

SEPT 22-26 **2024** 

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VICTORY

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#### Editor's Letter

#### Firmly Planted!



I live in Texas, a state not unfamiliar with tornadoes and the massive destruction they can cause.

Already this year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 112 confirmed tornadoes have touched down across the state destroying homes and businesses, overturning vehicles, downing power lines, and causing loss of life.

Watching media coverage of these storms, and observing the many felled trees that couldn't withstand the force behind the powerful winds, reminded me of how God likens His children to trees. I thought about Psalm 1:1-3, which says: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD.... And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." And Psalm 92:12, where it says, "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon" (emphasis added).

If you've ever seen video of hurricanes sweeping across the Southern Coast, the one thing that's obvious is the resistance of palm trees to the force of the wind and rain. They sway back and forth—bending, but never breaking. It's a clear picture of how 1 Corinthians 10:13 describes the person who walks close to God. It says God won't give you more than you can bear.

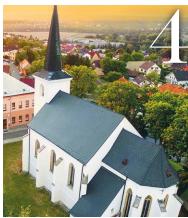
When we are firmly planted in God's Word, no matter what storms we face, we are able to withstand them. We become the ones with authority. Our stance is similar to that of the palm tree, which, because of its strong trunk and open canopy, is very flexible and wind resistant. Unlike most trees, palms don't have spindly branches. Instead, they produce a canopy of large leaves supported by a flexible midrib that act like large feathers, allowing their canopy to readily shed water and bend easily against even the strongest winds.

God may not have created us with storms in mind, but He did give us the flexibility to spring back—and survive. He might let you bend, but He won't let you break!

Ronald C. Jordan Managing Editor











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"Being a Partner with KCM means never being alone. This ministry saturates its Partners in prayer every day."

—Terry Cox

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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 & GloriaCopeland

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# The Ones With Authority

When it comes to politics, real change whether in the political, economic or spiritual realm only happens when the Church begins to pray and believe God. That's because we're the ones with the authority, and we've been given that authority in the Name of Jesus.

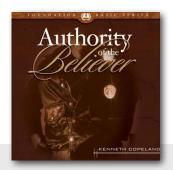
Our problem, however, has been that we haven't known what to do with it.

We saw one example of this several years ago during a U.S. presidential election. Only an estimated 50% of born-again Americans voted. That's sad, especially when you consider that less than 600 ballots in the state of Florida determined the outcome of the entire election. It was a clear case of believers having the authority and power to "make a difference."

yet not all of them taking it seriously. Why didn't they?

Apart from sheer laziness, I suspect a lot of Christians truly believe that God just picks whomever He wants to be in a political office and then shoves them in there. The thinking is: God is God. He calls all the shots. Who am I to think I have any influence in the process?

#### Enter A Higher Place of Authority



The authority of the believer was re-established in this earth by the single act of obedience of God's Son, Jesus. It is by the power of His Name—the Name of Jesus—that we may walk in the authority God granted from Creation.

In this series, Brother
Copeland teaches how the
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the power of the curse
and returned the power of
creativity and authority to
mankind. He shares the
truths of God's Word about
the power available to every
believer to live every moment
in authority and in freedom
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Where would Christians get such an idea?

Well, probably from the sermons many of us have heard preached from the portion of Daniel 4:25 that says, "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

This is the passage where Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed that he lost his vast kingdom for a time due to his pride. In the end, because he did not heed Daniel's warning and refused to acknowledge that "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will," his nightmare became reality.

At first glance we could interpret that scripture to mean, "God just gives positions of authority to whomever He pleases—and that's that." But that's not the whole truth of the matter. To understand this passage, we must interpret it in light of the rest of God's WORD. To do that, let's review the biblical account of another king.

In 1 Samuel 8, we find that the people of Israel wanted to be like the other nations of the world. They wanted a king. Prior to that, God had used His prophets—His spokesmen—to lead them. Men like Moses, Joshua and Samuel heard the voice of The LORD concerning the affairs of Israel, and they relayed The WORD of God to the people. God was their king.

Eventually, however, that way of running things got old in their eyes and the Israelites wanted something new, something different. Their attitude became: Let the government do it!

Here God had given His people the opportunity to seek Him personally for themselves and for the good of their nation, but they wanted to pass the responsibility off to someone else. The Israelites didn't want to go face-to-face with God.

If the truth be known, they really wanted someone not quite so "spiritual" as a prophet to lead them—perhaps someone who might actually sin a little now and then and, consequently, not be so hard on them. In short, they were trying to unload their spiritual responsibility onto someone else so they could drink when they wanted to

drink, be immoral when they wanted to be immoral...and sin when they wanted to sin.

#### Long Live the King!

When Samuel approached The LORD with Israel's request, God gave them what they wanted, but with this warning:

This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen.... to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war.... And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.... And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day (verses 11-18).

In spite of this warning, the people of Israel still demanded, "We will have a king over us; that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles" (verses 19-20).

What they failed to realize was that sin will kill you whether you have a king for a leader, or God Himself. Either way, the wages of sin is still death. So God told Samuel, "Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king" (verse 22). In other words, "Go ahead and give them what they want."

Compare that with what we just saw in Daniel 4:25: "The most High...giveth [positions of leadership] to whomsoever he will." Or, "I'm God and I make the decisions around here!"

So which is it? The people make the decisions—or—God does?

To answer that, keep in mind that God is a God of covenant. When it comes to dealing with His covenant people and deciding who is going to fill a position of leadership, God is not looking to the heathen—those who are not in covenant with Him—to make the decision. He's looking to His people to do it.

Despite what most believers think, when it comes down to deciding who is going to be placed in any role of authority, the only time the heathen have any say in it is when the people of God hand over their authority to them—as Adam did in the Garden of Eden—or simply do not exercise it, which is the same thing.

I know that's a strong statement. But look at The WORD. God was very clear when He said, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Notice that He didn't say anything about the heathen. He didn't say, "If the whole nation shall humble itself, and pray...then I will heal their land." No. He said, "If my people...." That's the Church. He's talking about you and me.

#### Down With the King!

When the people of God choose sin—when they choose to pursue every diabolical thing you can think of, or allow it to exist by not doing anything about it—God will rule in the affairs of men. He will give His covenant people what they want, just as He did Israel.

But remember His warning to them? "And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen" (1 Samuel 8:18).

I once asked The LORD how He expected us, as believers, to go about choosing political candidates. He responded by asking me a question: Did you ever notice that people who support abortion, those who have a lifestyle of some sort of perversion, and those who walk the borderline of the law all the time are never split between political candidates?

He was right. In all my years, the supporters of abortion, the backers of pornography, those who are involved in homosexuality and other perversions, and the users of drugs and alcohol have all pulled together when it comes down to any kind of election.

Why?

For the most part, the biggest thing in the lives of these people is a particular sin and

When we no longer put up a resistance to sin, either by not voting at all or by voting for the wrong reasons, then we've joined forces with those who are serving an unrighteous cause.

> a lifestyle built around it. Consequently, they look for a candidate who will create an environment that will make room for their sinful lifestyle.

> The LORD then asked, Should the Body of Christ for any reason want to create an environment that is easy on sin?

Of course, my answer was, "No!"

Jesus bore our sins on the cross. And whatever He bore for us, we resist. We resist sin. We resist sickness, disease, poverty and so on. We *are not* against the person who commits sin, but we are against the sin.

When we no longer put up a resistance to sin, either by not voting at all or by voting for the wrong reasons, then we've joined forces with those who are serving an unrighteous cause. You may be voting that way because it's how your family has always voted, but you'll end up moaning and groaning later just like Israel did.

Now when it comes to resisting sin, certainly we can grab our picket signs to run out and protest at the local abortion clinic. adult bookstore or city hall. But there has been a lot of misunderstanding about all that, and it primarily has been the fault of preache<u>rs.</u>

Over the years, too many pastors have turned their pulpits into political platforms without digging into The WORD of God until they understood the real spiritual issues at hand.



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Don't get me wrong. There is a time to gather together and take a stand. But we can put "Jesus Saves!" on signs, bumper stickers, T-shirts and everything else, and do little to no good. We must follow God's prescribed plan.

I remember when neighborhood convenience stores in America first started selling pornographic magazines on their newsstands. A lot of church people got mad, grabbed signs and started picketing the stores.

During that time, I heard a store owner say, "My goodness, I didn't have much business till all those Christians started coming down here and raising so much Cain. When they came, I sold out over and over again."

Believers had the right heart about the matter, but their plan backfired. The power is not in the picket sign. It's in The WORD and prayer.

#### The Real Power Brokers

To answer my question about how we, as believers, should select political candidates, The LORD took me to 1 Timothy 2:1-2, where the Apostle Paul wrote: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

The part where the Church has messed up so badly concerning our authority and responsibility in the political process is the "thanksgiving" part of Paul's instructions.

Think about it. When someone we don't like gets elected, suddenly we're no longer interested in praying for that office. Or maybe we've prayed for them, but we're certainly not about to give any thanks for them. Far too often, when we have been diligent in praying for men and women in authority, we have turned right around and openly shred them to pieces in our conversations. According to God's WORD, that won't work.

It's obvious when people in leadership positions are doing ungodly things. But we still have the say-so with God-and that's what counts. We are His covenant people, just as we saw earlier with Israel. But we only have that say-so with God when we've fulfilled our responsibility to pray over elections and candidates, hear how He wants us to vote, and then do it.

Once we've done all that, it doesn't matter if the person we voted for got into office or not. What matters is our obedience.

The LORD once told me, It is very important for My people to make a choice. For if you choose the way I tell you to choose, even if it goes the other way, I will take care of you all the way through the whole thing, just as if it had been exactly the way you voted.

I've seen that happen over and over.

My friend, God has made this whole process very easy for us. He told us that the first thing we are to do is to make petitions and intercessions for all men, kings and men of high authority. Then, we are to give thanks for them.

We don't have to fast and pray for 40 days, twice a year. Just spend 10 to 15 minutes every day praying the way Paul said to pray for our authorities. Granted, there may be times when the Spirit of God will lead you to spend more time and prayer over a particular matter. Follow that lead.

The point is, make the main focus and effort of your petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving consistent. Real spiritual power lies in consistency. That means day after day praying in the spirit, standing on The WORD, lifting holy hands, and praising and worshipping God concerning our authorities—all of them.

Remember, a picket sign has no real impact if it's not full of God's Anointing. But when we, as the Church, get full of that Anointing, I guarantee you won't need a picket sign.

We're the ones with the authority. We're the ones with the say-so with God. Now it's just a matter of...What will we sau?



### NSIDE THE END-TIME VISION OF VICTORY CHANNEL

by Pastor George Pearsons

There is no question about it, we are in the end times.

How do I know?

Just look around.

We are facing issues we've never experienced before. Godless decisions are being made in cities and states all across the nation. The Southern Border is wide open. Children are being exposed to darkness in schools. Parents' roles in the lives of their children are being challenged. Antisemitism is running rampant.

The list goes on and on.

Where exactly are we in God's timeline? Second Timothy 3:1 says, "This know also, "People are desperate.
They are overwhelmed, and they need help."







that in the last days perilous times shall come."

The Greek word for *perilous* is defined as "difficult, dark, dangerous, furious, fierce, hard to take, troublesome, savage and tough." The *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* tells us, "But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]."

These are unsettling times in the Church, the nation and the world. But not for those who choose to live by and exercise strong faith in God's WORD.

#### Strong Faith for the End Times

How exactly do we develop a "strong faith for the end times"?

We do it through a process called "total immersion."

Here's what Kenneth Copeland once said about this process:

"When I first began learning about faith as a student at Oral Roberts University, I needed major results fast. I jumped in at the 100% level. I used a technique I'd read about that the U.S. government used to train translators during World War II called 'total immersion.'

"At the beginning of the war, there wasn't time for translators to become fluent at the normal rate. To speed up the process, they were surrounded 100% with the language they were learning. Research proved if they didn't hear or speak anything but that language, it literally made new grooves in their brains and they became fluent in six weeks or less.

"While I was thinking about that, The LORD spoke to me. He said, Son, if you'll do that —if you'll totally immerse yourself in The WORD and give yourself to it, it will change your entire future. It will change the direction of your life. Your faith will rise to a new level and will never go back.

"I decided to put it to the test. I got my Bible, a notebook and the few tapes on faith I had by Kenneth E. Hagin, and set up a study hall for myself in our little garage. By the end of that seven-day period, exactly what The LORD had said came to pass. The WORD had become the solid foundation of my life. The WORD changed my thinking. It revolutionized the way I saw things. I still didn't know much, but what I did know was embedded so deeply that you couldn't beat it out of me with a bat. From that time on, faith became my way of life. I didn't live by faith just now and then when I found myself in a crunch. I did it every day."

#### The VICTORY Channel Vision

The vision of VICTORY Channel is designed to create an atmosphere of faith through total immersion in God's WORD. It is a powerful group of ministers—all teaching, training and preaching nothing but the uncompromising Word of Faith—24/7!

You will never hear a discouraging word on VICTORY Channel.

That is exactly what we need, to be able to walk in a constant state of victory over all the craziness we are seeing in the world in these end times.

People are desperate. They are overwhelmed, and they need help.

VICTORY Channel provides the answers necessary to not just survive, but thrive.

#### A Major Investment

Almost 10 years ago, when VICTORY Channel began, the question was posed to Brother Copeland: "Should we charge our programmers the airtime?" We received a very clear and resounding answer: "Absolutely not! The KCM Partners will subsidize the airtime for all the programmers."

When you sow into VICTORY Channel, you are actually investing into more than 35 ministries—each which is fulfilling its assignment to get the Word of God to many people, some who may be just barely hanging on. However, as these people become totally immersed in the Word of God through VICTORY Channel, they begin to grow, mature in faith and learn how to overcome the issues they face.

To date, we have received testimony after testimony revealing how lives have been transformed through VICTORY Channel.



# Thank you, VICTORY Channel and KCM, for what you broadcast.

It is such a blessing to hear the truth and to know how to pray, specifically for our leaders, our country and the nations of the world. The prophetic words that I've received from the broadcast have strengthened me spiritually and given me such a desire to pray and believe that the kingdom of God is at hand. America will be saved! God bless you for your many years of faithful advancement of the kingdom of God!

M.H. | Oklahoma

#### I've been watching VICTORY Channel since it started, and I think that VICTORY News is the clearest, best source of news available. NA.

In 2022 I had COVID while trying to close on a home. I was out of work for three weeks and was told I would lose my job because I was not vaccinated. God told me to listen to VICTORY Channel around the clock. George and Gloria preached on believing for your home. Nancy Dufresne preached a message on healing which was pivotal when my asthmatic daughter was struggling with COVID. All the programs were faith, faith, faith.

I was able to close on my home and all our bills were paid. Kansas put a halt on medical job loss, and then I was granted a religious exemption for my job. Plus, my daughter not only got over COVID, but hasn't had an issue with asthma since. Praise God!

A.B. | Kansas

I called the VICTORY Channel *Morning Prayer* team and received prayer for my 7-year-old grandson who was about to have surgery to repair his diaphragm. It had perforated and his abdominal organs were pushing into his chest. The surgeons were able to make the repairs

using only small incisions for the scope and instruments. They did not have to open his chest. Praise God and thanks to that tremendous prayer warrior! And thanks to Kenneth and Gloria Copeland and KCM for their gift of VICTORY Channel.

L.F. | Pennsylvania





People are learning how to take a word from God, stand on it and walk it out to victory. They are understanding who they are in Christ and how to exercise their authority over the devil.

Even though we are seeing a world gone crazy, we are also seeing the greatest awakening the world has ever seen. And VICTORY Channel is a vital part of that end-time awakening.

So join us, and many of our programmers, Sunday, Sept. 22 through Thursday, Sept. 26 on VICTORY Channel for this year's VICTORYTHON. You really don't want to miss anything that is going to take place—especially with Jesse Duplantis as our host!

It will be an end-time revival you won't forget!



George Pearsons is CEO of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of KCM.

For more information or ministry materials go to emic.org

My husband and I stood in faith for his job promotion. He was offered a job but, standing in faith that God had a better plan, we turned it down. A year and three months went by. We pressed into the teachings of KCM and sent offerings by God's grace, tithing when we had increase. With George and Gloria's teachings on VICTORY Channel, we called in

our harvest, which came in big time! My husband received a CEO position with a significant pay increase. God answered all our requests and gets all the glory. We are debt free and are close to the Sacramento Victory Campaign location, one of our hearts' desires. We are so grateful for our partnership with KCM and for all your prayers!

D.H. | California





#### Seedtime and Harvest

Dear Pastors George and Terri, I have a praise report! When you introduced the tither's prayer to the congregation, I made it personal—and in my reading and studying of God's Word I declare this prayer often. Mom and I received our first check of \$7,000.

Thank You, Jesus!

A.T. | Colorado

#### 'No Cancer!'

I received prayer from the prayer department for my daughter, who had colon surgery. The surgeon removed the stones and found no cancer!

E.A. | Oregon

His Message Is Our Message Thank you so much for the teaching on core values. I so appreciate the lessons I receive from KCM. They have changed my life. I love to learn from Pastors George and Terri. Such a blessing to be Partners with you in the gospel.

P.L. | Canada

#### **Blessed To Bless**

My wife and I have been Partners with KCM since about 2016. I remember the day when God asked us to start giving, partnering with KCM. At the time I thought to myself, With what? God said, With what you have, so, we started giving with the goal of \$25 a week. We would miss a week here or there, but we tried to stay consistent. Last

year was the first time we went the FULL YEAR of not missing an opportunity to give. God has been good to us, and we are still growing and getting stronger in His Word. We are believing for the impossible because for Him it's doable!

C.W. | North Carolina



#### Welcome Home

Last year, I was listening to *FlashPoint*, and they were talking about the prodigals coming home. I believed that was a word from the Lord. My oldest son is now seeking the Lord and recently got baptized. Glory to God, my wife and I are seeing the fruit of his life being changed. PRAISE THE LORD! E.G. | Arizona

#### Our Great Physician

I called for prayer for my wife, who was driving and started to experience blurred vision and a massive headache. She immediately went to the emergency room. They said her blood pressure was extremely high.

That's when I called KCM and asked for prayer. I'm glad to report her blood pressure went back to normal and all the tests showed she was OK. Praise Jesus and thank you, KCM!

D.L. | California

#### He'll Draw All to Himself

There are no words to describe the blessing FlashPoint has been! I'm so grateful that you all have been there for me. I first got connected to KCM in 2018. It truly was a life-changing experience; I felt the anointing and the presence of the Lord. I first heard of KCM on Daystar. To be honest, I was a little unsure about the program. BUT GOD kept drawing me back to watch it and I'm so glad He did. We serve a mighty God!

Thank you, KCM, VICTORY Channel and FlashPoint! God bless you!

P.B. | North Carolina

#### His Joy Is Our Strength

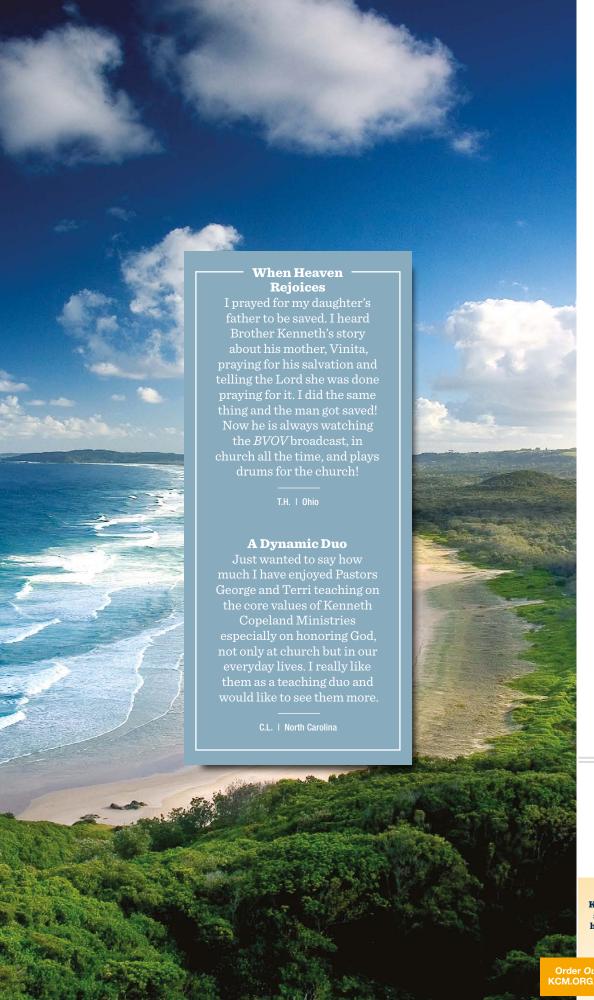
At the 2024 Branson event, I was set free from grief over my daughter's death, which was six years ago. I started to laugh when I received my breakthrough and have since noticed that I am laughing more. I exchanged my ashes for beauty, and sadness for joy.

R.S. | Nebraska

#### Favored Acceleration

I called the prayer line to pray for favor to sell our home that had been on the market for years. After we prayed, our house sold!

N.B. | West Virginia



#### 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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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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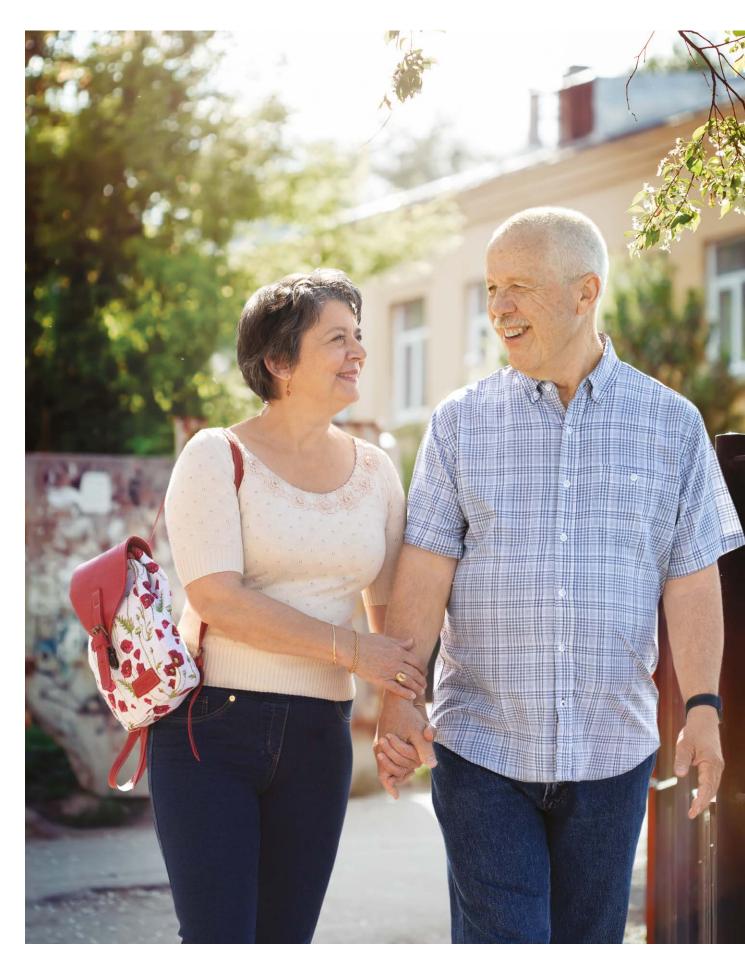
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UK time: 9:00 - 16:30

In this book, Kenneth Copeland shares scriptures he and Gloria pray daily over their partners.



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Terry Cox slipped out of his chair at the breakfast table and hugged his mother. Walking toward the school bus, he waved goodbye. Life in small town Griffin, Ga., was idyllic.

- Terry adored his parents. -

His dad owned a sign company and taught seventh-grade boys at church. His mother was a financial counselor for the local hospital. Terry and his sister, Debra, were at church with their parents every Sunday and Wednesday.

Every evening after dinner, the family gathered for devotions and prayer.

Even school had been fun.

Until the day he climbed off the school bus and was met by three brothers who, he thought, wanted to play.

Instead, they'd knocked him to the ground and beat him.

 $His \, parents \, had \, been \, shocked \, by \, his \, bloody \, face.$ 

"Son," they said, "don't fight back. If somebody wants to pick a fight, just walk away. They'll leave you alone. They won't bother you."

It was good advice. Except that it didn't work.

Day after day, Terry had tried walking away. And each day he went home with a bloody face. Still, his parents gave him the same advice.

When Terry felt too traumatized to concentrate, his grades plummeted. Even then, his parents gave him the same advice.

Soon, word got around that he was a coward.

"Hey," the boys taunted, "there's that sissy, Terry!"

By the time he was 12 years old, Terry had become angry and bitter. Not just at the bullies. He was angry with his parents.

He'd been raised to obey them—to honor their counsel. But after years of being beaten by bullies, he'd lost faith in their advice. They were wrong.

What else had they told him that wasn't true?

#### Fighting Back

"Those were tough times for me," Terry recalls. "I was hurt and humiliated. I learned to fight back with my mouth. I wanted people to stay away from me, so I cursed and said mean things to them. It didn't leave me many friends.

#### READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

		SEPT	
		Old Testament	New Testament
Sun	1	Ps. 104; Prov. 21:16-31	
Mon	2	Job 16-18	Phil. 2
Tue	3	Job 19-20	Phil. 3
Wed	4	Job 21-22	Phil. 4
Thu	5	Job 23-26	Col. 1
Fri	6	Job 27:1-29:6	Col. 2
Sat	7	Job 29:7-31:15	
Sun	8	Ps. 105; Prov. 22:1-16	
Mon	9	Job 31:16-33:18	Col. 3
Tue	10	Job 33:19-35:16	Col. 4
Wed	11	Job 36:1-38:11	1 Thess. 1
Thu	12	Job 38:12-39:30	1 Thess. 2
Fri	13	Job 40-42	1 Thess. 3
Sat	14	Eccl. 1-3	
Sun	15	Ps. 106; Prov. 22:17-29	
Mon	16	Eccl. 4:1-7:12	1 Thess. 4
Tue	17	Eccl. 7:13-10:7	1 Thess. 5
Wed	18	Eccl. 10:8- Songs 2:7	2 Thess. 1
Thu	19	Songs 2:8-6:10	2 Thess. 2
Fri	20	Songs 6:11-lsa. 1:31	1 2 Thess. 3
Sat	21	Isa. 2:1-5:7	
Sun	22	Ps. 107; Prov. 23:1-28	
Mon	23	Isa. 5:8-7:25	1 Tim. 1
Tue	24	Isa. 8:1-10:19	1 Tim. 2
Wed	25	Isa. 10:20-13:22	1 Tim. 3
Thu	26	Isa. 14-17	1 Tim. 4
Fri	27	Isa. 18:1-22:14	1 Tim. 5
Sat	28	lsa. 22:15-25:12	
Sun	29	Ps. 108-109; Prov. 23:29-24:22	
Mon	30	Isa. 26-28	1 Tim. 6

"I let my hair grow long and became unkempt. Although I disrespected my dad, I still loved him. He was a musician, so I became one as well. I started playing clarinet in fifth grade and switched to the saxophone the following year.

"I felt safe in the band. I also felt safe at church. Everyone there was nice to me. Our church preached a lot of fire and brimstone, and I was afraid of going to hell. That's why, during an altar call, I went forward and shook the preacher's hand. Then I filled out a membership card. I believed that made me a Christian, but I never had a change of heart.

"I still felt empty and bitter. But I led music during our youth revivals. In high school, I played first-chair saxophone. During youth group one night, the kids talked about what to do after graduation. I had no idea. I thought about it. I was good at music, and the people at church were nice to me. I figured I'd go into church music."

Following high school, Terry majored in music and earned an associate degree. Afterward, he accepted jobs as the musical director for different churches. Then, he enrolled in Oklahoma Baptist University.

All through those years, Terry lived a double life. On Sundays and Wednesdays, he led choir. The rest of the time, he acted out of his hurt and bitterness.

#### A New Life

In 1982, Terry moved to Nashville. He visited Belmont Church because he knew Amy Grant attended there. Though he didn't meet her, he met someone greater; he met Jesus.

Jesus was present in the ushers who greeted him, Terry recalls. He was present in worship, which made him weep. He was present in the Word of God, which brought conviction.

For the first time in his life, Terry Cox surrendered his heart and life to Jesus. He was desperate for God. He wanted everything God had to offer.

Later, Terry attended Belmont College, which prepared students to work in the music industry. While there, he became a booking agent for artists.

"In 1986, I decided to go into missions," Terry remembers. "My first step was to go through discipleship training school, which was part of Youth With A Mission (YWAM). I contacted my home church back in Griffin and told the pastor

my plan. He told me that they wanted to ordain me and send me as a licensed minister."

After becoming ordained, Terry went to Kona, Hawaii, for training.

"The motto of YWAM is: "To Know God and Make Him Known." The first six months, we learned that for ourselves."

#### Seeing the Miraculous

"One of our leaders was leaving for China, and had asked that we pray for him," said Terry. "We kept notebooks filled with things God showed us. One day we were praying in the spirit for him. Later we learned that at the exact time we prayed, he started praying in tongues. When he did, people crowded to hear—because he was preaching the gospel in Chinese!

"The Lord spoke to me through Isaiah 55:11, which says, 'So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the purpose for which I sent it' (New American Standard Bible). From that day, I knew I was supposed to preach God's Word.

"From Hawaii, we went to the Philippines, where we saw many miraculous answers to prayer. For instance, we had scheduled a special time for the people, God gave us the date, and we used our funds to get food. The night before the event, it rained like a monsoon. It was still raining the next morning. So we went outside, looked up to the sky, and began to speak to the rain. One of our team members said, 'I curse that rain in the Name of Jesus! I tell you to silence yourself now! Stop and go back!' The clouds dried up and we had a marvelous outreach.

"I loved living on the edge and seeing God move in miraculous ways," says Terry. "I knew this was what I wanted to do with my life."

Toward the end of his training program, Terry's leader met with him.

"Terry, I'm getting ready to move to the Los Angeles YWAM base. I really believe I'm supposed to bring you on staff there. Are you interested?"

In January 1987, Terry moved to Los Angeles. There, he was put in charge of a program called Night of Missions. He took YWAM teams from around the world to Bible schools, universities and churches. He also led outreach teams to the streets of Hollywood, where they ministered to young people—some who couldn't make it in movies and others who got caught up in prostitution.

#### **Olympic Events**

Terry was also asked to lead outreach programs to people attending Olympic events. That call took him around the world, where he and the teams he led did more street evangelism. One of his favorite stops, Terry recalls, was at Pastor David Yonggi Cho's Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea, when he was there during the 1988 Seoul Olympic outreach. He'd never imagined the power of hundreds of thousands of voices worshipping together.

From Seoul, they went to Hong Kong. There they connected with a group called Bicyclists for Asia. They filled their bicycle saddlebags with Bibles and literature written in Chinese. Then they took a boat to China and waited for customs to open.

"I'd read the book *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew and it had influenced me greatly," Terry explains. "So, when we got to customs, they were searching everyone's belongings. We prayed silently that God would blind their eyes and we'd get through. When we reached the front of the line someone in customs said, 'Oh, here is the bicycle group. Come with me.' He ushered us around customs, and nobody opened our bags. Then we began our miraculous journey through China.

In June 1989, a team trained in Los Angeles for drama, mimes and street evangelism, then packed their bikes and met up with him and others in Geneva. "Witnessing all the way, we rode from there to Frankfurt, Germany, and then on to many other countries," he said.

"I joined Brother Andrew's group, smuggling Bibles into Russia. At that time, Russia was still part of the Soviet Union. We met Christians from the underground Church. I took a picture of one of them holding a copy of Kenneth Copeland's book *The Laws of Prosperity*.

"Members of the underground Church invited me to a meeting on the steps of the Central Anti-Religious Museum in Moscow, which is a museum dedicated to atheism. When I got there, a huge crowd had arrived. Then they asked me to speak. I stood with a translator and preached to the crowd. It was one of the highlights of my life."

#### A Divine Appointment in France

Back in Los Angeles, some of the YWAM leaders met with Terry.

"A church in France has an unusual request," they explained. "They want a full-time team



France, 1991

"I loved living on the edge and seeing God move in miraculous ways. I knew

this was what

I wanted to do

with my life."

POUR

member to stay and help build their mission program. We've prayed about it, and we believe you're the one to do it."

In September 1990, Terry moved to Saint Étienne, France. It was a city of about 200,000, not far from the Alps. At the small Protestant church where he was assigned, Terry started a discipleship training school.

Terry threw himself into the work. He loved the church. He loved the city, and he loved France.

Later that year, a stranger named Isabelle walked into the church. *She is the most beautiful woman I've ever seen*, he thought. She just seemed to glow.

"I was the youngest of three children born and raised in France," Isabelle explains. "Over the years, our family moved to 14 different cities. Although my parents weren't practicing Catholics, they had us go through catechism and confirmation.

#### The Wrong Road

"I didn't understand any of it," Isabelle recalls about religion. "As far as I knew, God was an old man sitting on a cloud with a crooked cane. He wore a long Harley Davidson beard and was waiting for me to mess up.

"When I was 19, we lived in Paris. I was a troubled teenager. Like Terry, I'd been bullied in school. I wanted to know the source of my problems, so I studied to become a medium.

"I thought if I could see the past, I would understand my problems and could be healed. After I became a medium, I was no better. I told a friend about my problem. He suggested that I call a girl he knew who was a Christian.

"On Dec. 31, 1985, I went to my bedroom and prayed. I said, 'God, if You exist, I'm asking that You reveal Yourself to me.' Then I called the

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Godloves you, we love you and Jesus is Lord

Christian. She said, 'This weekend there is going to be an evangelist at my church. He is going to talk about what God says in the Bible about mediums.'

"I went to her church and was floored. I saw in the Scripture that God was against mediums! I wept because I realized that I'd hurt God by my choices. I answered the altar call and gave my heart and life to Jesus.

"My family moved two more times. The second move was to Saint Étienne in 1990. I didn't know anybody when I entered that church. I enrolled in the Discipleship Training School and got to know Terry. We became friends but were only together in groups. Two years later, God had impressed on us that we were to marry.

"In France, you can have a church wedding, but it isn't legal. To be legal, you must be married by the mayor. So, in 1992, we were married by the mayor. Afterward, we flew to Georgia and were married a second time in the church there.

#### A New Call

"We'd planned on taking a year's sabbatical and then returning to work for YWAM. However, Terry got a call from a judge he had met in discipleship class in Nashville. The juvenile court judge asked Terry to pray about becoming a youth service officer in Cookeville, Tenn. We prayed about it and realized this wasn't just a job offer, but an assignment from God," Isabelle said.

"We moved to Cookeville and Terry took the job, which was challenging. Those first five years of our marriage were some of the hardest of my life. We had two sons, Jeremy and Jason, 16 months apart. I was still struggling with a new language and a new culture.

"As part of his job, Terry went back to college. When he wasn't at work, he was taking classes and doing homework. We were determined to make our marriage work, so we went to marriage conferences and read books.

"Then a friend invited us to a meeting where they showed a video of Kenneth Copeland preaching. Terry and I looked at each other with our mouths open. We'd never heard anything like it.

"After that, we would buy books by Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth Hagin, among others, and get up at 4:30 in the morning to read, study and pray," says Isabelle.

"In the process, we learned to live by faith."

In 1997, Terry and Isabelle went to Tulsa, Okla., to attend Brother Hagin's Camp Meeting. There, for the first time, they heard Kenneth Copeland teaching live.

In 1999, Terry finished his bachelor's degree  $\,$ 

and started doing computer work for the court.

During that time, the judge who had hired Terry died. When a grant wasn't renewed for his position, he found himself out of work. Not moved by the situation, Terry told Isabelle, "Everything will be fine. We're going to give the exact same tithe that we would have given if I was still working for the juvenile court."

#### Out of Work

Over the next nine months, Terry took what work he could find. He worked on computers. He worked construction. He worked in a factory. All during that time, God's math superseded anything Terry and Isabelle had ever imagined because their bills were all paid. Like the loaves and fishes, they had read about in the Bible, food multiplied in their refrigerator and freezer.

Years before, God had told Isabelle that one day Terry would work for Kenneth Copeland Ministries. When a job opened in the IT department, Terry applied—but didn't get it.

One day after listening to a message by Creflo Dollar, Isabelle took a stand. She said, "Lord, I'm going to draw a line in the ground with my foot. I believe You have called Terry to work for KCM. When I step across that line by faith, I believe he will have that job."

She stepped across the line.

A week later, someone at KCM called and offered Terry a job in IT.

In September 2003, Terry went to work for KCM. Soon after, Isabelle followed. During his 20 years in the IT department, Terry had the privilege of personally assisting Kenneth and Gloria Copeland—taking care of whatever technical and computer needs they had, both in their offices and at home. In November 2023, Terry left IT to become the broadcast systems administrator for the television department.

Is abelle worked as a prayer minister at KCM for 12 years.

Working for KCM has played a major role in their spiritual growth, they both say.

"Being a Partner with KCM means never being alone," Terry explains. "I knew that even before we worked here. This ministry saturates its Partners in prayer every day. We've always benefited from those prayers. But working here, we see it in action. That's why we love beginning our day by praying for Kenneth and Gloria. It is another way to give back to them."

Terry Cox loved all the years that he spent traveling the world and sharing the gospel with people on the streets. That's still where his heart lives. Only now, he helps send that message all around the world on one of several available voices—the voice of television.







#### Unbelievable, Impossible and

## Totally Doable

Years ago, while building Jesse Duplantis Ministries, I made up my mind that I wouldn't use banks to do it. People thought I'd lost my ever-loving mind because they knew how little money I had at the time. Three banks in my area told me I couldn't do it.

"The Bible says I can," I'd say.

They didn't like that. They wanted me to "talk business" instead. They didn't

I was going straight to the ultimate business manual—the Word of God!

understand that when I said, "The Bible says I can," I was *absolutely* talking business. I was going straight to the ultimate business manual—the Word of God!

They thought I was being arrogant and cocky, but I wasn't. I was in acquisition mode. I had made up my mind that I wasn't paying one red dime in interest to any bank.

They didn't believe me then, but now they know.

They watched my staff and me build the ministry headquarters debt free and under budget. More than that, we acquired land all around us.

In the 40-plus years I've been in ministry, I've continued to refuse to go into debt. Praise God! We've always been debt-free. Why? Because while I knew that what God had given me to do was unbelievable and impossible, it was also totally doable—because it was totally of Him.

Like Joshua getting ready to enter the Promised Land, I was ready to take Him at His Word and walk on untrodden ground.

#### Joshua-Untrodden Ground

When the children of Israel reached the Jordan River, they were on the verge of entering the Promised Land. God had raised a new generation, and Joshua was leading it. At the end of his life, after the children of Israel had, in fact, entered and acquired much of the Promised Land, Joshua 13:1 says, "Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

I believe that's the same message God has for us today. There's still land to be taken. There's still work to do for the kingdom of God, and it's time for this generation to do it. The first nine verses of Joshua 1 contain a powerful lesson on what it means to take the land.

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses (verses 1-3).

God told Joshua to walk on untrodden ground, places he'd never been before. He's got the same message for us. It's time to walk in places we've never walked before spiritually, physically, financially. Of course,



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we must understand that whatever the Lord has given us to do in the natural, He's already done in the spirit. We don't have to wait for everything to come wrapped up with a bow. We simply need to walk. That's what the Lord said to Joshua and the children of Israel: "Arise, go over this Jordan" (verse 2).

It didn't matter that they were getting ready to face the Hittites, Ammorites, Amalekites or all the other "ites." It didn't matter that it seemed unbelievable and impossible. God was in it, so it was doable; they just needed to start walking. It's the same for you and me today. Remember, you're not walking for yourself. You're doing it for the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Where Haven't You Walked Yet?

The enemy meant this recent season of upheaval we've all faced for bad—but God is turning it for good. He's causing an explosion of people to be saved and healed all over the world. The believers and ministers and churches that are prospering right now are the ones preaching the Word. They're conquering the whole world for the Lord. That's their responsibility—and ours too. God is giving it to us because He believes in acquisition, just as He did in Joshua's time.

Joshua 1 continues...

From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest (verses 4-7).

Isn't that a beautiful passage? God promised to prosper Joshua and the children of Israel as they set out acquiring the Promised Land. Religious people may get upset about the idea of prosperity being connected to the Body of Christ, but prosperity comes from the mouth of God. It's right there in His Word. God didn't proclaim poverty; Satan did. The Lord promised prosperity. It's what He promised the children of Israel, and it's what He's promised us today as we do His will.

Psalm 115:16 says, "The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men." Don't tell me we can't take the whole world for Jesus. We can, and we *are*.

#### Walk by Faith

Finally, Joshua 1:8-9 gives us the foundation for everything we do as we're fulfilling the Lord's plans:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein 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. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

We've got to meditate on the Word of God day and night until it consumes us, until we're so familiar with it that we know the ethics of Scripture. Then, when something comes up, we can say, "Oh, this is what the Word says, so this is what we're going to do." That's part of renewing our minds with the Word of God. The end result is that we walk by faith.

That's the goal: to walk by faith. I can tell you, though, it takes a lot of faith to do something God tells you to do. Every morning I get up and pray, "Lord, what will You have me do today?"

This is what comes back: Command ye Me concerning My Word. What does My Word say to do today? Now command Me.

That doesn't mean I snap my fingers at God. That would be a good way to lose my snappers! He demands me to do what He's *already* given me to do, whether it's spiritual, physical or financial.

We walk by faith because it takes faith to walk in God's plans, and God's Word is the foundation for every step we take.

#### God Is Showing Up

Does that mean acquiring the land is going to be easy? No! As I said earlier, I've learned over the years that if the vision I'm fulfilling is, in fact, from God, then it's totally unbelievable and totally impossible. But it's also totally *doable* because it's *totally of Him*.

We're a generation on the verge of doing the unbelievable and receiving the impossible because God said to do it. God wants this world, and He wants it quicker than we've been giving it to Him. We've got 7.5 billion people on the earth, and only 2.3 billion are Christians. We're behind schedule. It's time for us to do what the Lord said to do, so we can hasten His return.

We're walking and we're acquiring untrodden ground. We're going places we never thought we'd go, doing things we never thought we'd do, and accomplishing things we never thought we'd accomplish. Mark my words, it will be done! God is showing up and showing out.

He's in it, so let's do it!

"Prosperity comes from the mouth of God. It's right there in His Word."



SIGNS OF THE END OF THE AGE

My wife, Denise, and I live in a community just outside of Moscow. When we drive into the city, we regularly pass signs that tell us our distance from Moscow. As we get closer to our destination, the number of kilometers decreases. Those signs show how far along we are on our journey.

Anyone who takes a road trip knows the value of signs. But physical road signs aren't the only important signs.

The disciples asked Jesus about the signs of the end of the age. They said, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign

of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3).

They wanted to know exactly when the end of the age would be, and Jesus didn't disappoint. The disciples asked for one sign, but there are many.

#### Sign No. 1: Deception

The first sign Jesus told them to look for appears in

verse 4: "Take heed that no man deceive you." Most people read past that sign because they want to get right to earthquakes and famines and wars. But the first sign that Jesus listed may be one of the foremost signs of the end of the age: deception.

All the texts about the Rapture of the Church and the coming of the Lord list both deception, *and* the coming of the Lord. This implies that these two things will happen simultaneously.

The Greek word for *deception* means "to lead slowly off track." It describes a person who has walked on a solid, well-worn course year after year, but has stepped over into a place he has never been before. But this word applies not only to an individual, it also refers to a city, state, nation or people group. The word was even used to describe an animal that had gotten so lost that it could not find its way back home.

Jesus warned that deception will pervade society until it veers so far off the worn path it used to walk that it cannot find its way back home.

Paul wrote about the end of the age in 2 Timothy 3:1: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." I don't want you to miss the deep meaning in this verse. The word *last* is the Greek word *eschatos*. It is where we get the word *eschatology*, which is "the study of end times." It was a navigational word used by the shipping industry to describe the farthest ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit was speaking through Paul to say: You will know when you have come to the end of the age because society will have gone off track morally. People will feel they have come to the end of the road and wonder, How in the world did this happen?

#### Sign No. 2: Foolish Hearts

That's a pretty good depiction of our times, isn't it? Romans 1:18 says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." The word hold in that verse is the Greek word katalambanó. It's a compound word. The first part of the word, kata, describes something that is moving downward. The second part, echo, means "to hold or embrace." When

we compound the two words, it's not only "holding the truth in unrighteousness," it's also a picture of people who know the truth but don't like it. They try to suppress the truth, lest it get out and positively affect the minds of thinking people.

Verse 21 says, "When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." That word *knew* does not mean they were all born again. It describes a general God-fearing attitude in society. We could translate it as: "Because when they [had a general respect for God], they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations."

The word *vain* describes something that is completely wasted. *Imaginations* comes from the Greek word *logismos*. It is where we get the idea of logical thinking. So we could translate this: "They became wasted, or ruined, in their ability to reason what is right and what is wrong."

They didn't know it, though. Verse 22 tells us that they professed "themselves to be wise." They believed they were creating a new, progressive movement. They couldn't have been more wrong. The Holy Spirit calls them fools because they chose to swap God for their own inclinations.

#### Sign No. 3: Reprobate Minds

What's the result of this foolishness as we come to the end of the age? Verses 24-25 tell us: "Wherefore God also gave them up

"It's also a picture of people who know the truth but don't like it. They try to suppress the truth."

to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

Often people read that and think, *God gave them up. He deserted them.* But that's not what the Word says. The Greek means that God "released them." Our Father respects a person's choice. He isn't abandoning or washing His hands of them. He instead respectfully backs up and says, "Fine. If this is what you want, go for it."

But the result isn't pretty. Verse 28 tells us that God "gave them over to a reprobate mind." What does that mean? We only have to continue reading:

Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" (verses 29-31).

That's quite a list. But we must remember that these individuals are not ignorant. There was a time when they respected God. There was a time when they knew what was wrong, but they have drifted far from the truth. It was their choice, and God honored it.

#### Sign No. 4: Seducing Spirits

When we come to 1 Timothy 4:1, we find that at the end of the age, deception will find its way even into the Church: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."

The phrase *giving heed* is the Greek word *prosecho*. The beginning of that word is *pros*. It means "to draw near in order to embrace something else." It warns that the Church will release what they once embraced and move in a new direction to embrace something new. But the problem is, what they are embracing are seducing spirits.

These seducing spirits intend to lead people, including people in the Church, off track morally. Believers are told again and again that they need to be more tolerant, more inclusive, more open-minded and more loving. Some will believe that, in the name of Jesus' love, they should throw open the doors and embrace everything that comes along. This is the work of seducing spirits, or demons. These aren't demons with red skin, horns on their heads and pitchforks in their hands. Rather, they are doctrines of devils.

#### What's the Solution?

What is the solution to all of this? In verse 6, Paul says, "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shall be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

In Greek, the word remembrance is the compound word hupotithemi. The word hupo means "to be under something," and tithemi is a foundational word that means "to place or lay a foundation." Together, these two words mean to "position a solid foundation underneath something." That is the job of every minister, pastor and believer today. We're laying a foundation underneath the Body of Christ.

It's almost like Paul was saying, "Welcome to your destiny. For the rest of your life, you're going to crawl under the brethren and lay a good foundation underneath them."

This is a continual process, though. As soon as people have a good foundation of the Word underneath them, a wind of doctrine will come along to try to blow them off the foundation again. Our job is to crawl under them and re-lay a solid foundation by continually teaching them the Word—line by line, precept by precept.

Mature believers have never been more needed than we are right now. People all over the world are deceived, off track, exchanging foolishness for wisdom, developing reprobate minds, and listening to seducing spirits. It's our responsibility as the Body of Christ to lay a foundation of truth underneath them continually, so they are established on the solid rock of God's Word.



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



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by Gloria Copeland

A lot of people have been wondering lately if there's any such thing as a safe investment anymore. From a natural perspective, it's hard to tell. The world has been on such an economic roller coaster the last several years, even financial experts are left scratching their heads over what might happen next.

As unpredictable as the natural economy might be, however, there's one investment you can make that's always guaranteed. Regardless of what's going on in the world, it will consistently produce rich dividends. It will make you a success and bring you great blessing in any kind of economic climate.





What kind of investment could possibly provide such surefire returns?

The Word of God.

Investing your time in the Word is the wisest move you can ever make. It's the secret to living in certain victory even in the midst of an uncertain world. If you fill your heart with God's Word about prosperity, you can prosper even when the market plunges. If you fill your heart with His Word

about healing, you can be healed, even when the doctor says you can't. If you fill your heart with the Word about your inheritance in Jesus, even when the world is going through times that are anything but heavenly, you can enjoy "days of heaven upon the earth" (Deuteronomy 11:21).

"Yeah," someone might say, "but you have to remember we're living in the last days and even the Bible says that in the last days things are going to get bad."

I know. That's why we need to spend time in God's Word! We need it to counteract all the negativity we're seeing and hearing around us. We need it to overcome all the bad news and lies of the devil we're being told. Now, more than ever, we need it to remind us that, no matter how bad things might get in this world, God's will for us is always going to be good.

The Bible confirms it time and again. It says:

"The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works" (Psalm 145:9).

"The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him" (Psalm 103:17).

"The Lord...daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation" (Psalm 68:19).

"As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

No question about it: Our God is a good God! He's so lovely and kind and full of mercy, we can't wrap our natural minds around it.



Even when the world is going through bad times, God's will

for us is good. (Ps. 145:9)

2

Faith to receive the good things God has for you comes through His Word.

(Rom. 10:17)

3

Invest in the Word by spending time in it and putting it first place in your life. (Prov. 4:20-21)

4

Don't wait for God to chase you down and speak to you; go after His Word.

(Jas. 4:8)

5

There's nothing more beneficial you can do than invest your time in God's Word.

(Gal. 6:7-8)

# "If you want to experience all the good things He's prepared for you, you have to communicate with Him about them."

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The only way we can even begin to see the magnitude of His goodness is by letting Him speak to us through His Word by the voice of the Holy Spirit.

I'll be forever grateful that our God is a speaking God, won't you? Listening to someone talk is how you get to know them. If you have friends who don't say much, you can't develop a very good relationship with them.

Good relationships require communication. If you're a wife, that's how you get to know the man you've married. If you're a husband, that's how you get to know your wife. You communicate with each other. You spend time together.

In much the same way, if you want to get to know God, you have to spend time with Him in His Word. If you want to experience all the good things He's prepared for you, you have to communicate with Him about them. You have to hear what He has said to you in the Scriptures and treasure His words in your heart, and then speak those words with your mouth to put them to work!

It takes faith to receive from God, and Romans 10:17 says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." But faith doesn't come to you as a result of the Word *I've* heard. Faith comes to you as a result of the Word *you* hear and do. It comes because you've followed the instructions in Proverbs 4:20-23: "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

#### Taking the First Step

Notice, according to those verses, the first step to investing in the Word is this: You *attend* to it. That means you "pay attention" to it. You focus on it. You don't give all your attention to the newspaper. You don't spend all your time watching television and listening to what other people are saying. You put the Word first place in your life.

How exactly do you go about that?

Start by making the Word your final authority. Determine that whatever you see there, that's the way it is. What God says goes.

Don't try to make His Word fit with what you've experienced in the past or what you've been taught. Believe God's Word without qualification. When you see in the Scriptures that God's tender mercies are over you, believe it! Put your faith in God's mercy to cause you to succeed in whatever you do.

The second thing you must do to put the Word first place in your life, is to plan your schedule around it. Make time in the Word your top priority every day. Granted, this will take a lot of determination. Like all of us, you have a lot of other things competing for your time. So if you're going to fellowship with God in the Word on a daily basis, you can't be haphazard about it. You have to be disciplined and committed.

You also have to be ready to fight off the attacks of the devil. He'll always encourage you to do anything with your time except spend it in the Word. The devil doesn't want you in the Word because it makes you free from his dominion. It equips you to keep him under your feet.

Satan would rather you do good deeds—take potato salad to the church picnic, bake cakes for the bake sale or whatever—than spend time in the Word because, although those are nice things to do, they won't guarantee you victory. They won't make you an overcomer. The Word of God will!

"But Gloria, I'm a businessman. I just don't have time for the Word."

You'd have time for it if you realized how much being without it has cost you. If you knew how many mistakes you've made—how much time you've had to spend in the lawyer's office or the banker's office, trying to straighten out some problem you got into because you weren't walking in the wisdom of God's Word—you'd realize you can't do without it.

There's not anything more beneficial to you than attending to God's Word, because that's where your success is in every area of life. So do whatever it takes to spend time in the Word every day. If you have to get up early in the morning, do it. If you have to go to bed later at night, do it. Whether you're a businessman, a doctor, a homemaker or a construction worker doesn't matter. If you want to succeed, you've got to have the Word. It's vital to your well-being and necessary for your victory!

#### Invest Fully In the Word

You don't have to limit your investment to just the amount of Word you can fit into your daily devotional time, either. Proverbs 4:20-21 says to incline your ear to the Word and *keep it* in front of your

eyes to the point that it's always in the midst of your heart.

Although that might sound hard to do, with the technology available these days, it's actually easy. In addition to reading your Bible at home and going to meetings where you can hear the anointed Word being preached in person, you can listen to the Word in your car, on your CD player, your smartphone or whatever other device you use. You can even turn on the television or the computer and watch Word-filled broadcasts like *Believer's Voice of Victory*.

Back when Ken and I first started putting the Word in our hearts, we didn't have all those resources available to us. We could go to meetings, of course, (although there weren't nearly as many people preaching the Word of Faith then as there are now) and we could read the Bible. But other than that, the only way we could hear the Word was by listening to messages by Brother Kenneth E. Hagin on a big box-like tape recorder that played reel-to-reel tapes.





Kenneth Copeland







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tapes. We so immersed ourselves in them, we lost track of everything else going on in the world. We didn't know what was on television or what was showing at the movies. We didn't know anything except the Word of God. I'm sure the world went through several crises we never even heard about.

In those days, we didn't have enough money for me to go with Ken when he went out preaching, so I stayed home with the children. They were just toddlers back then, and since I didn't get much opportunity to get out and see anyone else, I didn't have a lot of fellowship with other believers. But I didn't care. I was in revival all by myself.

I was finding out about the integrity of God's Word. I was learning I could count on His Word the same way I count on the word of a trusted friend. I was seeing in the Scriptures and hearing from Brother Hagin that God means what He says, and if I believe His Word it will work for me.

That was the best news I'd ever heard!

To me, studying the Word was like being on a treasure hunt. I made it my first priority and stayed with it. Sure enough, the time

> I invested paid off. One day, right there at home all by myself, something happened in my spirit. I got to the point where the Word was in my heart in abundance.

From then on, things began to change fast! The mountains of negative circumstances in my life began to move. Our family began to walk in healing. We were able to pay off the massive debts we owed. We started to prosper.

#### Your Desire Follows **Your Attention**

I would have never seen those kinds of results if I'd just spent a little dab of time in the Word. A little dab won't do it! It takes a lot of the Word to live in divine health. It takes a continual, constant inflow of

the Word to live in divine prosperity and BLESSING.

Why? Because we have an outlaw to deal with. His name is Satan. He's continually trying to kill our bodies and steal from us. Although we have authority over him, to consistently exercise that authority we have to stay spiritually strong-and to stay spiritually strong, we have to continually feed on God's Word.

In other words, we can't be lazy. We can't just sit around waiting for God to chase us down and speak to us. Chasing us down is not God's responsibility. On the contrary, the Scripture says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8). "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). God has already made His move by making the Word available to us. Going after it is our responsibility.

"But Gloria, somehow it seems like I've just lost my desire for the Word."

Then get it back!

Your desire follows your attention, so you can change your desire by changing where you put your attention. I've found in my own life, I can stir up my desire for the Word in one day's time. All I have to do is say, "OK, I'm going to spend some extra hours studying the Word today. I'm going to set aside everything else and spend time fellowshipping with God."

Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

It's impossible for the Word of God to fail. When it's invested in properly, it always produces marvelous returns. So become a big-time spiritual investor. Make major deposits of the Word in your heart. In any economy, it will be the wisest investment you'll ever make. The dividends are wonderful!

### Calling All Superkid Supersleuths!



Hey, Superkid Supersleuths! For a while now, we've been discovering answers to the mysteries Paul spoke of in Ephesians. I'm super stoked about what Jesus is showing us as we dig deeper into not only who Paul was and who we are, but also who Jesus is and who He is INSIDE us!

This was a mystery for thousands of years. Paul wrote it out plainly in Ephesians 3, yet we are only now scratching the surface of discovering who we really are. Let's be like archaeologists working on an ancient discovery, digging very carefully, and making sure not to miss any clue or important truth.

To recall what we've discovered so far, let's remember what the BIG MYSTERY is:

WE ARE ONE with Jesus! (This is a huge dig site that has big meaning to us as Christians.)

We are co-heirs (ones who can inherit the rank, title, position, property of another)

We have Jesus' identity

We have His power and authority

We are meant to share His message, like He shares the Father's message.

These are just a few of the truths we've uncovered. The Bible tells us we can live like Jesus and do everything He did when He was on the earth—and more! Paul's purpose and passion was to discover and share these truths with us. I feel that same passion to bring this to you! Look at Ephesians 3:9-10 in The Passion Translation. It says, "My passion is to enlighten every person to this divine mystery. It was hidden for ages past until now, and kept a secret in the heart of God, the Creator of all. The purpose of this was to unveil before every throne and rank of angelic orders in the heavenly realm God's full and diverse

wisdom revealed through the church."

Do you see why God wanted His mystery plan revealed? Because you and I, and all of God's people, are to be FULL of His wisdom, life and power! Remember, we are ONE with Him! This is supposed to be obvious to all of heaven, the angels and everyone we know: We are God's children and we are just like Him. Verses 11-12 say, "This perfectly wise plan was destined from eternal ages and fulfilled completely in our Lord Jesus Christ. so that now we have boldness through him, and free access as kings before the Father because of our complete confidence in Christ's faithfulness."

For too long, Christians have not understood the full picture of who they are. They haven't realized that when they said yes to Jesus and asked Him to come into their hearts, they could be completely like Him. Verse 12 says we have the boldness to come into the presence of the Father! That is a BIG statement we need to dig further into it. Have we been doing this? What does this mean? How far into His presence can we go? What do YOU think about it?

Hebrews 4:16 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition), says it like this: "Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]."

We need His nearness every day and because He is near to us, we can be near to HIM! When we feel weak, not good enough, sad or discouraged, we can come to Him. Remember that we are small inside His BIGNESS. When it seems like we have failed, there is mercy in His presence. In other words, He will make things right for us! The grace mentioned here is His power to help us just when we need it! Read the scripture

again. Are we walking in this kind of closeness? He is telling all of His people to come closer! Will we come?

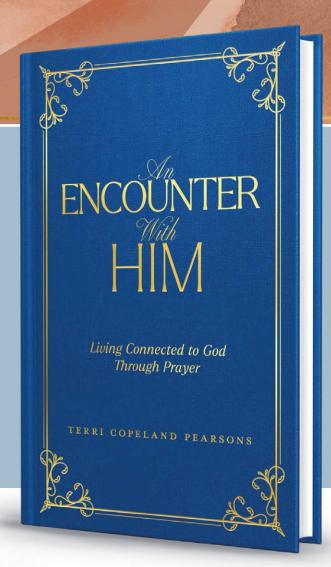
Supersleuths, let's invite Jesus to lead us into the reality of this bold oneness with Him that the Word says is already ours. He can lead us to the throne of grace, the presence of the Father in a way we've never known, if we will let Him uncover the way. Allow Him to reveal new thoughts to you, show you His plans for you, and speak to you as you go about your day. Be bold to ask Him questions and listen for His answers.

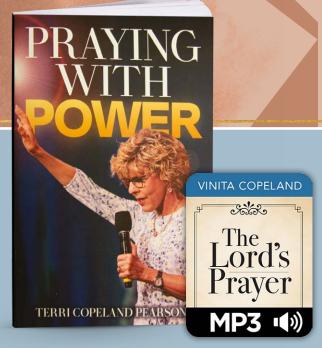
There is so much more to uncover, but we will take our time and sleuth out every little piece of evidence there is that we are HIS! You are God's chosen people to carry His love, His power and His message. This is the adventurous life you were made for!



Kellie Copeland is responsible for Covenant Partner Relations at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and is the developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ.

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