



Believer's Voice of

VICTORY



August 2012

the Untouchables

by Melanie Hemry

Mickey Whitehead enjoyed being a "real-life gangster."

Then he discovered that playing such a role came with some seriously real consequences.

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by Kenneth Copeland

Your First Words Matter

During a time of crisis, or even when you've been blindsided, the first words you speak reveal what is in your heart.

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When The LORD first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 39 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in everyday life.

Kenneth & Gloria

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by Kenneth Copeland

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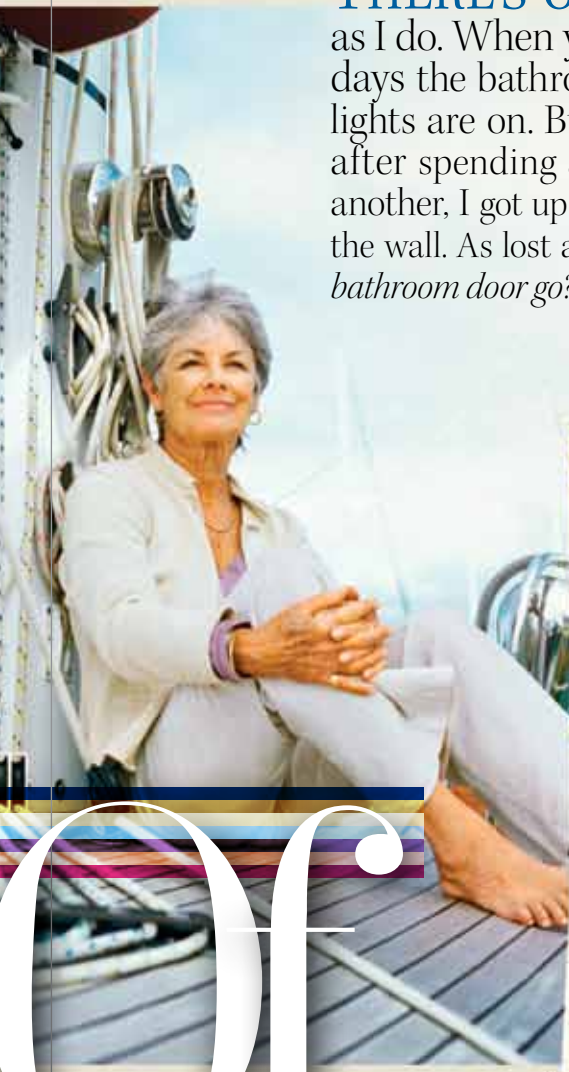


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Your First Words Matter

THERE'S ONE PROBLEM with traveling as much as I do. When you're staying in a different room every few days the bathroom keeps moving. It's no big deal when the lights are on. But in the dark it can cause trouble. ∴ Once, after spending a few nights in one hotel and then moving to another, I got up in the middle of the night and walked smack into the wall. As lost as a goose in a hailstorm, I thought, *Where did the bathroom door go? Yesterday it was right there!*



according to the Bible, faithless, fearful words are a very big deal.

Of course, that was nothing compared to what I experienced the night I kicked the ottoman—and I was at home when that happened! Gloria and I had just gotten back after a long stretch out of town. She and the kids had gone to bed but I was still wide awake. So I'd stayed up for a while.

When I finally got sleepy, I turned out the lights and headed for the bedroom. Maybe I was disoriented from our travels, I don't know. Whatever the reason, I forgot about the ottoman. It was a big, square, green thing Gloria had bought. Heavy enough to make you huff if you tried to

pick it up, when I drop-kicked it in the dark, it didn't give an inch.

But my toe sure did. I heard it pop and a shock of pain shot through my whole body. I knew instantly I'd broken it.

Without even thinking, I blurted out a string of words. Before I tell you what they were, I want to ask you something:

The law of the Spirit of life

doesn't operate automatically. It must be activated.

What would you have said? When some unexpected circumstance hits you, what are your first words likely to be?

You need to know the answer to that question because first words are extremely important. They license spiritual laws to go into operation. They either allow the law of sin and death to take over, or they activate the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

The moment one of those laws is set in motion, unless you do something to stop it, it will continue to function until it accomplishes its end result.

Airplanes, Gravity and the Law of Lift

To see what I mean, think about the natural law of gravity. You live under its influence all the time. It's constantly operating on you and around you. Because, through the physics of the earth, it's already been set in motion, it functions automatically, accomplishing its end result which is to hold you to the ground.

When you get in an airplane, however, that hold is broken. You're free to fly from one point to another, not because the law of gravity ceases to exist but because the plane introduces another law that supersedes it—something called the law of lift.

Spiritual laws work the same way. The law of sin and death, like gravity, is always at work in the world. Because of the devil's influence, it constantly exerts a downward pull toward darkness and the curse. Apart from Jesus, the effect of that law is inescapable.

But, thank God, as born-again believers, we're not apart from Jesus! We're in Him and, as Romans 8:2 says, "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made [us] free from the law of sin and death."

Like the law of lift, however, the law of the Spirit of life doesn't operate automatically. It must be activated. We choose to put it into effect by speaking words of life. Since "death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21), if we don't speak life over the different areas and situations in our lives, the laws of death will continue operating there by default.

Many Christians don't know this but it's true: Even though we're born again and Jesus shed His blood to give us the authority to live His victorious life, as long as we keep talking like the world, we'll keep getting the world's negative results.

"But Brother Copeland, sometimes when I first react to a situation, I'm upset and spout stuff I don't really mean. Surely those kinds of words don't make any difference."

Yes, they do. They make a tremendous difference. In fact, the first words you say about a situation reveal what's really going on with you. They show what's been stored up inside you in greatest abundance because "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matthew 12:34-35).

"But those verses couldn't possibly apply to me!" you might say. "I don't have any evil treasure in my heart."

Are you certain about that? Are you sure you've never been like the people Hebrews 3:12 refers to as having an "evil heart of unbelief"? Those people weren't killers or anything. They were just children of God who tolerated and talked unbelief and fear.

We have to admit, we've all done that at times in our lives. It can even become such a common occurrence that it doesn't seem like any big deal. But, according to the Bible, faithless, fearful words are a very big deal. They qualify as evil and bring forth evil things in our lives. That's why God warns us again and again about the words we speak:

» Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. (Proverbs 21:23)

» A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence. (Proverbs 13:2)

» A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit. (Proverbs 15:4)

» A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. (Proverbs 18:7)

» Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. (Proverbs 4:24)

Look at that last verse from Proverbs 4:24.

A "froward mouth" is a disobedient mouth. It's a mouth that has yielded to the law of sin and death instead of the law of life in Christ Jesus. By speaking things contrary to The WORD of God, a froward mouth sets in motion a deadly cycle that—if it's not stopped by repentance, the blood of Jesus and The WORD of God—

will end in some kind of destruction.

Why Would Someone Say That?

I saw an especially sobering illustration of this many years ago when a woman came to talk to me during a series of meetings we were holding. "Brother Copeland, I need you to help me with something," she said. "My family had a massive car wreck some time ago. We drove through an intersection and someone ran a red light at a tremendously high speed and cut our car in half. All of us except my husband were severely injured.

"My children lay scattered alongside the highway—one with his skull cracked open and the others bleeding and unconscious. Too wounded to help them, I lay on the ground praying in the spirit as my husband went around checking on us.

"When we got to the hospital, the doctors didn't think some of the children would live through the night. But as it turned out, my husband is the only one who died. What happened?"

"I don't know," I said, "but I'll tell you what we can do. Let's agree in prayer that God will show us."

"OK," she said. So we prayed together.

The meetings continued for another three weeks. At the beginning of the third week, after hearing me teach these basic truths about the power of our words, she came to me and said, "I know what happened. The Lord showed me.

"After the wreck, the first thing I said was, 'God, thank You for Your healing power. Thank You for taking care of my children. Then I started praying in tongues. When my husband came to check on me, he looked strange. I guess he was in shock but he leaned over me, looked me right in the face, and said, 'I'm a dead man.'

"Oh, Brother Copeland, why would he say such a thing?"

Obviously, he had a fear of death. He'd been thinking and talking about it for years. Maybe he just talked about it jokingly or to himself. But one way or another, he'd used his words to put certain spiritual laws into motion. His tongue started that trouble and his tongue finished it in a way that was completely contrary to the will of God.

You Can Turn It Around

Can you see why first words are such powerful, serious business?

"Yes, but what can I do about those I've already spoken?" you might ask. "I can see now they've activated the law of sin and death and started things moving in the wrong direction."

Then wipe those words out by obeying 1 John 1:9. It says, "If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Why must you confess your sin? Because when you do, you speak words of repentance. Repentance, which means to turn around and go the other way, starts things moving in the right direction.

Once you've repented, you can get busy making sure your words don't cause you more trouble in the future. Look up what Proverbs 4:24 says about getting rid of a froward mouth, then back up to verses 20-23 and you'll see that God tells us exactly how it's done.

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

If you'll implement this process, your heart will get so full of The WORD there won't be room in it for anything else. Then, when the pressure hits, your first words will be words of faith. You'll bring forth good things out of the good treasure in your heart without even having to think about it.

That's what happened to me the night I kicked the ottoman. I'd been studying these things and practicing them, so the first words that flew out of my mouth were these: "Jesus! I'm healed in the Name that's above every name."

I didn't just say it, either. I shouted it because that's what was inside me in abundance.

"Did your toe stop hurting right away?" you might ask.

No, it didn't. It was still throbbing when I went to bed. The next morning when I woke up, before I even put my feet on the floor, the devil started badgering me about it. *Why don't you look at your toe? See if it's still broken. You'd better check on it. It's in terrible shape. It's turned*

all black.

"What's so strange about a black toe, Satan?" I said. "Some of my very closest friends have toes that are all black!"

I have no idea why I said that. It just came out of me and it shocked the devil just like it shocked you. He didn't have any defense for it. So he got quiet and I got tickled. I laughed a little while; then I shut my eyes and put my socks and shoes on.

When I went into the kitchen, Gloria was already in there making breakfast. "On the way to bed last night I kicked that big green ottoman," I told her. "But I want to tell you I receive my healing. It's mine!" She agreed with me and we shouted and praised God and had a big time.

Later, I went to the airport to talk to a man about buying an airplane for the ministry. The receptionist greeted me and saw I was limping a little. "Did you hurt yourself?" she asked. I didn't know her but, deciding to take the opportunity to confess my healing, I replied this way: "About 2 o'clock this morning I broke my toe. But Jesus said when He was on earth, 'Whatsoever thing you desire when you pray, believe you receive it and you shall have it.' So I want you to know that my foot is healed in the Name of Jesus."

By the time I finished that last sentence, she'd left the room.

With my toe still hurting, I got back into my car to drive over to where the airplanes were parked. A minute or two later when I pulled up next to them and stepped out of the car—guess what? I put my weight down on that foot and it was just as healed and pain free as it is right now.

What happened?

First words!

The first words that came out of my mouth about that situation had activated the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. They'd set in motion the law of healing and

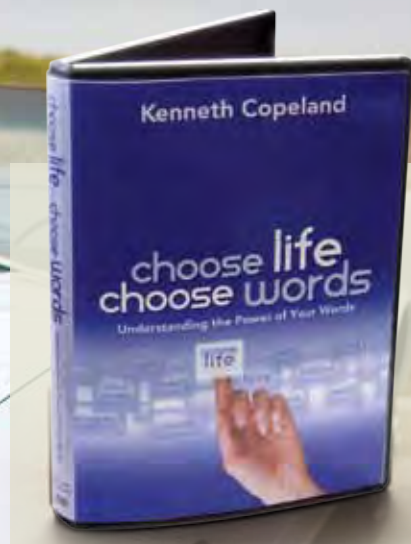
blessing, and because I stuck with them that law kept working and produced the end result.

That's the great thing about laws. They work every time for anyone who will put them to work. From now on, remember that; and use first words to put the law of the Spirit of life to work for you! **VICTORY**

"A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."—Proverbs 18:20-21

life or death? **You Choose!**

We've all been guilty at one time or another of engaging our mouths before our brains. Choose Life, Choose Words is a powerful reminder of the importance of words. Kenneth Copeland shares a scriptural perspective that will encourage you to make a quality decision to guard your mouth.




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BY
MELANIE
HENRY

the Untouchables

Minnie & Mickey Whitehead

“Mickey, it’s time for bed!” :: The images on the TV screen had 10-year-old Mickey Whitehead

so mesmerized he didn’t hear his great-grandmother’s words. His eyes danced with excitement as he gasped, flinching at the sudden burst of machine-gun fire that blasted holes in cars and left dead bodies scattered on the sidewalk. *The Untouchables* wasn’t just a television drama to Mickey. It was the life he longed to live.

“The greatest gift Kenneth Copeland gave me was helping me believe that I could get out of prison and stay out. Through KCM I found the faith to live free.”

Mickey blinked in surprise when the screen went blank.

“I *said* it’s time for bed!” the call came once again from his great-grandmother, now standing in the room with hands on her hips.

Mickey crawled into bed, but he didn’t go to sleep. His imagination took flight as he pictured himself as a star in the ongoing drama. Unlike most American children, he didn’t dream of becoming Eliot Ness, the agent determined to bring down Al Capone. Nor did he see himself as Al Capone, the Chicago mobster who held the entire city in his bloody grip during the 1930s.

Whether awake at night in his bed or daydreaming during school, Mickey was always pretending to be Frank “The Enforcer” Nitti, Al Capone’s cousin and top henchman in the organized crime syndicate. It wasn’t just a passing fantasy, either. Instead of outgrowing his obsession with Nitti, he permanently adopted the enforcer persona as his own.

At 13, Mickey took his first step toward a life of crime by joining a violent gang and starting to use drugs and alcohol. A year later, he took another step. Just like the real-life Frank Nitti had done years before, Mickey ran away from his home in Ohio and headed for the place where his dreams would become reality—Chicago.

When he was 15, Mickey committed his first real crime by robbing a savings and loan. After being arrested, he was extradited back to Ohio where he served time in juvenile jail. But it didn’t end there. Once he was released, Mickey returned to his life of crime.

Mickey Whitehead might have been a lot of things, but he wasn’t a snitch. When a policeman gave him \$100 in exchange for information on someone under investigation, Mickey took the money and then

warned the person. Not long afterward, the policeman was murdered—and Mickey Whitehead was tagged for the crime—one he didn’t commit.

Being labeled a cop killer was like having a contract out on his life.

The police apprehended Mickey, handcuffed him and put him in the back of the police van and a shootout ensued. It resembled a scene from *The Untouchables*. Mickey had a gun and began to shoot his way out of the police wagon. The police fired 34 rounds into the van, hitting Mickey four times: once right between the eyes, once on his right ear and twice in his arm.

Opening the door and finding him still alive, one of the officers put a gun to Mickey’s head. Mickey glared in defiance as the cop pulled the trigger.

Click.

The gun was out of bullets.

Weapons of Warfare

“I was arrested in 1972, and sent to the penitentiary,” Mickey recalls. “I served nearly 13 years and was released in 1985. But I hadn’t changed. I was out for exactly 20 days before I went back. I didn’t want to spend the rest of my life in prison, but it looked like I would. And even if I got out, I didn’t believe I could stay out.”

Back in prison, Mickey began watching Kenneth Copeland on TV.

“I felt drawn to him so I wrote him a letter explaining my situation,” Mickey recalled. “I got a letter back in which he told me to have faith in God. Because of that letter, I gave my life to Jesus.”

For the next five years, Mickey spent most of his time reading the New Testament night and day.

“I didn’t play cards or dominoes. I read the Bible and studied all the materials sent from Brother Copeland and Brother [Kenneth] Hagin,” he said. “No one had to convict me of sin. I’d lived a wicked life. But the Bible said I was now a new creature in Christ! I was now the righteousness of God in Christ! During those five years, I developed my faith to believe I could get out of prison early—and stay out.”

In 1990, Mickey received an early release from prison. On his second day of freedom he was at his mother’s apartment when something caught his eye. In the corner, he saw a demon. Not sure what to do, he called the only Christian he knew, his Uncle Lewis, who was a preacher.

“Don’t mess with them demons!” his uncle warned. “Get out of that house now!”

“I ran out of there!” Mickey admits, sounding surprised by his actions.

“Me—The Enforcer—*ran!* I’d been a violent man but I didn’t have a weapon that would work against a spirit. That thing looked like a monster! When Uncle Lewis called back and told me how to get to the nearest church, I couldn’t get there fast enough!”

Mickey arrived at the church during noon Bible study. Afterward, he approached the pastor and explained what had happened. The pastor took Mickey to his office, where he prayed for Mickey to receive



"When God showed me my wife, I knew He had a sense of humor," Mickey says, "because her name is Minnie."

the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

"It's done," the pastor told Mickey.

At that, Mickey left—armed with the weapons he needed to win spiritual battles.

A New Way of Life

"When I first got out of prison I made a mess out of being a Christian," Mickey remembers. "I believed everything I read in the Bible but had no idea how faith principles worked. For instance, I didn't have a job or any money so I decided to buy a car by faith. Late one Saturday afternoon I wrote a check for a new Lincoln Town Car, praying God would put the money in my account by Monday!

"I hadn't had the car more than a couple of hours when the dealership figured out the check wasn't any good. They called and told me to return the car."

Mickey explained his situation to his pastor friend, who helped Mickey understand that spiritual principles don't work the way he had interpreted them. Later, because Kenneth Copeland said he had studied under Oral Roberts and Kenneth Hagin, Mickey decided to study under two men of God, who taught him how to appropriate God's Word.

During his years in prison, Mickey had read in the Bible that he who finds a wife finds a good thing. So, he prayed asking God for a wife to love and spend his life with. In 1994, while working a construction job Mickey saw a woman walk by.

"Hey!" he said to a fellow worker, "there goes *my wife!*"

Mickey pursued the woman for two months before she finally agreed to go out with him.

"When God showed me my wife, I knew He had a sense of humor," Mickey says, "because her name is Minnie."

Mickey and Minnie were married in December 1994, and soon after, Mickey was called to pastor a church.

"Looking back, I realize God called me into the ministry while I was still in prison," Mickey explains. "I was shocked because if I were God, I wouldn't choose me! I continued my partnership with KCM, going to all the conventions and meetings I could, to learn to live by faith."

Releasing Compassion

In addition to leading a congregation, Mickey ministered on the streets to kids involved in lives of crime. The things Mickey suffered in his own life gave him a heart for troubled kids. Of the 127 young people he helped, only two went back to jail.

"You can't tell a kid to walk away from \$50,000 in drug money

and go to work at McDonald's for minimum wage and expect him to do it," Mickey says. "But if you show them the joy and prosperity available in Christ, they'll listen."

"My dream is to put up a billboard directed at children that says: GOT PROBLEMS? Call 1-800-SOMEPLACE. When they call, I'd like to send a ministry team in a jet to take them someplace where they can be safe. It would be a place of refuge. When you take them out of their predatory environments, they just want to be kids."

When Mickey Whitehead set his sights on a life of crime, he tackled his goals with tenacity and passion. Having set his sights on advancing the kingdom of God, he did the same. In another bold step, in 2003 he attended Rhema Bible Training Center in Tulsa, Okla.

"As a Partner with KCM, I've spent years drawing on the anointing of this ministry," Mickey explains. "I've enjoyed the teaching, which is next to none, and the prayer. But the thing that still means the most to me is the compassion that KCM showed me when I was in prison. The greatest gift Kenneth Copeland gave me was helping me believe that I could get out of prison and stay out. Through KCM I found the faith to live free."

Today, Mickey Robert Whitehead is the presiding bishop over World Wide Compassion, a ministry with a mission of taking Jesus' compassion to a hurting world through fellowship, mentoring, ministry and churches. No longer the pastor of one church, he now heads a network of churches with a common goal. Believing that the wealth of the wicked is stored up for the righteous, Bishop Whitehead wasn't surprised when World Wide Compassion received information about receiving funding of up to \$180 million for economic

“As a Partner with KCM, I've spent years drawing on the anointing of this ministry. I've enjoyed the teaching, which is next to none, and the prayer.

development, making it an end time distribution center.

Turning the Tables

The kingdom of darkness took a major hit when Mickey Whitehead turned the tables on the devil. Furious to lose him, the enemy has tried on numerous occasions to take him out.

On one occasion, while he was driving on the highway, his car was hit by a tractor-trailer. Another time, driving along the same highway, his vehicle was hit from behind by a dump truck traveling 70 mph.

While serving as a chaplain at ground zero in New York City following 9/11, Mickey began experiencing back pain. Back home he was diagnosed with an incurable disease called retroperitoneal fibrosis. Surgeons wanted to prolong his life through drastic surgical measures but Mickey said, “No, God healed me.” And He did.

On another occasion, Mickey suffered such extensive carbon-monoxide poisoning that he was given 18 minutes to live. Mickey said, “God hasn't given up and neither have I. I'm not going to give up, give out or give in.”

Early last year, Mickey began experiencing strange symptoms and was finally taken to the emergency room. There, a doctor explained that Mickey had suffered a massive stroke. Because more than four hours had passed since the onset of the symptoms, there was nothing that could be done to reverse the damage. The doctor explained that he might see a little improvement with therapy, but that he needed to get used to living with the limitations of the stroke.

As a result of the stroke, Mickey had been rendered virtually helpless. He couldn't walk, talk, stand or read.

For the first time in years, Mickey was gripped by fear.

He was a man of faith, and faith was activated by words. But how could he live by faith if he couldn't speak?

Then, Mickey remembered: *My spirit man can speak.*

Forcing his lips to move, his inner man spoke.

Lord, if I still have a job with You, I need to talk.

Five minutes later, Mickey uttered a word.

Lord, if I can talk, I can walk.

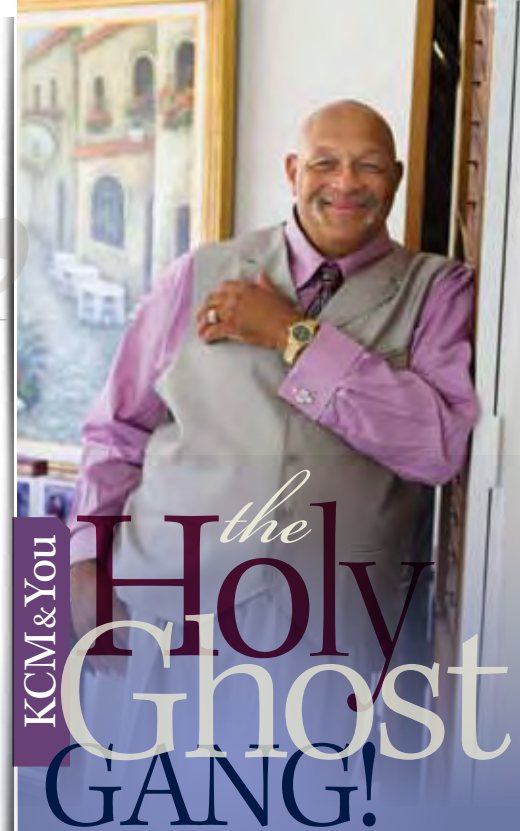
Fifteen minutes later, he walked.

For the next two months, Mickey listened to Gloria Copeland teach on healing and forced himself to repeat everything he heard her say. Day after day, he forced himself to stand and take steps.

In July, Mickey and Minnie drove 14 hours, from Ohio to Texas, to attend the Southwest Believers' Convention in Fort Worth.

Mickey Whitehead is one of a growing group of Christians who know that no weapon formed against them can prosper. To the devil and his crowd, they are *The Untouchables*.

Today, Bishop Mickey Robert Whitehead is what God created him to be and what Satan attempted to pervert. When it comes to God's Word, he is “The Enforcer.” **VICTORY**



Kenneth Copeland calls his Partners “The biggest Holy Ghost gang on earth!” Mickey Whitehead always wanted to be part of a powerful “gang” that stood up to anyone. When he came to the end of his rope trying to be untouchable, God led him to Kenneth Copeland and Mickey joined a worldwide gang of believers.

All of us want to be part of something—some group—bigger than ourselves. KCM is ready and willing to join with you to stand up for the goodness of God. Ask the Lord if now is the time for you to join us in covenant partnership—to be part of “the biggest Holy Ghost gang on earth!”



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NO MORE TOIL

■ The revelation of entering into God's rest is flowing strongly in the Body of Christ today, and things are happening because of it. » God is saying, *No more toil—rest in the blessing.*



As their pastor, I'm thrilled to deliver such a powerful revelation to my congregation and to know that through them and their testimonies, the revelation is going beyond the

We are seeing people all over the world get hold of God's rest. As they rest, ceasing from their own toil, they hear the Word of the Lord more clearly, take hold of it by faith, and receive His promises in abundance in all areas of life.

walls of our church. It is going to the nations of the world and people are seeing God establish His kingdom in the earth.

Back to the Beginning

Every revelation of God's master plan is connected to His original purpose for earth and for His man. Looking back to the beginning, before the foundation of the earth, we can see what He's always had in His heart for mankind. That's when He laid out His entire plan. The plan, from start to finish, was in Him before time began.

When God began time, He did His work in six days. Then, as Genesis 2:2 tells us, "On the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made."

In six days God created heaven and earth, stars and planets. He called every kind of fish out of the sea and all kinds of plants and animals out of the earth. But when He got to Adam, the first man—the first one of you and me—He called us out of Himself. Adam is the exact duplicate of God, made in His image.

God and Adam functioned in this earth not as two but as one. And God blessed Adam and said to him, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28).

With that blessing, God’s work was complete! He was finished and He rested.

The Rest of the Plan

God took a spot on earth He called Eden and created a Garden. His plan was that as Adam lived forever in the blessing God had commanded, The Garden would take over the whole earth. All He asked Adam to do was to plant heaven in the earth...just step out there and flourish in the blessing!

God’s blessing was powerful enough to do it! He had already provided everything to make it happen. All Adam had to do was rest in the blessing. The energy to live in the blessing was in God’s union with Adam. The supply of all Adam’s needs and desires was in that union, but Adam let himself be talked right out of the blessing.

Adam chose to satisfy his needs his way, and suddenly he and Eve were out there “going it alone.” They put themselves in a position to operate in the earth apart from God’s plan—apart from the blessing of God. In Genesis 3:17 God declared to Adam, “...the ground is under a curse because of you; in sorrow and toil shall you eat [of the fruits] of it all the days of your life” (*The Amplified Bible*). The word *toil* means “to work; to exert strength with pain or fatigue in body or mind.” What an inheritance Adam left us.

Our ancestors lost a lot with that decision, and next to our eternal life, our rest in God was one of the most important things they gave up. But,

God did not give up!

God may have rested on the seventh day of Creation, but His plan continued! Man may have quit on God, but God was determined from before the foundation of the earth that this would be the place where His blessing would rest—the whole earth would be His Garden, and His man would be both the deliverer and recipient of His plan.

For hundreds of years after Adam, God was continually on the lookout for a man who would receive all He had to give him, including rest in the earth. Along the way He often spoke through His prophets about His plan—that His people would one day receive the fullness of the blessing and establish the earth as God’s Garden.

Some caught God’s vision and connected with Him. God revealed His plan to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and David, and they all lived in the plan for a season. Then, either they or their descendents would get off course and God’s people would end up back in a wilderness of one form or another.

Generations later, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah about what He had envisioned for the earth and its people. He said, “Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” (Isaiah 51:2-3).

God has always planned to make the whole earth like the Garden of Eden—a place for His man to flourish in His rest. Through the faith of Abraham, a portion of the earth actually was delivered and turned into a garden of the Lord for his descendents. Abraham received that

land, called it his own, and fulfilled God’s planned relationship

between man and earth in his land.

As Abraham’s family history unfolded, his descendents abandoned their land and their blessing, and took generations of their family into bondage. But God never gave up. He never stopped talking to His people about His plan to bring them to their place of rest and no more toil.

The Day Is Here

The prophet Ezekiel spoke on behalf of the Lord to His people, looking forward to the days of His unfolding plan.

Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it (Ezekiel 36:33-36).

Well, here we are—in *that day*! We are in the greatest day of His plan! By the precious blood of His Son, Jesus, God *has* cleansed us of our iniquities. He *has* delivered to the Body of Christ the blessing Jesus regained for us! Glory to God!

And now we are getting in on all



that means to us, His people—His children. He is causing us to dwell in our cities and build the wastelands in them. Our desolate lands and desolate people are being replanted and are flourishing again as He intended for the Garden of Eden. And as Ezekiel 33:36 declares, the people around us who don't know

Him will see clearly *He is the one doing it all!*

Can you see it? It's just like in the beginning—just like the original Garden. He said it and He is doing it! God said let there be...and there was.

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We're at Rest—No More Toil!

As His people get on board with Him, walking in His plan, taking hold of His Word, and allowing Him to do what He says, we are at rest—no more toil!

“So, does that mean we just sit around and do nothing?” someone may ask.

No, but what the Lord calls us to do, we can do without *toil*...the toil that Adam worked under. We do the good work of God He created us for in Christ Jesus, resting in Him and apart from the kind of *toil* that brings pain to body and mind (see Ephesians 2:10).

We get out there in our communities and in the world, resting in the blessing—declaring His Word and completing His plan to reveal His Garden wherever we are!

Jesus demonstrated time and again the kind of work God intends us to do. Peter had “toiled all night” to catch fish, but when he heard the Word of Jesus, he just threw out the net and took what may have been the biggest haul of his life (Luke 5:1-7). That’s how our work for the Lord should be.

More than once, thousands of people sat down to hear Jesus preach and decided to stay for lunch. The disciples began to *toil* (be pained in their minds) about how they would feed the multitudes. Jesus picked up a piece of bread, thanking God for it, and gave some to each of them. He said, “Here, do this, get out there among the people, break the bread and pass it out.” No toil, just follow the example. That’s how it should be for us.

And we’re seeing it happen.

We’re getting out there in our communities and in the world, resting in the blessing as we go. We are being planted in the world as visible signs of The Garden, recouping and recovering all that was lost. We see the desolate places and hopeless situations, hear what God has to say about them, and follow the example. No toil. Just completing His plan to reveal His Garden wherever we are!

And here’s the best part—people are becoming curious as they watch us receive such great results without toil, seeing what the Lord is doing. They are asking, “How is this happening?”

And isn’t that *God’s real plan*?

“Be fruitful and multiply,” He said. Replenish the earth. He’s talking here about people reproducing people.

The time has come for His people to truly *be* His people—for the Church to *be* the Church. People all over the world are waiting to see something in our lives they can’t see in their own. God has planted deep inside all people the desire to see the Garden of Eden in their lives. They want rest.

As we progress in the *rest* of God and work without *toil* alongside Him, people will be lined up to get into our churches. The healing in our churches—the prosperity, the joy, the peace, the rest—will draw them.

They will come through the doors of our churches...and even through the doors of our homes, our businesses, our schools...wherever God’s people are at rest in Him. They will step through the doors in wonder and amazement to be part of heaven on earth...to be part of God’s plan for His man in the earth...the plan that will let *them* rest in Him and receive the life of God with *no more toil*! **VICTORY**



Bill Winston is founder and pastor of Living Word Christian Center, an 18,000-member church located in Forest Park, Ill. He is also the founder and chairman of The Joseph Center® for Business Development. For more information or ministry materials write to Bill Winston Ministries, P.O. Box 947, Oak Park, IL 60303; call 800-711-9327; or visit his website at bwm.org.

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BY KENNETH COPELAND

From the *BVOV* Archives:
This classic teaching originally
appeared in May 1997.

*There are two kinds
of faith. One will get
you through troubled
times in victory—
the other won't.*



What Kind of Faith Do You Have?

Signs and wonders. Miraculous manifestations of the Spirit of God. If you haven't witnessed them already in your own life and in the lives of believers around you, you soon will because they are happening everywhere and they are on the increase.

I don't mind telling you, I love it!
I love to watch God work. I love
to see miracles and feel the move
of the Holy Ghost. It's the most

thrilling, wonderful kind of fun
there is.

It's so much fun, in fact, that if
we're not alert, we can get so caught

up in watching and feeling these great
manifestations of God that we neglect
The WORD and allow our faith to slip.

I can almost hear what you're
thinking. *Whoa! Wait a minute now,
Brother Copeland. How could my faith
slip while I'm watching miracles and
feeling spiritual goose bumps? Don't
those things increase my faith?*

Not according to the Bible. It

doesn't say anything about faith coming by what you see or what you feel. It says very simply that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Sense-Realm Faith... or the God Kind of Faith?

Some people might be inclined to argue with that. They might think that since they saw a miracle and believed it, faith had come to their hearts. But they'd be mistaken. What actually happens when you see something and then believe it is that faith comes to your *head*!

Head faith (or sense-knowledge faith) and heart faith (or as Jesus called it in Mark 11:22, "the God kind of faith") operate in two entirely different realms. The God kind of faith operates in the realm of the spirit. It takes hold of The WORD of God in the unseen realm and brings that WORD to pass in the natural world.

That is the kind of faith God used to bring this earth into existence. It's a powerful force. And when it flows from the hearts and mouths of believers, real spiritual faith changes natural things.

Sense-knowledge faith, on the other hand, has no real power. It doesn't change things. On the contrary, natural things change *it*!

Everyone in the world has sense-knowledge faith. They believe certain things just because they can see them, or because they've experienced them. People believe, for example, that when they flip a light switch the light will come on. They have faith in that process because they've seen it work time and again.

But the light-switch kind of faith comes strictly from the mind. When you exercise it, your spirit is dormant. Believing only what you can see and feel does not activate your spirit.

If it did, the whole city of Jerusalem would have been saved the day Jesus was raised from the dead. He could have walked down the street holding up His hands for all to see. (The nails they drove through His hands weren't little house nails. They weighed two pounds each. You could see daylight through the holes they left in His body!)

No doubt, if He had done that, everyone in town would have believed that He'd been resurrected. People would have been so impressed that they would have followed Him in droves. They probably would have jumped and whooped and hollered because they were so excited about seeing someone raised from the dead.

But not one of them would have been born again. Their spirits would have remained dormant as long as they were simply believing what they saw. They might have felt goose bumps but they wouldn't have been truly blessed.

The Secret of Being Truly Blessed

You see, to *be blessed* means to "be empowered," and

sense-knowledge faith doesn't generate any spiritual power. It doesn't bring blessing.

It's believing The WORD of God *before* you can see or feel a natural manifestation of it that brings real blessing. Jesus Himself said that to Thomas, remember?

After the resurrection, Thomas refused to believe that Jesus was alive unless he could see and feel the nail prints in His hands. So Jesus appeared to him and said: "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:27-29).

Obviously, Thomas would mentally believe what his eyes saw and his hands touched. Yet even so, Jesus firmly admonished him to "be not faithless, but believing." That's

It doesn't say anything about faith coming by what you see or what you feel. It says very simply that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

because mental assent didn't qualify as faith in Jesus' estimation. He wanted Thomas to activate his spirit and truly believe. Jesus also knew that having seen Him in the flesh wasn't going to make that kind of believing any easier for Thomas. It might even make it harder for him.

Many Christians today don't realize that. They think if Jesus would appear to them in the flesh, their faith would skyrocket. But that's not so. If you're prone to depend more on sense-knowledge faith than you are on The WORD of God, seeing some astounding manifestation in this natural realm can actually set your faith back. That's why Jesus did what He did on the road to Emmaus.

After His resurrection, two of His disciples were walking along that road talking sadly about Jesus' crucifixion, and Jesus Himself joined them. But Luke 24:16 says, "Their eyes were holden that they should not know him."

So Jesus, coming alongside them said, "What's the matter with you boys?" (This is the West Texas paraphrase.)

"Are you some kind of stranger or something?" they answered. "Haven't you heard what happened? They killed Jesus! They crucified our LORD and our best friend!"

Then, as they walked along together, Jesus began to preach The WORD to them.

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? (Luke 24:27-32).

Think about what happened there. Jesus had been teaching those disciples. They had heard The WORD, believed it, and their hearts were so filled with faith, they were burning up with it. But the moment they recognized Jesus with their physical eyes, He disappeared.

Why did He do that? He did it because He wanted them to be blessed or empowered. He wanted to keep their spirits activated by believing The WORD instead of shutting down their spirits and simply believing He was alive because they had seen Him.

Why is faith so important in these final days? Because at the same time God is pouring out His Spirit as never before, the devil is going to be working as never before to stop that outpouring....

He didn't want to set their faith back. Some years ago when I didn't understand that principle, I used to pester God continually to appear to me. "LORD, You appeared to Kenneth Hagin," I'd say. "You appeared to Oral Roberts, You appeared to T.L. Osborn...and I want You to appear to me!"

I kept after Him about it for so long that He finally spoke to me by the Spirit and said, "Kenneth, if you keep on asking Me to appear to you, I'm going to have to do it. But I'm warning you, it will set your faith back five years."

Why was that? It was because God knew at that point in my development such a manifestation would have caused me to want to lean more on sense-knowledge faith than on the faith that comes by hearing The WORD of God. For instance, instead of just reading The WORD and believing I was healed because The WORD said so, despite my symptoms, I might have been tempted to do what a lot of folks do and beg God for sense-knowledge confirmation by saying some silly thing like, "Oh LORD, if You'll just appear here in my room and lay Your hand on my fevered brow, I'll know I'm healed."

The fact is, Jesus would like to appear to every one of us if He could. It would delight Him to be able to just walk into the room and sit down with us any time He wanted. But until now, He's had to restrain Himself because He is training us to govern our lives by the God kind of faith. He's been teaching us to "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Because we've come to the end of the age, God has had to raise up people who can get their job done and carry out His

plan. He has had to develop us into people of faith.

March on to Victory

Why is faith so important in these final days? Because at the same time God is pouring out His Spirit as never before, the devil is going to be working as never before to stop that outpouring—and the realm of the senses is the devil's domain.

He has been banished from the realm of the spirit. So he has to fight in the mental realm. He has to bombard your senses with natural "evidence" to make you doubt The WORD of God.

The devil can't get into your spirit to steal The WORD. All he can do to stop you from believing it is to hammer away at you with natural circumstances. All he can do is shove negative things in front of your eyes and pressure you with negative feelings.

If your faith in God is merely mental, sense-knowledge faith, you will buckle under those attacks. But if you've been diligent in The WORD and you have the God kind of faith, you will march right over them and on to victory.

When you're not seeing miracles, you won't be discouraged. You'll just call things that are not as though they were (Romans 4:17) and dare the devil to do anything about it. When instead of feeling goose bumps of glory, you're feeling like a speed bump that's been run over a hundred times, you'll be like Abraham who "considered not his own body...staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God...fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:19-21).

When tests and trials are staring you in the face, you'll fix your gaze on God's WORD and say with the Apostle Paul, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

Now more than ever, God needs for us to be people who walk, talk and live like that. He needs us to be people of faith because as glorious as these final days will be, they will also be days of great conflict with the devil. They will be days of war that will require us to fight the good fight of faith with more strength and courage than ever before.

Take the Runway!

When I think of the kind of spiritual guts we'll need in the days ahead, I think of a story I once read about a young man who was in pilot training during World War II. He was a bomber pilot, training on the Martin Marauder, an airplane which in those days was considered hard to fly. There was a wing on it they didn't understand like they do

now, and if the pilot let that airplane get ahead of him, it would roll over on its back and crash.

One day this young pilot was sitting in this airplane with his instructor at the end of the runway preparing to take a training flight. His roommate, who was training in the same kind of airplane, was coming in for his final approach at the same runway. About a quarter mile from the end of the runway, right in front of this young pilot's eyes, his roommate flipped that airplane upside down, hit the ground and exploded in a ball of flames.

Stunned, the young man simply sat and stared in silence.

Then he heard the firm voice of his instructor. "Don't just sit there!" he said. "Take the runway!"

The young pilot was astonished. "Surely we're not going to go ahead and train today!" he said. "My buddy just got killed in that airplane right there!"

"Take the runway!" the instructor ordered. "We are in the middle of a war. We have no time to grieve. Take the runway!"

I know as well as anyone that living by faith isn't easy. There are times when the devil blindsides you and hurts you so bad your flesh just wants to lay down and cry. There are times when you want Jesus to appear to you and give you some tangible, fleshly manifestation to help you go on. But crying won't get this war won. Neither will fleshly manifestations.

Walking by faith is what will win the war because faith is our link to the Anointing of God. Faith releases *within us* and *through us* the yoke-destroying, burden-removing power of God. And faith comes by hearing The WORD of God!

If you neglect The WORD, it won't matter how many miracles you see or how many goose bumps you feel, the devil will eventually slap you down with sickness, financial lack or some

other kind of demonic defeat. But if you'll keep your spirit activated and strong through The WORD of God, when the devil takes a punch at you, you can rise up.

Start speaking The WORD, pounding him with it until he runs for cover. "By Jesus' stripes I was healed." Wham! "No weapon formed against me will prosper." Wham! "Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world." Wham!

Of course, Satan won't stay around very long when you start resisting him like that. He'll flee. But when he does, you can chase after him and keep hitting him with The WORD. There's no place for him to hide.

I can tell you from personal experience what will happen when you do keep hammering the devil with faith and refuse to let up. An anointing will come on you. I call it the bulldog anointing. Your spirit will be activated. Your inside will get bigger than your outside, and instead of whimpering in the corner you'll begin to roar like the Lion of the tribe of Judah!

That's the way believers ought to be. We shouldn't just skip from place to place looking for miracles. We ought to be miracles going somewhere to happen all the time. We ought to walk around so full of The WORD and faith that all of hell quivers every morning when we wake up!

But to be that way, we must keep our spirits activated. We must continue to walk by faith and not by sight.

So commit yourself to do that from this day on. Make a quality decision that no matter how many great signs and wonders you see, no matter what outstanding manifestations you may enjoy, you won't let your spirit doze off by simply believing what you see. Determine to keep feeding on The WORD, to keep activating your spirit by believing and speaking and acting on it. Then, and only then, will you truly be blessed! VICTORY

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Arlington, TX 76014 | 1-800-398-2172 ext. 3730
dfw.undergodindivisible.org | Go to website or call to register.

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion: August 23-24

Living Word Christian Center | 9201 75th Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428 | 1-763-315-7000 | lwcc.org

International Faith Conference: September 10

Living Word Christian Center
7600 W. Roosevelt Road | Forest Park, IL 60130
1-708-697-5000 | billwinston.org

Prayer Mountain Annual Prayer Conference:

October 25-29 (Billye Brim Ministries)

Hilton Branson Convention Center
200 Sycamore St. | Branson, MO 65616
1-417-336-4877 | billyebrim.org

Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher

Christians United for Israel: July 16-19

Walter E. Washington Convention Center
801 Mount Vernon Place NW | Washington, D.C. 20001
1-877-706-2834 | cufi.org

Word of His Power Faith Christian Centre:
July 19-22

108-4053 Meadowbrook Drive | London, ON N6L 1E8
Canada | 1-519-709-2167 | wohp.org

Abundant Living Church: August 4-5

601 Palm St. | La Habra, CA 90631 | 1-562-315-6428

Living Word Bible Church: September 9

3520 E. Brown Road | Mesa, AZ 85213
1-480-964-4463 | livingwordonline.org

Orlando SuperChannel WACX-TV: September 11

285 W. Central Parkway, Suite 1716
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 | 1-407-263-4040
wacx.com

Word of Faith Family Church: September 11

285 W. Central Parkway, Suite 1718
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 | 1-386-255-0662

Maranatha Christian Center: September 12

3506 N. Harbor City Blvd. | Melbourne, FL 32935
1-321-259-5962 | mccmelbourne.org

Church on the Living Edge: September 16

555 Markham Woods Road | Longwood, FL 32779
1-321-304-4111 | churchonthelivingedge.com

Toronto International Celebration Church:
October 28

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

Grace Television Network: October 29

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

The Jim Bakker Show: November 7

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

Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans:
November 11

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

Faith and Wisdom Church: November 11

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

Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons

Venezuela Victory Youth Campaign:
August 24-25

Sports Center "Pedro Elías Belisario Aponte"
Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación 2, con Ave. 5
de Julio | Maracaibo, Estado de Zulia, Venezuela | kcm.org/es

Riley Stephenson,
KCM's Evangelistic Outreach Minister

Faith City Church: July 18

307 S. Washington Ave. | Titusville, FL 32796
myfaithcity.org

New Way Christian Fellowship: July 20-22

293 Old Moody Blvd. | Palm Coast, FL 32164
1-386-437-9575 | mynwcf.com

Safe Harbor Christian Church: August 1 & 5

3002 Murphy Road | Memphis, IN 47143
1-812-294-7422 | safeharborcc.com

Walking in the Spirit Ministries: August 7-9

6420 W. Mitchell St. | West Allis, WI 53214
witsm.org | 1-414-604-9487

El Shaddai Christian Fellowship: August 12

N158 Highway 55 | Kaukauna, WI 54130
1-920-766-7701 | elshaddaiaicf.com

Victory Fellowship Church:

August 31-September 3

1087 McDowell Road | Asheboro, NC 27205
1-336-626-6561 | vfc-asheboro.org

Halloween Block Party Outreach:
October 27-28

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

Life Church: October 30-November 1

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

Agape Embassy Ministries: November 2-4

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

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GoodNewsGazette

Prayer Works

Two of my children stopped using drugs as a result of KCM prayers!

J.J. :: Shreveport, La.



Marriage Restored

My husband and I separated last summer and he moved in with another woman. KCM sent me the *From Faith to Faith* devotional, and I read it every day.

The Lord told me not to compromise but to trust Him.

In January, I prayed with a minister on your prayer line for restoration of my family. I didn't know how it was going to happen, but I trusted the Lord. A week later, my husband came home. Since then, we've been going to church, sitting together daily and reading *From Faith to Faith*, and discussing God's Word. Praise the Lord!

E.B. :: Jacksonville, Fla.

"And [Jesus] said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.'" (Mark 5:34, *New King James Version*)

The Doctors Gave Up, but God Did Not!

God is indeed a good God, and a prayer-answering God! My grandmother from Nigeria visited us in October 2009. She was well when she came, but late one night in December she complained of a terrible pain in her abdomen, so much that my husband had to take her to the hospital and she stayed on admission.

The second night we got a call from the hospital to say we should prepare for the worst—she had been transferred to ICU because her kidneys were failing and the MRI showed a tumor in her liver. They were not prepared to do surgery because she was very ill and they didn't think she would survive the next 24 hours.

I called the KCM office the next day for prayer and a brother prayed with me that she will not die but live and her kidneys and liver be healed. We stood on the Word of God and kept on praying and trusting God. She did not die the next day. And we started calling her kidneys to function properly in Jesus' Name!... She was moved from ICU to a private room and eventually we were told to take her home because there was nothing else to do. They gave her only a few days to live. We brought her home Christmas day and trusted God. The doctors didn't think she would make Christmas 2009—praise God she got healed by God and traveled back to Nigeria. Two years now and she is still alive and well—93 years old! Only God can do this! Thank you, KCM, for praying with us!

E.M. :: Harrogate, U.K.

Changing Words, Changing Lives

KCM changed my way of thinking and how to speak over my life. I needed a job and received one!

A.W. :: Shreveport, La.

The Word Is Final Authority

My 2-year-old son came home from daycare with a big, bloated tummy. He could not walk and was sweating profusely. When we got home, my husband prepared Holy Communion and prayed and gave thanks to the Father. Whilst my son was eating, he started walking around. Praise God, he was healed before we said Amen. Thank you, KCM, for teaching us to give the Word final authority in our lives.

T.C. :: Pretoria, South Africa

Anointed Music Brings Much-Needed Sleep

I would like to thank the girls of Strand of Pearls for their beautiful anointed music. I have suffered from insomnia for years, often only getting two to three hours of sleep an evening. Playing soft praise-and-worship music or a teaching tape helps, but Strand of Pearls puts me into a deep, restful sleep before the last song plays.

I am so grateful for the sleep and the added bonus of the

songs running through my mind during the day. I pray the Copeland girls continue to bless us all with their music ministry.

C.W. :: Grand Rapids, Mich.



To order this product, please visit kcm.org.au or call 1300 730 433 or +617 3343 7777, NZ: 0800 903 100

Jesus—The Word—Healed Me

In the summer, I noticed a lump on my forehead, and thought it would go away, but it got bigger. Mid-September, my husband said to get it checked out.

The doctor said it appeared to be basal cell carcinoma, a form of skin cancer, and advised me to go privately to a local hospital to see a dermatologist. The dermatologist agreed—basal skin carcinoma—and said it needed taking out immediately. It was arranged for the following week.

My husband and I read a KCM devotional every day, and had already started *declaring* my healing. I cried out to God and rebuked the cancer that was attacking me. I read the Bible where Jesus said your faith has made you whole. I reread a Smith Wigglesworth book. I phoned KCM for prayer, and you sent me a prayer cloth and a Charles Capps book, which I read as soon as it arrived.

I dug into the Scriptures and declared several times daily, like medicine, “Jesus took my sicknesses and diseases to the cross, and by His stripes I am healed.” Even when I got up to go to the bathroom during the night I would take my medicine by declaring it again. When I prayed, I stood on my Bible like Smith Wigglesworth had once told someone to do, and I said, “Father, I’m standing on all of Your promises in this Bible and they are all mine, so I’m healed.”

The carcinoma started to change, to get a bit smaller. This slight change helped me ramp up my declarations and in the next 10 days it shriveled up. When I went back to the doctor, he asked what I had done. I told him I was a born-again Christian and Jesus had healed me. He called in two other doctors—all were amazed!

Initially, a mark remained where the cancer had been, but over the last few weeks it has become barely noticeable. Thank You, dear Jesus. Bless everyone at KCM and the minister who prayed for me. Thank God for the truth of His Word, and for the teaching from Kenneth and Gloria Copeland!

C.P. :: Essex, England

Thank You for Being There

I called KCM when my husband had been rushed to the hospital and was in critical condition in ICU. Now, he has been released and is healing well. His blood pressure is normal, the swelling is down and he is good. Thank you for your prayers. It was a very scary time and I’m sure your prayers are the reason everything is all right. Things could have been so much different.

T.B. :: Broken Arrow, Okla.

Back Pain Healed as Gloria Prayed

About a year back while watching Gloria Copeland on The GOD Channel, as she was praying for healing, I was

healed from severe pain in the lower back, which I’d had for a long time. I praise and thank You, Jesus.

A.M. :: Mumbai, India

Thank You!

Thank you, KCM and Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, for the birthday gift you sent me—Brother Copeland’s *Living Life in the Faith Lane* message! And thank you for *THE BLESSING of The LORD Makes Rich* book. It has increased my hunger for God’s Word and prompted me to go deeper into His Word. Thank you for the employment prayer flier which I pray in faith every day. My home church is Victory Christian Center in Edmonton, and I see KCM as my extended church family because you are there for me, too! God bless you, your families and ministry. Love and blessings,

L.G. :: Alberta, Canada

Prayer Is
Our Priority.

Call **1300 730 433** or
+617 3343 7777 for prayer.

Supernatural Debt Cancellation: Believe It!

A year ago, I watched a broadcast with Kenneth teaching on supernatural debt cancellation. At first I didn’t believe it, but was convinced before the program ended. So, I prayed and asked God to cancel a \$14,000 debt. This week I received notice that the bill was paid in full and there is a \$1400 credit toward 2012.

R.F. :: East Orange, N.J.

Thank God for KCM

Sometime ago I asked your prayer team to stand with me for my only daughter, who was bleeding from the nose and mouth. Even when passing urine or stool she would pass blood. The doctors in this country did not know what was wrong with her—most of the test results were normal.

Praise God! My daughter is completely healed and is back at school this year. No more bleeding! I thank God for KCM.

R.B. :: Papua New Guinea

Psalms 91: Prescription for Peace of Mind

In 2010, I asked for prayer. I was pregnant and the devil was trying to make me lose heart. I was told to confess Psalm 91 daily, and in January I gave birth to a healthy baby boy. Thanks for the guidance and prayers.

M.G.K. :: South Africa



Learning to Speak *the* Father's Language

Life-changing moments. Most of us only have a handful of them in a lifetime, but the instant they happen you realize everything has changed. Life as you know it is now completely different. In a moment of time, your life has turned inside out and upside down in every possible way.

A couple years ago, my wife, Sarah, and I had one of those moments. It completely revolutionized our lives. The day before, we were one way; the day after, everything changed.

We had a baby—Justus James Pearsons. What a gift!

But for the first several months of his life, he didn't speak

English. We couldn't understand a thing he said. It was just grunts and mumbles. Then, one day Justus was sitting in his highchair and his mama was feeding him yogurt. Out of nowhere, he said his first word: *Dada*.

Sarah and I exchanged glances, then said, "Say it again, Justus! Say it again! Say Dada!" I leaned in. "Who am I?

Who am I? Say Dada!"

That opened the floodgate. "Dada! Dada! Dada! Dada!"

Of course, everything in the room was Dada, but I didn't care. Mama was Dada, I was Dada and the little kid on the yogurt cup was Dada. But the point was, my son said, "Dada!" And I loved it. It was the first thing he ever said that I understood.

A few days later, we were on a walk around our neighborhood, and the Lord spoke to me. He said, *Do you want to know why that pleases you so much?*

"Why?" I asked.

Because your son is learning to speak your language.

Then, He reminded me of Hebrews 11:6: "Without faith it is impossible to please [God]."

Faith is the only language our Father speaks, and when we pray we must speak it clearly.

Speaking of Faith...

Matthew 6:5-8 says:

When you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him (*New King James Version*).

Jesus is always revealing the Father's heart, will and character. In this case, He was talking to His disciples about

two kinds of prayer that will not work. The hypocrites who pray, He said, "think that they will be heard for their many words." The implication there is that their prayers aren't heard.

When it comes to speaking God's language, it's as important to know what *not* to say as it is what *to* say.

I once heard a man say he asked God, "Father, what do You do with all these unbelieving prayers?"

The Lord responded, *What prayers?*

Does God hear prayer? Yes. But does God hear *all* prayer? According to Jesus, no.

Matthew 6:8 says, "Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."

It takes faith to trust that truth, but understanding it will change the way you pray. Knowing that *He knows* what you need, not only before you ask it, but before *you* even know what you need, changes everything.

Instead of praying, "Father, I need this and this and this in Jesus' Name," we can pray, "Father, I come to You in Jesus' Name. What do I need?"

Your conversations with God, your intimacy with Him, the productivity of your prayer life and your walk with the Lord will go to heights you've never thought imaginable if you will pray with the purpose of finding out what's on His mind... not yours.

It's a different way of praying—a completely alternate perspective. Instead of trying to reveal *your* will to *Him*, allow Him to reveal *His* will to *you*. Find out what's been on your Father's mind all along and the conversation will really get going.

Does God hear prayer? Yes. But does God hear all prayer? According to Jesus, NO.

The Rules Have Changed

Of course, before Jesus came, the only way to receive anything from God was by sweating and toiling to keep the law. It was a life of trying and trying and trying. But that's no longer the case. Jesus brought a new era—an era of grace. He said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, *NKJV*). This was more than just a feel-good statement. It was the beginning of something new.

Grace is not *something* that came through Jesus. Grace is *everything* that came through Jesus. So when Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," He was saying He will *grace* you with the gift of rest. It's His gift to you.

Under the old rule, what you wanted from God, you earned. Under the new rule, you *can't* earn it. You can only receive it as a gift. And that changes everything...including prayer.

Not keeping this colossal development in mind is the reason so many people fail to receive—they're experiencing a breakdown in communication. Without grace there would be nothing to have faith in. But without faith there would be no way to receive what grace has given. These two must work together. When they do, they become a conversation. And ultimately, isn't that what prayer is—a conversation with the Father?

Grace says, "You are redeemed." Faith responds, "Yes, I receive."

Faith is nothing more than a response. In fact, that's how I define faith: *The only appropriate response to*

grace. It's the response God is waiting for.

If a foreigner moves to a new place and wants to have a productive life, then at some point he is going to have to learn to speak the language. The Father is saying to us, "You've come into My kingdom, now I want you to learn to speak My language. I want you to communicate with Me."

At our house we have a number of Spanish channels on the television. But I don't speak Spanish, so I don't know what's being said. Do you suppose it would help me understand if I were to turn up the volume? No, but that's what we do with God. When our begging, pleading prayers don't seem to be getting through, what do we do? Beg louder. "God, don't You see I need this? Don't You feel my pain?" But God *no habla worry!* If you've been praying like this then you need to know that you've been speaking in a language He doesn't speak.

You're trying to apply an old rule to a new day.

Pray His Plan

In Jeremiah 29:11, the Lord says, "For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you" (*The Amplified Bible*).



We must go before Him and find out the plan, because that's what's on His mind. Plans belong to the *future*. You can't plan the past. So when God is thinking about you, He's not thinking about your past. And if He's not thinking about it, then why are you?

An unrelenting grasp on the past keeps people from walking in the thing God has called them, equipped them, graced them and destined them to do. God isn't interested in talking about your past. He's waiting for you to start talking about what's on His mind: The plan. Your future.

We've become obsessed with our present position and our current condition, when all the while He's trying to talk to us about our future. After God told Abram to leave his house, and he obeyed, then God told him to "lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever" (Genesis 13:14-15, *NKJV*).

This is the complete opposite of what most people do. They let down their eyes and look at where they are. But God told Abram, and He's telling you, "Lift *up* and look *from*." Instead of being obsessed with what you have or don't have or wish you did have, lift up your eyes and look from this place.

What if you could talk about the future with the same certainty that you talk about the present? What if you could be that confident, bold and certain about some place you've never been? Well, God is.

We need to get His thoughts in our minds. We need to find out where He's taking us.

Becoming Fluent

Our son is learning to speak and communicate from my wife and me. He listens to us and says what we tell him to say. He learns what not to say, too, and he learns how to say what he needs to say. He's learning our language.

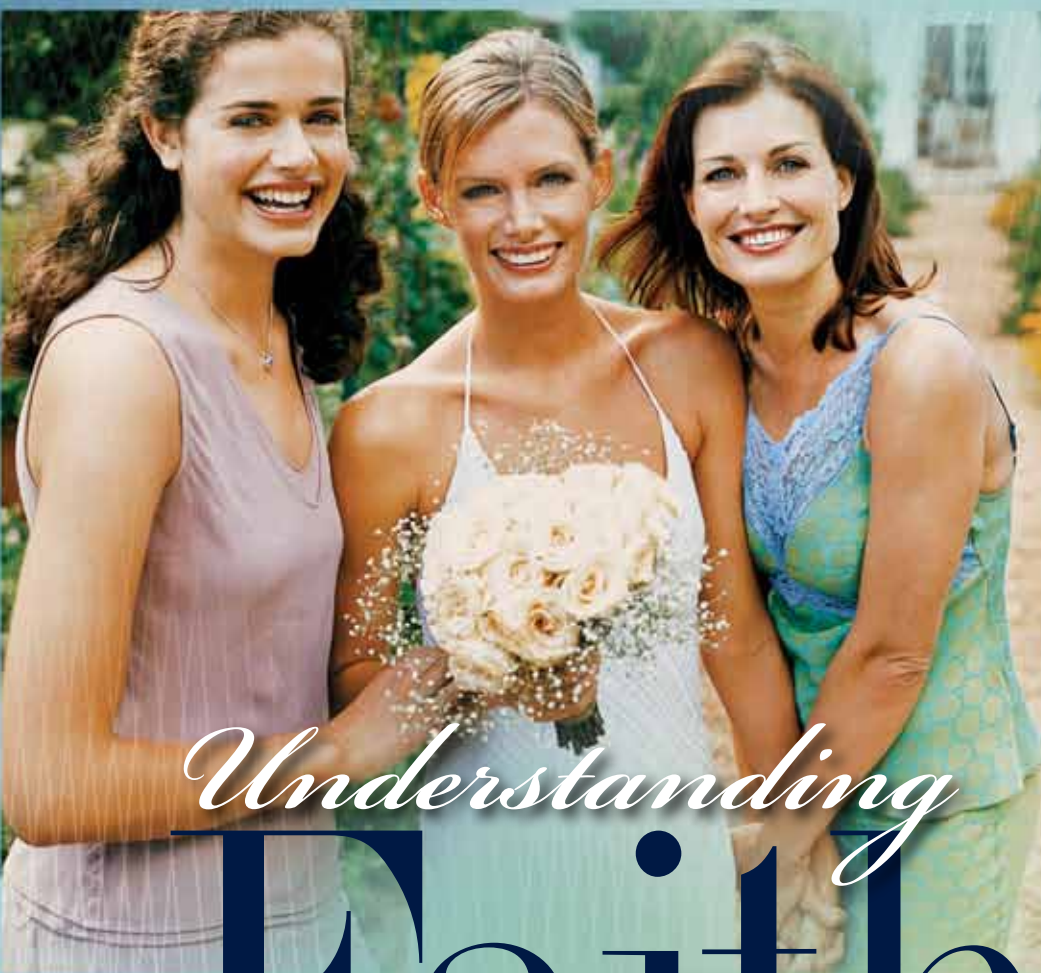
It's the same with you and your heavenly Father. You learn to speak His language by mirroring what He says. You respond to His grace with faith for every area of your life—marriage, family, ministry, finances and health, and yes, future plans.

God is speaking His language—grace. Now it's up to you to respond in the only acceptable way—by faith.

It's a whole new language; one we all need to speak fluently! **VICTORY**



Jeremy and his wife, Sarah, are founders of *Pearsons Ministries International*. They travel to preach Jesus to congregations across the U.S. and around the world. For information on their ministry and its outreaches, visit pearsonsmministries.com.



BY GLORIA COPELAND



Understanding Faith

I am
convinced
that people
who are critical
of faith understand
little to nothing
about it.

After all, how could you possibly be critical of faith if you understood that God Himself had to use faith to frame the universe?

That's why, in 45 years of ministry, Ken and I have never been upset when people call us "Faith Preachers!" We take it as a compliment—because, if there's one thing we've learned it's that

if God can't do anything without faith then neither can we.

Everything that happens to us supernaturally happens by faith. Somewhere, somehow, someone has to release faith for the supernatural to happen in our lives.

Just think for a moment how you came to be born again.

Maybe it was a friend, sibling or spouse who prayed for you to come into the kingdom of God. Maybe it was a great-great-grandmother who prayed for your salvation long before you were even born. It may have been someone on the other side of the world who interceded for you in the spirit, praying

I discovered that you and I cannot live on someone else's faith the rest of our lives.

If we try to...we won't walk in the fullness of the financial blessings God has stored up for us.

in other tongues and never even knowing what—or for whom—they prayed.

Oftentimes, we never know. But the point is, at some moment in time, faith must be released on our behalf for a supernatural event—like salvation—to happen in our lives.

In my life, I know of at least one person who prayed and released faith on my behalf concerning my salvation, but I didn't know it at the time. That person was Ken's mother. In fact, just a few months after Ken and I married, I got saved by reading a Bible his mother had sent him for his birthday. It wasn't long afterward Ken was born again, too.

So whether it's getting us born again or getting us healed, whether it's avoiding a financial disaster or avoiding a fatal car wreck, faith must be released. Someone's faith must be in operation—and if it's not our faith that gets us in the right place at the right time, then it's someone else's that does.

Throw Open the Windows!

Isn't it comforting to know God has people of faith and people of prayer scattered throughout each generation—people who pray and believe on our behalf?

But you know, I discovered that you and I cannot live on someone else's faith the rest of our lives. If we try to, we probably won't live out the full number of our days on this earth. We won't walk in the fullness of the financial blessings God has stored up for us. We won't walk in the fullness of the ministry gifts God wants to pour out on us for the benefit of the world around us, a world that's full of lost, sick, lonely and needy people.

If you and I continue to depend *only* on the faith of other believers—our spouses, our parents, our children, or even our pastors and spiritual leaders—we will always be hindered and hampered, and never as free and successful as God wants us to be.

So we must develop our faith. We must learn how to operate in our own faith. That's why, in this two-part series, I want us to focus on four specific principles of faith.

Principles of Faith

Now, obviously, there are more than four principles to faith, but I want to introduce these four to you because I consider them to be vital. I believe they are essential to understanding how God designed faith to operate in our lives. With that understanding in hand, we can then use our faith more effectively.

In this first half of our study, I want us to examine two

of the four principles, the first of which is: *Faith gives God an opening.*

We read in Romans 5:1-2, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Verse 2 tells us that we have "access"—by faith—to the grace of God through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. It is our faith that allows us access to God's grace. That sounds reassuring, but what exactly does it mean?

Let's look at verse 2 in *The Amplified Bible*: "Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand."

That's a mouthful, but basically the Apostle Paul is telling us that faith gives us access to God's favor. Our faith gives God an opening through which He can pour *all* His favor into our lives.

The moment you and I received Jesus as our Lord, we gave God an opening into our lives. Our faith gave Him entrance to come in and save us. By faith, we gained access to the favor of God to be born again. But that was just the beginning.

There is still much more of God's favor for us to receive and experience every day of our lives. Faith requires that we continually receive the Word of God to lay hold of all of God's goodness. Faith is kept alive and working by taking God's Word into your heart.

Believing God's Word concerning any area of life and acting in line with that Word is faith. The force of faith is activated by hearing and believing God's Word. It is a spiritual force produced by the abiding Word of God in the heart.

You and I were created by God with the ability to choose. He gave us a will. So, when it comes to our relating to and interacting with God, we make choices to believe what He says or to disregard what He says. Many times the right choice requires faith to believe what He says rather than how it looks to the natural eye.

In Deuteronomy 28, as God prepared to cut covenant with His people, Israel, He told Moses to tell them, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee..." (verses 1-2). That was the bright side of the picture.

On the other side, God warned Moses that if the people

of Israel chose not to hearken to His voice and obey His commandments, then they would suffer consequences. The rest of Deuteronomy 28 contains more than 50 verses detailing the curses that would overtake them.

God laid everything out for the Israelites, all the terms and details of His covenant. Then, He told them in Deuteronomy 30:19-20:

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

God operates by promise. He gives His Word. If you believe and obey it no matter what, He brings that promise to pass in your life.

The bottom line was whether or not the children of Israel trusted God enough to agree to His terms of the covenant. If they did, they would have to walk in His ways. They had to choose by faith.

A Choice to Make

Noah is a good example.

Early in the book of Genesis we read how, when God first approached Noah about building the ark, no one had ever heard of rain. No one knew drops of water could fall from the sky because it had never rained before. Up to that point, an underground sprinkler system of sorts—dew—had been used to water the earth. Yet, here was God talking to Noah about rain, floods and building a big boat.

Well, Noah had a choice to make, *Do I believe God, and build this monstrosity called an ark, or don't I?* It

was a far-out plan to Noah's natural understanding, but God knew exactly what He was doing.

Noah chose to believe God.

Once Noah made his decision, it took a long time to build that ark. After all, he only had his family to help him build it. Everyone else thought he was crazy. "Crazy old

Noah—building a floating house with no water to put it in."

Don't you know, during the construction phase of that ark, Noah had plenty of opportunities to change his mind and back out of this foolish-looking project of his?

Nonetheless, he continued in faith. When God said—"Everything that

God's Will is Not a Mystery!

Have you ever asked yourself what God's will is? For most Christians, this is one of the top questions on their minds. But God's will doesn't have to be a mystery!

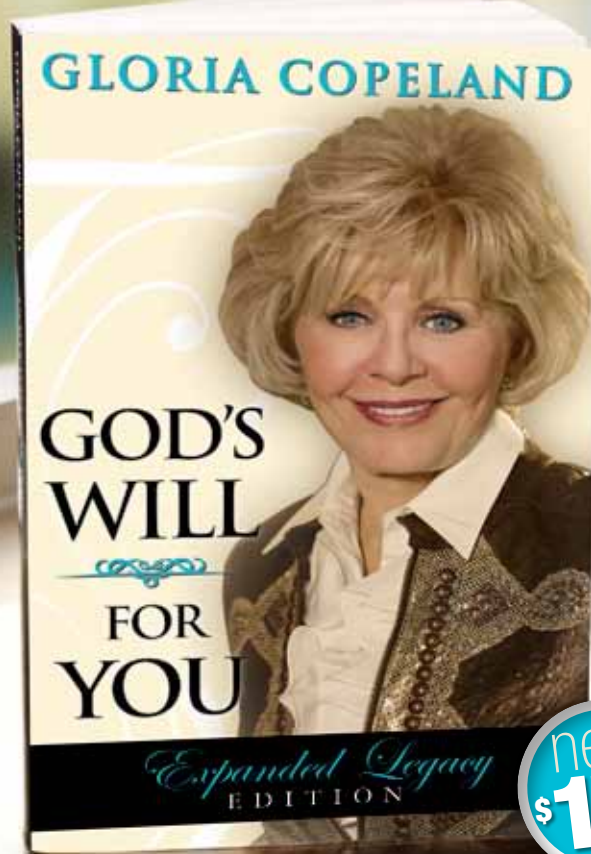
Gloria Copeland discovered 45 years ago that God's will is clear and concise—and you can find His answer to every question you will ever have about your life.

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is on the land shall die. But I will establish My covenant (promise, pledge) with you" (Genesis 6:17-18, *AMP*)—Noah believed Him.

We find out that not only did Noah obey God by building the ark, he also obeyed by preaching to the unrighteous people while he and his family hammered and sawed. He preached what God told him to preach. The Bible says Noah was a preacher of righteousness. I have no doubt the people said he was a *faith preacher!*

So, like Noah—and all the other heroes of faith in the Old Testament—if you and I are going to live supernaturally, if we are going to have the supernatural blessings of God overtake us, instead of curses, then we must give God an opening—and faith is that opening. Our faith is like opening a window to God.

Believing Is Faith

Remember, God is no dictator. He never forces His way into our lives like the devil does. He never tries to deceive us. When God laid out His promises, He made them plain and simple. Then He gave us a choice.

Certainly, you and I don't have to believe what God says. But if we want to live healed, prosperous, blessed in every way, then we will have to believe what He says. That is faith!

Psalms 35:27 (*AMP*) says God "takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant," but that doesn't mean we have to walk in prosperity. If we want to, we can live in the natural realm and refuse supernatural increase. God won't force it on us.

If, however, we choose to take God at His Word, we can walk in the fullness of His prosperity for our lives. All we have to do is give Him an opening. All we have to do is believe what He says, instead of believing what we see, hear or feel.

The second principle I want to introduce to you is: *Faith comes*.

Like God, faith is no respecter of persons. Anyone can have faith. In fact, Romans 12:3 tells us that God "hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (speaking to born-again people). Consequently, any believer can develop faith. Faith will always come when God's Word is heard and received.

To learn more about the conditions that cause faith to rise up in any given situation, let's read Romans 10:13-17.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then

shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

salvation prayer

If you do not know
JESUS
as your Savior 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.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please contact us and let us know of your decision. We have a **Free Gift** we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Go to kcm.org.au and type Salvation Package in the search box, check the box on the response form with this magazine or call 1300 730 433 or +617 3343 7777.

First, notice that this passage of scripture begins with a promise from God—"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (verse 13).

So in verse 13, Paul declares a promise and then goes on to show the supernatural process by which it draws faith out of our hearts—the faith that is necessary to lay hold of the promise and cause the reality of it to manifest in our lives.

Faith Comes by Hearing

There are approximately 6,000 promises from God recorded in the Bible, and each one was carefully written down for us.

If you and I were to take each of those promises and read them, speak them out loud and keep them before our eyes, in our mouths and in our ears—eventually—faith would rise up within us. Why? Because faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing the promises of God.

You see, faith is simply believing what we hear. It's believing what we read and what we say. If we believe what we hear, say and read, and we let it get deep into our hearts, soon faith will rise up within us and see to it that everything we hear, say and read comes to pass. The faith that rises within us gives God an opening to bring His promises to pass.

This point is further reinforced—though in a negative sense—by Paul's account of what Isaiah had to say about the unbelieving children of Israel.

"Lord, who hath believed our report?" (Romans 10:16).

The Israelites of old really did not believe God's promises. They didn't take His covenant to heart. How do we know they didn't? We just read in verse 16 that they didn't obey the gospel. Because they did not take God's Word to heart, faith didn't rise within them.

To illustrate this point, let's say I were to tell Kenneth, "You know, I noticed you drooling over that Harley motorcycle you saw for sale the other day, and I've been thinking and praying about it, and I just want to bless you with it. I want to buy that motorcycle for you."

If I were to make a promise like that to Kenneth, and he knew I would keep my word, and he knew I had the money to buy it, I guarantee you he would get excited. Why?

Based on my word, based on my resources, based on my promise, Kenneth would have faith that I would do what I said. In fact, I'm confident he'd start acting as though he already had the keys to that motorcycle in his hand.

He'd start thinking about where he could go on his new motorcycle and what other pieces of chrome and pinstripes he could put on it. He would be in an absolute stir over my promise to buy him a new motorcycle. He would already see himself riding it.

Well, it's no different with God. If God promises He will do something, He *will* do it. He is more dependable than anyone you know.

Remember those 6,000 promises recorded in the Bible?

They've already been established as reality for us. We

read in 2 Corinthians 1:20 that "all the promises of God in [Jesus] are yea, and in [Jesus] Amen."

So, if you need healing, it's done. If you need food, it's done. If you need protection, it's done. If you need a house, or a job, it's done. You and I don't have to try and talk God into any of these things—they're already done! God promised them to us, then He ratified His promise through the blood of Jesus, the sacrifice of His own Son.

What is our responsibility, then?

As we saw earlier, we must give God a window. We must give Him an opening into our lives by *faith*—and not just when we get born again, but every moment of every day!

You and I must keep the promises of God—His precious Word—before us at all times...reading them, speaking them, listening to them. In short, we must do everything it takes to get the Word into our hearts. Because, when we do...*faith will come!*

So commit to God's Word. Commit to it, and I guarantee you that faith won't just come some of the time or, maybe, most of the time. No, faith will come all the time! It will come every time that you believe it enough to receive it in your heart to abide. And when it comes, so will the fulfillment of God's promises in your life. **VICTORY**

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