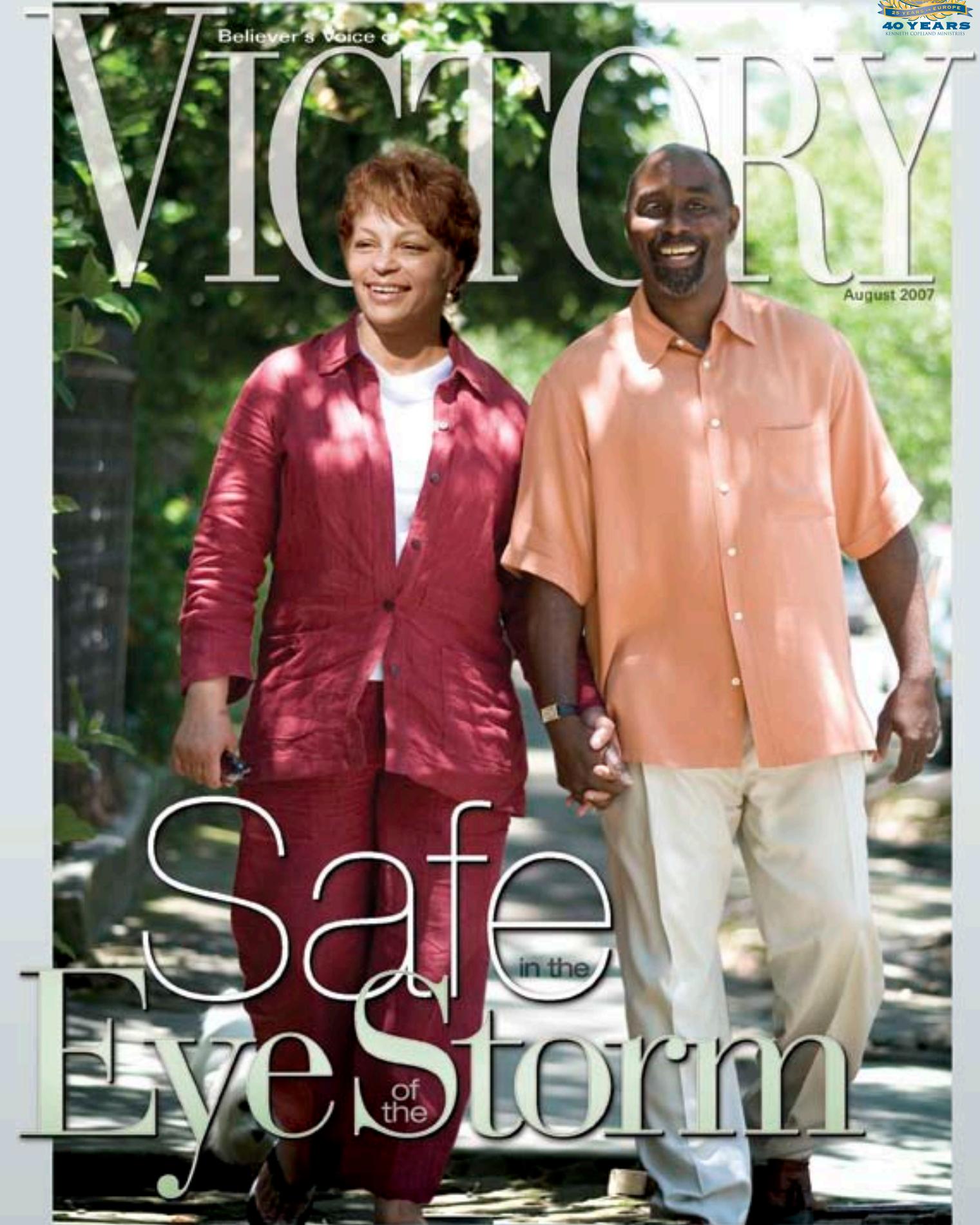
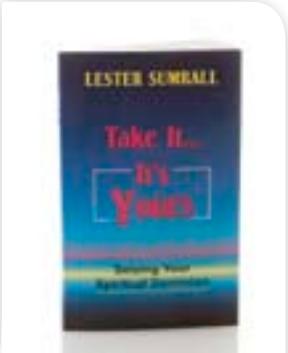
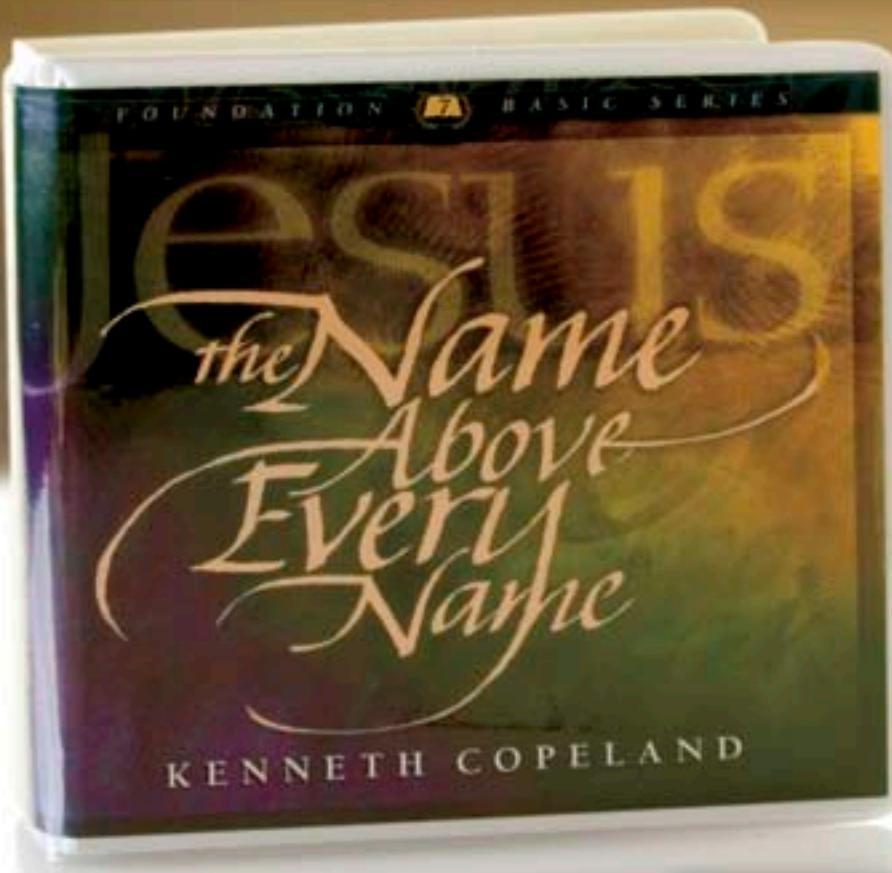


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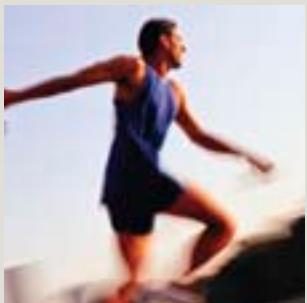
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When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 34 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His Word and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

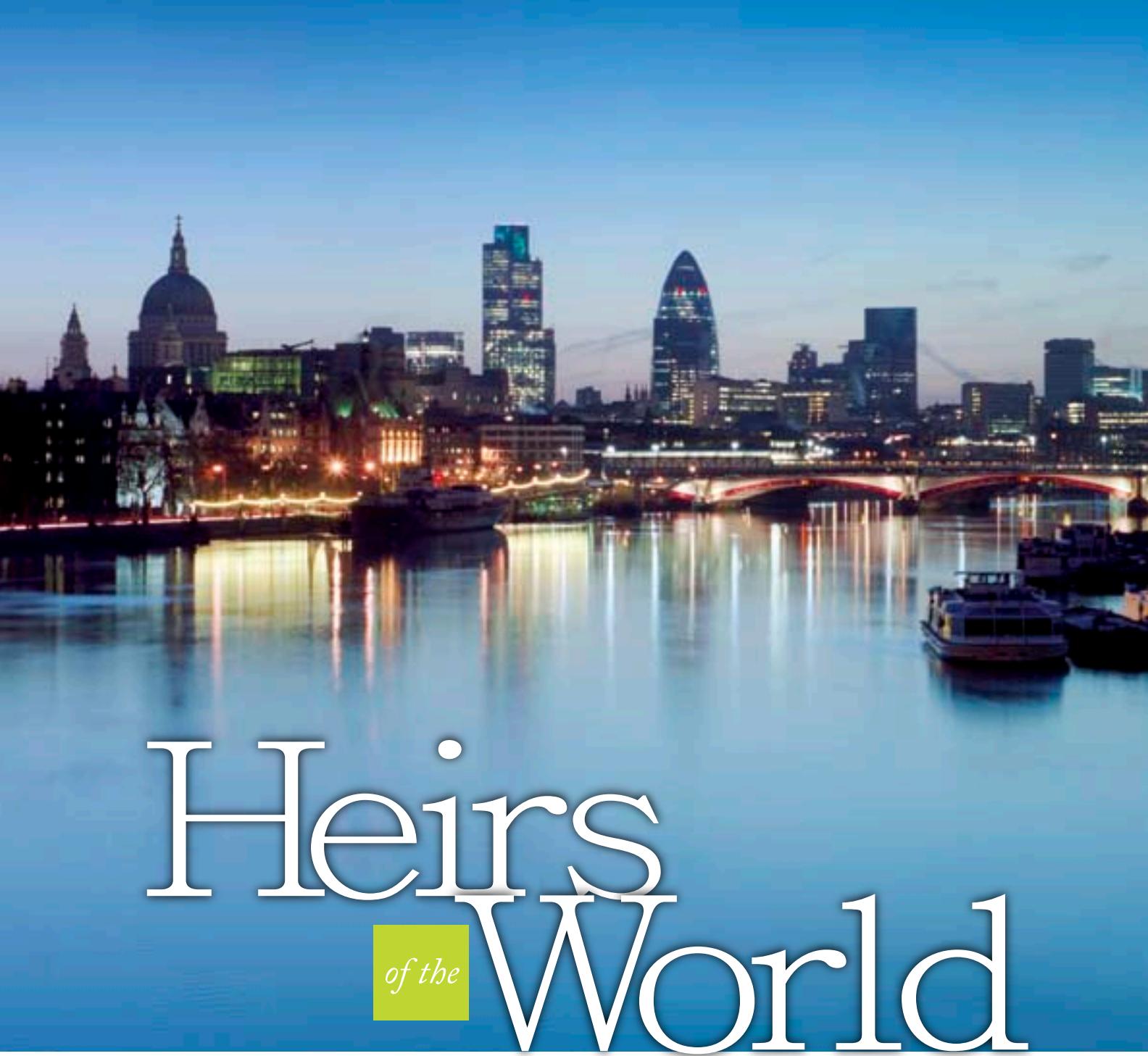
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Heirs *of the* World

*f*ORTY YEARS AGO, I DISCOVERED SOMETHING THAT REVOLUTIONIZED EVERY ASPECT OF MY LIFE. I FOUND OUT THAT I AM A BLESSED MAN.

When I first made that discovery, I looked anything *but* blessed. Driving around in a junky, old car held together with bailing wire, renting a ramshackle house so pathetic that Gloria refused to unpack for weeks after we moved in because she couldn't believe she had to live there, and struggling to get by as a 30-year-old college student on a salary of \$100 a month. I looked more cursed than blessed—especially in the area of finances.

But I wasn't focused on my circumstances. My eyes were fixed on the Word of God that says, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:13-14).

With that blessing, anyone from any background has enough power to succeed, prosper, be fruitful and victorious **anytime and any place**.

The first time the revelation in those verses hit my spirit, I latched onto it like a dog grabbing a bone. I needed that revelation to survive—and I knew it. I'd been so desperate for change in my life that for months I'd spent every spare minute in the Word of God. I went to bed at night listening to preaching tapes. The minute I woke up in the morning, I turned the tape player back on and went at it again. I listened to the Word while I bathed, shaved, ate and drove.

Somewhere in the middle of all that, I heard that the blessing of Abraham belongs to us as believers. At first, I didn't know exactly what the blessing of Abraham was. But it didn't take long for me to look in the Old Testament and find the men who walked in that blessing. *Whew!* I thought as I read about the likes of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, *Those guys did all right! There wasn't a poor one in the bunch!*

With my lightning-fast mind, I figured out that the blessing of Abraham would do the same thing for me it did for them; and my thinking instantly changed. I jumped up and started hollering, "Praise God! I'm not poor anymore! I'm blessed with the blessing of Abraham!"

If you know me at all, you know I've been shouting about that ever since.

Send Out the Laborers

In recent months, however, the Lord has led me to bear down harder than ever on the revelation of THE BLESSING. He has stirred me to study it again in even greater depth.

Why would He want me to spend so much time and energy digging around in the Word to find out more about a truth I've known for so long? Because faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17), and God wants us all to increase our faith in THE BLESSING right now. He wants us to start reaping the benefits of it more fully because—whether we realize it or not—it's harvest time.

I learned some things about harvest season as a kid because my grandfather was a farmer. He always had good crops (primarily because my grandmother tithed and honored the Lord and he did whatever she said). As I watched him over the years, I noticed that for the most part my grandfather worked his land by himself—with help from his children.

Sometimes he drove the tractor from dawn to dark

getting the crops planted. Sometimes he was so busy with a hoe and shovel, breaking up the ground and digging irrigation ditches, that he never got to sleep at night. But, even so, he usually got the job done without much help from anyone else.

When harvest time came, however, it was a different story. There was no way my grandfather could harvest his 640-acre farm by himself. So he'd hire laborers to help him—sometimes so many that his fields swarmed with them.

I can still see my grandfather standing in the middle of those fields surveying his cotton crop. I can see the satisfaction on his face. He isn't thinking anymore about how to raise that cotton. He isn't wondering if it will come up or not. In his mind, he's already pulling wagonloads of cotton to the gin. He is thinking about payday.

A few months ago, I was preparing to preach about THE BLESSING and that image flashed across my mind. When it did, the word of the Lord came into my spirit. *You stand and look out over the crop I've promised you in My Word,* He said. *You pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into that field. That's your blessing!*

A Hard Row to Hoe

Ever since then, I've been keenly aware that the blessing of Abraham is out there working for us, as believers, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and our Father wants us to take full advantage of it.

Actually, He has always wanted that for us but there's a greater urgency about it now because the end of the age is barreling toward us like a freight train. Every day that passes brings us closer to the return of Jesus, and there's a harvest of souls to be reaped for God's kingdom before He arrives. To bring in that harvest, we'll need more resources than we've ever had—more spiritual strength and power, more physical stamina and health, more favor with the people around us—so doors can be opened for the gospel, and more finances to get God's work done.

"But you don't understand," someone might say, "I had a hard childhood. I grew up on the wrong side of town. I don't have what it takes to lay hold of those resources."

Sure, you do. If you've received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, if you've been born again, you have the blessing of God. With that blessing, anyone from any background has enough power to succeed, prosper, be fruitful and victorious anytime and any place—no matter how dismal the circumstances seem to be.

If you doubt it, read the story of Joseph. He had what we used to call in west Texas “a hard row to hoe.” His brothers sold him to a traveling caravan when he was just a teenager. From there, he was bartered off as a slave to an Egyptian official named Potiphar. Clearly, Joseph didn’t launch his career in what you’d call the land of opportunity.

But Joseph was a blessed man, and he knew it. As a result:

The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand; and he knew not aught he had, save the bread which he did eat (Genesis 39:2-6).

Notice, the first thing THE BLESSING did for Joseph was give him favor. It opened Potiphar’s eyes and persuaded him to put some of his wealth in Joseph’s hands. Once he saw that everything he put under Joseph’s authority multiplied and prospered, Potiphar entrusted everything he had into Joseph’s care. Eventually, the man didn’t even know how much money he had anymore. He just knew THE BLESSING on Joseph was making him rich.

Of course, anytime overflow comes because of THE BLESSING, the devil tries to stop it. So he pulled a stunt that got Joseph locked up in an Egyptian prison on false charges. But even a prison can’t keep a blessed man down. So, the same thing happened there: “The Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper” (verses 21-23).

Not Just for the Jews

I know what you’re probably thinking. *That’s a great story...but I’m not like Joseph. I don’t have what he had.*

Yes, you do! The Bible says that as a believer, you have received from Jesus *grace upon grace* (John 1:16). Do you know what the word *grace* means? It means “the favor of God.”

When God’s favor is on you, people are just drawn to help you. Most of the time, they don’t even know why. They don’t realize it’s because the blessing of God is at work in your life.

What’s more, according to the Bible, that blessing and the favor that goes with it isn’t something God just gave to the Hebrew race. It isn’t just for the Jews. God originally gave it to all mankind in the Garden of Eden when He blessed them and empowered them to “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28).

After Adam sinned and threw that blessing away, God found another



Tribute to a HERITAGE OF FAITH

Kenneth and Gloria Copeland,

Congratulations on another milestone! Brenda and I are sending you heartfelt thanks for all the years you have invested in kingdom-building! You have sown your lives as an offering unto God and the world is reaping a harvest of compassion, wisdom and true understanding of God and the many mysteries of His kingdom.

You have always been so personable with us and made us feel a part of your family. The love you have shown to us and our congregation has been priceless. We will never forget the times we spent in your home or the times you spent in ours. We honor you and we are so pleased to call you our other spiritual dad and mom. You have brought so much to the Body of Christ through your teaching of faith and prosperity,

and our lives are better because of your diligence over the years.

We are so grateful for the path you paved for all of us who are in Christian broadcasting. Over the years you have set the standard for excellence and you have been our watermark. Your life is truly a testimony of a man, a woman and a family who chose to walk with God. Our family is inspired by your commitment of faith, daily!

Happy 70th birthday, Brother Copeland! Happy anniversary and thank you for a lifetime of commitment to teaching the uncompromising Word of God!

Pastors Phillip and Brenda Goudeaux
Calvary Christian Center
Sacramento, Calif.

man—a man named Abram—and gave THE BLESSING to him and his Seed. That Seed turned out to be Jesus; and according to the New Testament, you and I inherited that blessing through Him!

Every single one of us inherited the blessing of God the moment we were born again. It instantly belonged to us as surely as it belonged to Abraham, and as surely as it belongs to Jesus Himself. Why, then, haven't we seen more evidence of it in our lives?

Because for us to enjoy the benefits of that blessing, we must receive it the same way Abraham did. We must believe God, "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. [For] they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham" (Galatians 3:6-7).

Obviously if Abraham believed God, then God must have said something to him first. God must have delivered to him some kind of faith-inspiring message. Verses 8-9 tell us what that message was. It says, "The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."

Think about it! God actually preached the gospel to Abraham. What gospel did He preach? The good news that through him, God was releasing THE BLESSING, once again, to all the nations of the earth.

By giving him THE BLESSING, God promised to make Abraham the heir of the world!

Let Faith Work Your Fields

That's the divine promise Galatians 3:14 is talking about when it says the blessing of Abraham has "come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Many believers just assume "the promise of the Spirit" mentioned there means the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. That's included, of course, but the real promise of the Spirit is actually the promise God made to Abraham—the promise to put divine authority over this earth back into the hands of God's people. It's the promise of God's blessing!

That was the gospel God preached to Abraham; and it's the gospel the New Testament preaches to us. It's the good news that, as born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been blessed with the same blessing God originally gave Adam.

If we'd just get into the Word and meditate on it until God opens our eyes, we'd see that we're in the same position as my grandfather at harvest time. We're standing in the midst of a field of abundance, power and authority that stretches farther than the eye can see. We're standing in the middle of a world that's been bought and paid for with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As joint heirs with Him, we've inherited the entire planet, and now it's time to harvest it for the glory of God. It's time to put God's blessing to work for us the same way Abraham did—not by keeping a bunch of religious rules,

August 1982

Kenneth Copeland calls the significance of our blood covenant with God "one of the most powerful truths I've ever seen in the Bible." It's a covenant between God and man—the most sacred of all unions, first cut with Abraham, later complete in Jesus. And today, we remember the blood of Jesus and all He did for us by partaking in Communion together.

Aug. 28, 1982, Brother Copeland taught about this powerful blood covenant, not to a church or convention...but to *the Church*—in what was considered by many at that time the single largest gathering of the Church since Pentecost.

From the Fort Worth Believers' Convention in Texas, the first worldwide Communion service was broadcast by satellite to 200 locations in the United States and 20 cities around the world. Until then, the technology hadn't even existed to have such a service.

Using a "split-screen" picture feed, believers around the world joined not only Brother Copeland from Texas, but also Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho, pastor of the largest church in the world, in Seoul, South Korea, for Brother Copeland's powerful

message on the blood covenant, followed by unified Communion.

At the time, a consultant from NASA said, "This is the beginning of a new phase of Christians utilizing technology provided by God through the Space Program.... The International Indian Ocean, Atlantic and Pacific satellites, as well as the Western Union and

The magnitude of this project will require more than 600 highly trained people throughout the world.

RCA satellite systems will allow the World Communion Service to literally *surround* the globe. The magnitude of this project will require more than 600 highly trained people throughout the world."

"If ever there was a message worthy to share through *every* voice," said Kenneth Copeland, "it's the message of the blood covenant God offers to us." VICTORY

or trying to impress God with our own goodness and abilities, but by faith.

Now that we've received that blessing, God expects us to put it to work. He expects us to follow "the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (as it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) [like] him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be" (Romans 4:16-18).

Faith is the servant that brings in the harvest from our fields of blessing! So the more we believe and act on God's promise—calling things that be not as though they were, calling ourselves blessed like I did back when I was driving that old bailing-wire car and living in that

pitiful excuse for a house—the more that harvest will flow in.

No wonder God wants us to dig more deeply into what His Word has to say about the blessing! No wonder He wants us to develop an ever-increasing faith in it!

Harvest time is here. We are surrounded by a world that's ripe and ready to win. But we can't bring in that harvest with the same amount of faith we used during the planting and cultivating seasons. We need whole truck-loads of harvesters swarming our fields now.

So let's send our faith out to get the job done. Let's believe God's promise and call things that are not as though they are until we have every resource we need to preach the gospel to every soul on the planet. Let's become the blessing to all nations God always planned for us to be. **VICTORY**

a historic
moment
1967

JESUS IS LORD!

If you were to go back and read past issues of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazines, watch all 28 years of *BVOV* broadcasts, or review recordings from all the KCM meetings, you would lose count of the times Kenneth Copeland proclaims, "Jesus Is Lord!"

Throughout the years, Brother Copeland has declared "*Jesus Is Lord!*" over the world and its nations time and again. He has confessed it over families and individuals. He has boldly declared it over national elections and government leaders on every level. He has used his faith year after year to profess *Jesus is Lord* over every kind of sickness, disease, famine and global calamity.

It began nearly 40 years ago, as Brother Copeland was reading his Bible in his bedroom. First Corinthians 12:3 exploded with meaning in his heart: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." At that moment, Brother Copeland decided he was going to declare those words all the time, and over every situation. The rest of that afternoon he walked around declaring the lordship of Jesus. "Jesus is Lord. Jesus is Lord over my

body. Jesus is Lord over my mind. Jesus is Lord over my spirit. Jesus is Lord over this bedroom. Jesus is Lord over my clothes. Jesus is Lord over my car. Jesus is Lord over this ministry. Jesus is Lord over anything that has to do with me, because I make Jesus the Lord over my life." He wrote "*Jesus Is Lord!*" every time he had a pen in his hand, and ended his letters with the same confession. He even had a plaque made for the front door of his home, announcing to every person who stepped onto the porch, "*Jesus Is Lord!*"

"*Jesus Is Lord!*" not only became the theme for his ministry, it was the theme for his life.

The Bible says that every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that

Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).

The day is coming when *everyone*, Christian or not, will bow and confess that *Jesus is Lord*. He is the undisputed Savior of the universe.

Every person on earth can be saved by believing and making that declaration now! We hope every one of you has

had your own personal *historic moment* and come to the same conclusion Brother Copeland did more than 40 years ago.

The entire staff of KCM joins Kenneth and Gloria in declaring over you—*God loves you. We love you. And, JESUS IS LORD!*

VICTORY

He has used his faith year after year to profess *Jesus is Lord* over every kind of sickness, disease, famine and global calamity.



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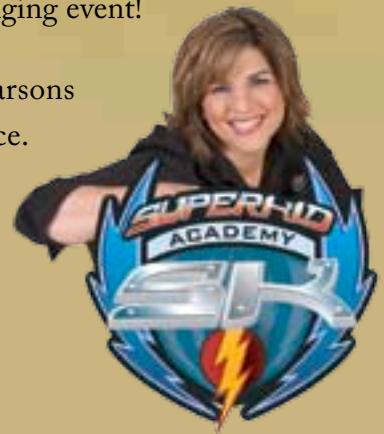
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Pastors George and Terri Pearson



Commander Kellie

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You Can
Live Healthy Now

ONCE READ THAT “COMMITMENT IS THE IGNITER OF MOMENTUM.” | THAT’S ESPECIALLY TRUE IN OBTAINING HEALTH AND FITNESS GOALS. AND, PSALM 37:5 TELLS US ESSENTIALLY THE SAME THING WHEN IT SAYS: “COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD [ROLL AND REPOSE EACH CARE OF YOUR LOAD ON HIM]; TRUST (LEAN ON, RELY ON, AND BE CONFIDENT) ALSO IN HIM AND HE WILL BRING IT TO PASS” (*THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE*).

When you and I commit our way—our goals, our desires—to the Lord, He will bring them to pass. In other words, He provides the momentum.

One definition of the word *commit* is: “To give in trust; to put into the hands or power of another; to

entrust.” That is so fitting when it comes to achieving success in your health and fitness goals. The first step is to put your goals into God’s hands.

That’s the spiritual step in making a commitment, and it provides momentum!

BY MARY COPELAND

A Course of Conduct

Another definition of the word *commit* gives us insight into the practical steps of commitment. Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language says *to commit* means, "...to commit one's self is to do some act, or make some declaration which may bind the person in honor, good faith, or consistency, to pursue a certain course of conduct, or to adhere to the tenor of that declaration."

Commitment means having a plan of action that you stick to with honor and in good faith. That plan should include: Making a binding declaration (firmly establishing your goal); and adhering in good faith to a consistent course of conduct (following specific objectives) to achieve the declaration (or goal).

Making a Declaration

Let's talk about what it takes to formulate and make a binding declaration.

For one thing, it means *writing* down goals and praying over them with the sincere intention of reaching them. It also means investing the time to come up with a specific course of action to help achieve those goals.

Habakkuk 2:2 instructs us to "write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." A written plan of action will help you stay focused *and* moving toward your goal. When you associate God's Word with your goals, that makes success a sure thing, because His Word and presence have the power to change you.

Now, making a declaration also means declaring or speaking your goal. As you hear yourself declaring your goal, you'll become more persuaded and determined to reach that goal.

Let's talk a moment about what your health and fitness goals might be.

Living a healthy lifestyle is a goal every person should have. This goal should include a healthy eating plan and a fitness plan. The best strategy for *you* depends on many factors such as: your present weight, how much weight you need to lose, your activity level, the condition of your health, etc.

If weight loss needs to be part of your goal to live healthy, a *realistic* weight-loss goal would be to lose one to two pounds a week.

While we each have a unique body type and metabolism, a great way for most people to begin losing weight is for them to subtract 250 calories from their daily calorie intake *and* begin burning an extra 250-500 calories per day through exercise.

How many calories *you* need to consume is dependent on those many factors I mentioned previously. Fewer than 1200 calories a day for women and 1400 calories for men is not typically recommended. And not eating *enough* not only will deprive your body of needed nutrition, it also can cause your body to go into "starvation mode" which slows down your metabolism. This in turn slows your ability to lose weight. So, please visit your doctor before beginning any weight-loss program or fitness routine. He or she can help you decide on a plan that will work best for you.

Healthy Eating Tips

One thing I've discovered is that making small yet significant adjustments can make all the difference in our goal to live healthy.

Let's face it, most of us would be hard-pressed to make all the dietary changes we should make at one time. But, we can begin "doing the dos" and the "don'ts" will eventually disappear. For instance, the more healthy foods we eat, the healthier we'll want to eat—eventually. Then, before we know it, the *do* of eating healthy becomes a lifestyle change.

Hebrews 5:14 says it this way "...even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." By reason of use, our senses are trained to prefer what is good.

Making simple adjustments in our diets can help us train our senses and yield big results. Here are a few "healthy eating" suggestions that are easy to do!

Begin each day with a healthy breakfast.

Among other things it is proven to help with weight loss. Adding a high-fiber cereal to your diet is a great diet strategy. It will help you eat about 130 fewer calories per day. If you don't like high-fiber cereals, add a little of a high-fiber variety to your regular cereal. Add berries and you've included a portion of your fruit for the day!



One thing I've discovered
is that making small yet
significant adjustments
can make all the
difference in our goal
to live healthy.



The USDA recommends eating
five servings, so if presently you
are eating only two pieces of
fruit per day, add one vegetable
serving per day this week, and
perhaps an additional piece of
fruit per day the next.

Drink water.

It is vital to good health! At least 64 ounces of water each day is recommended. That may seem like a lot if you usually drink four colas each day and no water. Trying to omit all colas from your diet might set you up for failure. However, if the first week you determine to drink only two 12-ounce colas per day rather than four and drink water to replace those two colas, you've accomplished two things: You've reduced your calorie intake by 280 calories (140 calories per cola) and you've also added 24 ounces of water to your diet. The next week, drink three 12-ounce glasses of water and omit one more cola. As you begin drinking water, your body will develop a thirst for it.

By "doing the do" of drinking water, eventually colas and the calories that go along with them will be omitted from your diet.

Add fruits and vegetables to your diet.

The USDA recommends eating five servings, so if presently you are eating only two pieces of fruit per day, add one vegetable serving per day this week, and perhaps an additional piece of fruit per day the next.

Fast the fast food.

If you are eating fast food four times a week, cut back to once or twice a week. Most fast food is high in fat, sodium and calories and low in nutrition. For instance, according to the McDonald's U.S.A. Web site, a Big Mac has 560 calories and 30 grams of fat! Add to that a large order of fries (520 calories with 25 grams of fat) and a large cola (210 calories), and you may have exceeded your daily recommended calorie and fat intake in one meal.

Remember if you want to reach your goals, you must write them down with a specific course of action to help you reach those goals. Taking the above suggestions into account, your "week-one eating plan" to support healthy living and a weight-loss goal might include *specifics* such as, I will:

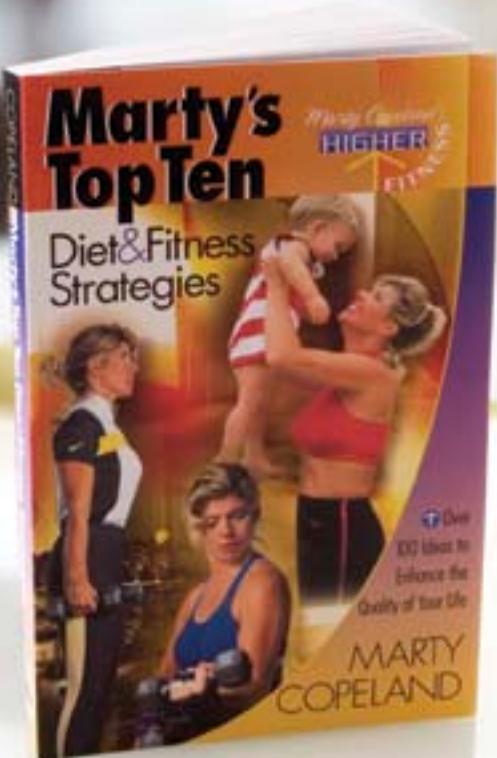
1. Eat a healthy breakfast.
2. Drink two 12-ounce glasses of water and omit two colas.
3. Eat two to four servings of fruits and vegetables per day.
4. Run fast, run far when I am tempted to drive through for fast food!

Add to Healthy Eating... Exercise!

Next, consider a *specific* exercise plan to help you achieve your fitness goal. Write that down as well. Keep in mind the best fitness plan includes both *aerobic exercise* such as walking, jogging, swimming, biking, etc., and *anaerobic exercise* which is weight or resistance training. Aerobic exercise burns fat. And building muscle not only helps you look toned and fit, one pound of muscle also burns about 35 calories a day, whereas one pound of fat burns only two calories. When you do the maths it's easy to see how beneficial it is to gain muscle.

A generic plan such as "I will exercise this week" won't be sufficient. You must have a *specific* plan. It could be something like: Monday, Wednesday, Friday—walk 30 minutes; Tuesday, Thursday—30-minute gym workout.

Exercising actually can be fun when you find something you like to do, and at the very least it is rewarding and will help you feel better emotionally, mentally and physically.



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Now Do It!

As we've discussed, three main elements necessary for you to achieve a healthy lifestyle are to:

1. Commit your plan to the Lord.
2. Write down your health and fitness goals in the form of a binding declaration.
3. Develop a plan to achieve those goals.

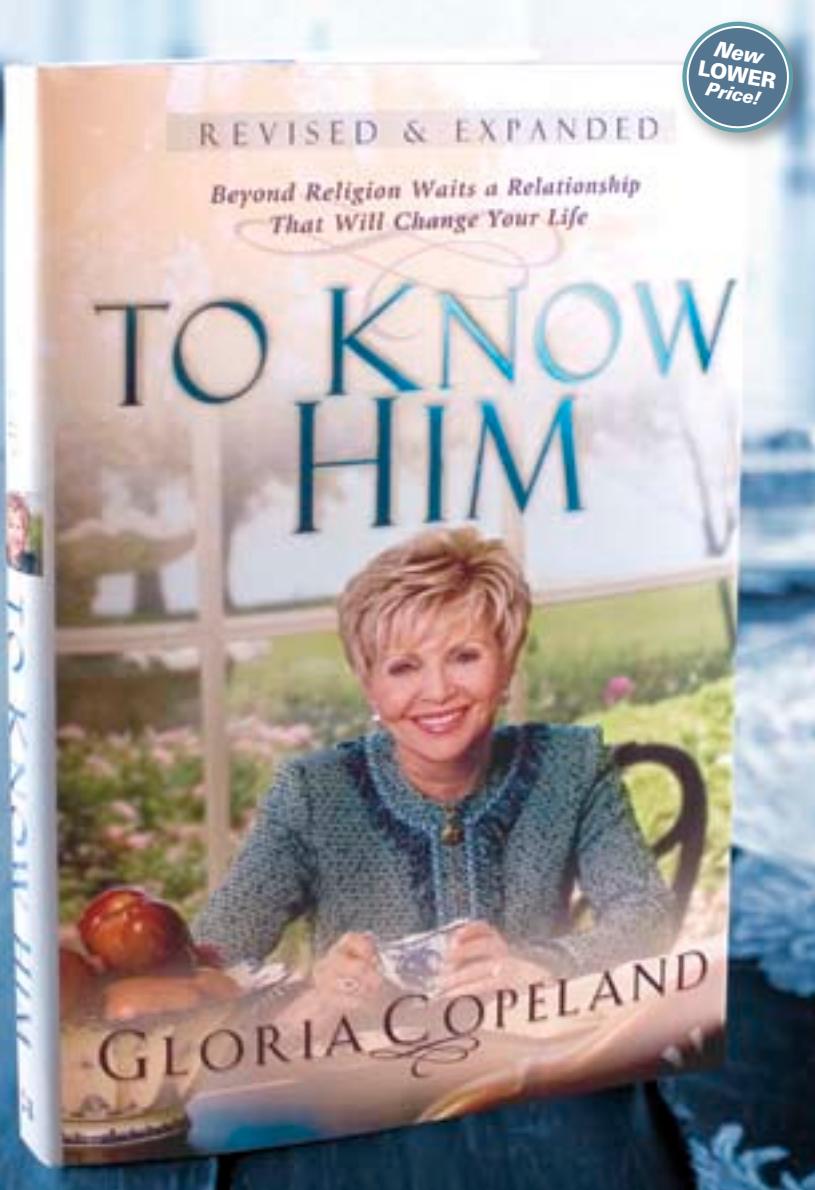
Making and keeping a commitment to achieve a healthier lifestyle is not the impossible dream, but rather a very achievable goal.

So, why not make this the week you get started? "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3, *New International Version*). Why not make this the week you gain momentum to begin *living a healthier lifestyle?* **VICTORY**

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. To learn more about health and fitness, visit Marty's Web site at www.martycopeland.com.

"When we first got born again, we didn't know anything about God's Word or His plan. Our lives changed dramatically though when we learned to take the Word literally and obey it as God speaking directly to us." —Gloria Copeland

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BY GLORIA COPELAND

Pour On thePower

A dynamic photograph of a male runner in mid-stride on a track. The background is blurred, suggesting motion. The runner is wearing a blue tank top and dark shorts.

Faith in God's Word always works. There's no question about that. But have you ever noticed it seems to work more quickly for some people than for others?

I have. In fact, I've experienced it both ways in my own life. There was a time years ago, when Ken and I had just begun living by faith that we would dig into the Word, believe God for something, then wait...and wait...and wait...for the manifestation. The process seemed so slow. Often we could have gotten what we wanted much faster by natural means. But we'd keep confessing and acting on the Word anyway because we knew that faith pleased God (Hebrews 11:6).

At this moment, you're running a spiritual race,
At lightning-like speed...or
a snail's pace.

The rate that you travel is up to you.
It's determined completely by what you do.

So if you're tired of lagging behind in this hour,
Then step up to holiness and pour on the power!

You may have weights in your life that are slowing you down spiritually. They may not be bad things in themselves, yet they are draining you of spiritual power.

If we were steadfast, the answer always came eventually. It had to because the Scripture says, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:7, 9).

When you sow the Word by faith, you’ll always get a harvest. But I’ll confess to you, there were times when Ken and I got weary in well doing because our “due season” took so long to arrive!

Since then, praise God, we’ve learned a few things. We’ve discovered that although, when you live by faith, there is always a time of patiently waiting for God’s promises to be realized in your life, it *is* possible to speed things up a great deal. If you’re a wise spiritual farmer, you can shorten the time between seed planting and harvest! How? By carefully tending the soil of your heart.

When you think about it, that just makes good sense. After all, no farmer just sows seed in the ground and leaves it there untended. Even in the natural world there’s no such thing as an effortless harvest. If you want a good crop, you fertilize the ground. You water it. You keep the weeds out.

Beware of Vain Amusements

The same thing is true in the realm of the spirit. There are some things you have to do if you want your faith to produce effectively. What are those things? I can sum them up in two words: Sanctify yourself.

Sanctify is a scriptural word that means “to separate yourself” in two ways:

- 1) *from* the things of the world
- 2) *to* the things of God

Some Christians don’t want to do that. They want to go the places worldly people go, watch the things they watch, spend their time the same way other people spend their time—and still reap a harvest of blessings. But I can tell you, that’s not going to happen.

We live in a world that is going the opposite direction from the Spirit of God. On every hand, things are getting darker. Things that wouldn’t have been said or done in public 25 years ago are now being said and done every night on prime-time television.

We have come to that time Paul was referring to when he said to Timothy:

But understand this, that in the last days there will set in perilous times of great stress and trouble—hard to deal with and hard to bear. For people will

be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate (greedy) desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffers), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. [They will be] without natural (human) affection (callous and inhuman), relentless—admitting of no truce or appeasement. [They will be] slanderers—false accusers, troublemakers; intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. [They will be] treacherous (betrayers), rash [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:1-4, *The Amplified Bible*).

Break the Habit

Those verses accurately describe the way the world is going. But you’re not of the world. If you’re born again, you’re not to conform to the image of this world, you’re to conform to the image of Jesus.

That means your lifestyle shouldn’t be the “normal” lifestyle of this world. Now, I’m not just saying you shouldn’t be involved in gross sin. That is true, of course. But the things of the world that trip up most believers are more subtle. Many of them would fall into the category of “vain amusements.”

For example, I think one of the worst enemies to the growth of God’s people today is the television, that box that’s always ready to show us adultery, sin, murder and bad news.

Of course, we don’t necessarily intend to watch those kinds of things. It’s just that at those times when we want to relax, when we don’t want to have to think—the television is right there for us. We can just turn it on and let it feed us. It requires no effort on our part.

What’s more, it’s addictive. Some people can’t go 10 days without their television fix. But you can unplug it for a few weeks and break that addiction. In fact, you’d be amazed at how effective that one decision could be in revolutionizing your life.

I’m not telling you it’s wrong to watch TV. But I am telling you this: You can’t feed constantly on its junk and expect your spirit to be ready to manifest the power of God. You just can’t do it.

Whatever you give your attention to is what’s going to be inside you either fertilizing or depleting the soil of your heart. Don’t kid yourself into thinking you can watch negative stuff and it won’t affect you. There are no two ways about it, what you do gets into your heart. And

what you spend an abundance of your time doing will be in your heart in abundance.

Don't be one who goes after vain amusements instead of the things of God. Don't sell out to TV when you know you should be reading the Word or praying in the spirit. I know it takes discipline to say no to vain amusements. But that's what it takes to walk in the better things of God.

Check Your Affections

Separating yourself from the ways of the world doesn't always mean just leaving destructive activities behind, either. It often means simply getting rid of those things that don't build you up spiritually.

Hebrews 12:1 says it this way: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

You may have weights in your life that are slowing you down spiritually. They may not be bad things in themselves, yet they are draining you of spiritual power. You may be so wrapped up in your occupation, for instance, that

you spend all your time thinking and talking about it. Or you may have a hobby that has become the center of your attention.

The problem with things like that is not that they are sinful, it's that they've captured your affection. And the Bible says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2).

God wants you to set the affection of your heart on Him. Why? So that He can pour out His affection on you!

You can't give anything to God without His giving you much more in return. When you set your affection on Him, He will bless you and bless you and bless you!

If you're not sure whether or not your affection is set on God, you can find out. Simply evaluate how you're spending your time and attention. If you're doing the things that please yourself when you know you should be seeking after the things of God, then your affection is set on yourself.



You can't give anything to God without His giving you **much more** in return.

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Whatever has your affection will get your attention. But do you know what? The reverse is also true. Whatever gets your attention will eventually get your affection.

That means you can redirect your affection by redirecting your attention. You can begin to set your heart on things above by purposely turning your attention to the Word, and by replacing those things that don't build you up spiritually with things that please the Lord.

Rich Rewards

What we're actually talking about here is holiness. Contrary to what you might think, holiness is not some kind of sanctimonious religiosity. Holiness is living unto God.

Unlike the world's way of living, holiness isn't easy. You can't just coast along doing what everybody else is doing and be holy. It takes determination. It takes effort. It takes submitting yourself to God when naturally speaking, you want to do something else.

But the rewards are tremendous.

Hebrews 12:14 says without holiness, "No man shall see the Lord." Does that mean if you're holy you *will* see Him? Yes!

Jesus Himself said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:21).

In other words, if you live the way we're talking about right now—doing things that are pleasing to God—Jesus will reveal Himself to you. He can become so real to you through the Word it will be as if He's

Salvation Prayer

If you do not know **Jesus** as your Saviour & 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.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please contact us and let us know of your decision. We have a free Salvation Package we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Simply write and ask for offer #70801, tick the circle on the order form that comes with this magazine or call +44 (0)1225 448374.

standing right in front of you. You can be closer to Him than you are to your best friend.

That, in itself, would be reason enough to live a holy lifestyle. But the Bible promises even more rewards!

You can find one of them in 1 John 5:17-18. It says, "All unrighteousness is sin.... We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

Can you imagine what life would be like if the devil couldn't touch you? Well, that's the way God wants your life to be. He wants you so free Satan can't hurt you in any way.

Condemnation or Consecration?

Look at 1 John 3:21-22 and you'll see another reward that awaits those willing to live holy: "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

Do you know why so many people's prayers fail to get answered? It's not because God doesn't do His part. It's because the people had no confidence when they went before God in prayer. They couldn't ask in faith because their hearts condemned them.

You can mentally justify yourself and rationalize all day long. You can tell yourself that the things you're spending time on are good, that there's really "nothing wrong with them." But you can't fool your heart.

Deep inside you know whether you're giving God top priority or not. You know if you're spending quality time with Him every day in the Word and in prayer. And if you're not, your heart will condemn you.

When your heart condemns you, your faith is impaired. On the other hand, when you're sold out to God, your heart knows it. So instead of condemning you, it gives you confidence toward God.

Your faith rises up. Something inside you knows you're going to receive whatever you ask of Him because you keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Rapid Results

When that happens, your faith not only works—it works more quickly and effectively than ever before. I can testify to that from personal experience.

Many years ago, before I understood much about this kind of lifestyle, I prayed and believed God for the money to buy a house. At the time, it seemed to me like a big request. After all, Ken hadn't been in the ministry

very long and we'd never owned a house before. What's more, we'd committed to God not to borrow money, so the amount of cash we needed seemed monumental to us at the time.

But I believed for it anyway, and I got it by faith. Let me tell you though, it took awhile. Six years, to be exact.

Some years later, I found another house I wanted. Once again, I prayed and believed God for it. But this time it was different. I had begun to walk in the things I am teaching you here, so when I prayed, I had a confidence toward God that I hadn't experienced with the first house.

Somehow I just expected Him to give me what I asked. I knew in my heart I'd been diligent to do the things He wanted me to do. I'd been faithful to Him—and I expected Him to be faithful to me.

It wasn't something I had to work up in my mind and believe. It was a confidence that was simply there when I needed it.

There was nothing in my heart to condemn me and say, "You know, you haven't really been spending time in the Word like you should. You've been lax about your prayer time."

You see, it's not God who holds out on us. Our prayers are hindered because our own lack of consecration affects our hearts. It keeps us from receiving what God wants to give.

Jesus had so much confidence in the Father that His faith knew no possibility of defeat. He also said, "I always do those things that please my Father." Can you see the connection?

Jesus' total dedication to pleasing God caused total confidence in the Father. And total dedication in your life to the things of God will do the same thing for you.

It will clear the weeds from the ground of your heart. It will cause the soil of your life to be rich and pure and productive. So when you sow to the spirit, you'll reap your harvest much faster.

You'll plant God's Word in your heart and confess it with your mouth, and before long you'll see the results springing forth. Jesus will make Himself real to you. And your heart will be constantly filled with confidence toward God.

If that's not a fabulous way to live, I don't know what is!

Why don't you take the challenge God has for you? Determine to please Him. Clear out all the unproductive things and step up to a new level of dedication. Don't put it off another minute. Pour on the power of obedience—and open the door for God to pour out His power on you! **VICTORY**

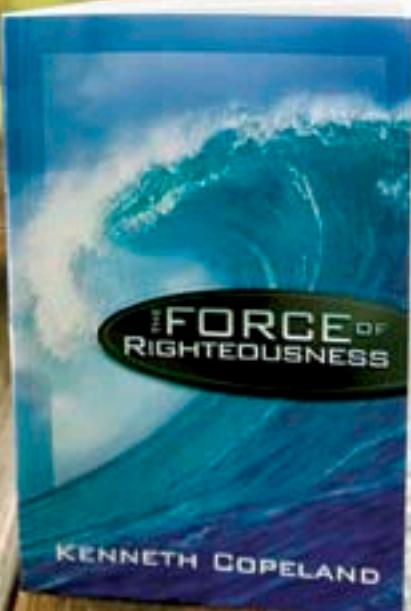
GoodNewsGazette

Living in a New Realm of Love

I want to give you a praise report. I called the prayer line because my need was so great. I talked with a man there who ministered the love of God to me in the most wonderful, sweet and sincere fashion. I was so scared because I was scheduled for a heart catheterization and was supposed to have a stent placed in the artery. Never had I had any heart problems and after prayer, the catheterization was done and no stent was required.

I also told the prayer minister I was 100 pounds overweight; he prayed for the compulsive overeating addiction and God truly has set me free. In addition to that, he ministered to me the Father's love for me, and mailed me tapes by Pastor George Pearsons on *My Father Loves Me*. God has shown me His great and awesome love through these tapes. I can truly say I am living in a new realm of the love of my heavenly Father. Thank you so kindly for being there for me.

C.E. | West Virginia



See response form for ordering information.

And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing....

(2 CORINTHIANS 9:10, THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

Pain Free and Praising God

I wrote to KCM for prayer for my granddaughter about healing of a broken back. She had been in horrible pain for seven months. She had been through many treatments, X-rays and shots, but the pain just grew worse and worse. She was finally reduced to a wheelchair and had contemplated suicide because she couldn't endure the pain. She is a Christian and knew that it was not the will of God for her to go through this pain. She could not sleep at night, sit or lie down comfortably. The medicine they gave her to help heal the thumb-sized break in her back was not working.



Joy Langford's granddaughter, Sheridan

But God intervened! When your prayer team got the message, a lady by the name of Sue called on Jan. 31, 2007, and prayed with my granddaughter. Sue stayed on the phone with her for an hour praying and directing her to move what she could not move before, and God healed her then and there. Praise the good Lord!

Right after Sue got off the phone, my granddaughter called to tell me the wonderful news. We all but had church right on the phone! She was crying, thanking God and saying, "Grandma, I'm pain free! I don't have any pain!"

Joy Langford | Sparta, Ga.

The Laws of Sowing and Reaping Work!

Four weeks ago, I was reading the book *The Laws of Prosperity* by Kenneth Copeland. In that book, I read about how to sow my finances and how to make a withdrawal from my heavenly bank account. So, I prayed the prayer that was in the book. Then, I followed through by taking the best of all my funds and presented it as an offering and seed for increase in my income. I didn't tell anyone. Then I waited, believing by faith that I would receive that increase. A week ago my supervisor called me in to speak with me. He said, "I'm going to give you an increase. Starting this pay period, \$300 will be added to your monthly wage." Then he said that in the new year I would receive another increase and also there was a benefit package coming down the line. Wow! I'm at a loss for words, except "Glory to God."

K.B. | Canada

I Have Been Set Free

I would like to thank you for your ministry. I have just read the first three chapters of your book *The Force of Righteousness* and I finally get it. I finally know what everyone has been shouting about! I finally know how it feels to have the burden of shame, guilt and condemnation lifted. I have been trying to live the Christian life in my own power for years. I have failed miserably. I would sin, repent and try harder. I didn't think there was any hope for me. I felt so defeated. When I read your book, the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to finally see the sacrifice that Jesus made for me. He paid my sin debt in full. I am eternally grateful for knowing this truth. It has set me free. I am very grateful for your ministry, and I cannot wait to tell others the good news.

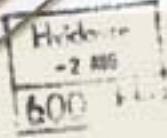
B.R. | California

The Force of Righteousness paperback book £3.50 | €5.40 #B070804

Saved through BVOV

Glory be to God in the highest,
I'm now a pastor. I met Christ
through your publications when
I was in jail in Pakistan, and
became a Partner to your ministry.
I lost contact with your office for
some time because I was posted to a
remote area where I cannot browse,
but am back in the city now. May
the Lord continue to bless your
ministry, in Jesus' Name.

K.F. — Nigeria



Healed and Made Whole

On July 21, 2006, I received a call from my daughter-in-law. My son, Robert, had been in an accident in Arkansas and they were airlifting him to Springfield, Mo., with head and neck injuries. I prayed with her and as soon as she hung up the phone, I called the KCM prayer line and a prayer minister prayed in agreement with me for complete restoration, and that the doctors would do only good and no harm.

They called back and told me he had suffered several injuries, including a brain injury with bruising and a fractured vertebra.

I told my [daughter-in-law], we receive him fully restored and for her to refuse to fear, and stand in faith. I went to Missouri and spent the next few weeks with them and we continued to lay hands on Robert and confess full restoration.

Well, Robert broke all the timelines for healing that the doctors gave us. Three months later, the neurosurgeon said it looked like something or someone had welded the bone in his neck. Robert told him Someone did and His Name is Jesus. Today, Robert is back at work giving God all the glory and telling everyone he can about how the Lord gave him back his life and made it more abundant in every way. He's also leading others to Jesus.

Thank you so much for all that you have taught us and for following the call God placed on your lives. We pray that you live long and strong until the coming of the Lord.

Martha Ellison | Arizona

The Word Brings Forth a Harvest

I want to express my appreciation for KCM and the way you have blessed me all these years. Your magazine was given to me by a friend in 2000, and I have been a subscriber ever since. I have seen myself grow by leaps and bounds in my faith and in applying the Word of God to my life.

The Word of God has become so alive, and my prayer life is so enriched. I continue to learn to stand on the Word of God, to pray the answer and not the problem, and I just can't get enough of the daily and Sunday broadcasts. Last year I reaped a wonderful harvest. I finished my Ph.D., found a job even before I finished, and got married. Hallelujah—Jesus is Lord.

C.A.W. | Canada

Restoration and Wholeness

Thanksgiving and praise is overflowing out of my heart to our most awesome, merciful, compassionate and loving God! Our God is truly a God who brings complete restoration and wholeness!

Having only been Partners for eight months, by October 2006 we understood, in part, that we would have a connection with the anointing of this ministry. But we have truly been amazed by the power of the anointing.

Having asked for prayer from the Australian KCM office for our marriage and other issues, we walked into the Perth Victory Campaign with our 3-year-old marriage in intense struggle. My husband was deeply depressed and I was consumed with fear. We could hardly enjoy being around each other and were at a crisis point, though our love for each other was deep.

We walked out of that meeting 27 hours later with our marriage restored—my husband free from depression and me free from fear. Praise God! Yes we have to walk it out and resist the enemy's attempt to put it all back on us; but, we have the skills to do this due to the powerful, Word-based teaching of this ministry.

Thank you so much for teaching us the truth of the uncompromised Word of God. It is also a blessing knowing we have thousands of Partners praying and standing with us. We are praying for and standing with all of you, too! God bless you all!

K.W. | Australia



August

Believer's Voice of Victory
Broadcast Calendar



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



George Persons



Jeremy Persons



Billye Brim

BVOV TV LISTINGS

Daily Broadcast Monday–Friday

7am (8am CET)	TBN Europe
8.30am (9.30am CET)	Daystar
10am (11am CET)	Gospel Channel Europe
1pm (2pm CET)	God Channel
7pm (8pm CET)	God Channel
9pm (10pm CET)	TBN Europe

DAILY

30 Mon	31 Tue	1 Wed	2 Thu	3 Fri
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The Open Door to Your Authority

Gloria Copeland and **Billye Brim** start a new series this week, exploring the riches of Ephesians for a look at the authority you have in Jesus.

6	7	8	9	10
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The Authority of the Glorious Church

Gloria Copeland and **Billye Brim** conclude their teaching on the authority of the believer by showing you how to use your God-given authority in every aspect of life.

13	14	15	16	17
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THE BLESSING Connection to God's Promise

Ministering from their cabin in Arkansas, **Kenneth** and **Gloria Copeland** talk about God's promises and how they are actively connected to THE BLESSING working in your life.

20	21	22	23	24
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Choose THE BLESSING

God has laid the choice out before you: THE BLESSING or the curse. This week, **Kenneth** and **Gloria Copeland** share how you can make the right choice every time.

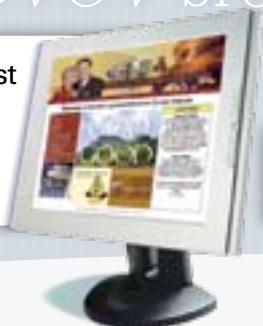
27	28	29	30	31
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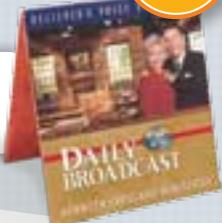
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Safe in the Eye of the Storm

BY MELANIE HEMRY

Debra Weaver finished a load of laundry and carried the basket upstairs, where she hung clean towels in the bathroom and folded spring-scented sheets. It was a lazy summer day in Slidell, La. Debra listened to the sound of the lawnmower as her husband, Chris, mowed the grass. Laughing children rode bicycles down the street while dogs barked and birds winged their way from branch to branch in the tall pine trees that dotted the area.

Chores done, Debra looked around her home with a deep sense of joy. This house had been a gift from God, an answer to many years of prayer. He'd allowed her to build it new and put down deep roots. To Debra, the house was an outward manifestation of God's love.

Debra heard the door slam and looked up in surprise as her 19-year-old daughter, Jennifer, hurried up the stairs. "What are you doing home from work this early?" Debra asked.

Jennifer's eyes widened. "Mama, don't you know there's a hurricane coming?"

"I had no idea," Debra said, turning on the television. "We've been busy every night this week and I haven't watched the news."

Arriving at the store to stock up on supplies, Debra found mayhem. Shelves were almost bare and long lines of agitated people waited at checkout counters. Back home, she stood outside and looked at the sky. It was an azure blue, cloudless and clear.

Only two weeks earlier there had been a hurricane warning and people were told to evacuate. It had been a disaster—not



Calm settled over Debra. Turning to Chris and Jennifer, she said, “**Our covenant partners are praying!**”



“I saw a canoe drift against the tide and stop outside our bedroom window. It was like a message from the Lord saying, ‘I will provide a way of escape.’”

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the weather, but the gridlock on every road, highway and interstate out of southern Louisiana. Only 25 miles northeast of New Orleans, people from Slidell had found themselves trapped in their cars in the stifling heat and humidity, unable to move. Every motel in the area was filled to capacity.

Now, with another hurricane headed their way, people were faced with a difficult choice. If you were going to be caught in a hurricane, would it be better to be trapped in your house or your car?

Debra had ridden out three hurricanes in her house without any problem. But the one heading their way, which had been named Katrina, had the potential to be the granddaddy of all hurricanes. She and Chris prayed for direction.

“I keep hearing the word *distinction*,” Debra told Chris. “The Bible says that God made a distinction between His people who lived in Goshen and all the rest of Egypt. I think He’ll do the same for us.”

The mayor of New Orleans had told everyone living in a low-lying area to go to a shelter. Slidell had no shelters. Debra and Chris would have to find protection under the wing of the Almighty.

The Winds of Adversity | By Sunday afternoon Aug. 29, 2005, the winds were howling at 125 miles per hour. Warnings on both radio and television cautioned “Don’t leave now!” However, the president over their parish issued a different warning: “Everyone south of Interstate 10 should evacuate!”

“That’s us,” Chris said. “But where do they suggest we go?” Part of the concern for people in Slidell wasn’t coastal waters, but the waters of Lake Pontchartrain and the levee that held them in check.

Debra, Chris and Jennifer watched out a window as strong winds plucked up towering pine trees and dropped them like missiles on houses and cars. The wind sounded like a freight train running full speed through their house. At 2 a.m., one of the trees in their yard crashed through the roof. Rain poured into their downstairs library. For the next several hours, Chris and Debra used buckets to try and contain the water damage.

The next day was marked by an eerie stillness in the area. The Weavers spent much of the day picking up debris from their yard. Finally, exhaustion set in and Debra and Jennifer lay down on the living room floor for a nap. Within minutes, Debra woke to her husband’s frantic screams. “Debra! Get up!” Certain that another tree was falling, Debra grabbed Jennifer and ran. “Is it the tree?” she called.

“No, it’s water!”

In the seconds it took to get up from the floor, Debra was wading in water up to her ankles. Grabbing Jennifer, they ran upstairs. Looking outside, they watched, horrified, as a 30-foot wave soared like a tsunami over the nearby levee. Within minutes the downstairs floor of their home was completely flooded.

Faith for Wind and Waves | Debra looked down the stairs and saw water lapping up the distance between them. Grabbing bedsheets, she tied herself to Jennifer, who weighed only 90 pounds.

The water continued its march up the stairs. “I can’t swim!” Debra screamed.

“Mama, calm down!” Jennifer ordered.

In that second, Debra had a vision. She saw and heard Terri Copeland Pearson, the daughter of Kenneth Copeland and co-pastor at Eagle Mountain International Church in Fort Worth, Texas, praying in the spirit.

Calm settled over Debra. Turning to Chris and Jennifer, she said, “Our covenant partners are praying!” The sure knowledge that people at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and EMIC were praying launched Debra into a place of faith and prayer.

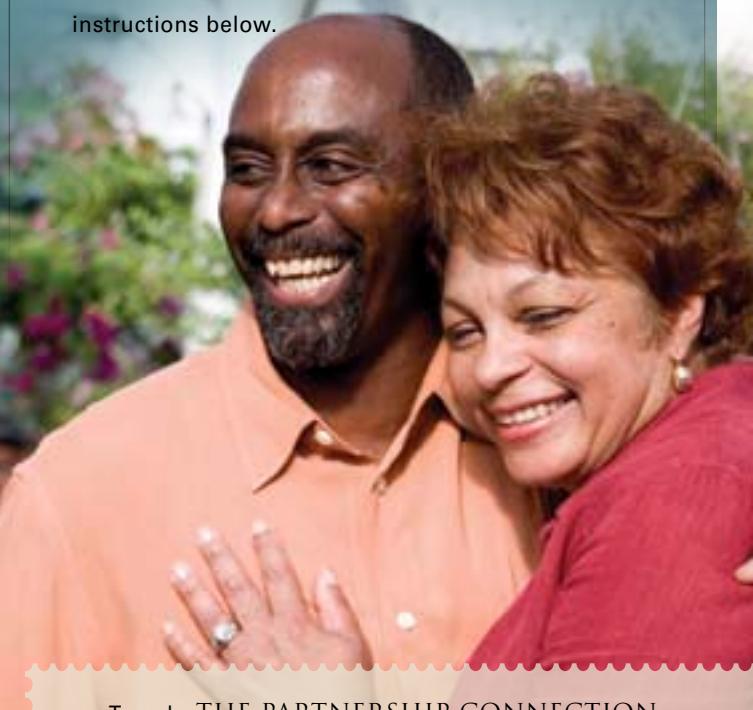
in Prayer!

For Chris and Debra Weaver, partnership in prayer made the difference between life and death. When you need assurance that you're not alone, that someone *is* praying for you, you can be confident in knowing we're standing with you. Every day, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland and the KCM staff faithfully lift our Partners up in prayer. We pray for your protection, your perfect health, restored relationships and more. And we know you're praying the same for us. Because when we take a stand in prayer and partner together, success is inevitable and miracles happen!

miracles happen

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As she began praying, the water stopped at the top of the stairs—not daring to inch forward any farther. As night fell, stillness loomed large outside. Knowing they would need food, Chris, a strong swimmer, went downstairs where he found fruit floating in a bowl in the water. He also scavenged food from the refrigerator, which was afloat.

Escape to Dry Land | “Before we went to sleep that night,” Debra recalls, “I saw a canoe drift against the tide and stop outside our bedroom window. It was like a message from the Lord saying, I will provide a way of escape.”

That night, they slept in an upstairs bedroom. As the sun crept over the horizon, Chris heard the sound of a boat motor. They gathered some things and waded out in chest-deep water to get into the boat. A man yelled at them to hurry because there were others to rescue. On the way to dry ground, the man picked up so many people Debra prayed the little boat wouldn't sink. Delivered safely to dry land, they continued on foot.

“The destruction was mind boggling,” Debra said. “A nearby strip mall was wrecked, the roof and all the windows missing. There was glass everywhere. We saw trucks on top of buildings, cars in trees, debris and hot electrical wires. We did not see other survivors. We did not see police, the National Guard or any other rescue workers.”

Eventually the group stopped to rest. An injured man staggered up to them, bleeding and needing help.

“There's a gas station nearby,” Chris told the group. “We'll see if we can find something for this man's wounds and something to drink.”

While they were inside the gas station, a police car screeched to a halt outside with its lights flashing, and a policeman yelled, “No looting!”

When Chris explained what they were doing, the officer drove the injured man to the hospital and directed the others to a nearby Wal-Mart.

The scene that greeted them there was dismal. A hundred people or more, some of them elderly, had escaped—some with only the clothes they wore. Many people sat under a searing sun without food or water.

Step by Step | “A woman in the group befriended Jennifer,” Debra remembers. “She was a member of the Church of God in Christ and her pastor, a woman, showed up looking for her. The woman, our family and a young girl with a baby were taken to the church. Soon there were about 100 people sleeping on the floor of the church. The members who still had homes, emptied their own refrigerators and freezers, and brought all they had to the church. A man in our group had been a chef in the French Quarter and he cooked for us.”

Although they had food, there was still no water and no electricity. The pastor decided to send someone to

Baton Rouge for water.

"We have a daughter in Baton Rouge," Chris told her. "Please take Jennifer. She can stay with her sister, Lindesay."

In the wee hours of the morning, Chris saw something unusual. Headlights. Watching to see who it might be, he gasped as their daughter, Lindesay, stepped out of her car and ran to them.

"I thought you were dead," she sobbed. "I'm taking you home with me."

Before leaving, Chris found the pastor of the church. "I want to tithe into your ministry," he said. Emptying his wallet, he gave her all his cash.

The Favor of God | Lindesay's roommate's family had also been displaced, and moved into the girls' apartment. All together, 26 adults were crammed into the two-bedroom apartment. Chris and Debra began praying out God's plan.

Chris applied for help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He also called their insurance agent, who reserved them a rental car. "Get there as soon as you can," he warned, "because everyone is trying to get one." At the rental agency, they got the last car.

Now they needed a plan. After spending time in prayer, Debra said, "Honey, we need to go to our family—our covenant partners. We need to get to Eagle Mountain." Loading up Chris' sister and her 13-year-old autistic son, the Weavers drove to Arlington, Texas.

"On Sunday, we went to Eagle Mountain International Church," Debra says. "When the greeters found out we were from Louisiana, they cried. I hadn't cried at all, but when Pastor Terri walked up and put her arms around me I sobbed. 'I could hear you praying in the spirit,' I said through my tears. 'That's what helped me make it through.'

"A few weeks later we joined the church. When we moved into an apartment they gave us gift cards and things we needed to get started. One of the pastors was very sensitive to what Jennifer had been through and ministered to her a great deal. Jennifer was a senior in high school and had known her friends all her life. She was class president, and didn't want to miss her senior year. When her best friend's family called and invited her to live with them and finish school with her friends, we made a hard decision and let her go back."

The House That God Built | A lot of people in Louisiana simply walked away from their homes and started over somewhere else. But Debra's home had been a gift from God and she intended to honor it. As soon as they were allowed back, Chris and Debra donned rubber boots and gas masks and went to work to try and salvage their home. They lost everything on



Chris and Debra's daughters, Jennifer and Lindesay

the first floor, including Chris' library with his collection of books and tapes by Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Smith Wigglesworth and others. All their furniture, family photos and keepsakes were destroyed, as well as three family vehicles.

A holy anger rose in the Weavers. The enemy had launched an attack and they were prepared to counterattack. "Lord," Chris prayed, "our hearts are not in the stuff we lost. Our hearts are with You. We plant everything we lost as a seed offering and we expect the enemy to pay back everything that was destroyed."

March 15, 2006, with the first floor gutted, the Weavers moved into the second floor. Their

insurance company ruled their house a total loss, but only granted them \$17,000 to rebuild. The Road to Recovery, a government program, had designated \$4 billion to be doled out in \$150,000 grants to households that were approved to receive assistance, the Weavers said. Although approved, the family had not received any financial assistance when they began the arduous task of rebuilding and restoring their home.

Thankfully, Chris and Debra Weaver didn't have to look to the government as their source. They looked to God. The first estimate to repair the first floor was five times their insurance settlement. Undeterred, Chris and Debra prayed for God's help. A second contractor repaired the gutted first floor, painted the entire house and installed wood floors throughout for \$15,000.

In April 2007, well after the repairs had been made and the Weavers were back in their home, they received a check from the government program.

Looking back, the Weavers fully understand the danger they faced, and recognize it would have been best to evacuate their home and the area when they had the chance. But they are grateful for God's protection.

Debra marvels at the beauty of her home with its rich colors, hardwood floors and new furnishings. Parked outside are their new cars, and the devil is *still* paying them back for what was stolen from them.

"It all began with partnership," Debra says. "We learned a few years ago that it's not enough to just tithe and give. You've got to make sure you're giving into good ground, and that's what KCM is, very good ground."

Today, Chris is co-director of the prison ministry at Covenant Church, an outreach of Jesse Duplantis Ministries. Each day when Debra drives to work as a court reporter, she drives through still-desolate areas of New Orleans and shouts, "*Jesus is Lord!*" She prays for the day the whole city will know that faith keeps you safe in the eye of any storm. **VICTORY**

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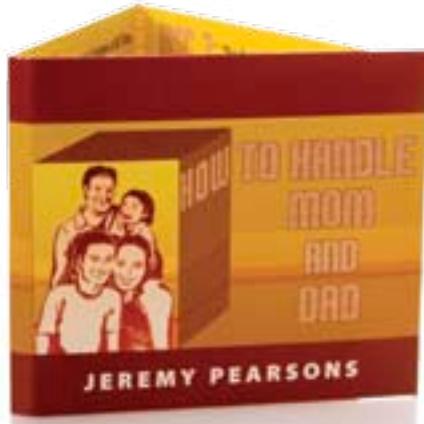


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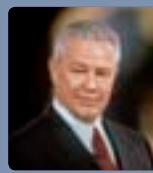
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September 16-21 Days of Refreshing

Eagle Mountain International Church
Kenneth Copeland Ministries Headquarters
14355 Morris-Dido Road | Newark, TX 76071
(not a mailing address) | 800-600-7395

October 4-6 Word Explosion

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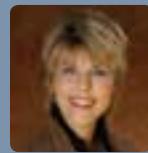
October 24-29 Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks

Billye Brim Ministries
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417-336-4877 | www.billyebirim.org

November 8-10 Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign

Hylton Memorial Chapel
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Also join **Kellie Copeland** at:
October 13 Agape Church
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Be sure to register—it's FREE and you could win a prize!

Attending the Southwest Believers' Convention? **Stay another day** and visit **Eagle Mountain International Church** for Sunday services on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries!



Keep the Door of Faith Open

IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE... | THOSE MAY NOT BE OUR FAVORITE WORDS IN THE BIBLE. BUT, LIKE IT OR NOT, JESUS SAID THEM. | SOME PEOPLE THINK FAITH PREACHERS DON'T BELIEVE THAT. THEY THINK WE TEACH THAT IF YOU WALK BY FAITH YOU WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS AT ALL. BUT WE DON'T. WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THIS WORLD IS FULL OF TROUBLE. AND AS LONG AS WE LIVE IN IT, WE'RE GOING TO FACE TROUBLE, TOO.

The difference, however, between us and some other folks is this: We don't stop there. We preach the rest of the story. We preach the other things Jesus said in that verse. He said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, *New International Version*).

Glory to God! Jesus said we could have peace in the midst of the troubles of this

world. He said that in Him, we could overcome it!

Ken and I know from experience how true those words are. We've been walking with the Lord for a lot of years and we've faced some serious trouble during that time. We've faced financial trouble, sickness and disease, and challenges with our children.

We've encountered problems that, naturally speaking, we didn't know the answer to.

You can't lay hold of the things God has provided if you don't know what they are or that they belong to you.

But you know what? We found out that if we stuck with God and trusted what He said in His Word, He'd see us through. We found out that Jesus has defeated every foe that comes against us and when we follow Him, He leads us out of trouble and into victory every time.

We found out that in Him we truly do have peace.

A few years ago, I learned that the word *peace* (which is the word *shalom* in Hebrew) literally means "to be whole, or perfectly intact with nothing missing and nothing broken." And the Bible tells us that in the Name of Jesus, we have a covenant of peace with God.

Think of it! Almighty God has made a blood covenant with us, promising to keep us whole and intact with nothing missing and nothing broken—right in the middle of this messed up, dangerous world.

A Case of Neglect

Why then, if we have this wonderful covenant of peace, are so many Christians living defeated, broken lives? Why do so many good, born-again believers fall prey to the destructions of this world when God has promised to deliver them?

I believe Hebrews 2 tells us. There we, as heirs of this covenant of salvation, are given some instructions.

Since all this is true, we ought to pay much closer attention than ever to the truths that we have heard, lest in any way we drift past [them] and slip away. For if the message given through angels [the Law spoken by them to Moses] was authentic and proved sure, and every violation and disobedience received an appropriate (just and adequate) penalty, how shall we escape...if we neglect and refuse to pay attention to such a great salvation [as is now offered to us, letting it drift past us forever]?... (verses 1-3, *The Amplified Bible*).

We don't have to do something terrible to find ourselves trapped in some kind of trouble with no way of escape. We don't have to be in some kind of sin and rebellion against God. All we have to do is neglect what He has done for us.

According to Webster's dictionary, the word *neglect* means "to ignore or disregard; to fail to care for or attend to sufficiently or properly; to fail to carry out through carelessness or by intention; leave undone."

It's easy to let spiritual things get away from you. Even though you may have been on fire and excited about the truths of God, they'll slip away from you if you stop paying

attention to them. If you don't keep them in your eyes and in your ears, you can drift right back into unbelief.

As born-again children of God, we have a great salvation. But if we just get up in the morning, go to work, come home, eat dinner, watch television and go to bed like natural people do, we're going to suffer defeat and calamity right along with the rest of the world. If we get too busy with other things to pay proper attention to the things of God, we'll miss out on the benefits of our salvation that are available to us while we are still in the earth. There are covenant benefits here as well as hereafter!

They're Not Automatic

Exactly what are those benefits?

If you don't know that answer, you won't be able to experience the fullness of your salvation. After all, you can't lay hold of the things God has provided if you don't know what they are or that they belong to you.

To fully understand the benefits of your salvation, you need to continually read and study the Word of God. You're not going to walk in victory without knowing what the Word says. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

A good place to begin your understanding of salvation is by learning its meaning. Most believers think the word *salvation* simply means "to be saved from eternal damnation." But it means much more than that.

The word *salvation* refers to deliverance from all kinds of evil—both temporal and eternal. It refers to spiritual and material preservation, deliverance from the fear of danger as well as pardon, restoration, healing, wholeness, and soundness in spirit, soul and body.

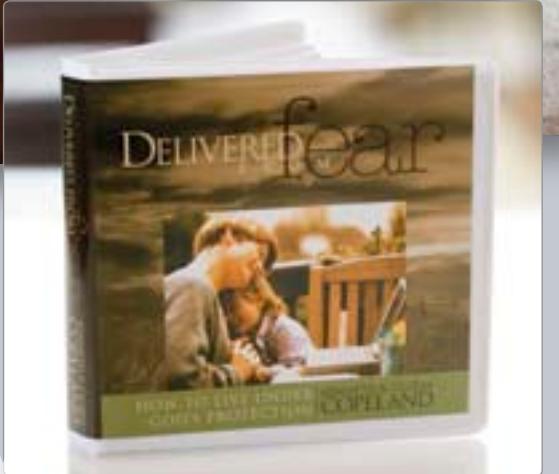
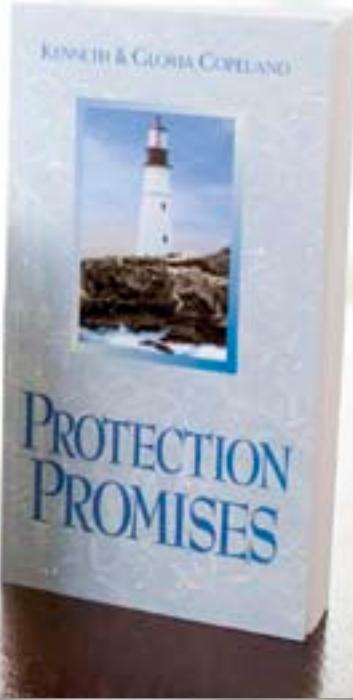
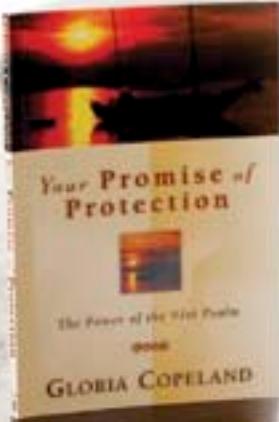
It's true that when we are born again we are saved from the penalty of sin (Romans 5:9). Hallelujah, we've been delivered from hell and we're headed for heaven!

But, that's not all that's included in our covenant of salvation. It also provides a life of freedom while we're still here on earth.

It provides deliverance from the dominion of sin in this life (Romans 6:14). Thank God, we don't have to sin anymore! We have been born of God and we have the power to live holy lives.

Psalm 91 tells us that God also promises to protect us from earthly dangers. It says we'll be delivered from pestilence, which includes serious sickness and disease, famine,

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earthquakes and other calamities. It says we'll be protected from sudden death that comes by the weapons of men. It promises us a long, satisfying life and deliverance from every kind of trouble that comes our way.

Those are wonderful promises, but they don't operate in our lives automatically just because we're Christians. They operate under specific conditions and verses 1-2 tell us what those conditions are:

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]. I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust! (*The Amplified Bible*).

Your Abiding Place

The first condition we see there is that of abiding in the Lord or staying consistently close to Him. If you aren't consistent in your walk with the Lord, you won't consistently see the promises in Psalm 91 coming to pass for you.

That's not God's fault. He always wants to deliver you, and be merciful and kind to you. He is willing. And He has the wonderful capacity to keep up with and bless all of us. We don't have to look Him up when we need Him, because He's always with us.

But He's not like the devil who comes in and forces things on you. God won't take over and make you do things His way. He won't force His blessings on you.

He'll do everything He can to get you to turn toward Him, but He won't dominate you. He will reach out to you and wait for you to open the door of faith to Him.

How do you keep that door open? By giving God first place in your life. And you can't do that and be a lazy Christian. Over and over again, the Bible tells us we must seek God first and foremost if we want His blessing in our lives. *Seek* is a scriptural word that means "to go after with intense effort."

If you want to experience the fullness of this great salvation Jesus purchased for you, you have to exert consistent effort. Not just when it's convenient. You can't live a life of sin, neglecting the things you know to do, and then expect to turn to God when you need help.

Some people do that. They think, *God took care of me last time when I wasn't living right. So next time He'll do the same thing.*

That's a dangerous attitude.

If you keep going in rebellion and stubbornness, you'll get a hard heart. One of these days, you may find yourself unable to turn to God when you need help. Even if you can turn to Him, you may find you're under so much condemnation in

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your own mind and heart that your faith won't work.

"But I'm not rebelling," you might say. "I've just been too busy lately to spend time in the Word or in prayer."

Then you'd better simplify your life because you can't spend your time on other things, filling your heart and your life with natural concerns, and expect to be strong in faith when trouble comes.

"Oh, but things are going fine right now."

That may be true, but, as Jesus said, trouble is coming. When it does, it better find you doing what Psalm 91:1 says, *abiding* in the secret place of the Most High.

The word *abide* means "to dwell, remain fixed in a certain place." If you abide somewhere, that's where you live. I might stay at a hotel while I'm preaching a meeting, but I don't abide there. I'm just there for a few days.

In John 15:7, Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." I've found that if I'll spend time every day in the Word of God, that Word will begin to abide in me. It will come alive in me and begin to speak to my heart continually.

I'm telling you, that's a good thing. When you run into trouble and that abiding Word of God rises up to tell you what to do, you'll be glad you weren't a lazy Christian. You'll be glad you made the Word your dwelling place.

Open Your Mouth and Shut the Devil Out

Look back at Psalm 91:2 and you'll see the second way to keep yourself in condition to experience the fullness of your salvation. "I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust!" (*The Amplified Bible*).

You give God authority to act in your life by trusting Him with your heart and speaking words of faith with your mouth. Jesus taught us that principle in Mark 11:22-23 when He said, "...Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

The devil knows that truth so he tries to turn it around to work in his favor. He can't come in and force things on you the way he can those who are unsaved and outside God's covenant of protection. So he has to deceive you into giving him a place with your words—speaking words of fear and doubt.

Have you ever noticed that when you feel sick, the first thing you want to do is tell someone about it? If you have a problem, you want to talk about it. Somehow you think if you can say it, you'll feel better.

That's exactly what the devil wants you to do. *But don't do it!*

Instead, when trouble comes, zip your lips. Don't say

anything about that situation until you're centered on the Word of God and it's in your heart in abundance.

Then when you open your mouth, you'll be able to speak the Word. You'll be able to say what God says about your situation—not just to yourself and your friends, but to the situation itself.

That's right! Mark 11:23 says we speak to the mountain. That means we don't talk *about* the problem. We talk *to* the problem!

We tell it what we want it to do. We tell it to be removed according to the Word of God.

It may sound strange, but it's scriptural and it is a vital part of attending to our covenant of salvation. Remember: When we speak the Word of God, we shut the devil out and he doesn't have any place to work.

It's Not Too Late

You might be reading this and thinking, *Gloria, all this is wonderful, but it's too late for me. I'm already in trouble. I haven't been walking with God, and there's no way out.*

If that's your situation, let me encourage you. God is good. He is merciful.

Many times I've seen people call out to Him in situations that have gone so far there seems to be no solution. It looked like it was too late for those people. But it wasn't. God still turned things around. He is kind and He is good!

If you will take your stand on the Word of God, and make a quality decision to give your life to Him, He can make a way where there seems to be no way. He'll deliver you not because of what you've done, but because of what Jesus already did for you.

I'm not saying your problems will instantly disappear. But there can be an instant change. It will start on the inside of you—in your heart. If you'll trust the Lord, you can have joy and peace on the inside even when things on the outside are challenging.

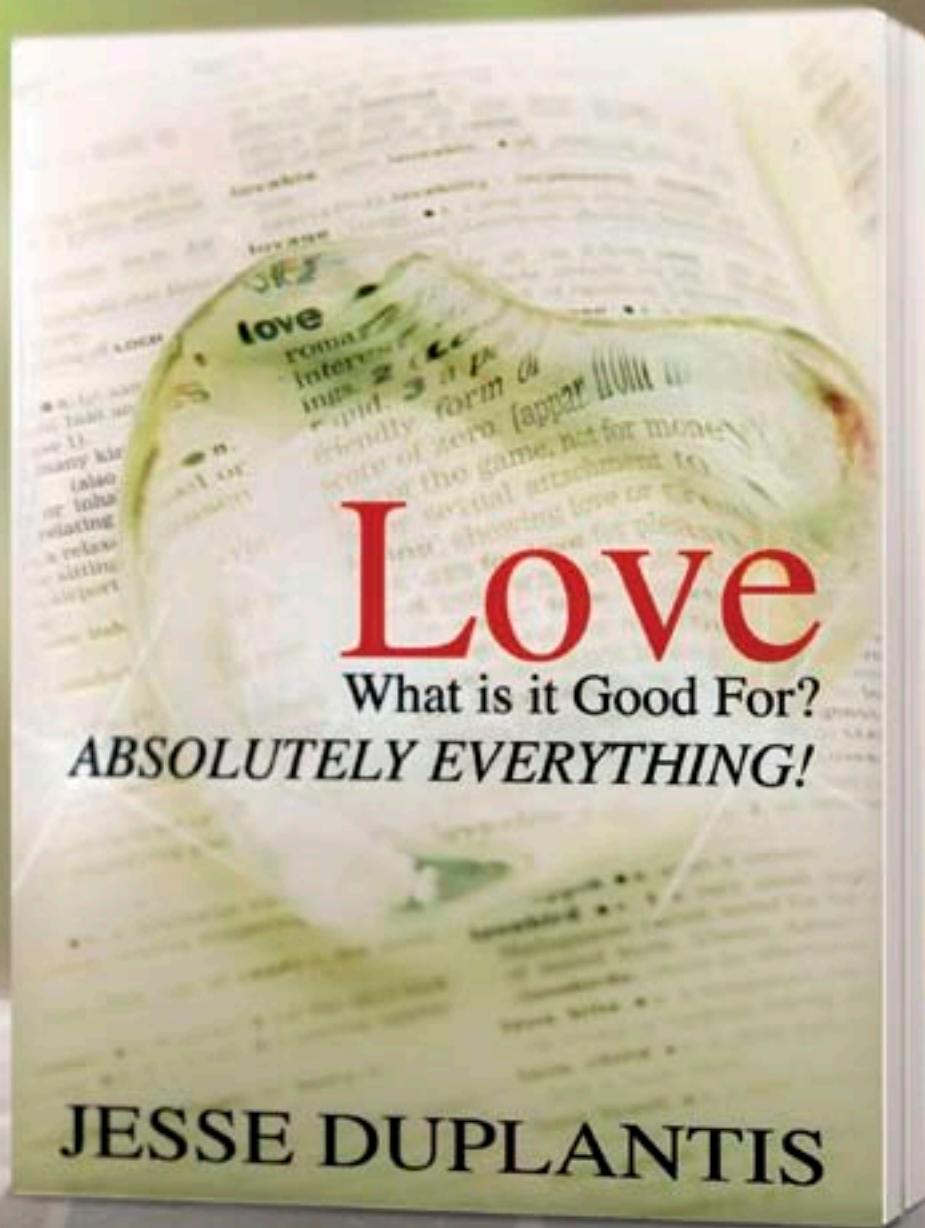
When you stick with Him, keep listening to His Word and obeying it, attending to this great covenant of salvation He has given you, day by day your life will change. If you'll keep the door of faith open to God and give Him time to work, He will restore what the devil has stolen from you and repair what's been broken. He wants you whole.

"Oh, but I'm not worthy!" you might say.

No, on your own you're not. Neither am I. But Jesus is and we are in Him. Our righteousness is in Him. He lived and died and rose again so that we could be blessed with a covenant of peace.

Don't let it slip away by neglecting it, and don't let the trouble of this world overwhelm you. Instead, take heart... He has overcome the world. And in Him we have too! **VICTORY**

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