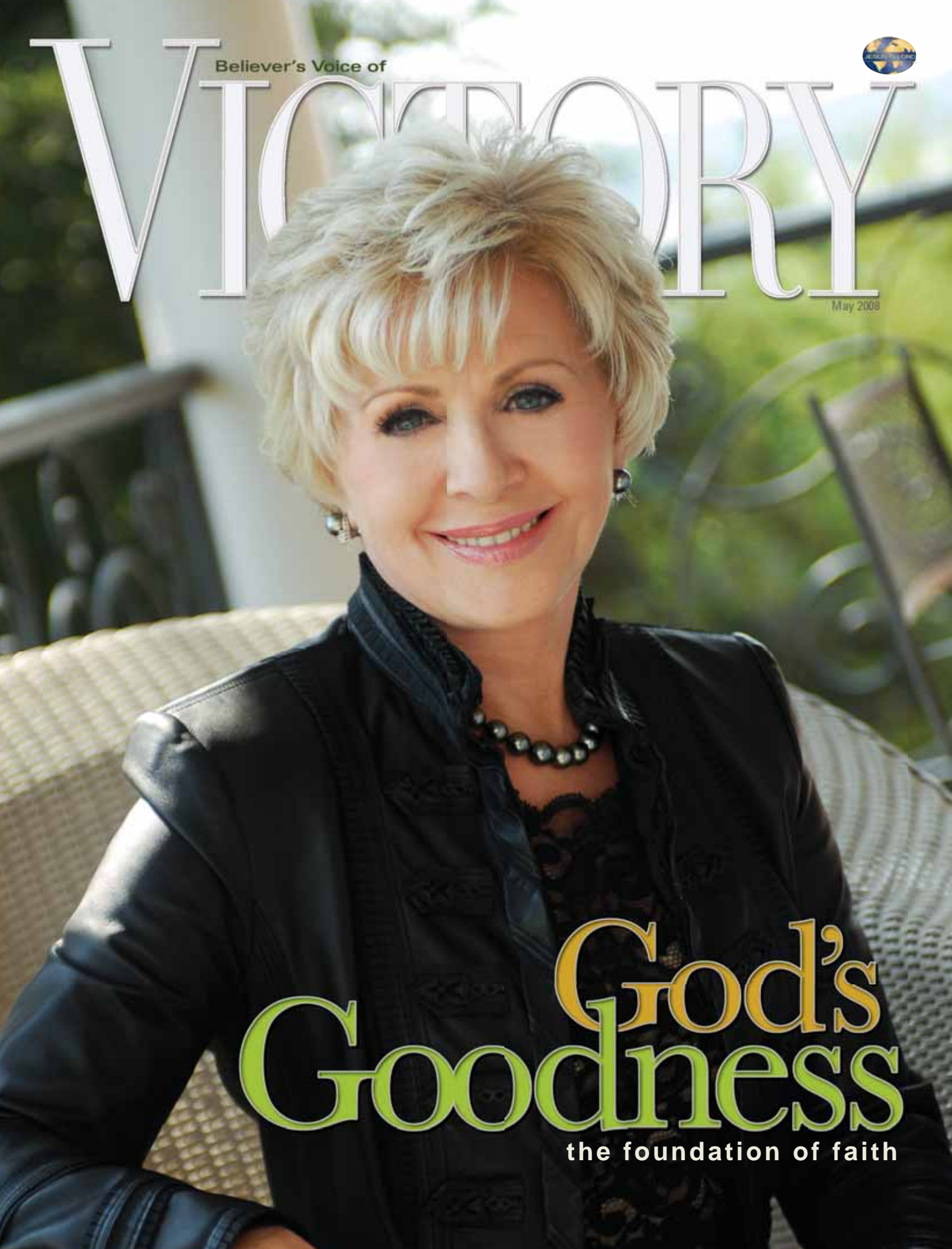


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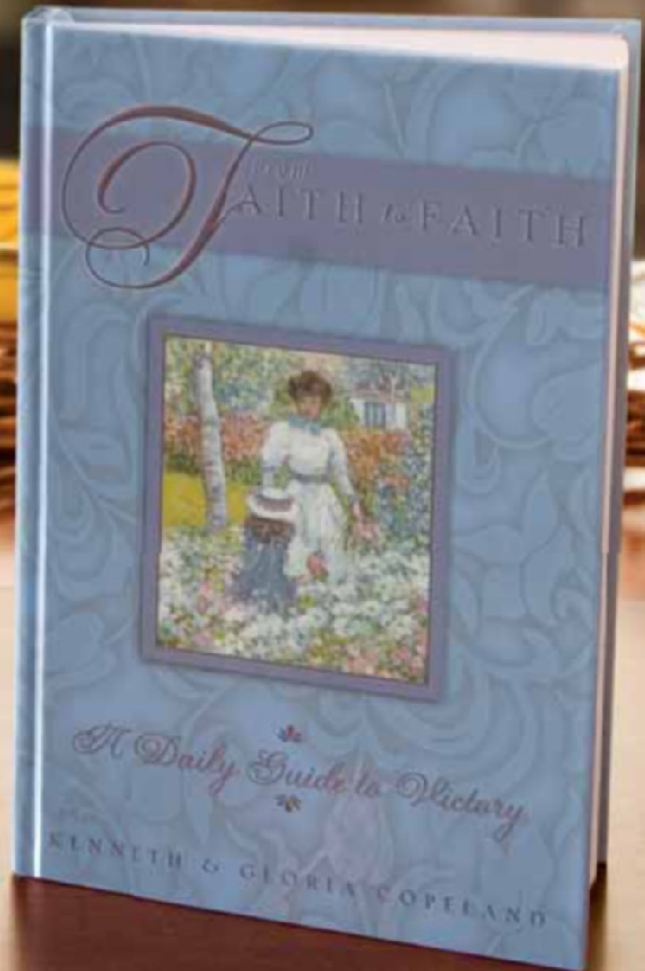
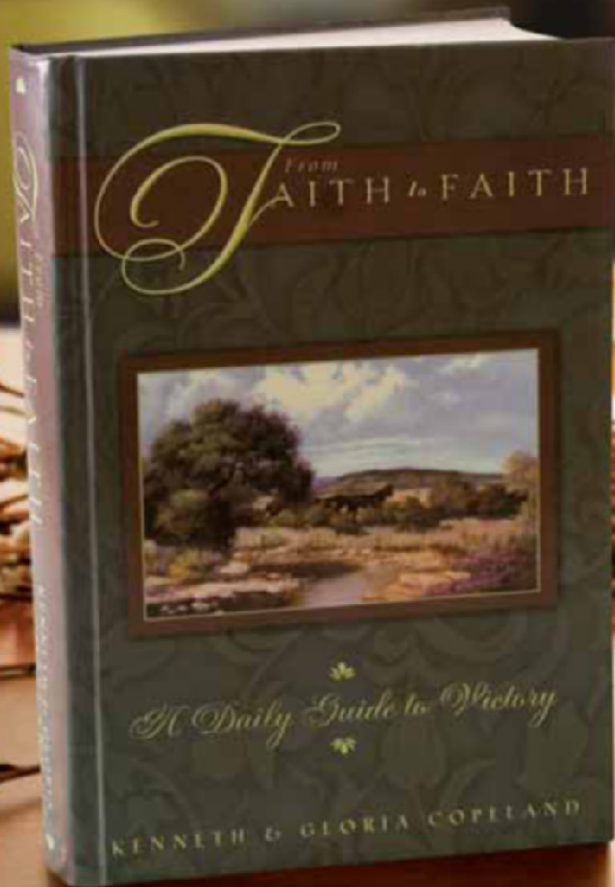
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You understand the basic facts of the Cross...but do you understand the true power behind it? Discover how any bitter life can be made sweet through the power of the Cross!

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 35 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His Word and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

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Discovering the sweet secret of the CROSS

The supernatural power to touch a bitter life and make it sweet. | That's the secret people have been searching for almost since time began. Every human heart cries it out. Every person ever born longs for the power to turn sickness into health, loneliness into love, bondage into freedom and failure into victory. All mankind yearns to taste the full sweetness of abundant life...and to bring that sweetness to others whose lives have become little more than one bitter pill to swallow.

But does such power really exist? Is there truly a secret that can make any life an abundant life?

Absolutely. And, if you've made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life, you've already discovered that secret.

It's the secret of the Cross.

"What do you mean, Brother Copeland?" you might ask. "The Cross is no secret. Lots of people know about the Cross."

Well, they may know some basic facts about the Cross, but they don't understand the true power of it. If they did, then they'd know why the New Testament tells us quite plainly "...the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Notice that verse doesn't tell us the Cross *was* the power of God in the past, in days gone by. It says the Cross *is* the power of God that brings us salvation (which means deliverance from all temporal and eternal evil) now, today, in the

present—and every single day of our lives!

Everything good comes from the Cross. It changed the entire future of humanity and all of heaven forever.

The Cross affected everything. The problem is, most of us don't even begin to understand the fullness of what happened there. We simply think of it as the place where Jesus paid the penalty for sin so we could go to heaven and escape hell. That kind of thinking is right, as far as it goes. But it doesn't go far enough. There's much more to it.

Looking Back to the Good Old Days

To see just how much more actually happened at the Cross, we have to go back to the beginning, to the creation of man, to see how this all began. We have to go back and find out how bitterness got into the life stream of humanity in the first place. God certainly didn't put it there.

The book of Genesis tells us again and again



everything God created on the earth was good. He created the land and the water and “it was good” (Genesis 1:10). He created all vegetation and “it was good” (verse 12). He created the sun, moon and stars; He created the animals and every other living thing and saw that they were good (verse 25).

Once all that was done, God made the body of man from the dust of the earth and breathed His own life into him after saying, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...” (Genesis 1:26). At that moment, man became a living soul. He was clothed with God’s own glory. God Himself empowered Adam (and later, his wife, Eve) to bring blessing and prosperity to the whole earth.

And when it was all finished, the Bible says “God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good” (verse 31). Those truly were the good old days.

The Touch of Death

In those days, Adam and Eve were free to enjoy God’s good creation and reign in Eden as His representatives in the earth. They were free to enjoy nothing but sweetness and light forever—on one condition: They were to keep God’s command.

Everything depended on that. If they obeyed God’s command, life would be glorious and wonderful. If they disobeyed His command, they would die.

Sadly, they made the wrong choice. They disobeyed...and the light of God’s glory that once radiated from them was snuffed out by the spiritual darkness of sin. Satan, whom they had obeyed, became their overlord. His deadly nature invaded their spirits, and everything beautiful God had breathed into Adam and Eve was instantly twisted and marred.

The fruit of God’s Spirit that once filled their souls—qualities like love, joy, peace and faith—were suddenly corrupted. Love became hate. Joy became sorrow. Peace became turmoil. Faith became fear.

The anointing of God that had once empowered them to bless the earth was transformed into a touch of death that cursed the entire planet. The very ground itself was cursed because of what happened to them. Every molecule was infected by it. The earth, and everything in it, was cursed.

That, in itself, would have been bad enough. But the horror didn’t stop there. Because God had ordained that every seed produce after its own kind, Adam and Eve were destined to reproduce children infected by the curse of sin. So the more they multiplied, the more the effects of the curse increased!

Under the curse of sin, life on earth which had

Jesus took away the authority of bitterness and
released THE BLESSING—heaven’s sweetness—
back into the earth! He bore our bitterness and gave us His sweet abundant life.

once been so sweet became indescribably bitter. In fact, “bitterness” is the definition of the Hebrew root of the word *curse*.

I doubt if Adam realized the full extent of what had happened right away, but as time passed the magnitude of it must have dawned on him. He must have thought, *Dear Lord, the seed of everything in the earth is bitter! My own seed is bitter! How will anything on earth ever be pure again? God, how can I ever be Your friend again?*

Adam didn’t have a clue. He didn’t know what God’s plan was. It was a mystery hidden in God before the world began (1 Corinthians 2:7). Yet from the very first moment the curse hit the earth, God began to talk about redemption. Right there in the Garden of Eden after Adam sinned, God spoke to the devil and said, *There is One coming, the son of a woman, and He will crush your head....* (See Genesis 3:15.)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BY KENNETH COPELAND

Q: I’ve heard some Christians use the phrase “born again.” Although I’ve been going to church most of my life, I’m not really sure what that means. Can you tell me?

A: The Lord Jesus Himself was actually the first to use the phrase “born again.” He was talking to a man named Nicodemus who was a good, “church-going” man. In fact, he was a ruler of the Jews. But he realized that despite his religious background, there were some spiritual matters he didn’t fully understand.

Nicodemus was asking Jesus about these things and Jesus replied, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

To understand more fully what Jesus meant, you can look at 2 Corinthians 5:17. There, the Apostle Paul tells us, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Paul knew firsthand what he was talking about. Years before he wrote those words, he had encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. He had realized Jesus Christ was indeed the Son of God. And he made a once-and-for-all decision to make Him the Lord and Master of his life. At that moment, Paul literally became a new man inside. He was born again by the supernatural power of God into God’s own image. And as the

New Testament shows, his life was never the same again.

Unbelievable as it may seem, many good, church-going people have never had that experience. They have a mental understanding of the Scriptures. They even know Jesus is the Son of God. Yet their natures have never been changed. They haven’t been born again because they haven’t received Jesus in a personal way—as their very own Savior and as the Lord of their lives.

If you haven’t yet had that experience, today can literally be the beginning of a new life for you. All you have to do is turn to Jesus and say something like this:

“Father in heaven, I believe with all my heart that Jesus is the sinless Son of God, that He came to die in my place, and He has been raised from the dead. I believe You have given Him to me as my personal Savior. Today I receive Him as my gift from You. Today I proclaim Jesus is my Lord.

“Jesus, come into my heart to live forever. I turn my life over to You and I receive You as Lord and Savior. I believe Your blood has cleansed me of my sins and I am a new creature in You. Amen.” VICTORY

God Did the Impossible

The devil himself must have wondered how God was ever going to find such a man. After all, the entire race of man was under demonic lordship. They were all sinners. They couldn’t defeat the devil. They were his slaves. And through their sin, they’d all earned the same wages: bitterness and eternal death.

Of course, according to God’s system of covenant justice, if God could find one pure man, the blood of that man could be shed for the rest of mankind. He could become their substitute and take their punishment. But God had no pure seed on the earth to work with. He couldn’t even start again from scratch to form a new Adam from the dust of the earth, because the dust itself was cursed and impure. How could God ever find human blood that was not already cursed with bitterness? It was impossible. Or so it seemed.

But God made a way. He visited a young woman named Mary and spoke His Word to her. She believed it and that Word went into her. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Jesus, the Word Himself, was born as the pure, sinless Son of Man and Son of God. There was no bitterness in Him. No trace of the curse. He passed every test of temptation Adam

had failed. He lived as a free man. Death could not touch Him.

But then He did the unthinkable.

“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8).

Jesus was already free. He didn’t have to do that. But He chose to do it so “...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Living in Heaven’s Sweetness

That’s what happened on the Cross! Jesus redeemed us from the bondage of the curse by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13). He not only paid the awful price for what Adam did, He broke the power of the curse and destroyed Satan’s authority to use it on any believer who, by faith, will walk in their purchased redemption.

Jesus took away the authority of bitterness and released the blessing—heaven’s sweetness—back into the earth! He bore our bitterness and gave us His sweet abundant life.

He opened Eden’s goodness to us again.

How do we live in that goodness? The same way Adam and Eve were supposed to do it—by obeying God’s commandment. If we’ll do that, the curse will be helpless to function in our lives and God’s good blessings will overtake us (Deuteronomy 28:1-2). The saving power of the Cross itself is released in every area of our lives—spirit, soul and body—when we keep God’s commands.

And as 1 John 5:3 says, “His commandments are not grievous.” In fact, they are delightfully simple. “This is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another” (1 John 3:23).

Or, as Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-40: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it,

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Believe and love. That’s all we have to do to live free.

There’s no need for us to suffer the effects of the curse any longer. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, God has not only made it possible for us to taste the sweet life of God, He’s put a well of it inside us (John 4:14). He’s given us rivers of it, rivers that will never run dry (John 7:38).

The supernatural power to touch a bitter life and make it sweet has already been given to you. So release your faith and let that sweetness flood not only your own life, but the lives of countless others as well. Step into the overflow through the power of the Cross!

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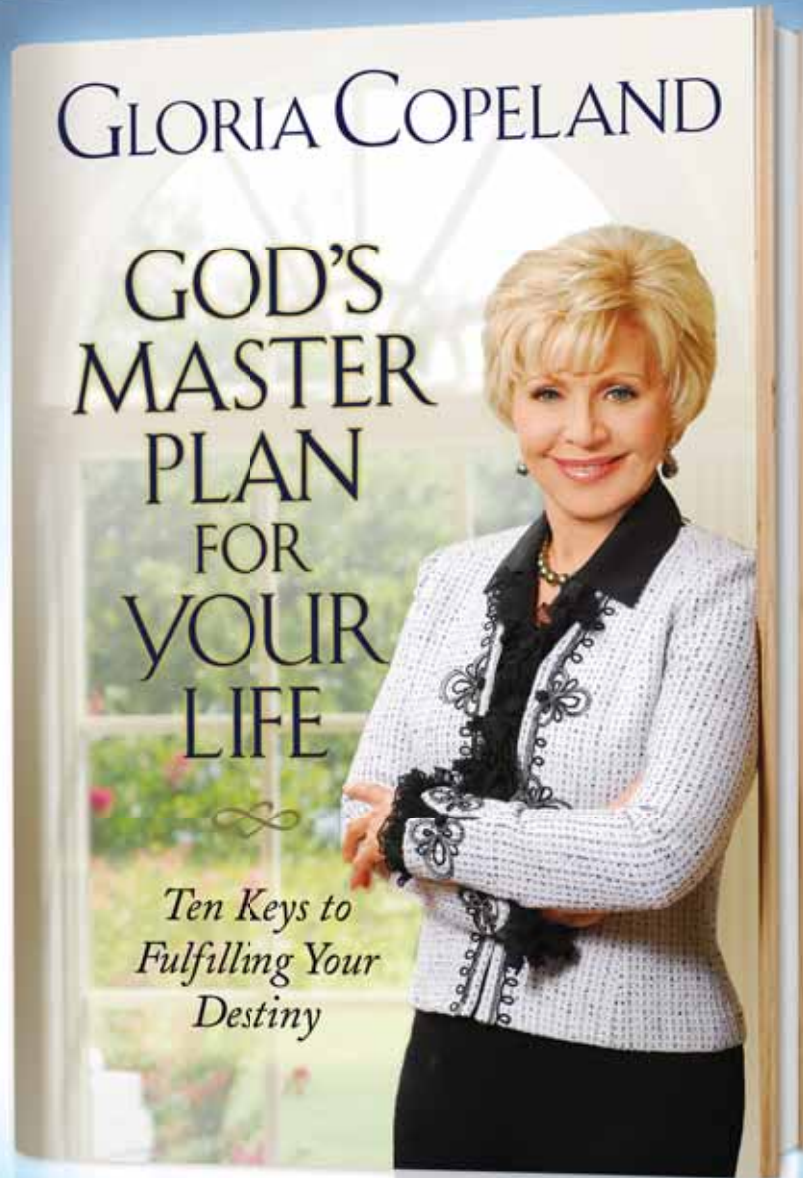
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Following is the third of three excerpts from Gloria Copeland's new hardcover, *God's Master Plan for Your Life*, coming out this spring from Putnam Praise, a division of Penguin Group (USA).

This is one of Gloria's most important works to date and we're excited to offer it to you, our Partners and Friends. Discover the power the Word can have in your life when you connect with *God's Master Plan for Your Life*.

UNLOCKING THE POWER OF THE WORD

KEN AND I HAVE LEARNED WE CAN'T EVER AFFORD TO JUST COAST ALONG SPIRITUALLY, RESTING IN THE MOMENTUM OF THE PAST. IF WE DID THAT, WE'D STOP MAKING PROGRESS AND BEFORE LONG WE'D BE GOING BACKWARD. WE'D START LOSING GROUND.

I determined in 1977 I'd never let that happen to me. Ken and I had been in the ministry about 10 years at that time, and God had abundantly blessed us. We'd grown much more comfortable than we were when we first began learning the power of the Word. Our needs were met. We had a nice place to live, good cars to drive and nice clothes to wear. We weren't broke and our debts were paid.

As a result, I'd started to relax a little. I wasn't in sin or rebellion but I wasn't as zealous about the Word of God as I'd been a few years earlier. I'd allowed other interests to crowd out some of the time and attention I'd once given to God.

But that year I heard a prophecy by Kenneth Hagin that changed my attitude. It spoke of days to come when *men upon this earth shall walk and talk and act like God*. It referred to believers who would live in the power of God and become an army of light on the earth. Kenneth Hagin said:

Many of those here tonight are part of that army. You can be one if you so desire. Purpose in your heart that you will not be lazy, that you will not draw back, hold back or sit down. But purpose in your heart that you will rise up and march forward, and become on fire.

When I heard those words, I examined myself spiritually and realized my desire for the Word wasn't as strong

as it had once been. I didn't make excuses for it. I didn't try to justify myself. I just heeded the Holy Spirit's prompting and honestly assessed my spiritual condition.

I will be forever glad I did. If I hadn't, I don't know where I'd be today. I'd still be a Christian, I'm sure, but I wouldn't be on fire for the Lord like I am now, because to be on fire, you must stay zealous about the Word. You must continually put God first in your life.

In response to the Holy Spirit's warning that day, I made some decisions that changed my life. I decided I wanted to be in the spiritual army Kenneth Hagin prophesied about. I wanted to rise up and become on fire like I was at first.

JUST ONE HOUR OUT OF 24

So how did I reignite my faith? Just as I do with everything else in my life, I sought God's counsel. "Lord, what can I do?" I asked. "How can I stir myself up again?"

I didn't realize it then, but I believe now that much of my future depended on getting the answer to that question. I needed God's wisdom at that moment if I were to stay on God's shining path and fulfill His Master Plan. Of course, He gave me the wisdom I needed, just as He'll give it to you, if you ask for it, because the Bible says: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5, *KJV*).

God's Word will deliver you from trouble.
It will solve seemingly impossible problems...

When I asked the Lord how to rise up and become on fire again, He impressed upon me to begin reading one of John G. Lake's sermons every day. (Later, we published those sermons in a book, but at that time they were just loose, mimeographed copies.) John G. Lake was a powerful man of God who carried a divine spirit of dominion. The more I read his sermons, the more I began to catch the same spirit. Before long, I was conscious of God's power in a new and mighty way, and my fiery zeal for the Word was blazing brightly again.

A few years later, in 1982, Kenneth Hagin delivered another prophecy that added even more fuel to the fire:

Don't take up all your time with natural things. Some of those things are legitimate and it's all right to take a certain period of time there, but see to it that you give heed unto your spirit. Give your spirit opportunity to feed upon the Word of God, and give your spirit opportunity to commune with the Father above. Build yourself up on your most holy faith by praying in the spirit. It doesn't take a lot of time, just an hour or two out of 24. Just pay a tithe of your time unto Me, saith the Lord, and all will be well with you. Your life will be changed. It will be empowered and you will be a mighty force for God.

After that, I started getting up early every morning to pray for an hour. When I first started, it was winter and because of the cold I really had to battle with my body to get up that hour earlier. I'd be sleepy, the bed would be warm, and my body would say, *Don't get up! It's too cold and dark outside. Sleep just a little while longer.* Initially, sometimes I'd give in, but I just kept at it until getting up early to pray became a way of life for me.

It's been 26 years since I first made that commitment, and I've consistently prayed an hour a day ever since. I probably haven't missed more than a handful of days in all those years. That means I've prayed almost 9,490 hours just on that one assignment. God only knows the tremendous influence that has had on my life.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say I believe that one decision

did more to help me connect to the Master Plan for my life than any other thing I've done as a Spirit-filled believer. It was a simple decision but it wasn't an easy one to make. I don't mind telling you, I thought about it for a while before I made up my mind to do it because I don't like to commit to something and then back out. I prefer to count the cost in advance and make sure I'm fully willing to do whatever it takes to see my commitments through. (God, of course, has given me the grace to do it. He would love to do the same for you!)

Had I known then what I know now, however, I would have made that decision in a heartbeat. Looking back, I can see it transformed my whole personality. Spending that hour with God every day changed the course of my life.

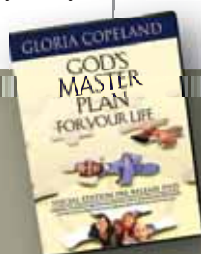
The same thing is true of the decision I made back in 1977 to stir up my zeal for the Lord by reading the John G. Lake sermons. I wasn't preaching back then. Ken was the only preacher in our family and I thought that was just fine. I had absolutely no aspirations to minister at the pulpit. Even though that has proven to be a major part of God's Master Plan for me, I had no inkling of it at the time.

What would have happened had I not obeyed those promptings of the Holy Spirit? What if I had never obeyed God to make those commitments to stir up my hunger for the Word and spend time every day in prayer?

Most likely, I would never have done what I'm doing now. God might not have assigned me to preach because I would have been unprepared. I would have missed a major portion of the Master's Plan for my life.

Determine right now that you'll never let that happen to you. Make up your mind you'll always expect such promptings from the Holy Spirit, and that you'll never ignore them when they come. Even if it seems costly at the time, always do what God puts in your heart to do. Your whole future may depend on it. Remember, God is always endeavoring to make His plan a reality in your life. God's Word will deliver you from trouble. It will solve seemingly impossible problems...and it will *always* connect you to the Master Plan.

VICTORY



No matter what difficulties

you may face, or how perplexing your problems may seem, you can always trust the Holy Spirit to lead you to the answers.

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Shaping America

BY DAVID BARTON



In early America, Christians and ministers were responsible for shaping our form of government. They were involved in three vital arenas.

Christians were involved in shaping worldview.

They taught society that everything in life can be addressed by principles in the Bible. Ministers addressed issues people were dealing with at the time, and gave them God's wisdom about those subjects. They also taught their congregations from the Word what their civic responsibilities were in regard to elections, government leaders, etc.

Christians were responsible for creating a biblical worldview throughout the culture. Even atheists knew what was right and wrong, knew the Ten Commandments and often followed them. Christians had tremendous influence in society by demonstrating that the Word of God was practical and applicable. Their example and ideals helped shape the culture that led to the American Revolution.

Our Constitution contains radical ideas that no other nation has ever put into practice. In fact, it contains so many novel concepts that political science professors investigated to find out where the founding fathers got their ideas of separation of powers, checks and balances, and democratic elections. After 10 years of studying 15,000 writings, they discovered 34 percent of the quotes in the Founding Era came from the Bible. And in the writing of the Declaration, the source quoted most often was *Two Treatises of Government*, a book that cites the Bible more than 1500 times. Biblical thinking so undergirded our founding documents that John Adams stated, "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were...the general principles of Christianity."

Christians, pastors and churches were also intricately involved in the making of governmental policy.

Today many people believe government is a secular institution and religious people should not be and never were involved in the process. That view can only be held because they don't know who our founders really were. For example:

Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon had numerous volumes of gospel sermons published. He was responsible for two American editions of the Bible, including America's first family Bible.

Dr. Benjamin Rush started the first Bible society and Sunday school society in America. He believed if people would only read and study the Bible, all social problems could be resolved.

Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 24 held what would today be considered seminary or Bible-school degrees.

Men like these formed our early laws and policies. In fact many ministers and theologians were members of Congress and members of their state assemblies.

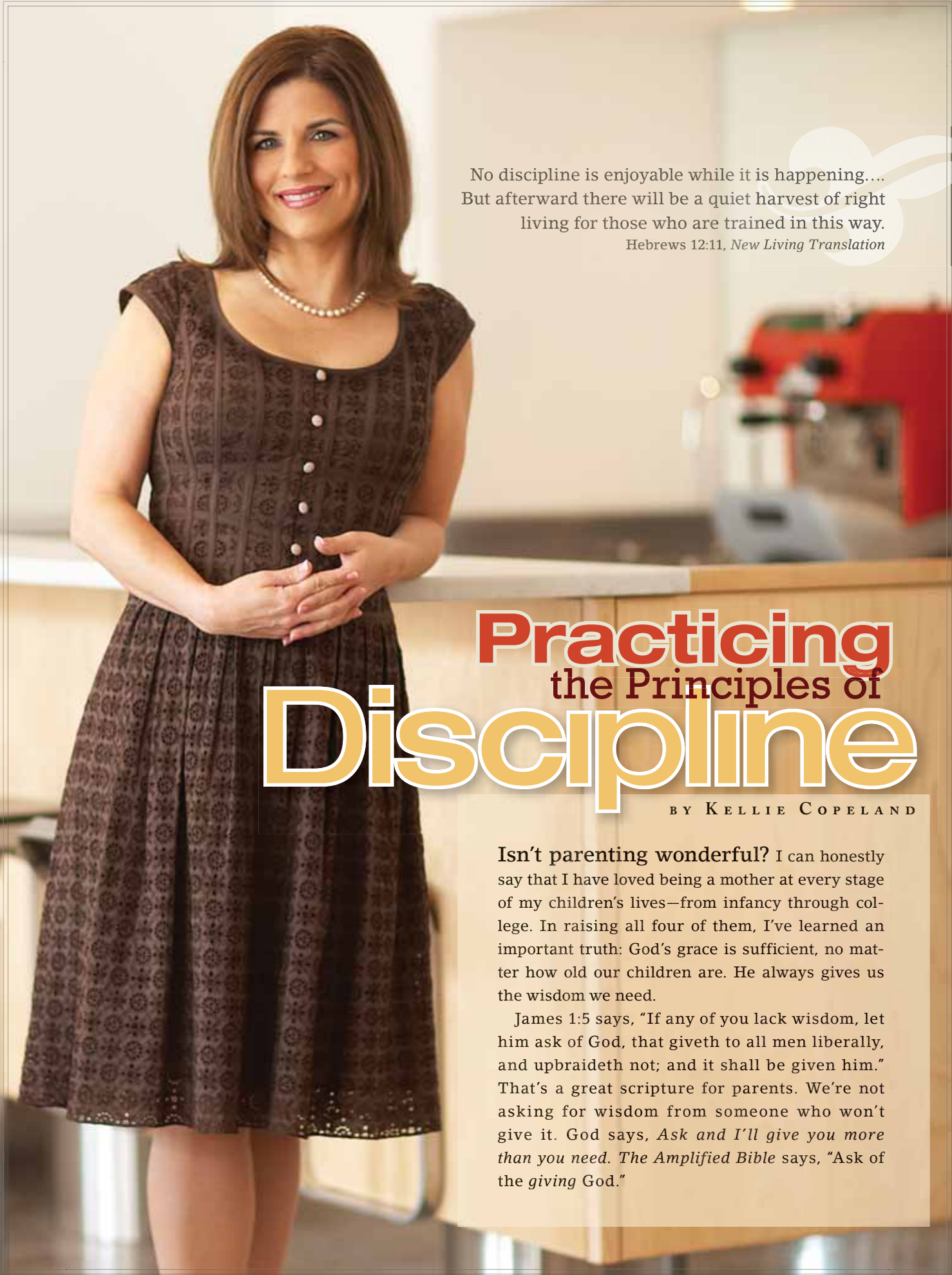
Finally, Christians were actively involved in defending our country.

Many brigades in the American Revolution were made up of ministers who led their parishioners to defend their rights. The minutemen in Lexington, Mass., were deacons of Rev. Jonas Clark's church. They followed their pastor as he led the charge to defend the town. These Christians and many others understood that we have "dual citizenship" and stewardship responsibilities here on earth as well as in heaven.

When you look at American history, Christians, pastors and churches were responsible to a large degree in shaping worldview, in shaping policy and in defending our country. As Christians, God made us stewards of the nation He gave us. It's time to renew our minds to that truth and get involved again in shaping America. **VICTORY**



David Barton, nationally known author and public speaker, is the founder and president of WallBuilders, a pro-family organization which seeks to educate grass-roots society to rebuild America's constitutional, moral and religious foundations. For more information go to www.wallbuilders.com, call 817-441-6044 or write to WallBuilders, P.O. Box 397, Alledo, TX 76008-0397.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark brown lace dress and a pearl necklace, stands in a kitchen. She is smiling and has her hands clasped in front of her. In the background, a red coffee maker is visible on a counter.

No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening....
But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right
living for those who are trained in this way.
Hebrews 12:11, New Living Translation

Practicing the Principles of Discipline

BY KELLIE COPELAND

Isn't parenting wonderful? I can honestly say that I have loved being a mother at every stage of my children's lives—from infancy through college. In raising all four of them, I've learned an important truth: God's grace is sufficient, no matter how old our children are. He always gives us the wisdom we need.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." That's a great scripture for parents. We're not asking for wisdom from someone who won't give it. God says, *Ask and I'll give you more than you need. The Amplified Bible says, "Ask of the giving God."*

The Lord explained to me, It's **your responsibility** to see that your child is a doer.

I recently asked the Lord what He thought about parenting, and He said something surprising: *I want to help, but My people won't let Me. They close the door on My wisdom and grace.*

We do that by looking to the world for parenting instruction. Only God knows the best way to raise children. Remember God made us, and He made our children. He knows every little quirk and bent He put in them, so He knows what needs to be corrected. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it" (*The Amplified Bible*).

I would like to share several principles the Lord has shown me about disciplining children that will work for you too. If you'll allow Him to, God will give you wisdom to know how to handle each situation.

Do Things God's Way

One of the biggest ways parents close the door to God's wisdom is by thinking that His Word is archaic. Everything God says about parenting *works*—even what He says about discipline. But we must choose to be *doers* of His Word.

The Lord explained to me, *It's your responsibility to see that your child is a doer.* If you're not disciplining your child, you're not a doer. Not only that, by not being a doer, you are sowing bad seed into your child's life.

Matthew 7:26-27 shows the result of not being a doer of the Word: "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

Temptations and pressures are great in the lives of children today. But if they have a deep foundation in the Word, and have learned to do what you say and what God says, they will be able to stand. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (verses 24-25).

Just praying for your children won't make them doers of the Word, and certainly if you are not a doer you aren't being a good example. It's up to you to teach them the Word and teach them to obey and be a doer yourself. The Word says to discipline them.

Discipline, Don't Punish

Discipline is not the same as punishment, and it's important to recognize the difference. It will change the way we respond to our children.

Punishment makes a person suffer for doing something wrong.

Discipline trains a person to develop skills or orderly behavior. It helps them become successful in life. According to Proverbs 10:17, "People who accept correction are on the pathway to life..." (*New Living Translation*).

However, Proverbs 1:7 says that "fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline" (*The Amplified Bible*).

When we lovingly discipline our children, we are doing it for their benefit. Discipline creates needed boundaries, helps children develop self-control, and establishes order and peace in our homes.

As parents, it's our responsibility to explain the concept of biblical discipline to our children. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children."



Temptations and pressures are great in the lives of children today. But if they have a deep foundation in the Word, and have learned to do what you say and what God says, they will be able to stand.

Sit down and teach your children what God's Word says so they will understand why they must be disciplined and how to repent.

Biblical Discipline, Repentance and Forgiveness

To begin with, explain that disobedience is sin. When a person sins, they walk away from God and there are consequences for that. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death." Sin opens the door to the enemy, and that enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). Ephesians 4:27 says we are to give no place to the devil.

Through discipline and repentance, a person is able to repent and turn back to the Lord.

But here's something I should point out: Discipline is not verbal. Proverbs 29:19 says a servant can't be corrected by mere words. Neither can a child.

According to Proverbs 22:15, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Foolishness is normal in the heart of a child, but if left there and not driven out as the Lord has commanded it will pervert him or her. Proverbs 19:3 says, "The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord. Proverbs 13:24 says, "He who spares his rod [of discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently" (*The Amplified Bible*).

Did you notice how strongly that is worded? Most people would tell you the Bible says, "Spare the rod, you *spoil* the child." But it says "Hate!" The world would have us believe that we shouldn't spank our children. But if we don't, and I can't emphasize this enough, we "hate" them. If we refuse to discipline our children God's way, we are setting them up for failure.

Spanking teaches a child there is a sting to sin. It teaches them to repent quickly. That will carry over into their adult lives.

Now there is a right way to spank a child. Never should a child be beaten, abused or spanked in anger. Never use your hands, but rather use a "reedlike" rod as Proverbs 23:13 says in *The Amplified Bible*. I use something like a switch or a wooden spoon.

When my children were young, I explained that in the Old Testament, an altar was made of wood and a sacrifice was placed on that altar. The sacrifice was burned up, and then the people's sin was gone. When Jesus died on the cross, He died on a wooden altar and our sin was gone.

When a child willingly submits to discipline and repents, it is like an altar of forgiveness. He is forgiven by his parents and by God. The sin is gone, and there

is no place for the devil to get into his life.

Explaining this will help your children understand the point of discipline so they can come into agreement with what you are doing and not resist it.

You can also show them the benefits of being obedient with scriptures like Ephesians 6:1-3: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

The whole point of disciplining your children is that you want them to learn to repent, turn to God immediately when they sin and close the door on the enemy.

After being disciplined, when a child truly repents and is forgiven, it sets him free. His heart is cleansed.

After spanking your child, pray a positive, restorative prayer. Hug him and let him know how much he is loved. Your child should leave the experience with a smile on his face!

As we discipline our children, we are teaching them how to quickly repent in the future when God admonishes them with words. That is something they need to understand in order to have a strong relationship with the Lord. Aside from this, discipline is so much more effective when Jesus, parents *and* children are on the same page and in agreement.

Say Goodbye to Excuses

Once when my children were still small, I was asked to teach about parenting. They were generally well-behaved but were still challenging me. I didn't feel qualified to teach on the subject and gave God excuses for why I shouldn't. He responded by saying, *If you make excuses for your condition or the condition of your home, you will not change.* He then added, *If you make excuses for your children, you won't discipline them and they won't change.*

That statement really struck me!

How many of us have been at a restaurant with friends when our little Suzie has thrown a fit? Rather than discipline her, we made excuses like, "She's just tired."

Instead we should tell our child, "That behavior is not acceptable," and deal with the situation according to the Word.

Proverbs 29:17 says, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest." That isn't easy or convenient at times, but it is necessary. No matter where we are, we must take the time to correct our children. As we sow seeds of discipline in their lives, we will reap a harvest of rest.

Parenting is one of the most important jobs we'll

ever have. If we do it correctly, our children will grow up knowing the Lord and walking according to His Word.

God has a plan for the lives of our children and it includes discipline. We must base that discipline on God's Word, stop making excuses for poor behavior, commit to practicing discipline—not punishment, teach them to repent and offer them forgiveness. By

disciplining our children God's way, we are setting them up for success! **VICTORY**

Kellie Copeland is the children's pastor at Eagle Mountain International Church and actively guides KCM's children's ministry.

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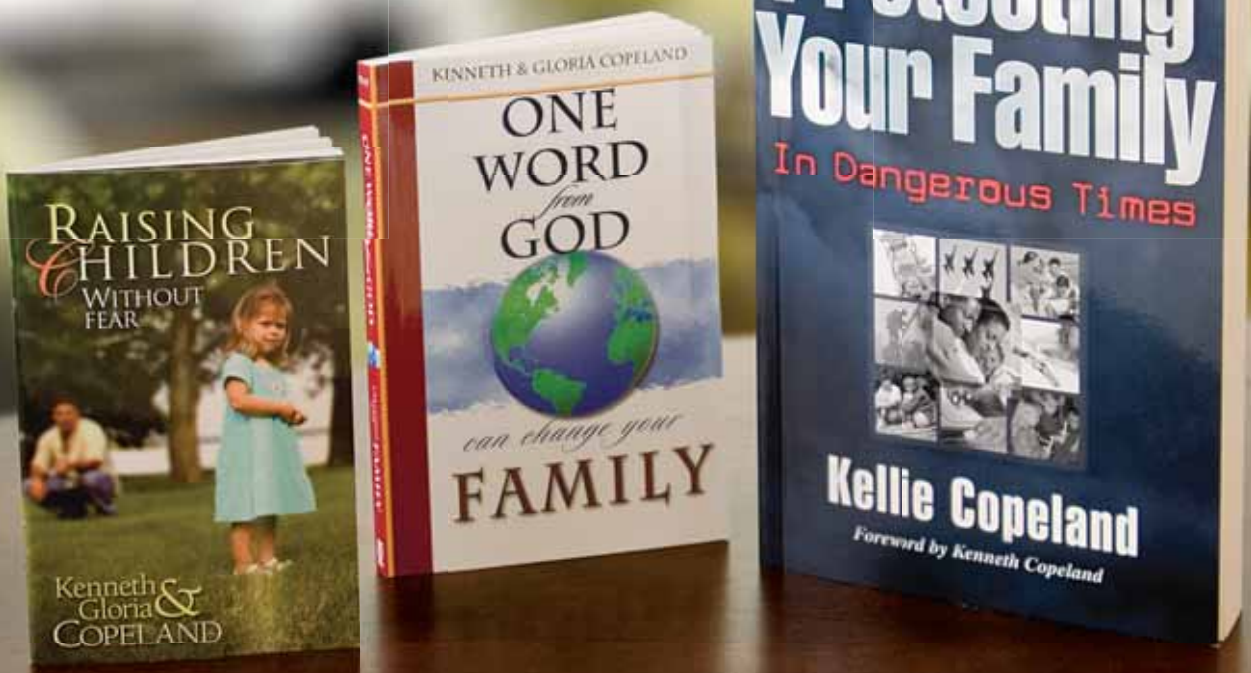
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GoodNewsGazette

Our Lives Changed Forever!

My husband and I attended the Southwest Believers' Convention, as we have for many years, but this time something happened that changed our lives forever! There has been a revival and revelation of God's Word as never before. We went to every meeting possible and listened to BVOV.TV all through the night.

For the first time in our marriage, we don't even want to watch news or regular TV. We have a hunger for the Word and are consumed with God. He has delivered us from fear, debt, the curse and strife. This is just the beginning to a new life!

After the meeting was over, God told me we had a choice of whether or not we wanted the changes to continue. We say, "Yes, Lord," and choose blessing and life. We thank Kenneth Copeland Ministries, the speakers and all the workers. You have a spirit of excellence which operates in the love of Jesus. Jesus changed our lives during the 2007 SWBC and we will never be the same!

J.H. | Texas

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty...

(PSALMS 91:1 THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

Revival in the Prisons

Through your wonderful support, a revival has started among the inmates here at Clarendon County Detention Center and only God knows what will happen next!

I was asked by a local pastor if he could accompany me on a few visits to the detention center. He was truly taken aback when he saw the love and zeal these inmates had for God, Jesus and for each other. He made the statement that what was going on there should be happening in the churches, but in a lot of cases it isn't.

To God be the glory! One of the inmates stated recently that several of the correctional officers are now reading the Bible at their desks. Isn't that marvelous? I just want to thank you again for what you at KCM are doing for our Master. May God continue to bless and prosper KCM and staff as you continue to serve out of a heart of love.

H.C. | South Carolina

New Job Is Answered Prayer

A couple of years ago I wrote a prayer request asking you to stand with me in prayer because I was in need. I wanted to be employed in the government department and God has answered my prayer. He gave me a permanent job in the Department of Land Affairs. God honors His Word more than anything. Praise the Lord!

I would also like to thank you once more for the monthly magazine. The *BVOV* magazines are helping me so much to know the Word of God and knowing how much God cares for me is a great privilege. I am enjoying every moment of my life because my life is hidden in Jesus.

M.P.G. | South Africa

A Clean Report

Awhile back I wrote for prayer. I had a checkup and the doctor said it could be cancer. I anointed myself with oil and submerged myself in the Word and Gloria's *Healing Scriptures*. I took those scriptures every day as medicine, and put my faith out there for healing. I went through several tests and praise God, they came back perfectly normal—no signs of cancer and a clean report! Thank you for interceding for me. My family and I thank you and pray for you all.

Debbie Hanewinkel | North Carolina

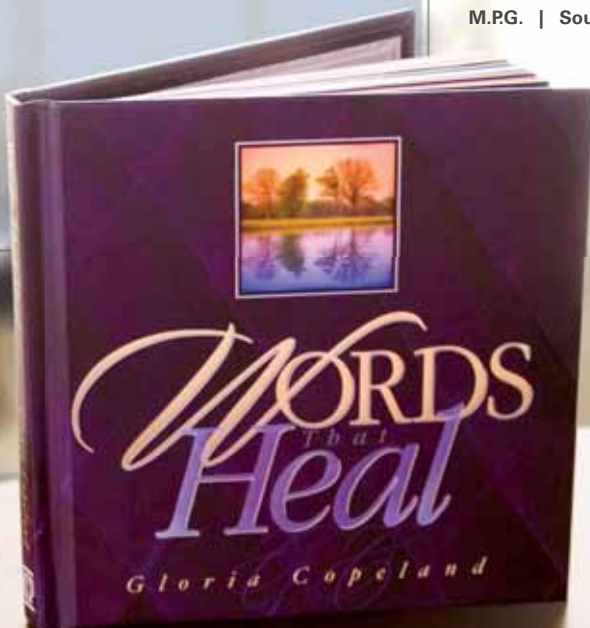
A Safe Return Home

Last year my son and daughter-in-law were in Japan. Rebecca was hospitalized for emergency surgery, delaying their return home. My son called and told me there were no available flights for them to come home together, and nothing was available for a quick return. The travel agent was positive she couldn't help them.

I called the KCM prayer ministry. *Wow!* The anointing was so powerful and the words and love expressed were awesome! The prayer minister declared that my kids would fly home together on or before Friday, the date we were praying for. Guess what? They flew home on Thursday—together! My daughter-in-law returned safe and sound from a successful surgery.

You are my spiritual parents and I thank God for blessing my life with your impact of ministry.

L.H. | Colorado



Sowed Seed, Reaped Harvest

Thank you so much for ringing me and inquiring of my welfare after the recent floods. Your call was indeed encouraging and at the same time comforting, not only for myself and my husband, but also that our area was in people's prayers in other parts of the world.

Let me tell you about the day the floods came. Normally, I do a voluntary job on Mondays at the magistrates' court, which meant actually having to travel in the worst areas of Sheffield to come home into Rotherham, like Lady's Bridge. It looked as though it was going to collapse. And also along the Wichet, which became a river. But praise God, my heavenly Father had other plans for me that day. The week before the floods my day in court was changed from Monday to Friday. How our Lord loves us and cares for us.

V.S. | United Kingdom

THE BLESSING Is in Our House

Thank you for standing with me in faith for overcoming our family's needs. The Lord has blessed us in overwhelming ways all within the last six weeks! The overflow, the open door and THE BLESSING are all here now!

You stood with me for my daughter and her husband. They married last May, found jobs in June, a house in July and she passed her nursing registry exam in August. You also stood with me for our financial needs. In June I was given a raise, then in July my boss literally "chased me down" to tell me that the company had changed its mind and could offer me more hours so I can get benefits along with the raise! Now I will be able to earn paid time off, have paid holidays and spend much less for health insurance than I have been paying on my own.

And you stood with me for our son who was released from jail in December to be on home detention, followed by probation. He was unable to find a job for a long time. Well, praise God, within two weeks of sending in a prayer request for employment, a man he had interviewed with called him and offered him a job!

Thank you and I stand with you to reach *all* with the good news!

L.W. | Indiana

Confession Brings Possession

God has blessed my life in many ways since I've become a Partner with you. I received your teachings on TV and I agree with you spiritually and scripturally. The words you confess really do come true.

I used to work three to four jobs and sometimes worked all day and night. I was not making enough money for my rent and bills—I was in debt. Now I have one job that pays me more than the three and four jobs did. I am debt free *and* I have a savings account toward my future. I am now healed of anemia that I had for approximately four years. I was like that woman in the Bible with the issue of blood. Praise God, I am now healed!

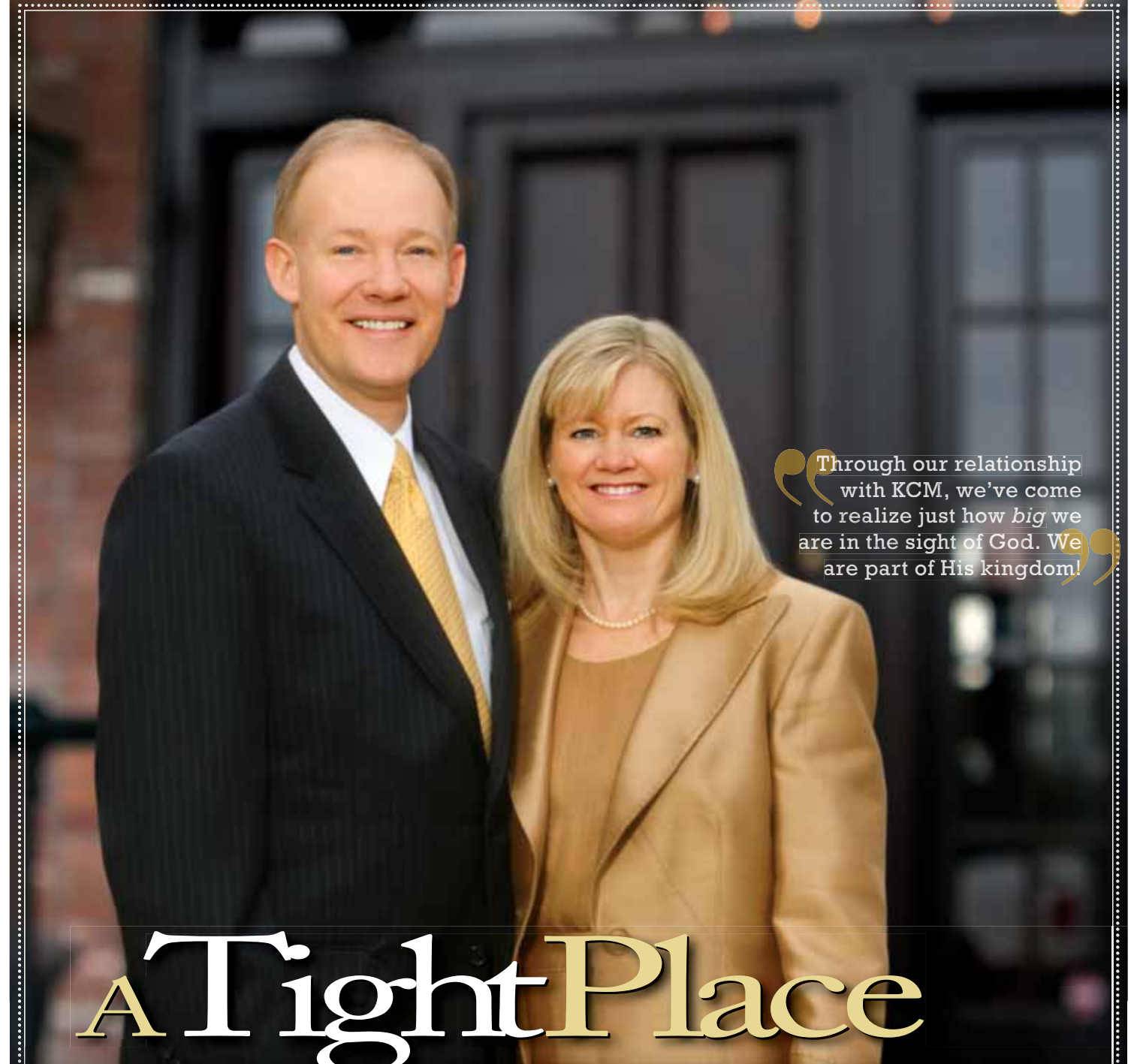
I did not see God's plan at first, but God's way is always the best for us!

J.C. | Virginia

Trusting the Word

Many thanks for all that you've done for the Body of Christ through your ministry. Late one night while I was listening to your broadcast, my faith was so stirred that I could believe for a miracle during my pregnancy. The doctors had told me that I could lose the baby, but after listening to you, I knew what God's will for the baby was and I trusted His Word against the report of the doctors and the negative results of tests I had done. Praise God, I gave birth to a healthy baby boy!

C.N. | Italy



Through our relationship with KCM, we've come to realize just how *big* we are in the sight of God. We are part of His kingdom!

A Tight Place

The unpardonable sin. | Twenty-year-old James Gardner shuddered at the thought as he lay on his bed watching moonlight cast eerie shadows across the room. When had he lost the battle with sin? He forced his mind to rehearse the past, trying to pinpoint the first wrong choice that had led him to this place of total defeat.

It wasn't that he hadn't *tried* to live right. James had been raised in a loving home, and attended a denominational church. He knew the difference between right and wrong, but

somehow *knowing* hadn't translated into conquering. Now, he was certain he'd committed the unpardonable sin. He had waited too long to repent. He had messed up too much.

BY MELANIE HENRY

“God is not your problem!” Brother Copeland said, his blue eyes piercing through the distance, seeming to peer into James’ soul. “Your problem is the devil!”

He was unsavable.

The numbers on the clock beside his bed had moved to 2 a.m. when James dialed a friend, asking for help. The friend opened the church and sat with him for an hour. All James’ questions tumbled out. Did God want him? Could he be saved? Had he really committed the unpardonable sin? Uncertain of the answers, he left the church wrapped in a blanket of hopelessness.

Too tormented to sleep, James soon fell victim to insomnia. Each night passed in an eternity of darkness as he longed for the light of day. Each morning brought torment of its own and left him aching for darkness. He couldn’t choke down food, and as days turned into weeks, 40 pounds melted off his lean frame. Suicide would have brought sweet relief, except James knew all he could expect was an eternity in hell. With each passing day, he spun further downward in an abyss of despair.

One evening in January 1980, James fell on the sofa at the end of the day, trying to still the mental traffic that filled his head. From somewhere deep inside, he heard four words. *Turn on the television.*

“No!” James argued, unable to tolerate the noise.

Again and again he heard the words—*Turn on the television!*

“OK,” he said, “if you’ll leave me alone I’ll turn it on!”

The picture flashed on revealing a preacher standing behind a glass pulpit. An announcer said, “Hometown USA, with Evangelist Kenneth Copeland!”

“God is not your problem!” Brother Copeland said, his blue eyes piercing through the distance, seeming to peer into James’ soul. “Your problem is the devil!”

A slender reed of hope pierced the fear that had cloaked James’ heart. He listened, transfixed, as Brother Copeland explained that he would never be able to defeat sin on his own. He gasped the first time he heard the plan of salvation. He prayed like a convict released from death row. Afterward, when he lifted his heart toward heaven, he was a new creature in Christ.

A New Life

“That night, I went to a friend’s house and told him I’d had a life-changing experience. My friend had seen the same broadcast, and had recorded it. For

the next seven months, he recorded every one of Brother Copeland’s broadcasts so I could watch them. I became a Partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries, and in June that same year, I accepted God’s call into the ministry.

“I was single then, and lived in a little mobile home which I later sold for \$3,000. The Lord told me to plant that money into the ministry as seed toward a home in the future. I planted the money, and eventually forgot about it.”

In 1986, James met a beautiful young woman named Susan whom God told him would become his wife. They married in July 1987, and two years later moved to Jasper, Ala., with their 3-month-old daughter, Averill, and started a church.

Happy to be serving God, the couple settled into a tiny, unfinished, one-bedroom house. The house was fine at first, but when Susan gave birth to their second daughter, Sarah, it became a tight fit.

Still building their faith for their dream home, James and Susan moved out of their tiny house into something bigger—a double-wide mobile home. When they outgrew the mobile home, they bought a three-bedroom home with 900 square feet of living space. In 1995, when Susan gave birth to their third daughter, Kristin, those 900 square feet began to feel...*tight*.

Longing for something bigger, James and Susan often bundled up their daughters and drove through one of the nicest neighborhoods in town to dream. They watched spectacular houses being built and, figuring they might as well dream big, decided to put together a description of their ideal home. It included a big lawn, five bedrooms, a study, an exercise room and a swimming pool.

Standing in Faith

“We had quite a few scriptures we were standing on for our home during those years,” Susan recalls, “but my favorite was Psalm 118:5. I wrote my confession based on the meaning I found in Strong’s Concordance. I confessed, ‘I called upon the Lord in a tight place. The Lord answered me and made me to keep house and to inhabit my new, large, spacious home.’”

Sometimes, the Gardners’ faith seemed stretched to

the max. They were standing in faith for their growing congregation at Jasper Christian Center. They were standing in faith for a home with enough space to grow and entertain fellow ministers of the gospel. And with three daughters romping through the house, they were standing in faith for a son.

In 1998, the Gardners rented a house where they turned the dining area into a schoolroom, and converted the living room into a bedroom. There was no place for James to study, or for the family to relax. A year later, Susan conceived again.

“We *had* to have more room, but we only had \$2,000

in savings and the Lord wouldn’t let us look at houses,” James recalls. “We read in the newspaper that a couple in our church was losing their home to foreclosure. The Lord led us to plant our savings into them so they could keep their home.”

Having Done All—Stand

Years crept by as they watched and waited for the manifestation of their prayers. When Susan conceived in 1999, the family rejoiced, believing the son they had longed for was about to be born. Their hopes were dashed when Susan miscarried. She and James com-

forted one another and determined to hold fast to their faith. In 2000, Susan conceived...and miscarried...again.

“Losing another baby was really hard,” James admits, “but we knew not to give up. We continued to stand in faith for our family and a home where we could grow.”

By June 2002, with Susan seven months pregnant, the Lord finally directed the Gardners to look at homes. “Everything we looked at in our price range was leagues away from what we’d asked for by faith,” James said.

In July, Susan was eight months pregnant, and they hadn’t come close to finding a house when their realtor phoned. “We’ve looked at a lot of houses,” she said. “Pick one!”

“We haven’t found the house we want,” James explained.

“What do you want?”

Susan described their dream home.

“I know the house you just described,” the realtor said. “It’s coming on the market tomorrow,

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but it's way out of your price range."

Four days later, when James and Susan got into the realtor's car, she warned: "Don't look at this house. If you see it, you'll never be satisfied with what you can afford."

"Let's look at it," James said. When the car turned in to one of the most elite neighborhoods in the area, James and Susan realized it was the one they'd driven through and dreamed about years before. The car came to a stop in front of their favorite house. When James and Susan stepped into the foyer, they both knew it was theirs.

Sitting on 1.7 acres of landscaped botanical gardens, the house had five bedrooms, five and a half baths, an exercise room, billiard room, a study, an extra den, two kitchens and a swimming pool.

It also had been appraised at \$450,000.

Time to Harvest

Three days later, the Lord woke James early in the morning and said, *It's your house. Make an offer.* By faith, with no money for a down payment, James and Susan made an offer on the house.

What now? they wondered. Soon afterward, a man they knew told them he wanted to make an anonymous contribution toward their house.

Praise God! James thought, *Maybe he'll give us enough for a down payment!*

"At closing," the man explained, "I'm going to bring a check for \$300,000." James and Susan gasped. *\$300,000!* Praising God, they negotiated a good deal on the balance. As James stepped out of a meeting, he heard the Lord say, *Do you remember that \$3,000 seed you planted for a home 18 years ago? You just received a hundredfold harvest on that money.*

In August, Susan gave birth to a son—James. In October 2002, the family moved into the home they bought by faith.

"It took us awhile to understand the principle behind seed sowing, and what partnership was all about," James says. "But as we began to learn, we also began to see the supernatural things that would come into our life and ministry. We know this is all a direct result of our partnership with Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

"We may live in a *small* town whose only claim to fame is a character actor from an old television sitcom. But through our relationship with KCM, we've come to realize just how *big* we are in the sight of God. We are part of His kingdom!"

VICTORY



James and Susan Gardner knew God was leading them to take one step of faith after another, so they stood confident, expecting the impossible... and they discovered the strength *partnership* brings. They found that partnering their lives and ministry with Kenneth Copeland Ministries gave them the faith boost they needed to receive their breakthroughs each and every time.

At KCM, we don't take partnership lightly. When you join with us in the vision God has given us, we join with *you* in the vision God has given you. What are you believing for? Getting out of debt? Living free from sickness? Restoring family relationships? When you partner with KCM, you can count on the fact that we will be praying for you daily, standing with you. And as you do the same for us, our anointings will bless each other's endeavors...and our breakthroughs will come!

So what are you waiting for? Go to the next level in your life and ministry. Discover the strength of partnership today!

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I believe one of the most important things God has called us to do is to meet together. Back in 1968, God told me, *I want you to conduct meetings where people can totally immerse in the Word of God.* He showed me exactly how to conduct them and that there were believers out there—believers like you—who had a strong hunger to lock in to His Word.

—Kenneth Copeland

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Spiritual Motherhood

EVERY WOMAN IN THE BODY OF CHRIST IS CALLED TO SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD.”

The Lord spoke this statement to my heart as I was preparing a message I was to deliver in church on Mother’s Day. He said women are called to be spiritual mothers in the same way men are called to be spiritual fathers. He also said spiritual motherhood is not dependent upon a woman having a natural child. They are all called to be “Mothers in the Faith.”

Believers everywhere are looking for godly examples. As a pastor, I have noticed my congregation looks to me as a father figure. Some even call me “Dad,” while others share how I am like a father to them.

And our congregation looks up to my wife, Terri, as a mother figure. I have observed her as we minister together. One particular example was with a younger woman in our church. Terri knew exactly

BY PASTOR GEORGE PEARSONS

what to say. She skillfully handled the situation as the young woman clung to every word.

When the session concluded, she expressed deep appreciation for the wisdom Terri shared. She indeed looked to Terri as if she were her own mother.

Spiritual Mothers

I can think of a number of “spiritual mothers” who have been godly examples.

Oretha Hagin, the wife of Kenneth E. Hagin, is one. Many, and particularly those who graduated from Rhema Bible Training Center, referred to them as “Mom and Dad” Hagin. Did the Hagins physically give birth to all those Rhema students? No. But they did give birth to them spiritually. “Mom” Hagin’s example reminds me of what Paul said in Romans 16:13 in *The Amplified Bible*. “Remember me to Rufus, eminent in the Lord, also to his mother [who has been] a mother to me as well.”

I lived with Kenneth Copeland’s parents for over a year before Terri and I married. A.W. and Vinita Copeland were wonderful people—a consummate definition of graciousness and a true-to-life demonstration of the fruit of the spirit.

“Nonnie” and “Granddad,” as they were affectionately called, welcomed a steady stream of people into their home. All who came were exposed to this genuine anointing of a spiritual mother and father.

Nonnie made everyone feel as if they were the most important and loved person in the world. She would tell people often that they were “high on the totem pole” with her.

She pulled no punches, however, when it came to serious ministry. She was honest, straightforward and oftentimes sharp in order to stir people out of their spiritual complacency. Today, you would call it “shock and awe.” All of her spiritual “kids” felt the security of a caring mother—even in the face of her “tough love.”

Evelyn Roberts was another wonderful example of a spiritual mother. I witnessed her functioning in this capacity while attending Oral Roberts University. She exhibited a grace under fire—an enduring sweetness that drew in those around her. Yet, at the same time, we all realized our spiritual mother was not a pushover. Most are not.

She would often go toe-to-toe with her husband, Oral, during panel discussions. We were amazed at her courage to stand for what she truly believed.

Brother Roberts didn’t seem to mind though. In fact, he rather enjoyed the animated debates with his “darling wife.”

Evelyn Roberts was intelligent, witty, sharp, a gifted and eloquent communicator and an example the student body looked up to—especially the young women.

She was, unquestionably, the mother of Oral Roberts University.

And then there is our very own Gloria Copeland—without a doubt, the “Reigning Queen Mother” of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Years ago, Nonnie told Terri to “watch and emulate Gloria” when it came to ministry. Truly a woman of faith, she is esteemed and admired worldwide as a “Mother of Faith.” And fun—what a great sense of humor and joy. She is a Proverbs 31 woman. Her spiritual and natural children “rise up and call her blessed, as does her husband, who also praises her.”

The Role of Women in the Church

Spiritual motherhood is part of God’s master plan for the training up of young women in the Church. Women who are older and more experienced in life and God’s Word must never underestimate their role as spiritual mothers to the younger women around them.

Notice the instruction Paul gave in Titus 2:3-5 (*The Amplified Bible*):

Bid the older women similarly to be reverent and devout in their deportment as becomes those engaged in sacred service, not slanderers or slaves to drink. They are to give good counsel and be *teachers* of what is right and noble, so that they will wisely train the young women to be sane *and* sober of mind (temperate, disciplined) and to love their husbands and their children, to be self-controlled, chaste, homemakers, good-natured (kindhearted), adapting and subordinating themselves to their husbands, that the word of God may not be exposed to reproach (blasphemed or discredited).

The *King James Version* in verse 4 says the older women must “teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.”

Paul uses the word, “teach.”

The older women are called to teach the younger women in the same way that mothers teach their daughters.

Terri is a prime example.

She has fulfilled the role of teacher to our children as well as to our spiritual children at church. I have observed Terri with our own children. She will sit with them (still to this day even though they are grown), open the Scriptures and teach them. And they still listen!

I thank God for Terri, especially at times when she and Aubrey, our daughter, are having one of “those” conversations. Fathers know exactly what I am talking about. It is one of those discussions that when you walk through the room they stop talking. And that is when we take our cue and keep walking.

The women of the Church are called to spiritual motherhood. They either presently hold that position or are in varying stages of it. The church would do well to embrace the wisdom and experience of the older, more mature women.

Show me a church that esteems and promotes the ministry of spiritual mothers, and I will show you a strong, thriving, disciplined body of mature believers.

Just look to Scripture.

In 1 Timothy 5:1-2, Paul (the elder) instructs Timothy (the younger) to, “Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father...the elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.”

The Church needs spiritual mothers and fathers.

Embrace age and maturity. Don't exclude the very ones we need to help guide us along the way. By excluding them we are actually excluding the Word. We need our spiritual mothers to hold us together. After all, the word *mother* in the Greek means “bond.” This word alludes to the fact that

she is the bond of the family. Spiritual mothers are the glue that keeps us from falling apart!

Ruth and Naomi

As I stated before, a woman doesn't have to bear natural children to become a spiritual mother.

One of the greatest examples of this is the account of Ruth and Naomi.

A father, mother and two sons came to the land of Moab during the famine in Judah. Ruth married one of the brothers. All three men eventually died, leaving Ruth, Orpah and the mother-in-law, Naomi, as widows.

Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem and encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to their own land, their own mothers and their future husbands.

Orpah gave in and returned. But Ruth refused.

She loved Naomi. But it wasn't a love for her “mother by law.” Naomi, unknowingly, had actually become like a mother to Ruth. And Ruth had become her spiritual daughter.

The love between them ran deep.

The miracle of spiritual motherhood was given birth in this relationship. Ruth honored Naomi to such a degree that she wrote these words—words unparalleled in Jewish or Christian literature as a commitment to the love of another person:

And [Naomi] said, Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law. And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me (Ruth 1:15-17).

Naomi became Ruth's spiritual mother.

In fact, in Ruth 2:22 Naomi said to Ruth, “It is good, *my daughter...*” She called her, “my daughter.”

Every woman in the Body of Christ is called to spiritual motherhood.

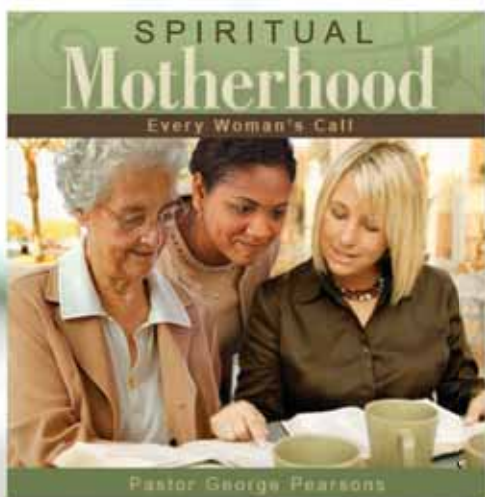
There are “Ruths” out there right now searching for their “Naomis.”

There are young men and women looking for mature, spiritual mothers to direct, guide and love them into the truth of God's Word.

Women of the church—receive your assignment today as spiritual mothers. Allow the Lord to do a supernatural work in you that will have a long lasting, significant transforming effect on the Body of Christ. **VICTORY**

Pastor George Pearsons is senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For information or ministry materials write to: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Locked Bag 2600, Mansfield DC, QLD 4112.

Take Up the Call



Every woman in the Body of Christ is called to spiritual motherhood.

The Lord spoke this statement to Pastor George Pearsons one day as he was preparing for a Mother's Day service. It highlights a passion God is placing in the hearts of women everywhere.

Spiritual motherhood, the Lord continued, is not dependent upon women having natural children. All Christian women are called to become “Mothers in the Faith.”

In this informative and inspiring message, Pastor George offers examples of modern-day spiritual mothers and shares the profound effect they have had on their spiritual children. He scripturally reveals women's vital role in the early Church—and just how important it is for women today to walk in their anointing as spiritual mothers.

Women of God, take up the calling of spiritual motherhood today. Your spiritual children are waiting for your direction, guidance and love.

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God's Goodness

the foundation of faith

“[What, what would have become of me] had I not believed that I would see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living!” (Psalm 27:13, *The Amplified Bible*)

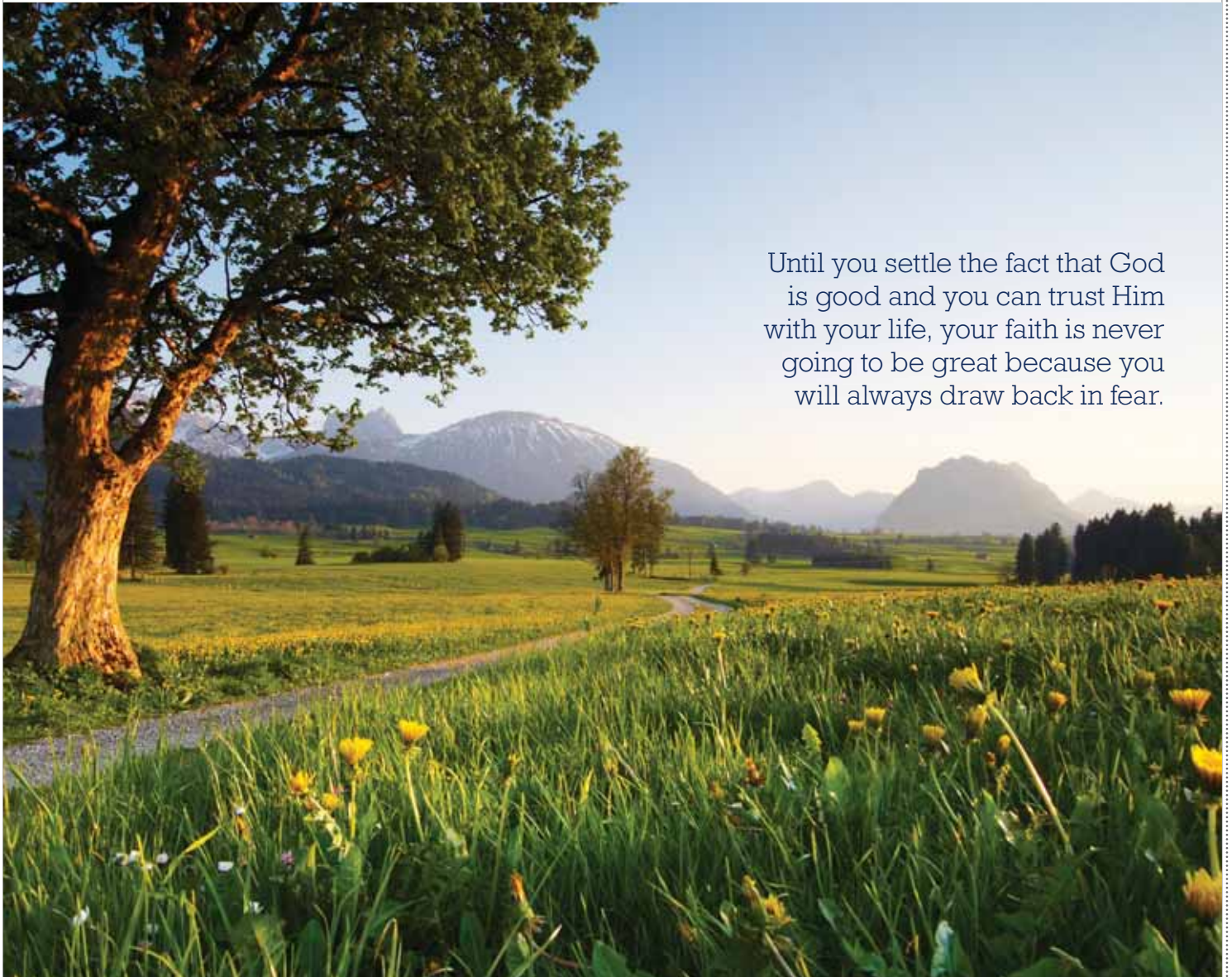
A few years ago, the Spirit of the Lord spoke to my heart and said, *Preach the goodness of God and fear not the reproach of men.*

As I began to search out what the Bible has to say about God's goodness, I found it was a theme that ran from Genesis to Revelation. Why do you suppose the Bible would so strongly emphasize the simple truth that God is good?

Because it is the foundation of our faith in Him.

The more we know God's goodness, the more we trust Him. The more we trust Him, the easier it is for us to put our lives in His hands. Only by placing our lives in His hands can we open the way for Him to save us, bless us and work through us, so that His wonderful will can be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

When I began teaching on the goodness of God in healing services, I saw more miracles and healings than ever before.



Until you settle the fact that God is good and you can trust Him with your life, your faith is never going to be great because you will always draw back in fear.

As people understood God's goodness, they found it easy to trust Him. That trust enabled them to open their hearts to His healing power. When they saw from the Word that it was the "Father's good pleasure to give" them the kingdom (Luke 12:32) and that "no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11), they realized God was for them and not against them. The truth dawned on their hearts that He was not holding out on them. He was not trying to keep healing away from them. Instead, because He loves to do good, He was endeavoring to help them. Seeing that, they were able to relax and by faith receive what they needed from Him.

My prayer is that the same thing will happen for you.

Until you settle the fact that God is good and you can trust Him with your life, your faith is never going to be great because you will always draw back in fear. You will always be thinking, *What if He doesn't come through for me? What if He is not listening to me? What if He asks me to do something that will harm me in some way?*

However, once your heart grasps the goodness of God, you will be confident that He will never hurt you, abandon you or let you down. As long as you follow Him, He will always be there—loving you, helping you and blessing you.

Live Daring— in Faith.

Do you desire to be bold in your faith, completely surrendered to God, but feel something is holding you back? Perhaps you've never known the full reality of God's goodness, that He is a *good* God and has your best interest at heart. In this series by Gloria Copeland, discover the kind of courageous life God has for you as you find out how to:

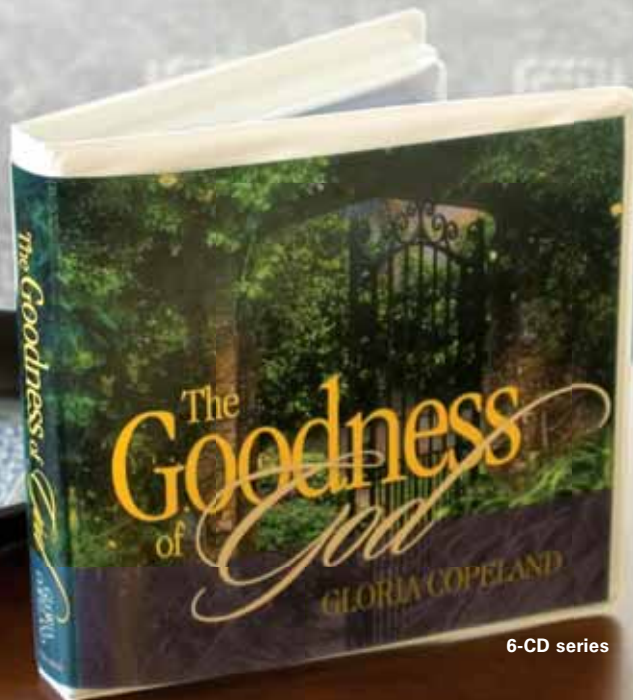
Trust Him with every aspect of your life

Operate in God's goodness at every turn, living in victory like never before

Be free from perfectionism—realizing God's goodness isn't dependent on your performance

Live stress free, trusting your future—and your past—to Him

Receive the courage you need to be daring in faith, completely surrendered to Him. Receive *The Goodness of God!*



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God Isn't Confused

Traditional religion has made people think they couldn't depend on the goodness of God. Religion has taught that one day God might make you sick. The next day He might make you poor.

But that is contrary to the written Word of God. God is not confused about good and evil. He knows the definition of a blessing and a curse, and His definition is the same as ours. (That's because we got ours from Him.)

In Deuteronomy 28, you can read the blessings and the curses as He described them to the nation of Israel. He sums up the blessings in verses 11-13:

The Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them (*New King James Version*).

Obviously, God has figured out what's good for us and what's not. He knows it's good when we have more than enough natural provision in our lives. He knows if we plant crops, it's good to reap big harvests. He

knows if we have livestock, it's good for them to increase. He knows it's good for our children to be blessed and for us to be physically healthy and whole.

On the other hand, He knows it's evil for us to be sick, poor, frightened and oppressed.

Actually, the Hebrew word *shalom*, which the Lord uses so frequently to bless His people, means to have wholeness in your life—spirit, soul and body. It means you have nothing missing, nothing broken. God knows that is the way things ought to be, and that is the way He wants them to be—not just for a few of His people but for every one of them. As Psalm 145:9 says, “The Lord is good to *all*.”

The Key to the Courage of David

When I think of someone in the Bible who truly understood the goodness of God, David always comes to mind. God calls him a man after His own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). As a young shepherd tending his flock on the hills of Israel, David fellowshiped with God and came to know His nature. He knew He was a loving God. He knew that He was good, kind and patient. David knew God would take care of him, provide for him and deliver him from danger.

From that revelation, David wrote Psalm 23. My, what insight it gives us into God's goodness! You may have quoted it religiously for years. You may have even thought it referred to the care God gives us in heaven. But this psalm reveals what God wants to do for us here on earth—in the “valley of the shadow of death,” where we must deal with our enemy, the devil.

With these things in mind, read Psalm 23 and let it speak to your heart in a fresh way about the kindness and loving care God wants to give you:

The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack. He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures; He leads me beside the still and restful waters. He refreshes and restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness [uprightness and right standing with Him—not for my earning it, but] for His name's sake. Yes,

though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my [brimming] cup runs over. Surely or only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of my days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place (*The Amplified Bible*).

The more deeply you understand the truth of those words, the more you will be able to trust God in every circumstance of life. Your confidence in Him will make you bold when others are timid.

That is what happened to David. The revelation of Psalm 23 filled him with confidence in God. It made him bold and daring in dangerous situations. When a lion came after the sheep of his flock, David didn't run away. He single-handedly caught that lion by the mane and killed it. When the bear came, David killed it too.

Later in his life, when everyone in Israel was afraid of the giant Goliath, David was the only one courageous enough to fight him. What was behind this great courage? David revealed that in 1 Samuel 17:37 when he said, “The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.”

David not only knew about the goodness of God, he had seen it work in his life. He had seen the victories God's goodness had gained for him, and just thinking of them made him bold.

You and I can be the same way. The more we understand the goodness of God and the more we see that goodness operating in our lives, the more victories we will have to remember. The more victories we remember, the harder it is for the devil to talk us into letting him run over us.

We'll remember the victory over the lion and the bear in our own lives and think, *You know, God got me this far. He will not let me down now!*

Salvation Prayer

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

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

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

If you have just prayed this prayer, please contact us and let us know of your decision. We have a *free* Salvation Package we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Simply check the circle on the response form included with this magazine, call 1300 730 433 (within Australia) or +617 3343 7777 (outside Australia) or visit kcm.org.au

Look What the Lord Has Done!

I have had that thought more times than I can remember in the past 35-plus years. My life was such a mess when I first learned about God's goodness. I have often wondered, *What would have become of me if I had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living?*

I might not even be alive right now. I certainly would

not be enjoying the blessings I am enjoying today. Over the years, as Ken and I have continued to trust God with our lives, we have seen the evidence of His goodness continue to increase until it has totally overwhelmed us.

The more I have come to know the goodness of the Lord, the more I have come to believe that God wants all of us to give our lives to Him so He can lavishly, without reserve,

pour His blessings upon us. He wants all of us to be so blessed that everywhere we look, we see the goodness of God. Every time we drive up to our homes we say, "Look what the Lord has done!" Every time we get into our car and turn the key we say, "Thank You, Lord, for this good car!"

God's desire is for us to feel so good when we get up in the morning that we cannot help but be grateful for a well body that functions faithfully and feels so good!

Every time we look at our children and see the peace they enjoy, we praise the Lord. God's desire is that every direction we turn, we experience His goodness!

Notice, I said "we," not just me. Not just my husband, Kenneth. God wants to bless you too—in every area of your life. He wants to bless you spiritually. He wants to bless you physically. He wants to bless you in your finances, in your relationships and in your career. He wants to give you the desires of your heart.

I know that sounds too good to be true, but that's not surprising. If you think about it, Jesus Himself seemed too good to be true. The fact that God sent Him to pay the price for all our sins, the fact that He died so we could live by simple faith in Him, sounds too good to be true. But it's true nonetheless. And Romans 8:32 says, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Remote but Not Removed

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Those powerful words remind believers of the importance of coming together in the Name of Jesus. And what better way than at a KCM meeting?



For more than 30 years, KCM's meetings have united believers from around the world to worship God, stand for breakthrough, experience healing and witness THE BLESSING. They leave refreshed, proclaiming the difference the experience has made in their lives.

Like You're There

Today, entire churches are taking part in the experience. This past year, more than a dozen began broadcasting KCM's meetings to their entire congregations via our live Internet feeds.

"Our heart is to provide those who may not be able to attend a meeting in person a suitable place to view it in the same atmosphere," said Brad Bedford, KCM's relationship minister.

Churches make the events as authentic as possible by advertising the meetings, taking registration, joining in praise and worship, sowing offerings into KCM, and even having altar calls.

For Faith Fellowship of McKinney, Texas, these meetings are highly anticipated events. "What typically happens is that people say, 'This was wonderful, and I'm going to the convention next year!'" says Pastor Rob Gore.

Pastor Robert May of Oak Ridge Family Bible Church in Oak Ridge, Tenn., believes the Web broadcasts are an

answer to prayer for many. When a couple in Kentucky heard that Oak Ridge was airing the Southwest Believers' Convention, for instance, they drove for four hours, stayed in a local hotel and attended every remote meeting. The couple couldn't travel all the way to Fort Worth, Texas, but they still wanted to be part of what God was doing.

"[These meetings] have been a wonderful vessel to bring Partners together," May said.

Ready to Help

As these churches and others have discovered, KCM's staff is ready and willing to help them hold their own remote meetings. From providing advertising logos to detailed technical instructions, partnering churches can expect a powerful outreach. All they need is a broadband Internet connection. "KCM did everything it could to make this successful for my church," Gore said.

KCM remote meetings are one more way we are fulfilling our mission to take believers from the milk of the Word to the meat via every available voice. And it's not only KCM's vision; it's one shared by each participating church.

Whenever KCM Partners and Friends come together, it is reason to rejoice—strongholds are broken, lives are healed and Jesus' Name is exalted.

Where Will You Be Next Year?

If you're still somewhat skeptical, let me ask you a question. Where will you be this time next year if you *don't* start believing to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living?

You'll be right where you are now. Things will be no better in your life. In fact, they'll probably be worse because the devil will still be unhindered in his work to steal, kill and destroy.

But if you'll find out what the Bible says about God's goodness and dare to believe it, things will begin to change in a wonderful way. Your life will immediately begin to improve. A year from now, you'll not only see that goodness on the pages of your Bible, you'll see it around you every day of your life.

That's what I call *living!* **VICTORY**

Believer's Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

May



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



Terri Copeland Pearsons



Kellie Copeland



John Copeland



Marty Copeland



Billye Brim

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DAILY

28 Mon 29 Tue 30 Wed 1 Thu 2 Fri

Staying on Course With God's Plan and Purpose

Gloria Copeland shares how everything changed for her and Kenneth when they put God first and gave themselves completely to Him.

5 6 7 8 9

Raising Your Children in God's Master Plan

For Mother's Day week, **Gloria Copeland** is joined by **Terri Copeland Pearsons, Kellie Copeland** and **Marty Copeland** to talk about how to raise your children with God's purpose in mind.

12 13 14 15 16

The Power of the Spoken Word

Billye Brim joins **Gloria Copeland** for the first in a two-week series where they reveal how words shape your destiny—and your world.

19 20 21 22 23

The Power of Unified Speech

Gloria Copeland and **Billye Brim** continue their series, discussing the mighty things that happen when all our words are unified with *the Word!*

26 27 28 29 30

The Power of Faith in Action

John and **Marty Copeland** share how the Word changes a believer's life when faith takes action.

SUNDAY

4

Kenneth Copeland

The Process of Receiving Forgiveness

Discover when you need to ask forgiveness, repent and make things right—and what happens when you do.

11

Gloria Copeland, Terri Copeland Pearsons, Kellie Copeland and Marty Copeland
Mother's Day Special

God is doing great things in women around the world. Discover what He has for you today.

18

Kenneth Copeland

Partaking of the High Priestly Ministry of Jesus

The Bible says Jesus is our High Priest—discover what that means for every aspect of our lives, from health to finances to relationships.

25

Kenneth Copeland

Receiving Through the Ministry of Jesus

God has so much to give—it's time to receive it! Learn how Jesus is still ministering today and what He has for us when we put our faith in Him.

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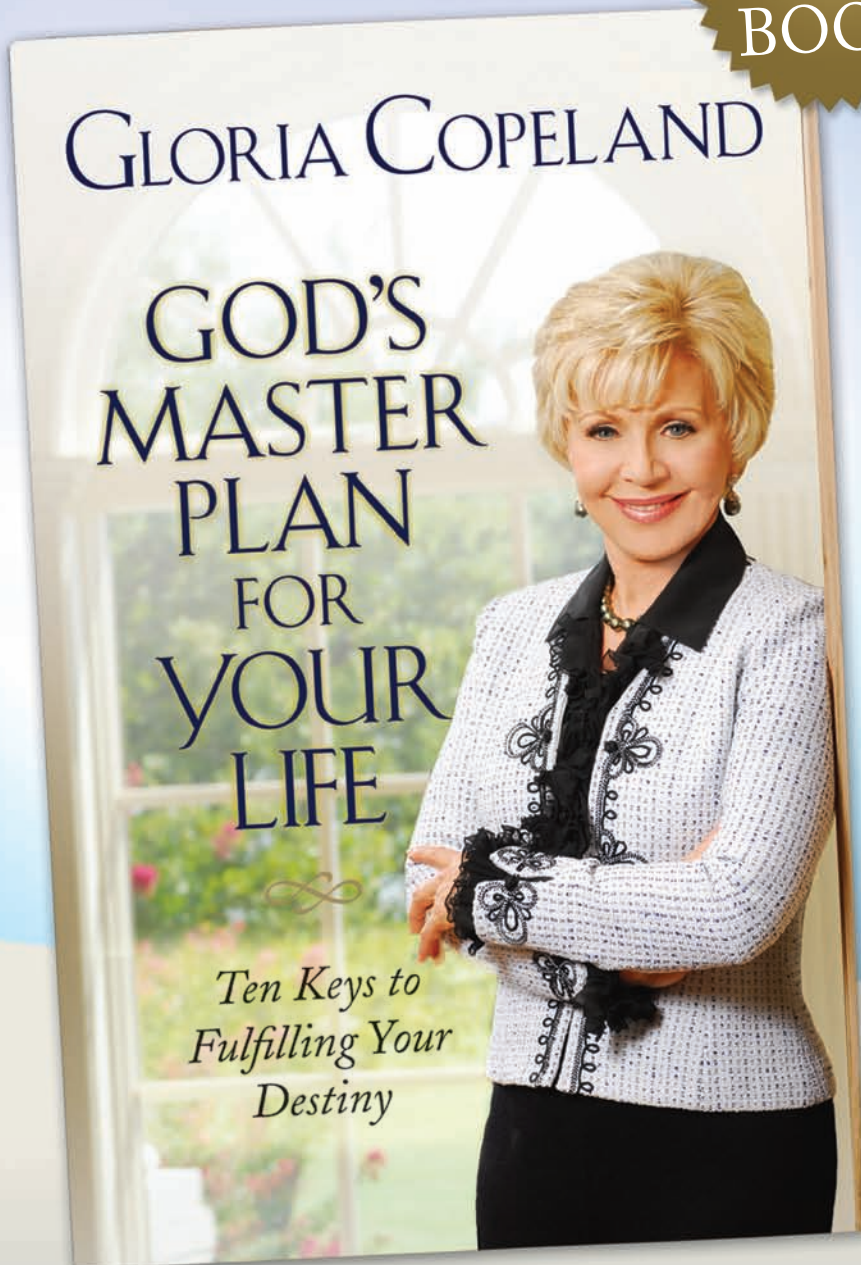
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