



Believer's Voice of

VICTORY

October 2012

Partakers of the
Heavenly
calling

by Kenneth Copeland

Standing;

Despite the Odds

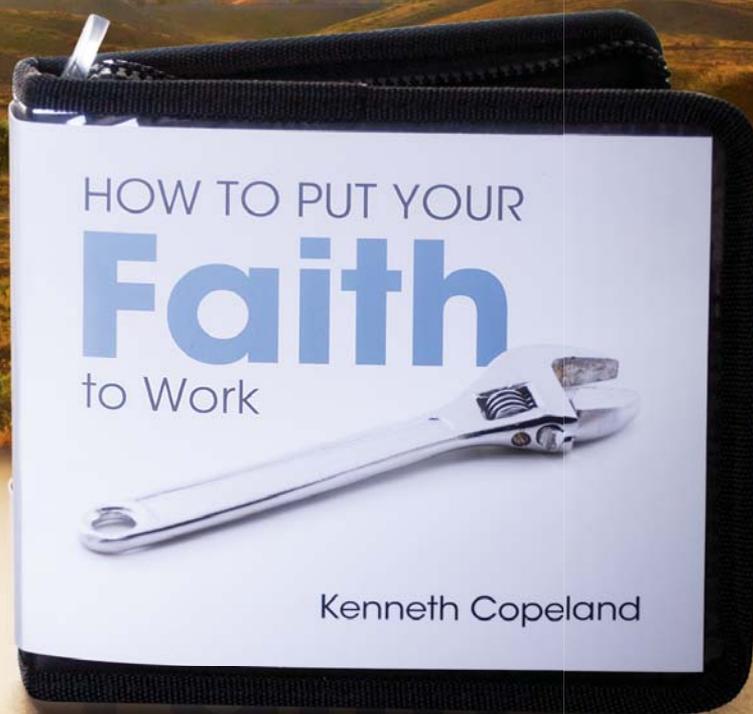
by
Melanie
Henry
{page 8}

The odds of Rifle Schutte surviving progressive multiple sclerosis were slim to none—until he discovered the true source for his healing.



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Partakers of the Heavenly Calling

by Kenneth Copeland

Ever wonder where Jesus is right now—today? He is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven, and He is upholding all things—the victory, authority, healing, prosperity and abundant life that have been guaranteed to every believer—by The WORD of His power!

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by Kenneth Copeland

Before Jesus returned to the Father, He gave His disciples all authority and dominion in heaven and earth. And He expects us to use that authority to create an atmosphere of faith and establish His kingdom wherever we go, because He is with us.

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Read about real-life faith triumphs from people just like you.

features



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 39 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.

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Standing, Despite the Odds

by Melanie Henry
Young and healthy, Paul "Rifle" Schutte was shocked when what he thought was a case of the flu was diagnosed as multiple sclerosis. Doctors gave him no hope for a "normal" life, but God gave Rifle a brand-new life.

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Many Christians see faith as a means of receiving from God and having their needs met. While that is true, there is another, often overlooked dimension to faith: It is a protective force.

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A Future Full of God's Promises

by Gloria Copeland
You have a good and glorious life ahead of you right here on this earth. And what's even better is the life that's waiting for you after that!



Take It!

by Gloria Copeland
God never meant for His children to spend hours talking to Him about everything in the world and walk away with nothing to show for it—to just pray in general without receiving anything specific in return. He expects us to *receive* all He has for us.

Offers and prices shown in this magazine are valid until October 31, 2012.

Pass this magazine on to a friend. **It's a great way to recycle!**

Kenneth & Gloria

by Kenneth Copeland

Partakers of the *heavenly calling*

Have you ever wondered what Jesus is doing right now—today? » Most believers haven't. They know what He did in the past. They can tell you without hesitation about His ministry on earth, His death, resurrection and ascension. And they can testify about how those things have changed their lives. But if you ask them what Jesus is doing right now, at this very moment, they're likely to look confused.

"Well..." they might say, "I suppose He's in heaven seated at the right hand of the Father."

Yes, He is. But what's He doing there? Is He on vacation? Is He just sitting around in heaven with no particular purpose?

"To be honest, Brother Copeland, I don't have the vaguest idea. Is it important for me to know?"

It is if you want to see Him working on your behalf in an on-going, ever-increasing way—and I'm sure you do. That's something all believers want. Speaking for myself, I can certainly say there's nothing in the world I desire more than a



manifestation of Jesus in my life.

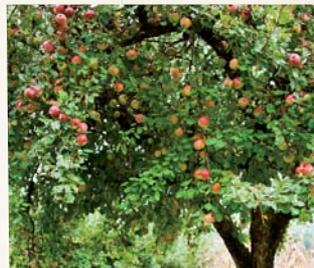
That's why I'm so thrilled about what He said in John 14:21: "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth

them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

Over the years as I've studied and meditated on that promise, two things in particular have dawned on me: First, I've realized that keeping Jesus' commands includes more than obeying the Ten Commandments. It means seeking out and following all the instructions He gives us both in His WORD and by His Spirit.



I'd been speaking the words of God. They were in my heart and in my mouth.



Second, I've realized that for us to see Jesus in manifestation we need to know what we're looking for—which means we need to know what He is doing today.

How do we find that out?

The same way we find out about His commandments—by reading the Bible. The New Testament book of Hebrews, especially, provides wonderful revelation about Jesus' present day ministry. In the very first chapter, it says:

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and *upholding all things by the word of his power*, when he had by

So when the pressure was on, those words took control.

Jesus is upholding all things
by The WORD of His power,

we are the ones releasing His WORD in the earth.

himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (verses 1-3, *emphasis mine*).

Now, in the light of those verses, let me ask you the same question I asked earlier. What is Jesus doing while He's seated at the right hand of God?

He is upholding all things by The WORD of His power!

He's upholding THE BLESSING of Abraham. He's upholding all of God's exceedingly great and precious promises. He's upholding the victory, authority, healing, prosperity and abundant life that have been guaranteed to every believer through the New Covenant.

That's what the resurrected, glorified Jesus has been appointed by God to do! It's His divine calling. As Hebrews 5:10 says, He is "called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec."

Most people these days think of a priest as little more than a religious figurehead. But the word actually means much more than that. By definition, a *priest* is "a minister or administrator; a person who stewards and operates in authority over something; a person who's been given the power to implement certain policies and bring them to pass."

That's the capacity in which Jesus operates today as head of the Body of Christ. He administrates, implements and brings to pass the New Covenant. He brings all things into line with it. He upholds its authority by The WORD of His power.

Joint Heirs/ Joint Responsibilities

"Brother Copeland, if that's what Jesus is doing, why don't I see more blessings being upheld in my life? Why do so many things seem to be falling apart?"

Because Jesus isn't the only one involved in this operation. You and I are His "joint-heirs" (Romans 8:17). We have joint responsibility with Him in the administration of our divine inheritance. We have a definite role to fulfill.

Hebrews 3:1-2 makes that crystal clear. In just a few simple words, it spells out not only Jesus' part in upholding all things but ours too. It says: "Wherefore,

holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; who was faithful to him that appointed him."

Notice that in these verses Jesus is called an apostle. The word *apostle* means "a sent one." In this case, it refers to someone who has been sent by God to accomplish a specific purpose.

Why is that important?

Because Jesus always operates in line with the Father's will. So, once we understand His apostolic calling we know what He is going to do. He's always going to operate within the parameters of that calling. He's never going to function outside of it. I realize this might shock some people but it's true: Jesus doesn't just manifest Himself any way He wants. He always manifests Himself according to His God-given mission as the Apostle and High Priest of our profession.

Look again at that last phrase. What does it say that Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of?

Our profession!

The word *profession* can also be translated *confession*. It's a word that, in the Greek, means "to say the same thing." When you apply it in this context, it reveals our responsibility as joint heirs with Jesus and partakers of the heavenly calling. We are responsible to say the same thing He says. Then He, as our Apostle and High Priest, is responsible to bring it to pass.

In other words, we're in this thing together! Jesus is upholding all things by The WORD of His power, and we are the ones releasing His WORD in the earth.

Angels, Mountains and Idle Words

What kinds of things happen when we speak that WORD?

For one thing, angels go into motion. They get busy on our behalf.

"What? You can't be serious!" someone might say. "Why would angels do anything for me?"

For two reasons: First, the Bible says they are "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). You're one of the heirs so the angels work for you. Second, they're programmed by God to "do his commandments,

hearkening unto the voice of his word" (Psalm 103:20). So when you say the same thing God does, they act to bring those things to pass.

If, on the other hand, you say anything else, they either ignore you—or just stare at you in astonishment. Angels don't have any idea what to do with words of doubt and unbelief. They're baffled by them. They probably scratch their heads in wonder when believers say things like, "Every year I get sick on my vacation. It happened last year and it will happen again this year. It never fails!"

I can just imagine one angel saying to another, "Why do you think that guy keeps confessing that he'll get sick on his vacation? Does he enjoy that?"

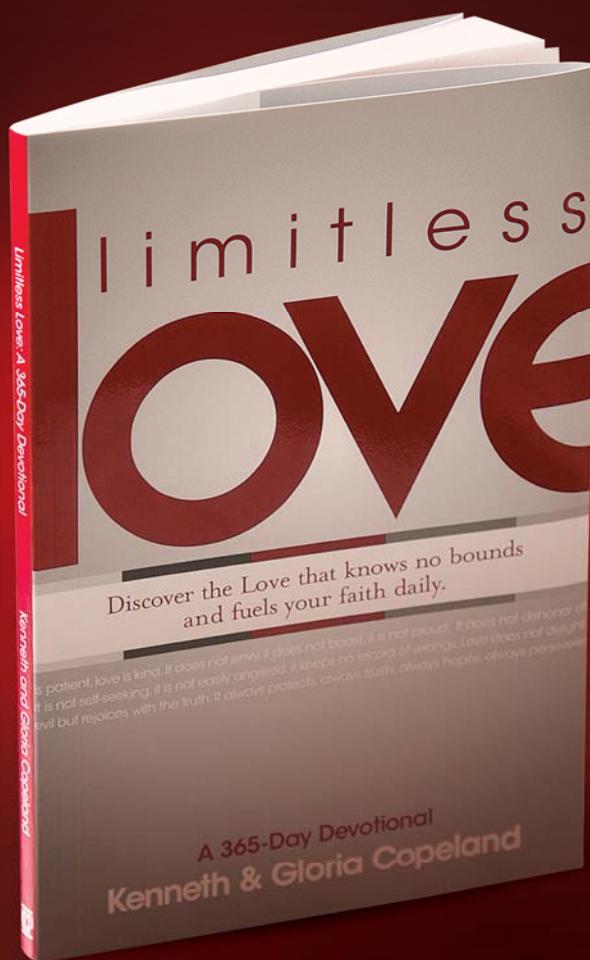
"I don't know. It makes no sense to me!"

I know it sounds funny. But it's really not. That kind of talk is a sin against God! It's the reason we don't see any more than we do of His WORD being upheld in the Church. Instead of saying what Jesus says, too many of His people have been saying the opposite. They've been talking about how God isn't blessing them, how nothing ever goes right for them, how bad the economy is, how rotten the government is and all kinds of other negative things.

Then they go to church and pray, cry and beg for Jesus to manifest Himself. But how can He do it? As the God-appointed Apostle and High Priest of our confession, His assignment is to bring to pass His WORD in our mouths, so He has to wait for us to say the same thing He is saying!

No wonder Jesus said "that every idle [or non-working] word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of

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judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matthew 12:36-37). Every word you and I say is supposed to accomplish something. We’re like God. We are speaking spirits created in His image.

Our words are supposed to be filled with power. They’re supposed to remove mountains that are standing in the way of God’s will.

Isn’t that what Jesus told His disciples in Mark 11:22-24? When they asked Him how He killed the fruitless fig tree with His words, didn’t He tell them they could use their words to release mountain-moving power?

Sure He did! He said: “Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (Mark 11:22-23).

Jesus in the Cockpit

I don’t mind telling you, when I first heard those verses preached under the anointing more than 40 years ago, I hit them like a dog hitting a bone. I thought, *This is it! This is how this mess in my life is going to get straightened out!*

Then another thought crossed my mind. *I don’t see how my words could change anything.*

Since it’s the job of the Holy Spirit to give us insight into such things, I asked Him to help me. Sure enough, He showed me what I needed to see: that it’s Jesus backing His WORD in my mouth that moves the mountain! It’s His power that does the work!

This isn’t based on me or my ability. It’s based on what Jesus did for me when He declared me His blood brother and joint heir of the New Covenant. He’s the One who made me the righteousness of God. He’s the One who made me a partaker of His divine calling and commanded me to speak His WORD. He’s the authority behind this deal.

So it doesn’t matter whether I’m talking to a fig tree or a mountain, when I’m saying the same thing He said, my words are going to come to pass. He’s going to make sure of it!

I’ve been watching Him manifest Himself that way in my life for decades now. The first year Gloria and I stepped out in ministry, we spoke His WORD over the mountain of debt I’d accumulated and He removed it. In just 11 months, what had looked to me like an impossible sum was completely paid off.

He’s still doing the same kind of thing for me today. Since that first year, we’ve never borrowed again. I don’t have any debts anymore, but at 75 years old I have some other mountains to speak to.

A few years ago, for example, it came time for me, as a pilot, to get a type rating in the Citation X, the fastest civilian airplane on the planet. The training took three weeks and the first thing the instructor said was this. “I am retired from the United States Navy and I have flown every plane in the Navy’s inventory. None of them required training as intense as the training on the Citation X.”

Right away, the devil started beating me over the head. *You’re too old for this!* he said. *Your reaction time is too slow to be flying this airplane. You need to back off and let these kids do it, old man!*

He might have turned out to be right, too, if it hadn’t been for my good friend, Dr. David Weeter. He came up to me later and said, “I need to give you this scripture.” Then he quoted Psalm 119:98-100: “Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for [thy commandments] are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.”

Those verses were exactly what I needed. I put them in my mouth, started saying the same thing Jesus says about me, and made it through the training just fine. When it was over, I aced the oral exam.

Then, during the four-hour check ride, I was faced with a situation designed to be a trap. My co-pilot, Duane Flanagan, identified it and started to reprogram the computer accordingly but, given the situation, there wasn’t enough time. “Forget it,” I said. “We don’t need it.” Then I reached up and flipped the switch on short-range navigation and flew the old-fashioned way.

I probably would not have even thought to do that if I’d been speaking the words of the devil for the previous three weeks. If I’d been talking about how afraid I was of flunking the training and what a slow-thinking old man I am, we would have been in a mess.

But I’d been speaking the words of God. They were in my heart and in my mouth. So when the pressure was on, those words took control. Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of my profession, manifested Himself right there in the cockpit. Together, we shot the approach and landed with no problems whatsoever... joint heirs of THE BLESSING of God. VICTORY



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VENEZUELA Victory Campaign September 28-29

Maracaibo, Venezuela No registration for this event

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Kenneth and/or Gloria Copeland

8 Days of Glory: October 8-15

Voice of Victory Church
449 County Road 165 | Autaugaville, AL 36003
1-334-465-2200 | 8daysofglory.com

Prayer Mountain Annual Prayer Conference:

October 25-29 (Billye Brim Ministries)
Hilton Branson Convention Center
200 Sycamore St. | Branson, MO 65616
1-417-336-4877 | billyebrim.org

Victory Christian Center of San Angelo: November 18

1620 Sunset Drive | San Angelo, TX 76904
1-325-942-7520 | vccsa.net

Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher

El Shaddai International Christian Center: October 14

723 S. Airport Drive | Weslaco, TX 78596
1-956-968-8814 | elshaddai.org

Toronto International Celebration Church: October 28

190 Railside Road | Toronto, ON M1A 1A1
Canada | 1-416-497-4940 | ticc.ca

Grace Television Network: October 29

190 Railside Road | Toronto, ON M1A 1A1
Canada | 1-416-497-4940 | ticc.ca

The Jim Bakker Show: November 7

180 Grace Chapel Road | Blue Eye, MO 65611
1-417-779-9000 | jimbakkershow.com

Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans: November 11

The Welk Theatre | 1984 State Highway 165
Branson, MO 65616 | 1-800-808-9355
welkresorts.com/branson

Faith and Wisdom Church: November 11

162 Industrial Park Drive, Suite J | Hollister, MO 65672
1-417-335-9991 | fwcbranson.com

Glory House of Prayer 3rd Anniversary Celebration: November 17-18

1869 Central Ave. | Albany, NY 12205
1-518-986-6755 | gloryhouseofprayer.org

Victory Christian Center:

January 25-27, 2013
11520 Ellerslie Road SW | Edmonton, AB T6W 1A2
Canada | 1-780-988-5433 | vcc.org

Faith Bible Fellowship of El Paso: February 24, 2013

13921 Montana Ave. # 5 | El Paso, TX 79938
1-915-857-0200 | fbfep.com

Walk on the Water Faith Church: March 10, 2013

959 Old State Park Road | Osage Beach, MO 65065
1-573-348-9777 | faithman.org

Jubilee Church: March 23-24, 2013

De Bunthoef | Bloemenhof #2
Oosterhout (NB) | The Netherlands | jubilee.nl

Rhema Bible Church: March 30-31, 2013

Stadhalle Bonn-Bad Godesberg | Koblenzer Str. 80
53177 Bonn | Germany
rhema-germany.de/home.0.html?&L=1

Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans: November 10-11, 2013

The Welk Theatre
1984 State Highway 165 | Branson, MO 65616
1-800-808-9355 | welkresorts.com/branson

Riley Stephenson, KCM's Evangelistic Outreach Minister

Halloween Block Party Outreach: October 27-28

Abundant Life Church
9365 Hooper Road | Athens, OH 45701
1-740-593-7500 | theabundantlifetoday.org

Life Church: October 30-November 1

5910 Elevator Road | Roscoe, IL 61073
1-815-623-7625 | lifechurchag.com

Agape Embassy Ministries: November 2-4

5775 Barclay Drive, Suite 7 | Alexandria, VA 22315
1-703-971-7202 | agapembassy.org

Meetings are subject to change without notice.

by Melanie Hemry



STANDING,

despite the odds



Paul "Rifle" Schutte felt his muscles tremble as he hoisted the weights for his last set at the gym in Johannesburg, South Africa. Wiping his face, he sighed with the contentment that always came on the heels of a hard workout.



At 29, he was lean, healthy, muscular and strong.

Stepping outside, the dry South African heat blasted him with the reminder that he wasn't in Asia anymore. After

teaching English in Taiwan for six years and spending the past 10 months in Japan, he was home for a holiday. Back at his parents' house, he ate a

“You’ll never hear again,” the doctor responded.
“You’ll never drive again. You’ll get worse as your muscles deteriorate.”

healthy dinner, focusing on the food his body needed for training.

The next morning, Rifle woke up feeling ill.

“I must have the flu,” he later told his mother. “I’m dizzy, nauseous and can’t keep anything on my stomach. I’ll sleep it off and be better in no time.”

Three days later, his symptoms had worsened. Rifle’s mother helped him to the car and drove him to the doctor.

The doctor said it was a middle ear infection, and gave Rifle an injection.

Over the next week, his vision blurred, he lost hearing in one ear and lost his balance—in order to walk, he had to hold the walls or he fell.

Back in the doctor’s office, Rifle underwent an MRI.

Studying the lesions in Rifle’s brain, the doctor turned to him with a frown. “You’re a very sick man and I’m admitting you to hospital,” he said. “You have the symptoms of multiple sclerosis.”

Stunned, Rifle focused on his hearing loss. “I work part time as a DJ. I need to hear.”

“You’ll never hear again,” the doctor responded. “You’ll never drive again. You’ll get worse as your muscles deteriorate.”

Rifle lay in the hospital bed and stared unseeing at the ceiling. His hearing loss sheltered him from the noisy hustle and bustle of the hospital. Wrapped in a cocoon of partial silence and shock, he barely heard the clanking of metal trays or the persistent dinging of patients calling for a nurse.

My sin has caught up with me.

Closing his eyes, Rifle recalled his parents’ stricken faces. They had no idea his life had been weighed in

the balance and found lacking.

His backsliding had started in Taiwan when the two South African friends he’d led to the Lord moved away. Left with no Christian friends, he’d made one tiny compromise after another. Working as a DJ, he stayed up all night on Saturdays and it was just easier to sleep in on Sunday rather than go to church. He drank too much and became sexually immoral. Rifle had also experimented with a few drugs. Before long, he was not only using but occasionally selling drugs as well.

In Asia, drug use often meant a death sentence if caught. At one

A New Theology

“The only reason I didn’t kill myself was that I thought God had made me sick and wanted me to suffer for my sins,” Rifle recalls. “I believed that if I tried to kill myself, God would make sure I spent the rest of my life as a vegetable with my parents taking care of me.”

Instead, Rifle made a different decision.

“When I was discharged from the hospital, I started going to church and living right,” he said. “Little by little, the symptoms left and I regained my strength. Without knowing much about what the Bible says, my new theology became: *Praise God! Jesus*

“I started going to church and living right,” he said. “Little by little, the symptoms left and I regained my strength.”

point, Rifle and his friends were put under surveillance. Knowing he was about to get caught in the noose he himself had tied, Rifle quit his job, packed his bags and left the country in 1999. One of the friends he left behind ended up being arrested in 2001.

Traveling to Japan, Rifle took a teaching position and stayed away from drugs.

And now this.

Rifle told his doctor about his drug use. Maybe this was a side effect?

With kind eyes, the doctor explained that drugs don’t cause multiple sclerosis.

“You need to prepare yourself,” he said. “There is no cure.”

The doctor outlined the progression of the disease, painting a grim picture of Rifle’s future. Thinking it over, Rifle realized there was only one way of escape—suicide.

made me sick!

“Toward the end of 2002, I decided to go back to Taiwan. I didn’t think I’d ever backslide again. What I didn’t realize was that I hadn’t renewed my mind.”

Back in Taiwan, Rifle taught English at several schools and worked as a DJ four nights a week—Thursday through Sunday. Although he stayed away from drugs, he partied hard with alcohol and women.

While attending a friend’s birthday party, Rifle met a young woman named Tiffany. She was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. That night he prayed, “Lord, if You’ll give me a wife like Tiffany, I’ll serve You and be faithful to her.”

After pursuing Tiffany for a year, a mutual friend finally talked Tiffany into having coffee with Rifle. When their relationship turned serious, Rifle assured her



that they could never marry unless she converted to Christianity.

Convinced that Christianity couldn't be much different than Buddhism, she just shrugged. It was no big deal to her.

Back to Africa

Three months after they began dating, Rifle was arrested in a police raid at one of the schools where he taught. They often do raids during class to find and arrest people who are teaching illegally.

"I was careful to keep all my paperwork in order when teaching in a foreign country," Rifle explained, "but I had failed to make sure the school had my papers. The next thing I knew, I was arrested and taken to the police station. They also confiscated my passport. I wasn't concerned because the other schools where I taught were trying to help me and I had important friends in high places."

But none of Rifle's friends could help him, and he was given a choice: Leave the country by Friday or go to jail.

Tiffany, along with a few of Rifle's other friends, wept outside the airport as police escorted him onto the plane with the warning that he would never be allowed back into the country.

Before being deported, Rifle

bought Tiffany an airline ticket to South Africa for a visit. Speaking only Chinese, Tiffany arrived in South Africa in July 2004. Careful to keep her visit legal, Rifle took her to the appropriate office to have her visa extended for six months—just in case she decided to stay awhile.

"Tiffany attended church with me on Sundays," Rifle explained, "but she didn't understand the language. A Chinese Christian Church had opened near my parents' house and she attended it during the week. Hearing the gospel in her own language, Tiffany gave her heart to Jesus and was reborn. Afterward, I prayed with her and she received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

"What neither of us knew was that the person who approved her extended visa didn't get her information into the computer and hadn't been back to work for two months," Rifle recalled. "In October, we were told that I was harboring a fugitive who was in the country illegally. If we weren't married within 24 hours, we would both go to jail. The next day we were married in court. In November, we got married before God."

New Beginnings

Although Rifle worked long hours as a teacher and a coach, Tiffany, also a teacher, wasn't allowed to work. Homesick and bored, she longed for home.

In 2005, the couple learned that Rifle could go back to Taiwan because he was now married to a citizen of that country. In May, they said a fond farewell to Rifle's family and left the country.

Rifle sighed with contentment when the airplane descended over the lush mountains of the island and landed in Taiwan. He and Tiffany both went to work as teachers and Rifle supplemented their income by returning to his work as a DJ. The

long sleepless nights and heavy drinking took a toll, and in June 2005, Rifle's toes went numb. He knew that multiple sclerosis had struck again.

While waiting on a bed in the hospital, Rifle lost the feeling in his hands. He also lost the ability to walk. By the time he was admitted to the hospital, Rifle could no longer feed or bathe himself. The tests were conclusive. He had a very severe case of multiple sclerosis.

Aside from being bedridden, his only mode of transportation was by wheelchair.

"This is how you'll be for the rest of your life," the doctor told him.

Rifle lay in his bed and wept.

Immersed in God's Word

Despite his condition, they both believed it was God's will that he be healed and that he *would* be healed. They didn't have a revelation of what the Bible says—that because of the "finished work of Jesus," Rifle was *already* healed by Jesus' stripes on Calvary.

Reading the Old Testament story of Israel sending spies into the Promised Land, Rifle realized that even though the spies' report was evil in God's eyes, it was a factual report.

The *fact* was there were giants in the land. But the *truth* was God had already given the land to Israel.

In the same way, although Rifle was living with the facts regarding the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, the truth was Jesus had already paid the price for his healing.

He wasn't about to give an evil report.

"I repented for not taking care of my body," Rifle admits. "I also repented because I knew I'd been called to minister the Word of God and I hadn't done it. When I got home from the hospital, I called my friends and said, 'The old Rifle is dead. I'm starting a house church on Sundays and you're invited.'"

Standing in FAITH to beat the odds!

Rifle had become a Partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries soon after he'd been reborn in South Africa. Now, he and Tiffany prayed and studied the Word together each day.

"We immersed ourselves in the Word of God," Rifle recalls. "I did whatever Kenneth Copeland said to do—spiritually or in the natural. If Kenneth Copeland didn't eat pork, I gave up pork. I listened to his series on faith and on the authority of the believer. The biggest change for me was learning to hold fast to my confession.

"Unable to do much of anything for myself, the Lord gave me a goal for my faith. He told me that one day Tiffany and I would own a health ranch in the U.S. where people would come to be healed.

"In addition to getting the *BVOV* magazine, Tiffany and I bought KCM CDs a year at a time. Every two weeks we got two CDs in the mail. We also watched the believers' meetings online. With a 12-hour time difference, whenever the Southwest Believers' Convention started at 9 a.m., we were on the computer at home at 9 p.m. We also released our faith that one day we'd be able to attend one of those conventions. On Sundays we played KCM's CDs at our house church and we planted seed into the ministry."

Living by Faith

Summer blasted a tropical heat wave over the island, and each day Rifle dragged himself from the apartment to the pool. Lowering himself into the water, he forced himself to take a few steps. After weeks of exhausting effort, he could walk half the length of the pool.

When school started in the fall, Rifle went back to teaching, believing he was healed. Still unable to feel his hands, he had limited use of them. Although he could walk, he couldn't write. Unwilling to tell anyone he was fighting for his life, arriving at work he acted busy and asked a co-worker to clock him in. He made a game of getting the students to write anything that needed to be written.

At home, he made sure he got eight hours of sleep, ate healthy, prayed and meditated on the Word of God. When he was able to walk the length of the pool, he started training on the treadmill at the gym.

Multiple sclerosis couldn't stand against faith in God's Word, and soon Rifle regained his health. He and Tiffany grew stronger in the Lord with each passing year.

In 2008, the Lord told Rifle and Tiffany that in 2010 they were to move to the U.S. Dec. 6, 2010, Rifle and Tiffany arrived in the U.S. Two days later, God answered one of the deepest desires of their hearts. Tiffany learned she was pregnant.

Aug. 8, 2011, Nathan Rifle Schutte was born.

That same year, Rifle and Tiffany realized another dream when they attended the Southwest Believers' Convention.

Doctors on two continents have assured Rifle that he should be debilitated and dying. Instead, today Rifle walks totally healed from a condition doctors said would take his life. Each Sunday, he preaches the Word to the college-aged young people in their church and during the week he helps out and gives advice, but due to his religious visa, the only "work" he can do is preach.

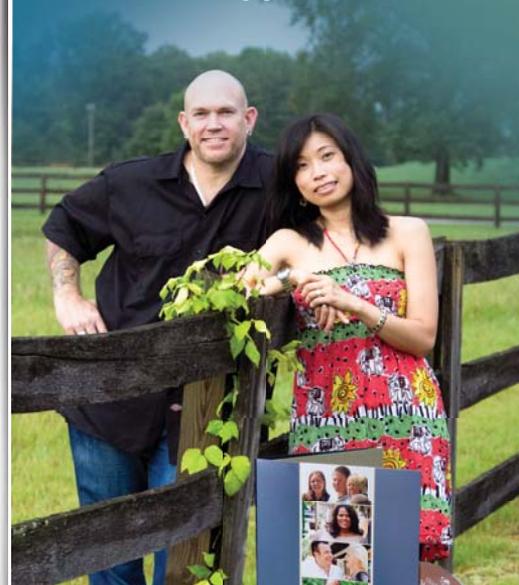
Healthy, muscular and strong, Rifle radiates vibrant health.

"If not for Kenneth Copeland, I would be dead," he says. "Our partnership with this ministry has truly made the difference between life and death."

With long life and good health, Rifle Schutte is enjoying his salvation. VICTORY

The odds of Rifle Schutte surviving progressive multiple sclerosis were slim to none. After wrestling for years with the disease, and with the Lord over the direction his life was to take, Rifle gave in to the truth he had learned through his partnership with KCM—Jesus is his Healer! He says, "Our partnership...has truly made the difference between life and death." Rifle takes his stand of unwavering faith every day and continues to beat the odds!

KCM is here for you...to stand in faith with you against everything in your life that should beat you. Ask the Lord if now is the time for you to join us in covenant partnership—we would love to help you beat the odds!



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Contact us and ask for our FREE "New Partner" package with complete information about partnership, complimentary gifts and more. Simply **tick the box** on the enclosed order form that comes with this magazine,

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The Shield of Faith

Many Christians see faith as a means of receiving from God and having their needs met, and that is true. But there is another dimension to faith that is often overlooked, and that is: Faith is a protective force. Ephesians 6 talks about faith as a very important part of the armor of God.



Don't Leave HOME Without It!



The enemy will come against you with wiles, craftiness and deception. But God has equipped you with armor that will enable you to stand and resist his arsenal. Notice the importance given to the shield in verse 16. It says, “above all, taking the shield of faith....” In other words, above all, don’t leave home without your shield!

The word *shield* in this verse means “very big shield.” God wouldn’t give you a shield so small that if you moved a millimeter, you would get blasted. This shield is bigger than you—it’s the size of a door! You can pull out a lawn chair, put your feet up and relax behind it.

Not only that, the shield of faith is extremely effective—it quenches all the fiery darts of the wicked. Now the word *wicked* means “hurtful.” The devil is out to hurt you. But the word *quench* means “to extinguish, put out, render ineffective, nullify” all the darts. The word *all* leaves no exceptions.

Does the devil have any big, nuclear-tipped missiles that could blast through the shield of faith?

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.... Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked

(Ephesians 6:11, 14-16).

Friend, the shield of faith is *impenetrable*. It cannot be penetrated by any fire-tipped dart or devil-inspired wile. Nothing can ever pierce through or destroy the shield of faith. Nothing.

So keep your shield up by keeping your faith operative. Meditate on the Word, believe it and speak it. You’ll see the same kind of results the disciples saw.

Nothing Can Hurt Me!

In Luke 10, we read that Jesus sent out 70 of His disciples and empowered them to do what He had been doing. When they returned, they received a life-changing revelation:

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you (verses 17-19).

In the Greek, that's stated as a double negative for emphasis. It means much more than just nothing. It means none, not at all, no way at any time can anything hurt you!

I was listening to a CD of the Bible before I went to sleep one night. When it came to this part, "Nothing shall by any means hurt you," I sat straight up in bed. I thought, *Glory! Nothing can hurt me!*

Then the Lord said to me, *You haven't been taking that seriously. And many, many like you have not been taking that seriously.*

Does the Bible mean what it says? Are there exceptions that we should read in between the lines? Or did Jesus really mean that if we would follow and obey Him like the 70 did that we would have power and authority to tread or trample on things that sting and bite and hurt and poison?

Uncertain thoughts might try to creep into your mind: *I'm just not sure. I think we could be hurt.*

Well, we have to decide: Do we walk by sight and reasoning? Or do we walk by the Word of God that promises, "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" (Psalm 91:10)?

As long as you're standing, saying and believing what the Word says about protection, you'll be safe. But you have to be bold and declare, "Nothing shall by any means hurt me."

Now when you say that, most of the religious world will jump up and yell, "Who do you think you are? A lot of good Christian people didn't plan on having bad things happen to them. Do you think you're better than they are?"

It has nothing to do with being better. It has to do with being a believer, and not just believing in and experiencing the new birth, but believing in the protection of the Most High and claiming it for yourself.

You can, by believing, by standing in faith, raise up that mighty shield of

faith and have a barrier of protection about you.

I'm not saying that you'll never have any trials or attacks. But I am saying that no matter what is fired at you, it can't hurt you. It can't get to you. The Psalmist said, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee" (Psalm 91:7).

Delivered Out of Trouble

Every time you have been hurt or hit, it was because you lowered your shield of faith. The enemy is always ready to fire, so it's never OK to drop your shield and become an open target. Remember, there is no cease-fire in this war.

While we would prefer to be delivered from ever experiencing an attack, that is unlikely. But each time

will do the same for you.

But you have to understand that everything we receive from God, we receive by faith. The first time you took hold of a promise in His Word and declared, "By His stripes I am healed," you were probably thinking, *Yeab, but I'm not.* Every day you have to decide if you're going to believe what Jesus said. Or are you going to go by experience, sight or feeling?

Nothing Gets Through Faith

If you'll keep your shield of faith raised, nothing can hurt you because it can't get through faith. Why?

The faith that's in you came out of God Himself. It's a portion of the same substance He used to create the universe. To get through faith, it would have to go through God. That's why nothing can get to you. That's

Ecclesiastes 8:5 says, "Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing..."

we're delivered out of the midst of one—that's a demonstration of the keeping power of God—a testimony of His faithfulness and miracle-working power. We find examples of this over and over in the Bible.

The three Hebrew children mentioned in the book of Daniel were not delivered from being thrown into the fiery furnace. But they believed God, raised the shield of faith and said, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us..." (Daniel 3:17). Paul wasn't delivered from the shipwreck, he went through it. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den but came out untouched.

These people didn't gripe, doubt, fear, rationalize or ask, "God, why did You let this happen?" That would have lowered their shield. In the midst of bad situations, God protected those who trusted Him, and He can and

why you can't be hurt.

First John 5:18 says, "He that is begotten of God keepeth himself, *and that wicked one toucheth him not.*" How do you keep yourself? In faith.

A weapon might be launched against you. You might hear the thud of it against the shield, but you won't feel it. It won't get through to you. Ecclesiastes 8:5 says, "Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing..."

You can believe the Scriptures and take them literally, without exception. So put your armor on. Strap on the truth. Take the sword of the Spirit and raise that great big, door-sized shield of faith. Remember, as long as you're behind that shield, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper" (Isaiah 54:17). So above all, don't leave home without it! **VICTORY**



Keith Moore is founder and president of Moore Life Ministries and pastor of Faith Life Church in Branson, Mo. For more information or ministry materials write to Moore Life Ministries, P.O. Box 1010, Branson, MO 65615; call 1-417-334-9233; or visit moorelife.org.



GoodNewsGazette

'My Life Was Totally Changed'

I thank Almighty God for all He has done for me in life when I was in the prison in Spain before they send me back to my country, Nigeria. I want to testify that Kenneth Copeland Ministries really made me to come close to God,

and my life was totally changed. I give God all the glory for what He has done for me through KCM. Glory be to God in the highest. I love you all in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen. Jesus is Lord!

K.N.J. :: Nigeria

Look What the Lord Has Done!

While discussing Brother Copeland's foundational series with [someone] I realized that when I first listened to

his teaching I was a single parent with three little boys, I was on welfare and living in the projects. His teachings brought me out of the projects with a degree and helped me raise three "kings." Two graduated from Pepperdine University, and the other attended Abilene Christian University.

I started tithing to KCM back then, not realizing I was sowing into my future job.... Glory to God! He's worthy to be praised!

Esther D. :: Fort Worth, Texas

There's Power in the Blood

Years ago, I read an article in one of your *BVOV* magazines by Kellie concerning pleading the blood of Jesus over every situation in life—family, friends, home, vehicles, sickness, disease and finances. Thank you for teaching me about the blood of Jesus. I didn't

know any of that until I started listening to you. Thank you for all of your teachings. I know more today than I ever knew before. I can't wait for your magazine each month.

Charlotte R. Maryland

“He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.” *(Isaiah 53:5, New Living Translation)*

Abundantly Blessed

I have an amazing testimony of what happened in my life after hearing a teaching from KCM last April. Pastor George Pearsons read a portion of a newsletter from Kenneth Hagin Ministries that gave three strategies regarding prosperity. It was very powerful, and even though I wasn't very full of faith that day, I decided to declare the three steps out loud.

I held my newborn son's hands and came into agreement and declared a few things into our lives. I wasn't feeling especially strong spiritually, but this goes to show how it's not about us, it's all about Jesus. I declared things over our finances, my husband's job, our debt and our weekly provision.



I was on maternity leave and my husband was working part time, so we were in a tight position. My maternity leave checks had just ended the week before, and I was feeling a little discouraged about our situation when I spoke that prayer out loud. Later that day I went in to work to talk to my boss, and out of nowhere she said they wanted to keep giving me maternity pay for a few more weeks. Praise God! The next day someone blessed us with a check for \$1,000, and the following two days, people bought us diapers. The day after that, my sister-in-law called to tell us she had two free flights and wanted to fly us out to see them for a long weekend!

We also received a call from a friend who said the Lord

prompted her to give us a check. Praise Jesus!

This amazing teaching changed our lives and the way we pray! Thank you.

Jennifer S. :: Florida

Thank You

We want to give thanks to you and all your ministry staff working for the kingdom of God so wonderfully, reaching the world with your materials via TV, Internet, magazines, etc.

Thank you for taking time to hear from God for your Partners in your letters and magazines. Thank you for studying the Word continuously to get more and more revelation knowledge from the Lord, and for sharing it. We have learned so much from your ministry over the years and have grown up, being able to help others in their needs. Thank you for praying with us when we were sick or were in difficult situations—we always had victory. With your help, we got to know the Lord in a much greater way than we had ever imagined.

H. and E.L. :: Jerusalem, Israel



'You Are My Mentor in Faith'

Brother Copeland, you are my mentor in faith, and I am so glad to have you as a father. Your ministry inspired my ministry a lot. The monthly *Voice of Victory* magazine also inspired me. I am very grateful for it. The joy of the Lord is always our strength. I want to bring to your notice that God has given us another place of worship—He has blessed us with a new chapel!

Ever since I made you my mentor, our ministry has changed for the best. You are a blessing to the whole world! Please extend my greetings to your wife, and all the members of your ministry. God bless you all.

Pastor B. :: Italy

'Our Year of Jubilee'

We are praising God, and thankful for the teaching of KCM that we are now debt free. At the start of the year the loans amounted to about £10,000, and in November our account moved into credit. So now we owe no man anything but to love him. We are fully persuaded that we are blessed and walk in THE BLESSING and thus never need to borrow again. Once again we praise God, and are thankful for KCM's teaching and for showing us the way out.

We stood on the scriptures and KCM teaching that this was our year of Jubilee—a year of supernatural loan repayment/debt cancellation. It was all repaid. We are not clear as to where all the money came from in the natural, but we praise God that it did.

I.D. :: Hingham, Norfolk, U.K.

Healed During Healing School

I had my gallbladder removed and have since been experiencing weakness, pain and multiple problems. I was watching the Branson Victory Campaign, and during Healing School I was drinking in the truth of the Word. During the prayer I was up dancing and I know I am the healed of the Lord! Thank you, KCM and Brother Keith Moore, for the availability of the Word 24 hours a day. In your ministries the truth is not concealed or slighted. You have given the world the truth and I thank you.

R.O. :: Texas

Prayer Works Above and Beyond

We asked you to pray last October that I would find a good job, and the Lord would give my wife the computer she needed. Not only did I get a job, I'm being promoted. And my wife got an iMac and iPad—God is so good! Thank you for your prayers. We were also able to move into an amazing new home!

Nathaniel L. :: Colorado



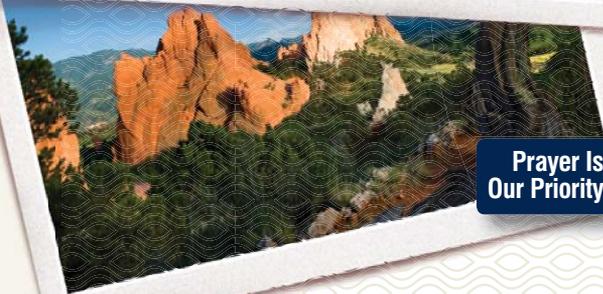
To: U.S.A.
AIR MAIL

Australia

'God's Angels Had Me Covered'

Thank you so much for all the teaching on freedom from fear and confession. Two days ago I was involved in a horrendous car accident. I was driving quietly along a side street, coming close to a main road. Suddenly it appeared the sun had gone out—all was dark! Then I realised a huge black 4WD was spinning out of control in front of my windscreen.... I was surprised but at no time felt any fear and immediately thanked Jesus for my safety. Three vehicles were involved in the accident and although the vehicles were damaged, all drivers/passengers appeared to be unharmed. I believe God's angels had me covered. Thank you so much for teaching me about freedom from fear and about the protection of angels, both of which I confess almost daily.

R.D. :: Victoria, Australia



Prayer Is
Our Priority

Call +44 (0)1225 787310
for prayer :: 9.00–16.20 UK time

PROSPERED IN HIS GIVING

I was 86 years old before I started receiving Social Security. I gave the whole thing to the Lord, and have continued to do so and have prospered ever since.

B.C. :: Texas

One Word From God Set Him Free

I need to say first that it's been an uphill struggle for me to be constant in the Word or in a relationship with God. I experienced a lot of self-condemnation and a sense of spiritual loss, thinking I had lost my salvation due to repeated sinful mistakes and not spending enough time with God. I thought I had turned my back on Christ and rejected my first love. Therefore it was possible for me to lose my salvation.

On God TV, March 11, 2012, the Branson Victory Campaign with Kenneth Copeland started the message about "Blessing God and His Holy Name." My Bible was opened on Psalm 103 where the psalmist cried out to the Lord blessing His Holy Name.

I realized it was time for me to bless this great God with my spirit and soul. Then Kenneth stopped for a moment, bringing the promise from the Holy Spirit that someone is being brought back to the Lord's table. Well my reaction was, *Lord, he's not speaking to me as I am in South Africa and this must be someone in America.* But I thought, *If he proclaims that it's for a person in another country or over the sea I will claim it as Your Spirit bringing the message to me.* Thank God for using Kenneth Copeland to assure me He will never let me go, even when I think it is impossible—for His love endures forever. Thank you and God bless.

A.C. :: South Africa

a FUTURE FULL of God's Promises

You don't owe anything. Your bill has already been paid." » Sometimes Ken and I hear those words in a restaurant when we start to pay for our meal. Usually it's because one of our Partners was there and decided to bless us. That's such a nice feeling—it always touches our hearts.

When I think about what Jesus did for us when He gave His life on the cross, I'm reminded of those times and I realize God has said those same wonderful words to us: *You don't owe anything. Your bill has already been paid.*

Without our asking Him to do it... while we were still living in sin and rebellion... Jesus paid the price for our forgiveness. With His own blood, He paid the debt we owed to God for every sinful thing we have ever done... or will ever do. He set us free from sin, sickness and pain. He paid the bill so we can be whole—spirit, soul and body.

Isaiah 53:4-5 says it this way:

Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and

iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole (*The Amplified Bible*).

The last phrase of that verse means a great deal to me. I love the fact that it says, "We *are* healed and made whole." It doesn't say that one day we will be healed and made whole. It doesn't say that possibly, if it's the will of the Lord, we *might* be healed and made whole. It says we *already are!*

Don't Argue With God

If you have sickness in your body today, you might be tempted to argue with me about that. You might say, "Hey, I'm hurting right now. I've been to the doctor and he says I'm sick. I even have X-rays to prove it. How can you say I am healed?"

I'm not the one saying it. God is the One who said it in His Word—I'm just



**FAITH IS SIMPLY BELIEVING WHAT GOD SAYS IN
HIS WORD. IT IS TRUSTING WHAT HE SAYS MORE
THAN WE TRUST OUR NATURAL SENSES OR
WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY.**



quoting Him. He's given us the good news that the price for sickness (which entered the world through sin) has been paid! So if you've given your heart to Jesus, you don't have to pay the price of sickness anymore. Your healing has already been provided. You can simply receive it by faith and go!

If you're wondering how to do that, think about what Ken and I did when we learned that someone had paid for our meal. We didn't sit around waiting until we felt like the bill was paid. We didn't argue with the cashier and say, "Well, I'm just not sure about this. After all, I didn't actually see anyone pay it so how can I be absolutely certain it really happened? It just seems too good to be true."

No, we didn't say any of those things! We just took the cashier's word for it and accepted the fact that our bill was paid. "Thank you very much!" we said. Then we acted on our faith by walking happily out the door.

As simple as that may sound, we receive healing from God in just the same way. We take Him at His Word. We believe we are healed, not because we feel healed or look healed at this moment but because God said we are. By faith, we start talking like we're healed. We start acting like we're healed. Before long, our bodies line up with God's Word and it becomes apparent to everyone that we truly are healed!

The Only Way to Live

Some people are reluctant to receive their healing by faith. They think it's too hard to do. So they just go to the doctor or wait around hoping someone will lay hands on them and zap them with the power of God in spite of their unbelief. Now please understand that I'm in favor of laying hands on the sick, and I love it when the gifts of healing operate. And I think doctors are wonderful and a great blessing to mankind. But too often people just rely on medical doctors to help them.

The truth is even if someone lays

hands on you, or the doctor gives you medicine and you get healed this time, one of these days you'll still have to grow up spiritually and learn to operate by faith if you want to live a victorious Christian life.

Why? Because the Bible says very clearly in three separate verses, "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). We are born again by faith. We fulfill the will of God in our lives by faith. If we're sick, we receive healing by faith. If we are broke, we get financial increase by faith. If our kids are in trouble, we get them back into the fold of God by faith. We receive anything and everything that we need from God...by faith!

Romans 10:17 tells us, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So if you want to get stronger faith, spend more time in the Word of God.

Faith is simply believing what God says in His Word. It is trusting what He says more than we trust our natural senses or what other people say. Faith is believing God enough to talk and act as if His Word is true even when circumstances around us would seem to indicate that it's not.

How do we get that kind of faith? Romans 10:17 tells us, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So if you want to get stronger faith, spend more time in the Word of God.

That's exactly what Ken and I did 35 years ago when we were just finding out about these things. We didn't have time for television or newspapers. We read our Bibles instead. We listened to preaching tapes day in and day out—whenever we could. When Brother Hagin would have a 10-day meeting, we'd be there

every single night. It didn't matter to us whether we had to go in rain, ice or snow...we went because we wanted to have faith and we knew that faith came from hearing the Word.

Actually, we're little different today. We still keep a steady stream of God's Word flowing into our hearts. We keep ourselves spiritually fed. Although we go regularly to meetings where we hear the Word preached, I've found that's not enough for me to live on. Just like I need to eat physical food every day (several times a day!) to keep going, I need to eat spiritual food every day too. I can't wait until someone comes and spoon-feeds me the Word and neither can you.

If I'm going to live every day by

faith, I need to be strong in the Word every day. If I'm not, my faith will dwindle and I can't afford that. I can't afford to be a lazy Christian because the devil is out there waiting to get a shot at me. He's looking for an opportunity to steal away the blessings Jesus bought for me and I don't want to give it to him.

When the Devil Puts the Squeeze on You

Actually, if it weren't for the devil, living by faith would be a cakewalk. There would be hardly any effort to it at all. God's Word about everything He's done for us through Christ Jesus is so wonderful that it's easy to agree with. The first time we hear it, we're usually so happy about it that we want to shout all the way home from church. But after a few days have passed and the devil starts pressuring us with symptoms,

circumstances and discouraging lies, we find that some effort is required to continue to believe God.

That's why it's so vital for us to keep our hearts full of God's Word. By keeping it before our eyes and going in our ears, it will be in our hearts in abundance and come out of our mouths in faith. Because when pressure comes, what comes out of us will be what is in us in greatest abundance. As Jesus said, "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45, *New International Version*-84).

If we lay down our faith and give up, the devil can keep us in permanent defeat.

If God's Word about healing is abundantly stored in your heart, then when symptoms of sickness come, you'll begin resisting those symptoms and speaking faith. Almost without thinking about it, you'll say, "Oh, no you don't, devil. You're not putting that sickness on me. I'm the healed of the Lord. Jesus paid the price for me to be well and I intend to be well, so you just take your symptoms and get out of here!"

However if you've spent more time thinking about natural things than you have the Word, it will be a different story. You'll probably just lie down and take it when the devil uses sickness to put the squeeze on you. You'll say, "Oh, dear. I feel terrible. I believe I'm getting sick. I'd better go to bed."

Like it or not, that kind of pressure comes to every Christian because—for the time being—the devil is still operating in the earth. He is a thief and a liar who comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). He wants to rob us of the abundant life that Jesus has provided for us and he does it by challenging our faith.

How should we respond to that challenge?

By holding fast to the Word of God and absolutely, positively, refusing to give up until we see His promises manifested in our lives.

Know Within Yourself

There are no two ways about it, sometimes that can be pretty tough. Not because the devil is so strong and powerful—he's not. The Bible says he's already been disarmed. He has been brought to nothing! Even so, he is still a very good liar. He can really paint a bleak picture. He can whisper negative thoughts in your ear and make your situation look so bad that you may find yourself wanting to quit.

When that happens, we must follow the instructions given to the early Church when they were facing great persecution for their faith. Unbelievers were literally plundering their houses and stealing their possessions in an attempt to get them to renounce Jesus. Yet the writer of Hebrews says to them:

Ye...took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul (Hebrews 10:34-39).

According to these verses, in order to receive what God has promised us—whether that be healing or any

other scriptural blessing—we must *know within ourselves* what we have been given in Jesus. That means we must know it not just with our heads but with our hearts. We must have His Word rooted so deeply and firmly within us that when we hear lies to the contrary, we don't buy them. We must be so fully persuaded of what God says that we act as if it's true even when natural circumstances look like it's not.

We can't quit when the going gets tough. If we quit, it's over. If we lay down our faith and give up, the devil can keep us in permanent defeat. On the other hand, we will win if we don't quit. It's absolutely guaranteed.

I like the way verse 36 reads in *The Amplified Bible*—it makes that very clear. It says "For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised."

Notice it doesn't say you might possibly receive what God promised. It says that if you don't cast away your confidence you *will receive and enjoy it to the full!*

Faith Always Looks Forward

I'll warn you right now, one way the devil will try to steal your confidence is by tempting you to look at the past. He'll draw your attention off God's Word by reminding you of yesterday's failures, pains and disappointments.

"Before you get so carried away with this faith stuff," he'll say, "just remember that the pastor laid hands on you two days ago and you didn't feel a bit better afterward. And don't forget Sister Saint. She said she was believing God for healing last year and she died. What's more, you've been talking this healing business for two weeks now and you still have most of the same symptoms you had when you started. You felt bad yesterday. You feel bad today and you're going to feel the same way tomorrow."

When the devil starts telling you things like that, remember this: *Faith always looks forward*. It doesn't dwell on the past. It faces the future full of expectancy with faith in God.

Looking back is not the way to get ahead in the kingdom of God.

"But Gloria," you may say, "I've made some bad mistakes. I've done some terrible things. I think I'll just have to accept this sickness and pay the price for what I've done."

No, you don't! Jesus paid the price, remember? If you've made a mistake or done something wrong, repent and let it go because God has forgiven you. First John 1:9 says He is faithful and just to forgive your sin and cleanse you of all unrighteousness. As far as heaven is concerned the past record of your sins has been wiped out. It's gone. It's under the blood of Jesus. So don't let the devil talk you into looking back!

Don't listen to him when he comes to you with his dark cloud, telling you lies. Don't let him take your past and project it into your future. Cast him out! Get rid of him!

A Glorious Future

One way to defeat the devil is by getting out your Bible and telling him just what God says about your future. He says you're the healed—so enjoying a healthy body is in your future. He says you're more than a conqueror—so victory in every area of life is in your future. You have a good and glorious life ahead of you right here on this earth. And what's even better is the life that's waiting for you after that!

Remember this earthly life we're living is not a permanent thing. This is just a temporary

situation. If we live to be 100 years old, that's just a moment in eternity. We are on our way to heaven! I think we ought to live healthy, blessed and prosperous lives while we're here because that's the will of God. But even so, we need to remember we're just passing through.

We always need to be aware that during this lifetime we're on temporary assignment for God. We're here to work for Him and build His kingdom on the earth. Right now we're laying up rewards for heaven. We won't be able to earn the same kinds of rewards once we get there because there won't be any pressure to resist up there. There won't be a devil trying to knock our heads off, make us sick and steal our resources.

Right now we have a fleeting opportunity to give glory to God by standing strong on His Word right in the face of all the pressure and lies the devil can bring. We have the opportunity to say, "Go ahead devil, give it your best shot. When you're finished, I'll still be standing here believing God's Word. I'll still be praising Him and saying, 'By His stripes I am healed!' Because I'm not one of those who draws back, I'm one who believes and by faith I receive the promise!"

If we'll start thinking like that we'll be able to stand more successfully against the pressures the devil brings against us. When he tries to block our blessings by reminding us of the debts and defeats in our past, we'll just keep looking forward in faith. We'll confidently put the devil under our feet where he belongs, knowing that in Jesus "our bill has been paid." And we'll step boldly into a future full of the promises and provisions of God!

VICTORY

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WHO'S RUNNING YOUR



faith **OR** *fear?*

Your influence in this world is far greater than just the confines of your house, your yard and your little work space at the office. ∴ Actually, if the truth were known, the whole company where you work is dependent upon you, the whole neighborhood where you live is dependent upon you, even the entire nation needs you—*if* you are fearless and full of faith.

by Kenneth Copeland

And the reason we can be so influential is because as believers, we are not in this by ourselves.

We are the Body of Christ. We are the Body of God's anointed ones. Therefore, we are joined together through our connection to Jesus' Anointing.

What's more, Jesus gave us all authority and dominion in heaven and earth before He returned to the Father (Luke 9:1-2). And He is expecting us to take that authority and cause His enemies to be made His footstool (Hebrews 10:13). The problem is, we have not been using and enforcing that dominion to its fullest.

But that's all changing, now. And it must change.

A Tale of Two Cities

To give you a sense of the scope of authority you and I have, I want to tell you about two cities as they were back in the days when Jesus walked this earth. One city was run by fear, and the other by faith—they were as different as night and day.

In fact, the atmosphere in each city determined what Jesus could and could not do when He visited them. We read about the city of fear in Mark 5:1-8:

[Jesus and His disciples] came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.



they arrived on the shore in the region called Decapolis, they were met by a demon-possessed man. We know him as the “mad man of Gadera.”

In this passage we learn that Jesus commanded the devil that possessed this man to come out of him. But notice what we discover in verse 9: “And [Jesus] asked [the devil], What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.”

Just how many is *many*?
Try 6,000.

of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

The devil with whom Jesus had conversation—the one devil that actually possessed the madman of Gadera—was a ruler over the 6,000 principalities and powers that functioned under his command through the man. He was a ruler of the darkness of this world.

We can see there is a rank and file throughout the entire kingdom of darkness. There are “low-level devils,” and then there are evil spirits

Fear will always separate us from God. Why?

Because fear is not of God, and fear and God never go together.

And when [Jesus] was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, and cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For [Jesus] said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

Jesus and His disciples had crossed the Sea of Galilee by boat, and when

Legion was a military term in those days that referred to 6,000 soldiers. So this one particular devil to whom Jesus was speaking revealed that there were actually 6,000 devils working in and through this madman’s life—through his spirit, soul and body.

But what I especially want you to see is that these 6,000 devils were not necessarily in this man all at one time. The one devil that Jesus addressed face to face was really the higher ranking devil of the bunch. He was the one that had authority over the entire legion. That is, he was a high-ranking devil who commanded a troop of at least 6,000 devils.

Now at first glance that statement may seem strange. But not when you consider that the “legion” we see in Mark 5 is what the Apostle Paul referred to in Ephesians as principalities, powers and rulers of the darkness of this world.

In fact Ephesians 6:12 gives us an understanding of the structure of the enemy’s domain. It says, “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness

in different ranks or classes. There is a chain of command that even the enemy follows.

The City of Fear

Now getting back to the madman of Gadera...if you’re like me, you’ve wondered, *Why are 6,000 devils and one commander hanging out with this guy?*

That seems like a lot of “fire power” for just one crazy man.

To get an answer to this question, let’s take a look at how the citizens of that area responded to what happened between Jesus and their hometown madman.

Let’s pick up with Mark 5:11-17:

Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought [Jesus], saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in

Jesus gave us the power. He gave us the authority.

Now, it's up to us.

the sea. And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

Here is a man who has been running around naked, living in a graveyard and doing all sorts of bizarre and wicked things. Suddenly, he is gloriously delivered by the power of God. He is wearing clothes once again, and he is in his right mind. Yet, instead of the townspeople being thrilled that he had been delivered, they were filled with fear, so much so that verse 17 says that the people “began to pray [Jesus] to depart out of their coasts.”

In this passage, the word *pray* means to “earnestly, sincerely beg.” So the people in and around these cities of Decapolis were actually begging Jesus to leave.

Why?

Luke 8 also recounts this incident and it tells us that “the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought [Jesus] to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear” (verse 37).

The people responded to Jesus’ ministry of deliverance with *great fear*.

And there’s our answer as to why they wanted Jesus to leave...*fear*.

Fear was what this legion of devils and their commander were all about. Over a period of time they had been able to build a stronghold of fear and control the whole coastal area.

Consequently the people of this city and surrounding areas constantly lived under fear. It dominated the heavenlies—the spiritual atmosphere—over that entire region.

It was fear that came running to meet Jesus when His boat landed. Fear wanted to know what He was up to. Fear ran to tell what Jesus had done to a herd of 2,000 swine. Fear wanted to know what He had done to the crazy man.

And, of course, it was fear that begged Jesus, “Oh...please, please, please get out of here!”

Drowning in a Sea of Fear

If you study the scriptures carefully, you begin to realize that Jesus and His disciples encountered the stronghold of

fear set up in Decapolis before they landed on its shores and met up with the madman of Gadera and his 6,001 devils.

Actually it started the night before they arrived, out on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus’ disciples were certain they were going to die...and Jesus was going to sleep through the whole thing. We find the following account of it in Mark 4:35-41.

When the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

First the disciples feared the storm. Then they feared Jesus. There is a pattern here. The disciples feared the storm, then they feared Jesus—who actually delivered them from the storm.

Likewise the people of the country of the Gadarenes feared what happened to the swine and to the madman. Then they feared Jesus—who delivered the man from the demons.

If it wasn’t fear of one thing, it was fear of another. And behind all that fear was a legion of devils and their commander. They were ruling over and controlling that whole area. And I guarantee you they were the ones responsible for the storm that blew up that night on the Sea of Galilee.

Why would the devils do that?

Simply because they were trying to protect their territory.

Jesus and His disciples were headed straight toward the stronghold of fear that “legion” had built, and “legion” didn’t want anyone messing with it.

Jesus was bringing a boatload of love and compassion to that side of the Galilee, and 1 John 4:18 tells us: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.”

Love was on His way to cast out fear, therefore, "legion" had to do everything possible to try and stop Jesus and His men. I don't doubt that all 6,000 devils were zeroed in on that boat that night.

Now obviously, "legion" did not expect to be able to stop the Anointed Son of God. There's no way they could have

drowned Jesus. But they could make a play for the whole boatload and hope to at least take out a few disciples. And that's exactly what they set out to do, even to the point of trying to divide the disciples from Jesus through fear and offense. After all, a house divided against itself will fall (Luke 11:17).

God *never* intended for his people to cope with *fear*

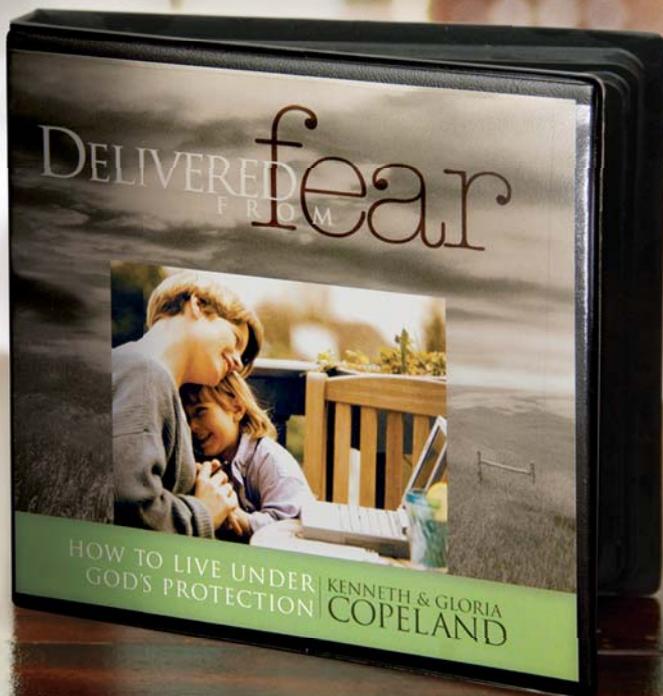
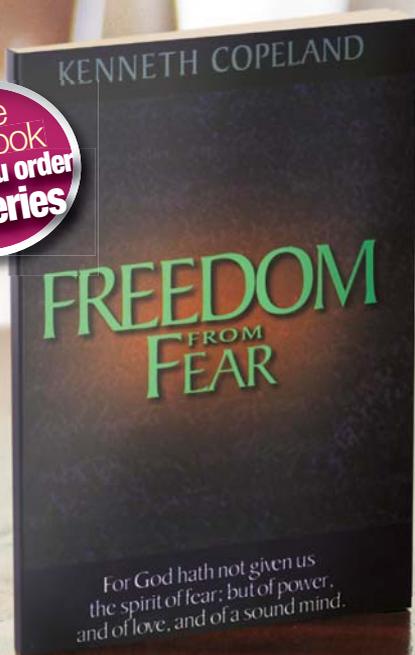
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In Mark 4:38, the disciples protested, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” They feared for their safety and thought Jesus didn’t care.

But Jesus was resting in the fact that His Father had instructed Him to go to the “other side” of the Galilee. Hebrews 4 tells us that faith rests. The disciples could have done the same thing. Peter could have stood up and declared, “The Master told us we’re going to the other side so we’re going to the other side, and no storm is going to keep us from getting there. *Peace, be still!*”

Instead, they got caught up in the danger of their circumstances. They allowed themselves to be tossed about by every wave of fear. And then, when they finally did turn to the Master...He was asleep, resting in faith. But they mistook His rest as irresponsibility. They must have thought He should have joined them in being fearful and worrying.

Before it was over though, Jesus stood up and dealt with the storm. Then He addressed their fear, and their lack of faith.

The City of Faith

In contrast to Decapolis, an area of fear, there was a coastal region over which, I believe, there was a stronghold of faith. We read about it in Mark 5:21-24.

And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, and besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

Again Jesus had no sooner stepped out of the boat and onto the land, than a man was there to meet Him. This time, however, the man who met Jesus at the shore was not a man dominated and driven by fear. Rather, he was a man dominated and driven by faith. That man was Jairus, ruler of the synagogue.

Notice, too, that on the journey to this side of the Sea of Galilee, there was no storm. The atmosphere was completely different—there was a spirit of faith in this region. Jesus was actually welcomed instead of being asked to leave.

And the fact that Jairus welcomed Jesus and invited Him to his home was even more significant from the standpoint that Jairus was an important public figure. He was a leader, a pastor and president of the synagogue. He was a man of great wealth and position in the community. Everyone knew him. And all eyes were sure to be on him—especially when he fell on his face before Jesus while “much people” were around. And the truth was, Jairus could have lost everything by simply associating with Jesus.

However Jairus was a man of faith. Had he been a man of fear, he never would have fallen down in front of Jesus in such a public display. Had he been a man of fear, there probably would not have been any other open display of faith that day. And by that, I’m referring to the woman with the issue of blood who got healed when Jesus stopped and told her, “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague” (verse 34).

Again faith was out there on the road that day, indicating there was an

atmosphere of faith in that place, not fear and doubt.

In fact when someone from Jairus’ house came with the news that his daughter had died, Jesus turned to Jairus and said, “Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole” (Luke 8:50).

In other words, the spirit of fear was trying to push its way into Jairus’ mind, will and emotions. It was trying to gather up like a storm cloud of darkness and quench his faith. But Jesus commanded him to remain in that place of faith, and that’s exactly what Jairus did. And in the end, his daughter was raised up.

Jesus could only perform miracles where there was faith—an atmosphere and a spirit of faith. And as a man of God, Jairus’ spirit of faith had *great influence* over that region.

This is the same principle we see at work when Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden. Fear caused them to run *from* God instead of *to* Him. In fact, fear will always separate us from God. Why? Because fear is not of God, and fear and God never go together.

Deuteronomy 28:66 tells us that fear is under the curse. But Galatians 3:13 and Hebrews 2:14-15 assure us that we’ve been delivered from that curse of fear through the blood of Jesus—the same as we have been delivered from sickness, lack and hell itself.

There’s no denying we live in a fear-based world but we can and must resist fear.

It’s not enough just to be in the boat with Jesus. We have to resist every wave of fear that would come crashing against us.

Jesus gave us the power. He gave us the authority. Now, it’s up to us.

So rest in faith by believing the love (1 John 4:16-18). And when you have to, stand up in your boat and declare—*Peace, be still!* VICTORY



by Gloria Copeland

If you're not satisfied with the results you've been getting from your prayers,

there's a word in the Bible that can help you. This one simple word can make your prayers more productive.

It can help you get from God whatever you ask. It can take you from wanting and wishing to absolutely knowing you have the answer to your prayers even before you say, "Amen."

Take It!

That is how God intends us to pray, you know.

He never meant for His children to spend hours talking to Him about everything in the world and walk away with nothing to show for it. He didn't plan for us to just pray in general without receiving anything specific

in return. No, God's will is for us to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may *obtain*" (Hebrews 4:16). He wants us to follow the instructions Jesus gave us in Mark 11:24: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."



Whatever we need from God, we can build faith to receive it by taking His Word and spending time in it every day.

I love that verse! It's been a favorite of mine ever since Ken and I first started learning how to live by faith. But in recent years, the Lord has highlighted one particular word that's made it mean even more to me.

It's the word *receive*.

Do you know how that word is defined in the original Greek? It means "to take." So it's actually scriptural to say, "Whatever you desire when you pray, believe that you *take it*, and you shall have it."

To me, there's a big difference between *receiving* and *taking*. Receiving sounds passive. I might receive something accidentally just because it happened to come my way. Taking, on the other hand, is active. To take something, I have to lay hold of it on purpose.

The word *take* puts prayer in a whole new light! It tells us that if we want to get what we pray for, we can't just say, "Lord, I want this and I want that." We can't just hope and pray that God is generally good and He will bless us somehow. We have to reach out by faith, take hold of the thing we're believing to receive, possess it and make it our own.

First, Take the Word

"But Gloria, I just don't feel right about taking things from God!" you might say. "I think it's better just to let Him give me whatever blessings He chooses."

Well, unless you change your thinking, you may not receive the best God has for you. The fact is, God has already made His choice. He has already "blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). That's the message of the gospel! It's the message that, through Jesus, all the benefits of redemption have been freely given and they can be received by everyone who *believes* (Romans 1:16).

Think about the new birth, for example. You didn't get it by just waiting around for God to choose to save you.

You were born again when you received (or took) the salvation He'd already provided. You believed in your heart on the resurrected Lord Jesus and confessed with your mouth your faith in Him and you were saved (Romans 10:9). You made the decision and acted on it!

According to Mark 11:24, that's not just the way we receive the new birth, it's the way we receive all the gifts and promises of God! Everything Jesus purchased for us through His life, death and resurrection—whether it's victory over sin, joy, peace, healing or financial abundance—manifests in our lives when we take it by faith.

If you want to know more about exactly what this kind of "taking" involves, then read what the Bible says in Mark 11:22-23. "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

As you can see from those verses, to effectively take the answers to our prayers, the first thing we must have is faith in God. We must have faith in both His ability and His willingness to give us what we ask.

Where does such faith come from?

It comes from hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17).

As Christians, this is the way we live: We find out from the Bible what God says about whatever we need or want. Then we keep that Word before our eyes and in our ears until our faith grows so strong we can take what belongs to us.

If we want healing we can read and meditate on scriptures like 1 Peter 2:24, "By [Jesus'] stripes ye were healed." If we want financial provision we can fill our hearts with promises like Philippians

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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4:19, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Whatever we need from God, we can build faith to receive it by taking His Word and spending time in it every day.

"I'd really like to do that. I know it would help me," you might say. "But I'm too busy!"

If that's the case, you're about to get even busier. If you don't have time for the Word, you won't be a successful receiver. And if you don't receive answers to your prayers, you're going to be busy all the time dealing with problems... problems...and more problems. The devil will see to that.

Talk Like a 'Whosoever'

Once you've established your faith on God's Word, you're ready to do the next thing Jesus taught us. You're ready to put your faith into action by speaking. You're ready to say what you want to come to pass.

I realize some people are uncomfortable with this. They don't want to be identified as one of the "name it and claim it bunch." But, like it or not, it's a vital part of taking what God has given us.

Jesus made that crystal clear. He not only told us to speak words of faith over the natural situations in our lives, He set the example for us. Right there in Mark 11, He spoke to the fruitless fig tree and said to it, "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever" (verse 14). Sure enough, what He said happened: The fig tree withered and died.

When the disciples asked Him about it, He told them they should operate the same way. In

fact, He said that whosoever (in other words, anyone and everyone, including you and me) will speak believing his words come to pass will have whatever he says.

How does that apply to your prayer life?

It means that when you ask God for something, you *take it* believing that you have it from the moment you ask. That is receiving! Now start thanking Him for it. If you've been praying for a new car, rather than continuing to beg and plead for God to give you one, you should take it by saying, "Thank You, Lord, for my new car. I believe I receive it. It's mine. I have it now, in Jesus' Name."

Does that mean your new car will instantly show up in your driveway? Not necessarily. But that doesn't matter. In the realm of the spirit, you've taken it. From the point of your prayer, it's yours and if you keep saying so, and don't waver, you'll be driving it.

The same is true if you're dealing with sickness. When you pray, you can say, "Thank You, Lord, for my healing. I take it by faith so it's mine. I believe I have it. Thank You that every symptom is gone from my body." Although your physical feelings may not come in line right away, you don't have to get discouraged. Just keep seeing yourself well and use the Word of God *and* your words to receive the healing you've already taken by faith—and your healing will surely manifest.

It sounds simple, and it is. But it's not necessarily easy, especially at first, and here's why. To truly believe that what we say is going to happen, we must have confidence in the power of God's Word and our words,

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Church meeting on Sunday: 10.00 (all welcome)

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9.00 to 10.30 :: **Prayer for Italy & Europe** (Church Leaders)
11.00 to 12.30 :: **Church Leaders only**
20.00 :: **Evening Service** (all welcome)



There is no charge
to attend these
meetings and no
need to pre-register

For any queries, email:
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If you don't have time for the Word, you won't be a successful receiver.

And if you don't receive answers to your prayers, you're going to be busy all the time dealing with problems.

not just when we're praying or making faith confessions, but all the time. We must realize and believe that what we say in life—in general, every day—comes to pass.

When the Lord revealed this to Ken and me back in the early days of our faith life, we understood right away that we had to get our words in order. We couldn't talk sickness, poverty and defeat even in casual conversation anymore like the rest of the world does. We had to train ourselves to talk, morning and night, according to the Word of God.

While everyone else talks about economic recession and lack, we practice saying, "I'm blessed! The Lord is my shepherd, I don't lack!" When the newscasters are prophesying danger and doom, we say something like, "I dwell in the secret place of the Most High. No evil shall come nigh my dwelling!"

In the beginning it was difficult. But before long, speaking words of faith became a way of life. Now it comes naturally to us. Because we believe we have what we say, we say what we want not just when we pray but 24 hours a day.

Refuse to Take the Devil's Doubts

Once you've taken what God has given you by speaking words of faith based on His Word, refuse to take the devil's doubts. Refuse to believe and receive his lies.

Think again about what Jesus said and you'll see why that's so important. He told us that "whosoever shall say...and shall not doubt in his heart...shall have whatsoever he saith." Doubting is dangerous! If the devil can put doubt in our hearts, it will soon be in our mouths and he can steal the blessings of God out of our hands.

That's serious business. But here's some good news. Just because you hear doubts in your head, you don't have to take them into your heart. You can reject them before they have any impact if you'll be aware of unbelief

and realize where it's coming from.

Don't let the devil steal your thoughts on any subject! He tries to challenge your faith. He is a liar. That's what he does. He's going to lie to you—just like he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden—and say things like, "You can't really depend on God's Word. He's not going to give you what you asked for. After all, you don't deserve it. You're unworthy. You've sinned. You've made too many mistakes. You're going to stay sick and broke and defeated for the rest of your short life."

Satan always says those kinds of things because he's a sorry, no-good cuss! He's a thief and a killer and a liar, and he hates people who are on God's side. **BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE HIM ANY PLACE IN YOUR LIFE.** He doesn't have any authority over you. Jesus defeated him in the pit of hell, took all his power away and left him a defeated foe. That's why he has to lie. He can't do anything else unless you allow it.

So when he comes around talking to you, instead of listening to him, talk back! Get tough! Be bold! Remember that Jesus said we would cast out devils in His Name and speak to the devil as if he's the mountain in Mark 11:23. Tell him to pack up his lies and get out of your way.

Stop Fuming and Start Forgiving

According to Jesus, there's one more thing we must do before our prayer of receiving is complete. "When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25).

As obedient believers who want to receive from God, we can't afford to be holding anything against anyone. We don't have the option of indulging in unforgiveness. The reason is simple: Faith doesn't work in an unforgiving heart, so if we won't forgive, we can't believe and receive.

Forgiveness is an absolute key to our

blessing, deliverance, healing and prosperity!

That means we shouldn't be walking around fuming about how mean our spouse was to us this morning. If our relatives have been talking ugly about us, we shouldn't be mad at them. We should just be praying for them and saying, "Lord, bless them and help them."

"But Gloria, you don't know my relatives! They really did me wrong. They stole from my inheritance."

That may be true. But as long as you refuse to forgive them, you're letting them continue to steal from you. Get your inheritance back with interest. Forgive your relatives and believe God to bless you with more money than they stole. Or, if the Lord directs you in a certain way, do it. Either way, forgive if you have aught against any. And keep strife out of your heart.

Yes, sometimes it is hard to do. It takes faith and the grace of God to let go of the hurt people have caused.

But here's what you need to remember. When you forgive, you're the one who reaps the benefit. That's why Jesus told you to do it. Every command He gives in the Bible is for your good. It's meant to bless you and help you.

Forgiving the people who wronged you may not do much at all for them. They may never know or care that you've forgiven them. But you will go free. Because you've obeyed the Lord's command, your heart will not condemn you when you go to Him to make your requests. The Bible says: "If our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence

toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:21-22).

Instead of hoping and praying, you can start praying and taking (receiving). And that's not only rewarding, it's a whole lot of fun!

VICTORY



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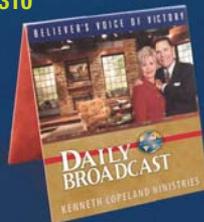
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Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sunday, Oct. 7
Words Are Containers
Kenneth Copeland

Oct. 8-12

Preparing for Jesus' Return

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sunday, Oct. 14
Faith Takes the Promise of Healing
Kenneth Copeland

Oct. 15-19

Create an Image of Healing With Your Words

Gloria Copeland

Sunday, Oct. 21
Put a Watch Over Your Mouth
Kenneth Copeland

Oct. 22-26

So Loved

Jeremy Pearsons

Sunday, Oct. 28
The Importance of Speaking the Right Words
Kenneth Copeland

Oct. 29-Nov. 2

Proof of Love

Jeremy Pearsons

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