

Believer's Voice of

40 years in print



VICTORY

December 2013

MERRY Christmas

inside

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Kenneth
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Dear Partners and Friends,

Oh, how we love Christmas!

Of course, we celebrate Jesus every day, just as you do. And at this special time of year, the ears and eyes of people around the world are focused on our LORD, and opportunities abound to bless people in His Name with our "Merry Christmas" greetings.

Let's keep our ears and eyes open, and let God show us whom we can bless in special ways during this season. As we simply follow His direction, we will speak words and take actions of kindness throughout the Christmas season that will bless people above and beyond appearances. They will be blessed by God who loves them.

If each of us does only one thing to bless someone, we will become a human expression of peace on earth and goodwill toward men, as the Spirit demonstrates the love of God through us. Through our words and actions, they will realize that they are the reason He gave His Son. Glory to God!

As this year of great grace draws to a close, we go into 2014 with the power of grace continuing in our lives, and with our great faith expecting days of heaven on earth. In these Kingdom days, our focus in the spirit will be on speaking what we hear our Father say and doing what we see Him do! Again, opportunities will abound to "give them Jesus!"

We believe you will enjoy this Christmas issue of Believer's Voice of Victory. We have prepared each article with the prayer that you will receive new levels of revelation into the plan of God for the world He loves so much, and your part in the plan. We can't think of a more magnificent time to be alive than right now!

And, as always, you will be in our hearts and prayers when the Copeland family gathers this Christmas. As we gather to give and receive our gifts, laugh and sing together, and sit down around our Christmas dinner table, you will be with us in all our celebrating.

We will join hands and thank our Father for you—our worldwide family of Partners and Friends—declaring you have a blessed Christmas and a glorious New Year!

We love you!

Merry Christmas!

Kenneth & Gloria

December

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Only One Thing

by Kenneth Copeland

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Living the Free Life... In a 9-to-5 World

by John Copeland

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Back to Back in Battle

by Melanie Hemry

When Steve Irwin was unexpectedly laid off, he and his wife, Cindy, were faced with the fact that they had been depending on themselves and not on God. As they evaluated their situation and renewed their relationship with God, things began to change.

God Wants You Well!

by Gloria Copeland

You can search the entire Bible and you'll find that God always provided healing for His covenant people. So stop wondering, wishing and waiting, and receive your healing today.

The Power to Change

by Marty Copeland

Change is deep within the purpose of why God created us. The power to change is in His glory—His presence. God's love has the power to change us.

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Only One Thing

Think how great it would be if you had only one thing on your to-do list today. :: Not 100. :: Not 10. :: Just one. :: One thing that would put you and keep you in the perfect will of God, that would guarantee your success, and empower you to be **BLESSED** and a **BLESSING** every day of your life.

Sounds great, doesn't it? But to most people (Christians included) it also sounds too good to be true. "My life is complicated and demanding," they say. "I have to earn a living. I have to take care of my family and fulfill my responsibilities at church. I have a lot of different priorities. I can't tend to just one thing!"

From the world's perspective, such statements make sense. But according to the Bible, that's not how God sees it. He says we have just one priority: "My son, attend to my words" (Proverbs 4:20).

What does it mean to attend to God's WORD? It means we put it first and make it final authority in our spirit, soul, body, finances and everything we do every day. It means we set our attention on The WORD

seven days a week, day in and day out, month after month. It means we always take time to hear what The LORD is telling us so we can say and do whatever He tells us to.

In short, it means we hang on Jesus' every word.

"But Brother Copeland, I'm too busy," you might say.

That's what Martha thought, too. Remember her story? She's the woman in Luke 10 who hosted one of Jesus' teaching meetings in her home.

If anyone ever had reason to think she didn't have time for The WORD, Martha did. Especially the day Jesus came to her house. He had His 12 disciples with Him, and who knows how many of His other 70 staff members. Needless to say, Martha was very busy! She was not only playing hostess to a virtual multitude, she was trying to figure out how to keep them fed. She didn't have the luxury of calling Colonel Sanders to deliver meals for everyone like we do, today. She had to make everything. Initially she assumed her sister Mary would help, but Mary threw her a curve. Instead of heading for the kitchen, Mary joined the disciples, "sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word" (verse 39). So while Jesus taught and everyone else listened, Martha tended

God's WORDs are the foundation of everything in His kingdom.
They're infused with the very power of God Himself.





to the business of cooking...all by herself.

And she wasn't happy about it. *This just isn't right!* she thought. *I'm out here in the kitchen working as hard as I can,*

and that lazy sister of mine is sitting in there at the preacher's feet. She ought to be helping me.

Finally, Martha couldn't stand it anymore. Convinced Jesus should correct the

situation, she marched in and interrupted His sermon. "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone?" she asked. "Bid her therefore that she help me" (verse 40).

All Messed Up With Too Many Things to Do

Imagine this! Not only did Martha make a scene right in the middle of Jesus' meeting, she as much as accused Him of not caring about her. Then she actually told Him what to do.

Most of us can't remember the last time we ordered Jesus around. We know better. But Martha was all messed up. "Overly occupied and too busy...distracted with much serving" (verse 40, *The Amplified Bible*), she had too many things on her to-do list.

How did Jesus help her? He answered and said to her: "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (verses 41-42).

To Martha's credit, she didn't argue with what Jesus told her. She didn't say, "Be practical, LORD! What am I supposed to do? Just let everyone go hungry?"

That's how most Christians these days would have responded. But the fact is, Jesus didn't say anything about people going hungry. What He said was that only one thing is needed: to hear and obey His WORD.

When we make that one thing our priority, everything else falls in line.

Martha should have known. After all, she'd heard about the multitudes who'd spent days listening to Jesus preach out on the Galilean hillside. They didn't have anyone cooking meals for them. But they got fed—Jesus



“Determine that *regardless of what happens* in your life you will live by The WORD.”

made sure of it. He multiplied a little boy's lunch until it was more than enough to feed 20,000 people.

What do you think would have happened if Martha had followed that example? What if she'd walked out of her kitchen with a big bowl of beans, slid them over in front of Jesus, and said, “Sir, I'm not going to miss hearing the living WORD of Almighty God when it's being preached right here in my house. So if You want this bunch to have anything to eat, I trust You'll take care of it. You fed 20,000 with a few loaves and fish. You can certainly feed this houseful of people with these beans!”

Clearly, if Martha had chosen that attitude, if hearing and acting on The WORD had been the only thing on her to-do list that day, everything would have turned out just fine. One way or another, Jesus would have seen to it that everyone had plenty to eat.

The Teacher Is in Your House

“But Brother Copeland,” you might say, “Martha's situation was different than mine. Jesus was right there with her, teaching God's WORD!”

Yes, He was. But the same is true for you. As a Holy-Ghost baptized believer, you can sit down, open your Bible and hear Jesus preach to you every day. Why? Because you not only have God's written WORD to read, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you to quicken that WORD and fulfill the promise Jesus made in John 16: “When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show [or declare] it unto you” (verses 13-15).

In other words, just like Martha, you have the Teacher in your house—and every day He is saying the same thing to you He said to her: The one thing you really need to do is hear and obey God's WORD.

I can assure you, Jesus isn't saying this because He's oblivious to everything

else you have to do. He's saying it because He knows that life itself—all real, genuine life—life for your spirit, for your soul, your body, your family, your finances and everything else—comes from The WORD. As Proverbs 4:22 says, “[God's WORDs] are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

It's no wonder Jesus wants us to make His WORD our sole priority! That WORD is the force behind all creation. It keeps everything operating. (See Hebrews 1:3.) Nothing works without God's WORD!

Think about it for a moment.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, He did it with His WORD. He said, “Let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3).

When He made and BLESSED mankind, He did it with His WORD. He said, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...” (verse 28).

When Adam's sin robbed mankind of THE BLESSING and God wanted to restore it, once again He did it with His WORD. “I will bless thee,” He said to Abram, “and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2).

Even the plan of redemption was brought about by God's WORD. He spoke it to and through prophets, generation after generation, until as John 1 says, “[Jesus] the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,” (verse 14); and “as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God” (verse 12).

The Secret to 100-Percent Success

God's WORDs are the foundation of everything in His kingdom. They don't just carry information,

and they're not just a means of communication. They're infused with the very power of God Himself.

That's why in John 6:63, Jesus said His WORDs are “spirit, and they are life.”

Everything Jesus accomplished in the Gospels, He did by hearing and acting on God's WORD. It's how He operated every day. He attended to The WORD and heard what His Father was saying. Then He said whatever the Father told Him to say, did whatever the Father told Him to do and God's power came on the scene.

“The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself,” He said, “but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works” (John 14:10).

Consider the incident at the pool of Bethesda. The Bible tells us that when Jesus walked up to that pool, multitudes of blind, crippled and diseased people were crowded all around waiting for the angel to stir the water. Yet Jesus walked right past them all and focused His attention on one bedridden man. “Wilt thou be made whole?” He asked. “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk” (John 5:6, 8).

Twelve words. That's all Jesus spoke because that's all the Father told Him to say. As a result, He had 100-percent success. Immediately the man was made whole. Then Jesus walked away.

You know as well as I do, if we'd been there when that man got healed, we wouldn't have done what Jesus did. We would have set up the Pool of Bethesda Healing Association. We would have bottled the water, lined up all the sick people and anointed them with it.

But none of it would have done any good because only one thing is needful. The WORD of God.

Whatever He says, that's what we need to say and do—and nothing else!

The Power That Unlocked Hell

“You just don't understand the kind of problems I'm facing,” someone might

say. "They're too big to be solved by something as simple as God's WORD."

That's impossible! For your problems to be too big for God's WORD, they'd have to be worse than the ones Jesus faced when He went to the cross, and no one has ever dealt with anything like that.

On the cross, Jesus suffered more than any man ever has. He bore the entire penalty for the sin of all mankind! Although Jesus Himself had never sinned, He was made to be sin for us so that we could receive His righteousness. He "became obedient unto death" (Philippians 2:8) so that we could be set free.

That meant He had to die not just physically but spiritually. He had to take our place, go down into the bowels of this earth to the bottomless pit and spend three days in the very guts of the horrible place called hell. It's not a place created for men. It was created for the devil and his angels.

When Jesus went there every demon in that pit tore into Him. They fully expected to annihilate Him and keep Him there forever. They had good reason to believe they'd be able to do it, too. After all, no one had ever gotten out of hell. The place is locked. It looked like Jesus was trapped there for eternity.

But then something happened.

God's voice came booming out of heaven and cut through that demonic darkness. "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee," He said to Jesus. "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom" (Hebrews 1:5, 8).

Those words were spirit and life! When Jesus heard them and put His faith in them, His emaciated, death-wracked spirit was born again. He came alive, rose up in the very likeness of the living God, spoiled principalities and powers, triumphed over them, took the keys of hell and left Satan stripped of everything he had.

Jesus left the devil with absolutely nothing! Then He ascended on high, led captivity captive, gave gifts to men, and made us His joint heirs.

What made it all possible?

The WORD of God!

Don't you think if God's WORD

can do all that, it can supply enough divine wisdom, power and life to conquer any challenge you might be facing? Of course it can!

So make it *your* priority. Simplify your life and make attending to God's WORD the only thing on your to-do

list. Spend time with Him every day and find out what He's saying to you. Then stick with His plan. Say whatever He tells you to say and do whatever He tells you to do.

It's the only sure way to live BLESSED. ♦

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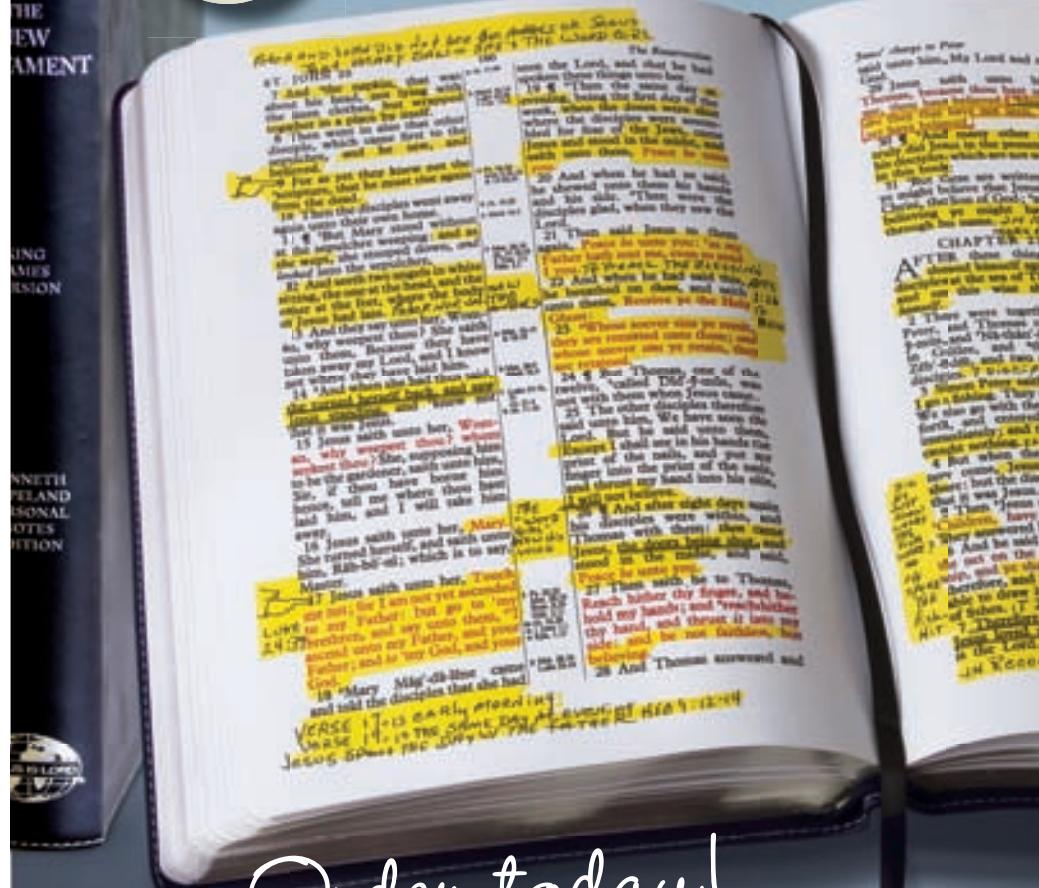
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Heirs of God

To begin with, I must share an amazing quote from an article written several years ago by Gloria Copeland, titled *Receive Your Inheritance*. She wrote:

H ave you ever been invited to an attorney's office for the reading of a will? I haven't. Where I come from, there was never enough money left for the relatives to fight over when someone died. Most of the people I knew didn't leave wills—they left bills. But, glory to God, that's not the case anymore. I became heir to a fortune more than 50 years ago in Little Rock, Ark., when I gave my life to Jesus. At that moment, I was born again into the richest family ever known. I was born into the royal family that owns and operates the universe. I received an inheritance so vast it will take me all of eternity to fully comprehend it.

Our inheritance in Christ is massive. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to lift our inner image and renew our minds to being 'heirs of God.'

By Right of Royal Birth

A few months ago, the world was focused on London, England, where a royal birth was about to take place. The time came for the first child of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (aka William and Kate), to be born.

The media were there waiting to deliver the royal announcement.

Then, the moment came—Prince George was born.

There is something different about this baby. He is heir to the throne as the king of England. His inheritance must be stunning. But, think about

this: He did not have to do anything to qualify for his inheritance other than be born into this family. He received his inheritance simply by right of royal birth.

Prince George was born into a royal family. But you and I have been born again into THE royal family!

Galatians 4:6-7 tells us, "Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

That sonship, through the new birth, qualifies us for an inheritance so vast it will take all of eternity to fully comprehend it. As 1 Peter 1:3-4, *New International Version*, says, "He has given us new birth...into an inheritance."

Joint Heirs With Jesus

Take a look at Romans 8:16-17: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." A joint heir is one who is in union together with an inheritor. To be a joint heir with Jesus is an astounding thought.

Ephesians 2:6-7, *The Amplified Bible*, gives us further insight into being one with Jesus:

And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together



[giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One). He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace (His unmerited favor) in [His] kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus.

Our inheritance is so enormous, it is called, “immeasurable, limitless and surpassing.”

Now, look at Hebrews 1:1-2: “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”

If Jesus is heir of all things, and we are joint heirs with Jesus, doesn’t that make us heir of all things as well?

Heirs of Everything

Look at Galatians 4:7 again, only this time in the *New Living Translation*-96. It says, “Since you are His child, EVERYTHING He has belongs to you.” Praise God! Every provision you would ever need is fully supplied. Healing is yours. Prosperity is yours. Peace is yours. Protection is yours. Freedom from fear is yours. These are all part of what belongs to you as an heir of God.

Second Peter 1:3 says, “His divine power has given us EVERYTHING we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (*NIV*).

It is wonderful to know that we don’t have to wait until heaven to claim our inheritance. Colossians 1:12-13 tells us, “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of

Our inheritance is so enormous, it is called, “**immeasurable, limitless and surpassing.**”

Many have left their inheritance on the table when God wants us to take everything that is ours. 

darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” The word *meet* means that God has already “enabled, qualified and equipped” us to receive our inheritance.

Don’t Leave Anything on the Table

Joshua 18:1-3 is a picture of what so many Christians have done concerning their inheritance: “And the land was subdued before them. And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance. And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the Lord God of your fathers hath given you?”

Many have left their inheritance on the table when God wants us to take everything that is ours. Even children know better.

How many children are going to leave unopened presents under the tree this Christmas? None around my household. My older grandchildren are at an age now where they will hunt down that one last present that just might belong to them.

We need to have that kind of attitude with our inheritance in Christ.

Hebrews 6:12 tells us to, “Be... followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Say this out loud right now: “I am a child of the King. He is my loving Father.

“I became heir to His fortune when I was born again. I am an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus. Everything He has in His kingdom belongs to me. It is included in my inheritance. I receive it all by faith in Jesus’ Name!” 

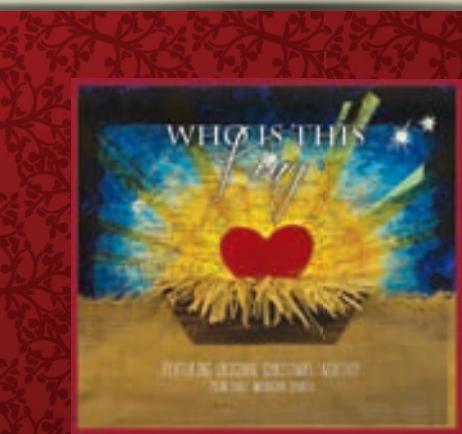


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George Pearson is senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For more information or ministry materials write to KCM, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001.

It's Not Make-Believe, *it's Christmas!*



Before it's truly Christmastime, out come all the signs that the season is upon us. Here in Texas, it could still easily be 80 degrees or more, and yet we heartily welcome "Jingle Bells" and jump right in.

Retailers especially welcome the season, since it can mean the difference between year-end profits or losses.

Stores abound with sparkling décor, festive music and lots of outrageous sales, which are accompanied by the marketing department's best spin on words from the Bible story. Of course, we all know their jingles about miracles, joy and giving have ulterior motives. But I usually put it in the context of what I know to be true.

Jesus did come, and I am joyful about it! And because God so loved the world that He gave His Son, I want to show love by giving, too.

But there is one catchy phrase out there that bothers me: "The magic of Christmas." I used to just brush it off, since I would

never knowingly attribute anything from God to be a result of magic. But after seeing it over and over, it became clear that the Holy Spirit was calling my attention to it.

A Miracle, Not Magic!

Magic, it seems to me, can be considered in two contexts: make-believe and the occult. Magic tricks are usually just that—tricks! Sometimes, however, a magician does employ the occult, which the Word of God adamantly forbids (Leviticus 19:26). Most non-Christians place magic in the first category: make-believe. It's easy to understand why the world

would want to categorize the birth of Jesus as make-believe. It's easier to believe that a story with angels, political intrigue and a virgin birth is a fairy tale, than to believe it is real. But, the notion that the virgin birth is make-believe seriously undermines the plan of God for the believer.

First, we need to do a little study from Scripture to uncover exactly how Jesus could actually be born of a virgin. Remember, this is a study in spiritual law and not natural law. Spiritual law is the basis of God's eternal kingdom and is deathless and everlasting. While man is allowed to understand and cooperate with

spiritual law, there is nothing he can do to alter it. Nothing trumps it, so natural things are subject to it (2 Corinthians 4:18, *The Amplified Bible*).

The source of all natural things—every single one of them—is words spoken by God. Let's take a quick survey of Genesis 1.

In verse 1 we read: "In the beginning." Another way of saying that is, "To start with." The earth was without form and there was nothing but darkness. The Spirit was present, moving across the deep, but it wasn't until God spoke the words, "Light, be!" that light was suddenly present—everywhere! The same thing happens in verses 6, 9, 11, 14, 20 and 24:

Let there be sky...let there be seas...let there be earth...let there be lights in the heavens (sun, moon and stars)... let there be creatures in the waters and birds in the air...let there be creeping things and beasts of all kinds. And you know something? In every instance, there was! God said it and it was!

What about man? How was he created?

The same way. Verse 26 says, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...." In verse 28, God continued the empowerment of mankind by speaking the blessing of increase, dominion and supply. God spoke, and man was. He spoke into existence His desired result. He wanted a man after His own likeness, with authority over all the rest of creation, and that's what came to be.

The Need for a Savior

The position God gave man over all the natural world was later abdicated to the spiritual outlaw—Satan. This resulted in the need for a savior. Since it was man who had sinned, a man had to pay the price. Yet no man qualified to fully redeem, restore and reinstate mankind. "For all [had] sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Only God could qualify, yet it had to be a man. The answer? God incarnate, in the flesh. And not just the creation of another man. This man had to come by the same natural means as other men—the womb of a woman. Every aspect of His life had to be exact, and He could have no divine attributes other than those available to every other human being (Philippians 2:6-7). And there had to be the most miraculous transaction to ever happen in the spirit realm. He must, through no sin of His own, become one with sin and death and become the literal substitute for all mankind.

He must plumb the depths of all that hell has to offer, suffer the penalty for all sin and triumph over all of death's domain. Then, the future must be secured so that there is never again a loss of oneness between

While man is allowed to understand and cooperate with spiritual law, ***there is nothing he can do to alter it.***

Nothing trumps it, so natural things are subject to it.

God and man. Only resurrecting Him from the dead into a glorified body and positioning Him in the Godhead, again on behalf of all humanity, could guarantee such a glorious outcome.

Now, because Adam had given the rights to the earth over to Satan, God could no longer scoop up a handful of dirt and speak to it. The earth was under a curse.

So God began again. While man was still in the Garden, God spoke the Word toward the end result He had desired from before the foundation of the world. Speaking of woman's offspring, He said, "He will bruise and tread your head underfoot..." (Genesis 3:15, AMP). Since men held authority in the earth, God then spoke through chosen people, proclaiming every detail necessary to bring His plan to pass.

After several thousand years of

divinely inspired speaking, the seed of the Word of God was planted in the womb of a young virgin girl named Mary and "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

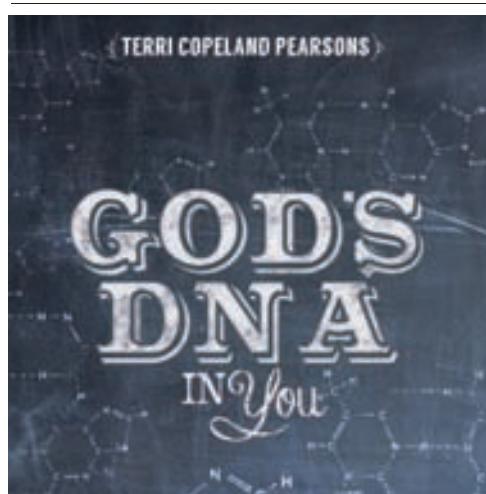
Spiritual law triumphed. Faith-filled words created a natural body for Jesus. But equally important to the plan of God is the fact that we, too, are born of that same incorruptible seed of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23)! When we make Jesus the Lord of our lives, our spirits are born again from death to life; we are seated with Him in His godly position and the Godhead dwells in us (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:9-10, AMP).

And someday soon, we will take on the remainder of our redemption in glorified bodies. Hallelujah!

If we think that our regeneration and resurrection are make-believe, we will have no faith to fully walk out the miraculous, glorious and joyous plan of God for our lives. It's not make-believe, it's Christmas! 



Terri Copeland Pearson is the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland. Since 1993, she and her husband, George Pearson, have served as senior pastors of Eagle Mountain International Church at Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas. For information or ministry materials write to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001 or go to terricopelandpearson.com.



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The Power to Change

With all the change going on in the world today, it's time for Christians to make an impact in the earth. But to walk in the kind of world-changing power necessary to impact our communities, our nation and the world, we must allow the Holy Spirit to change us.

What do we need to empower us to change? Sure, we need knowledge, but knowledge alone isn't enough. We need the power of God that effects change. Take Christian weight loss, for example. We all know how to lose weight: move more, eat less. But how many are actually doing it? To be truly *free* from the bondage of weight we have to allow the Holy Spirit to change and empower us to go higher—spirit, soul and body.



Change is deep within the purpose of why God created us. The power to change is within His glory—His presence. A revelation of His glory, of His honor and of the power of His love is enough to change anything. That's what we need if we are to change.

We are from God. He created us in His image, so we come out of Him, just like natural children come out of their parents and are a combination of their DNA. When we wonder, *How do I get God to help me change?* we are forgetting that we were created out of Him.

We were predestined before the earth was ever created to be like Him. His power is in us.

When we hear things repeated over

and over, they can become so familiar that we miss the revelation. One thing we often hear is that we are God's children and He is in us. But are we really getting it? When I look at my three children, I see in them a combination of my husband, John, and me. In one I see more of me, and in another I see more of John. They have our DNA—they're from us.

We Identify With Him

Because we are born of God we have *His* DNA. Our righteousness is not because of our works, but because of His goodness and because we are of Him. If we're going to change, we have to understand who God is because our identity is in Him.

We also have to know why we are here, and that



He has a plan and purpose for our lives. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." The *New International Version* says, "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint." In other words, they run wild or fail to practice self-control. If we want to change, we must have restraint or self-control. If we don't know why we're here, what we're called to do or who we're called to be, we're not going to be restrained in our eating or any other area. But when we catch the vision of our purpose and destiny, it produces the restraint we need to bring change.

God's love has the power to change us. His love is the weight of His divine presence that resides inside us. It is a force that never fails, fades or becomes obsolete. It doesn't matter if trends change or the economy fails. Love never quits because God never quits. If your life, family, job or whatever it is you're seeking God about is not changing, more than likely it's because you haven't experienced the love of God and His Anointing in that area.

If you're having financial trouble, the only way to enjoy the blessing of prosperity is to experience God and His love in the area of finances. Spending time with Him is spending time with the real Provider. Wealth is not a blessing unless you know God. It will destroy your life if you don't know Him—it will amplify your sin. God wants us to know Him.

Experiencing God's love and Anointing is how I got delivered from overeating.



When I was at the lowest point in my struggle, after having spent most of my life defeated—doing diet after diet, failing, gaining weight, losing it and then gaining it back—I realized I was in bondage.

Food had become an idol. I thought about it all the time. My self-esteem was based on how I looked and how much I weighed, and I judged my righteousness on whether or not I ate the right foods and exercised. On the inside I said, *God, if You will deliver me from this, I'll tell people how You did it.* I made a decision. I knew God was good and that my freedom was in His Word, even though it didn't specifically talk about losing weight.

A Revelation of His Love

By spending time with Him and in His Word, I found out that we are re-created in Him and predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus the moment we are born again. I realized self-control was put into me by the Holy Spirit. It's who He is. God *is* self-control. If you can't control your eating, you haven't experienced His love and Anointing in the area of self-control. If you can't exercise regularly, you don't know God well enough in the area of faithfulness and endurance.

Second Corinthians 5:14 says, "The love of Christ constraineth us." Allowing His love and purpose—knowing who we are and who we're called to be—to rise up in us brings victory. Who *are* we called to be? We are called to be like Jesus—to sit with Him and to rule with Him in heavenly places. We have been crowned with His glory and honor.

I was with a wonderful Christian woman one time who was talking to me about a challenge she was having. Because of an injury in her life and some things that had happened years ago, her self-esteem was so low she felt powerless to change what she knew needed to be changed in her life. A year or two before, we had had a similar conversation. Nothing had changed.

She was continuing to face the same challenges, and her insisting, "I can't because..." was still holding her back.

The more you understand God's love and why you're here on this earth, the more you understand *His* power to change you—not what you can or can't do. Faith to change things and circumstances works by revelation of His love.

We live in a world of stress and pressure—all brought on by the cares of this world. Whether it's family matters, problems on the job, health issues or finances, they can all distract us and cause us to take our eyes off the true power source.

There is also good pressure. Good pressure is when you have to use your faith to believe for your victory.

Do you ever feel stressed-out about finances or health issues? Not enough time? Too much to do? Life too fast?

There are all kinds of pressures in parenting, for example. I talk about that a lot because that's the season I'm in right now. It's not easy to be a good parent. There's football practice, basketball practice, piano practice, cheerleading, grocery shopping, meal planning, dirty dishes, laundry. Need to clean the car, need to clean the house, need to lose 20 pounds, need to eat better, need to exercise more—pressure, pressure, pressure! But Jesus said, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30). To overcome stress and pressure, and to make our lives as easy and light as possible, we have to stay in constant communication with Him.

If we trust Him and don't quit, not only will we change, but things around us will change, too.

To truly change means you must first want to change.

Let the Holy Spirit reveal to you what changes are needed in your life. Then, release your faith and allow His power to change you. ☺



Certified by the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas, Texas, Marty Copeland is a personal trainer, nutritional counselor, author and minister of the gospel. For more information go to kcm.org.

It's interesting how people think that what these kids need is our 'stuff,' when, in reality, the only thing they need is to be introduced to the love of God.



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~Courtney Copeland

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Living the FREE LIFE

in a 9-to-5 world



What would you do if you could do *anything*? How would you like to live the “free life”? The good news is that God has more for you than just your 9-to-5 job, and it’s time to find out what it is.

It could be He wants you more involved in your church’s outreach. He may want you to enter the ministry. Maybe He wants you to start your own business and develop an idea He has given you. Deep down, you know God has placed a unique dream in your heart...but have you ever been willing to step out and go after it? *Really* go after it? It’s time!

Take Action

God has called each of us to do great things, but if you’re not careful life can pass you by. James 1:22

says, “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.” *The Message* spells out this truth: “Whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action” (verse 25).

When we hear a word from God and know what we’re supposed to do, we need to take action. If all we have are good intentions, we won’t get anywhere. We must be *doers* of the Word. Only through acting on God’s instruction and sticking with it will we find “delight and affirmation” and “the free life.”

Now you may be doing something from 9 to 5 that you’re called to do. Your job may be like mine: a

mission and an adventure. But I believe God still has something more for each of us beyond the eight hours of work we punch in on a time clock. He has the power to give us wealth, but it takes a step of faith on our part. It takes action.

It’s easy to become comfortable about life and finances, especially if you have a steady paycheck. It can keep you from stepping out into your calling. It can keep you from developing the ideas God has given you. That happened to me until God opened my eyes and led me to step out of my comfort zone. When I did, I saw possibilities everywhere. I realized the only thing holding me back from doing more for the kingdom of God was not understanding the opportunities.

Unlocking Wisdom

Imagine finding a rough, uncut diamond. To an untrained eye, it might look like a cool paperweight that belongs on a desk or shelf. But to a trained eye, it could look like the next Hope Diamond. I wonder how many million-dollar ideas are sitting on shelves because of a lack of knowledge.

When we receive knowledge, God’s wisdom can show us how to put it to work.

If you want to know more about business, study businesses. If you want to know about real estate, read about real estate. If you want to start a home-based business, find a mentor who has one. Proverbs 8:12 states, “I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.” The knowledge you receive will spur the revelation God has for you.

Beyond 9 to 5

What’s the big picture here? Is this just about wealth? No, it’s about getting the Word out and bringing people into the Kingdom. Abraham, David and Solomon were tremendously blessed. We are entitled to that kind of blessing, too, and as the Church, we need that kind of blessing to do everything we’re called to do.

If you don’t know what God wants you to be or what He wants you to do, spend some time in prayer. Don’t stay stuck in a 9 to 5 with nowhere to go. God’s clock doesn’t stop after eight hours, and yours shouldn’t either. You need to decide what you’re going to do with your free time, because the proper use of free time will lead to a free life! ▶



About

John Copeland is CEO of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and the son of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. He lives in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with his wife, Marty, and their three children.



Contact the host church for more details!

Kenneth and/or Gloria Copeland

New Year's Eve Service:

Dec. 31, 2013

Eagle Mountain International Church
On the grounds of KCM Headquarters
14355 Morris-Dido Road, Newark, TX 76071
(not a mailing address)
1-817-852-6000 | emic.org

Words of Life: Feb. 13-16, 2014

20051 NE 16th Place
North Miami Beach, FL 33179
1-305-653-8155 | wordsoflife.com

Terri Copeland Pearson

Gulf Coast Women's Convention:
Feb. 27-March 1, 2014
Boardwalk Beach Resort Royal America
9400 S. Thomas Drive
Panama City Beach, FL 32408
1-800-224-4853 | boardwalkbeachresort.com

Glorious 2014 Women's Conference:
Oct. 10-11, 2014
Jesse Duplantis Ministries International Headquarters
1973 Ormond Blvd. | Destrehan, LA 70047
1-985-764-2000

Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher

Grove City United
Methodist Church: Nov. 17, 2013
2684 Columbus St. | Grove City, OH 43123
1-614-875-5612 | gcumc.org

Europe Partner Meeting and
Pastors Conference: May 17-18, 2014
Jubilee Church | Bouwlingstraat 74
4902 AK | Oosterhout (NB)
The Netherlands | jubilee.nl

Blessing by Faith Church: May 20, 2014
Colmanstraat 12 | 9290 Berlaer
Belgium | godgeneest.com

Greater Harvest Church of God in Christ:
June 7-8, 2014
1144 Olive Ave. | Long Beach, CA 90813
1-562-437-9128 | thegreaterharvest.org

Dunamis Power Ministries: June 8, 2014
2000 W. Olympic Blvd. | Montebello, CA 90640
1-562-965-3007



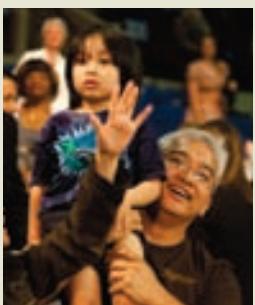
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Believers' Convention : Fort Worth, Texas



Venezuela Sept. 5-6

Victory Campaign : Maracaibo, Venezuela

Word Explosion Sept. 25-27

Columbia, S.C.



Washington, D.C. Nov. 13-15

Victory Campaign : Woodbridge, Va.

For a complete list of meetings, please go to

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Meetings are subject to change without notice.

Faith for Healing Renewed

I called for prayer to restore my confidence in my faith for healing. I had been praying for a couple of years, along with using your many resources, but instead things had gotten considerably worse. You sent your Rx Card, and within a few days I had noticeable improvement in every area. I want to give this praise report and thank you for your prayers and prompt attention.

C.R. | Canada

'Financial Aid' the Kingdom Way

We want to thank you and your prayer team for standing with us regarding our financial assistance for my schooling. The time that you answered my email, we received a big financial blessing from unexpected sources. He is truly an awesome God and ever faithful to perform His Word. We are truly blessed and amazed how quickly our needs were met—within 24 hours after contacting your prayer team. God is good all the time!

O.T. | Philippines

Sergio A.
prayer
minister

Our Ukraine office ministers to more than 35,000 Partners and Friends in 49 countries.

GoodNewsGazette

"And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance...."

(2 Corinthians 9:8, *The Amplified Bible*)

Growing Day by Day

Thanks a lot for your wonderful ministry. I am growing day by day with your ministry material. You taught me about tithing through

the CD series *Tithing the Tithe* [now titled *The Tithe—God's Invitation to Financial Freedom*]. I didn't even know the difference between an

offering and a tithe. Today, I am able to send an offering and I know the difference. May God bless KCM abundantly!

Q.K. | South Africa

Malaria Is No Match for Prayer

I write to testify how good and faithful God is to me and my family, and to thank Him for the prayer staff of KCM Australia.

I called KCM Australia for my younger brother's son, who was in a coma after falling sick with malaria. He was about 3 years old. We refused to allow fear and worry in our midst and started praying and standing on the promise of God for healing and life to his body. I called and left a message with KCM Australia, and the next day one of your staff returned my call and prayed for healing for the child whilst my sister and I agreed. Praise God, he is healed! I want to thank Him for Kenneth and Gloria, their teaching and all the staff (especially the staff at KCM Australia) for standing with me and my family in prayer. We share with you our joy and thanksgiving. May God bless you all and prosper this ministry. G.O. | Papua New Guinea

God Hears Our Prayers

A KCM minister prayed with me two years ago when I was believing to have another child. I felt the power of God in that prayer. I was 44 years old at that time. I am now 46 with a healthy, beautiful and smart baby boy. My husband and I are grateful to have three beautiful, God-fearing children. Thank You, Jesus, and KCM.

A.W. | Canada



God's Mercy on My Life

Being drunk, I got in a car accident and it was a miracle that I was alive. Doctors told me when people have such injuries usually they die or become handicapped. Two years after that, I received Jesus as my Savior.

Very soon I went to a meeting at Word of Life Church where Kenneth and Gloria Copeland came. I remember very well how Mrs. Copeland taught on Psalm 103. In verse 4 it said: "Who redeemeth thy life from destruction." Then she said, "If you were in an accident, in dangerous situations and you know

for sure that you should have died but right now you are here, know that God kept you when you did not know Him!"

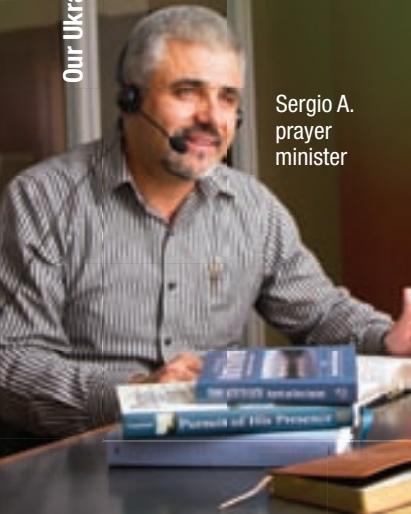
I heard for the first time how God spoke through His prophet. I should have died or remained handicapped, but God had mercy on me although I did not know Him then! I am thankful to God for His great mercy to me and that I can be a Partner with KCM. It is a great honor for me. I am fully persuaded, and I often tell my friends, that KCM is not only teaching the Word on faith, healing and prosperity, but it is a ministry of prophets. S.B. | Ukraine



Healed by the Stripes of Jesus

I was born with an ear problem and there is discharge from my ear. I have been treating this sickness for a long time with eardrop medicine. However, it never cured my condition.

My testimony is that I was healed by the stripes of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, He has taken away this condition, which I considered to be a public disgrace. God has given me a new inheritance through our Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Amen. O.A.R. | Japan



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our priority.

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Blessed With a New Car

I sent a prayer request for you to believe with us for a car.
I planted a seed toward it and the Lord blessed us with the exact
amount of money to get the car I wanted. Praise God!

E.E. | United Kingdom

**salvation
prayer**

If you do not know Jesus as your Savior 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, please let us know of your decision. We have a **Free Gift** to help you begin your new life in Jesus!

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mail Check the box on the response form in the center of this magazine.



Jesus' Wish List

Every year in November, for the past seven years, I have been honored to serve as chaplain for the Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans celebration in Branson, Mo. This Veterans Day event is the largest in the United States as it draws thousands of people from across the nation.



I look forward to celebrating the contributions our brave men and women have made through their service in the U.S. Armed Forces. But I also relish the feeling of Christmas that is evoked by the decorations, lights, music and aura of the season that is so much a part of that community.

In between working and ministering, I try to partake of as many Christmas programs as possible. My favorite has always been the Andy Williams Show, where

each year I would be invited backstage to visit with the late Mr. Williams and have a time of prayer with him. Whenever someone would ask, "When does the Christmas season start in Branson?" the answer would always be the same: "Whenever Mr. Williams says it does."

Of course, that was said partly in jest and meant as a compliment to Andy, who was known around the world as "Mr. Christmas." But it was also true that many would plan their shows based on his starting date.

Another of our favorite shows is the Tony Orlando

All-American Christmas. This show is a wonderful tribute to The Lord and the meaning of Christmas, and always included the playing of that inspirational song, "My Grown-Up Christmas List." I can hear it being sung right now, and the meaningful part that goes: "No more lives torn apart, that wars would never start, and time would heal all hearts. And everyone would have a friend, and right would always win, and love would never end. This is my grown-up Christmas list."

Do you struggle to come up with the perfect gifts each Christmas for the special people in your life? It can be tough, but here's an even more important question that is reflected in the song lyrics above: What would likely be on Jesus' wish list? After all, it is His birthday.

How can we change the traditional focus of Christmas from materialistic self-indulgence to giving Jesus what He desires on His birthday? How can we make it less about us and more about Him?

If Jesus were to have a Christmas "wish list," here are some things I believe He might include:

Commitment to Him Over Consumption

These days, flying can be frustrating, but I've learned you can reduce stress by paying special attention to how you pack. My new strategy for packing is "less is more." If I can't fit it into my one carry-on bag, it stays home. By carrying on a relatively light bag, I save

Overspending, debt and overemphasis on material possessions hinder your ability to fully commit to following Jesus.

about an hour each leg of the trip by not having to wait at baggage claims. That saves about a week of my life each year! Plus, the added assurance that my travel items won't be lost in the process adds to my peace of mind. Simplicity reduces stress, and that's an important principle—not just for travel, but for Christmastime as well. What we spend our money on reveals our ultimate values. It is a demonstration of what we truly worship.

Jesus spoke about money more often than any other topic, including prayer and faith combined. Why is the subject of money so important? Take a look at your bank statement. Where does most of your money go? "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). Your bank statement is the truest measure of your current state of faith. How you handle money is a window into your character. Storing up treasures on earth without being rich toward God means that life is all about you. Then you become a disciple of the culture of consumption (self-focused), rather than a disciple of The Lord Jesus (servant-focused). Overspending, debt and overemphasis on material possessions hinder your ability to fully commit to following Jesus. So for your gift to Jesus this year, commit to honoring Him first and remembering Emmanuel, God with us.

Making the Kingdom of God Priority

Next on Jesus' "wish list," I believe, is the desire for all of us to seek a deeper relationship with Him. Jesus names this alternative life path in Matthew 6:31-33: "Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (*New International Version*).

For most people in Western culture, shopping is spirituality. It is an attempt to find happiness, connection and meaning in a particular thing or product. This

is impossible at worst, and fleeting at best. The attempt to establish meaning and purpose on our own, outside a relationship with God is, as theologian Paul Tillich wrote, "giving ultimate value to that which is not ultimate." The more we have, the harder we have to work to maintain it, which means less time to develop relationships with those closest to our hearts, and to serve Jesus' mission for the least and the lost. This is why Jesus encourages all of His disciples with the KISS principle—Keep it simple, saints!

Being a Proactive Parent

Another gift on Jesus' list this year would likely be that we be proactive parents. In a "me-focused" culture with ill-defined moral values, proactive parenting requires consistency and persistence. Every year, parents are reminded by TV, their children or others of the newest gadgets (iPad, iPhone, video games, etc.) that are available for kids of all ages—just in time for Christmas. Parenting is a trust given to us by God. You and I are responsible for our children—to be light-bearers who light the path toward Jesus. The Torah warns us to be righteous so that our children can follow our example: "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them" (Deuteronomy 4:9, *NIV*).

True faith is both taught and caught (modeled) through the generations. Just as the Apostle Paul reminded his young protégé, Timothy: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (2 Timothy 1:5, *NIV*). Let's show our children how to serve God's purpose rather than being self-focused consumers of marketing.

As we give these gifts to Jesus this

year, may we also remember His often-used: "Do not be afraid, for I am with you." With Jesus' help, His love in our hearts and His Word on our lips, this will be the most stress-free, enjoyable and blessed Christmas ever. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from our family to you and those you love! ☺



Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher is co-founder and president of The Swisher Evangelistic Association Inc., and CEO of Steve and Kellie Swisher Ministries. He also serves as a consultant for Kenneth Copeland Ministries, where he directs the Kenneth Copeland Scholars program, Believers Stand United and Christians United for Israel. For more information, go to steveandkellie.com.



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the season of Giving and Harvesting!

"It's the most wonderful time of the year." :: For many, myself included, hearing that phrase almost immediately causes one to think of Christmas. And why not? After all, a Christmas song by that very title has been a seasonal staple ever since it was recorded and released in 1963 by the late pop singer Andy Williams for his first Christmas album, *The Andy Williams Christmas Album*.

Over the years, that song has brought lots of joy to many hearts.

However, depending on your own personal outlook, you could replace the word *wonderful* with any number of words. For example, words like busy, hectic, expensive, stressful, joyous, loving or peaceful. You fill in the blank.

One word that describes this time of year to me is *giving*.

The season of "giving" is upon us!

I love that part of Christmas. I believe I get more joy out of the giving part of Christmas than I do the receiving part. You probably do as well. So much so, in fact, that we may not even think about the harvest, or return, from our Christmas giving. That's odd for me when, as a believer and a year-round giver, I am accustomed to giving on purpose and believing for my harvest, yet I know I have done that very thing.

Jesus spoke to us about giving in Luke 6:38. He said: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

A Hundredfold Return—NOW!

Mark 10:29-30 says, "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you,

There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

A hundredfold! Now, that's a harvest! You plant your seed, believe the words God has spoken and you harvest a return!

In fact, Jesus tells us in Mark 4:26-29 that all the kingdom of God is like seedtime and harvest. This is an important concept for God's people to understand and walk in!

You may be thinking, *I know all this. I have heard it many times.*

Well, we all have. But we can stand to hear it again! And again! And again! The Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17), so we can't hear it too many times.

In this season of the year, I want to encourage you to HARVEST!

How many Christmases have gone by in which we have *given*, but because it is the "season" for giving, we forgot to *receive* our harvest? Too many, when, in fact, as you are sowing in "season" you should be especially mindful of harvesting!

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, the Bible talks about

As you are sowing in "season" you should be especially mindful of harvesting!

“on-purpose” giving, and receiving a God-given harvest that can affect not only a person or his family, but an entire community! Read what it says in verses 6–9:

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever” (*New Living Translation*).

This is wonderful news to the sower—the giver! It would be great news even if it stopped right there! But the Word of God goes on to say some life-altering things in verse 10: “For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you” (*NLT*).

God, our Father, ministers seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. What exactly does that mean? That He will provide the Christmas meal, too? That would be great, especially if you are believing for food on the table. But the real message here is much more amazing than a Christmas turkey.

From Seed to Bread

Think about the process that begins with seed and ends with bread on the table. There is so much that takes place. The farmer sows the seed, tends the field, harvests the wheat, and then sends it to the mill to be ground into meal or flour.

After those processes, bread-making can begin.

Bread is one of the most tedious, multistep, time-consuming things you can make. After you’ve mixed all the

ingredients, you have to keep punching and kneading it—waiting, and waiting, and waiting for the dough to rise before it goes into the oven. After all that, you’ll have bread on the table.

But notice in verse 10 it says the Lord ministers ALL of that to the sower: from the first seed to the final harvest and beyond—to the final outcome of bread on the table! So however the Lord has to bless your seed or your hand or your business or your talents, He will do that until you come to what He considers the ultimate objective.

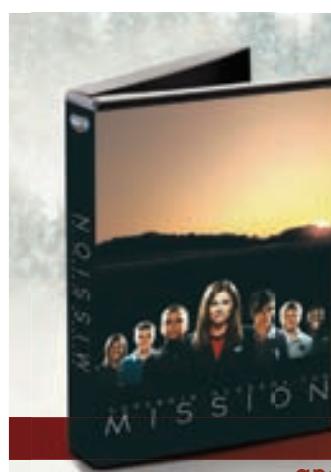
The Word says, “In the same way” He will increase your resources. But, He doesn’t stop there. He will increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

To God, the bread on the table (or the ultimate objective), is for you to be generous to those around you! That may be much bigger than you have thought to expect or believe Him for. But He needs us to begin to see our giving and harvesting in this way. The next few verses speak of a very evangelistic outreach—an expression to our communities and families of the very love of God.

Yes, you will be enriched in every way



Kellie Copeland Swisher is an outreach minister at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and 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. Kellie and her husband, Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher, have five children and reside in Fort Worth, Texas.



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so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words! (verses 11–15, *NLT*).

Let us thank God for this gift He has offered to His children. Not only does He want to minister Christmas seed to you, but He wants you to harvest an ability and capacity in your life to be generous to your family and community—causing people to turn their hearts toward Him in their thankfulness and realization of His love toward them.

Too wonderful for words? Perhaps. But too wonderful not to believe and receive this gift He places before us.

This is the “season for giving.” But for the people of God, it is also the “season of a great harvest of generosity!” ▶

Give them something to Talk About

Faith must be *in* someone or *in* something before it can come alive and operate.



This ministry was built on the message of faith. Kenneth and Gloria Copeland (or Pawpaw and Mimi, as I affectionately call them) have been preaching about faith for more than 45 years. And if they preach it for another 45 years, it would never be enough.

You can *never* hear too much about faith: faith *in* God, *in* Jesus, *in* His Word, *in* what He has said and done, *in* who He said He is. You can't get enough of it because it deeply affects every part of your life.

And if you live your faith, people around you will probably be talking about it.

Have You Heard About...

Even back in the Apostle Paul's day, we see evidence of a person's faith preceding them. Just before Paul prayed for some of the churches, he said that his prayers were a direct result of what he heard about them.

In Ephesians 1:15-16, Paul said, "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers."

In Colossians 1:3-4, he said, "We give thanks

to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints."

In Philemon 4-5, he said, "I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints."

In these three instances, Paul was saying, "The Spirit of God is moving, and I am brought to my knees, inspired to pray for you." When you read the prayers that follow each of those statements, you'll find them filled with intensity and fervor.

But where did that intensity come from? Paul's inspired prayers were a direct result of what he *heard* about those people. Would he have heard about anything if

there was nothing to talk about? Of course not.

"Did you hear about the church in Ephesus?"

"No, what's going on there?"

"Nothing."

That is a conversation no one would desire to have. Why? Because people like to talk about *something*—not nothing.

Wherever Paul was, he heard people talking about the church at Ephesus, about the Colossians and about Philemon, and they were talking about two things: *their faith* and *their love*.

Faith in What?

In these passages, Paul said, "I heard about your faith *in Jesus* and I heard about your love *for each other*."

Do you know faith is useless until it is *in* someone or something? People always say, "I'm a man of faith," or "I'm a woman of faith." But faith in what?

"I don't know." Then you're not a person of faith!

Faith must be *in* someone or *in* something before it can come alive and operate. Faith is dead until it is *in* the Lord Jesus Christ.

You may be saying to yourself, "I don't want to hear about that. I want to hear about faith *for* something. I want to hear about faith *for* healing, *for* finances, *for* my family, *for* relationships." That's *exactly* what I'm talking about. You can't separate faith *for* from faith *in*. Can I have faith *for* something good to happen in my life without first having faith *in* a good God? No. Can I have faith *for* increase without faith *in* the Increaser? Absolutely not.

Scripture is loud about the fact that faith *in* the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of faith *for* anything



else. Romans 3:21-22 states that our right-standing with God is revealed through faith *in Jesus*. Galatians 2:16 states we are justified by faith *in Jesus*. That's the foundation.

Hebrews 11:6 states, "Without faith it is impossible to please him." But faith *in whom* or *what*? Clearly, faith *in Jesus*. As a discipline, every time you hear the word *faith*, I encourage you to make it a complete statement: "Faith *in Jesus*."

Doing this will challenge you to the core. It will force you to evaluate what you're *really* saying about your Christianity. You don't just walk by faith. You walk by faith *in Jesus*. You confess your faith *in Jesus*. You live by faith *in Jesus*.

Conversely, you may realize you need to stop saying some things out of religious habit such as, "I'm not sure I have enough faith *in Jesus* for that," or even, "My faith *in Jesus* just isn't there."

Really? Are you telling me you can trust Jesus, but only to a certain degree? Are you telling me Jesus is good to you, but not *that* good? Of course not! Understanding this will change not only the way you speak, but also the way you live.

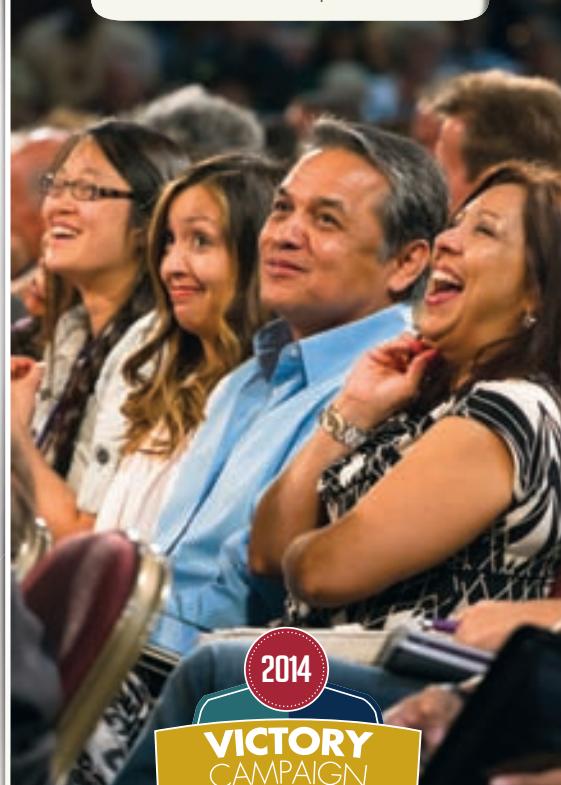
Smart Talk

In Romans 1:8, Paul said, "...your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." Let that be said of us! When it comes to our churches, our ministries, our families and our lives, let's give the world something to talk about. Let's live what we believe by putting our faith *in Jesus* in all we do.

The good news is, when this revelation comes alive in you, it removes all the pressure. You won't have to be concerned about what others are saying, because your eyes will be on Jesus—what He's said and what He's done. Before you know it, your faith and love will precede you. **V**

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Jeremy and his wife, Sarah, are founders of Persons Ministries International. They travel to preach Jesus to congregations across the U.S. and around the world. For more information, visit them online at personsministries.com.

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Back to Back

IN BATTLE

Steve Irwin inhaled the brisk scent of autumn, the earthy aroma of leaves turning to mulch.

Slipping his cellphone into his pocket, he hummed as he climbed behind the wheel and headed to work. Vibrant fall foliage in brilliant colors marked his path like a crowd cheering a parade, stunning against the blue sky. :: Life was good. Not only did Steve love his job, but his wife, Cindy, after years as a stay-at-home mom, had just earned a master's degree in marriage and family counseling and stood poised on the brink of a new career. Sure, it would take time to build her practice, but things were finally looking up.

by Melanie Hemry

After earning his bachelor's degree in business, Steve had taken a job with a good, solid, national company. Working his way up in the organization, he had excelled to such a degree that he won awards and captured the attention of the media. Now, 15 years later, he was executive director of the company. He had just completed a \$2.5 million renovation of their administrative offices and could hardly wait to get to work each day.

Reaching the office, Steve made the rounds, checking on his staff to make sure everything was on track. He inspected the remodeled offices, noting places that needed finishing touches.

Intent on his work, Steve's cellphone jangled in his pocket.

"Hi, Steve," the CEO said. "Could you come by?"

"Sure, I'll be right there."

Stepping into the CEO's office, Steve noticed that the financial director was blinking back tears. Steve settled into a chair waiting for the CEO to begin. He slid a pink slip across the table and said, "Steve, you're not a good fit here anymore. We're relieving you of your responsibilities."

What? Stunned, Steve felt unbalanced—as though he'd been punched by a prize fighter. The financial director wept openly, tears streaming down her face.

A short while later, Steve left the building carrying

a small box of personal belongings under his arm. He tried hard to think. What should he do?

I've got to call Cindy.

Pulling his phone out of his pocket, he speed-dialed his wife.

The cellphone was dead.

The company had canceled his service.

Trust Me

"I was blindsided," Steve recalls. "I was given no reason for my termination and I knew I hadn't done anything wrong. I'd noticed some financial discrepancies and had gone through the records to see who was responsible. I suspected that may have sealed my fate with the company, but I had no way of knowing for

sure. It was speculation on my part.

"When the CEO fired me, I heard the Lord say three things. He said, *I'm here. Trust Me. Walk in love.* I realized that the primary way I had never trusted God was in the area of finances. Following years of financial struggles, I knew the root problem was our giving. I understood that God wanted me to trust Him because we were going to have to give our way out of this."

That evening when Cindy got home Steve said, "I've got something to tell you."

Cindy felt ice water course through her veins. In her line of work those words were a woman's worst nightmare.

He had her undivided attention.



Steve &
Cindy Irwin



The one thing that kept me going was the assurance that no matter how alone I felt, **Kenneth, Gloria and their staff** *were praying for us daily.*

Sowing Seed

"Steve was totally broken when he told me he'd lost his job," Cindy remembers. "Neither of us slept that night. I lay in bed and wept. I had no idea what we were going to do. We had no savings, and I was starting a new career without the safety net of a paycheck. Without Steve's salary we could survive two months before losing our house."

"When we married, neither of us really understood tithing. I thought if we wanted to reap some benefits we could tithe. It was sort of like tipping God and trying to get rich."

"While I was in middle school, I heard Kenneth Copeland preach and while still in my teens, I signed up to be a Partner with KCM. I sent money a few times and then forgot about it."

"Steve lost his job in October 2004. The next week we went over our finances and realized that we'd never tithed. In the nine months leading up to that day, we'd given a total of \$25. We were shocked and knew we had to make some big changes. One of them was that we agreed to honor our partnership with KCM."

If Steve was going to reap, he had to start sowing. But what could he give? He looked at his cellphone. The company had paid for the service but the phone was his.

I'll sow my phone.

Steve gave his phone to a friend. Afterward, a woman asked him for gas money. He couldn't help her—he was down to his last \$10. In the natural, giving away any amount of money seemed ill advised.

Trust Me, the Lord prompted.

Steve handed the woman the \$10.

Taking a Stand

"I think the Lord wanted to assure us that we were on the right track," Steve says. "When we got home there was a check for \$100 in the mail. It never happened that way again, but we got the message. For the first time in my life I really wanted to live Matthew 6:33 and seek the kingdom of God *first*, trusting that everything else would be added."

Steve updated his resume and started looking for work.

Nothing.

He heard it all.

"I'm sorry, that position has been filled."

"I'm sorry, but you're overqualified."

With time on his hands, Steve spent hours watching the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast, and other Christian programming that strengthened his faith. Day after day he fed on the Word of God.

Many times the family didn't have enough money to pay bills and buy groceries, but they still sent checks to KCM—regardless!

As weeks turned into months, somehow Cindy made enough to keep the family afloat. Emotionally, they found themselves in crisis. Overnight, their roles had been reversed. Suddenly, Cindy was the only breadwinner and Steve stayed at home with their sons.

"I was very disappointed that Steve wasn't taking care of us," Cindy admits. "For the first time in our marriage I realized that Steve had always been my source. The Lord also let me know that *I wasn't* my source. My career wasn't my source. That may sound simple, but it was a radical change for me."

By the following summer, there was still no relief in sight. The boys needed clothes and school supplies, but there wasn't enough money. They wrote a prayer of agreement, listing everything the boys needed.

There was never a large influx of cash. Instead, they found 3-for-1 coupons. Someone else had a few extra supplies. By the time school started, the boys' needs were met.

Meanwhile, in addition to her private practice, Cindy was asked to help train students. While training them as therapists, she also taught them the importance of tithing from their business income.

Never Alone

"I got an unexpected chunk of money and asked the Lord how to use it," Cindy remembers. "He told me to give it to one of my students. He said she had a need that she wasn't aware of yet."

"I gave her the money and soon after she discovered she was pregnant...*with twins*. The couple didn't own a washer and dryer, so they used the money to buy a set."

Without a doubt there was a blessing on Cindy's business, and it grew faster than she had imagined. But after a year out of work, Steve's outlook wasn't so bright.

"I didn't realize how much of my identity had been tied to my job and my role as provider for the family," Steve admits. "I felt like such a loser, and as time passed I became depressed and suffered thoughts of suicide."

"I just wanted it over. I remember being a kid at the swimming pool. The lifeguard would blow a whistle to

get you out of the pool. I wanted God to blow the whistle on me and get me out of life. I thought Cindy would be better off without me. In my heart I knew that wasn't true, but at times it seemed that way."

The only thing they knew to do was to trust God and stand on the Word. Instead of backing off, they increased their giving and gave to more ministries. They gave more money that year than they'd given their whole married lives. Yet the strain on their finances put a strain on the relationship.

"I felt so alone!" Cindy says. "At work I was all smiles and people often asked, 'How's Steve?' Inside I wanted to weep because no one ever asked how I was doing. The one thing that kept me going was the assurance that no matter how alone I felt, Kenneth, Gloria and their staff were praying for us daily.

"I still recall one day when we got a Partner Letter from KCM because I wept over the last line. I'll never forget it. It said, 'Remember, Gloria and I love you.' I wasn't alone."

Darkest Before the Dawn

By early 2006, Steve had been out of a job for almost a year and a half. Arriving home from work late one evening, Cindy asked Steve to do something for one of the kids. His eyes brimmed with tears.

"I always knew you were a better mom than me," he said. "But now I know that you're a better man than me."

His pain was palpable.

The house was quiet, everyone asleep, when around midnight Steve pulled on his clothes and slipped outside. Midnight walks had become his norm. He'd walked three miles when a thought occurred to him: *I can just keep going.*

Lying on a park bench, Steve stared at the stars and pondered the idea.

I need to leave.

He could just keep walking.

"Lord, I need to leave," Steve prayed, waiting for an answer.

Silence.

He waited until 4 a.m. before sitting up with a sigh. Although he hadn't heard anything, God's message was clear.

"OK, I'll just continue to trust You."

God didn't want him to *walk away*. He wanted him to *walk in faith*.

World Vision

Six months later, Steve was offered a job. It was the job of his dreams—one worth the wait.

"I was hired by Convoy of Hope," Steve explains. "We're a first-responder organization that provides resources and help for victims of disaster worldwide. As the agency service director, I was deployed to Samoa after the tsunami struck in 2009. We were one of the first humanitarian aid groups to distribute food in Haiti after the 7.0 earthquake destroyed that nation in 2010. We took water purification systems to the

Philippines. We went to Joplin after the tornado hit there, to the California wildfires and to Oklahoma when an EF5 tornado hit Moore."

Steve acts as the liaison with state and national organizations such as FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security, Samaritan's Purse, Operation Blessing and the National Voluntary Organizations Acting in Disaster. Representing National VOAD, Steve testified before Congress in 2009.

May 16, 2013, Steve celebrated seven years with Convoy of Hope. When he arrives on the scene of a disaster, his peaceful presence is a comfort, and his own story an encouragement.

Today, Steve and Cindy Irwin, along with their sons, Logan and Nathan, are thriving. In addition to buying a new home during the economic downturn, they prospered more than at any time in their lives. ▶

"Back in the dark ages, knights often stood back to back in battle. Today, I know God is my Source, and as Partners, come what may—KCM has my back." —Steve



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God Wants You Well!

God is not schizophrenic. But the way some people talk about Him makes it sound like He is—especially when it comes to the area of divine healing. “God puts sickness on us to teach us something,” they say. “Then sometimes He heals us, if it’s His will. You just never know what He’s going to do.” :: Such statements, as well-intended as they might be, are wrong. God does not have a split personality or a divided will. He is not the source of disease *and* its cure! He doesn’t will to make people sick one day...and then will to heal them the next.

God’s perfect will is, and always has been, for His people to be well.

I don’t know how anyone could read the Bible and argue about it. In the first few pages of Genesis, it lists everything God created and does not include sickness in the list. On the contrary, it says that everything He made was good.

That’s why there wasn’t any sickness in the Garden of Eden. It was the one place on earth where God’s perfect will was done!

Sickness came from the devil. It got into the earth when he convinced Adam and Eve to sin and they became vulnerable to him. You’ve read how it happened. Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent and convinced her to doubt (and then disobey) God’s Word by asking her this question: “Yea, hath God said...?” (Genesis 3:1).

Today, he’s still robbing Christians of their healing by getting them confused about God’s Word. “Is it really God’s will to heal you?” he’ll



whisper. “Maybe it’s not. Maybe you don’t qualify for healing. Maybe God’s plan for you is to be sick and die young. Blah...blah...blah....”

They’re all lies, of course, because lying is what the devil does best. He is famous for it! If he can’t get us to believe his lies, he can’t get anywhere with us.

Here’s what we need to do. We need to become so Word-minded where healing is concerned that the devil can’t deceive us. We need to look in the Bible, find out what God says and believe it. And not just once, either, because the devil will always be working against us. To stay strong

in faith, we must continually keep the healing scriptures fresh in our minds.

That’s what I do. I not only read them regularly in my Bible, I keep a list of them handy. If you want to live healed, I encourage you to do the same.

Make it a habit to read healing scriptures often, even when you’re healthy. Otherwise, when symptoms of sickness strike and Satan starts whispering in your ear, you may not remember what God said.

It's All Too Easy to Forget

Psalm 103 warns us about this. It says: “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (verses 1-2).

It’s important to remember God’s benefits, because the ones we remember are the only ones we’ll receive and enjoy. It’s only those we pay attention to, believe in, thank God for and don’t forget about, that become real to us and manifest in our lives.

It's important to remember God's benefits, because the ones we remember are the only ones we'll receive and enjoy.



Although we might think we could never forget about the benefit of divine healing, in this sickness-oriented society it's the easiest thing in the world to do.

Think about how many TV commercials talk about "flu season" or "cold season," and convey that getting sick is inevitable. Think about how people stand around at the office or in the grocery-store line saying things like, "My whole family gets sick at this time every year! We always have and I guess we always will."

Even though as a believer you know better, it's easy to slip into that mindset if you don't do something to counteract it. So remind yourself often that God is the Healer—the One, as Psalm 103:3 says, "Who forgives [every one of] all your iniquities, Who heals [each one of] all your diseases" (*The Amplified Bible*).

Personally, I'm glad God lists forgiveness and healing together in that verse. It clears up a lot of confusion because most Christians know God has made forgiveness available to everyone. He sent Jesus to pay the price for every sin that's ever been committed, or ever will be. Therefore, anyone who receives Him as Lord can have their old sinful past washed away. After we're saved, if we stumble and sin, we can run to God, confess our sin and "he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

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God never says, "Forgiveness is not My will for you." He never says no to those who sincerely ask—He always says, yes!

The same is true when it comes to healing!

Forgiveness and healing are from the same source. They are both readily available to all who want to receive them. They are benefits God unfailingly gives "to such as keep his covenant" (Psalm 103:18).

Millions Healed at Once

You can search the entire Bible and you'll find that God always provided healing for His covenant people. And, He did it under the most difficult circumstances, too. Consider, for example, the time He brought the Israelites out of Egypt. He did such a mighty work of healing among them "there was not one feeble person among their tribes" (Psalm 105:37).

That's the way it ought to be for us today. In our families there shouldn't be one feeble person. We should all be healed. It's the will of God!

"Yeah...but, the doctors tell me there's no cure for what I have," someone might say.

Don't you believe it! There's no sickness anywhere God can't cure. The Holy Ghost never met a disease He couldn't conquer.

He proved that when He healed all those Israelites. There's no telling what kinds of dreadful diseases they'd been suffering with before God healed them. They had been slaves. They hadn't been vacationing at some resort. They had been worked hard, whipped and mistreated. They'd been exposed to deadly, debilitating conditions. Given the kind of lives they'd had, numbers of them were probably

weak, crippled and incurable.

Remember the movie, *The Ten Commandments*? In one scene it showed multitudes of sickly Israelites hobbling out of Egypt on crutches, being carried on stretchers, or being led along by the hand—too blind to see where they were going. The scene may have been accurate, but the timing was wrong! The Israelites might have looked that way before the Exodus, but the day they left Egypt, there wasn't one feeble person among them. Even the old folks were strong.

Imagine it! God healed millions of Israelites all at once. He is able to do that, so you can rest assured He can handle any sickness that might come against you. You're just one person. Healing you of *anything* is easy for God!

For Him to do it, however, you need to give Him something to work with.

What do you have to give Him?

Faith! Not just a vague kind of hope that everything will turn out all right. But real, Bible faith based on God's Word. The kind of faith that makes you bold enough to believe and say, "As surely as it was God's will to heal the Israelites, it's His will to heal me. So I believe I receive my healing now. In Jesus' Name, I AM HEALED!"

A Bible Full of Promises

I'm not suggesting you build your faith on just one scriptural account. As wonderful as the mass-healing of the Israelites in the book of Exodus may have been, the Bible contains many other passages about healing that are just as thrilling. And as Word-minded people, we should study all of them. In Deuteronomy 7, for instance, God made us this

wonderful promise: "Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee..." (verses 14-15).

Notice in those verses, as in Psalm 103, God connects being BLESSED with being healed. Why? Because healing is an inseparable part of THE BLESSING.

By the same token, sickness is an inseparable part of the curse. Deuteronomy 28 describes the curse in detail, and says it includes: "great plagues of long continuance, and grievous sicknesses of long duration...all the diseases of Egypt...also every sickness and every affliction..." (verses 59-61, AMP).

You can forget what you've heard about God sending sickness as a "blessing in disguise." According to the Bible, NO sickness is a blessing. From colds to cancer, it's all a manifestation of the curse.

"But Gloria," you might ask, "isn't the curse still operating in the earth today?"

Yes, but as New Testament believers we've been delivered from it. Galatians 3:13-14 says, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.... That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

First Peter 2:24 explains it this way: "[Jesus] his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

“living a lifestyle of love is essential

“
gems
”

if you want to maintain living contact with God.

Look again at those last few words. They don't say you might be healed someday if it happens to be God's will. They say you "were" healed!

To a lot of Christians that doesn't make sense. "I feel sick," they argue. "My body hurts. I have a fever. I'm coughing and sneezing. How can God say I was healed?"

Because as far as He's concerned, the work has been done. Healing has been provided for every believer. It's been bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus. All we have to do is reach out with the hand of faith and take it.

That's what the woman in Mark 5 did. Have you ever read about her? The Bible says she had been suffering with a flow of blood for 12 years before she received her healing. She spent all her money on one physician after another, but she just kept getting worse. Then she heard about Jesus. She heard that multitudes sought to touch Him: "for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all" (Luke 6:19).

If it is Jesus' will to heal all those people, she thought, then it's His will to heal me. So she went to one of His meetings, pressed through the crowd and touched His garment.

She didn't wait for an invitation, she just declared her faith and said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague" (Mark 5:28-29, 34).

YOU AND I CAN DO THE VERY SAME THING TODAY! Even though Jesus has been resurrected and has ascended to heaven, He's still here with us in His Word. He's here by the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us and among us. And because He is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8),

He is still healing ALL.

So stop wondering, wishing and waiting. Grab hold of God's healing Word with the same faith and determination that the woman with the issue of blood grabbed hold of Jesus' garment. Make a list of verses like the ones in this article. Then as you read through the Bible and find others, add to it.

Build your faith by reading and receiving such scriptures daily, so the next time the devil tries to talk you out of your healing, you'll be armed

with the truth. You won't buy the lie that God has a split personality, that sometimes it's His will to heal you and sometimes it's not.

You'll be full of the Word and have the confidence to say, "Get out of here, devil. There's no question about it: God wants me well! I am healed!" ☺



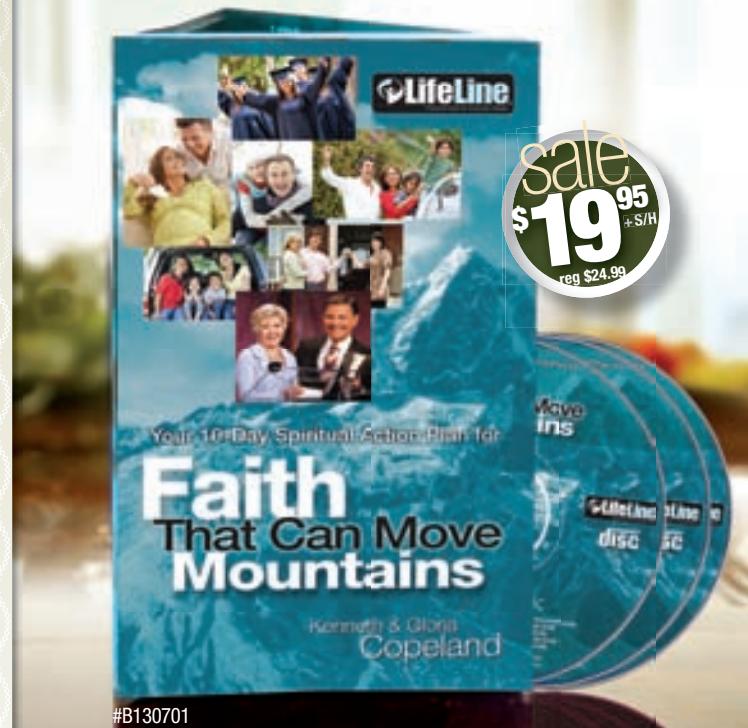
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The Powerful Results of Praying in the Spirit

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Gloria Copeland

Dec. 2-6

Hearing God and Speaking His Words

Kenneth Copeland



Kellie Copeland Swisher

Sun., Dec. 8

Carriers of the Kingdom

Kenneth Copeland



Dennis Burke

Dec. 9-13

Training Your Children in the Word

Kenneth Copeland and Kellie Copeland Swisher

Sun., Dec. 15

The Gospel Jesus Preached

Kenneth Copeland

Dec. 16-20

Building a Strong Foundation of the Word in Your Children

Kenneth Copeland and Kellie Copeland Swisher

Sun., Dec. 22

The Gift of Divine Dominion

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Dec. 23-27

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