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VICTORY

August 2013

Road to Restoration

Abandoned by her husband,
Joan Higdon found new life
for herself and her 5-year-old son through
worship and the Word of God.

by *Melanie Hemry*

Upheld by The WORD of
His Power *Kenneth Copeland*

Tradition or Truth?
Gloria Copeland

A Wild Ride
Mylon Le Fevre

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by Kenneth Copeland

upheld

by The WORD of His Power

How much do you scare the devil? :: Most likely, you haven't given it much thought. But the fact is, as a born-again, Holy Spirit baptized, Bible-believing Christian, you should scare him a lot. You should be so fierce when it comes to dealing with the devil that every morning when you get out of bed, he shakes in his boots and says, "Oh no! He (or she) is up again!"



In other words, you ought to be like my old friend John Osteen. Although he's gone home to be with The LORD now, he was one of the spiritually boldest men I've ever known. Anytime the devil got in his way, John attacked him with a vengeance and sent him running.

One time I heard John say that he'd seen in the spirit just how afraid of him the devil actually was. The LORD showed him a vision of a master

demon leading a bunch of little demons down the street giving them assignments. "You go in this house over here and do this," the bigger demon would say to a smaller one. "You go into the house over there and do that," he'd say to another.

When they got to John's house, one of the little demons said to the demon master, "I want to go into this

house! Can I?"

"No!" said the demon master. "You stay out of there. The people in that house are dangerous. They'll beat the daylights out of you!"

When I heard John tell that story, I realized the devil should be saying the same thing about me and my house. Yours too! After all, he doesn't have any more right to mess with you and your stuff than he does to mess with me and mine. He doesn't have authority





over any area of your life—not your health, your family, your finances or anything else. You ought to make him rue the day he ever touches anything that belongs to you.

“Well, I don’t know,” you might say, “I’d rather not antagonize the devil. He’s got some serious power. He owns practically the whole world!”

No, he doesn’t. He doesn’t have the title deed to anything.

Jesus took everything away from him. Through the Cross and the Resurrection, He “spoiled principalities and powers” and “made a show of them openly, triumphing over them” (Colossians 2:15). He completely stripped Satan of all his power and authority and left him with zero. Nada. Nothing.

If Satan is going to control or influence anything now, he has to steal it because Jesus bought the earth back in its entirety. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18). He is the “heir of all things” (Hebrews 1:2), which means he owns everything that exists, and He is “upholding all things by the word of his power” (Hebrews 1:3).

“But Brother Copeland, if all that’s true, how come things are such a mess? Why aren’t they being upheld any better than they have been?”

Because Jesus isn’t in this alone. You and I are in it right along with Him. As Romans 8:16-17 says: “The Spirit [Himself] beareth witness with our spirit, that we are

If you’ll keep your eyes on Him, say only what you hear Him say, and do only what you see Him do, God will back you with His power and bring His **WORD** to pass for you.



I have so much faith to receive
my debt freedom because of what
I've learned in these meetings.

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the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."

As Jesus' joint heirs, everything that belongs to Him belongs to us and we're jointly responsible for exercising authority over it. That's why Isaiah 9:6, prophesying about Jesus, said "the government shall be upon his shoulder." The *government* referred to there isn't the political operation of Democrats and Republicans and such. It's the governing authority of the kingdom of God which came to earth when Jesus was raised from the dead.

Where does the weight of that government rest?

Not on the head, which is Jesus, but on the shoulders.

Where are the shoulders? In the body.

Commissioned, Authorized and Empowered

Think of it: Since we, as believers, are the Body of Christ, the government of God's kingdom is on us! Jesus has given us the responsibility of enforcing the victory He's already won over the devil. He has commissioned us to manifest the kingdom of God in power and authority on earth just like He manifested it here Himself over 2,000 years ago.

"Oh, I could never do that! I could never be like Jesus!"

Why not?

You're born of the same Spirit. You've been given His Name which is above every other name (Philippians 2:9; Ephesians 3:14-15). You've been made righteous with His own righteousness, raised up together with Him, and made to sit together with Him in heavenly places (2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:6). As a partaker of His heavenly calling, you have the same mission (Hebrews 3:1). What's more, Jesus Himself said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

Clearly, according to the Bible, you *can* be like Jesus. You can walk in just as much authority over the devil as He did. You can see to it that everything in your life is upheld according to the will and THE BLESSING of God.

Exactly how do you do that?

By faith in God's WORD! Because Jesus is upholding all things by The WORD of His power, if you get on His WORD, you will be upheld. If you'll keep your eyes on Him, say only what you hear Him say, and do only what you

see Him do, God will back you with His power and bring His WORD to pass for you.

That's the way Jesus lived when He was on earth. He didn't just walk around doing whatever He wanted, exercising His sovereign power as a member of the Trinity and doing marvelous miracles that no one else could ever do. He operated just like we have to—not as a member of the Godhead, but as a man anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit. He listened for His Father's words, obeyed them, spoke them in faith and the Holy Spirit brought them to pass.

He told us again and again: "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 14:10, 8:28, 31-32).

First, Get the Plan

I know what you're probably wondering, *If we can operate in the same freedom, authority and power that Jesus did, why are so many Christians living under their circumstances instead of ruling over them?*

The answer is simple: Most believers don't inquire of The LORD before they speak and act. Instead, they get in a hurry and come up with their own plan. That's something Jesus never did. He always waited on God's instructions.

Take, for example, how He handled what He found in the Temple in Mark 11. The first day that He went in there, and saw the ungodly activities that were going on, all He did was stand around and watch; "and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve" (verse 11).

Isn't that amazing? Jesus was there all day, watching the ugly behavior of the money-changers as they

dishonored the house of God. He was just as upset about it that day as He was the next. But He didn't say anything. He didn't do anything. He didn't chase them out.

Why? Because His Father hadn't yet said anything to Him about it. His Father hadn't told Him what to do. So at the end of the day, He just went home and went to bed. (There is a lesson to be learned: When you don't get anything from God, keep your mouth shut and be patient. Don't make up something. Just wait!) That's the first step of faith.

The next day when Jesus went into the Temple, it was an entirely different story.

[Jesus] began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple,

and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; and would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him.... And when even was come, he went out of the city (verses 15-19).

What was the difference between this day and the day before? This time Jesus knew the plan. He had a mission and a message from His Father. He'd sought God about the situation and He'd heard the word of The LORD. As a result, He was able to finish the


new

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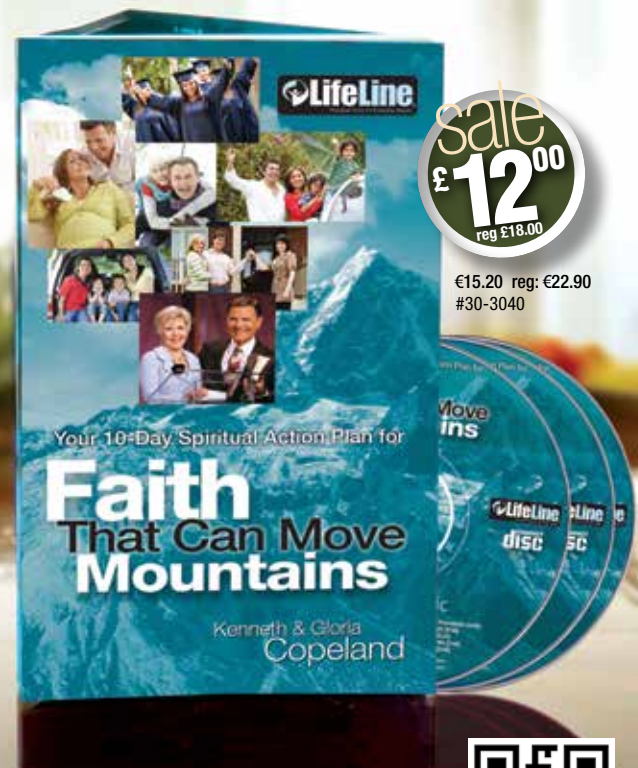
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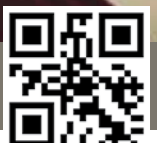
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points to get you there

Upheld by The WORD

The devil doesn't have authority over any area of your life—not

your health, your family, your finances or anything else. Jesus has defeated him completely and as His joint heir, you have the power to put the devil on the run. Here are a few points to help you do it:

1

Get on God's WORD and stay there.

"God...hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things...upholding all things by the word of his power...." (Hebrews 1:1-3)

2

Operate like Jesus did.

"I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." (John 8:28)

3

Don't make something up.

If you haven't yet heard from God, keep listening and wait. "Those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth." (Psalm 37:9)

4

Expect to hear from Him.

"He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep...and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out." (John 10:2-3)

5

Jesus' words authorize and empower you.

"The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)

job God had given Him and put the devil on the run.

You and I can do the same thing by faith! If we'll listen to the voice of God, we can find out where He wants us to go, what He wants us to say and what He wants us to do. We can fulfill His will in every area of our lives and if the devil tries to stop us we can cast him out!

"But Brother Copeland, how can I be sure I'll hear God's voice?" you might ask.

You've made Jesus The LORD of your life, haven't you? That means He's your Shepherd and you're His sheep, and according to the Bible, "The sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out...he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow" (John 10:3-5).

Actually, that's a good place for you to start hearing and speaking God's WORD. Instead of saying things like, "God doesn't speak to me," start saying, "I know Jesus. He's my Shepherd, and I hear and know His voice." Then spend some time with Him in The WORD and tune in by faith, expecting to hear from Him.

Words from heaven are available to you 24 hours a day, if you know Jesus as your LORD and Savior. He has guaranteed it in the Scriptures. He promised the Holy Spirit would teach us all things and guide us into all truth (John 14:26, 16:13). He said if we'll ask for wisdom in faith without wavering, He'll give it to us liberally (James 1:5-6).

Believe it and inquire of Him. He'll give you the words. Then, when you speak those words and act on them in faith, He'll back them with His own power.

It's not your job to figure out how everything is going to happen. Your job is just to pray, obey and say what God says. Because He's already upholding all things by The WORD of His power, as long as you stay on His WORD, it's impossible for the devil or anyone else to defeat you. No matter how hard they try to bring you down, you're going to be upheld!

More Than Just Communications

You see, when Jesus tells you something, His words authorize and empower you to do

whatever He tells you to do. His words aren't just communications, "they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

That's why in Mark 4, when the storm hit the boat Jesus and His disciples were in on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus didn't even bother to wake up. He just stayed asleep in the back of the boat, because He'd already given His disciples the power and authority to deal with the storm. Before they ever set sail, He had said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side" (verse 35, *New King James Version*).

If the disciples had put their faith in Jesus' words, they could have rebuked the storm themselves and put a stop to it. They could have stood up in the front of the boat and said, "We're going to the other side if we have to walk, because Jesus has authorized and empowered us to do it." But instead they got scared, woke Jesus up, and said, "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?" (verses 38-41).

As you can see in the last verse, the disciples missed the whole point of what Jesus was telling them. He wanted them to realize that the key issue wasn't the "manner of man" He is. The key issue was faith in The WORD of God! If they believed it, obeyed it and spoke it, God would back them with His power just like He backed Jesus.

The same is true for you.

So do what Proverbs 4:20 tells you to do. Attend to God's words. Incline your ears to His sayings. Make what He said the final authority in every situation.

Say what He said about it and don't say anything else. No matter how much the devil tries to scare you, no matter how high the waves rise or how hard the wind blows, have faith and fear not. Turn the tables on the devil and make him flee in terror from you! ⑦

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For more insightful teachings, go to kcm.org.





27TH SEPTEMBER 2013
NEWPORT, WALES CONNECT MEETING
Newport City Church, Newport, Wales



SPEAKER
Tony Sheard

Chair of Trustees, KCM Europe

Kenneth Copeland Ministries Europe are holding our third regional CONNECT meeting for 2013 at Newport City Church, Newport, Wales, led by a team from KCM's European office in Bath.

Come and enjoy God's presence with the KCM team and other Partners and friends during an evening of worship, teaching and ministry. Don't miss this opportunity to connect!

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Doors open - 6.30pm
Meeting starts - 7.30pm

Meetings may be subject to change without notice.

Manchester
Praise Report

In June a Kenneth Copeland Ministries Europe team travelled north to Faith Life Church, Manchester, for the second of our regional CONNECT meetings this year, attended by over 100 Partners and Friends.

After being led into God's presence by the church's anointed worship team, Executive Director Martin Hawkins gave an update on KCM Europe's activities, and showed a clip of Kenneth Copeland ministering to troops in Germany recently. Our guest, Arianna Walker of Mercy Ministries UK, then presented a short video of their work and spoke about how much KCM prayer support, materials and financial grants mean to their programme which aims to help young women going through difficulties experience God's love, forgiveness

and life transforming power.

KCM Europe Trustee Tony Sheard's subsequent message on 'The Inclusivity of God's Grace' was both challenging and enlightening in this Year of Great Grace. We praise the Lord for the many who responded to the offer of prayer and the person who re-dedicated his life to God.

We are so grateful to Pastors Joel and Evangeline Taller and their joyful church team and commend them for their ministry of excellence. Partnership is growing and going, sharing and caring! We love our faith family in and around Manchester and thank all of you who attended, praying that you will continue to be BLESSED.



Road to Restoration

The sound of the shower running woke Joan Higdon from a deep sleep on Sunday, July 14, 2002. Pulling herself up in bed, she smiled with the realization that she'd slept well—a milestone in dealing with the loss of her second child through miscarriage.

Joan was no stranger to loss. She'd been 17 when her mother—her closest friend and mentor—had died in her sleep. After two months of grieving, her father had died as well.

by Melanie Hemry



Back then waves of sorrow had swept over Joan with such power she'd been sure they would drag her under and overtake her. But she hadn't been engulfed, and the waves had lessened. In time, she'd found herself sleeping through the night and waking with a smile.

Just like she'd done on this particular morning.

Propping up on her pillows, Joan remembered the devastation she had felt the first time she miscarried. The depth of her loss had been proportional to the height of her hopes for their child. One day her husband had walked in and handed her a copy of a devotional book called *From Faith to Faith*. Joan read the names of the authors: Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Opening the book and reading the first devotion, Joan had felt herself comforted on a deep level. Her mother used to listen to the Copelands, and three years before she died, she had taken Joan to hear them in person. Now, all those years later, that connection had been re-established. Joan read the devotional and started doing what her mother had done. She began watching the Copelands' TV broadcast, *Believer's Voice of Victory*, immersed herself in the Word of God, ordered teaching series and

became a Partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

When she lost this baby four months into the pregnancy, Joan and her husband had been devastated. The enemy had mocked them: "You're youth pastors. How can you pray for other people when you can't get victory for yourselves?"

The taunting questions had been overwhelming. Finally, Joan had gone before the Lord and given Him her pain. "If at some point I understand this, that's great. If not, that's OK, too. I believe You, and I believe Your Word is true. I want You to know I'm going on with You."

Blindsided

Joan slipped out of bed and peeked in at their 5-year-old son, Drew. He looked so much like his father it made her heart ache. They had a son, a wonderful ministry, a nice home and good friends. And they had the Word of God—filled with promises. What more did they need?

Joan's husband came out of the bathroom dressed for the day.

"Why are you up so early?" she asked.

"I don't love you anymore," he said. "I'm leaving, and I won't be back."

"I felt as though I'd been blindsided," Joan recalls. "I watched him pack his clothes, put them in his

car and drive away. I'd not only lost a child, I'd just lost my husband.

"True to his word, he didn't come back. It would be months before I heard from him again. Meanwhile I was left with a mortgage, a car payment and huge charge-card debt. An attorney on staff at our church told me, 'You'll never make as much money as the two of you made here.' I didn't know how I would make a fraction of that amount. Apart from our ministry, my only income was a small amount I made from a home business."

Suddenly, Joan had several decisions to make. Keeping or selling the house was one of them.

"My older sister came to help me pack our things and list the house with a realtor," said Joan. "She invited us to stay with her and her husband."

As they drove out of town with her meager belongings, Joan suddenly realized her loss was more extensive than a child and her husband. Stripped away from her was her marriage, her ministry, her church, her home and even her friends.

Feeling a lot like Job, Joan tried to comfort her bewildered son, who missed his father as much as she missed her husband. Alone, she wept until there were no more tears.

Six weeks after moving in with

So many times I've stood before the Lord and said, 'Here it is in Your Word! If You did it for Brother Copeland, I know You'll do it for me!'

“Partnership with KCM is a lifeline for me. We still attend the SWBC every year.

IT'S A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

I don't think I can do without.”

her sister, Joan received an invitation from her in-laws, who offered their basement to Joan and her son—their grandson—as a place to stay. After seeking the Lord, Joan decided to accept their offer and moved again.

Wounded Warrior

The following year, in 2003, Joan found a steady job. The job didn't pay much, but Joan received help from her in-laws, who very graciously paid for Drew to attend a private Christian school. That same year, Joan's nephew, Casey, gave his heart to the Lord. Hungry for more of God, Casey attended church with Joan and Drew. His

be saving it, not giving it away!” Joan refuted the devil with Isaiah 54: 5, “For your Maker is your Husband—the Lord of hosts is His name—and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; the God of the whole earth He is called” (*The Amplified Bible*).

She chose to ignore his taunting, and to meditate on scriptures like Isaiah 54:6, “For the Lord has called you like a woman forsaken, grieved in spirit, and heartsore—even a wife [wooded and won] in youth, when she is [later] refused and scorned, says your God” (*AMP*).

When taunted by the enemy she would declare, “Jesus is my Husband! He will never leave me nor forsake

tuned in to watch the *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast as Gloria Copeland was teaching Healing School. Following the broadcast, Vickie gave her heart to Jesus and almost immediately received healing for her body. Doctors gave her a clean bill of health.

Watching the miracles play out, Joan rejoiced as, one by one, every member of the family became born again.

“I felt like I was living my dream,” she says. “Each Sunday, Drew and I sat with our entire family at church. God had restored so much, but I knew He wasn't finished. I'd been trusting God for a home without debt. Every time I walked through a model home I said, ‘The Lord is going to give me a home debt free!’

“One day while I drove home, the devil began taunting me, so I decided to draw a line in the sand. I said, ‘Lord, I'm making a commitment today. If You don't give me a house, I'll never have one!’

“Soon after that I noticed that land was being cleared and houses built only a mile from where we lived. My mother-in-law suggested that I go look at the model homes. I did, and I liked what I saw. At the urging of the Holy Spirit I decided to step out by faith and put a down payment on one of the homes. I picked out the floor plan and had them start building our home.

“I wrote Bible verses all over the foundation and on the framework before the drywall went up. My builder was shocked and said, ‘Ma'am, someone has written all over your house!’ He didn't understand, but that didn't deter me. Drew's room is covered with verses from Psalm 91.”

Life was good. God had healed Joan's heart, given her a great job,

“I felt like I was living my dream. Each Sunday, Drew and I sat with our entire family at church. God had restored so much, but I knew He wasn't finished. I'd been trusting God for a home without debt.”

presence reminded Joan that God was restoring what she'd lost.

In 2004, Joan was approached by her pastor, who told her an attorney friend of his was looking to hire a receptionist. Joan interviewed and was hired. Her starting salary was less than what she and her husband had earned at the church, but it was a start. Though times were still difficult for her financially, Joan was determined to return to giving and sowing into the ministries that had been a blessing to her throughout the years.

KCM was one of those ministries.

Though the enemy taunted her by saying things like, “You're a fool. That money will run out! You should

me! The money will never run out! I am blessed!”

The summer of 2004, Joan, Drew and Casey traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, to attend the Southwest Believers' Convention, where they learned about the power of the prayer of petition. When they returned home, they wrote a prayer of petition regarding the salvation of every member of their family.

God Makes a Way

In November, Joan's sister, Vickie, was diagnosed with cancer. Before surgery, Vickie agreed to have Joan and Casey make a prayer of petition on her behalf and take Communion over her. Before the surgery, Vickie

and now she would have the house of her dreams when she closed on Jan. 1, 2006.

Taking a Stand

With a solemn look on his face, Joan's boss called her to his office.

"The law has changed in Georgia and it hurt our business," he explained. "I no longer have the money to pay your salary. I have to let you go."

The pressure to give in to fear was almost overwhelming. But rather than yield to that fear, Joan picked up her Bible—and her faith. In the days and weeks that followed, she mailed out resumés and placed her application with an agency. She went on a couple of interviews, but nothing panned out.

Joan's boss let her continue working for three weeks—until the day Drew got out of school for Christmas break. Refusing to fear, Joan celebrated Christmas with her family and basked in the assurance that Jesus was her Husband.

Despite the odds being against her, on Jan. 1, 2006, Joan Higdon closed on her new home—debt free! The house had been supernaturally paid for in cash, just as she had confessed and believed for all those years.

Another Step of Faith

Joan heard about a job opening for a paralegal with a law firm. Although she had never received formal training, Joan was confident she could learn to do the work. She applied and was interviewed for the position.

Before her second interview, Joan was talking with her former boss when he asked: "Do you have any idea who he is?"

"No, not really."

"He's the most sought-after attorney in Georgia!"

"I can't do this!" Joan exclaimed.

"Yes, you can!" he assured.

On the way to her second interview, the enemy again taunted Joan.

"You won't get the job! You won't be able to survive!"

Refusing to fear, Joan confessed the Word and thanked the Lord for being

her Husband. With her shoulders back, she stepped into the office.

Three weeks after moving into her new home the attorney hired her and gave her a \$20,000 raise.

Reeling with all the changes in her life, Joan went to work for the firm which handled general litigation. She worked with people whose lives were falling apart.

Knocking on her boss' door, Joan asked, "How do you feel about my sharing Jesus with our clients?"

"If anyone has a problem with you sharing Jesus or the Word of God in this office, they don't need to be here."

Life was good. God had healed Joan's heart, given her a great job, and now she would have the house of her dreams.

When clients enter Joan's office, the first thing they see is an open Bible lying on her desk. For those who feel that life has knocked them down, Joan assures them from both the Word of God and personal experience that Jesus will pick up the pieces and make something beautiful of their lives—if they'll only ask in faith.

Like Peter, Paul and so many other New Testament believers, Joan works full time in marketplace ministry.

"Partnership with KCM is a lifeline for me," Joan says. "We still attend the SWBC every year. It's a spiritual connection I don't think I can do without. So many times I've stood before the Lord and said, 'Here it is in Your Word! If You did it for Brother Copeland, I know You'll do it for me!'"

Today, Drew is 17 years old and Joan is enjoying her job as a paralegal.

In less than three and a half years after being abandoned by her husband, Joan Higdon was making more money than the two of them made together. She owns her own home and has no debt. Through the glass door at the front of her house, a visitor views a grand entry. The words over the archway say what's on Joan and Drew Higdon's hearts: "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our sight." ❷



Joan and Drew Higdon

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by Kenneth Copeland

Faith Is Here to Stay

The 20th century has seen more moves of the Spirit of God than any other century in history. We're the generation that has seen the restoration of truth in the Body of Christ. We've seen the great healing revival of the 1930s and '40s. We've seen sweeping waves of outpourings of the Holy Ghost. ✿ You can read in the Bible about times when 400-500 years passed without an outpouring of God's Spirit. But we have seen the outpourings come so fast they overlap. My, we're a blessed generation!

Some years ago, in the midst of all these moves of the Spirit, God began to awaken people to the subject of faith. At first I thought, *Boy, here we go again. This is another wave.* People called it that. They called it the faith movement.

Some people still do. They talk about faith like it's a theological fad passing through the Christian community.

Not Just Another Movement

But I'll tell you something. After living the faith life for a number of years,

I've become convinced that faith is not just a movement. It's not simply a spiritual phase sweeping through the Body of Christ. It's much more than that.

The awakening of faith we've seen over the past few years has come as a result of the call of God. He is calling people from all denominations to move into a life of power. He is revealing to us a way to live victoriously—day in and day out, in good times and bad.

He is teaching us that faith in His WORD

works, even when nothing else works. He is calling us to live by faith, not just temporarily, but "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

Ever since I've been in ministry, people have warned me against the faith group. "You'd better separate yourself from that faith movement," they'd say.

Separate myself from faith? That would be the most dangerous thing I could ever do!

Faith is the key to everything in the kingdom of God. You can't even get in the door without it. Some

people use faith to get born again, then they lay it down and never use it again. If you do that, you'll never be able to make spiritual things work for you.

Every one of Jesus' apostles operated by faith. You can read about their supernatural lives in the New Testament and find out they attributed everything they did to faith.

Their faith wasn't some kind of special apostle faith either. It was the same kind of faith you and I have. In 2 Peter 1:1, the Apostle Peter addresses us as those "that have obtained like precious faith with us."

God didn't shortchange you and give you an inferior brand of faith just because you were born 2,000 years after the first apostles. You, as a born-again believer, have like faith with Peter, James, John, Paul and every other New Testament Christian.

There is only one brand of faith and the Bible says Jesus is the author of it. If Jesus is the author of it, I



can tell you, it will do the job. It will do the job now like it did 2,000 years ago when Peter and John were using it.

“Well, that may be true, Brother Copeland,” you say, “but I’m tired of hearing about faith. After all, it’s just one part of the gospel. Why do we have to keep studying it all the time?”

You have to keep studying it, and I have to keep preaching it, because every other aspect of your spiritual life depends on it!

If you’re not living by faith, the power of God is totally neutralized in your life. He can do no mighty works for you.

You can go to church every Sunday. You can even read your Bible every day. But if The WORD you read and hear preached isn’t mixed with faith, nothing will come of it. That was proven in Jesus’ ministry. He went to Nazareth and preached to the people but the Bible says, “He could there do no mighty work...because of their unbelief” (Mark 6:5-6).

Limited Power

Notice, that verse didn’t say He *would* not, it said He *could* not do any mighty work. Those people didn’t believe what Jesus preached, so His power was limited in their lives.

Think about that. They had the Healer right there with them but they couldn’t be healed. They had the Deliverer right there and they couldn’t be delivered.

That same principle is operating in the lives of Christians all over the world who aren’t living by faith. They’re dying of sickness and disease, in spite of the fact the Healer lives within them and has already borne their sicknesses and carried their diseases. They’re living in poverty—physically, spiritually and in every other way—even though Jesus has already provided for them everything that pertains

Faith will open the door to the kingdom of God. And once you’re in, it will keep you there – safe, healed and prosperous.

You can go to church every Sunday. You can even read your Bible every day. But if The WORD you read and hear preached *isn't mixed with faith, nothing will come of it.*

to life and godliness.

They're seated at the banquet table of God...yet they're going hungry. Why? Not living by faith!

So, one reason we have to keep majoring on faith is because it's the only way to receive what God has provided. Here's another reason: Without it we have no defense against the devil.

Look in Ephesians 6, and you'll see what I mean. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole

armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (verses 10-11).

Notice the phrase "the *whole* armour." You have to use every piece of equipment God has given you if you're going to successfully withstand the attacks of the enemy. You can't afford to leave any of it out.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 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. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit... (verses 12-18).

Now, let's examine the pieces of this armor individually. First, let's look at the loin belt of truth (verse 14). Jesus told us in John 17:17 that The WORD of God is truth. So, the loin belt is based on The WORD.

Then, there are the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace (verse 15). Hebrews 4:2 tells us "the gospel" and "The WORD" are the same thing. So, the shoes are also based on The WORD.

There is also the sword of the Spirit which verse 17 states plainly is The WORD of God.

Clearly, all these pieces of armor have one thing in common; they are all The WORD of God. But according to Hebrews 4:2, The WORD does not profit you when it's not mixed with faith. That means none of these three pieces of armor will do you any good without faith.

You'll be a barefoot, unarmed soldier. All the devil will have to do to defeat you is run you through a patch of stickers!

"OK," you say, "but I would still have my breastplate of righteousness to protect me."

No, you wouldn't. Romans 3:22 says, "The righteousness of God...is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe." If you let your faith drop, you're spiritually naked from the chin down!

That's bad, but it gets worse. If you're not living by faith, your head is also uncovered. You can't use the

helmet of salvation without faith because, according to Ephesians 2:8, you are saved by faith.

Then, of course, your shield is made of faith. So without faith, you have no shield.

Now you don't have a helmet. You don't have a breastplate. You don't have a girdle around your middle. You don't have a sword. You don't have any shoes. And you don't have a shield. Spiritually, you're stripped. You are totally unprotected.

But what about prayer? Ephesians 6:18 says we should be "praying always with all prayer (all different manner of prayer) and supplication in the Spirit."

You can't do that either without faith. In Mark 11:24, Jesus said, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, *believe* that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Even more pointedly, James tells us that when we ask God for anything, we must "ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord" (James 1:6-7).

If you're thinking you might somehow be able to stand against the devil even without the faith to activate your armor and your prayer life, Romans 11:20 will set that straight. It says, "...thou standest by faith."

Now you can see why Paul says, "*Above all*, taking the shield of faith..." (Ephesians 6:16). Without faith none of the rest of the armor works. The helmet doesn't work. The breastplate doesn't work. The girdle doesn't work. The shoes don't work. The sword doesn't work. Your prayer life doesn't work. You can't even stand.

So when the devil comes, he not only finds you totally undressed and vulnerable, he doesn't even have to knock you over. You're already down!



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“Oh, but Brother Copeland, I don’t concern myself with winning battles and being a conqueror and all that kind of thing. I’m just going to live a quiet, holy life that’s pleasing to God.” Not without faith you won’t. According to Romans 14:23, “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” What’s more, Hebrews 11:6 says you can’t please God without faith.

You can’t even enjoy the fruit of the spirit—things like love, joy, peace and so on—unless you’re living by faith. Peter knew that. He wrote: “Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.... For if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:5-7, 10).

First of all, Peter says we have to give “all diligence.” Do you know what it means to be diligent? It means don’t be lazy! Living by faith takes work. You have to discipline yourself to do it.

Next, he says, “add to your faith....” Then he lists the fruit of the spirit. Faith is the foundation of a godly life. Without your faith, you don’t have a base to build these spiritual forces on. That’s the reason churches that don’t teach people how to live by faith are full of sin.

“Add to your faith virtue.” Literally translated, the word *virtue* in this verse means “heroics.” Second Peter 1:3 says God has called us to glory and heroics (or virtue). When you act on faith in The WORD of God, you

end up looking like a hero. You do the right thing. You do it because it’s right, and you do it right.

A Faith Trip

You’re not really the hero, of course—Jesus is. It’s His faith you are using. Even so, when other people hear you say, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13), they often won’t like it.

“Listen to that fool,” they’ll say. “He’s on an ego trip.”

But they’re wrong. The faith man is not on an ego trip. He’s on a faith trip! Ego is the counterfeit of faith. Confidence in myself as a man, that’s ego. Confidence in The WORD of God Almighty is faith—and the faith man gives Him all the glory for every victory.

So, add to your faith heroics. Add to virtue knowledge. If you don’t have any faith, you don’t have anything to build the knowledge of The WORD upon.

Add to knowledge temperance. You can forget about being temperate if you aren’t adding it to faith.

Add to temperance patience. James says, “The trying of your faith worketh patience” (James 1:3). If you don’t have any faith, you won’t have any patience.

Add to patience godliness. You may have a form of godliness but you’ll be denying the power thereof if you don’t live by, study, preach and teach the faith of God.

Add to godliness brotherly kindness. If you don’t have any faith, there is no way you can be kind. That’s

the reason people who don’t know anything about faith don’t give. That’s what charity, or brotherly kindness, is—the giving love of God. If you don’t have the faith to develop that love in you, you’ll never have a life of giving and receiving. You’ll never walk in abundance.

Peter continues by saying:

If these things [these faith-based fruit of the spirit] be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall (2 Peter 1:8-10).

Why stick with faith?

It will keep you from falling!

Faith will open the door to the kingdom of God. And once you’re in, it will keep you there—safe, healed and prosperous. Faith in The WORD will keep you armed and dangerous to the devil. It will free you from sin and enable you to grow in the fruit of the spirit.

Faith will enable you to please God. Faith isn’t just a movement that’s sweeping through. It’s a permanent way of life for the people of God—a way that works in good times and bad, a way that works when nothing else is working.

Faith is here to stay. 🗨️



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A New Car Without Debt

I wrote to your ministry asking for prayer for a new car as my old one was too expensive to repair. I sowed seed, naming it "a car."

Before church a couple weeks later, someone told me of a car for sale only three miles away from where I live. I said to God, "If that's the car for me please provide the money so I can buy it without borrowing any money at all." (I only had a little money from the sale of the old car, which I was still waiting for to arrive in my account.) At the end of the service someone else came up to me and handed me an envelope—it had enough money for the car in it. Praise God, I now have a car again. Thank you for your prayers and teaching that kept me strong and enabled me to have faith in God.

J.H. | United Kingdom

GoodNewsGazette

"For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter; in the secret place of His tent...."

(Psalm 27:5, *The Amplified Bible*)

Blessed and Healed

You are a real blessing. I am in good health at 85 and a walking miracle. The doctors said last year I only had three

months to live. When I was watching you on TV I know you were speaking directly to me. God healed me, and I walked out of the hospital in

three weeks. I had a checkup and the doctor said I was in perfect health. Praise God for Gloria's teaching on healing.

J.C. | Florida

God's Promise of Protection

I am so thankful for Kenneth Copeland Ministries and for my pastors, for faithfully praying, teaching and preaching the Word of God in truth.

On Oct. 21, 2007, I was up praying in the early morning and noticed the dark sky turning slightly pink. This is not the color we like to see here in Malibu, Calif. The winds had come up the day before, warm and strong. By 5:30 a.m. the dark sky had turned very pink. I began to take authority over fires and the wind, speaking God's protection and His words that state He has given us a strong, fenced, fortified city. I heard sirens around 6 a.m., and the hill directly above our condo complex was on fire. Within minutes the firemen were at our door telling us we had to evacuate immediately.

Moments before the evacuation order came, a tremendous peace came over me and I had a brief thought we were not going to have to leave, but we were nearly ready. After four days of evacuation, we returned to our home. We spent those four days mostly praying in the spirit. The fires burned ferociously and moved so rapidly, but we had no loss of lives and only eight structures destroyed in the 4500 acres that burned. The fire was 100 percent contained within five days. The fire burned all around our home and right up to the walls and patios of our condo complex but there was no damage to any of our buildings. Thank You, Jesus. J.L.H. | California

God Opens a Door

On four occasions I called into your office for prayer for my son, who had been unemployed since 2011. He went for an interview, and our Lord God opened the door for him to become employed. I thank you for your caring prayer warriors who prayed for my son. God bless you all. A.E. | South Africa

Debt-Free Wedding and Honeymoon

We bless the Lord for our wedding and honeymoon, which amazingly, were both debt free. Prior to starting our faith project, I meditated on scriptures such as Deuteronomy 8:7-10, Proverbs 10:22 and Matthew 22:37-40. I also contacted KCM and a prayer minister stood in faith with me for a debt-free wedding.

Our wedding was held at a newly built hotel. When we counted our monetary gifts, 95 percent of our hotel bill was paid prior to the ceremony! I bought my dress, of course, and my sister and my husband's family helped out. The Lord even used people we'd met only briefly to bless us. After the reception, someone gave my

husband \$120, which covered the remainder of our wedding expenses. We walked out of the hotel, our bill paid in full!

God also gave us a debt-free honeymoon. Due to a volcanic eruption in Iceland that created an ash cloud over Europe, our trip had to be rescheduled. So we honeymooned in Switzerland four months later. This gift included free airfare and hotel stays. We stood on Mark 11 for money to cover some other expenses, and a week before we were scheduled to go, we received a gift of \$1,000—the exact amount we'd asked God for.

Thank you for praying with me. Keep speaking the truth in love. C.F. | Virginia

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Finally Debt Free

Thank you for agreement in prayer. Some property willed to me has sold. I am so thankful to the Lord that at long last I am debt free! God bless you and this ministry in abundance.

M.B. | Canada

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.

connect with us

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision. We have a **free Salvation Package** to help you begin your new life in Jesus!

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by Gloria Copeland

Build Yourself an Ark

“What are we going to do?” :: With all the violence and calamity bearing down on us these days, that’s a question you hear a lot. “What are we going to do about the Persian Gulf crisis? What are we going to do about the economic failures? What are we going to do about the drug problem?” :: I’ll tell you what you’d better do. If you haven’t already started, you’d better start building yourself an ark.

Look in Genesis 6 and see how the Bible describes the condition of the earth back in Noah’s day and you’ll see why I say that. Verses 11-12 say:

The earth was depraved and putrid in God’s sight, and the land was filled with violence (desecration, infringement, outrage, assault, and lust for power). And God looked upon the world and saw how degenerate, debased, and vicious it was, for all humanity had corrupted their way upon the earth and lost their true direction (*The Amplified Bible*).

Sounds like 1991, doesn’t it? Then, God told Noah, “Make yourself an ark” (verse 14).



That Ark was to provide Noah’s deliverance from the destruction to come. It was to keep him safe when the whole world was perishing around him. And that’s exactly what it did.

I believe today God is saying to us, just like He did to Noah, “Build yourself an ark.” Not an ark made of wood but an ark made of the Word.

Did you know that what you know from the Word of God will save your life?

That’s right. If you’ve

built God’s promises of protection and deliverance into your heart and life, you can live in this crazy earth with all its dangers and still feel secure.

Psalm 91, verse 1, puts it this way, “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

That word *abide* means “to dwell in.” It’s a permanent word. When I’m staying at a hotel, for instance, I’m not abiding

there. I’m not living there permanently. It’s just a temporary situation. My home is where I abide.

Jesus talked about abiding. He said, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love” (John 15:10). In other words, to abide is to be consistently obedient to the Word of God.

So many people don’t understand that. They think they can just live any old way and then, when they run into trouble, just holler, “Jesus, help me!” and everything will be fine. But that’s not what the Word says.

Proverbs 1:24-26, *AMP*, warns that those who don’t listen to and obey the Word of God in good times may find themselves stranded when the hard times come. It says,

Because I have called and you have refused [to



If you've built God's promises of protection

and deliverance into your heart and life, you can live in this crazy earth with all its dangers and still feel secure.

own way and you can still repent and call on Him when you get in trouble. But I'm going to tell you, it's difficult to have faith when you do that. It's difficult to trust God and believe He'll help you if you haven't been spending time with Him.

I find that when people live according to the world and they don't pay attention to the things of God, when calamity comes, it's hard for them to take their dependence off the world and put it onto God.

So, the first step you need to take in building your ark is make obedience a lifestyle. You need to abide in the Word!

The second step you need to take can be found in Psalm 91, verse 2. "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Don't just read those words, say them. Speak them out right now. "God is my refuge. He is my fortress. He is my God and in Him I will trust!" Those are the words you need to be putting in your mouth these days. Words



answer], have stretched out my hand and no man has heeded it, and you treated as nothing all my counsel and would accept none

of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when the thing comes that shall cause you terror and panic.

Thank God, we're living in a day of grace and mercy and it's never too late to call upon the Lord. Thank God you can just be going your

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of safety and deliverance. You should meditate on them so much and speak them out so often that they just start flowing when trouble comes.

That's what I've done. I have so put the 91st Psalm in my heart that at any moment of danger, it comes up within me. If we lose an airplane engine or whatever, I just automatically crack down on the 91st Psalm. My mouth doesn't say, "I'm scared to death." It says, "The Lord is my refuge!"

Verses 3-4, *AMP*, say if you'll do that, "He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions [or feathers], and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge."

I want you to notice, those verses don't say the fowler (or the devil) is just going to go away and leave you alone. They don't say that pestilence and trouble are just going to disappear forever. They say God will *deliver* you from them.

It's important for you to understand that because in the days to come you're going to see a great deal of trouble in the world around you. The reason is, there are two groups of people on the earth. There are the people of God and there are the people who still live in the devil's kingdom of darkness.

The people who live in darkness have no covenant with God. Because God has given the gift of salvation to the world, they constantly have the option to accept Jesus as Savior and change groups. But until they do, they can't enjoy the benefits that God's people have.

Now, the Word of God tells us that these two groups, even though they may live side by side on the earth, are going to experience very different kinds of lives. We can see that in Isaiah 3 where the Lord tells Isaiah to "Say...to the righteous, that it shall be well with him.... Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him"

How do I cultivate the faith of God that is within me?

As a born-again believer, you have residing within your spirit the faith of God

and the potential to produce the same results that Jesus produced in His earthly ministry (John 14:12).



Your relationship with God is the most important aspect of your faith walk.

Although you cannot see God, He will reveal Himself to you through His WORD, by the Holy Spirit.

Faith is simply trusting God to keep His WORD.

Fellowship is quality time spent alone with God getting to know Him. Your fellowship with Him will develop trust. It will enhance your faith as you give Him the opportunity to reveal Himself to you. Fellowship with God, who is invisible, gives birth to faith that can change things in the visible, physical realm.

Meditation and confession of The WORD of God (Joshua 1:8)

also promote the development of your faith. When you speak The WORD to yourself, you are meditating The WORD. What you meditate regulates what you believe. Meditation and confession will cause you to believe God's WORD enough to act on it in faith.

Faith is also developed through praying in the spirit (Jude 20). Praying in other tongues is a spiritual exercise that keeps your spirit active. You will be built up on your most holy faith! ⑦

(verses 10-11). Take two groups of people living in the same space, in the same earth, in the same city, even in the same family, and one can live well and the other can live in woe. One can live in security and the other in constant peril.

A few years ago, one prophet of God heard the Spirit of God say, "Declare judgment upon the world, blessings upon the saints, unrest upon the wicked, but rest upon the Church. Remember that when events in the world start to look dark and troubled. Don't be moved by the things that are going on around you but remember, instead, that God has the ability, the wonderful ability, to deliver you.

"A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it [destruction] shall not come near you. Only a spectator shall you be...because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place" (Psalm 91:7-9, AMP).

God has proven again and again throughout the Bible that He can pluck His people right out of the middle of the most terrible circumstances. Look at Noah! The whole world went down around Noah. The whole world bought the farm, *everyone*, except the eight people in Noah's family.

So don't be confused when you hear words of doom and destruction around you. Those words aren't meant for you. They're not meant for the Church of God. The Church is not going to undergo the wrath of God. We've already been delivered. We've already been set free. We've been made the righteousness of God. It's sin and unrighteousness and disobedience that brings the wrath of God upon the earth just like it did in Noah's day.

If you're a believer who's allowed yourself to slip into a life of sin, then repent and get out of that sin right now. Start putting God first place in your life again.

He says in 1 Samuel 2:30, "...

them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." If you want God to honor you in your life with this kind of deliverance and supernatural protection, then you must honor Him.

Once you've taken care of that, dig into His Word of protection. Build it into your life line by line and verse by verse. And don't wait until trouble hits to begin because it's going to take some time.

It took Noah many, many years to build his Ark. Think about that! There he was out in the middle of nowhere building this big ship. No water in sight. Don't you know his neighbors laughed at him? "Crazy old Noah!" they must have said. "Crazy old Noah and his boys talk about God delivering them from the flood that's coming. They don't know what they're talking about!"

You know, people made fun of Noah and his family all those years, and the scripture says they did not know or understand until the day the Flood came and swept them away. They were in the dark. But when the Flood came, Noah wasn't in the dark. He was in the Ark! He knew exactly what God was going to do and he was prepared.

Today I'm saying to you the same thing God said to Noah. "There's a flood coming. Build yourself an ark!"

Build it with the 91st Psalm. Build it with scriptures about your deliverance. Build it by abiding in the Almighty. Build it by saying with your mouth, "He is my refuge. He is my fortress. He is my God. In Him will I trust and on Him I lean and rely."

Don't wait until the flood comes and sweeps you away. Start now. Meditate on God's Word of deliverance. Read it. Go over it every day until it's so deeply rooted in your heart that it comes flowing out at the first sign of trouble.

Build yourself an ark...today! Don't be in the dark. Be in the ark. ⑦

"In three short years, I went from making music with my first band... to laying down tracks in an English mansion with legends the likes of George Harrison and Ron Woods."

a Wild RIDE



On a clammy night in October 1962, I almost made the biggest mistake of my life. I almost gave up on getting to Memphis. Only 24 hours away from shaking the hand of the biggest star in the world and hearing the offer that would change everything for me, I was about to sling my duffel bag over my shoulder and head back to the barracks.

After all, I didn't know what was about to happen.

All I knew was that I'd trudged about 20 miles along a two-lane road in the freezing rain trying—and failing—to hitch a ride. I'd already wasted hours of my weekend pass. With 600 miles and

the Smoky Mountains stretched between me and Memphis, I didn't see how I could make it there and still get back to the house by Monday morning. It looked impossible.

All my life I'd heard that everything is possible with God. So, as

by Mylon LeFevre



Mylon with Eric Clapton

I had so many times before, I stopped my world again and asked God for help. The next set of headlights coming toward me turned out to be my first of about 20 rides that weekend. Boy, I was glad to get in a warm, dry car!

After walking and hitchhiking all night and all day, I arrived in Memphis about 7:30 Saturday night. I didn't know where Ellis Auditorium was, but my last ride was a local guy who took me all the way to the backstage entrance. I arrived literally moments before my parents were scheduled to sing. God had miraculously made a way for me to show up for my divine appointment right on time.

Elvis Has Not Left the Building

With no chance to shower, shave or change clothes, I stepped onto the stage in my wrinkled, wet Army greens. I hadn't slept since 5:30 Friday morning and I'm sure I looked pretty worn out. When my mom introduced me to the audience, she explained what I'd gone through to get there. In those days, serving your country as a soldier was considered a great honor (I believe it still is) so the audience responded warmly to me.

As I began to sing my song, what I now know is the anointing power and presence of God came upon me. It was so strong it amazed me.

No one in the auditorium had any idea Elvis Presley was listening to the concert that night. He'd come unannounced with

his girlfriend Priscilla, his producer and his bodyguards (the Memphis Mafia) to pick out songs for the upcoming gospel album he was about to record. Sitting in the booth that his manager, Colonel Tom Parker, had built to the side of the stage and equipped with one-way mirrors and recording equipment, Elvis could see out, but no one could see in.

Because he had just gotten out of the Army, the sight of me in my Army greens touched his heart. God gave me favor with him and he told the colonel to bring me back to meet him.

When I walked into the side room, I was astonished to see Elvis Presley stand to shake my hand. He told me he really liked my singing

"Through all those years of excessive and eventually self-destructive drug abuse, I always believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God."

and he wanted to record my song on his next gospel album, *How Great Thou Art*. I cannot describe what that did for my self-esteem.

I found out later that he told Colonel Tom not to take my publishing rights or copyrights, which was always standard practice when Elvis recorded somebody's song. I was a young kid and I knew nothing about the significance of publishing rights and copyrights. But because of that generous choice, "Without Him" is still blessing me financially today.

Cruising in High Cotton

When Elvis recorded my song, he was the biggest star in the world.

His album, *How Great Thou Art*, sold millions of copies and became his biggest seller up to that time, far surpassing his rock 'n' roll recordings. The album instantly launched me into a realm of success that left me reeling. For the first time in my life people were acknowledging me as a songwriter.

The first royalty check I received put me in shock! I rode to the bank on my bicycle to cash it (I didn't own a car).

When I handed it to the teller, she just stared—first at the check, then at me. Finally, she

pure muscle. I used that muscle to put a few former bullies in their place. It was awesome.

Pushing the Envelope

After my hitch in the Army, I moved to Memphis. There, I joined J.D. Sumner and The Stamps Quartet, a group that eventually became the backup group for Elvis until his death. Working with The Stamps as a vocalist, songwriter and



George Harrison & Mylon

went over to the manager's office and said, "There's a kid out here wanting to cash this really big check from Elvis Presley."

After Elvis recorded my song, I suddenly went from being the class joke to the most popular kid on the block. The king of rock 'n' roll had given me some street credibility. Of course, some of that respect might have been generated by physical changes in me. When I'd joined the Army, my 201 file recorded my height at 5'4" and my weight at 120 pounds. Six months later, I'd grown 7 inches and gained 35 pounds of

bass player helped give me the self-confidence a musician needs to be a leader in the studio and on stage. It was liberating for me creatively to have an influence in the direction of the musical genre I had grown up with.

On the other hand, I backslid spiritually as I became more obsessed with making it as a musician. I was singing about Jesus every day, but I don't think I would have recognized Him if He had gotten on our bus!

In 1969, I started my first band.

I still had trouble wrapping my mind around it; how, in three short years, I went from making music with my first band, *Mylon*, in a makeshift rehearsal studio in a vacant Baptist church, to laying down tracks in an English mansion with legends the likes of George Harrison and Ron Woods.

One thing's for sure, it was a wild ride.

It started with my band's first album, *We Believe*, recorded in 1969. With its release, I was on my way to becoming the independent man and musician I'd always wanted to be. But at 25 years old, I was also trying to find the truth about God. I wanted to know: What's He like? What does He really want me to do?

As I looked for the answer everywhere but the Bible, I got more angry and confused. It seemed that everyone I asked about God told me what He didn't like and why I



"I knew a lot *about* Jesus from all the things others had told me. The problem was, *I did not really know Him.*"

was going to hell for not obeying Him. They gave me more religious rules and regulations. Because I heard little about God's amazing love, unending mercy and grace, I thought I'd never be able to please Him. So I decided I'd just be respectful to Him in my own way and hope He'd be merciful.

To be clear, I don't blame my family, the Church or even the devil for that decision. Ultimately, I was the one who chose the self-destructive life I lived. If I'd read the Word of God and trusted Him, my life would have been different. But I didn't trust anyone in those days.

Glad to Be Stoned

I'd been smoking reefer since I was a teenager. Grateful for any escape from the depression I suffered, I was ecstatic about it from the beginning. I was actually deceived enough to believe that God had created it (along with other "herbs and spices") just to cheer me up. I didn't see anything wrong with staying loaded and giggling about silly stuff all the time.

During those early years of rock 'n' roll, marijuana, cocaine, psychedelics and speed seemed to be available at every concert. So, crazy as it sounds now, my band and I got on board.

I can honestly say that through all those years of excessive and eventually self-destructive drug abuse, I always believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. I even put crosses on all of my stage clothes, guitars, albums and band equipment. I knew a lot *about* Jesus from all the things others had told me. The problem was, *I did not really know Him.*

Desperate to get quiet so I could pray for direction and hear from God, I asked my brother, Meurice, if I could stay at his condo on the beach in Florida for a few weeks. There, I started reading a book entitled *Healing the Sick* by T.L. Osborne. The scriptures I found in it stirred hope within me for a miracle.

Although I didn't know it, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland were preparing to minister at a church about a mile away. They also happened to be staying at the same resort. On my third morning of fasting, I was walking down the beach praying in the spirit and I passed in front of Gloria and her mom. (Talk about a divine appointment!) They were sitting in the sun reading their Bibles. When Gloria glanced up and saw me, the Spirit of

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the Lord spoke to her and told her I was in serious need of healing.

Enjoying a much-needed day off, she wasn't looking for anyone to minister to—especially some guy in a swimsuit with a couple of feet of hair! But when she returned to the condo, she told Kenneth about me. He said, "Well, we just need to agree according to Matthew 18:19." Then he prayed, "Father, Gloria and I touch and agree regarding this request. We ask You to bring this man to us and we will obey Your instructions to minister healing to him. In Jesus' Name, Amen." His prayer was very simple but full of faith and power.

The next day, I went to the pool with my Bible to get some sun and read and pray. Kenneth and Gloria, back from their morning service, were having lunch in their condo. When they stepped out on their balcony to take in the view, Gloria looked down at the pool and saw me. "Kenneth," she said, "there's that guy I told you about."

They pointed me out to the pastor who was hosting the services and he said, "Oh, I know him. He and his band *Broken Heart* came here 10 years ago to do a spring-break outreach for me in the early days of my church." Little did I know when I sowed that seed of service a decade earlier, it would one day be instrumental in me receiving my miracle. It still blesses me to think about how the divine hand of God moved so perfectly orchestrating my answer to prayer!

A Broken Heart Made Whole

When I met the Copelands, Kenneth repeated to me what the Lord had spoken to Gloria. Then he shook my hand and said with a really big smile on his face, "You don't know my wife, but she doesn't play church. If she said God told her He's going to heal you, it's a done deal. So get ready to be healed."

The presence of God was so strong on this man; I didn't know what to do. I just stood there and cried. Brother Copeland invited me into his condo and made me feel right at

home. As we hung out that night, I was amazed at how peaceful, humble and down-to-earth this wonderful couple was. Sitting down with his Bible, Kenneth proceeded to teach me about faith and healing. We spent hours talking and reading God's Word. We read everything Jesus said and did when He worked the 19 healing miracles recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Kenneth told me God loved me and wanted to heal me. He explained that anybody can have mountain-moving faith if they want it bad enough. It just takes time. Quoting Romans 10:17, he reminded me, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. So the more Word you hear in your heart, the more your faith will grow strong!"

I already knew God *could* heal me *if* it was His will. But that night I learned *it is always God's will to save, heal, deliver, anoint and bless His children*. I'll never forget Kenneth's words. "Son, you don't have to talk God into being good. He's good whether anybody likes it or not. And He is always doing good things for whoever truly believes Him and receives from Him. For the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever."

Sure enough, God had mercy on me that night and gave me a new heart!

I didn't need a lightning bolt from heaven to know it, either. As we'd studied the Scriptures, I'd realized that whatever I believed would be done for me. So when Kenneth showed me in Mark 11:22-24 that I must believe I receive my miracle *when I pray*, and not when I feel the symptoms disappear from my body, the revelation hit me.

I knew exactly what to do. "Lay hands on me, Brother Copeland," I said. "I'm ready to receive my healing from God."

In the natural realm, nothing changed. I felt no different. In fact, the symptoms persisted for 10 and a half months. Some nights I would be on stage doing moves with the band under the heat of hundreds

of thousands of watts of lighting, and my chest would start hurting again. It felt like I was going to have another heart attack. But I'd just stop and testify about my faith in God, His Word and His healing power working in my body. Because I'd seen in the Bible that I have whatever I say in faith, some days I would say out loud 20 times, "By His stripes, I was healed!"

A New Calling

After I received my miracle, my whole life changed again. In 1993, during a time of prayer and fasting, God called me to teach and preach His Word.

With a fresh mission in front of me, the Lord instructed me to pass along my former call to my son-in-law, Peter Furler. He had a band called the *Newsboys*. God told me I could pray for him and transfer to him the power of God that had been on my life for youth evangelism if he was willing to receive it. Well, I did, and he did, and the *Newsboys* became bold witnesses for Christ all over the world!

Today, I live in Texas where I am learning more about how to live by faith and walk in love from my spiritual parents, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. I attend Eagle Mountain International Church and my pastors are George and Terri Pearsons, Kenneth's son-in-law and daughter. Mylon Le Fevre Ministries is submitted to their spiritual covering. As a result, the Blessing of the Lord as promised in Deuteronomy 28 is a reality in my life. God has overtaken me with His goodness!

Please understand, I'm not blessed because I'm anybody special. God loves everybody the same. He is no respecter of persons. It's His will to fill everybody's life with His goodness. He wants us all to be extraordinarily blessed so we can bless others. But, according to the Word, God isn't the One who determines how much blessing we receive—we are! ❶



This article was adapted from the book *Live Forever* by Mylon Le Fevre with Christi Le Fevre. For more information or to order, see the ad on Page 26.



tradition or truth?

When I first came in contact with the Word of God, I was what you might call a *free spirit*. I hadn't been indoctrinated with a lot of religious lies. On occasion, when I was growing up, I'd attended a church that was famous for its unbelief, but I didn't go often enough for it to affect me.

by Gloria Copeland

So, when I got born again and found out from the Bible that Jesus had provided healing for me, I simply believed and started receiving.

Other Christians, however, have had a different experience. They've

struggled to receive healing because they've been taught unscriptural doctrines that get in their way. Maybe they grew up in a church that preached God isn't in the healing business anymore. Maybe they spent

years hearing good, well-meaning Christians say that healing isn't always God's will.

I don't mind telling you, I can't stand those kinds of man-made traditions! They're based on lies and

they're deadly to faith. The Bible says the traditions of men make the word of God of no effect (Mark 7:13).

In the same way that truth sets people free, a religious lie keeps them bound. It stops the Word from working in their lives because there is nothing to produce faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

Jesus said in Matthew 15, when He was warning the Pharisees about all their unbiblical rules and ideas, "Ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (verse 6).

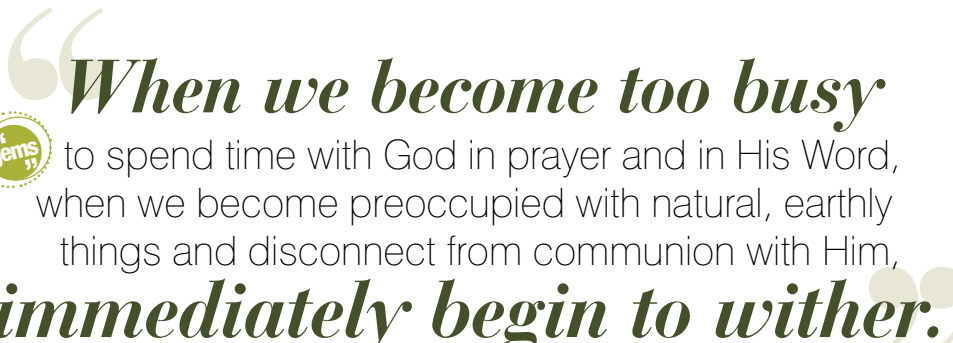
It's shocking to think that anything can undercut the effectiveness of God's Word, but this is the truth: tradition can do it. It can put you in such a spiritual stupor that you start acting like the people Jesus talked about in Matthew 13:15. Do you remember how He described them? He said, "[Their] heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

Personally, I want to make sure that I never fit that description! I'm determined never to believe a lie instead of what the Word of God says. I don't want my heart to get hard and unperceptive so that I can't see and hear the truth. I want to walk every day in faith so I can be healed and blessed in every way.

I'm sure you do too. So let's take the time right now to check up on ourselves. Let's look at some of the most common healing-stealing traditions and make certain we've run them completely out of our lives.

Tradition 1: God gets glory when we accept sickness with a good attitude.

I've never figured out how people came up with this idea, but somehow (with a lot of help from the devil) they did. They decided that, as Christians, we can glorify God by suffering physical illness or infirmity without complaining.


When we become too busy
to spend time with God in prayer and in His Word,
when we become preoccupied with natural, earthly
things and disconnect from communion with Him,
we immediately begin to wither.



There could be no greater lie in the world than that!

Only the devil gets glory when our bodies are incapacitated. God gets glory when we have the physical strength and health to be of service to His kingdom and a blessing to others. As Jesus said in John 15:8, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."

You can read the New Testament from front to back and you won't find any record of God getting praise because someone on a sickbed said they were suffering for Jesus. No, He received praise when someone had a testimony to share with the world. In the ministry of Jesus, God got glory when "great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel" (Matthew 15:30-31).

Clearly, it's healing, not sickness, that glorifies God!

Tradition 2: God puts sickness on you to teach you something.

I imagine the whole throne room of God shudders over this tradition. It's totally contrary to the Scriptures. Nowhere in the Bible does God say that we learn truth and grow up in Him by suffering sickness, disease and turmoil. Not once in the New Testament does it say that sickness is the teacher of the Church.

On the contrary, the Bible says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for

reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Look at those verses again. What do they say corrects us?

God's Word!

What do they say instructs us, furnishes us and makes us perfect (or mature)?

God's Word!

In addition to His Word, God has also given us the Holy Spirit to be our teacher. That's why it's important for us not only to be born again but filled with the Spirit. Jesus said the Holy Spirit is the One who will "teach you all things" (John 14:26). He is the One who will "guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

If we want God to teach us something, we don't have to go out and catch the flu. All we have to do is take time to open our Bibles. We can just read the Word, believe what it says, and let the Holy Spirit show us how to apply it to our lives.

It's a simple process. Anyone can do it, and I can tell you from years of experience, it's a lot of fun. I love getting up in the morning and heading for my prayer-and-Bible-reading place first thing. I always get happy looking in the Word and seeing what belongs to me as a believer. It's a great way to start the day.

If you haven't already made it a habit to spend daily time in the Word, do it now. It will change your life. You can't read the Word, believe it and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, and stay sick and defeated. God's Words "are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4:22, *The Amplified Bible*).

What you learn from the Word will bring victory in every area of life!

Tradition 3: Sometimes sickness is a blessing in disguise.

The only time people believe this tradition is when they're in church. They only treat sickness like a blessing when they're around their religious friends. The rest of the time, they're trying to get rid of it. They're going to the doctor, taking medicine and doing anything else they think will cure them.

Why?

Because, as every sound-minded person knows, sickness is never a blessing. It's always a curse. It's the work of the devil and it came into the world as a result of sin. The Bible confirms it. In Deuteronomy 28, God described in detail the curse that came on people who broke His Old Testament laws and said it included "every sickness, and every plague" (verse 61).

But here's the good news: As New Testament believers we've been set free from that curse! Jesus redeemed us from it. When He went to the Cross, He was "made a curse for us" so that the blessing of Abraham might come on us through

Him (Galatians 3:13-14).

Isaiah 53:4-5 says it this way: "Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses).... 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" (AMP).

Tradition 4: Healing has passed away.

This tradition was particularly popular among religious folks when I was a kid. They believed that it had passed away. They weren't exactly sure when it happened but, nevertheless, they seemed certain of its demise.

When I started reading the Bible, however, I realized they were mistaken. I found out that God said, "I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). He didn't say, *I was the Lord who healed you*, or *I will be the Lord who heals you in heaven someday*. He said, *I am your Healer*—right now, today! "I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6).

If those verses hadn't been enough

to convince me that healing couldn't possibly have passed away, 2 Corinthians 6:2 would have. It says, "Today is the day of salvation" (*New Living Translation*). Salvation means more than just being born again. It means deliverance, preservation, material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension, pardon, preservation, protection, liberty, health, and restoration.

In other words, salvation refers just as much to healing as it does to any other part of redemption. So, if you need healing you can always be confident that *today* is your day!

Tradition 5: If it's God's will, I'll be healed.

There's no question about it, God's perfect will is for us to be healed. But God won't *make* us get healed any more than He'll make us do anything else. If we want God's will to be done in our lives, we must cooperate with Him. We must believe His Word and act on it. We must also be on guard against our enemy. His name is Satan and He's come to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). He and his little demons will rob us of everything that belongs to us, including our healing, if we let them.

But, thank God, we don't have to let them! We have authority over them. Jesus said that in His Name we can cast out devils (Mark 16:17), so when Satan tries to put sickness on us, that's what we should do. We should say, "Devil, you get your hands off my body right now, in the Name of Jesus. I rebuke you! Sickness is under the curse and I've been redeemed from the curse. I am healed by the stripes of Jesus!"

The Bible says if you resist the devil he will flee from you (James 4:7). But if you don't, he'll bug you all the time. Even my grandchildren know that. One time some years ago, back when Courtney (John's daughter) and Max (Kellie's son) were preschoolers, they were sitting next to each other in the car. Suddenly, for no apparent reason, Courtney exclaimed, "Shut up, Devil!"

"Why did you say that?" her mother asked. "What happened?"

"The devil just told me to break



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Max's leg," she answered.

Of course, we all laughed about it. But the truth is, Courtney got it right. She knew if she wanted God's will to be done in her life she had to get rid of the devil.

The same is true for you.

Tradition 6:
It's sometimes God's will
for people to die young.

Amazingly enough, Christians who fall prey to this tradition actually think it's scriptural. When they hear about someone who died at an early age, they say things like, "Well, you know the Bible says it's appointed to every man a time to die. I guess this was just their time to go."

As spiritual as that might sound, it's wrong. What the Bible actually says is this: "It is appointed unto men *once* to die" (Hebrews 9:27, emphasis mine). Whether we're young or old when that *once* comes is up to us. If we believe and obey God's Word, we can put it off until we've lived to a ripe old age.

If we have the faith for it, we can be like Moses. He lived to be 120 and he wasn't sick when he left this earth. He still had enough strength to climb Mount Nebo and his eyes were so sharp he could see the Promised Land from there.

How can you be sure that kind of long, strong life is actually God's will for you?

Because of what He said in Proverbs 3:1-2: "My son, forget not my law or teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of a life [worth living] and tranquility [inward and outward and continuing through old age till death], these shall they add to you" (AMP). What a WORD!

Those verses paint a picture of what God wants for all of us. He wants our lives to just get better and better. He wants us to enjoy the fulfillment of the promise in Psalm 91:16: "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation."

That's what my friend Dodie Osteen did.

Many years ago, she was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given only a short time to live. Since the doctors had no cure, she went home from the hospital, put together a list of healing scriptures and started going over them twice a day.

At the time, I'm sure there were some people who, because of their religious traditions, expected her to die quickly. But she'd gotten rid of those traditions herself so she surprised them. She kept living...and living...and living.

After a while, the doctors verified it: Every trace of cancer was gone.

Although her husband, John Osteen, went on to heaven years ago, Dodie is still around today. She must be in her late 70s now and she looks beautiful. She's healed, happy and going strong.

Come to think of it, Dodie is living proof of the wonderful things that happen when you exchange tradition for truth! ⑦

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