October 2014

Peg Miller

IOUS(provided the opportunity, Peg Miller and her late husband, Mike, exercised their faith and built their 6600-square-foot home on the lake. *{page 10}*

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already have iť! *{page 18}*

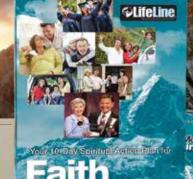
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The Seed Catalog

by Melanie Hemry Peg Miller and her late husband, Mike, partnered with Kenneth Copeland Ministries in the early 1980s. When she first learned about seedtime and harvest, Peg started recording their giving and receiving in her Seed Catalog. She expected great harvests, and seeing them written down increased her faith. In 2009, in the midst of α recession, they built Peg's 6600-square-foot, lakefront dream home.



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—Kenneth & Gloria

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by Kenneth Copeland



In the early years of our ministry, Gloria and I would be talking with someone and they'd mention a certain city and say, "That's the worst place in the world to preach. It's so spiritually dead no one can have revival there."

Gloria always knew what my response was going to be. Before I could even open my mouth, she'd say, "Well, I know where we're going." 'm still that way. I was reminded of it recently when I was telling some people about the first time I preached in Las Vegas, Nev. I could almost hear what they were thinking. Sin City? You held meetings in Sin City?

Yes, I did, because that's where the sinners are!

I didn't hold the meetings in a church, either. Although these days I do preach in churches there, back then my venue was the Sierra Hotel and Casino. I chose that location because of a phone call I'd gotten from my friend Wayne Cochran. He's a preacher now but he was once a major rock 'n' roll star. (If you're old enough you may remember his band, the C.C. Riders.)

For years, Wayne had the longest running



save you and then leave you here on this sin-plagued planet just could sit around and complain about how spiritually dark it is.

show in Las Vegas and he practically lived in the Sierra Hotel. After God got hold of him and changed his life, he led the owner of the hotel to The LORD. Right before Wayne called me, the owner had called him.

"Wayne, now that I'm a believer, I want to do something for God," he'd said. "But I'm stuck in this hotel! Do you think Brother Copeland would come and preach a meeting here?"

Wayne told him he was certain I wouldand, of course, he was right. I was thrilled at the thought of preaching the gospel in a casino. The whole reason I'm on earth is to bring the good news about Jesus to people who need it. Taking His light into the darkest of places is what I was born again to do.

If you're a believer, the same is true of you!

God didn't save you and then leave you here on this sin-plagued planet just so you could sit around and complain about how spiritually dark it is. He didn't save you so you could sit here waiting for the Rapture and wishing all the sinners would leave you alone.

No, you and I and every other believer have been called, equipped and sent by

God into this world for a specific purpose, and in Philippians 2:15-16, the Apostle Paul told us what that purpose is: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life."

"But Brother Copeland, vou don't understand the kind of darkness I have to put up with!" you might say. "When I go to work every day I'm surrounded by people who cuss and act ugly and make fun of me for being a Christian. It's too much for me to handle."

No, it isn't. You have the same Holy Spirit living in you the Apostle Paul had living in him, and Paul not only handled more dark situations than you can imagine, he overcame them.

Not Just in Church, but on the Battlefield

Do a background study on the book of Philippians sometime. You'll find that when the Apostle Paul wrote it he was locked up in prison and surrounded by wickedness at its worst. This fact sometimes puzzles believers. They look at the great victory and deliverance Jesus provided through the

Everything we could ever need, and more than we could ever want, can be found in the glory of God.

—Kenneth

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	Thu	2	lsa. 52-53	Ps. 54
	Fri	3	lsa. 54-55	Ps. 55
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	Sun	5	lsa. 58-59	Ps. 57
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<u> </u>	Sun	12	Jer. 7-8	Ps. 65
	Mon	13	Jer. 9-10	Ps. 66
	Tue	14	Jer. 11-12	Ps. 67
	Wed	15	Jer. 13-15	Ps. 68-69
	Thu	16	Jer. 16-17	Ps. 70
	Fri	17	Jer. 18-19	Ps. 71
	Sat	18	Jer. 20-21	Ps. 72
	Sun	19	Jer. 22-23	Ps. 73
	Mon	20	Jer. 24-25	Ps. 73 Ps. 74
	Tue	20	Jer. 24-25 Jer. 26-27	PS. 74 Ps. 75
	Wed	22	Jer. 28-30	Ps. 76-77 Ps. 78
	Thu Tri	23	Jer. 31-32	PS. 76 Ps. 79
	Fri	24	Jer. 33-34	
	Sat	25	Jer. 35-36	Ps. 80
	Sun	26	Jer. 37-38	Ps. 81
	Mon	27	Jer. 39-40	Ps. 82
	Tue	28	Jer. 41-42	Ps. 83
	Wed	29	Jer. 43-45	Ps. 84-85
	Thu	30	Jer. 46-47	Ps. 86
	Fri	31	Jer. 48-49	Ps. 87
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work of redemption and wonder why Paul had to go through such hard times.

The answer is simple: Jesus asked him to do it.

He showed Paul, before he ever went into ministry, the things he would suffer for Jesus, and Paul agreed. (See Acts 9:16.) He willingly took on the assignment of proving the New Covenant would work, not just in church services and places that are full of the light and presence of God, but out there in the places of deepest darkness, places absolutely steeped in sin.

It's interesting, really, that Paul was chosen for this assignment. He hadn't experienced what the other apostles had in his day. He hadn't known Jesus in the flesh and watched Him minister for three and a half years. His intimacy with The LORD had to come through The WORD and by revelation. Yet, he was the one called to write most of the New Testament—and he had to do it on the spiritual battlefield, in the heat of battle.

It's no wonder Paul had such a clear revelation of the armor of God and the rank and file of satan's forces. He had to put on that armor and face those demonic forces every day. That's why he was able to write in Ephesians 6:12-13: "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Paul also had to contend with more condemnation than anyone else in his day. He had to live with the knowledge that before he was saved he had killed Christians. He had persecuted Jesus personally.

There was nothing easy about getting over the guilt he felt about those things. But he did it anyway. He put his faith in the blood of Jesus, and believed God meant it when He said, "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins" (Isaiah 43:25).

Years ago when I was just a baby Christian, I was reading the Bible one day and I came across 2 Corinthians 7:2 where Paul said, "Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man." Initially that statement shocked me. Now wait a minute! I thought. How could Paul say he hadn't defrauded any man? When he was a Pharisee imprisoning Christians, he took lying letters into their midst, pretending he was one of them, and then turned on them. Doesn't that qualify as fraud?

Without thinking it through any further, I pointed to the verse and cried out, "Oh God! I've caught this man in a lie!"

I knew right away I'd said the wrong thing. I wanted to take it back the minute it came out of my mouth. But now I'm glad I said it because what happened next marked my thinking forever.

The Spirit of God spoke to me with such force that it jerked me up out of my seat and sent my Bible flying. You watch who you call a liar! He said. The man you're talking about died on the road to Damascus!

I staggered around the room thinking about that for a while. Then I began to shout, "Yeah! Saul died

on the road to Damascus, and my old man died in North Little Rock, Ark., just before 8 o'clock in the evening, Nov. 2, 1962. I'm as forgiven as he is. My sins don't exist in the mind of God anymore!"

Ever since then I've been grateful to Paul for overcoming all the condemning devils he had to fight, and for having the faith to say:

+ "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

+ "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

If the Apostle Paul could say those things, I can too. So can you and every other believer. We can all forget the past and shine like a light in the darkness, holding forth The WORD of life!

Born-Again Blackjack Dealers

"But Brother Copeland," someone might say, "sometimes I just don't feel very shiny. Even if I did, I don't know where God would want me to go and what He would want me to do."

Then stop focusing on your feelings. Instead, focus on Jesus who came, shed His blood and put His own light on the inside of you. If you've obscured that light by doing things that are out of line, just humble yourself before The LORD and repent. Say, "LORD, it's not my will to go crosswise to Your plan. It's my will to obey You, to live out Your plan on earth as it is in heaven. So I'm asking You to reveal it to me."

That's a prayer you can be sure God will answer because He said in the Bible that He "worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"

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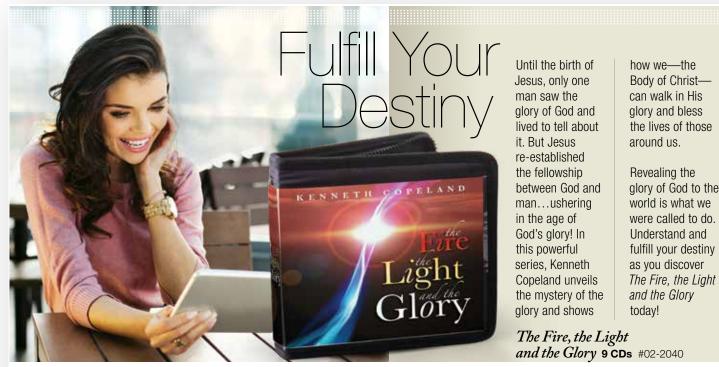
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(Philippians 2:13). He also said, "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God" (Luke 8:10). So if His will is a mystery to you, you can just pray about it in other tongues and trust Him to reveal it to you.

That's what I do, and God has always been faithful to lead me. He's always shown me where He wants me to go and what He wants me to do. That's how I ended up preaching the gospel in the Sierra Hotel and Casino all those years ago in a city that's absolutely famous for sin!

continued on pg. 9



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Oct 31 2014

Kenneth Copeland Visits Pope Francis Historic Moment

On June 23, 2014, one week before the opening day of the annual southwest believers' convention in fort worth, kenneth copeland was part of a delegation of evangelical church leaders who traveled to rome, to meet with pope francis.



Diversity is divine, but division is diabolic.

It's time to celebrate diversity in the bond of unity. We are one Bride, one Body in one Baptism.

Tony Palmer

Others in the group included James and Betty Robison Tunnicliffe, Dr. Brian Stiller and Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher from the World Evangelical Alliance; the Rev. John Arnott and his wife, Carol, co-founders of Catch the Fire Toronto and overseers of the Partners in Harvest Network based in Toronto; and the Rt. Rev. Tony Palmer, co-founder of The Ark Community, an international and interdenominational community of Christians based in the United Kingdom.

The meeting, which took place at the request of Pope Francis,

was arranged by Palmer, a former director of Kenneth Copeland Ministries' South Africa office. Over the past decade, he has been extensively involved with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It was during a mission to Argentina six years ago that Palmer met Pope Francis, then known as Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio. Since that time, the two had become close friends.

Tragically, a month after this unprecedented meeting, Palmer died of injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident in the United Kingdom where he resided. In a statement released shortly after Palmer's death, Brother Copeland talked about the friendship between Palmer and Pope Francis, and how that relationship had been the catalyst for creating a worldwide move and building a bridge of unity between churches.

"In January of this year, Tony brought a personal video greeting from Pope Francis to all of us during our annual Ministers' Conference in Fort Worth, Texas," Brother Copeland wrote. "There, Tony was being THE BRIDGE. It was a marvelous and very anointed moment in all our lives. Tony then returned to Rome with a video (both videos on

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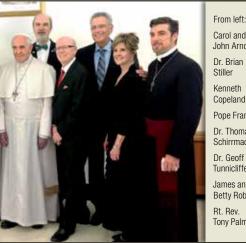
Watch a video of Brother Copeland's discussion about the papal visit. You can also read Robison's comments on his website at jamesrobison.net.



his cell phone) from us to the pope. Pope Francis responded with a personal invitation to me and seven others.... We all, hosted by Tony, had one of the most anointed and wonderful experiences of our lives. THE BRIDGE WAS BUILT, and we stood on it together in the glorious presence of a very pleased LORD and Savior.

"We know the devil is responsible for the attack on Tony's life! He tried to stop this worldwide move of coming together in Jesus as one. Too late, Devil! THE BRIDGE **IS ALREADY BUILT! IT'S** A LOVE BRIDGE—A BRIDGE THAT WILL NEVER FAIL. And, Gloria and I, and all in this ministry, are thrilled to stand strong on THE BRIDGE that grace built-through Tony Palmer."

On June 30, 2014, Brother Copeland discussed the papal visit with attendees at the Southwest Believers' Convention in Fort Worth, and explained the significance of the meeting, including events leading up to the invitation. Robison joined Brother Copeland via telephone during the convention meeting, and offered his perspective on their visit with the pope. 💔



Carol and Rev. John Arnott Dr. Brian Stiller Kenneth Copeland Pope Francis Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe James and Betty Robison Rt. Rev. Tony Palmer

continued from pg. 7

Of course, as it turned out, a lot of other believers had gotten there before me. They'd actually beaten me to the punch. One of them showed up just before the meeting started, when I was about to go out and preach. He stuck his head through the curtain behind the platform where I was standing and said, "Brother Copeland! I'm a blackjack dealer and I'm working the floor tonight so I can't be in the meeting, but I just want you to know a lot of us here will be praying for you!"

I probably looked a little startled. "Really?" I said.

"Oh yeah! A lot of us who work here are born again. We witness and win people to Jesus all the time. Those of us who aren't working will be at the meeting tonight. The rest of us will be backing you up in prayer."

I had to laugh! Here I thought I was going in there to break new ground, and God had already invaded the place. He already had people positioned there. Those meetings turned out to be some of the greatest we've ever had!

I'll never forget what an amazing time that was. One day, in between meetings, I was walking through the hotel and The LORD drew my attention to a particular couple, a man and a woman who looked to be in their 30s. I want you to witness to them, He said.

I obeyed Him and right there in the middle of the hotel, after asking their permission, I told them everything The LORD instructed me to say. When I finished, they just looked at me like a dog at a new pan. They didn't know whether to eat out of it or not. I thanked them for their time and walked away.

Well, that went over big, I thought.

I hadn't taken more than about

three steps when another fellow stopped me. He'd overheard the things I'd shared and wanted to talk to me. "I'd like you to pray for me," he said.

Although he was so drunk he could barely stand up, we managed to walk over to the restroom where it was a little quieter. He leaned against the wall and I laid hands on him. The power of God hit us and I found myself praying all the same things I'd just finished telling the other people. I realized with a shock that God had been talking to this man all along instead of to them.

Why He chose to do it that way, I don't know. He's the Boss. I just work here. I just do what I'm told to do. But I can tell you this: By the time I finished praying, that man was stone-cold soberstanding upright, with his hands raised, praising God and praying in tongues. "I want to thank you!" he said. "I'm a backslidden Pentecostal preacher. But I'm not backslidden anymore. I'm back!"

Years have come and gone since then, but I still love having those kinds of encounters. I still relish those kinds of fights: first, because the devil is the one I'm fighting; and second, because Jesus conquered him at Calvary, so they're fights I can always win.

This is why we, as believers, are here, my friend! To fight the good fight of faith. To swing the sword of the Spirit in the heat of battle and set the captives free. So pray, listen to God and get your marching orders. Let Him send you where the action is-out there in the darkness where you can really shine. \heartsuit



Enjoyed this article? For more insightful teachings, go to kcm.org.



by Melanie Hemry

the Seed Catalog

The Virginia winter whipped in on a frigid wind Dec.12, 1995, but inside. the house felt toasty as Peg Miller put the finishing touches on some gifts. The lights from the Christmas tree cast a warm glow across the room that evening as she and her husband, Mike, settled in for the evening. Peg glanced at her husband, still surprised they'd already been married for 30 years and raised three wonderful sons.

> They had both grown up in a small town south of Pittsburgh before going off to college. Peg had earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English and French and a minor in Spanish. She still enjoyed going to work each



morning to teach bright young minds. Mike had a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in chemistry. By the age of 29, he had been the superintendent of an oxygen plant and worked with cryogenics.

Although neither had been born again when they married, Peg had received the Lord in 1972 at a Billy Graham crusade. A few years later, Mike had made a profession of faith. In the early 1980s, Peg had discovered Kenneth Copeland Ministries and had In the spirit I saw a gabled house sitting near water.

Peg Miller's dream home built in 2009

become a Partner. Learning to live by faith had been a process of trial and error. She made mistakes, learned from them and continued to grow in the Lord.

While Mike dozed in his chair, Peg pulled out the notebook she'd labeled Seed Catalog. The edges were tattered from use but she didn't mind. Unlike the catalogs farmers ordered seed from, hers was different. She'd started it when she first learned about seedtime and harvest from the Bible. In it, Peg had recorded their many years of faithful giving into God's kingdom. She expected a great harvest on their giving, and seeing it recorded increased her faith.

The thing Peg had noticed about life was that it always gave you new opportunities to use your faith. As she and Mike turned off the lights and got ready for bed, she thanked God for all their blessings, especially for their health. Although they'd reached middle age, they were healthy and bubbled with life.

At least they were in good health when they went to bed that night. When the sun rose the following morning, Dec. 13, 1995, Mike Miller was crippled.

Faith for the Long Haul

"Mike woke that morning crippled and in excruciating pain," Peg remembers. "Our lives changed overnight when he was diagnosed with an acute case of rheumatoid arthritis. He had to drive 25 miles to work in such pain. I gathered a list of healing scriptures for us to meditate, confess and believe. We also started him on some nutritional supplements which helped.

"I was running out of the house one morning to get to class when

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-Kenneth

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the Lord spoke Psalm 2:8 to me. 'Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession,'" Peg says.

"I was standing with Mike for his healing; for him to regain his mobility and be pain free. I also believed God for a harvest from our giving. I had no idea why the Lord would be talking to me about the nations. I didn't think we'd been called to the nations but God often showed me things far in advance of them happening.

"For instance, in 1987 the Lord told me He was going to give me a rest home. I thought He meant a nursing home! But He said He was going to give me a home where people could find rest for their souls. In the spirit I saw a gabled house sitting near water. We often vacationed near Cape May, N.J., where there were many Victorian gabled homes on the Atlantic. I assumed that one day we would move there. But it had been eight years and it hadn't happened."

The thing about faith, Peg realized, was that it often involved trusting God for years to see the manifestation of His promises. It meant refusing to give up. It meant hanging on to God's Word even when every circumstance in life screamed that you wouldn't make it this time.

Faith for a Miracle

The challenge to Mike's health, like others he and Peg had faced, didn't disappear overnight. As they followed the Lord's leading to stand in faith and to take the prescribed medication, Mike's improvement came in small increments. Instead of settling in a wheelchair, he faced the pain and stayed on his feet, working and doing the things he enjoyed.

After the birth of their first grandchild in Missouri in 1998, Peg said, "If we're going to move again, I want to be close to my grandchild."

"That's a great idea!" Mike agreed.

They moved to Missouri where their oldest son, Erik, was a doctor of internal medicine. Peg got a teaching job and they enjoyed being around their growing family.

Five years later, in 2003, Mike and Peg's marriage hit a rocky place. Now retired, Mike was still a strong Type A personality. But now Peg was the only one around for him to boss. Tired and frustrated, she wanted out.

I don't want you to get a divorce, the Lord said.

"Then You fix him, because I can't!"

The Lord gave Peg Ephesians 2:14, "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us."

"While I stood on that scripture," Peg recalls, "Mike left town for 10 days. When he returned he was a changed man. That hard edge was gone. He was kind and easier to get along with. God had fixed the problem in just 10 days! We reconciled, then went on a cruise!"

While Mike had always been a good husband, father and wonderful provider, what Peg had now was a marriage that seemed like heaven on earth. After 38 years of marriage, they were more in love than they'd ever been.

Over the years, Mike had enjoyed a hobby as an investment broker and had become quite good at it. The Lord gifted him with unusual financial wisdom, and Mike

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and Peg had both worked hard and saved \$300,000 toward their retirement.

That same year, in 2003, Mike posed a question to Peg: "What do you think about my taking our nest egg and investing it?" Peg prayed and sensed peace. For years, she had seen the results of his investing and knew Mike would never put their future at risk.

"Go for it," she said, standing in faith for a financial harvest.

Over the next four years, Mike multiplied their retirement funds almost five times.

"Quit teaching so we can travel!" he begged Peg.

Peg agreed, so they split their time between traveling and enjoying their children and grandchildren. Then one Friday in August 2008, Mike told Peg he didn't feel well.

"Call Erik," Peg urged.

"No need to bother him," Mike insisted. "It's just the flu."

Three days later when Mike was no better, Peg called their son and asked him to check on Mike. Erik took one look at Mike and admitted him to the hospital. That night he was moved to ICU.

"What is it, Erik?" Peg asked.

"I'm not sure."

Peg pulled out the healing scriptures she'd prayed before Mike regained his mobility and hit them hard. Meanwhile, Erik transferred his father to a hospital in Joplin. Mike was put on a respirator and didn't respond to antibiotics.

"Things happened so fast I felt as though I'd climbed onto a carousel that was spinning out of control," Peg says. "I prayed God's Word over him."

A diagnosis was eventually made that surprised everyone. Somehow, Mike had contracted Legionnaires' disease. Although the source of the illness remained a mystery, the Source of his healing was never in doubt. Peg continued to stand on God's Word and Mike recovered.

Faith for a Home

The following year the Lord gave Peg Proverbs 24:27, "Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house" (*New King James Version*). The Lord was telling her to build the house!

Peg remembered the vision she had back in 1987, of a gabled house sitting near water. She pulled out a pamphlet that listed the scriptures Gloria Copeland had stood on when she built her dream home.

They had six grandchildren now and could use more space. The whole country was in the throes of a recession

finally understood that because of my partnership with KCM, I'd been grandfathered into their

ministry. Through them I'd gone to the uttermost parts of the earth and I'd been given the nations as my inheritance. and no one in their area was building. While most people suffered financially, because of the blessing of the Lord and Mike's financial wisdom, their finances continued to multiply.

They bought a lot on a private lake and, as they built their dream home, Peg put scriptures in all the door jambs. In the bedrooms she put scriptures about sweet sleep. Over the entrances she put scriptures about the protective power of Jesus' blood and peace. While most Americans tightened their budget because of the recession, Mike and Peg moved into a 6600-square-foot gabled home on a lake!

What Mike and Peg realized was that the life of faith wasn't a sprint. It was a marathon which stretched all the way until your dying day. It brought the power of God into all your circumstances; into every valley and to the tops of every mountain. It was the grace necessary to start well, run your race and finish your course.

Finishing Well

In December 2011, the Lord told Peg that He was going to take Mike home. She wasn't surprised. Over the years, he had continued to face health challenges. After suffering several bouts of congestive heart failure and a recurrence of the crippling symptoms of R.A., Mike had grown tired of the fight. Peg started reading books on heaven, building her faith for a glorious home-going.

On December 15, Mike said, "Peg, God told me that I'm going to die."

"I know," she said, wrapping her hand in his. "He told me too."

"There are worse things, you know."

"I've been reading books on heaven. It's glorious!"

That month, Mike was admitted to the hospital to be treated for congestive heart failure. Mike and Peg told Erik that Mike was going home. Erik, an internist and his father's primary physician said, "When patients tell us things like this, we in the medical profession take it very seriously." In response, Mike signed a do-not-resuscitate order. Then they called all their children and grandchildren in to say goodbye.

They spent all afternoon laughing, reminiscing and crying. One of the nurses pulled Peg aside. "Mrs. Miller, I'm very confused. Your husband's vital signs are good. He's laughing and talking. Yet, there's an order not to resuscitate?"

"That's right," Peg explained. "This isn't physical; it's spiritual. Mike has led a long and fruitful life and God is going to take him home. Let me explain what's going to happen. He'll be fine one minute and then in the next breath he'll go home. He won't be sick or in pain. He'll simply step over into glory."

At nine minutes after midnight, Jan. 13, 2012, the nurses watching his telemetry saw Mike's heart rate drop to 30. They ran to his room, but Mike Miller was home—more alive than he'd ever been on earth.

"We had 46½ wonderful years together," Peg recalls, "but the last eight were above and beyond anything I might have dreamed. Mike lived well and he finished well. Before he left, he multiplied our income and built me my dream home.

"Recently, I was sitting in the backyard looking out over the water and I remembered the day God gave me Psalm 2:8, 'Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.' I finally understood that because of my partnership with KCM, I'd been grandfathered into their ministry. Through them I'd gone to the uttermost parts of the earth and I'd been given the nations as my inheritance."

These days Peg Miller loves hearing the laughter of her children and grandchildren as they fill the house. She hosts Bible studies and church groups. It is the place where God has restored her soul, preparing her for the next chapter of her life. The blessing of the Lord has been so bountiful there isn't room—even in her Seed Catalog—to record it all. ()

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Thank you for putting out the prosperity TV series as it has helped us as a family so much. We had a £3,000 credit-card debt which we could not clear. The repayments were even put up to 30 percent. We could only repay £100 a month and about £64 of that was the interest alone. If we did get a few hundred pounds paid off, then something came up and it would be back up to nearly £3,000. This went on for over a year.

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But now, praise God, we got it all paid off two months ago, and the Lord has done other financial miracles so we don't have to borrow again. I made a declaration that we were debt free and would not borrow or have to pay interest to any creditcard company again, and God honored it. The card is all paid!

Again, thank you for your obedience to the Lord. He knows this is a very important message for our times. I just wish the governments would watch your program and learn from it too. D.F. | Northern Ireland

> Esther D., prayer minister

YOUR VOICE. YOUR VICTORY. YOUR MINISTRY.

GoodNewsGazette

"And they went out, and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them." Mark 6:12-13

In fact, some of my fondest

memories are of my dad and

me huddled up on the couch

passed away in 2007, I asked

loved God fiercely and I will

man to God I've ever known.

It's what inspired me to turn

to God through Kenneth and

need of the Word. Today, my

testimony is an ongoing one. I

refuse to bow to a lifetime of

this disease. I stand on Luke

8:50: "Do not be seized with

believe [in Me as able to do

(The Amplified Bible). Amen!

teachings of this ministry that

Praise God! Mara A. | Lincoln, Neb.

It is through the faith-filled

I am able to say that today I am drug free and symptom free.

drugs and pain. I refuse to accept

alarm or struck with fear; simply

this], and she shall be made well"

Gloria when I was in desperate

watching Kenneth, Gloria and

Creflo Dollar. When my father

God to make me like him—he

always consider him the closest

Faith to Receive My Healing

For the past two years I have struggled with stomach pain and discomfort, lethargy and depression and an altogether grim outlook on food, life and even love. In August 2012, after seeing multiple doctors and undergoing multiple tests, I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease—an incurable disease where the body's immune system attacks itself, killing the intestinal tissue. By the time December rolled around I was feeling better, but faced a lifetime regimen of pills, vitamins and unexplained episodes of extreme pain.

Growing up, my parents always listened to Kenneth and Gloria.



A Baby

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A few years back I asked your ministry to pray for a special request of mine, a baby. God answered my prayer. On June 13, 2012, my son, Nelson—God's gift to me and my husband—was born. I am so thankful that my God is a rich God, a God of blessing. I would like to personally thank KCM for interceding on my behalf. May Speak God's Word to the

Storm! In April 2011. many tornadoes ripped through the southern U.S. Some were headed straight for us. As the clouds arew dark and the trees swirled, I thought about what I had been teaching on Psalm 91. I asked myself, Do you believe this or do you only teach it? I stopped cooking dinner and stepped out onto the porch. I addressed the storm and spoke God's Word to it: "NO harm shall come near my dwelling!" I said, "I am speaking directly to you! I am talking to you, tornado! You will not touch my home, nor the homes of family or anyone connected to me!" I sat down and ate my dinner.

Those tornadoes went all around where we live. They did no damage to us nor anyone in our lives! noticed the next morning a toy football that had been in our yard, was still laying in the same place! My 78-year-old mother's home lost shingles and had a broken window, so she got a new roof and new windows all through her house! It only resulted in a blessing for her. When we later saw the tremendous damage all around us, I was amazed and thrilled at the power of God's Word spoken to the storm! Jesus gets the glory! Tina B. | Tennessee

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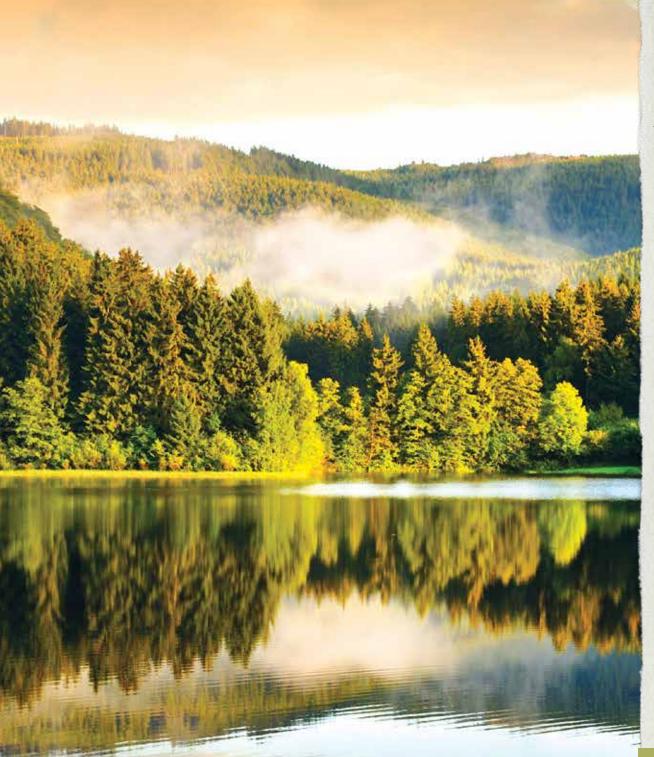
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to intercede for

many requests!

Coral Sea

R.T.



You Taught Me to Stand on the Word

Last month I asked for you to pray in agreement with me for a baby. You sent an encouraging letter and I stood on the scriptures Genesis 1:28; Psalms 127-128; and Luke 1:36-37, 45. I learned to do this because of your teachings. I am now six weeks pregnant and so happy and healthy. I'm full of faith for a healthy pregnancy and baby! Praise God and bless you all. Thank you so much for your prayers and teachings! F.A.

salvation prayer

If you do not know Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith, and Jesus will be your Lord!

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" and "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9). You said my salvation would be the result of Your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me (John 3:5-6, 15-16; Romans 8:9-11) and that if I would ask. You would fill me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4).

I take You at Your Word. I confess that Jesus is Lord. And I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Thank You for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as You have promised, and for being Lord over my life. Amen.

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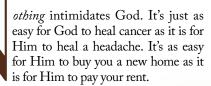
by Gloria Copeland



THE UNBEATABLE

No matter how difficult a situation you may be facing today, God can turn it around! The doctors may have told you there's no hope. Your bank account may be empty and the creditors knocking on the door. There may be trouble in your family or on your job. Your problems may be stacked so high, you feel like you can never overcome them. But don't let the devil fool you. He has never devised a problem that faith in God can't fix.





Even in times like these when the whole world seems to be in trouble, God can bring you through in triumph. He can do for you what He did for the Israelites. Exodus 10 says when darkness covered the nation of Egypt in which they lived—a darkness so thick the Egyptians couldn't see each other or move for three days—"all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings" (verse 23).

Think about that! If you'll dare to believe God's Word, you can have light

in the middle of a dark world. You can have protection in the middle of a dangerous world. You can live healed in the middle of a sick world. You can live prosperously in the middle of an impoverished world. You can live free in the middle of a captive world. But let me warn you, you can't do it by dragging around in an attitude of defeat. If you want to walk in that kind of constant victory, you must develop a spirit of faith and persevere in that spirit even when the devil is putting pressure on you.

People with the spirit of faith always receive the blessings of God. They may go through tests and trials but they come out supernaturally every time.

I like those odds, don't you? I like to beat the devil every time. And, glory to God, we can do it if we'll walk continually in the spirit of faith.

The Apostle Paul gives us some powerful insight about how to cultivate that spirit in 2 Corinthians 4. Read carefully what he says: "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (verses 13, 18).

Open the Window

The first and most fundamental fact these verses reveal about the spirit of faith is that it *believes*.

What does it believe? The Word of God. What's more, faith believes God's Word just because God said it—whether natural circumstances seem to agree or not.

That means if you want to maintain a spirit of faith in the area of healing, for example, you must start by getting your Bible and finding out what God has said about healing. Then you must choose to receive that Word as the truth. Don't shut your heart to it by saying, "Well, that's not the way my church teaches it," or "That's not what my grandmother taught me." Just say, "The Word says healing belongs to me and I believe it!"

Then keep putting the Word in your heart day after day until faith rises up within you and your body begins to line up with that Word.

"Well, Gloria, I tried that one time and it didn't work for me. I guess I just don't have as much faith as you do."

Certainly you do! The Bible says, "...God hath dealt to *every* man the measure of faith"



Faith is what connects you to the blessings of God. It's the force that gives those blessings substance in your life.

(Romans 12:3). Since that scripture was written to born-again people, you can be assured that if you've made Jesus the Lord of your life, you have faith within you.

You may not be acting on it. You may not be speaking it. But it's in there and the more you hear the Word of God, the more it will develop and grow, for "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Why is it so important for you to develop your faith? Because faith is what connects you to the blessings of God. It's the force that gives those blessings substance in your life (Hebrews 11:1). And besides all that it pleases God (verse 6).

It's faith that reaches into the realm

rontie

of the spirit, grasps the promise of God and brings forth a tangible, physical fulfillment of that promise. It brings spiritual blessings. It brings the car you need, or the healing for your body. It brings action in this earth.

Romans 5:2 says we have access by faith into the grace of God. Therefore, if you want grace for the new birth, you must receive it by faith. If you want God's grace for healing, you must receive it by faith. If you want God's grace in your finances or any other area of your life, you must get it by faith.

I like to think of it this way: When you believe the Word of God, you open the window to your life to give God the opportunity to move there.

Oddly enough, that bothers some people. They can't understand why God needs an opportunity. After all, He is God. Can't He do anything He wants?

Yes, He can. And He wants to respond to our faith.

You see, He is not like the devil. He doesn't force Himself on you. He waits for you to give Him an opening by believing His Word.

We Believe...Therefore We Speak

That's what Abraham did. When God told him that he and Sarah were going to have a baby, Abraham just took God at His Word. In light of the circumstances, that was quite a step of faith. After all, Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 and barren.

Most people would have been overwhelmed by those problems. But not Abraham. He "believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3). Even though in the natural realm it was impossible for what God said to come to pass, Abraham believed God anyway.

That's what the spirit of faith does. It stands in the midst of the most impossible circumstances and believes God anyway! Then it begins to speak.

It doesn't say just any old thing, either. It speaks the Word of God.

When cancer attacks, faith doesn't say, "I'm dying of cancer." Faith says, "I'm healed by the stripes of Jesus. Therefore I'll live and not die, and declare the works of the Lord."

"Well, I'm just not comfortable with that confession business. I like to believe God quietly."

That may be what you like, but it's not what the Bible teaches. The Bible says, we believe, therefore we speak (2 Corinthians 4:13). If you want to change your circumstances, you must have faith in two places-in your heart and in your mouth.

That's why God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Abraham means "father of many nations." So every time Abraham introduced himself after his name was changed, he was actually saying, "Hello. How are you? I'm the father of many nations." To most people that probably sounded ridiculous because, at the time, Abraham was still a childless old man married to a barren old woman. I'm sure they thought Abraham was a little crazy.

But he wasn't. He was simply following the example of God Himself, "who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were" (Romans 4:17). By speaking in faith, Abraham was doing exactly what God did when He created the earth.

Read Genesis 1 and you'll see what I mean. There the Bible tells us that in the beginning "the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep" (verse 2). Yet God didn't look at that darkness and say, "Oh my, the earth sure is a dark place!" If He had, the earth would have *remained* a dark place.

No, God changed the natural circumstance by calling things that be not as though they were. He looked at the darkness and said, "Light be!" and light was. God spoke out by faith what He wanted to come to pass.

All the way through the first chapter of Genesis we see God creating by speaking His Word. Over and over again it says, God said ... God

in the ISSUC

Packed with bonus content!

saw...and it was good.

That's how we operate too, when we're living by the spirit of faith. We say God's Word...we see the result... and it is good!

One thing you must understand. I'm not just talking about saying God's Word once or twice. I'm talking about consistently speaking words of faith. If you get on your knees in prayer and say, "I believe I receive my financial needs met, in Jesus' Name," then go to dinner with your friends and say, "I'm going bankrupt. I can't find a job. I'm about to lose my home. I don't know what I'm going to do," you won't get anywhere.

It's what you say *continually* that comes to pass in your life. So if you're believing God for finances, make it a habit to say things like this: "According to Deuteronomy 28, lack is a curse of the law. And Galatians 3:13 says Jesus has redeemed me from that curse. Therefore I'm redeemed from the curse of lack! My needs are met according to God's riches in glory by Christ Jesus!"

Then every time your bills come to mind, call them paid in the Name of Jesus. Call yourself prosperous. Call yourself debt free. Be like Abraham and by the spirit of faith call things that be not as though they were.

Keep Your Eyes on the Word

Right now you may be thinking, *I* really want to do that. I want to walk and talk by faith. The problem is, every time I look at the mess Γ m in, I get discouraged.

Then stop looking at that mess! Instead, focus your attention on the promise of God. Keep His Word in front of your eyes and in your ears until you can *see* it coming to pass with the eyes of your spirit.

That's what the spirit of faith does. It looks "not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Of course, I'm not saying you should ignore your problems or close your eyes to them as if they aren't real. Sin isn't voi normal live wo net for you, con The ple

You'll never be happy living the way the world does. You'll never be satisfied doing things that are contrary to God's Word. They might bring you pleasure for a season, but they always end in misery and death. —Gloria

They are real. But according to the Word they are *temporal*. That means "subject to change." And you can be assured that if you keep looking at the Word, they *will* change!

Once again, we can look at Abraham's life and see proof of that. Romans 4:18-21 says that he:

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. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Abraham didn't consider his body. He didn't focus his attention on the fact that he was 100 years old. He wasn't looking at his wrinkled, old self saying, "Come on, old man. You can do it!" No, he knew he couldn't bring forth a child. He'd known that for some time.

He wasn't looking at his own ability. He was looking at God. He kept his attention on the power and promise of God until he was fully persuaded that God could *and would* bring it to pass.

That's What I Call Victory!

If you want to develop the spirit of faith, that's what you'll do too. You won't consider the natural impossibilities of your situation. God certainly doesn't. Ken and I have found that out by experience!

More than 40 years ago, when Ken was praying down in the riverbed in Tulsa, Okla., God began speaking to him about preaching to nations. God said way back then he'd have a worldwide ministry.

It was clear God hadn't considered our bank account. We hardly had enough money to get across town much less go to the nations! But God didn't expect *us* to fulfill that call. He intended to do it Himself with our faith. He intended to provide the power, the resources, the ability everything! All He expected us to do was believe.

That's all He expects you to do: *Only believe.*

Isn't that simple?

If you'll just believe, if you'll just spend your time considering God's Word instead of focusing on your own limitations, you'll end up just like Abraham.

Exactly how did Abraham end up? Very well, I'd say.

He and Sarah not only had that baby God promised, they also lived long enough to raise him. Then, after Sarah died (at 127 years old), Abraham (who was 137) remarried and had six more children. He became exactly what he and God said he was—the father of many nations.

Now that's what I call victory!

That's what I call the spirit of faith!

God-The Open Book

– by Kenneth Copeland

God never has and never will do anything apart from His WORD. That's an eternal, everlasting fact.

It cannot be 7 changed.

et, we act as though that isn't true when we try everything we can think of to get hold of God. We cry, we pray, we fast—we do all sorts of things. But we don't stop and realize that The WORD—the written WORD of God—is just as much God as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are God.

The Apostle John writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him" (John 1:1, 3).

We can agree "all things were made by God." What we fail to see, however, is that John was saying, "All things were made by God all things were made by The WORD." You see, the book we call "The Holy Bible" is not a book *about* someone. It *is* Someone. It is God Himself manifested to us.

Moments before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed for His disciples: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy *word* is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be

sanctified through the truth [the Word]" (John 17:17, 19).

This prayer wasn't just for the disciples because Jesus went on to pray, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also [that's us] which shall believe on me through their word" (verse 20).

Like the disciples, we are sanctified through the truth through God's WORD. But notice, so was Jesus. He said, "I sanctify *myself*."

How did Jesus sanctify Himself?

Through the truth. Through The WORD.

We are sanctified the same way Jesus was sanctified.

Now let's take that a step further. In John 8:26, Jesus said, "...he that sent me is true."

So based on what we just read in John 1:1—"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," we could change John 8:26 to read, "he that sent me is God." Or, "he that sent me is The WORD."

Do you see the connection?

The importance of understanding that connection is this: Jesus did not come into this earth and wake up one day with some far-out revelation of who He was. He didn't come into this earth with any such revelation.

Faith

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No, Jesus received revelation of who He was and what He was called to do the same way you and I get it—through The WORD of God. He found Himself in the Book, in the book of Isaiah to be exact.

While on this earth, Jesus walked in

The WORD and He walked in prayer. He didn't get His direction from God because of some special relationship He had with the Father that you and I don't have.

No, faith came for Jesus the same way it comes for us—by hearing The WORD of God (Romans 10:17). Certainly He walked in the wisdom of God and in a level of faith you and I are still reaching for. But the point is, He did it by the same means. And because of that, we can walk in that same level of faith and anointing Jesus did.

You have the same access to the Father that Jesus had. You have the same access to the Holy Spirit that Jesus had. And it all comes through The WORD—the same way Jesus got it.

The presence of God—the power of God—is in His written WORD. ♥

When Dad first went into the ministry, the teaching ministry of Kenneth E. Hagin had a great impact on him. He went to great lengths to get a set of Brother Hagin's tapes, even offering his car as collateral until he could pay for them. :: These tapes were not cassettes, but the old reel-to-reel tapes. Dad would put a reel-to-reel player in the front seat of the car, along with a big sack of D-cell batteries, and listen to the messages as he drove from one preaching engagement to the

Words you rarely hear... Increase your

The Word has lost its value to some. Too many Christians are looking for the church with the shortest service.

next. There, he would re-preach the truths he had just heard.

He tells how he kept those tapes going day and night. The heavy 7-inch reel-to-reel players were cumbersome, and seemed to *eat* batteries. But what he was hearing was revolutionizing his life and shaking up everyone who heard him preach those messages!

As a child, I had my own experience with reel-to-reel tape players, only it was my dad I was listening to. As a sixthgrader, I would put a tape on at night, fall asleep and barely waken enough to turn it over and rethread it in the dark.

When I was in ninth grade, I encountered my first technology

revolution: the cassette tape. It was awesome! You could carry a message in your pocket and then play it wherever you went (as long as you had a cassette player). Talk about a revolution! People were so eager to share this fresh message of faith, it spread like wildfire, stirring every corner of the Church world.

Then along came the explosion of Christian radio, and tape sales skyrocketed. It still wasn't enough. Now Christians from every denomination were seeking out meetings where they could hear more. The hunger was intense and the numbers were growing. Before radio, our meeting attendance

You can't put God in a box."

...but He did put Himself in a *book!* And not just a book *about* Him— He is actually *IN the Book!*

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might have been a few hundred, but now people were flocking to hear the Word. Ballrooms and auditoriums packed out until there were no seats left. Sometimes people sat on the floor so close to the preacher he could hardly move. The word of faith was preached and God confirmed it with miracles and demonstrations of the Spirit. The effect of being trained and developed in faith began to define our future.

By now, George and I were married. Like many thousands of other believers, we understood that the Word in us and in our mouths will change anything. Enthusiastically, we became "doers of the Word." We made scripture cards and put them on the refrigerator, the mirror and in the car—careful to say only what the Word said.

It was so energizing!

Christian Television Gets the Word Out

In 1979, the *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast began. Christian television wasn't very common and neither was such an uncompromised word of faith. A new avenue to get the Word out had opened. Now, millions were hearing all across America and soon in other nations. They were hungry, too. Our meetings had to move to convention centers to accommodate all the people. Some even slept on the sidewalk to be sure they got seats up close. It looked like a 100-yard dash every time the doors opened.

Just like Acts says, "The Word multiplied," and it was glorious!

Praise God, the Word continued to multiply. "Word" churches sprang up everywhere and Christian television soon was available 24/7. Now, with CDs, Internet, MP3s and 4s, smart phones, etc., we have more access today to the Word than at any other time in history.

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But something has been seriously missing. I don't see that same passionate love for the Word. We're not hungry like we used to be.

Jesus said to those who are hungry, "Come!" He didn't quit feeding, we just stopped coming.

Maybe because of the accessibility of the Word, the Word has lost its value to some. Too many Christians are looking for the church with the shortest service while others say, "Well, I can always watch on the Internet." True, but is that really "coming"? The problem is, that means they're getting very little Word. That won't cut it, especially in today's world. God's desire is that we stir ourselves up to be hungry for Him. And, regardless of popular opinion, that can't be satisfied apart from His Word. Jesus said we are fed spiritually by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Luke 4:4).

When you truly value the Word, you value and esteem God. "In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was God Himself" (John 1:1, *The Amplified Bible)*. God and His Word are one. All things began with the Word.

Think about the actual words, spoken first and now printed on the page: *Those words are God.* They are absolutely God in every regard, fully exemplifying the character and nature of God. To reject His Word is to reject Him. The Word is as alive as any person (Hebrews 4:12, *AMP*), and this person is God Himself. Jesus is one with God, isn't He? John 1:14 says that He is the Word made flesh.

Putting the Word First

Deuteronomy 6:6 (AMP) says, "These words...shall be [first] in your [own] minds and hearts." Notice it says the Word shall be first. What does it mean to put the Word first? Well, first, by definition means: "preceding all others in time, order or importance." Putting the Word first is not just reading it first in the morning, but making it the filter through which you see everything. It is having the Word as the highest and most prominent authority in your life, preferring it over everything else.

You're going to have to invest your life into the Word by listening to and doing whatever it says to do. Proverbs 4:20-21 (AMP) instructs us to "attend to my words; consent and submit to my sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart." The Message Bible says, "Wrap yourself in them from head to foot; wear them like a scarf around your neck" (Proverbs 6:21). Simply put, keep the Word going in your eyes and ears, and out of your mouth all the time. If you do this, Proverbs 6:22 (AMP) promises His Words "shall lead you; when you sleep, they shall keep you; and when you waken, they shall talk with you." And since the Word is alive, it knows exactly what to say to you! How? By the Holy Spirit who causes us to hear the sound of His voice (John 16:13).

The great thing is, it's not hard to become hungry. What you give your attention to, you will desire. For example, new cars and fashions may be ugly to you at first, but after you see them over and again, you want two of each!

Here's a good place to start: The

Bible tells us, "He is faithful that promised..." (Hebrews 10:23) and, "[His words] are true and faithful" (Revelation 21:5). Give some special time to stop and think about God's faithfulness to His Word. If you read Psalm 119 you will catch a glimpse of David's love affair with the Word in every verse. Because the Word is supernatural, it will begin to impart life into your spirit and soul.

Crossing into 2013, I sensed the early stirring of the same amazing hunger I witnessed in the '60s, '70s and '80s. George and I both began preaching with a renewed hunger and passion ourselves. It's true! What you look at, say and act on is what you will hunger for. Now, in 2014, the hunger is still growing and so are the results. God is helping us! With just a little cooperation on our part, all of us will quickly find ourselves in the midst of the most stunning streams of His glory as He satisfies the hungry, confirming His glorious Word among us. **()**

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

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a divine DREAN come true

Have you ever asked God about His dreams for your life?

He has them, you know. He has dreams for you that are so far-reaching you can never exhaust them. He has plans for your future that are exceedingly abundantly above what you can ask or think.

ust as good earthly parents do everything they can to provide a wonderful life for their children, God has gone to amazing lengths to prepare a wonderful life for you. After all, He really is your Father! That's not just a nice thought. It's a spiritual reality. As a believer in Christ Jesus, you truly have been "born of God" (1 John 5:1). Therefore He is extremely interested in your future. He cares for you, and He has prepared for you, as if you were His only child.

Truth be told, God treats all of us as if we're His favorite! He hasn't overlooked any of us. As Ephesians 2:10, *The Amplified Bible*, says: "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew]

that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]."

God is so big and so good that He doesn't just improvise where His children are

We can't claim the promises of BLESSING in the Bible and then do whatever our flesh tells us to do.



concerned! He doesn't just come up with ideas for our lives as we go along. He has laid up for us in advance everything good we could ever want (Psalm 31:19). He has good paths already prepared for us and doors of destiny for us to walk through that have already been opened.

That's the reason many of us have dreams and desires we've carried within us since childhood. God Himself put them inside of us. They are not something we just came up with on our own. They are God's desires for us. They are His dreams that He planted in our hearts to enable us to discover and fulfill His divine plan.

Ken, for example, dreamed of being a pilot almost all his life. He took his first airplane ride as a little boy and as soon as it was over he looked at his dad and said, "That's what I'm going to do when I grow up. I'm going to fly airplanes!"

For a while, Ken thought flying would be his only vocation. But after he was born again, he found out God had also called him to preach. Then the airplanes he so enjoyed flying became a great help to him in ministry. Think of it! Even before Ken was born again, when he was just a kid, God already had a dream prepared for him. He already had a plan.

"But Gloria," you might say, "not every Christian's life turns out like Brother Copeland's. Many believers have childhood dreams and desires that are still unfulfilled. Maybe God doesn't do that kind of thing for everyone."

Oh, yes, He does! The Bible says:

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

"He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him." (Psalm 145:19)

"They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing." (Psalm 34:10)

A Lesson From Adam and Eve

God is the most generous, loving Father anyone could ever imagine. He has no problem blessing any of us. He's so eager to pour out His goodness on people that His eyes "run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (2 Chronicles 16:9). The only limit to God's goodness is our capacity to receive. Or, as this verse puts it, our commitment to having a heart that is perfect toward Him.

The word *perfect* is translated from a Hebrew word that means "devoted, consecrated or faithful." It's not referring to a person who never misses it or makes a mistake. It's talking about someone who puts God and His Word first place in his life. Someone who seeks Him, believes what He says and obeys Him. He has good paths already prepared for us and doors of destiny for us to walk through that have already been opened.



Commit yourself to doing things His way and follow the leadings He puts in your heart.

In New Testament terms, having a perfect heart toward God is simply doing what Matthew 6:33 says: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." What happens when you do that? According to Jesus, "all these things shall be added unto you."

Personally, I love having God add things to me! What He adds is good. It brings life and peace and every other blessing.

What the devil adds, on the other hand, is bad. It's under the curse. The curse has poverty in it. It brings fear, doubt, captivity, disease, defeat and death.

The devil adds things to us we don't want. When we believe and act on what he says, he just keeps loading us down with more and more of his ugly stuff. As one woman said, "When you let the devil in the back seat, pretty soon he'll be wanting to drive." And when the devil is driving you around, you end up going places you don't want to go.

Adam and Eve found this out in the Garden of Eden. They initially had a perfect life there. God had BLESSED them to such a degree that they didn't even have to cook dinner. Their food (which I'm sure tasted heavenly) literally grew on the trees. Lack of any kind was a completely foreign concept to them. Rich in every conceivable way, they enjoyed absolute authority on earth, and on top of it all, they got to fellowship face to face with God.

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For Adam and Eve, as well as for their heavenly Father, life in the Garden was a dream come true!

But then sin came in. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and died spiritually. Suddenly, THE BLESSING was gone. Nothing good was being added to them anymore. They had to live by the sweat of their brow, eking a living out of the earth, and struggling to get by on their own—all the while putting up with the devil and the curse.

You'd think all mankind would have learned a lesson from this. You'd think everyone from then on would have chosen God's way and not the devil's. But all through the Old Testament, people kept doing the same old thing. They kept following in Adam and Eve's footsteps, making the wrong choices again and again.

In the days of the prophet Jeremiah, for instance, the Israelites chose to worship idols. God pleaded with them to stop it. He told them repeatedly to return to Him so He could bless them and protect them from their enemies. But they refused to listen. They said, "We will do whatever we want. We will burn incense and pour out liquid offerings to the Queen of Heaven just as much as we like" (Jeremiah 44:16, *New Living Translation).* As a result, they ended up losing their nation, their freedom and their lives.

You may be thinking: Surely Christians today never behave like that!

Yes, although it's sad to say, sometimes they do. Sometimes even born-again believers choose to disregard God's Word and do things their own way. And the outcome is always bad.

I'm thinking right now of one believer I heard about who absolutely refused to forgive. Even though she knew she was disobeying God, she held on to unforgiveness so stubbornly and so long that she became physically sick. The Lord did His best to help her. He sent a well-known minister to her, to pray for her and tell her, "If you will just forgive, you will be healed." But she responded just like the Israelites did. She said, "No, I will not forgive!" So instead of getting healed, she died.

God's Way Works

We can't just do things our own way if we want to receive all the good things God wants to add to us. We can't claim the promises of BLESSING in the Bible and then do whatever our flesh tells us to do. It won't work! That's why God said to us in Psalm 34:11-14, "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? KEEP THY TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND THY LIPS FROM SPEAKING GUILE. DEPART FROM EVIL, AND DO GOOD; SEEK PEACE, AND PURSUE IT" (emphasis mine).

Those verses tell us clearly why God commands us to obey Him. It's not because we have to pass some kind of test. It's because what He tells us to do is right. His way works. It keeps us on the path of BLESSING and protects us from the curse.

God loves us. We're His children. He wants us to live out His dreams and enjoy everything He's laid up for us. So He has laid out the truth very plainly in His Word. He made it so simple any child could understand it. There are two ways open to us—God's way, which will bring us into the kind of good life we desire; or another way that doesn't have such good results. We can choose either one. It's up to us. But the choice we make will determine the kind of life we will have.

Personally, I decided a long time ago to choose God's way. I decided to humble myself and obey Him: to believe what He says in His Word, do whatever He tells me to do, and let Him do His will in my life.

Although I'm still learning about it, after almost 50 years of endeavoring to live that way, I've found it to be absolutely the greatest thing ever! No other lifestyle even comes close. There's

Marty Copeland on staying fit in season!

n just a couple of months, we'll all be geared up for the festive moods that come with Thanksgiving and Christmas. And, of course, that means gathering around the dinner table with family and friends and eating to our hearts' content. But while food is always a big part of these seasons' festivities, it's important that we make a quality decision to stay focused on maintaining a strong, healthy body. Here are a few simple strategies to help maintain your weight, and overall health, while enjoying the season!

1. Get God involved!

Ask God to give you wisdom about how you can best fight cravings and resist temptations throughout this season. Proverbs 4:5 says, "Get wisdom, get understanding...." God wants you to have a strong, healthy body.

2. Never show up famished at a holiday party! If your blood-sugar level is low and you're really hungry, you could be a glutton waiting to happen. Don't rely on willpower to get you through a long night of fudge, Christmas cookies and party mix. Instead, go to the party prepared by eating a healthy snack and drinking a glass of water 30 minutes before arriving.

3. Focus on relationships.

Family get-togethers are filled with much more than just fattening foods. Consider partaking in family traditions such as reading the Christmas story around the fireplace, or catching up with those relatives you only see once or twice a year. Focus on family and friends more than on the fabulous food.

4. Move it!

As the fellowship and feasting come to an end and you push away from the dinner table, remember two words: Move it! While others may head for the couch to watch football on TV, grab a football and toss it around outside with your children. Or, take a walk around the block. Just make sure you move your body after eating to rev up your metabolism.

5. Exercise more.

Exercise could be your best friend during this season because it will help you maintain your weight, even though your diet may not be as healthy as usual. Increase your cardio workouts a few days before the family gathering to compensate for the extra calories you'll be consuming. By increasing your workout time and level of intensity, you'll burn extra calories during a time you'll need it most. 💔

"God not only desires to help you reach your fitness goals, but He has a plan that will elevate you from a lifestyle of dieting to a lifestyle of freedom and self-control."

About

Marty Copeland is a speaker, author, wife and mother of three. Certified by the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas, Texas, Marty is also a personal trainer, nutritional counselor, and has created many products geared toward health, freedom and weight loss. For information go to *higherfitness.com*. words to prosper you

Like a quarterback in a football game ready to throw a gamewinning pass, God is always looking for a receiver. He's searching for believers who will catch His vision for their lives and run with it. God wants to do great things for you. 2 Chronicles 16:9

He wants to reveal to you a divine vision for your life. Proverbs 29:18

Seek God until you can see His vision for you. Matthew 7:7

You'll find much of that vision in God's written Word. Psalm 119:105

Hold on to the vision you find in God's Word and it will eventually come to pass. Habakkuk 2:3 just nothing better than living in peace and letting God add good things to you day after day. There's nothing more thrilling than walking out God's dream for us.

"But what if I've already departed from His dreams for me?" someone might ask. "What if I'm off track because I haven't let God have His way in my life? Do you think He will help me find my way back?"

I have no doubt! God is no respecter of persons. He'll do for you the same thing He did for Ken and me.

In our first few years of walking with the Lord, we got off track too. We didn't intend to. We were just young and spiritually inexperienced and we made some mistakes. Because of it, we found ourselves outside of God's will—in the wrong place at the wrong time, having a serious car wreck on a Texas highway.

Although God protected us, we were devastated. We could see we needed to make a change in our lives but we didn't know exactly what to do. So we humbled ourselves and asked God to lead us.

Shortly after we prayed, Ken's mother and father invited us to go with them to a Partner's Seminar at Oral Roberts University. We had no idea their invitation had anything to do with our future. But somehow we sensed we should go. We couldn't explain why, it just seemed like the right thing to do.

Someone once said that going with the flow of the Holy Spirit is like being a log floating down a river. It's being pliable in God's hands and letting Him take us where He wants us to go. Even though Ken and I weren't very spiritually savvy back then, we did have enough sense to be logs! So we chose to go with the flow.

We went with Ken's parents to the seminar in Tulsa, and it turned

out to be God's answer to our prayer. It helped us see clearly how to get on the path He had prepared for us. Ken had already been wrestling with the sense that God was calling him to go to ORU, and when we set foot on the campus he decided to do it.

We could never have guessed that our whole destiny was tied up in that one decision! We didn't know God was sending us to Tulsa so Ken could work with Brother Roberts and learn under his great ministry of deliverance, or that we'd go to Brother Hagin's meetings there and learn about faith. All we knew was that we wanted to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Looking back now, I'm so glad we chose to go His way that weekend. It opened the door for us to live God's dream. It positioned us to receive more good things from Him than we could have ever imagined.

These days we have such a marvelous life that some people might even think we're God's favorites. And we are! But the truth is, you're His favorite, too. He has plans for you that are better than anything you've ever imagined. He has dreams for your life and blessings beyond measure laid up for you.

Ask Him about them and let Him help you discover them. Spend time in His Word every day, commit yourself to doing things His way and follow the leadings He puts in your heart. Flow like a log in the river of the Holy Spirit, and one of these days you, too, will find yourself living right in the middle of a dream come true.

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points to get you there <u>fulfilled dreams</u>

God has plans for you that are so far-reaching you can never exhaust them. He has a dream for your future that is exceedingly abundantly above anything you can ask or think. Here are some points to get you there:

God created you with a specific purpose in mind.

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]." (The Amplified Bible)

He desires to fulfill the dreams He has put in your heart.

Psalm 145:9, 19: "The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him."

The only limit to God's goodness is your capacity to receive it.

2 Chronicles 16:9: "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

Having a perfect heart toward God simply means putting Him first and doing things His way. Matthew 6:33: "Seek ye first

the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Obeying God opens the door to the good life.

Psalm 34:12-14: "What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it."

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Sun., Oct. 5	God's Prophetic Calendar
Oct. 6-10	Watching the Heavens and Israel Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim
Sun., Oct. 12	Tabernacles: A Joyful Divine Appointment Billye Brim
Oct. 13-17	The Force of Faith Kenneth Copeland
Sun., Oct. 19	How "Little" Becomes More Than Enough Kenneth Copeland
Oct. 20-24	The Healing of Our Land Kenneth Copeland and David Barton
Sun., Oct. 26	Take Your Authority Over the Devi Kenneth Copeland
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