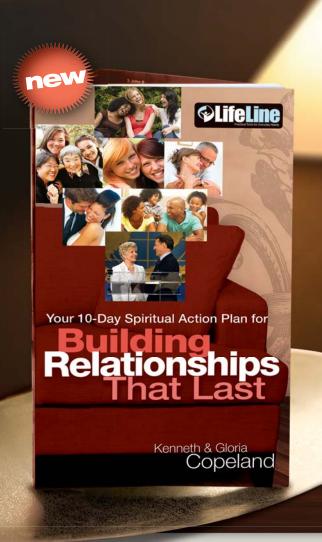


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To keep THE BLESSING at work
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Read how two couples fulfilled their dream of owning a coffeehouse where they serve not only coffee, but also the love of God.



The Ultimate
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by Gloria Copeland Paying attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and following His guidance will enable you to live long and finish strong.

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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 37 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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Don't Just Stand There, Say Something!

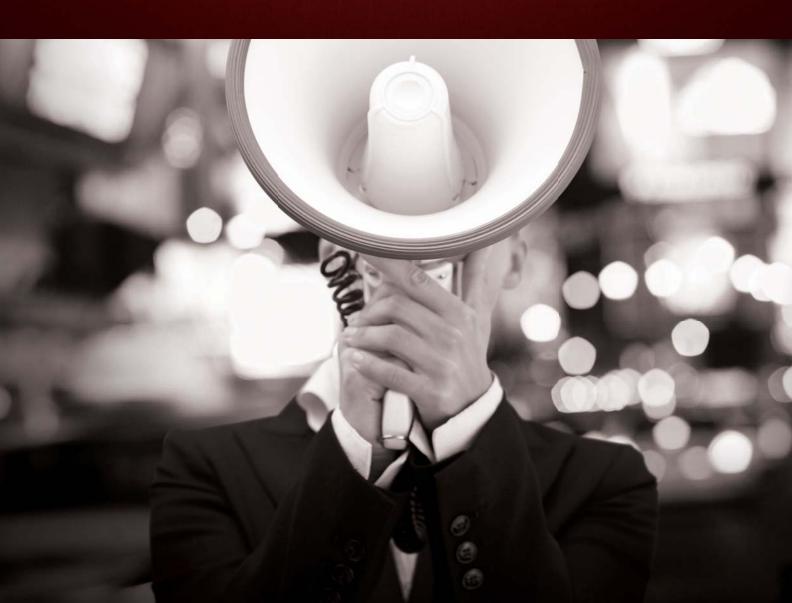
THINGS TALK. >> DID YOU KNOW THAT?

CIRCUMSTANCES, PROBLEMS, CHECKBOOK BALANCES, RICKETY CARS, WORN-OUT WASHING MACHINES AND ALL KINDS OF THINGS IN YOUR LIFE CAN—AND WILL, FROM TIME TO TIME—TALK VERY LOUDLY TO YOU. THEY WILL TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR FUTURE. THEY WILL TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR PROSPERITY, YOUR HEALTH, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR CITY AND YOUR NATION.

Most of the time, they won't be saying anything positive, either. Instead, they'll point out everything that's wrong. They'll remind you of what you've prayed and believed God for and

say, "You might as well give up on that. Look around you! There's not one shred of natural evidence it's ever going to come to pass."

I don't even have to ask if you've had that experience. We've all



had it. The question is: When things start talking to you, how do you answer?

"Oh, be serious, Brother Copeland! Why on earth would I answer a *thing?* No one does that!"

Jesus did, and if you're His disciple, you ought to be following His example. You ought to be doing what He did in Mark 11 when He came across a bad-mouthed fig tree.

He encountered the tree one morning when He was walking with His disciples from Bethany to the Temple in Jerusalem. Having spent the night in prayer, Jesus was headed there to do His Father's will. He was a Man on a mission, and on His way to carry out that mission He got hungry. "And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it" (Mark 11:13-14).

Notice that according to those verses, Jesus didn't just *speak* to the fig tree. He *answered* it. That means the tree said something to Him first. It said, "I don't care if You are hungry. I don't care if You are the Son of God. You're not getting anything to eat off me."

Why would a tree say that to Jesus?

Because the devil was using it. He was using it the same way he might use a stack of unpaid bills and an insufficient bank balance against you. He was using it to contradict God's Word and discourage Jesus' faith in THE BLESSING.

The fig tree quickly found out, however, that it should have kept quiet. It found out it was talking to the Seed of Abraham—Someone who lived by faith in Abraham's BLESSING, who truly believed God's promise that whoever blessed Him would be blessed, and whoever cursed Him would be cursed (Genesis 12:3).

When that tree said *no* to Jesus, it ran head-on into the curse side of THE BLESSING. It heard words from Jesus that no tree ever wants to hear.

Stop Staring and Believe

Jesus didn't say those words under His breath, either. He didn't whisper them. He talked to the tree loud enough for all 12 of His disciples to hear.

Can't you just imagine how the disciples reacted? They must have done the same thing you or I would have done. They stared...and stared...and stared at the fig tree to see what was going to happen to it.

But by all appearances, nothing happened at all.

Even 12 hours later, when Jesus and His disciples passed

by again on their way back to Bethany, the tree looked the same. I'm sure the disciples were rubbernecking like crazy, checking it out to see if there had been any change at all. But there hadn't. If there had been, Peter would have said something. He always spoke up, even if he had to repent for it later, and he passed by the fig tree that evening without a word.

Jesus, however, didn't even look at that tree. As far as He was concerned, it was already dead and gone. I know from what He has taught me over the last 40 years, He didn't have to examine it to find out if THE BLESSING was working on it. He didn't need any visible proof that what He said would come to pass. He believed—without seeing—THE BLESSING had gone into action and what He said was as good as done.

Truth be told, that's what all of us who call ourselves believers ought to do.

"What? We can't do like *Jesus* did!" someone might say. "Ordinary believers can't have that kind of faith."

Yes, we can. In fact, Jesus commanded us to have it. He said in Mark 11:22, "Have faith in God." Or, as some translators put it, "Have the God kind of faith."

He also told us repeatedly throughout the Scriptures how to operate in that God kind of faith. Take, for example, what He said in John 20 to Thomas after the Resurrection. If you've read the account, you know Thomas refused to believe Jesus was alive unless he could see the nail prints in His hands, and feel the spear hole in His side. So Jesus appeared to him and straightened him out. After walking into the room (without opening the door) He showed Thomas what he wanted to see and said, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (verse 29).

Did you get that?

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed! Most Christians totally miss what Jesus was saying there. He wasn't just saying it's religiously proper to believe without seeing. He was revealing the key that activates THE BLESSING of Abraham—the same BLESSING that was on Jesus. THE BLESSING that came on us through Him (Galatians 3:13-14).

He was telling us that we release THE BLESSING in our lives by believing without having seen.

In the past few years, I've taught from Genesis to Revelation, to get across to believers that THE BLESSING is ours—it belongs to every one of us who is born again. But I still hear people asking, "How do I get THE BLESSING to manifest? How do I get the manifestation of THE BLESSING that heals my body?

by Gloria Copeland

No TIME to faint

This is the day of adversity! Whatever you are facing today, you can't afford to be weak. You can't afford to faint spiritually in the trials of life.

If you do, you'll be in trouble because, naturally speaking, things aren't going to get better in this world, they're going to get worse.

But don't let that scare you. For 1 John 5:4 tells us that "whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Did you know you can become just as strong as you want to be by spending time in the Word? The only one who can put limits on you is you. If you'll give the Word more time, it will give you more strength.

That's what wise believers do. They keep themselves strong by spending time in the Word every day. They stay strong and ready because they know this is an evil day we live in.

Wake yourself up to the Word by getting out your Bible and meditating on it every "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." Proverbs 24:10

> day. Get tapes and books of anointed men and women preaching the Word. Listen to them and read them again and again.

> Keep that Word in your heart. Keep it going in your eyes and in your ears until it takes over the very thoughts that you think. Keep yourself strong and ready...and free to operate in the Spirit of God.

If you do, when adversity strikes, you'll have supernatural strength to overcome and walk in the victory. Remember, this is no time to faint. Victory

(This article was reprinted from the devotional book by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Pursuit of His Presence. To order a copy of this devotional, please log on to kcm.org.uk or call +44 (0)1225 787310)

How do I get the deliverance and prosperity that are listed in Deuteronomy 28:1-13 to materialize in my life? I know THE BLESSING is inside me but how do I get it out?"

We do it by making the faith connection! We quit being faithless like Thomas was and believe THE BLESSING is working even when we haven't yet seen any evidence of it. Blessed are those who have believed and not seen!

No Interruptions, Please

When you believe something you can't see just because Jesus said it was so, faith grabs THE BLESSING and shoves it into action.

That's the way you got born again. You believed the Word of God that says, "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" (Romans 10:9). You still looked like the same old sinner you always were, yet when you said Jesus was your Lord and Savior—wham!—you were saved. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (verse 10).

You receive every other part of THE BLESSING the same way! Instead of just hoping and praying, you believe and speak. You take the dream you've built out of God's promises, release faith in THE BLESSING and—without seeing—believe THE BLESSING is on the job bringing your dream to pass. Then you act like Jesus did and stop looking at the fig tree.

Stop examining the circumstances to see if THE BLESSING is working. Just go on about your Father's business and keep walking by faith. As you do, the contrary circumstances around you will bow to the Word of God in your mouth and, eventually, what you said will become a reality in this natural world.

That's what happened for Jesus. Twenty-four hours after He spoke to the fig tree, He and His disciples passed by and they saw it "dried up from the roots" (Mark 11:20).

Somewhere between the 12th and the 24th hour that tree withered up. I don't know, and I don't really care, whether it happened sometime during the night or just 10 seconds before the disciples saw it the next day. What matters to me is this: THE BLESSING force released by faith through the words of Jesus was not interrupted until it finished its work and made sure the tree would never produce again.

The reason that's important is because the period of time from when you speak words of faith until they manifest is when the fight of faith takes place. That's the time Satan will throw everything he has at you to get you to interrupt THE BLESSING's work by speaking words of unbelief. That's the time he will lie to you and use every trick he has to try to get to your mind. Remember, lies and tricks are all he has. Jesus stripped him of everything else.

He'll con you into thinking some way or another that the Word is going to fail you this time. He'll keep a little conversation

running around in your head: You're not going to get the manifestation this time. THE BLESSING won't work in this circumstance. Everyone knows you're believing for it and you're going to look like a fool.

He'll rattle off that kind of garbage day in and day out until you take responsibility for your thoughts and do what the Bible says by "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Lock Them Up

"But Brother Copeland, I don't really know how to do that."

Then this insight Phil Driscoll shared with me will help you. It came to him a few years ago when he was put in prison for something that wasn't even against the law. Instead of getting bitter, Phil used his imprisonment as an opportunity to change the complexion of the penitentiary by bringing the love of God into it. One of the officers there told me on the day Phil was released, "This place will never be the same again."

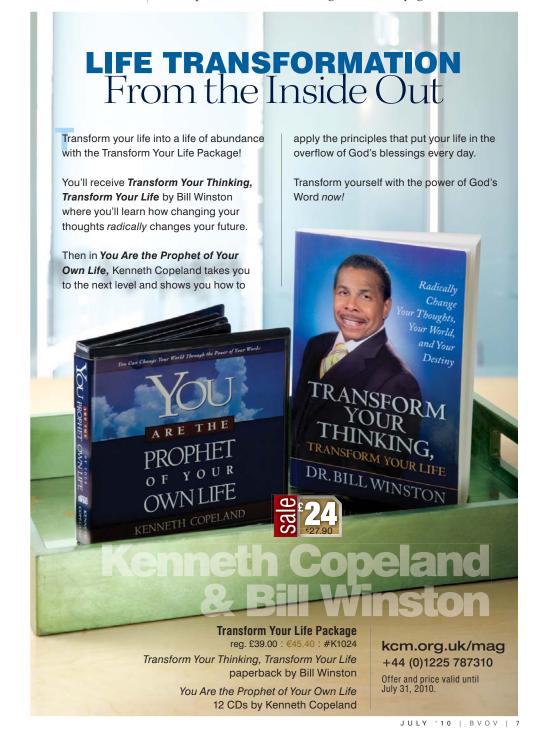
Phil took THE BLESSING of the Lord into that prison. While he was there, 2 Corinthians 10:5 took on a new meaning for him. The Lord spoke to him and said, Phil, 'bringing every thought into captivity' means you put that thought in jail and don't ever let it out.

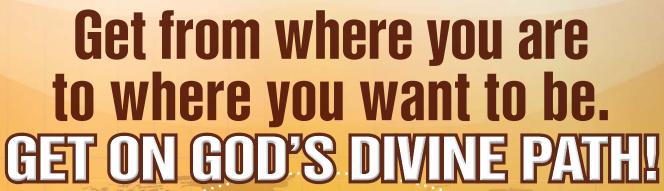
When he shared that with me, it marked my thinking in a new way. I realized that from the time I make my declaration of faith until the manifestation comes, that's my job—to put every unbelieving thought that comes to me in jail and keep it there.

The same thing is true for you. To keep THE BLESSING at work in your situation, you have to imprison every contrary thought; and the only way you will be able to do it is by putting The Word of God in your mouth. You'll have

to answer every negative circumstance with The Word. Answer every tree that's telling you what you're not going to get, with The Word. Answer the symptoms of sickness with The Word. Answer job loss with The Word. Answer unpaid debts with The Word.

Put the words of Jesus in your mouth and keep them there, so THE BLESSING can work uninterrupted until it is finished, and whatever you're believing for has manifested in your life. Don't let anything get in your mind or your mouth that will stop it. Nothing! Stand guard over it night and day. Get up in the middle of the night if necessary, go out in the







backyard, and shout your confession of faith.

As Gloria says, "You can't be a wimp and get this done." You have to fight the good fight of faith, not sit around and cry about it. But that's OK, because your healing, your family, your God-given dreams are worth the fight.

Don't Tiptoe Around

"Brother Copeland, I just don't have that kind of faith."

Jesus said you can have it if you want it. He said, "Have the faith of God." So, obey Him. Say, "Yes, Lord. I believe I will. I take the faith of God and I have it now. I thank You for it!"

"But I don't feel like I have it."

Jesus didn't ask you how you feel about it.

"I don't look much like I have faith."

He didn't ask you how you look. He said, "Have faith in God." That's His Word to you, and the Bible says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). So agree with The Word. Declare, "Faith cometh now by this scripture in me. I have faith in God."

If someone overhears and says, "What did you say?" answer with, "I said I have faith in God!"

When the devil comes to you and says, "Nah, you don't have any faith, you're just faking it," answer him. Say, "Get your lying self out of here, Satan! I have faith in God. You understand that? Jesus told me to have faith and I do!"

Don't say it nicely and don't tiptoe around. Put him in his place—under your feet.

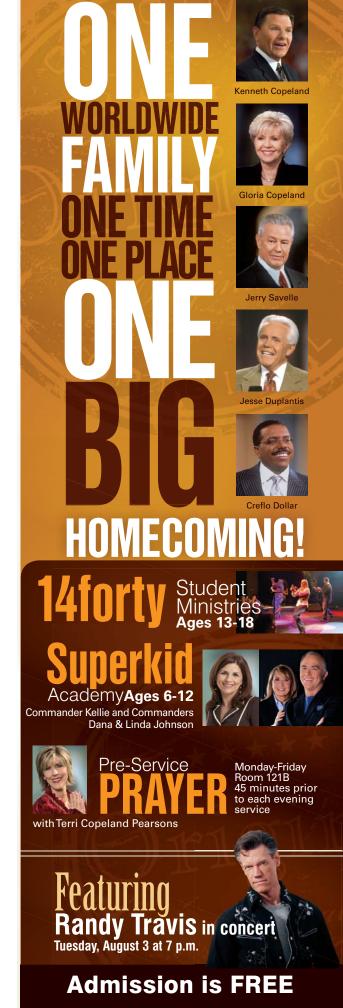
Do what Smith Wigglesworth said to do. He was on a bus one day and saw a woman walking along the sidewalk with a little dog following her. She turned around a couple of times and said real sweet, "Now go on home, doggie. Go on back to the house." The dog ignored her and stayed right on her heels until she stomped her foot at him and yelled, "Git!"

As the dog turned tail and ran for home, Mr. Wigglesworth hollered at her from the bus window, "That's the way you have to treat the devil!"

It's the truth. The devil will cuddle up to you, he'll follow you, he'll con you and dog your steps until you take The Word of the living God and put him on the run. So do it!

Stop leaving your Bible unopened on the coffee table while you whine around about how the devil won't leave you alone. Instead, open up that Bible and put it to work in your life. Recognize it as God's bond, His blood-sworn oath to you. Read it with the awesome realization that God swore in the blood of His firstborn Son that He would fulfill every word of it. Receive every promise in it—not as "an old sinner saved by grace" but as the blood-bought seed of Abraham and the joint heir of THE BLESSING that you are in Christ.

Spend time in The Book! Get it in your heart in such abundance that every time you open your mouth, God's Word comes out. If you'll do that, every bad-mouthed, BLESSING-blocking, fig-tree circumstance in your life will wither up from the roots. Just like Jesus, you'll operate in the faith of God and you will have whatsoever you say. VICTORY



um us these events

Enter into these meetings as a place of rest, laying aside your own works and expecting THE BLESSING to meet every need in your life.

-Kenneth Copeland

Homecoming

August 2-7 (Southwest Believers' Convention)
Fort Worth Convention Center
1201 Houston St. | Fort Worth, TX 76102

Venezuela VictoryCampaign 2010

September 3-4

Sports Center "Pedro Elías Belisario Aponte" Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación 2, con Ave. 5 de Julio Maracaibo, Estado de Zulia, Venezuela kcm.org/es (in U.S.) | 261-786-4213 vicentemora.org (in Venezuela)

2010 Word E>

October 14-16 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center 1101 Lincoln St. | Columbia, SC 29201

Washington,[November 11-13 VictoryCampaign

Hylton Memorial Chapel 14640 Potomac Mills Road | Woodbridge, VA 22192

Preregister today!

events.kcm.org

Join Kenneth and/or Gloria at:

Word of Faith Conference: June 18

Word of Faith International Christian Center 20000 W. Nine Mile Road | Southfield, MI 48075 248-353-3476 | woficc.com

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion: June 22-27

Living Word Christian Center | 9201 75th Ave. N. Minneapolis, MN 55428 | lwcc.org

Awakening Our Nations: July 22

2010 Assembly of First Nations Winnipeg Convention Centre 375 York Ave. | Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J3 Canada | 204-956-1720 | wcc.mb.ca

Admission is Free



300 E. Ocean Blvd. | Long Beach, CA 90802

Fellowship of International Christian **Word of Faith Ministries Celebration** Week: July 27

Faith Dome | 7901 S. Vermont Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90044 | 323-789-3852 ficwfm.org

2010 Annual Chicago Faith Conference: September 13-17

Living Word Christian Center | 7306 W. Madison Forest Park, IL 60130 | 708-771-8188

2010 Change Experience September 27-0

El Stranding Programme | North End Road Goldwaren | London NW11 7RP

International Convention of Faith Ministries: October 11-13

Radisson Hotel Fort Worth Fossil Creek 2540 Meacham Blvd. | Fort Worth, TX 76106



Join Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher at:

Spirit Food Christian Center: July 11

21338 Dumetz Road (Corner of Canoga and Dumetz) Woodland Hills, CA 91364 818-785-7712 | myspiritfood.com

Calvary Tremont Missionary Baptist Church: August 15

1255 Leonard Ave. | Columbus, OH 43203 614-258-9933 | calvarytremont.org

The Jim Bakker Show: August 23

Morningside Church | 180 Grace Chapel Road Blue Eye, MO 65611 417-779-9000 | jimbakkershow.com

Word of Life Christian Center: August 28-29

3100 19th St. NW | Rochester, MN 55903 507-271-2328 | wolrochester.org

New Life Fellowship: September 11-12

1211 N. 24th St. | Council Bluffs, IA 51501 712-322-1982 or 712-322-1721 | gotnewlife.org

The Master's Touch International Church: September 19

555 Markham Woods Road | Longwood, FL 32779 321-304-4111 | tmtic.com

Brevard Worship Center: September 26

6825 Babcock St. SE | Malabar, FL 32950 321-951-0646 | brevardworshipcenter.org

Father 2 Daughter Women's Conference: October 8

Pneuma Christian Center 7345 Old Cleveland Pike | Chattanooga, TN 37421 423-855-8226 | pneuma.org

The Ark at Christian Life Church:

October 31-November 2

4905 Flat River Road | Farmington, MO 63640 573-431-7300 | thearkatclc.com

Encounter with Peter Youngren and Toronto International Celebration Church:

November 6-8

190 Railside Road | Toronto, ON M3A 1A3 | Canada 416-497-4940 | ticc.ca

2010 Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans Event: November 11

Welk Resort Branson (Theater) 1984 State Highway 165 | Branson, MO 65616 800-734-5515

Soul's Harbor Word of Faith Church: December 4-5

110 Evergreen Road | Canton, GA 30114 678-644-5217 | soulsharborchurch.com

Join Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons at: Champions 4 Christ Youth Rally: July 26-30

Tri-Lakes Center

2527 Highway 248 | Branson, MO 65616 | 417-335-7680 (go to champions4christ.org for fees and registration info)

Meetings are subject to change without notice. For details and updated information, please log on to events.kcm.org or call the KCM office nearest you. Partners and Friends within Europe call +44 (0)1225 787310.

Jesus always comes to HONECONING THEALING SChool!

Since the very first Healing School in September 1979, every Believers' Convention and Victory Campaign held by Kenneth Copeland Ministries has given our Partners and Friends an opportunity to receive God's Word on divine healing and to apply it to their lives. Thousands have received the results they were seeking.

And on Saturday, Aug. 7, at 9:30 a.m., during Homecoming 2010, Gloria Copeland will once again minister the Word and healing power of God to His people.

Every year we receive hundreds of testimonies like this one from our Partners and Friends who have received their miracle during Healing School:

At the SWBC the Lord restored a detached retina in my right eye and healed my eyesight. I had been diagnosed several months before and lived with symptoms of blurred vision, tiredness in that eye and bright flashes in my peripheral vision. During Healing School, while Gloria was teaching, my eye was healed and restored. When I finally had an appointment with a retina specialist, he was quite surprised. After examining my right eye twice, he said he could see where the damage had been, but it wasn't there anymore. No treatment was necessary. Praise God!

From E.R. in Canada

We expect Healing School, Saturday morning at Homecoming 2010, to once again be a high point of the week. As Gloria loves to declare and hundreds will testify, "Jesus always comes to Healing School!" You will want to be with us!

Get on Your Divine Path to Healing!

"We're all going to get together in

one place," said Brother Copeland about Homecoming 2010. "Start believing for it. Start setting aside for it. Start getting ready. Your divine path...is right here!"

Our Partners and Friends from all over the world will be coming to Fort Worth, Texas, for Homecoming 2010. Your reasons for coming may be many. Maybe you simply want to fellowship with God's people—this is one place you can do that! Maybe you're fed up with your financial circumstances and you want to learn how to change things—now is your time!

Maybe you need your miracle of healing or a deeper understanding of how to walk continually in divine health—make it home and it will happen!

Whatever your reason for getting on your divine path to Homecoming 2010, we know one thing for sure—wherever you are right now, you *can* get to where you want to be. Right here! Right now!

To learn more, visit kcm.org/homecoming for speaker schedule, travel details, easy event registration and more. And if you can't attend in person, every Homecoming 2010 service will be streamed LIVE via the Internet: Go to kcm.org/media, then click on "Live TV."

Homecoming 2010: Come and join Jesus at Healing School! VICTORY

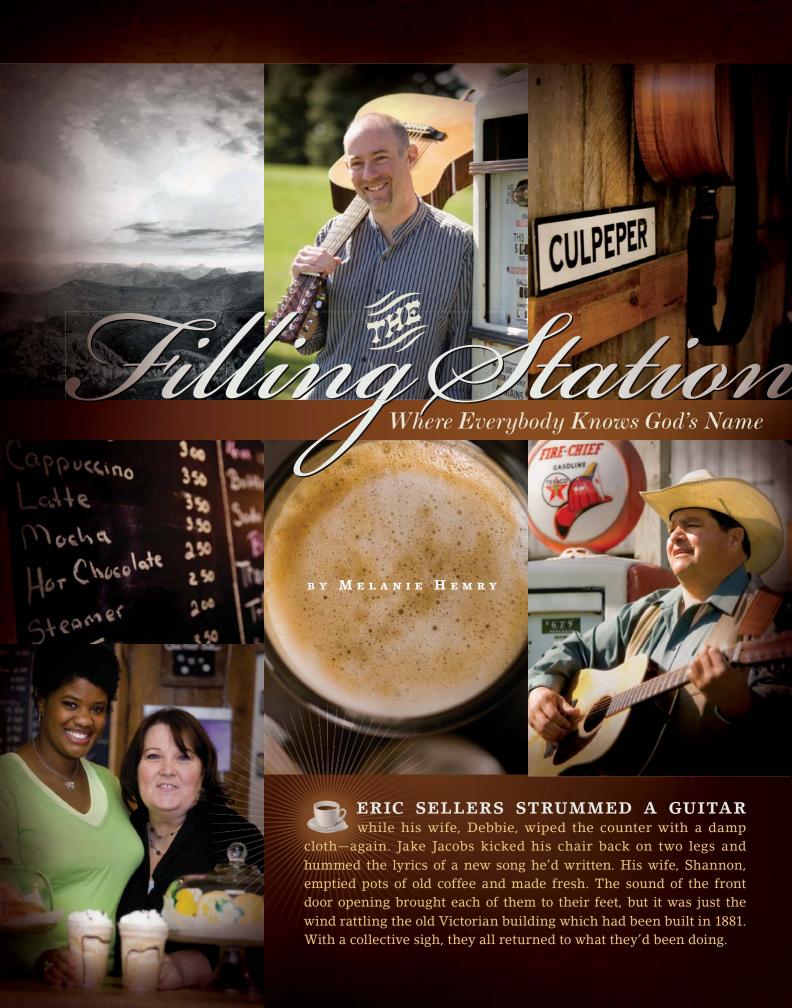
I have desired for My people to walk in health. I have desired for My people to know how to walk in health.... I want My people to know how to take My Word, and stand on My Word, and receive My healing power and know that I am the Lord. I want My people to walk with Me in health and life and know the good things that I have prepared for them.

I want My people well.

I will have My people well, saith God.

Prophetic word to Gloria Copeland by Kenneth Copeland, 1980





Granted, none of them had ever owned a business before, but when they met in 2004 they'd discovered they had many things in common—including the dream of someday owning a coffee shop. The Filling Station was the culmination of their efforts.

Of course, opening a coffee shop in the tiny town of Edinburg, Va., had been a step of faith. The first time they'd walked into the quaint Victorian building it had been love at first sight. Looking out the window, they'd seen people riding by on horseback. "Are you sure we should open a business in a place where people still ride horses down the street?" Shannon would later ask.

Hearing From the Lord

From a business perspective, the decision had not been a wise one. After all, to be successful, any business has to tap into a ready market and fill a need. Apparently the people of Edinburg had coffeepots of their own and felt no need for a coffeehouse. They were staying away in droves, although one woman had dropped by with a cake to welcome them to town. Edinburg had a history so rich, the house next door to The Filling Station still had a cannonball from the Civil War lodged in the wall. As newcomers, they were unsure how to find their place in the local economy.

But in reality, the wisdom of man had played no part in the conception nor the opening of The Filling Station in November 2007. Though the idea was birthed in the hearts of both couples, confirmation had come directly from the Lord during one of Kenneth Copeland Ministries' meetings in Washington, D.C.

Three years earlier, Debbie and Shannon had met while attending a Christian retreat. Striking up a friendship, the women realized their husbands had a lot in common. Both Eric and Jake were gifted musicians who enjoyed writing music and singing original songs. Both men had longed to own a coffeehouse and, most importantly, they both loved the Lord.

Getting together on weekends, Eric and Jake played music and collaborated on new songs. In 2004, they performed together at a youth lock-in on New Year's Eve, and for the next three years played at their church's coffeehouse, performing both contemporary Christian, and praise and worship music.

During that time, their dream of owning a coffee shop never died. They wanted a place where they could sing, but also a place to offer an open microphone where customers could sing, give testimonies and share whatever was on their hearts. They dreamed of a place where those who were thirsty for God could be filled. "We all lived in Woodbridge, Va., when we met," Jake explained. "When Eric and Debbie moved 80 miles away to Edinburg, we believed that was where the Lord wanted us to open The Filling Station. We kept our day jobs, which meant that every weekend Shannon and I faced a 160-mile, round-trip drive to Edinburg and back home again. Since we stayed with Eric and Debbie each weekend, eventually we joined their church where Eric and I sang on the praise team."

"In 2001, I had started reading the *BVOV* magazine and watching the broadcast," Debbie recalls. "Eventually Eric and I started attending the Victory Campaigns when they came to our area. I'll never forget walking out of one of those meetings after Brother Copeland had just preached. I was speechless. I'd never heard anything like it.

"In 2006, Shannon attended the daytime meeting at the Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign with me. The word of faith was new to her and when she got home she told Jake, 'You've got to hear this!' Shannon and I attended all the daytime sessions and Jake and Eric joined us after work. We became Partners with KCM during that time, as the ministry had begun to have a great influence on us. While we determined to live by faith and in victory, one of the most important things we learned was the importance of staying steadfast."

In November the following year, while attending the Victory Campaign in Woodbridge, the four received confirmation they were to open The Filling Station.

"Our plan was to open November 13, the week we returned home from the Victory Campaign," Eric explained. "We had already made plans to buy whatever supplies we needed while we were together attending the meeting. But we felt like we needed a spiritual boost before taking that first step."

That boost came at the end of one of Brother Copeland's teaching sessions when he prayed specifically for business owners. "We received that prayer as confirmation that what we were about to step into was right," Shannon recalled. "We felt like that was what we needed before opening the doors for business."

A Modern-Day Mayberry

With no money for advertising, the four relied on customers to spread the word about The Filling Station. Over time, news of the new coffeehouse began to filter through Edinburg, a quaint little town reminiscent of TV's fictional Mayberry. With a population of fewer than 1,000, Edinburg had two banks, three gas stations, two restaurants, and now, The Filling Station.

What it lacked in businesses, the town made up for with



spectacular vistas in the Shenandoah Valley. Straddling the Virginia and West Virginia lines, the Shenandoah Valley is bordered on the east by the stunning Blue Ridge Mountains and on the west by the Appalachian Mountains. The Potomac River forms a boundary to the north as does the James River to the south. Life is slower paced, less hectic and more peaceful. While these are wonderful qualities in life, they aren't the usual trappings of a successful business.

Remaining Steadfast

Weeks turned into months and months faded into the first full year of business for The Filling Station. Despite a couple of news articles in the local newspaper about the new coffeehouse, business was not so good with only a few customers showing up. During the week, Debbie kept the doors open and on the weekends Jake and Shannon were faithful to make the long drive to Edinburg. The four fought discouragement by praying, singing and encouraging each other.

"It was that steadfast tenacity of faith that kept us going when we spent most weekends at The Filling Station entertaining ourselves," Jake recalled.

Convinced the Lord had directed them to open the coffeehouse, the two couples soldiered on in spite of the circumstances. As they entered the second year in business, more locals began dropping by with their families and spending the evening. Everyone loved the open mike—some sang, some performed skits and others gave testimonies. The first time someone shared a need, as if orchestrated by an unseen hand, every person in the audience stood at the same time and went forward to pray. That continued to be the

response whenever anyone expressed a need.

Soon, teenagers began congregating at The Filling Station on Friday and Saturday nights as well and entertained the regular adult crowd with their songs. Though the music and entertainment weren't required to be Christian, it had to be clean and everyone honored that request.

No two evenings at The Filling Station were alike, but there was a single common denominator—the presence of the Lord filled the place. Before long, people started arriving from all along the Shenandoah Valley—many driving as far as 20 to 30 miles. Suddenly, The Filling Station had become a place where people shared their commonality, and not their divisions. God also brought in people who didn't routinely attend church.

One Word From God

"It wasn't just a place for the four of us to minister," Eric explains, "and it wasn't just a place for the 10 of us in the core group to minister. It became a place where ministries got their start. My sister, for example, was an artist with a prophetic gift. When she visited the coffee-house she would go table by table and ask people to draw a squiggle. She would then take those squiggles and develop them into images that reflected something about the person's life.

"One young man drew a squiggle that he said he had been drawing all of his life. When my sister finished, the squiggle had become a sheriff's hat and badge. Under it she wrote, 'There's a new sheriff in town.' None of us knew his lifelong dream had been to work in law enforcement. That single message caused him to change the course of his life, and today he's fulfilling that dream."

When the coffeehouse first opened, closing time was 9 p.m. But as it became more popular, many times people lingered well into the night, often staying past midnight. Before long, customers were volunteering to sweep and clean up the place before closing.

For the most part, The Filling Station was open seven days a week. Only once a year did they close shop—in November, when Jake, Shannon, Eric and Debbie attended the KCM Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign in Woodbridge. Over time, they began inviting friends they had made through the coffeehouse to join them. Jake and Shannon, and others in the Woodbridge area, opened their homes for those traveling to the meetings from the valley.

"There used to be four of us attending the Victory Campaigns," Shannon explains, "but now it's not unusual for there to be 35 of us."

Shannon recalls how several people who have attended

the Woodbridge meeting with their group have received healing or were blessed in other ways. One was a 19-year-old girl who suffered from Tourette's syndrome, a neurological disorder marked by uncontrolled outbursts, physical tics, blinking, jerking and hiccups, all of which caused muscle strain and constant pain. Doctors had prescribed 20 different pills a day.

"She grabbed the Word of God and was healed of all her symptoms in 2007, but the medication wasn't the kind you could just stop without serious side effects," Shannon said. "In 2008, she stopped her medications with no problem. For a long time she drove 80 miles to The Filling Station, but now she's married and lives in Edinburg."

Shannon shared that God's power is also being released in a powerful way at The Filling Station. One man who came into the coffeehouse had been diagnosed with an incurable form of hepatitis. Everyone prayed for him, and he was healed—no more hepatitis, no more problems.

"God's up to something here," Debbie says. "More and more the Lord is drawing to this place those who need a touch from Him. We've heard story after story from people who believe God told them to sell everything and move to the Shenandoah Valley. Whatever brings them here, God is ready to fill them with all His blessings, and we're honored to be part of that. This is truly a place where it's clear that everyone—especially God—knows your name."

What might have begun in doubt for these four friends has turned into one great success story. And much of it is because of their trust in God and their willingness to stand steadfast on what they were convinced He wanted to do for them.

"One of the keys to our success is that we're Partners with KCM" Debbie shared. "I can't be Gloria, and Shannon isn't Kellie. Eric and Jake aren't Kenneth or Jeremy. But as Covenant Partners, we have the honor of flowing in their anointings. It doesn't get much better than that."

Parched for Power

Snowcapped peaks stood in the distance as a reminder of winter, but spring had begun to bloom in the Shenandoah Valley. Rushing rivers brimming with fish, lush green fields and warm weather brought boisterous crowds to The Filling Station that Friday night. Someone tuned his guitar at the microphone as the crowd buzzed with conversation and laughter. The door jingled open and everyone turned to see a stranger nod hello as he walked to the counter.

"I'll have a beer," the man said.

"We don't serve alcohol here, but let me pour you a cup of coffee," Eric offered. The man took his coffee and settled in a chair where he listened to the music, testimonies and prayers. Finally, he had something to say.

"I was on my way to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting when I got lost," he admitted. "The best I can figure I'm 80 miles from the meeting. When I found this place I was ready to drink. Instead, I sat here and listened to everything that's gone on this evening and it gave me some things to think about. I didn't treat my wife very well before I left, but now I'm going home to make things right."

When The Filling Station closed that night one man who'd been lost had found his way. He'd been parched, yet his thirst had been quenched. Eric and Debbie Sellers and Jake and Shannon Jacobs do what they do because they understand that the Church isn't a building, and the truest sermon is the life each of us lives. VICTORY

Become our Partner today!

To learn more about partnership, contact KCM today and ask for our free Partnership Information Pack which contains complete information about partnership, complimentary gifts and more.

Simply tick the box on the enclosed form, call +44 (0)1225 787310 or visit kcm.org.uk and Be a Part of Something BIG!



Eric and Debbie Sellers and Jake and Shannon Jacobs know from experience that God fulfills the dreams He gives His children. And they also know that being in partnership with Kenneth Copeland Ministries and receiving the teaching of the uncompromised Word of God is key to living in your dreams... especially when they involve reaching out and helping others meet Jesus!

As a Partner with KCM you can begin to experience the fulfillment of your dreams and help people around the world step into the life God has planned for them!

Ask the Lord if now is the time for you to become a Partner with KCM—if it's time for your dreams to be fulfilled!



GoodNewsGazette

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)

Set Free From Cancer

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008. I had a lumpectomy, chemo and radiation. At my first yearly checkup in May 2009, enlarged lymph nodes showed up. Doctors were sure cancer had returned and spread. I used your How to Receive Communion book three times daily, Dodie Osteen's scriptures, prayed, walked in love and got your Healing & Wellness—Your 10-Day Spiritual Action Plan.

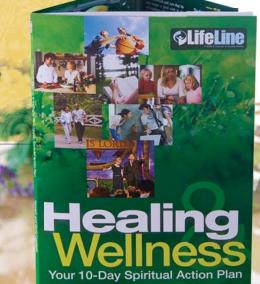
Praise God the biopsy was benign! Not only that, but the scope into my stomach showed only irritation. Your ministry has taught me so much and I am so thankful and blessed. I've since had great checkups.

H.B. :: Indiana

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Kenneth & Gloria

'I Knew I Was Healed'

During the last day of the Southwest Believers' Convention last year, my son and I drove to Fort Worth from Houston. My son wanted to attend the convention as his birthday gift. We arrived at the conference about 1 p.m. and I just knew Healing School was over, however I decided to go in and check. I told my son to drive around the corner and I'd be right out.

I didn't know where I was going, but somehow I entered the convention toward the front stage. Immediately Sister Gloria said, "We are going to pray for terminal diseases." I felt I should go up. The anointing was so strong I could barely walk to the front. Brother Copeland laid hands on me and I knew I was healed.

You then began to prophesy that God was draining poison out of someone's body and their family. You had no way of knowing I was diagnosed with mercury poisoning and the poison was transferred to my children through breast-feeding. As I continually obey God and thank Him for what He has done I feel better and better every day.

C.W. :: Texas

An Ever-Present Help

I gave my life to God many years ago, but after a couple of years I walked away (or was drawn away) by the lust of my own flesh. I know that during this time away from God He never left me. I could feel Him inside, but I would not let go of the flesh.

All the dumb things I did in my life—drinking, drugs, etc.—I could have been put in prison or even killed someone when I was drunk or on drugs behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Thanks be to God, He had plans for my life. About a year ago I became sick and had to go to the hospital. I gave my life back to Jesus. I have been healed by His stripes and become closer to Him than at any other time in my life. The best thing is that my daughter and her husband have given their lives to Jesus.

My wife is unsaved, but I am being a light to her and I know God is working in her life. I have always enjoyed your word and you have been a blessing to me.

David Blankenship:: Petersburg, Va.

ETERNAL HOPE

I really appreciate all the love you guys show me. I had been really down about not receiving a letter all week long and out of the blue the officer called my name for mail. After I opened your letter and read everything I was feeling so good. Mr. Copeland, you and your wife give me hope every time I think about giving up or think negatively. You always send me something to make me realize I'm special. Once again, thank you very much. I love you guys with all my heart.

J.D. :: Florida

Nothing Is Impossible

I had previously asked for prayer regarding a promotion. I had worked for more than five years without any indication of a promotion. God made it possible and gave me another job. The Word says there is nothing impossible with God. I would like to pass a word of gratitude to Kenneth Copeland Ministries for your unconditional support in my life. Thank you for your prayers. M.M.A. South Africa

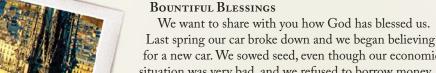
KCM Europe



Sowing and Reaping Works

I was in a financial crisis with my husband and we had not gotten any money we were supposed to receive from an insurance company for six months. There had been many problems with the company. The Lord had prompted us to sow into your ministry, so we obeyed. The day after I sowed my seed, we got the answers we had been waiting for! The insurance company said they would pay us the money they owed to us! Thank you very much for your teaching about sowing and reaping.

E.N. :: Sweden



for a new car. We sowed seed, even though our economic situation was very bad, and we refused to borrow money for a car we knew we couldn't pay for. And the Word tells us not to be in debt, so we stood in faith.

Our washing machine also broke down and we had to bring clothes to my mother-in-law's to wash for three months. We began praising and thanking God in the midst of these difficulties. I was also pregnant with our third child and with two small kids to take care of it wasn't easy to put food on the table. But every day we had food, thank God. We decided to have a lifestyle of thanksgiving and began to thank God for what we already had and what we didn't have yet.

At the end of the year we got money to buy a good, decent car and then the blessings started coming in. Our new washing machine came and we got new clothes for the kids. I'm so thankful to God that He takes care of us and blesses us. We love you, KCM, for giving us your teaching of the uncompromised Word of God.

J.S. :: Finland



Thank you so much for the gift of your love, kindness, blessings and the influence of your intercessory prayers upon my life and future. I still have and use the materials you sent me and I am exceedingly grateful that my life has greatly improved and my future is brighter than ever before because of your ministry.

Earlier this year a growth appeared in my body, died and dematerialized. I'm much healthier, walking and abounding in perfect, divine daily health by the power of God. Thank you for always being there!

E.B. :: United Kingdom

GOD DELIVERS

We would like to thank you for your support in prayer. We phoned you about my husband who had been out of work awhile. He had been let down after securing a new contract, then having to start the search all over again. Finally he was given a telephone interview and as a result got a contract to start the following week—wonderful answer to prayer!

I am so grateful to KCM for their support. It is an honor to be in partnership with a ministry with such sound teaching that we can tune in to on a daily basis. But the real victory goes to the heavenly Father who sustained us through this difficult time and supplied all our needs. Praise You, Jesus!

W.C. :: England



Employment Prayers Answered

Thank you for your prayers for my son to find a job. Knowing that you were standing with me in prayer was such an encouragement! He found a job and has come closer to God through this trial. The Lord be praised!

S.S. :: France

Medication-Free

I've had a stomach ulcer since last September. I asked for prayer and a prayer minister kindly phoned me and prayed-I was so surprised! It took three months but now I am healed and off medication. I am so grateful for your prayers.

J.L. :: United Kingdom

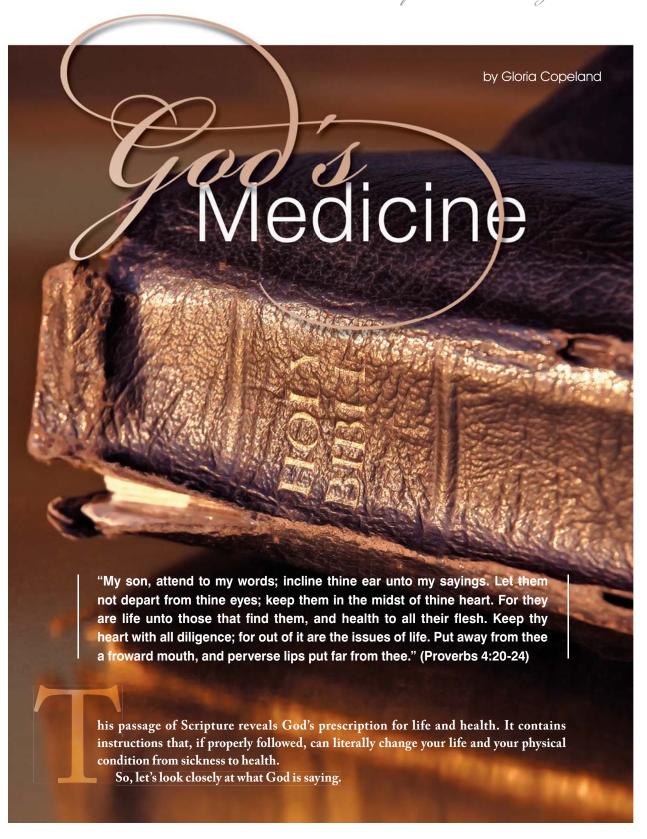
Business Is Booming!

A while back I asked you to pray for my business. Soon afterward I had a meeting in London with an English company, one I had admired for a long time. The meeting went well and they ordered 50 cardigans from me. This was a dream come true, since I have struggled for so long on my own in my career, marriage, just about everywhere.

When I turned 40 last year I sought God and really got on the love message from Kenneth Copeland and things started to change. My parents, brother and husband all benefited and we have a great bond now. I can thank the teachings of KCM for getting me closer to God's plan in my life.

After the meeting in London the company increased the order to 300! I am so blessed because it is great exposure for me. My husband's business is also doing well. I believe in THE BLESSING and we are proof. God is so good!

J.M. :: England



incline thine ear unto my sayings.



Looking at and giving your attention to God's Word brings life!

Attend to My Words

"My son, attend to my words..." That means you must give your undivided attention to God's Word and pay heed to what He says. When you attend to something, you give your attention to it. Give your time to the Word. Give thought and meditation to the Word. Give action to the Word. Continually give the Word first place in your life.

Isaiah 26:3 says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Your mind will be free from doubt when you keep your attention on God's Word. When you are trusting in His Word, you are trusting in Him.

God's Word will keep you in perfect peace.

Incline Thine Ears

Next, God said you must "incline thine ear unto my sayings."

You do that when you desire and go after the knowledge of God's Word and open your understanding to His Word. Attending meetings where the word of faith is being preached and listening to faith-filled tapes are ways to "incline your ear" and get the Word in your heart. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Faith comes by hearing the preached Word.

As you listen to what is being preached, listen with your *spiritual* ears as well. In Mark 4:23-25, Jesus tells us: "If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend. And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear. For to him who has will more be given..." (The Amplified Bible).

Every man to whom Jesus was speaking had physical ears. He was referring to receiving God's Word in the heart by listening to the Holy Spirit speak revelation knowledge.

You must listen with your spiritual ears as well as your physical ears.

Jesus was not talking about *passively* hearing. He said to listen, perceive and comprehend, and even be careful *how* you hear. The time you give to digesting the Word you hear will measure the return of the virtue (power) and knowledge that will come back to you through the Word.

The man who hears (or receives revelation knowledge) will be given more. If you desire to grow in the knowledge of God, be careful *how* you hear His Word.

Let Them Not Depart From Thine Eyes

It's also vitally important to keep your eyes on the Word of God. Don't look at circumstances or give your attention to feelings that are contrary to your healing. Look at and consider (or give thought to) the scriptures instead of your body. "Let them not depart from thine eyes."

Jesus said, "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light" (Matthew 6:22).

The eye is the *gateway* to the body. Keep the Word in your sight.

If your eye, or your attention, is on the darkness—the sickness—in your body, there will be no light to expel that darkness. If you focus on darkness, your eye will be unsound; therefore, your body will be unsound.

But if your eye is single, focused on the Word of God, your *whole* body will be full of light. The single eye allows no darkness to enter.

Looking at and giving your attention to sickness brings death. Looking at and giving your attention to God's Word brings life! In some cases, what you give your attention to could mean the difference between life and death.

Keep Them in the Midst of Thine Heart

Allow God's words to abide in you. "Keep them in

keep them in the midst of thine heart.

For they are life unto those that find them .



Inclining your ear
and refusing to allow
the Word to depart
from your eyes keeps
God's Word alive in
your heart.

the midst of thine heart" by meditating on the Scriptures and acting on what you hear. The portion of God's Word you act on is the portion of His Word that is living in you. Continually feed yourself with God's Word in order to keep the Word producing the force of faith.

Inclining your ear and refusing to allow the Word to depart from your eyes keeps God's Word alive in your heart. Proverbs 4 says, "For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

The Word is God's medicine.

Jesus said, My words "are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

Attending to the Word with your ears, your eyes and your heart will cause you to live in divine health. It will become as hard for you to get sick as it once was for you to be healed! The power of the Word will be made life and health to your body continually.

So "keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). The forces (issues) of life come from the midst of your heart. The Word in your heart produces life and health in your body.

Put Away a Froward Mouth

Once your heart gets full, it begins to overflow. Then "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34).

The last step in taking God's divine prescription is to speak, not words of sickness and disease, but rather words of healing and life, faith and hope. "Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee" (Proverbs 4:24).

For faith to work, it must be in two places: in your heart and in your mouth (Deuteronomy 30:14; Romans 10:10). You must speak God's Word!

Several times since I have learned to walk in faith, almost before I realized it, I became too sick to stay on my feet. (I have learned since to go to the Word at the first sign of a symptom and immediately take a dose of God's medicine!) I got my Bible, turned to 1 Peter 2:24, read it aloud, and by faith received my healing. I also played the New Testament on tape. Usually, I went to sleep listening to the Word. In a few hours or by the next morning, I was completely healed.

God's medicine effected a healing and a cure in my body.

To be sick and receive healing was not God's best for me. To receive healing is good, but to live in divine health is better.

To fill God's prescription for life and health, you must diligently attend to His Word. Give the Word the place of authority in your life and spend time in it every day. The forces of life and power that come out of your heart will be in direct proportion to the amount of Word that goes into you.

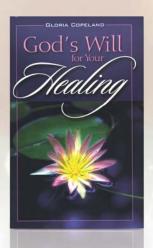
You can't overdose on God's medicine. In fact, the more Word you take, the stronger you become. You have nothing to lose but sickness and disease.

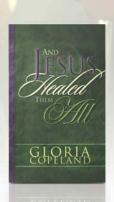
So, today, begin taking God's medicine and putting His Word to work. It's your personal prescription for life and health! VICTORY

and health to all their flesh. ...



Just knowing God has the power to heal is not enough to make you well

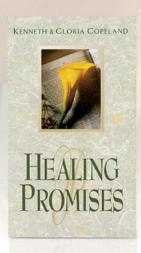




You have to know more than that! You have to know for sure He'll use that power to heal you. And, you have to know how to reach out and receive that healing every time you need it.

You'll discover those things—and much more—as you dig into the books contained in this package by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Learn:

- What to do the moment you being to experience the symptoms of sickness
- How to persist in faith when the going gets tough





- How to rid yourself of faith defeating traditions that are keeping you down
- How taking God's prescription every day can stop sickness before it begins and keep you in divine health

Don't waste time wishing...wanting...and hoping for your healing. Get hold of these important teachings and start receiving it! You're sure to use them—and share them—again and again. They're powerful medicine!

God's Medicine Package

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incline thine ear unto my sayings.

From the Top of the World

to the Bottom and All the Way Around

e are here for you and because of you! > Along with our worldwide family of Partners and Friends, Kenneth Copeland Ministries has been ministering the uncompromised Word of God around the world for 43 years. > Through every media "voice" God has made available to us, we have brought people from the milk to the meat of the Word. And through our partnership, God has grown His family in Christ and taught them to live victoriously. > That's the mission God has given Kenneth Copeland Ministries—to be here for you, His people, and to partner with you to realize His plan for all mankind.

Worldwide Television Broadcast

The *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast is meeting the needs of people and changing lives as it airs daily and Sundays for 1,831 hours each week worldwide—reaching a potential audience of more than 965 million people! Kenneth and Gloria and all the Copeland family members take part to share their anointings through the broadcast, which is also aired in Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian.

Faith-Filled Magazines

More than 569,000 faith-filled, Word-based *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazines are mailed each month. A constant source of encouragement to our Partners and Friends, we publish, print and mail FREE magazines to 135 countries on five continents. And local international versions of our magazine are available through all our worldwide Internet Web sites! The magazine is also translated into Spanish, German and Russian.

Internet >> Reaching you—right where you are!

The KCM Internet outreach continues to increase our

distribution of the Word of God, incorporating the latest technology to better meet your needs. Every voice of KCM's ministry is at work 24 hours every day, everywhere the Internet reaches around the world. Visit each of these KCM Web sites and see what the Lord is doing!

United States : kcm.org
Australia : kcm.org.au
Canada : kcmcanada.ca
Europe : kcm.org.uk
Africa : kcm.org.za
Ukraine : kcm.org.ua

Spanish Language: kcm.org/es



Worldwide Family Meetings!

While the national outreach of KCM extends across the entire United States, its international reach is very broad as well, with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland ministering in places like Venezuela, Italy, China and Australia.

The Copeland family has always considered KCM's Partners part of their family...and you truly are! They are



honored to now be going out to join you for times of refreshing, fellowship and revelation through Victory Campaigns, prayer conferences, mission weekend fellowships and so much more. And they will all have an integral role in the upcoming Homecoming 2010—the 30th annual Southwest Believers' Convention.

Every KCM meeting is planned to saturate you in the Word, which has the power to bring healing to your body, produce miracles in your finances and restore relationships in your life. You can find all the family members' itineraries at kcm.org.

Reaching Partners Personally Through Prayer and Service

Although Kenneth and Gloria Copeland preach to hundreds of thousands of people every day, their message and love for their Partners and Friends remains personal. The heart of our service teams is to build better, stronger relationships with you. So we're here to pray with you over any need, to rejoice with you about the victories in your life, to initiate calls to touch base with you from time to time, to answer questions you may have, to receive product requests and to correspond with you by mail. The service team members work together around the clock with a single purpose in mind—to minister to you in a personal way!

KCM Worldwide Offices Are Here for You!

Australia >> For 31 years KCM Australia has ministered in Australia, Asia and the Pacific Rim and now has almost 38,000 Partners and Friends. In China we have supplied the Word of God to hungry Christians in the underground church by printing and distributing books in the Chinese language.

Canada >> For 34 years KCM Canada has reached across the country from east to west to bring God's Word to the nation's people, and now ministers to almost 20,000 Partners and Friends. Our new ministry center has allowed us to serve our Partners and Friends in Canada even better.

The Road to Victory

I thank you all, dear Gloria and Kenneth, your family, and the KCM team for the prayers and spiritual support you gave me for a long time. Your books, letters and the BVOV magazine and any other materials coming from you paved the road to victory. Thank you again for your last letter and the knowledge and wisdom in it. I am free and overwhelmed by joy. Your love and prayers gave me the necessary strength.



College Fees Waived

I have a testimony to share related to my college fee which has been totally waived. I gave this prayer request to your ministry and the issue has been resolved miraculously. Praise the Lord Jesus for His works.

M.M. :: Pakistan

Europe >> For 28 years KCM Europe, with more than 19,000 Partners and Friends, has been committed to taking the uncompromised Word of God throughout the United Kingdom and into neighboring European nations. Approximately 2,000 German-speaking people across Europe are receiving a special monthly edition of the *BVOV* magazine in the German language!

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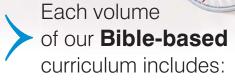
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Get in the Believing Habit of Believing

I've been called a lot of things over the years, and *gullible* is one of them. >> Maybe I am gullible. But I would much rather be gullible than hardhearted.

For instance, if a guy came up to me and said he had fallen out of the space shuttle last week, drifted through outer space a couple days, then re-entered the earth's atmosphere, splashed down in the Pacific Ocean and swam to California under the power of the Holy Spirit...of course, in the natural I'd pay no attention to a wild tale like that. But when the Holy Spirit is brought into it that changes everything—I would believe him. At least, I would believe him until someone proved otherwise.

Now, I realize some people might think it would be foolish to believe a story like that. But they can think what they like. I just make it a habit to always believe. I choose to live on the believing side of life.

I purpose to stay on the positive side...the side that says, "All things are possible!"

Have the Heart to Believe

We know of at least one time when Jesus got on to His disciples for being hardhearted. It all started when Thomas made a faithless decision after hearing reports about Jesus being raised from the dead. Thomas told his fellow disciples, "Except I shall see [Jesus]...I will not believe" (John 20:25).

Well, not long afterward, Jesus "appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen" (Mark 16:14).

Jesus called Thomas "faithless" (John 20:27). And rightly so. Thomas rejected the Word of God. He rejected the things Jesus had said for the past three years. And he rejected the testimonies he had heard of Jesus' resurrection.

Thomas wasn't the only one, however. The other disciples didn't believe what Jesus had told them concerning His death and resurrection. They, too, rejected the testimonies of those who said they had seen Jesus alive.

So Jesus rebuked them all for their "hardness of heart." Their hearts were hard because none of them was in the habit of believing.

Like many believers today, the disciples had processed almost everything they heard and saw through their minds, instead of their hearts.

Faith Is an Action Word

A lot of Christians fail to understand that faith is a definite, purposeful act of the heart. It is not a mental exercise.

Accepting something as fact is not faith. That's merely giving mental assent. It's reasoning with your mind. You can mentally acknowledge that something is true and still never really believe it in your heart.

Real Bible faith is a matter of the heart, and it carries with it God-aiven responsibilities.

A man once went to Jesus for some help with his son.

"Master," he called out to Jesus, "I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; and wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away..." (Mark 9:17-18).

Then he challenged Jesus with this statement: "If thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us" (verse 22).

When the father pleaded for compassion, Jesus threw the responsibility back on him, saying, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (verse 23).

The boy's father was trying to get Jesus to do his believing for him. But Jesus cannot do that.

Finally the man broke down in tears and cried out, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" (verse 24). He was believing in his heart, yet he was having trouble with it in his head. His heart was saying, I believe, I believe, I believe! But his mind was resisting.

Had this man known Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding," there would have been no problem with his head. He could have trusted more in his heart and less in his head.

In the end, when the father cried out in faith, "Lord, I believe," he enabled Jesus to cast the deaf and dumb spirit out of his son and the boy was healed.

Jesus will do the work for you, but He cannot do the believing for you. You have to do that.

But remember, heart faith grows out of God's Word.

If you want to condition your heart to be in the habit of believing, then you must give God's Word first place in your life. You must feed it into your heart constantly. And you have to realize that the Word is actually God speaking to you... personally. It's not just a lot of information for your head to carry around.

Then, you must make the quality decision that your body and all its physical senses will never override the Word of God in any given situation.

If your body screams, I'm sick! I'm sick! I'm sick!...don't allow that natural, physical evidence to be the final authority about what you believe. Go to the Word as your final authority. And the Word says, "By [Jesus'] stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

So abide in the Word and let the Word abide in you (John 15:7).

It will get out of your head and into your heart. It will get you out of the *impossible* and into the *possible*. You will get into the habit of living on the believing side of life. VICTORY



This article is an excerpt from Gloria Copeland's new book, *Live Long, Finish Strong.

Guide to Longevity

You have probably heard this: "I don't like all this talk about obeying God's commands. It sounds like legalistic bondage to me." | Those kinds of comments baffle me. I don't see how anyone who is born again could consider obedience to God a form of bondage. If we are truly born again, we love God and we know He loves us. We have a deep desire to do the things that are pleasing in His sight. When we don't do those things, we're not satisfied and feel at odds, not just with God, but with our own hearts. | Why is that?

When we made Jesus Lord of our lives, God imprinted Himself inside us. He fulfilled the age-old promise recorded in Hebrews 8:10-11:

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: and they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.





For born-again believers who love the Lord, obeying God's instructions isn't a burden—it's a blessing! For us, the Bible isn't just a set of rules we're required to keep. It's a marvelous way of life. It's a divine Guidebook that tells

us how to live the way we were born to live—in total victory. God gave it to us because He loves us and wants us to know about all the good things He has in store for us. He wants us to learn how to believe for and walk in His blessings.

People who aren't born again, of course, can't live by that Guidebook







or receive those blessings because they are still bound by the sin nature of Adam. They don't have the ability to consistently obey the commands of God. For the most part, they can't even understand the Bible. The revelations that we, as born-again believers, get excited about don't make sense to them. First Corinthians 2:9-14 explains it this way:

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I especially like the way the *Expanded Translation* by Kenneth Wuest phrases that last verse: "The unregenerate man of the highest intellectual attainments does not grant access to the things of the Spirit of God, for to him they are folly, and he is not able to come to know them because they are investigated in a spiritual realm."

Only the born-again person who has received the righteousness of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit can understand and live the lifestyle of victory revealed in the Bible. Unsaved people just can't do it. Their minds are blinded by the devil's darkness. They are slaves to sin. For them, trying to obey God's commands is impossible and results only in failure and condemnation.

The new birth, however, changes everything. It sets us free from sin. It enables us to fellowship with God and gives us His nature. It's not hard for born-again believers to receive and obey God's commandments. It's easy. It's what we were made to do. We have God's own Spirit dwelling in us to strengthen us, to be our Helper, Intercessor, Standby and Comforter. We have Bibles to read and good ministers to preach to us. Most important

of all, we have the Holy Spirit Himself to remind us of everything God has said (John 14:26).

Instead of complaining the way sinners do and saying, "The Word of God is too high a standard to live up to. Who can do it?" we can joyfully paraphrase Romans 10:8: "The Word is near us, even in our hearts and our mouths!"

Maybe you're born again but haven't yet received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. If so, I encourage you to do it right away so you can take full advantage of His wonderful help. You need Him living inside you to live a victorious Christian life. Ken and I didn't know that when we first became born again, so we struggled along without being filled with the Holy Spirit for a few years. We didn't make much spiritual progress during that time because we didn't have all the equipment God meant for us to have. We had the Holy Spirit in a measure simply because we were born again, but without the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we couldn't receive the fullness of His ministry.

You might say we had only the "bare bones" of Christianity during those years. The Holy Spirit was able to get a few things across to us when we read the Bible, but most of them were elementary. Eventually, Ken's mother and dad took us to a Holy Spirit church service. It seemed pretty wild to me because the only Christian meetings I'd attended were all so quiet you could hear a pin drop. Even so, I figured if Ken's parents liked it, it was probably OK. At the end of the service, the minister asked those who wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit to come forward. Ken looked at his mother and said, "Is that something I should do?"

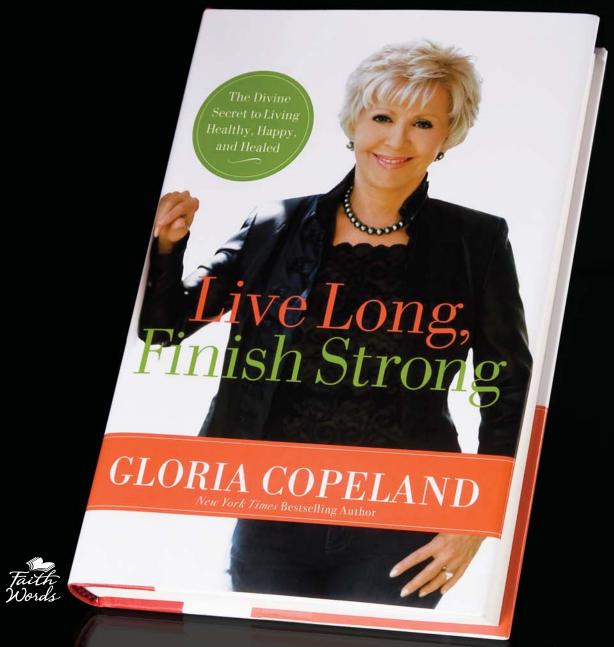
She said it was, so he went up for prayer.

I was more hesitant. I wasn't sure the Baptism in the Holy Spirit was a good thing, so I went upstairs, smoked a cigarette and thought about it for a while. It's just pitiful when we're in the dark, isn't it? There I was, smoking a cigarette, trying to figure out if something plainly written in the Bible is right!

I couldn't make up my mind, so after a while I went back into the meeting and took my seat. Meanwhile, the people who had been praying for Ken decided he should lay hands on me and pray for me. When he did, *he* started speaking in tongues. I received the Holy Ghost the next night. What a difference the Holy Spirit inside us made in our lives!

From that time on, we began to grow spiritually as never before. Our desires changed for the better. The Holy Spirit began to do for us exactly what Jesus said He'd do. He took us to the next level by teaching us the things we needed to know (John 14:26).

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Gloria Copeland, affirms that God's will for us is to enjoy length of days and years of life worth living. He'll give us revelations of His goodness and show us things in His Word that others don't see—things that will help us live long and strong.

I can't imagine trying to live long and finish strong without the Holy Spirit's help.

The commands God gives are for our own good

He showed us truths in the Bible that set us free. He showed us how to live in victory.

In addition to revealing to us truths from the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit also began to lead us in the day-to-day details of our lives. My, how that helped us! We were able to avoid some big mistakes and escape some dangerous traps of the devil by paying attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and following His guidance in our hearts.

Sometimes people ask me, "Do I really have to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? I'm not really comfortable with that speaking-in-tongues stuff."

Of course, the answer is no. No one has to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. God won't force us to receive His gift. But I always assure them that life will be better if they do. Things are so much easier when you have the Teacher and Guide inside you. It's wonderful in times of emergency or danger or despair to sense Him rising up within you, giving you direction. It's such a blessing to know He is with you and in you.

Frankly, I can't imagine trying to live long and finish strong without the Holy Spirit's help. There have never been as many crazy people running loose on the streets as there are now. No place is safe. In today's world, it's not unusual for some deranged person to start shooting people in a school, a store or even a church.

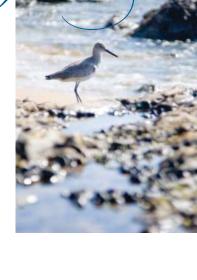
Not long ago, a relative of Ken's who is a high school coach was shot while in his office. The shooter was the father of one of his students. The man was angry because the coach didn't let his son play on the ball team. By the mercy of God, Ken's relative survived, but if that father had gotten his way, he wouldn't have. He shot him at close range, fully intending to kill him—just because of a ball game!

We live in a sin-ridden, mixed-up world. We need all the help we can get from God if we want to live safe and healthy for 120 years. We not only need His Word, we need the Baptism in the Holy Spirit so we can hear His voice saying, "Don't go there." "Don't do this." "Stay away from that place today." Instructions like these can lengthen our lives.

For Our Own Good

Actually, all the fears and arguments about Christians being in legalistic bondage to the Bible melt away once we understand that everything the Lord tells us to do, both in the Scriptures and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, is meant to help us. The commands God gives are for our own good. When we obey, we please Him because we promote our own well-being and open the door to His nothing-missing, nothing-broken, *shalom* kind of peace. We tap in to the wonderful treasure described in Psalm 31:19, which says: "Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!" God gave us His Word and His Spirit so we can retrain our souls to think as He thinks, act as He acts and enjoy the goodness He has laid up for us. He gave us His commands to help us learn to avoid sin—not because He wants to deprive us of pleasure or box us in with rules, but so we can have abundant life.

You see, God knows, even when we don't, that sin will kill us. He never loses sight of the fact that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). That's the reason He commands us to stay away from it. That's why He warns us to avoid not only the sins we consider to



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be big (such as murder), but also the sins we think are small and relatively harmless (not walking in love).

Let's look at worry, for example. God understood long before medical science that it is dangerous, so He told us in the Bible to rid ourselves of it. He assured us in His Word that He would take care of us and commanded us not to stress out and be fearful about the future. Iesus said:

I tell you, *don't worry* about everyday life-whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not. And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little faith! So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. So don't worry about tomorrow... (Matthew 6:25-34, New Living Translation-96, italics

Three times in that one passage of Scripture, God commanded us not to worry. But He didn't do it just so we'd have another rule to keep. He did it because, as research has recently revealed, worry and stress shorten our lives. They are major causes of disease, premature

aging and early death. Thousands of years ago, when the Bible was being written, people didn't realize stress can cause heart disease and strokes and contributes to cancer and countless other ailments. But God did. So, to help us avoid those things, He gave us instructions such as:

Salvation Prayer

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 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 if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13;

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 #K0602, tick the circle on the order form that comes with this magazine or call +44 (0)1225 787310.

- "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." (Philippians 4:6, *NLT-96*)
- "Be not afraid, only believe." (Mark 5:36)

Ken and I learned how to obey these commands very early in our Christian lives. We had lots of opportunities, especially in the realm of finances, because we had very little money. There were many times back then when we didn't know how we were going to pay our bills or buy groceries, but instead of worrying about it, we cast the care of it over onto God and trusted Him to take care of us.

Years later, I was very glad we learned to do that because as our ministry grew larger, the bills grew, too. Instead of being utility and rent bills of \$50 or \$100, they became million-dollar television bills. Do you know what we discovered? The same faith in God's promises and obedience to His Word that brought us victory when our needs were small, still brought us victory when our needs became greater.

Only God knows how much our lives will be prolonged because we've followed His instructions about not worrying. Only He knows how many years we might have lost had we disobeyed Him and gotten stressed out over money issues. I have no doubt the pressure of it would have affected our health by now. But thank God, the Word protected us and kept that from

happening! It enabled us to have peaceful days even when we were facing financial challenges.

The Word worked—as it always does—for our good.

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Creflo Dollar joins Kenneth Copeland for another week, as they focus on the importance of renewing your mind with the Word, so you can be stable, full of joy and victorious!

12-16

God's Grace for Your Ordained Place

Kenneth Copeland welcomes Keith Moore as they discuss the importance of being in the right place—the place God ordained for you.

19-23

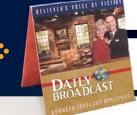
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