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MINISTRIES

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

VICTORY

APRIL 2023

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A Better Way

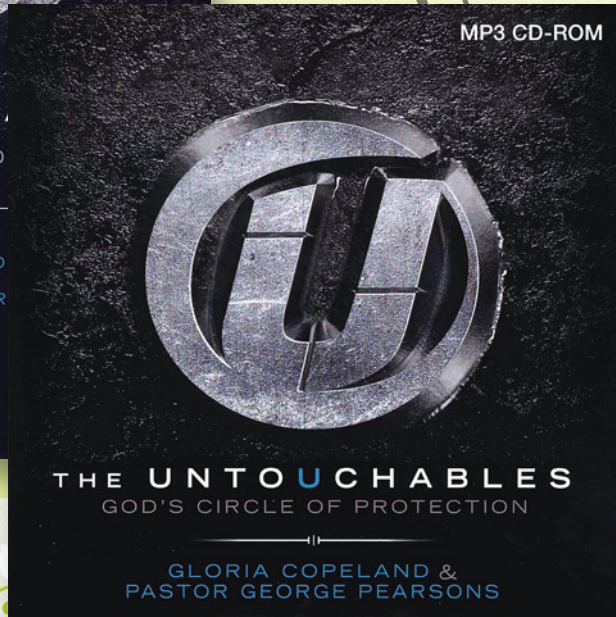
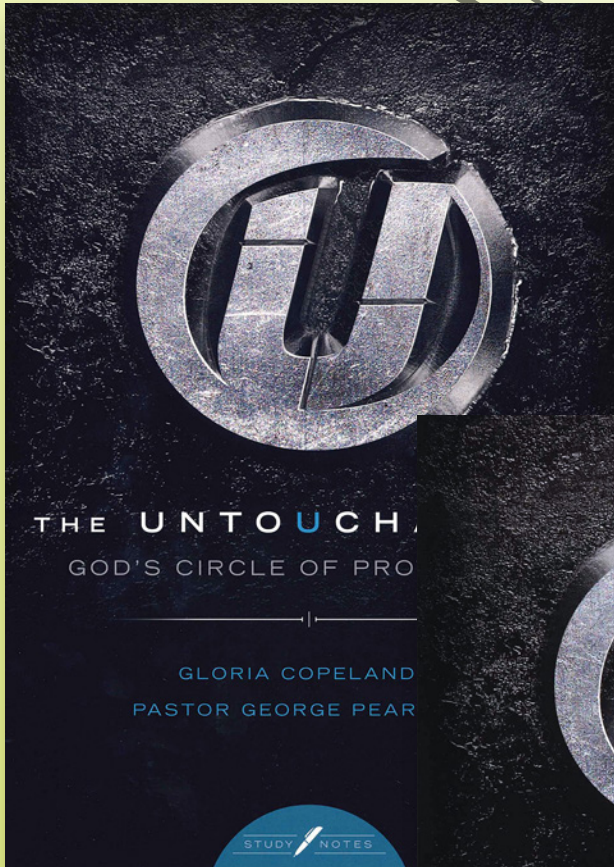
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When Keith Miller learned that "sometimes obeying God runs contrary to our natural inclination," God showed him how to overcome a mountain of debt and become debt free.

THIS DIGITAL
ISSUE CONTAINS A

Bonus
article

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Editor's Letter

Do It Again!



Unlike my three adults sons, I don't share a strong interest in some sports. I do, however, try to keep up with who's winning, who was traded and who's complaining the loudest—for the sake of the occasional office "water cooler" conversation.

What I do still find interesting, though, is Nike's catchy little campaign slogan from the late 1980s, "Just Do It!" The company reportedly made nearly \$10 billion worldwide in merchandise sales—all based on the urging of those three little words.

I sometimes think about that slogan when reading about how, after Peter and his buddies had spent all day and night fishing but had caught nothing, Jesus came along and told Peter, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish" (Luke 5:4, *New Living Translation*). In other words, Jesus said: "Do it again!"

There's no indication these men were complaining because they had nothing to show for a hard day's work. What is obvious, though, is that they were tired. That aside, Peter said to Jesus: "Master...we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." The Bible says, "This time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking" (verses 5-7, *NLT*).

Sometimes we do things believing we're in God's timing, that we're moving according to His direction and instruction, and we see good results. But then there are times when, after we've tried and failed, we just sit back, waiting for a miraculous move of God to happen. We think, *Well, I've tried and I've tried and it's just not working, so I'm not going to try anymore. Besides, if this was God's will for me it wouldn't be so hard.*

Jesus didn't need to ask Peter if they had caught any fish, because He already knew the answer. He wanted to see Peter obey His instruction and just "do it again!"

Opportunity is all around us. There is a time to go after it, but there is also a time to be still. The important thing is that we recognize the difference. That we move when God says move.

When He says to do it, even if that means *doing it again*, just do it!

Hope you enjoy this month's issue!

Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor

KCM EUROPE



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"I was so angry that I started banging the steering wheel and shouting, 'You know what? I don't receive this! Satan, get out of my way in Jesus' Name!'"

—Lynette Miller

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When The LORD first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.*

For 50 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

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The Ultimate Weapon

by Kenneth Copeland



One day, back when I was a teenager, I made a mistake I will never forget. In a fit of anger I wisecracked at my dad, and when he scolded me for it I put up my fists as if I were challenging him to a fight. My dad was a wonderful, loving, godly man, so it never occurred to me that he'd accept my challenge. But he did...and the next thing I knew I was lying on my back in the closet in the dark.

At first, I couldn't figure out where I was. The moment before, I'd been standing in the bedroom in front of the closet glaring at my dad. Now, I couldn't see anything. *That old man blinded me!* I thought. Reaching out my hand, I felt clothes all around me and realized what had happened. My dad had knocked me backward into the closet and shut the door.

When I came out, my mother said,

"Kenneth, what were you thinking? Didn't you know your dad used to be a prize-winning boxer?"

I clearly did not.

So, she filled me in.

She explained that back in the days when little towns across the country used to arrange fights between the town tough guy and anyone who would challenge him. People from all around would pay to come watch, and the winner of the match would get the lion's share of the money.

"Your dad and your Uncle Carl once fought in such matches in towns from here to California and back, and paid for the trip with the prize money they won," she said. "Neither of them ever lost a fight!"

Lesson learned. I never challenged my dad



POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1

Jesus totally defeated the devil and stripped him of all his authority. (Col. 2:15)

2

Because Jesus won His Name by conquest, every other name is subject to it. (Phil. 2:10-11)

3

The Name of Jesus is the only Name that stops the devil in his tracks. (Acts 4:12)

4

As a member of God's family you can speak Jesus' Name as if it's your very own. (Eph. 3:14-15)

5

The Name of Jesus puts you in a place where you can say to the devil, "Get under my feet!" (Eph. 1:21)

like that again. The opportunity did present itself though.

A few years later, after getting home from the Army, I was angrily backtalking my mother early one morning in the kitchen, and my dad overheard me. Coming around the corner, he caught me by the lapels of my bathrobe, picked me up off the floor and pinned me against the refrigerator. "Sonny boy," he said, "you and I are going to have a fight, and I'm going to win."

This time, instead of putting up my fists, I showed him the respect he was due. "No sir, put me down," I said. "You've already won!"

If we as born-again believers only realized it, the devil is in the same position with us I was in with my dad that day. He knows from experience the kind of power we can wield against him. He made the mistake 2,000 years ago of challenging our LORD Jesus to a fight and lost everything. So, when the devil messes with us, we can pin him to the wall with Jesus' Name.

We can say, "Devil, you and I are going to have a fight, and in Jesus' Name I'm going to win," and he will flee from us (James 4:7). He'll show us the same respect he shows Jesus Himself because in that all-powerful Name we've already won.

The devil actually knows this better than most Christians do. He and all his cohorts tremble when a born-again child of God who has faith in Jesus' Name speaks it, because they know what that Name represents. They are fully aware that not only did Jesus inherit that Name, not only was it bestowed on Him by Almighty God, He achieved it by conquest. He won it by undertaking the greatest battle ever fought and emerging from it victorious out of the very bowels of hell.

An Unforgettable Defeat

The devil will never forget the defeat Jesus dealt to him and his evil forces that day. It caught them totally by surprise because they thought they'd finally conquered Him. Having carried out their plot to get Him crucified, they'd watched Him die on the cross, like a sinner. They'd heard Him cry out the first words of the 22nd Psalm, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" They'd been there as He breathed His last breath and descended into the pit of hell, where He'd been tortured more than any man ever had or ever will.

They hadn't understood the reason for it all, of course. Only later did the truth become

clear: Jesus didn't die and go to hell because He had sinned. He hadn't! He did it to pay the price for the sin of all mankind forever. By faith, He took into Himself every sin that had ever been or ever would be committed by any human being, so that by faith, whoever believed on Him "might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus suffered "the pains of death" (plural) in our place by dying both physically and spiritually (Acts 2:24), so that we could live.

"Whoa, Brother Copeland, you took that a step too far!" someone might say, "Jesus didn't die spiritually. He didn't go to hell."

Yes, He did. Hebrews 2 makes that clear. It says that for some little time, God ranked the Son of man "lower than [and inferior to] the angels" (verse 7). The devil is a fallen angel. He's the angel of death. So, when Jesus "humbled himself, and became obedient unto death" (Philippians 2:8), He came under a death sentence physically and spiritually.

Years ago, a Methodist pastor received confirmation of this in an unusual way. He'd heard from some of the members of his congregation that I'd been preaching at one of the local churches there in town that Jesus went to hell for us, and he'd gotten so riled up about it he decided to confront me. Right in the middle of one of my evening services, he came barreling through the door and headed toward the platform. Watching him come toward me, I had no idea what to expect. He was a big man and I could see he was strong, so I just said, "Jesus, here he comes!"

Just before he reached the platform, he pointed his finger at me with a frown on his face and started to verbally tear into me. But right at that moment, The LORD filled him with the Holy Spirit. The only English words he got out were "I'll tell you..." and after that all he could do was talk in tongues. He put his hand over his mouth and finally just ducked his head and walked out.

Later, he came to see me and said, "Copeland, I apologize! When I got home last night, I couldn't sleep so I went over to the church and just fell down on the floor praying in other tongues. It was so good! After a while, I stopped and said, 'Jesus, did You go to hell?' and He answered, *You'd better believe it, big boy. If I hadn't, you would* (see Acts 2:27).

That's true about all of us. We all would be destined for hell if Jesus hadn't gone there

EVENTS 2023

Branson

Victory Campaign

April 13-15 | Branson, Mo.

FlashPoint LIVE

May 11-12 | Nashville, TN

South Africa

Victory Campaign

May 12-13 | Bromhof, Randburg, South Africa

Europe

Victory Campaign

June 1-3 | Harrogate, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Chattanooga

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June 22-24 | Chattanooga, Tenn.

Southwest Believers' Convention

July 31-Aug. 5 | Fort Worth, Texas

St. Louis

Victory Campaign

Oct. 26-28 | St. Louis, Mo.

Omaha

Victory Campaign

Nov. 9-11 | Omaha, Neb.

Kenneth Copeland is also speaking here:

Word of Faith Convention
Aug. 9-11 : Southfield, Mich.
wordoffaith.cc

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion
Aug. 18 : Brooklyn Park, Minn.
lwcc.org

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in our place. But, praise God, He did. In fact, it was when He was in the pit of hell that the devil and all the demonic hosts realized what a catastrophic mistake they'd made.

As 1 Corinthians 2:8 says, "they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" if they'd known what God had planned. But they didn't have a clue. All they knew is that once they got Jesus into hell, He stayed locked onto The WORD of God and refused to let go. Having quoted the first verse of Psalm 22:1 on the cross; in hell, He declared the rest of it:

O my God, I cry in the day time, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.... I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. Ye that fear the LORD, praise him.... For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation.... All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD'S... (verses 2-5, 22-25, 27-28).

Jesus praised God in hell! And He did it, according to those verses, *in the midst of the congregation*.

What congregation? The great congregation of departed Old Testament saints. They were looking down at Him from Paradise. Across the great gulf that was fixed between them, they could see Jesus and He could see them, just as Lazarus and the rich man could see each other in Luke 16.

Everybody listed in the Hebrews 11 faith hall of fame was watching the great spiritual battle that was taking place in hell that day. They were all listening to Jesus praise His heavenly Father...when suddenly, the Father's voice came booming out of heaven. Shaking the very foundations of satan's domain with the words recorded in Hebrews 1:5-8, He said to Jesus:

Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee....

And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son...
Let all the angels of God worship him....

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

The Name Above All Names

With those words, Jesus was born again! He was loosed from "the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:24). God raised Him up, and from that moment on, He turned that battle into a rout.

He proceeded to "render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" Hebrews 2:14, *New American Standard Bible-95*. "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:15). Then "He ascended on high, He led captivity captive [He led a train of vanquished foes]" (Ephesians 4:8, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Jesus stripped the devil of everything that day! He left him with no weapon except fear. He made the devil bow before Him, took his keys away from him in hell itself, and returning to heaven as a conqueror, was awarded the Name of Almighty God, the Name above all names: "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11).

Jesus doesn't need that Name in heaven, but we need it on earth. The devil is still roaming around here seeking whom he may devour, and the Name of Jesus is the only Name that stops him in his tracks. "For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Jesus' Name is a weapon in the hands of the Church against all wickedness, the devil and everything he stands for! As believers we have power of attorney in that Name. We can speak His Name as if it's our very own because it is.

Jesus is our older blood Brother. We're His joint heirs (Romans 8:17) and we've been born of "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" (Ephesians 3:14-15). Jesus' Name

belongs to us as much as it does to Him, and that Name “is a strong tower” (Proverbs 18:10). It’s “far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Ephesians 1:21).

The Name of Jesus puts you in a place where you can look down on the devil and say, “Get under my feet!”

One believer who understood this very well was Smith Wigglesworth. A Pentecostal faith preacher who ministered in the early 1900s, he once walked into a séance where people were using demonic power to levitate a table. They thought he’d be impressed, but he wasn’t. He just said to the table, “Get down from there!” then shouted the Name of Jesus, and it crashed to the ground with such force it broke into pieces.

Another bold man of God from years gone by, Lester Sumrall, told me of a similar incident in Africa. A church there was having a marvelous outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the local witch doctor got upset because a relative of his went there and got healed and born again. Determined to prove his power was greater than the power operating in the church, the witch doctor showed up at one of the services.

Right there in front of the whole congregation, he stood up and began to levitate. He’d go up...and come down...go up...and come down. “How do you like that?!” he said. Unimpressed, the church members just kept praising the Name of Jesus. When the witch doctor tried to levitate again, he couldn’t. He jumped up in the air a couple of times, but it didn’t work. “What’s happening to me?” he cried.

Finally, he fell on his face, gave his heart to The LORD, and got filled with the Spirit. When he looked up, much to his surprise he saw that God had lifted up the entire congregation all around him. So, in the Name of Jesus he jumped again and went up along with them.

Why don’t we see more things like that happen?

As we keep growing in our revelation of the power of Jesus’ Name, we will! We’ll resist the devil and he’ll flee from us as if in terror. He’ll back down every time we challenge him to a fight because he knows he can’t stand against us. He knows that by the power of Jesus’ Name we’ve already won! 🍷



WORDS OF FAITH

Press On in Patience

“Be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”
Hebrews 6:12

You’ve been walking by faith. You’ve been believing God to meet your need. But what do you do when the results seem slow in coming and you are tempted to give up?

Be patient!

There is not much said about patience these days. But, when it comes to receiving from God, it is just as important as faith.

It will make the difference between success and failure for you.

Patience undergirds and sustains faith until the result is manifest. After you have meditated on the promises of God and have them in your spirit, patience will encourage you to hold steady. Patience is power. It has the courage to refuse the lie of Satan that says the Word is not working for you. It knows that God’s Word has never failed. Patience will not draw back in fear but will press forward in faith until you have the answer.

When the results of your faith seem slow in coming, don’t give up! Continue to put the Word first, with patience, and you will *surely* receive the promise of God!


—Gloria Copeland



A Better Way

There was something about a road trip that made Lynette drowsy. The murmur of her parents' voices in the front seat. The rhythmic sound of the tires on the pavement. The warm sun on her face. Nodding her head against the car window, she fell asleep.

Theirs was a close and loving family. A family that loved God.



“Sometimes obeying God runs contrary to our natural inclination. I had an idea of how to handle our finances, but God showed me a different way.”

As far as Lynette could figure, her faithful attendance at church began nine months before she'd been born. Her dad was a deacon and leader in their denominational congregation. They always arrived early. Her dad had meetings afterward, so they left about two hours after service ended.

Not that Lynette minded. She loved her parents so much that, as a child, she'd formed an opinion that anyone who believed differently was just *wrong*. She'd never questioned that judgment.

She loved the way her parents loved God. She loved their wisdom. The day her fiancé had broken off their engagement, she'd rushed home and fallen into her father's strong arms. Brokenhearted and sobbing, she'd been stunned at what he said.

“We prayed him out of your life.”

Looking back, she could only thank God for that.

Waking up, the sun shone in Lynette's eyes. At that moment, she lost consciousness and suffered convulsions. Her frantic parents stopped the car. They knew what it was. A grand mal seizure. Her great-grandmother had a history of epilepsy. So did her aunt.

This wasn't Lynette's first. At 9 years old, she'd been at vacation Bible school making a craft project of tie-dyed T-shirts. Pausing a moment to look up at the sun, she had a seizure. Back then, all the tests came back

normal. The doctor told her parents to bring her back if she had another one.

This time the results did not come back normal. She was diagnosed with photosensitive epilepsy.

A Questioning Mind

“I was diagnosed with epilepsy in 1996,” Lynette remembers. “I was put on medication to control the seizures. Within two months, I met Keith Miller at college. We started dating and really liked one another. Keith had been raised in the same denomination I was. Then his parents started listening to some guy named Kenneth Copeland. That's when they switched to Pentecostal churches.

“That was awkward territory for me. I believed that any man whose teaching could pull a family out of the right denomination was just wrong. I thought he was a quack.

“I've always been a very collegiate kind of person. I like to dig through the Bible and search out truth. I earned a bachelor's degree in ancient civilizations, especially Greece and Rome. I enjoy things that require a lot of research. I'm willing to accept truth when I see it in the Bible. Until then, I'm the heckler in a crowd.

“When I told Keith about my diagnosis, his response was not what I expected.”

“You know you can be healed of that, right?”

**READ
THROUGH
THE BIBLE**

APRIL

		Old Testament	New Testament
Sat	1	Deut. 1:1-2:15	
Sun	2	Ps. 42-44; Prov. 9	
Mon	3	Deut. 2:16-4:14	Luke 22
Tue	4	Deut. 4:15-5:33	Luke 23
Wed	5	Deut. 6:1-8:10	Luke 24
Thu	6	Deut. 8:11-10:22	John 1
Fri	7	Deut. 11-12	John 2
Sat	8	Deut. 13:1-15:11	
Sun	9	Ps. 45-48; Prov. 10:1-17	
Mon	10	Deut. 15:12-18:8	John 3
Tue	11	Deut. 18:9-21:9	John 4
Wed	12	Deut. 21:10-23:18	John 5
Thu	13	Deut. 23:19-26:15	John 6
Fri	14	Deut. 26:16-28:32	John 7
Sat	15	Deut. 28:33-29:29	
Sun	16	Ps. 49-50; Prov. 10:18-32	
Mon	17	Deut. 30:1-32:14	John 8
Tue	18	Deut. 32:15-33:29	John 9
Wed	19	Deut. 34:1-Josh. 3:8	John 10
Thu	20	Josh. 3:9-6:11	John 11
Fri	21	Josh. 6:12-8:23	John 12
Sat	22	Josh. 8:24-10:27	
Sun	23	Ps. 51-55; Prov. 11:1-23	
Mon	24	Josh. 10:28-12:24	John 13
Tue	25	Josh. 13:1-15:12	John 14
Wed	26	Josh. 15:13-16:10	John 15
Thu	27	Josh. 17:1-19:16	John 16
Fri	28	Josh. 19:17-21:19	Luke 17
Sat	29	Josh. 21:20-22:34	
Sun	30	Ps. 56-59; Prov. 11:24-12:11	

“I know God heals some people.”
 “That’s not what I mean. God will heal anyone who has faith to believe.”
 “That sounds like some Pentecostal nonsense.”

No matter what Keith said, if it didn’t agree with Lynette’s theology, she argued that he was wrong. They dated through college, arguing each time the subject arose.

“Lynette, you need to believe that God will heal you specifically.”

“I’m not an idiot. I do believe that God can heal. But doesn’t He decide who He will heal?”

“No, that’s not what the Bible says. There’s a lot of it that’s up to what we believe.”

Lynette used her research skills to find scriptures to prove him wrong.

It was harder than she expected. She couldn’t find them.

One Small Prayer

One weekend Lynette was home visiting her family. On the phone with Keith, they had the worst fight they’d ever had. Shouting at him, she flung the phone onto the stairs. Sliding down a step, she shot up a prayer.

“OK God, if he’s right, then I receive this healing, like he’s talking about. The way he says it works. Help me understand it. Amen.”

Picking up the phone she said, “I just prayed your prayer.”

“What?”

“I did it. I prayed the way you wanted me to.”

That’s when the real battle began. Lynette started having more seizures and had to take more medication.

Despite their arguments about healing, the rest of their relationship was wonderful. In 2000, they married.

“Why don’t you listen to one of these messages by Kenneth Copeland?” Keith asked.

Lynette shut down. So instead, Keith fed her scriptures on healing.

“Words make a difference,” he told her. “Why don’t you read those scriptures out loud?”

Later, he added, “Why don’t you read them with your name in them?”

He was nudging her into taking baby steps toward faith.

In 2004, in addition to the struggle to reclaim her health, Keith and Lynette were also struggling financially. In an effort to help, Keith’s mother gave Lynette a book on finances—by Kenneth Copeland.

The Laundry Quandary

“I had no idea what to do with that book,” Lynette admits. “I certainly wasn’t going to read it. Oddly enough, I put it on top of our laundry hamper. There were about 100 other things I could have done with it. I could have put it in a box and stuck it in the attic. I could have put it on a bookshelf. I could have burned it. I could have given it away. I could have sold it.

“Instead, I put it on top of the laundry hamper. Multiple times a day, I picked up the book to throw laundry in the hamper. Every time I washed a load of clothes, I had to touch that book. That went on for two years until I got irritated.

“I kept my house neat except for that one stupid book. I decided to read it to prove Kenneth Copeland wrong. I didn’t study it to learn anything. I went through it with a fine-tooth comb just to prove him wrong. I looked up every scripture and every implied scripture. Front to back, I couldn’t find anything wrong with it. Frustrated, I put it on a bookshelf.

“Early in 2006, I picked it up and read it again, this time to see if I could learn anything. As I studied the book, I realized that he knew some things about finances that we needed to learn. That’s when Keith admitted that he had more books by Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth Hagin.

“Were you hiding those books from me?” Lynette asked.

“I didn’t hide them. They were right on the bookshelf. I just didn’t advertise that I was reading them.”

Before Lynette and Keith married, her doctor had explained that the medication she took to control the seizures could cause birth defects. Knowing that, Lynette had decided not to have children. Although Keith understood, he had faith for her healing and for children.

One day while reading her Bible, Lynette noticed that the Scriptures seemed to indicate that God desired Christians to have

children. “OK, God,” she prayed. “Here You go. This is a one-time prayer. If I’m wrong about having kids, You change my attitude. In Jesus’ Name. Amen. And this is the last time I’ll ever say anything about it.”

The Long Interval

A few months later, during a routine exam, Lynette’s doctor became very concerned about her heart. “Your QT interval is extremely long, and I’m concerned about your heart.” Lynette’s neurologist was notified.

“I told them I thought the medication was causing the heart condition,” Keith recalls, “but they disagreed. However, once she was taken off the anti-convulsants they could no longer find the long QT.”

“I’d been on medication for eight or nine years,” Lynette remembers. “Going off of it was scary. It felt like I had more activity on the EEG than I’d ever had. I was so angry that I started banging the steering wheel and shouting, ‘You know what? I don’t receive this! I’m just not receiving it! Satan, get out of my way in Jesus’ Name!’”

When Keith and Lynette met with the neurologist to get the results of the EEG, she said it was clear.

Flustered, Lynette asked, “Can you say that one more time?”

“There were no seizures, no spikes on your EEG.”

Keith sat there with a huge grin on his face. When the doctor stepped out of the room, they laughed and cried and praised God.

Lynette had been healed!

God had done it, just like Keith said He would.

A year later, Lynette told Keith she wanted to have a baby.

In 2008, their daughter Cora was born. Lynette wasn’t considered high risk. The pregnancy, labor and delivery were normal. Cora is now 14.

In 2012, their son Eric was born. He is now 12. Next came Daci, now 11. And then came Ioan, 6, and Elora, now 4.



“I was so angry that I started banging the steering wheel and shouting, ‘You know what? I don’t receive this! Satan, get out of my way in Jesus’ Name!’”

Counterattack

“God blessed our lives in amazing ways,” Keith remembers. “Lynette was totally healed. Our family was blossoming with children. When we moved to Pennsylvania, Lynette agreed to attend a Pentecostal church. She received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues.

“I’ve always considered myself a man of faith. That was really solid in my life. We’d enjoyed so many faith victories, yet I was unprepared for how long and hard we were hit financially. I know God said we’d never be given more than we could bear. But we were



hit with one thing after another, after another, after another.

“We’d gone through the recession of 2008. In 2010, the worst seemed to be over, and I took a job in Pennsylvania. However, the housing market hadn’t recovered. We had quite a bit of equity in our former home, but it stayed on the market for two years unsold. We made rental payments in Pennsylvania and mortgage payments on our previous house. By the time it finally sold, we didn’t make a penny off of it.

“In time, the company I worked for asked me to do some things that just weren’t right. I was told either to do what they asked or resign. At the time I was interviewing with another company that wanted to hire me. I agreed to take their job and resigned. The new company experienced some financial problems and told me they could no longer afford to hire me.

“I had a growing family and wasn’t picky. I would work anywhere; I just needed a job. For nine months, I applied for jobs every day. I was even called in for interviews, but doors just kept closing in my face. A friend from church let me work for his company as an independent contractor doing painting work.

“A year later, I was offered a job making more money than I’d ever made in my life. Although it was two hours away and we couldn’t afford to move, I took the job and commuted every day. I was given a list of things they wanted me to accomplish. I worked hard, doing everything they asked with excellence. They were thrilled with my work and what I’d accomplished. I was ready for a new list, but I’d basically worked myself out of a job. They had nothing else for me to do.

The Power of Attitude

“By this time, I was getting fed up. I was a tither and didn’t see God helping me. I developed a bad attitude, complaining to Him about my situation. One year turned into another and then another. The same types of things kept happening. The ugly truth is that I became bitter. There were things I wanted to do for my wife and children. For instance, we’d never had a vacation. I said, ‘Look God, if You’re not going to fix the problem, then I don’t want to talk to You.’”

In 2017, the Millers hit bottom. They were behind on bills. Keith got sick. Lynette got sick. Some of the children got sick. They couldn’t pay their rent. The landlord worked with them for a couple of months, but then they were evicted. They were homeless, or would have been had some friends not let them move in with them. Keith was broken. On the floor weeping, he said, “God, I repent for my horrible attitude. For my lack of faith and all the doubt. I surrender to You. I trust You.”

In lovingkindness, the Lord whispered to Keith, *It’s all going to be all right.*

Someone they’d called about a rental house returned their call. “I heard you were interested in this house,” he said. “I’ve got to clean it up and get it ready to rent, but I’d be happy to show it to you.”

“Before you do, I need to tell you our financial situation,” Lynette said.

“No, you don’t have to do that. I know people have hard times. I’m willing to give you a chance.”

Four weeks later, they moved into the house. Although Keith had a job, they were still overwhelmed with debt and debt collectors.

Lessons Learned

“When I repented and asked God to show me where I’d missed it, I learned some things,” Keith explains. “The first thing He taught me was that God loves a *cheerful* giver. I hadn’t been. I’d been faithful to tithe, but I gave my tithes with the same sense of obligation that I paid my bills. That was the first thing to change.

“The next thing the Lord showed me was that while we’d been faithful to give a tithe of our income, we didn’t give offerings. I knew we had to correct that, even though I didn’t know where the money would come from.”

Lynette had \$4 in her pocket that she was going to use to buy milk for the baby. She and Keith both believed that God wanted them to sow that amount into Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

“Lord, I know You love me, but You’re asking me to give away the money I need to buy the baby’s milk. I don’t know if I can do it. Not to mention, that’s a really *embarrassing* offering.”

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by Keith Moore

God continued to urge her to give the money. Finally, she put it in an envelope and stamped it. Walking it to the mailbox was excruciating. Finally, she forced herself to put it inside and walk away. At church, someone handed them \$10. She not only had enough for milk, she bought a couple of other things they needed.

Releasing their faith, Keith and Lynette agreed to send KCM an offering of \$5 a month. With bill collectors calling and credit cards maxed out, it was a sacrifice. The year after they started sowing into KCM, things changed. Although Keith's income remained the same, they were able to pay off their credit cards, medical bills and their car.


God's Math

"Sometimes obeying God runs contrary to our natural inclination," Keith says. "I had an idea of how to handle our finances, but God showed me a different way. During that process, we became happy, joyous givers.

"As we were working our way out of debt, a couple of our friends had financial problems and were in need of a car. We offered them one of ours. They didn't end up taking it, but that joyous giving had resulted in our taking our eyes off our problems and focused on helping others. That difference was radical.

"Before we knew it, we'd paid off more than \$100,000 in debts. I can honestly say that we don't understand God's math, but we enjoy it. We were thrilled when we got to attend the Knoxville Victory Campaign.

"We sent our kids to summer camp and then took a family vacation. We went to Niagara Falls, the Ark Encounter in Kentucky, and Lake Erie. We probably traveled a couple thousand miles. Finally the kids asked if we could stay home for a while.

"Being Partners with KCM has been nothing short of a lifeline for us. Sowing into this ministry is putting our seed in fertile ground. We are living under God's amazing blessing. I trace that blessing back to my parents who partnered with them as we fed on their teachings. I'm thrilled that my wife and I are in agreement about using our faith. Now we're helping to spread that good news to a whole new generation." 

Fully Persuaded,
Completely at

Rest



"MAKE THE DECISION TODAY
TO TRUST, BEING FULLY PERSUADED THAT
WHAT HE HAS PROMISED HE IS FAITHFUL TO PERFORM.
THEN ENTER THE REST AND STAY THERE."

Have you ever noticed when a child has something he or she doesn't want you to have, they will hold it tightly and say something like, "No, it's MINE!" They won't let go of it, or let you pry it out of their hands without a fight. They have what they want, and they're not afraid to say it's theirs—that it belongs to them.

If only Christians had the same tenacity when it comes to their fight against the devil.

It's a fight all right. In

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

How do we fight this good fight of faith? That verse we just read tells us. It says to "lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast



professed a good profession.” *Profession* is a King James word for *confession*. So, we can see that *laying hold* is a part of fighting the good fight, and so is *confession*. Like that child, we have to lay hold of what we want, confess that it’s ours, and not give up without a fight!

What do we use to fight?

Our faith!

Second Corinthians 4:13 says, “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.” Here, Paul refers to the spirit of faith. The Bible also says we’ve not been given the spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7). The spirit of faith is not knowledge of faith, and the spirit of fear is not just feelings of fear. Faith is not knowledge, and faith is not understanding. Understanding is not required for faith. You don’t have to understand in order to believe or trust. That’s because faith is a choice. Believing is a choice, and trusting is a choice.

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

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

Walking In Faith Doesn’t Mean You Won’t Have Challenges

Why does He tell you not to lean to your own understanding? Because you’ll be tempted to. He’s telling you upfront not to lean to your own understanding—your own head, your own reasonings, thoughts or feelings. If the enemy

can get you in the reasoning realm, he’ll defeat you. But if you’ll stay in the faith realm, he can’t do anything with you. No matter how many negative thoughts he brings to you, no matter how many bad feelings, you won’t yield. You’ll push them aside and say, “No. I’ve decided what I believe.” You’re settled in your heart.

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

“We are troubled on every side.”

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

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

What Are You Fighting To Do?

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

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

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

This is the spirit of faith. We are perplexed, meaning we’re at a loss. But although we’re perplexed, the scripture says we’re not in despair.



Keith Moore is founder and president of Moore Life Ministries and Faith Life Church in both Branson, Mo., and Sarasota, Fla.

For more information or ministry materials visit moorelife.org.



Watch Keith Moore on **VICTORY** CHANNEL



“
Real faith has
real joy and
real peace in
the midst of
contradictions,
symptoms and
lack.”

Can you be perplexed and clueless and still be up instead of down? If you're in faith you can. You can be clueless and happy. It's possible!

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

The Spirit of Faith Is the Spirit of Victory

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

Faith will never concede defeat!

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

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

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

"What if?" because you don't believe in what-ifs. You don't have to understand it. You don't have to have all the answers. You just trust.

Frustration Is Not Faith

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

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

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

Faith is a decision. Make the decision today to trust, being fully persuaded that what He has promised He is faithful to perform. Then enter the rest and stay there until you get the answer you've been waiting for! 🕊


**TESTIMONIES
OF REAL-LIFE
VICTORY**

Transformation!

I have been praying Psalm 91 over my husband daily and was having little to no results. He was, unfortunately, enslaved by negativity. Your prayer department contacted me and prayed with me regarding this. Praise the Lord, prayer answered! My husband is transformed in speech, in body language—he is at rest. Thanks, guys. Just knowing that you are there, a letter or phone call away, is a blessing to me that will be eternally rewarded.

J.O. | Australia

**Confident
Fight of Faith**

My mom received negative reports after a CT scan: possibly cancerous spots on her lungs and a large mass in her colon. The Lord had given me Jeremiah 30:17, which says: "I will give you back your health and heal your wounds" (*New Living Translation*). When we called KCM, the prayer minister quoted Jeremiah 30:17, and I knew my mom would be healed. The faith fight lasted four months. The spots on her

lungs are healing, and the mass in her colon was benign—a specialist was able to remove it without surgery. All glory to God!

We were able to fight the fight of faith in confidence, thanks to the prayer minister and watching several videos of the Copelands on how to cast your cares. Thank you so much for your ministry!

S.M. | Georgia

Encouraging News

Thank you so much for *VICTORY News*®. I am very blessed every time I watch it. Thank you for having many young people as your guests. They are such an encouragement to me. J.C. | New York

**Inspired
To Give**

I so enjoy the daily broadcasts with Pastors George and Terri Pearsons! Their testimonies of giving are inspiring me to do the same.

T.B. | California

'Answered Prayer'

I turned my phone on and saw that I had a message from one of the KCM prayer warriors. It happened to be one of those days that was heavy with spiritual warfare, and the message he left on voicemail was an answered prayer. Thank you so much!

T.E. | North Carolina

**Blessed Above
and Beyond**

During the VICTORYTHON™, I named my seed and pledged \$50 a month for 12 months. I was believing to sell my cabin and acreage. Two weeks after the meeting, the cabin and acreage sold for more than I was asking (Ephesians 3:20).

N.B. | Georgia

'Living Testimony'

I thank God for His continuous blessing and protection all my life, and my family's. KCM has been such a part of my life for so long that my children don't remember a time you weren't there. Through so many storms and desperate times, loss and restoration, my beloved partnership with KCM has helped me so much. Without the

continued, consistent message and partnership with you, I'm not sure I could have withstood the barrage of attacks against my family and me. Throughout the years, I have become the living testimony of God's grace, mercy and favor!

C.M. | West Virginia

Out of a Dark Place

I was feeling down and out, depressed and suicidal. I called the KCM prayer line to pray for me. After the prayer I began to come out of that terrible place. Thank You, Jesus!

C.C. | Mississippi

**Prospering
God's Way**

My wife and I discussed getting out of debt and making a commitment to God to walk in His financial principles. Watching *The Prosperous Life* confirmed this, so we made it a priority to pray together about getting out of debt. The day we did that, my boss called to meet for lunch the next day. When I got there, he was standing in the parking lot with our company's president, who bumped my salary \$20,000! I was so appreciative and give God all the glory. The day after we committed to God that we were going to put Him first in our finances and follow His financial principles, He gave us this unheard-of increase. Now we desire to use it to bless others and be on our way to debt-free living. Thank You, God, KCM, and the wonderful pastors, prophets and patriots on VICTORY Channel™.

D.P. | Pennsylvania

**Honoring
God**

On TV, Brother Copeland was praising God. I was praying the words out loud that he was saying and got down on one knee. I have had a hard time kneeling, but I did anyway to honor God. Afterward, when I stood up, all pain was gone in that bad knee. Thank You, God.

J.A. | Tennessee

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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UK time: 9:30 - 16:20

'By His Stripes'

I've been believing for healing from arthritis pain, and from hamstring and foot injuries. I have not been able to fully squat, sleep with a straight leg, and step up stairs without sharp pain. I spent weeks immersing in the Word and devotions, with Gloria Copeland's Healing School videos playing day and night.

During an EMIC service, I went to the front for prayer by unction of the Lord, and my healing manifested! God's power knocked me to the floor. I heard Gloria's voice say, "Do what you couldn't do before" while I was lying on the floor, so I started bending my knees and rose with an usher's help with no sharp pains! By His stripes we were healed! He is faithful, and I'm grateful for all time.

T.H. | Texas

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by Gloria Copeland

Six Secrets To

Finishing Your Race

One of the greatest fathers of the faith the Church has ever known once sat in prison writing a letter. He knew he only had a short time left on earth. His departure for heaven was at hand. So, he wanted to put down on paper some final, heartfelt words of advice for a dearly beloved spiritual son.



He wanted to leave Timothy, the young pastor he'd trained in ministry, a letter full of instructions to help keep alive in his heart the things God had imparted to him. He wanted to make sure Timothy would continue to grow and fulfill the will of God long after he was gone.

Today, Paul's letter in 2 Timothy belongs to us. So, here are six vital instructions drawn from its wisdom-filled pages—secrets that will help us follow in Paul's footsteps and finish our spiritual race.

No. 1: "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 2:1

If you've been saved more than a few months, most likely you've already discovered the Christian life can be tough. It not only includes the blessings of God, it also includes persecutions, difficult circumstances and pressures from the devil. To overcome such challenges, you must rely on God's favor and power. You must "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

What does it mean to be strong in grace?

Titus 2:11-13 tells us: "The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Grace teaches us how to live godly. That's

“THE PEOPLE WE CHOOSE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE OUTCOME OF OUR LIVES.”

why the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Grace. He corrects us, instructs us and tells us what changes we need to make in our thoughts and actions to triumph in every situation.

To be strong in grace you must cooperate with Him! Don't resist the Holy Spirit when He tells you to change something in your life that's not pleasing to God. Instead, be quick to respond. Repent and change. Say, "Yes, Lord! I'll do it!" Be strong in grace.

No. 2: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

2 Timothy 2:3

Soldiers don't cave in and faint when things get hard. They don't throw down their weapons and stop doing what they were trained to do just because they find themselves facing an enemy. As good soldiers of Jesus Christ, we don't either.

We don't stop believing and doing what the Word of God says when we're under pressure, or when persecution and affliction come. We know those things are from the devil. Instead of giving up on our faith when we encounter them, we double up on our Word time and our prayer time. We double up on the confessions of our mouth and speak what God says about our situation. As James 1:4 says, we "let patience have her perfect work."

Patience is a force that does not yield to circumstances or succumb to defeat. It's a fruit of the spirit. It's part of God's own nature we received when we were born again. Because it's inside us, we can put patience to work in our lives whenever we choose.

As a believer, you are part of God's spiritual army and the purpose of an army is to fight. The good news is, we're fighting an enemy who's already been defeated. Our victory is a done deal if we'll only endure!

No. 3: "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."

2 Timothy 2:4

Many years ago, I discovered what can happen when you overlook this third word of advice from Paul. I let myself get so

“Grace teaches us how to live godly.”

preoccupied with the natural activities and responsibilities of life that my desire for the things of God began to slip.

At the time, Ken and I had been living the faith life for several years. Our circumstances had improved to the point where we'd gotten comfortable. I didn't have to believe God every time I went grocery shopping for enough money to pay the bill. We weren't sick, broke or in any major trouble. The Word was working in our lives. So, no longer driven by desperation to focus so much on the Lord, I got busy with other things.

One night, I realized what I'd done. I was sitting in a meeting listening to Brother Kenneth E. Hagin as he was prophesying about the mighty end-time army of God. "You can be a part of that army," he said, "if you will only rise up and become on fire." Suddenly, realizing how spiritually lukewarm I'd become, I knew if I didn't do something, I'd miss out on what Brother Hagin was talking about.

Determined to make a change, I decided to set my heart blazing for God again by giving Him more of my time. From that day on, I spent the first hour of my day in prayer and the Word. I began stirring up my spirit by reading sermons by John G. Lake. I turned my attention toward the Lord, and since our desire follows our attention, my desire for the things of God soon came roaring back—and I never let it wane again.

Because of that experience, I understand very well why Paul said, "Don't get entangled with the affairs of this life!" I know what can happen when the busyness of life crowds God out. Most likely, you do too.

No. 4: "Constantly keep in mind Jesus Christ...risen from the dead."

2 Timothy 2:8, Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

If you want to live as a winner day in and day out, center your attention on this one, familiar fact: *Jesus has risen from the dead.*

Obviously, as Christians we believe that. It's foundational to our faith. But why does Paul identify it as one of the keys to continual victory? Why must we always keep it at the forefront of our mind?

Because when Jesus rose from the dead

and conquered the devil, He did it for us. He didn't do it for Himself. As the Son of God, He wasn't subject to sin, sickness, poverty or any of Satan's stuff. He wasn't defeated in any way. But you and I were. So, He came and won every battle on our behalf! He got the victory and gave it to us.

The Bible says when Jesus rose from the dead, we were raised up too. We were made to "sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). We became "joint-heirs" with Him (Romans 8:17).

If we constantly keep this in mind, the devil won't be able to talk us into losing. When he tells us we're going to fail, we won't be able to pay our bills, we're going to get sick and die, or some other horrible lie, we won't believe him. Instead, we'll say, "Jesus rose from the dead, got the victory for me, and I have it! I cannot be defeated because through Jesus I've already won!"

No. 5: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

When Paul wrote these words, Timothy wasn't 20 or 30 years old. He was a 40-year-old minister who'd been studying the Word for years. But Paul knew that if Timothy wanted to stay on course, he'd have to persist in studying the Scriptures. He'd have to keep the Word of truth in front of him all the time.

The same is true for us, as believers.

I've found that if I don't continually feed on the Word, my thinking doesn't stay straight. I begin to let important truths and faith principles slip.

Remember: It's not what you know; it's what you do that brings victory in your life. When sickness comes, for instance, it's not enough to mentally understand it's God's will for you to be healed. You must act on that knowledge. You must believe you receive your healing when you pray. You must speak to the sickness and command it to leave your body. But you'll only do those things if you consistently study and keep the Word in your heart and mind.

The Word keeps your thinking right.

When your thinking is right, your words are right. When your words are right, your actions are right. When your actions are right, you have victory! So, study the Word—not just to accumulate information but to assimilate the truth of it. Meditate on it until it becomes part of you. Integrate it into your heart until it influences your every thought. Then you will know the truth and the truth will make you free!

No. 6: “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

2 Timothy 2:22

This entire scripture is important. But the last part is especially crucial. It reveals one of the great secrets to avoiding temptation and living a successful Christian life.

What is that secret?

Keeping company “with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

The people we choose to fellowship with can make all the difference in the outcome of our lives. The companionship of strong believers helps us grow stronger. Their faith encourages our faith.

The reverse is also true. Fellowshiping with people who are living in sin is dangerous. They’ll pull us into darkness. They’ll tempt us to do things we know we shouldn’t do and dampen our fire for God. “Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character” (1 Corinthians 15:33, *AMPC*).

That’s not to say we can’t reach out to lost people. We can (and should) minister to them. We can bring them to church with us and share the Word with them. But we can’t afford to come down and live on their level. We can’t start going where they go, talking like they talk and making them our close friends. If we do, we’ll wind up in trouble.

So, let’s follow Paul’s counsel and surround ourselves with godly, Bible-believing, faith-talking people. Let’s heed the wise counsel of this great father of the faith. Let’s be strong in grace, endure hardness, put God first, keep in mind our resurrected Lord, and continually feed on the Word. Then someday we too can say, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my race, I have kept the faith!” 🏹

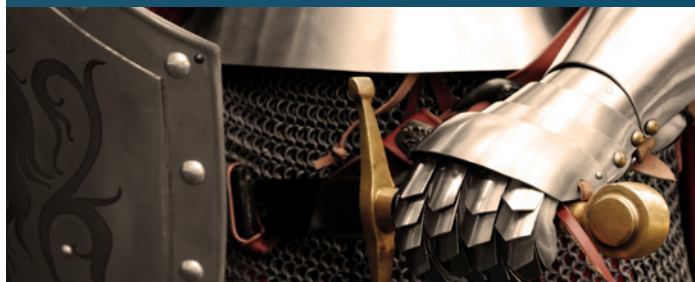


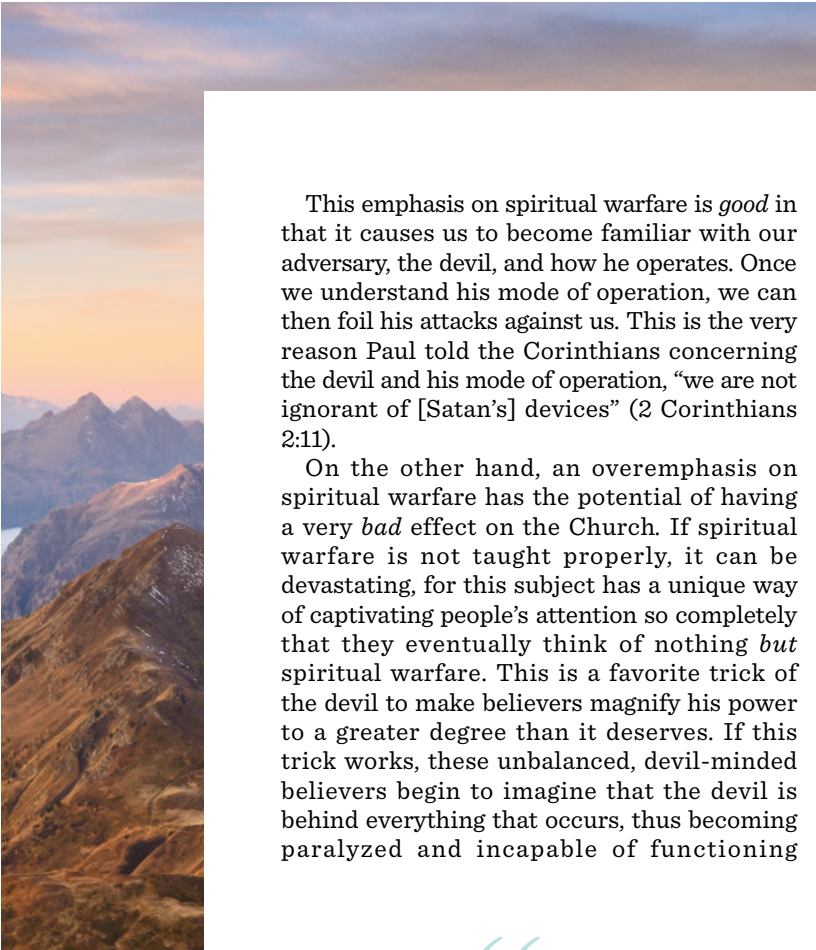
Taking the
Mystery Out of

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

From time to time, the subject of spiritual warfare becomes a popular, almost faddish focus for the Body of Christ. When this happens, it is taught with such enthusiasm that a newcomer to Christ might assume spiritual warfare is a brand-new revelation, even though it is not.

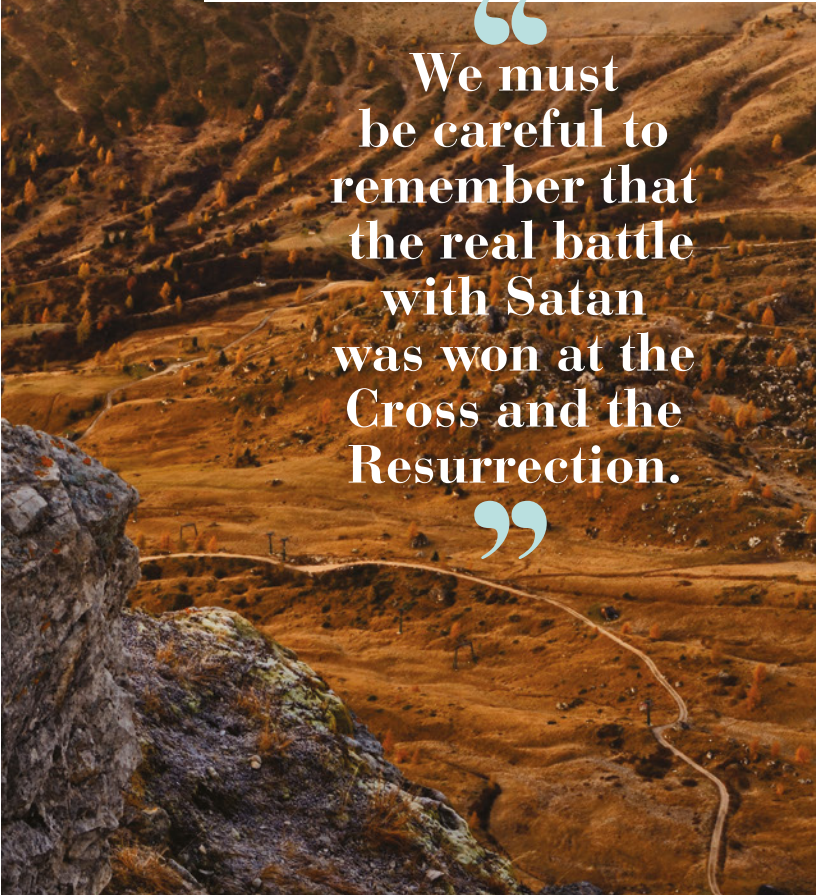
There have even been many moments in history when this subject has become the rage in the charismatic sector of the Body of Christ. Any person who has been in touch with the national pulse of the Church would quickly agree that at times, the Body of Christ experiences what I have come to call a “spiritual-warfare mania.” ▶





This emphasis on spiritual warfare is *good* in that it causes us to become familiar with our adversary, the devil, and how he operates. Once we understand his mode of operation, we can then foil his attacks against us. This is the very reason Paul told the Corinthians concerning the devil and his mode of operation, “we are not ignorant of [Satan’s] devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11).

On the other hand, an overemphasis on spiritual warfare has the potential of having a very *bad* effect on the Church. If spiritual warfare is not taught properly, it can be devastating, for this subject has a unique way of captivating people’s attention so completely that they eventually think of nothing *but* spiritual warfare. This is a favorite trick of the devil to make believers magnify his power to a greater degree than it deserves. If this trick works, these unbalanced, devil-minded believers begin to imagine that the devil is behind everything that occurs, thus becoming paralyzed and incapable of functioning



“
We must
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Cross and the
Resurrection.
”

normally in any capacity of life. In this way, the enemy eliminates them from future usefulness in the kingdom of God. Unfortunately, this has been the outcome in the lives of too many people who have focused on the issue of spiritual warfare in years past.

Don’t misunderstand what I am saying: I am *not* opposed to spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare is real! We are commanded in Scripture to deal with the unseen, invisible forces that have been marshaled against us. We are commanded to “cast out devils” (Mark 16:17) and to “pull down the strongholds” of the mind (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). This is a part of our Christian responsibility toward the lost, the oppressed and the demonized.

In my own ministry, I have had to deal with demonic manifestations on occasion. For instance, I remember a time years ago when a young teenage Satanist approached me at the end of one of my meetings in a large church. During the meeting, he realized that Satan’s powers had taken his mind captive, so he came forward to receive prayer in the prayer line.

As I continued through the prayer line, praying for one and then another, I could visibly see from a distance that this particular young man was sending forth spiritual signals of a very strong, evil presence. As I came nearer to him, I sensed that he had been involved in some type of occult activity.

When I finally reached the young man, he looked up through eyes that were tightly squeezed together like little slits in the front of his head. I looked into his eyes, and it was as if a demon was looking back at me from behind his face. When I saw this, I knew that this young man was serious about being helped. It had taken a great deal of determination for him to shove aside that manipulating force and forge his way down to the front of the church auditorium.

As I laid my hands on the young man that night, his body began to react violently to the power of God. Trembling under the weight of God’s power, he crumpled to the floor, landing in a heap next to my feet. Lying there engulfed in the electrifying power of God that was surging up and down his body, the young man quietly moaned, “I’m afraid to leave them [the satanic group in which he was involved]. They said they would kill me if I left the group!”

I leaned over to pray for him a second time, and as I did, the horrible demonic influence that had held his mind captive immediately released him and fled from the scene. Oh, yes, I *definitely* believe in genuine spiritual warfare!

Spiritual Hostages

There are multitudes of people in the world today who are held hostage by the devil in their minds. First John 3:8 says, “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

The word *destroy* is taken from the Greek word *luo*, and it refers to “the act of untying or unloosing something.” It is the exact word we would use to picture a person who is untying his shoes. In fact, the word *luo* is used in this exact way in Luke 3:16, when John the Baptist says, “but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to *unloose*.”

Thus, Jesus Christ came into the world to *untie* and *unloose* Satan’s binding powers over us. At the cross, Jesus unraveled Satan’s power until His redemptive work was finally complete and our liberty was fully purchased.

Furthermore, Peter told the household of Cornelius, “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38).

We know from both of the above verses that setting people free from Satan’s power is a primary concern of Jesus Christ. Since this is His concern, it should be ours as well.

In order to free people from demonic oppression, we must learn how to recognize the work of the enemy and how to overcome his attacks against the mind, *for the mind is the primary area he seeks to attack*. Satan’s goal is to plant a stronghold of deception in some area of an individual’s mind. If he is successful, he can then begin to control and manipulate the person from that lofty position.

The Holy Spirit is obviously speaking a strong message about spiritual warfare to us in these days. Christian leaders and churches all across the nation are awakening to this reality. In light of this, we must give heed to what the Spirit is saying to the Church *and proceed with the Word of God as our guide and foundation*.

As we seek to engage in spiritual warfare, we must be very careful to walk in balance. For one thing, we need to realize that this subject involves more than just dealing with the devil. Other major elements of spiritual warfare have to do with *taking control of our minds* and *crucifying the flesh*. We must not forget that these latter elements of spiritual warfare are just as vital as the first.

The truth is, the devil’s attacks against our lives wouldn’t work if our flesh didn’t cooperate. If we

were truly mortifying the flesh (Colossians 3:5), living lives that were “dead to sin” (Romans 6:2) as we are commanded to do in Scripture, we would not respond to demonic suggestions and to fleshly temptation. Dead men are incapable of responding to *anything*. Thus, we see the power of a crucified life!

Living the crucified life is a critical part of spiritual warfare. If I wrote a book on spiritual warfare without mentioning this truth, I would do my faithful readers a great injustice by giving them a very unrealistic view of the subject.

A person can scream at the devil all day long, but if that person has willfully permitted some area of his mind to go unchecked and unguarded—if he is aware of an area of sin but has not been willing to deal with it—he has opened the door for an attack on himself. In that case, all his prayers against the devil will be to no avail because his real enemy is not the devil. Rather, it is his own carnal mind and flesh, which must be submitted to the control of the Holy Spirit in order to eradicate these attacks.

The bottom line is this: If people focus *only* on the devil as they pursue the subject of spiritual warfare and fail to consider other equally important areas, their emphasis on spiritual warfare can and will be very damaging to them.

Although spiritual warfare is real and we cannot ignore it, we must be careful to remember that the real battle with Satan was won at the Cross and the Resurrection. Now this same victorious Christ who single-handedly defeated the devil lives in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit! This is why the Apostle John tells us, “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Our view of spiritual warfare must begin with this basic understanding of Jesus’ already accomplished victory over Satan. If we don’t start out with this as our foundation, eventually we will be led to utterly ridiculous spiritual conclusions. The victory has already been won; there is nothing we can add to the destructive work Jesus did to Satan’s domain when He was raised from the dead. 🕊

This article is adapted from the book by Rick Renner titled *Dressed to Kill*. For more information, or to order your copy, go online to renner.org.



Rick Renner and his wife, Denise, moved to the former Soviet Union in 1991, with their three sons, establishing churches, a Bible seminary, a pastoral association and the first Christian television network in the former USSR.

For more information go to renner.org.



Watch
Rick Renner
on
VICTORY
C H A N N E L



by Gloria Copeland

The Sure Secret to Success



There's one scripture I include in almost every message I preach. I don't always plan to include it. But no matter what other scriptures I happen to be teaching on, it seems I eventually wind up turning to this one particular verse because it answers so many of life's questions.

It answers deep spiritual questions, like: *How do I find and fulfill my calling in life?*

Yet it also answers practical day-to-day questions people are constantly asking. Questions like: *How can I make sure I succeed at my job? How am I going to make it financially in this economy? How am I going to take care of my family and pay my bills if prices keep going up?*

Those kinds of practical questions aren't just being asked by unbelievers out

“We ought never to shy away from telling people that God will richly supply all their material needs.”







Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 2
Release Faith
Through Your Words
Kenneth Copeland

April 3-7
How To Move
Your Mountain
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 9
The Greatness and
Power of Jesus' Name
Kenneth Copeland

April 10-14
How To Let The WORD
Fight Its Own Fight
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 16
Faith Prepares To
Receive the Promise
Kenneth Copeland

April 17-21
The Benefits
of Continuing in
God's WORD
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 23
Cast All of Your
Care on Jesus
Kenneth Copeland

April 24-28
Making a Way
for Miracles
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 30
Prospering in Your Mind,
Will and Emotions
Kenneth Copeland

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there in the world. They're front and center on the minds of a lot of Christians. In fact, some years back in one of our Believers' Conventions I took an informal survey. I asked those in attendance to indicate by a show of hands what their greatest challenge was and for most of them it was their finances.

I could relate! I remember when that was the case for Ken and me. For the first few years we were married, our financial picture was dismal. We didn't have much of anything and were so deeply in debt it looked like we could never get out.

Ken and I had both gone to work for a start-up company that was supposed to make a lot of money, but the company hadn't lasted a month. So we'd found ourselves unemployed and living in a rent house with nothing in it but a rollaway bed we'd rented for \$7.50 a month, a coffee table Ken had made in high school shop class, and a TV that didn't work right.

That was it! We had no refrigerator, no stove, no other furniture at all. Only 19 years old at the time, I had absolutely no idea what to do.

One day while Ken was out looking for a job, I picked up the Bible his mother had given him for his birthday. (Neither of us were born again yet, so he never read it but at least he'd kept it.) Sitting on our little rollaway bed, I opened that Bible and read the inscription Ken's mother had written in it:

Ken, precious, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

Back then I had no idea that one verse contained the answers to all life's important questions. I didn't know it was the one sure secret to true success. But I did know I needed quite a few things added to me. So, turning to Matthew 6, I read there about how God cares even about the birds of the air.

If God cares about birds, I thought, He cares about me!

From my perspective, that was a deep revelation. I didn't know anything about God's Word back then. Although I revered and wanted to please Him, I wasn't aware He ever promised to do anything for me. Once I found out though, I responded. I said, "Lord, take

my life and do something with it," and was instantly born again.

I didn't realize until later what had happened to me. But from that time on I began to go after God. Initially the only thing I was certain He wanted me to do was go to church and read the Bible, so that's what I did. I began seeking God the only way I knew and never stopped.

Jesus Preached Prosperity

The prosperity message has gotten a lot of criticism over the years. But I've never paid any attention to it because I know there are a lot of lost people out there who are interested in having things added to them. I was one of them! I was in trouble and in desperate financial straits—and the good news that God would add to me financially was what led me to give my life to Him.

Prosperity is one of the biggest evangelistic tools God has given the Church! We ought never shrink back from preaching it. We ought never shy away from telling people that God will richly supply all their material needs. Jesus certainly didn't.

When He said, "all these things shall be added to you," material prosperity was what He was referring to. As the previous verses reveal, He was talking about having plenty of food to eat and beautiful clothes to wear; about the practical necessities and even luxuries of life. Why did Jesus talk about those things?

Because there's a lost world full of people out there who are striving to get their material needs met and not making it. And God wants them to know that if they'll strive after Him, they'll do a lot better than just make it. If they'll seek Him first, He will give them everything else!

I like how the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* translates Matthew 6:31-33. It phrases Jesus' message this way:

Therefore 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? For the Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you



“Seeking God and His ways isn’t something you just do now and then.”

need them all. 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.

Although I treasure all the verses in the Bible, if I could just give you one verse to help you succeed in life, I’d choose Matthew 6:33. If you have that one verse, and you’re hungry after God, you’ll know what to do: Seek first of all God and His ways of doing and being right!

Seek is an interesting word. It means “to try to find, to search for something (like you would search for your car keys if you mislaid them); to diligently pursue, look for, explore, ask about and try to learn.” Seeking isn’t just waiting around to see if something comes your way. It’s going after something.

In Hebrew, one of the meanings of the word *seek* is “to require.” I especially resonate with that definition because I require the Word of God to live. You could offer me the whole world made out of gold in exchange for God’s Word and I wouldn’t even be tempted. I wouldn’t even have to think about it because for me, God’s Word is a vital necessity. I know that to live in the kingdom of heaven on this earth the way God intends, I must have His Word.

Another definition of *seek* in Hebrew is “to tread or frequent.” In other words, seeking God and His ways isn’t something you just do now and then. It’s not just something you do once a week on Sunday, or when you’ve run out of money to pay your bills. It’s something you do frequently—all the time.

According to one dictionary, the word *seek* also carries the idea of putting forth effort. It means “to try to find or gain by any means, to endeavor.”

When I think about what it looks like to put effort into seeking God and His ways, one person who comes to my mind is Jerry Savelle. Although he’s been an on-fire, Word-of-Faith preacher for many years now, he didn’t always fit that description. On the contrary, there was a time in his life when he had no use for preachers at all.

If you’ve heard his testimony, then you know when he first married Carolyn, she was constantly after him to go with her to church.

And just as constantly, he told her no. He wasn’t interested. But when Ken came to minister in Shreveport, La., where they lived, Carolyn made Jerry an offer he couldn’t refuse. She told him that if he would come to hear Ken one time, if he didn’t like what he heard, he’d never have to go with her to another church meeting again.

Finally, Jerry agreed to the deal. He went to the last night of the meetings and the Word of Faith he heard changed everything for him. *Can this really be true?* he wondered. *Is this for real?*

The next morning, he went to the automobile paint and body shop he owned and spent the day going over the notes he’d taken the evening before in the meeting. He looked up the scriptures he’d heard and found out, sure enough, they were in the Bible. Then, somebody came knocking on his door and gave him some tape recordings of Ken’s messages.

Listening to those tapes, Jerry realized the Word of God contained the answers to everything he’d been struggling with in his life. So he went after it. He started spending eight hours a day in the Word. He still had to do some work to keep the bills paid, but in the evening when his work was done, he’d come home, visit with his children before they went to bed, then spend hours in the Word.





I'd say that qualifies as seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, wouldn't you?

God's Ways Work

To be clear, I'm not suggesting you quit your job and spend eight hours a day in the Word like Jerry Savelle did. Seeking God first simply means you consistently put Him and His Word first place in your life. You spend time in His Word and in fellowship with Him every day—even if it means getting up a little earlier in the morning, or staying up a little later at night. You regularly attend a church where you can hear the Word preached under the anointing. You tune in when you can to hear the Word that's being broadcast on networks like VICTORY Channel™.

Then, you act on the Word you've heard. You honor God by believing and doing what He says—no matter what.

Ken and I found out early in our faith life, the no-matter-what part isn't always easy. For example, after we made the commitment to put God's Word and ways of doing things first place in our lives, we found out the Bible says we're to "owe no man any thing, but to love." Or, as the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* puts it, we're to "keep out of debt" (Romans 13:8).

What?! we thought. We'd lived on borrowed money ever since the day we got married. Ken had a lot of debt when we met, and after we got together we just kept adding to it. Even as broke as we were the first year we got married, to celebrate our anniversary we bought a boat—on credit!

If we couldn't borrow money anymore, it looked to us like we were doomed. *How can we ever buy a home if we can't take out a mortgage?* we wondered. *How can Ken ever get an airplane?* We didn't see any way. But it didn't matter. Although we didn't yet know God's prosperity promises, we knew the Word was God speaking to us and we'd committed to live by it. So we made the quality decision to pay off our debts and never borrow money again.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:7 that he who seeks finds. So, not long after we made that decision, we began finding out from the Scriptures how to prosper God's way. We

began getting more insight into the spiritual laws of prosperity and abundance. As we kept seeking God and doing things His way, we learned to honor Him with our money, not only by steering clear of debt but by tithing and giving offerings.

As we've done that, just like Jesus promised, God has kept adding all things to us! He's BLESSED us financially beyond what we could have ever imagined.

Will He do that for any believer? Sure He will. In fact, He wants to! But not everyone will cooperate with Him. Even many Christians who've heard the scriptural message of prosperity haven't fully gotten with His program.

Instead of taking to heart everything Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, they skipped over the first part. They immediately started thinking about the new car or some other material thing they've been eyeing and said, "Oh boy! All things are going to be added to me!" They forgot about seeking FIRST God's kingdom and His way of doing and being right.

God wants you to have all good things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). He wants you to walk in total victory and abundance in every area of life. So there's nothing wrong with having a desire for a new car and wanting to prosper. It's just that those desires must be way down under your desire for God. He must be first place in your heart and life to such a degree that you'd never consider trying to get that new car any other way except His way.

God said in Joshua 1:8, we are not to let His Word depart from our mouths, but that we should meditate on it day and night, "that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

God's ways are in His Word, and His ways work! So if the material things you desire aren't being added to you, double up on seeking Him. Double up on your time in the Word. Don't do it to try to get Him to bless you—He's already blessed you as a believer with every good thing promised in the Bible—but do it so you can learn to operate more like He does.

Keep seeking Him first so you can find out what He says, believe it and obey Him. That truly is the one sure secret to success! 🎯



POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1

God not only promised to bless you spiritually but materially as well. (Matt. 6:26)

2

As a believer, you're not to worry that you're not going to have what you need financially. (Matt. 6:31–32)

3

You prosper, not by seeking after material things but by seeking God. (Matt. 6:33, *AMPC*)

4

Seek God first by spending time daily in God's Word and doing what it says. (Jas. 1:22)

5

The more of God's Word you know and act on, the more you will prosper in every area of life. (Josh. 1:8)

A Heavenly Treasure Box

Commander
Kellie's
Corner

Superkids, we've talked about being different in 2023, and I believe the Lord is already making big changes in our lives. It starts with changing the way we think into thinking the way Jesus thinks.

Romans 12:2, *New Living Translation*, says,

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Until we begin to accept God's thoughts about us, we can't begin to imagine the great things He has planned for us. He wants you to know how highly He thinks of you, and how BIG His plans are for you. It's easy to read Bible stories of amazing miracles and fail to see yourself doing them. Jesus wants you to know He doesn't just want pastors and adult ministers doing such wonderful things. He is calling YOU to do great and mighty miracles and experience heaven's glory. He wants to prove that He is real by working through YOU!

I was drawn to Colossians 1:5, *The Passion Translation*, which says, "Your faith and love rise within you as you access all the treasures of your inheritance stored up in the heavenly realm. For the revelation of the true gospel is as real today as the day you first heard of our glorious hope, now that you have believed in the truth of the gospel."

Your faith and love rise within you.

You can access ALL the treasures— They BELONG to you.

Your treasures are stored in the HEAVENLY REALM.

This GOOD NEWS is REAL.

All you must do is believe it.

I really like verse 6: "This is the wonderful message that is being spread everywhere, powerfully changing hearts throughout the earth, just like it has changed you! Every believer of this good news bears the fruit of eternal life as they experience the reality of God's grace."

Look at that! This message about REAL treasures and REAL glory is life-changing. That's what we've been talking about! It changes you, the believer. And when people see it, and see you experiencing real heavenly life and power, it changes their hearts too. When the Bible says fruit, it is just another way to say "proof" or "evidence." Superkid, you are a walking commercial for Jesus!

I believe what Paul said about the Colossians in verses 8 and 9 is what God says about you. Your life is proof of the love of God because of the power of the Holy Spirit. Like Paul, I want you to understand and know that God is pleased with your life.

As we look to

Look at that!
Sounds just like you!
It IS YOU!

Jesus, and let Him change us from the inside out, He is making us into a container for His wisdom! A Superkid container that verses 10-11 say will grow in experiencing Jesus and become full of Him; be energized with ALL His explosive power (from the awesome glory realm); and be filled with great hope.

Finally, the most amazing difference and proof of how REAL our Jesus is can be found in verses 12-13: "Your hearts can soar with joyful gratitude when you think of how God made you worthy to receive the glorious inheritance freely given to us by living in the light. He has rescued us completely from the tyrannical rule of the darkness and has translated us into the kingdom realm of his beloved Son."

This glory inheritance is straight from the heavenly realm, and it belongs to you as a child of God. Jesus made it possible for you to live in Him, in His Light, so completely that He moved you from being controlled by the darkness in this world to living as one with Him.

Next month we will look more into what that means, but I will leave you with this thought: Anything Jesus did, we can do too. That's your inheritance. Superkid, you not only belong to Him, but you are also like Him, for He has given you all the power that He has!

I guess that makes YOU the Heavenly Treasure Box!

Commander Kellie 





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