially when you're dealing with the devil.) After a little while I got over into that place in the spirit where the body doesn't count, and I went back into the auditorium. Grabbing the pulpit, I began to preach.

That pulpit started trying to sway a little, but I didn't care. I'd gotten into the zone. So, ministering under the power of God, I did what He called me to do. I preached on healing for a couple of hours and walked out of there not only completely well but satisfied because, like you, I know that's how I'm called to live. 🙏

Facing Giants



Cowardice and courage exist in every human being. That's something I learned as a Marine during the Vietnam War.

In 21 months of combat, I learned that any one of us, at any given time, can choose to either succumb to fear or face it. Most people choose the comfortable route: They go for whatever is easiest.

Not us! We're soldiers of the Cross, covered by the blood and filled with the Holy Ghost. We're called to face any giant, to rise up and be strong in the Lord as

deputies of God.

We're at war, my friends. We're at war for souls, and the enemy will do all he can to keep us from achieving our objective.

Second Timothy 2:1 says, "Thou therefore, my son [or daughter], be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." Notice that verse doesn't say we *are* strong. It says to *be* strong. We may go through difficult challenges from time to time, but when we open our mouths, we need to follow Joel 3:10, which says, "Let the weak say, I am strong." It's our choice.

Making It Through

Second Timothy continues, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall



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IT OUGHT TO BE CRYSTAL CLEAR WHAT'S UP, WHAT'S DOWN, WHAT'S RIGHT, WHAT'S WRONG, WHAT GOD BLESSES AND WHAT HE DOESN'T BLESS.

be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (verses 2-3).

Let's look at that word *endure*. Many of us hate it, but that's only because we have the interpretation wrong. *Endure* doesn't mean to cope with or accept. It means “to make it through.” Another way to say endure is to say, “don't quit because of it.”

If we don't have our “no-quit switch” yet, we need to fast and pray until we get it because there will be many occasions when our flesh will tell us to quit. But again, that's not us. We *endure*.

Verse 4 says, “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” In other words, as believers, we must consecrate and separate. We're not of the world; we've been called out from it. We're like the priests of the Old Testament who were called to show the difference between holy and unholy, between clean and unclean (Leviticus 10:10).

In the kingdom of God there should be no cloudiness or fog. In the Body of Christ, it ought to be crystal clear what's up, what's down, what's right, what's wrong, what God blesses and what He doesn't bless. That's what we do. As believers, we bring clarity and we help with the cleansing process. Our churches should be decontamination stations for Christians and sinners.

Grab the Lion by the Beard

We're not in these battles for ourselves. We're in them for others—for those in our care and those around us who aren't strong enough yet to fight for themselves. Just look at David's example.

In 1 Samuel 17, David and Saul were preparing for battle with Goliath.

“And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him” (verses 34-35).

When you read a passage like this, you might

as well put your whine and cry to bed. David had come face to face with a lion and a bear. It was hand-to-hand combat, and he had the lion by the beard. Why did David react like that? Because the lion and his posse messed with what belonged to David. As a result, David was determined to protect his responsibility, his duty and calling.

A pastor today might say, “That's my ministry, my calling, my flock, my family. I'm not going to let anyone come and take God's people out from under my care. I'm going to grab that lion by the beard!”

Similarly, a parent might say, “I'm not going to let anyone lead my kids or my grandkids astray. I'm going to grab that lion by the beard and remind him who he's tangling with!”

Fill Your Shepherd's Bag

David told Saul about defeating the lion and the bear to prove he was ready to face off against Goliath. Saul agreed and even loaned him his armor, but David needed to face off with the giant in his own way.

“David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him” (verse 39).

It's as though David was saying, “Thank you, Saul, but these don't fit.” He needed to do what only he could do, not merely mimic someone else's battle strategy. It's the same for every believer. Each of us must do what we're called to do—what *only* we can do.

Instead, David “took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine” (verse 40).

He chose the weapons that suited him: five smooth stones, a shepherd's bag and a sling. His shepherd's bag was where he kept his ammo.

This begs the question: What is our ammo? What are we keeping in our shepherd's bag? Hopefully, it's the Word of God and the lessons we've learned from those who raised us in the faith, those who paid a price to raise us up and



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Watch
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CHANNEL



believed in us when we didn't believe in ourselves.

Like David, we are in a battle against giants, and if we keep our shepherd's bags full of good things and live according to our war manuals (aka the Word of God), we'll be victorious.

Never Quit

Psalms 138:7 is a favorite of mine: "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me."

I love David's never-quit attitude. Those who know me know that's how I live my life. I often get asked, "How do you keep going after all these years of preaching around the world?"

There are lots of secrets I could give, but my greatest is this: I don't quit. It's simply not in my vocabulary. I don't allow "quit" in my head. I don't allow it in my heart. I don't allow it in my ministry staff. I don't quit. Period.

In the military, we used to say, "The only way to stop a U.S. Marine with an M16 is surrender."

Now I say, "The only way to stop a Bible-believing, tongue-talking, devil-casting-out believer is surrender."

There's no other way to stop us. We don't surrender. And if we don't quit, the enemy can't win.

Psalms 23:4 says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

There really is a place called the Valley of the Shadow of Death in the Holy Land between Jericho and Jerusalem. It was the main route by which shepherds would take the flocks from the Jordan River Valley up to the hills of Judea for feeding. There are steep cliffs on both sides all the way through.

It's also filled with caves. Bandits would hide in them to steal the sheep and even kill the shepherds in the process. That doesn't even include the wild animals that called the place home. That's the place that inspired David to write that psalm.


He looked at that place known for danger and death and said, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."

Your Key to Victory

That might not be the valley you walk in, but I guarantee you, that as you serve the Lord, you'll encounter giants—people and situations that will threaten your life, try to hurt you, mess with your body, attack your money, threaten your family, invade your congregation. Every one of them is bent on stopping you from doing what God has

called you to do.

To survive, you must be so washed by the Word of God that you can't be distracted or defeated. All you know is this: *I am invincible. God always gives me the victory. I am more than a conqueror. The Lord is on my side, and nothing is going to harm me.*

It's time to grab the lion by the beard. That's the key to your victory no matter what your battle looks like. You're a child of God and your shepherd's pouch is filled. No matter what giants you're facing, you're armed for battle and destined to win! 



WORDS OF FAITH FOR
A GOOD FUTURE

THE BLESSING has been God's will for mankind ever since the Garden of Eden.

(Gen. 1:28)

**The curse was not God's idea;
satan produced it by convincing
Adam and Eve to sin.**

(Gen. 3:1)

**All human heartache and
destruction is satan's work,
and Jesus came to destroy it.**

(Acts 10:38)

**Through His life, death and
resurrection, Jesus defeated
the devil, overcame the curse
and restored everything Adam
lost in the Fall.**

(John 10:10)





“After nine years in London, God called me back to Sierra Leone. My pastor ordained me, and I went home. One thing that my country didn’t have at the time was the message of the Word of Faith.”





by
Melanie
Henry

For the Love of Learning

MILLICENT MACAULEY

EXPLAINED THE UPCOMING ASSIGNMENT TO HER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE. SHE WATCHED THEIR FACES AS THEY ASKED QUESTIONS. IN A COUNTRY WHERE SCHOOL WASN'T FREE, THESE WERE THE FORTUNATE CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS MADE SACRIFICES TO GET THEM EDUCATED.

Millicent had once been among them. Although both of her parents desired a higher education, neither had the opportunity. Her father, a retired policeman, and her mother, a homemaker and seamstress, had made it their goal to educate all six of their children.

Millicent remembered how she and her siblings teased their father: "Of course you should get a diploma! You read *all* of our books!"

He had, too. He'd devoured their textbooks and assigned reading, all for the love of learning.

After school that day, Millicent made her way to Lumley Beach. She had a lot of thinking to do. What better place to do it than strolling along the boardwalk? She listened as the birds chirped, felt the ocean breeze on her face, and watched fishing boats heading for shore.

Millicent's life had been good



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

AUG

		Old Testament	New Testament
Sun	1	Ps. 90-92; Prov. 19:18-29	
Mon	2	2 Chr. 14:9-17:19	2 Cor. 3
Tue	3	2 Chr. 18:1-20:19	2 Cor. 4
Wed	4	2 Chr. 20:20-23:11	2 Cor. 5
Thu	5	2 Chr. 23:12-25:28	2 Cor. 6
Fri	6	2 Chr. 26-28	2 Cor. 7
Sat	7	2 Chr. 29-30	
Sun	8	Ps. 93-96; Prov. 20:1-15	
Mon	9	2 Chr. 31:1-33:9	2 Cor. 8
Tue	10	2 Chr. 33:10-35:9	2 Cor. 9
Wed	11	2 Chr. 35:10-Ez. 1:11	2 Cor. 10
Thu	12	Ezra 2	2 Cor. 11
Fri	13	Ezra 3:1-6:12	2 Cor. 12
Sat	14	Ezra 6:13-8:23	
Sun	15	Ps. 97-101; Prov. 20:16-30	
Mon	16	Ezra 8:24-10:44	2 Cor. 13
Tue	17	Neh. 1-3	Gal. 1
Wed	18	Neh. 4-6	Gal. 2
Thu	19	Neh. 7:1-65	Gal. 3
Fri	20	Neh. 7:66-9:38	Gal. 4
Sat	21	Neh. 10:1-11:24	
Sun	22	Ps. 102-103; Prov. 21:1-15	
Mon	23	Neh. 11:25-12:47	Gal. 5
Tue	24	Neh. 13-Est. 2:18	Gal. 6
Wed	25	Est. 2:19-6:14	Eph. 1
Thu	26	Est. 7-10	Eph. 2
Fri	27	Job 1-3	Eph. 3
Sat	28	Job 4:1-6:13	
Sun	29	Ps. 104; Prov. 21:16-31	
Mon	30	Job 6:14-8:22	Eph. 4
Tue	31	Job 9-10	Eph. 5

in Sierra Leone. She couldn't imagine a better city to live in than Freetown. A port city on the Atlantic Ocean in West Africa, it had been settled by former slaves from the U.S., the Caribbean, Africa and Great Britain. Lush with palm trees, coconut trees and fruit trees, the soil and sun nurtured the people.

Millicent had attended Freetown's Fourah Bay College, the first western-style university built in West Africa. She earned her Bachelor of Arts with a postgraduate diploma in education. For almost three years she had lived her dream: educating the hungry minds of the children in her country.

Now, something inside was tugging at Millicent's heart.

Come away with Me. I have more for you.

She knew it was the voice of God. In order to obey, would she have to leave her family? Her career? Her city? Her country?

Finding Faith

"My life in Sierra Leone was rich and full," Millicent recalls. "People from our church, along with family and friends, congregated at our house. My mother was always cooking wonderful things. There were lots of children playing in the yard.

"But we'd never been taught the plan of salvation. It wasn't until I finished college that I was born again. Although I didn't know a great deal, I knew it was God tugging at me. I didn't hear His voice, but the message was clear. He had something more for me.

"Following that leading, in 1982 I moved to London, England. There I attended the London School of Accountancy. London was very different from the slower-paced life in Sierra Leone, but I enjoyed it. A childhood friend had moved there ahead of me, and I lived with her. We attended church, and during that time I felt the call of God on my life.

"In 1985, we met a girl who lived very close to our dormitory. She invited us to attend her church, and my life was forever changed. The church was Faith Christian Fellowship, which had been founded by Dr. Buddy Harrison, the Reverend Kenneth Hagin's son-in-law. For the first time, I heard the Word of Faith. It was as though God had opened a door for me into another world!

"The church was all the way across London, but I didn't care. They had a small Bible college which I attended. During that time, Papa Kenneth Copeland started holding Believers' Conventions in Brighton, England. Brighton is

far away on the seaside, but we attended them all. I volunteered as an usher and became a Partner. I bought their materials and devoured them.

"In 1991, after nine years in London, God called me back to Sierra Leone. My pastor ordained me, and I went home. One thing that my country didn't have at the time was the message of the Word of Faith. Although we didn't have Christian programming then, a television slot was given to it every Sunday evening. I was invited to become a regular panelist on that national TV program. I also accepted invitations to minister and started holding meetings all over the city.

"In 1993, I started getting invitations to minister in the U.S. I traveled to the U.S. to minister in 1993, 1994 and 1996. In 1996, the Lord told me that He had more training for me. I was to move to the U.S."

Putting Down Deep Roots

Millicent moved to New Jersey, where she taught middle school and high school. She also helped a local church get off the ground.

"In 2011, I was ordained a pastor at Glorious Light Christian Ministries, Paulsboro, N.J." Millicent recalls. "The first time I visited KCM was in 1997. I went to celebrate the ministry's first 30 years. I attended the Great Lakes Convention in 2007, then several more over the years. In 2017, I attended the celebration of 50 years of ministry. That's when they announced that they were going to start a Bible college."

Millicent heard the announcement with her ears. She wasn't listening with her heart. She'd lived so many places and moved so many times that she wasn't interested in relocating again.

She was settled. She had put down roots.

Her life in New Jersey was fulfilling.

Going about her business during the convention, Millicent got caught up in the crowd and swept along. She found herself in a room where people who were interested in finding out more about Kenneth Copeland Bible College had gathered.

"If you attend the college, you have to relocate here," she heard one of the facilitators of the meeting explain.

This isn't for me, Millicent thought as she left the meeting.

Back home in New Jersey, she could find no rest. Her once-ordered life no longer felt settled. She tried to step back into it and find the place she'd known before.

Except, it no longer existed.

Each time she prayed, the Lord told Millicent the same thing.

Fill out the application.

There was no use pretending she didn't know what application. She contacted KCBC. When the application arrived, she filled it out and returned it. Then, she heard back.

She'd been accepted into the first class of KCBC.

Believing Bigger

Although Millicent wasn't thrilled about moving again, she would never disobey the Lord. She wanted to live in the center of His perfect will. In preparation for the move, she listed her house for sale. She would need the money from the sale to pay her tuition and live in Texas.

The house didn't sell.

Leaving it on the market, Millicent took her available funds and the \$2,000 her church had given her and moved to Texas. The first day of class, Kenneth Copeland spoke to the students.

"Don't you dare quit now!" he said. Later he added, "The valedictorian of this first class will receive a gold and diamond ring. So don't quit!"

As Millicent left class, the Lord spoke to her.

I want you to believe Me to be the valedictorian.

"Me? With all those people in this class? Are You talking to me?"

Millicent struggled, not knowing how she would get her faith up for such a thing. After all, some of her classmates had doctorate degrees. Although she was fluent in English, it hadn't been her first language.

Who am I to be valedictorian? she thought. *Me, a girl from Sierra Leone?*

Each day Millicent sat in class, listening and learning. But in her head, she fought a continual battle. Tired, she realized she was battling her own doubt and unbelief.

"OK, Lord, if You say so, I will believe to be the valedictorian. All things are possible with You."

Driving to class each day she said, "Lord, since You say that I'm the valedictorian, thank You that all things are possible with You."

Millicent called two of her closest friends.

"Let me tell you what God is saying..."

Both women agreed to believe with her. Each time her friend from Colorado called, she began the conversation by saying, "Hello, Miss Valedictorian!"

While creating a vision board, Millicent found a picture of herself wearing a cap and gown. Going online, she found a picture of a valedictorian with the honor cord and everything it represented. Cutting the head off her photo in the cap and gown, she superimposed it over the picture of the valedictorian. Then, underneath the picture she wrote: Millicent Macauley, Valedictorian of the Charter Class of Kenneth Copeland Bible College.

She looked at it every day and thanked God.



As Millicent left class, the Lord spoke to her.
I want you to believe Me to be the valedictorian.

2020 KCBC graduation

The Backlash

"The devil tried to discourage me," Millicent recalls. "My house hadn't sold, and I was still paying bills for it. Then someone broke into it. As soon as we finished classes in the spring of 2019, I rushed back to New Jersey for the summer. I packed and tried to sell my furniture.

"I had a buyer for my house, but two days before the sale he pulled out of the deal. Without that sale, I didn't have a penny. I'd spent all my money on tuition, living expenses in Texas and paying my bills in New Jersey.

"How could I go back to KCBC without any money to pay tuition? After prayer, I stepped out in faith and flew back. I had \$40 in my purse. Someone picked me up from the airport and I gave them \$20 for gas. That left me with \$20.

"The next day was orientation. I had another battle in my head. Should I go with no money to pay tuition? Then I remembered that orientation was mandatory. I decided to go and trust God."

Millicent stood in line to talk to the woman who took tuition payments. In a quiet voice the woman said, "Do you have any money for me?"

"No," Millicent replied, "give me until Monday." She didn't know why she said Monday. The words just popped out of her mouth.

The next day, Millicent was worshipping when a relative called.



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"Have you paid your fees yet?"
"No, I'm trusting God."
"Use my credit card and pay \$1,000. I'll loan you the money."

On Monday, Millicent paid \$1,000 toward her tuition. During that week, one of her friends wired \$2500 into her account.

"All of a sudden my fees were paid," Millicent says. "Within a month, my house sold. Even though it was a short sale, I got some money back. I paid the \$1,000 I owed and had money to keep me going for a while."

Once again, God dropped something into Millicent's heart that, she admits, was too big for her to believe.

"He told me to believe Him for my story to be told in the *BVOV* magazine. It felt too big for me, but I'd learned that all my arguments were just doubt and unbelief. I made another vision board, this time

including my picture in the magazine. I looked at it every day, thanking God.

"I enjoyed writing, so I volunteered to work on our yearbook. The pastor for young adults came to the college one day. He said they needed some older faces to serve in the 18- to 30-year-old classes. The Lord urged me to go, and I was there every week. Many of my young classmates were in that group. God gave me an assignment to be a prayer warrior for them.

"There was also the prison ministry," Millicent recalled.

"I went with them on an outreach," she said. "When the pandemic hit, we were unable to meet in classes anymore. Our classes became virtual. Life was so different, but that's the way we finished our year."

Millicent graduated with her class in 2020. Because of the pandemic, they couldn't have a normal graduation service. Instead, they were scheduled to graduate on Friday evening, Aug. 7, during the Southwest Believers' Convention.

The Valedictorian

When the service was held, Millicent Macauley was announced as class valedictorian. An article about the graduation was featured in the October issue of *BVOV* and highlighted Millicent as the 2020 class valedictorian.

"My friend came from Colorado for graduation, and we stayed together in a hotel. The morning of graduation, out of the blue, I had serious back pain. I couldn't even walk properly up steps. I confessed the Word of God, declaring my healing, yet the pain continued all day.

"When I walked into the hall before we marched, every pain lifted from my body. Drs. George and Terri Pearsons announced that I was valedictorian. They read my accomplishments, which included a 4.0 GPA and A's on every test. They also read my mission statement: to defend, promote and facilitate justice for minority groups such as at-risk youth, women and children.

"Papa Copeland presented me with a plaque and my ring. 'There will never be another ring like this one,' he said. 'It's one of a kind—for one of a kind!' Then I gave my speech. The whole experience was glorious.

"Partnership with KCM is one of the best things that has happened in my life," says Millicent. "They have taught me how to latch onto God's Word, overcome lack and prosper. I've learned to stand for my healing and for my finances. Partnership with KCM has led me to places I never imagined I would go."

Following graduation, Millicent asked God what He wanted her to do next. Someone blessed her with money, and she bought land in Sierra Leone, where God has directed her to start a resource center. After all these years, the Word of Faith is still not taught much in her country, Millicent says. Not because the pastors aren't willing. They simply don't have the resources they need.

In addition to providing those resources, the Lord directed her to start a literacy center for children, as well as for young and older adults. Any adult who wants to learn to read will be taught, Millicent said.

The curriculum? The Bible, of course. 📖

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What To Do When...

Something Feels Impossible

We've all faced impossible-looking hurdles. Whether it's something serious or silly, we've all been there.

Good news, Superkid: God's Word tells of a lot of seemingly "impossible" situations that happened just as the Lord said they would. So let's see how possible the impossible can be!

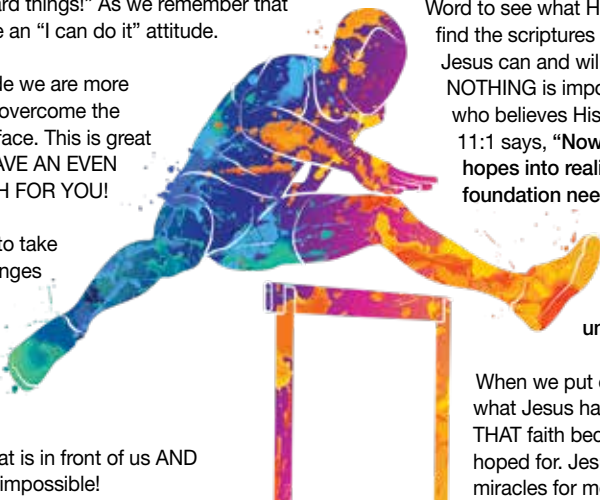
The word *impossible* means "not possible, unable to be, exist, happen. Not possible to be true, hopelessly difficult." Let's talk about the difference between what is truly impossible and what *seems* impossible.

When we think something is impossible, we may be feeling insecure about our own abilities! For instance, when you're faced with a challenge do you think, *I can't do that? That's IMPOSSIBLE!* I have been guilty. These situations don't require a miracle, but require us to get to work. I've felt that way at times when I've had to clean out the garage or attic. So much stuff! When my mind says, "You can't do that!" it isn't my inability speaking, but my laziness. Maybe you've felt like it was impossible to clean your room, pass a test at school, or get along with your brother or sister.

MOST of the situations we feel are impossible are really just challenging. That means we could remove the idea of "impossible" and turn it into a possibility just by changing our attitude and thinking about it differently. Superkid, I want you to hear this: "You are amazing and you can do hard things!" Say that out loud, "I am amazing and I can do hard things!" As we remember that truth, we'll have an "I can do it" attitude.

With this attitude we are more empowered to overcome the challenges we face. This is great news, BUT I HAVE AN EVEN BETTER TRUTH FOR YOU!

We don't have to take on those challenges on our own! Jesus can enable us, giving us a superhuman ability to accomplish what is in front of us AND actually do the impossible!



Jesus Helps

Jesus said, "What appears humanly impossible is more than possible with God. For God can do what man cannot" (Luke 18:27, *The Passion Translation*).

Jesus was saying, when something seems hard, like giving your stuff away or doing something He (or your parent) tells you to do, it may seem impossible to you, but it IS possible with God.

Jesus Does What We Cannot

Another scripture we can go to for His help is Mark 9:23. A man asked the disciples to help his son but it was IMPOSSIBLE for them. So he asked Jesus to help his son and said, "If you're able to do something...help us!"

"Jesus said to him, 'What do you mean "if"? If you are able to believe, all things are possible to the believer.'"

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO BELIEVE!

Superkid, you are always able to believe in Jesus! No matter what you need help with, whether it just seems hard or is truly impossible, Jesus says all things are possible to those who believe what He says and believe that He CAN and that He WILL do what you ask.

When I need help from Jesus, I go to His Word to see what He has said to me. I find the scriptures of promise that tell me Jesus can and will help me. Remember NOTHING is impossible to someone who believes His Word. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen."

When we put our total FAITH in what Jesus has said in His Word, THAT faith becomes what we have hoped for. Jesus has done countless miracles for me just because I

Commander Kellie's Corner



trusted and believed His Word. He is so faithful!

The ONE Thing He Can't Do

The last thing I want you to know is this: There is one thing in the Bible that God said is IMPOSSIBLE. Shocked? God had made a big promise to Abraham and Sarah that they would have MANY children and grandchildren. But in the natural, they never could have children. On top of that they were SUPER OLD! How could they believe God would do this? *It's IMPOSSIBLE*, they thought. So God not only made them a promise, He did something unheard of!

"Now when God made a promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater than himself, he swore an oath on his own integrity to keep the promise as sure as God exists!" (Hebrews 6:13).

Do you know what this oath was? God swore on His own existence that He would KEEP HIS PROMISE. And God included us in this oath because we also inherited His promises in His Word. This is huge! Look at what the oath was:

"It is impossible for God to lie for we know that his promise and his vow will never change!" (verse 18).

We can rest and relax in His promises. Even if it takes a while to see the impossible happen, nothing is impossible, except that He would lie. So when we ask Him to help us with hard things, we can live in His promise and His oath every day, trusting that He will help us.

The next part of this verse is my favorite. He is so good and He loves us so much that He will help our faith in Him continue to grow and grow. "And now we have run into his heart to hide ourselves in his faithfulness. This is where we find his strength and comfort, for he empowers us to seize what has already been established ahead of time—an unshakable hope!" (verse 18).

Superkid, I'll end with this PROMISE from JESUS:

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20, *New International Version*).

BAM!

Commander Kellie



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Becoming Equipped

From hearing Kenneth Copeland's teaching *You Are the Prophet of Your Own Life*, my wife and I are equipped to receive so much more of the Holy Spirit's ministry. Each CD is imparting *both* faith and grace to us every time we hear it. I personally am getting so much more out of the Bible as I study it, as well. Praise God.

D.K. | Des Moines, Iowa

Manifested Miracle

Calcific tendonitis developed on my shoulder and I could not move my right arm. I prayed and believed God for my miracle and watched VICTORY Channel for three days. Then I went to the specialist—the knot on my shoulder was gone and I was able to move my arm.

S.B. | Creswell, Ore.

'No More Attacks'

I called and asked for prayer of agreement concerning the demonic attacks I was experiencing every night for a week. After receiving prayer from KCM Africa, the attacks stopped. Since then, I have been able to sleep well at night—no more attacks through dreams or in any other way. I praise the Lord for His manifested deliverance from the enemy.

B.N. | South Africa

Made New!

My husband and I recently became Partners with you and others on VICTORY Channel®. Most of my life, I thought I was living a Christian life. According to how I am now, I didn't even come close, until I was able to watch VICTORY. I feel alive for the first time since 1985.

For the last five or six years, I actively prayed to die. The black hole I was in just kept getting deeper. It seems like God is making me new all over. That insidious depression is gone, praise God!

J.W. | Oregon

"You can't just sit around waiting for God's blessings to drop out of heaven into your lap. You have to 'believe that ye receive.'"

—Kenneth Copeland



VICTORY Over Deadly Virus

Gloria, your ministering helped me survive a deadly, rare brain virus. Over three months in bed, I was blessed with the time to watch your messages on TV. It put me back on track with God's Word. I was channel-flipping and

found VICTORY Channel. You were speaking at a convention years ago. You made so much sense and were so sincere. I thank you from the bottom of my heart—you helped me heal through the Scriptures and gave me hopeful words and

thoughts. Then I heard Brother Kenneth. I knew I had found the best messengers of the Word.

L.W. | California

Desire Fulfilled

I'm 11 years old and had been believing for a German shepherd for a couple of years. Since they cost \$2,000 or more, I was believing for a debt-free dog. I prayed about it every night, put it on my vision list, and sowed a seed of \$20.

Last April, my mom was talking with someone from Texas who had to re-home one of her German shepherds, a 7-year-old retired service dog named Sasha.

The lady didn't ask for a fee, only that we buy a bed, collar and leash; and continue giving Sasha supplements for hip dysplasia. My parents drove me to Texas and told me we were visiting our good friends to pick up hunting equipment.

When we went to a house there, and they told me we were there to take Sasha home with us, I cried. She is my best friend and loves living with us. Bless the Lord. He did this for me. Thank you for teaching us that God is good and He gives us the desires of our hearts.

PS. I watch you every day on YouTube®.

S.M. | Colorado

The Word Ignited

Thank you, Brother Copeland, for the wisdom you share which ignites the Word in me. My heart is on Jesus and I don't look back. I praise God for you and precious Ms. Gloria. You two show how it's done.

K.H. | Ohio



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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I'm so proud of how you have opened your ministry door to different flows of

God's Spirit by having different ministers at the conventions. You didn't keep God in a box.

And now you have opened your door to many ministries on VICTORY. You are a bridge builder. The Lord is using KCM and all of us Partners to be part of His plan to save the United States, expose the corruption and be a forerunner to God's great worldwide awakening.

T.G. | Texas

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Living

IN GOD'S WILL

ANYONE WITH ANY SENSE SHOULD
WANT TO BE IN THE WILL OF GOD.



by Terri
Copeland
Pearsons

Being in the will of God sums up the Christian's goal in life. Walking daily in His will is the true mark of spirituality, and it's not because finding His will is hard and only the "special ones" will ever know it. The truth is, we are all special ones. The cry of God's heart is that we know His will.

Accordingly, He has equipped us with all we need that's necessary to both know that will *and* be able to do it; to discover His plan and fully, daily, walk it out. That equipping is called *grace*.

Grace is so *many* things that it is *everything*. One way to sum it up is: Grace is the God-given power *to be* what God wants us to be, *to do* what God wants us to do and *to have* what God wants us to have. It is by grace we are allowed to know and by grace we have the capacity to grasp and understand (Ephesians 1:6-9, 17-18).

How do we receive grace to know His will and do it? By faith: "For by grace are ye saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8).

A Look at Faith and Grace

Here's what faith in grace looks like:
Faith believes God has given grace for this

purpose *and* it is available. Faith responds to the grace given by receiving it—regardless of feelings of unworthiness. Faith believes that grace is sufficient to close the gap between our unworthiness and worthiness. Faith believes it can take, receive and possess as its own all that grace has provided. Furthermore, the very nature of faith is to respond to grace because it proceeds from grace.

We can have and use faith because God desired us to, and by His grace designed us to have and release faith even as He does. Faith is the arena God functions in. Grace opened the door for us into that arena, where we are always the winning conquerors over the lions, which the world intended to devour us. Grace by faith and faith by grace.

True, the will of God is complex. It is deep and wide. Its scope ranges from the monotonous to the grand. It is moment by moment yet spans eternity. It is unique to each individual person while embracing the whole of all creation. No particle of creation—whether spiritual or



natural—is too small to escape having destiny and purpose. No entity is so grand it requires no direction of the Divine One. So it's not uncommon for the will of God to seem so complex that we are too intimidated to actually require ourselves to reach for it.

Sure, there is some striving involved—the world is in a flow to keep us out of God's will. Any part of our thinking that has not been renewed to think like God thinks is going to be carnal and fleshly, and will pull against the will of God. (See Romans 8:5; Galatians 5:16-25.) But there is also a great prize involved, as Philippians 3:14 tells us: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Though the *fullness* of the prize awaits us at the end of this life's journey, there is a prize rewarded every moment we walk in the will of God in this life. For indeed, every moment in His will is a moment of knowing Him more. No prize is greater.

Trust and Obey

In all of its depth of complexities, following and accomplishing the will of God is as simple as "trust and obey." We are back now to faith and grace. Trust is resting in faith that grace will make His will known. Then faith obediently *acts* on that knowledge *expecting* to be empowered.

By now I'm sure your faith is growing, but you may still feel that to really comprehend the will of God for you is over your head. I understand. Although I, at least, had the assumption one *could* be in the will of God, generally speaking, I had the sense it would be hit or miss to accurately be in God's specific will, *and* to confidently *do* it.

But thanks be to God for my dad, Kenneth Copeland!

A number of years ago, our family had taken a few days to be together and have fun. On the last morning we all gathered for a time of prayer and Communion. Whenever we are together that way, one of us will usually be inspired by the Holy Spirit with a question for "Paw Paw" that will make way for a word from the Lord. Praise God, all our children have open ears and hungry hearts to hear the wise words he brings.

That day, my sister, Kellie, said, "You know, Dad, in just a few days some of the kids will be heading off to college. But even the ones not ready for that yet are at an age that they need to be especially clear about the will of God for their lives. Can you talk to us about how to know and be in His will?" I'm sure we all recall his answer a little differently, but I do know that each of us was stunned by its simplicity. His words were so saturated with grace—the power to be and do all He wants us to be and do—that our lives will forever be shaped by them. I will do my best to convey his lesson, especially in the light the Lord has continued to give to me.

First, he said the greatest prayer a person can

pray is, "Thy will be done" (Matthew 6:10). Making that declaration commands our own will to be in line with God's. All carnal thoughts and worldly pressures will yield to the believer who has chosen the Master's will above his own. Some things yield quicker than others, but nothing of the flesh or the devil is capable of forever resisting the will of a believer firmly united with the will of God. It also releases the mountain-moving faith that changes our circumstances to line up with the plan of God. Powerful!

The next thing Dad told us was so simple yet absolutely liberating. He explained that we are not required to know God's will way into the future. We only need to walk in His will for us today—just one day at a time.

He went on to remind us that we first find the will of God revealed in His Word. To whatever His Word says, we respond, "Thy will be done!" And then we do it! It's amazing how obedience to the obvious commands of the Lord—such as study, prayer, tithing, giving—can open the specific will of God to us. The greatest command is to love God and love others the same way He loves us. Living by love releases a free flow of His will in our lives: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

"Then," he said, "just do what is right in front of you to do."

Of course, keeping our lives free from ungodliness is essential. Sin cuts us off from the goodness God has planned for us. Just ask Adam. If we own a Bible, we have no excuse for not knowing what He has made obvious.

"So," he continued, "every day look for His will in His WORD and set your heart to do it. Then, as you pray in the spirit and fellowship with your loving heavenly Father, watch within for His leading. After all, Jesus said in John 16:13-14 that it is the purpose of the Holy Spirit's earthly ministry to lead, guide and show us God's will. If you continue to listen within and act on His leading (Romans 8:14), you will end your day—and eventually your life—fulfilling His will for you."

Believe it! Say it! Act on it! "Thy will be done!" 🙏

"No particle of creation—whether spiritual or natural—is too small to escape having destiny and purpose."



Terri Copeland Pearsons, the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland, is chief operating officer 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.



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**“Is going
from miracle to
miracle really God’s
highest plan for us?
Is it really the best
way to live?”**



**POINTS
TO GET
YOU
THERE:**

1

THE BLESSING has been God’s plan for His people ever since the Garden of Eden.

(Gen. 1:28)

2

Adam and Eve didn’t need miracles in Eden because everything in it was good.

(Gen. 1:31)

3

Sin opened the door to the curse, but Jesus has delivered us from the curse and restored **THE BLESSING**.

(Gal. 3:13-14)

4

Salvation includes preservation, material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension, health, restoration, soundness, and wholeness.

(1 Thess. 5:23)

5

The key to living in **THE BLESSING** is learning to think like God thinks and walk in His ways.

(Isa. 55:8-9)



by Gloria Copeland



Better Than a Miracle

IF YOU COULD CHOOSE BETWEEN LIVING IN THE BLESSING AND LIVING IN MIRACLES, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Most people would opt for the latter. They'd think about all the times in their lives they've needed God to rescue them from trouble, and decide that being able to get a miracle any time they needed it would truly be the best.

But would it?

Certainly, miracles are marvelous. And when, in our time of need, God sends one, we're always grateful. But is going from miracle to miracle really God's highest plan for us? Is it really the best way to live?

No, it's not.

While it's wonderful to be miraculously healed of sickness; it's even better to walk continually in THE BLESSING of divine health so that you don't get sick in the first place. While it's wonderful to get miracle money in the mail when you're too broke to pay your rent; it's far better to live in THE BLESSING of divine prosperity so that you always have enough to pay your own bills and be a BLESSING to others.

I can attest to this from experience because Ken and I have lived both ways. For the first five years we were born again, we needed miracles a lot. Especially when it came to finances, we were always on the edge of disaster. God saw us through and miraculously kept us afloat, but I like where we are today much better. I don't need a miracle

to pay my light bill anymore. I'm not living in lack and financial desperation, because we've learned to walk in God's BLESSING.

THE BLESSING has always been God's plan for His people! That's why in Genesis 1, the first thing He did when He created man was to BLESS him and put him in the Garden of Eden.

Adam didn't need God to work miracles for him in Eden. He and Eve didn't have to go to Him for healing or emergency supplies because sickness and lack didn't exist in the Garden. Everything they needed to live a BLESSED life was available there in abundance and all of it was good.

But, as we all know, Adam and Eve messed things up. They bowed their knee to the devil and disobeyed God by doing the one thing He told them not to do. They ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and their sin opened the door for the curse to come on the earth.

The curse is the opposite of THE BLESSING. It includes everything bad—all sickness and disease, all poverty and lack, every work of the devil that steals, kills and destroys.

The entrance of the curse, however, didn't change God's desire for His people. He still wanted them to be BLESSED. So, He made a covenant of BLESSING with Abraham and ultimately sent Jesus to earth to pay the price for our sins so that

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Sun., Aug. 1
God Only Does
What Is Good
Kenneth Copeland

Aug. 2-6
Goodness Chases
After You
**Kenneth Copeland
and Greg Stephens**

Sun., Aug. 8
God's Goodness
in His Covenant
Kenneth Copeland

Aug. 9-13
Growing Up Spiritually
**Kenneth Copeland
and Greg Stephens**

Sun., Aug. 15
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Faith Is Love
Kenneth Copeland

Aug. 16-20
Keys to Living
In Divine Health
**Kenneth Copeland and
Dr. Don & Mary Colbert**

Sun., Aug. 22
Seeking God's Way First
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Faith in the
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Kenneth Copeland

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Kingdom Principles of
Sowing and Reaping
Kenneth Copeland

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This Same Jesus
Kenneth Copeland

we could be redeemed from the curse and "the blessing of Abraham" might come on us through Him (Galatians 3:13-14).

"But I thought Jesus just provided us with salvation," you might say.

He did, but salvation means more than you might think. The word *salvation* doesn't just refer to forgiveness and a future in heaven. *Salvation* means "preservation, material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension. It denotes pardon, protection, liberty, health, restoration, soundness and wholeness."

Look again at those last two words: *soundness* and *wholeness*. They sum up God's will for us in every area of our lives. Spirit, soul and body, He wants us to be *wholly* BLESSED.

The Apostle Paul confirms this in his prayer in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly;" he writes, "and...your whole spirit and soul and body be [kept sound and complete] unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

You Can't Be Ignorant and BLESSED

If BLESSING, soundness and wholeness are God's will for us, as Christians, why aren't we all experiencing it?

We haven't experienced it because we don't know enough about the Word of God.

As Keith Moore says, "We can be ignorant and get healed" (miraculously through the gifts of the Holy Spirit). "But if we want to live healed and in the continual BLESSING of God, we must know some things." We must learn to think like God thinks and cooperate with Him.

His desire is for us to "prosper in all things and be in health," but we can only do that as our "soul prospers" (3 John 2, *New King James Version*). And our soul can only prosper to the degree we know God's thoughts and ways, because His thoughts and ways are right. If we're not thinking and acting like He says, we're wrong, and that puts us out of alignment with THE BLESSING.

That's why God gave us His written Word. It's also why Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

God's Word is what teaches us how to walk in THE BLESSING. It's as essential to our life as food is. Everything God said in the Bible has been written for our good and advantage. Not just a few of His words but all of them "are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4:22).

Feeding God's Word into our hearts, believing it and obeying it are the keys to living the kind of life Jesus came to give us. God's "word is truth," He said. "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 17:17, 8:31-32).

The truth of God's Word is good news!

Apart from it there's nothing to feed on in this dark world but bad news—and when you eat bad news, you get bad results. You wind up in trouble, turmoil, sickness and lack because you're operating in the world's system instead of God's, so He can't manifest Himself in your life the way He desires.

That's the situation the people in Proverbs 1 got themselves into. "They...did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would [have] none of my counsel," God said.

"They despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil" (verses 29-33).

Notice, according to those verses we get to choose the fruit we eat in our lives. We can choose to eat bad fruit by remaining simple (which means ignorant of God's Word) or being foolish (which is to be knowingly disobedient to Him). Or we can choose to eat good fruit by honoring God and hearkening to what He said.

Personally, I like to live in a good place, enjoy a good life, and be free from the fear of evil, so I've made up my mind to eat good fruit. I've determined to put His Word first place in my life and follow the instructions He gave us in Isaiah 55:

Come ye, buy, and eat...hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live.... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.... So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it (verses 1-3, 9, 11).

It's Good to Have a Fat Soul

Remember how I mentioned that 3 John 2 says we prosper and increase in health "as our soul prospers"? That's what God is talking about when He says, "Let your soul delight itself in fatness." He's saying, "Feed on My thoughts and My Word, until your soul is fat and prosperous. Then, you can really live!"

It's not necessarily good to have a fat body, but it's great to have a fat soul. It's wonderful when you're so full of God's Word that you're continually seeing His promises come to pass in your life and being increasingly conformed to His image.

"Wait a minute," you might say, "I thought I was re-created in God's image the instant I got born again."

You were, in your spirit. The moment you received Jesus as your Lord, the old sinner you used to be on the inside passed away and your

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inner man was made the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21). Your outer man, however, didn't undergo the same instantaneous change. Even if you were physically healed or delivered from something when you were born again, for the most part, unlike your spirit which was totally made new, your soul and body remained the same.

For them to change, you must be "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2), and that's a process. As you pursue that process, depending on how much you give yourself to God and His Word, over time you start looking on the outside like the born-again you on the inside.

Your habits change.

Your countenance brightens.

Even elements of your personality change.

My personality is different today than it was when I first got born again. I used to be timid. I so disliked public speaking that the first time the pastor of a church where Kenneth was preaching asked me to get up and greet the people, I flatly refused. After spending a few years in the Word, however, that shyness vanished. I started preaching, and the devil couldn't shut me up.

Really, the Word of God changed everything for Ken and me. Overall, we used to live at such a low level it was pitiful. We didn't know what our future was or what job we should take. We lived in bondage to debt, and if sickness came, we didn't know anything else to do but go to bed and be sick.

But just as Jesus said, as we continued in His Word, the truth made us free. It showed us how to make sure our future is bright and how to make wise decisions in life. It brought us out of debt, prospered us and gave us the faith to not only receive healing when we got sick, but to live well.

As a result, we're not desperate people anymore! We have the joy of thinking God's higher thoughts, walking in His higher ways and living in THE BLESSING.

I'm not saying we never have any trouble. As long as we live in this world, trouble will come to all of us. But because Jesus has overcome the world, and we're in Him, we can do what He says and triumph over trouble. We can come out of it whole, undamaged and intact because we're living in THE BLESSING system.

One of the books in the Bible that lays that system out very clearly is Proverbs. The word *proverbs* in Hebrew means "something to rule your life by." It's the same word used in Genesis 1:18 that says God set lights in the heaven "to *rule* over the day and over the night."

The more we honor God by ruling ourselves according to His principles, the more entrance He has into our lives and the more good He can do for us. So, if you're eager to walk in His best, Proverbs is a good book to study. It doesn't mince words. It says, "Do this...and you will be BLESSED. Do that...and you will be cursed."

I'll confess, many years ago I used to be a little afraid when I read those things. It seemed to me

that, in some areas, doing what God said might really cost me. When Ken and I saw in Proverbs 22:7, for example, that "the borrower is servant to the lender" and that we're to "owe no man any thing, but to love" (Romans 13:8) it looked to me like we were doomed.

We couldn't see in the natural how we would get by without borrowing money. But somehow God gave us the gumption to obey Him anyway. We committed to living a debt-free lifestyle—and it turned out for our good.

That's always the way it is with God's Word. You don't ever have to be afraid of doing what He says. Everything He tells you to do springs out of His love for you and His desire to BLESS you.

What's more, His Word is His wisdom—and His wisdom works! "The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth" (Proverbs 3:19), so when we operate in His wisdom, the earth responds. It does for us what God originally created it to do, which was to produce freely all the things man needs to live in God's highest good.

No wonder Proverbs 3:13 says, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom!"

"Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her" (verses 16-18).

Talk about wonderful! God's wisdom is "a tree of life." That's the tree God planted in the center of the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve never ate of that tree, but as believers we can. We can partake of it by hearkening to God's Word and obeying Him.

We can walk in divine wisdom, live as man was originally designed to live and, instead of surviving from miracle to miracle, we can live every day in THE BLESSING of God. ⑦



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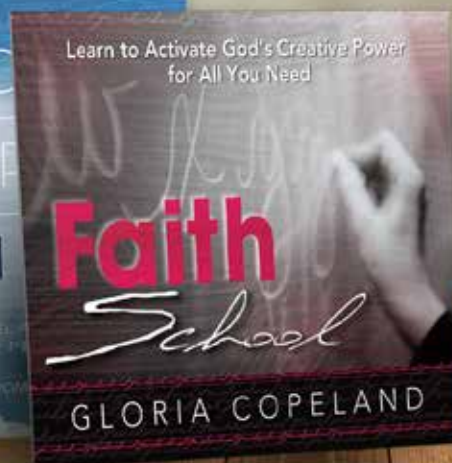
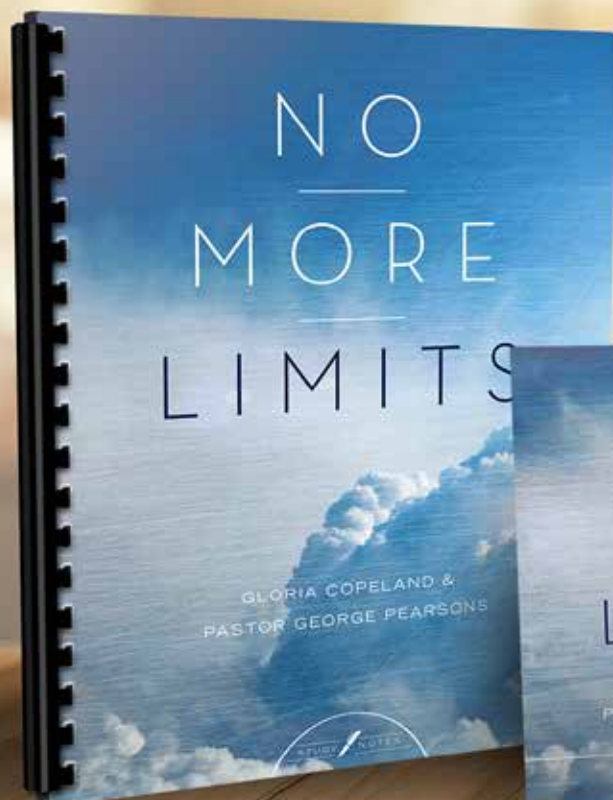




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