

Believer's Voice of

VICTORY

KENNETH
COPELAND
MINISTRIES



Feb. 2016

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Tailored to Fit

Edgar Pomeroy was dressed for success and dressing celebrities, too. All the while, an alcohol addiction threatened his career and his life. Then, he met Kenneth Copeland.

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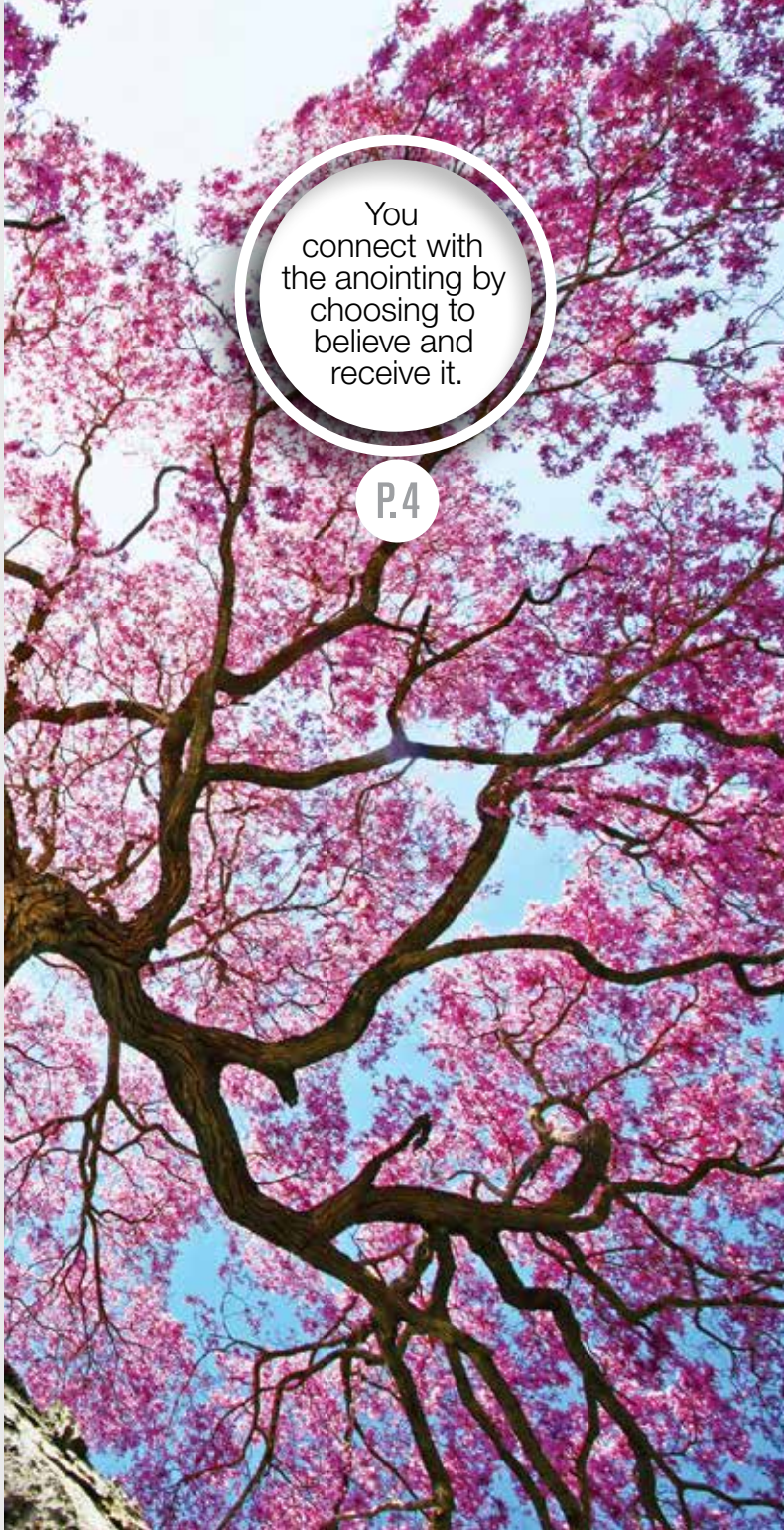


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February



You connect with the anointing by choosing to believe and receive it.

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by
Kenneth
Copeland

HOW TO RECEIVE a miracle

If you're in need of a miracle today, God wants you to be confident you can have it. He doesn't want you to wonder about it. He doesn't want you to think, like many people do, that miracles are unexplainable—that they happen to some people but not to others, for mysterious reasons no one will ever understand.

No, God wants you to have the miracle you need, and He wants you to understand exactly how to receive it. He wants the same thing for every born-again believer. That's why He revealed to us in the Bible everything we need to know. He showed us clearly what causes miracles

to happen, and what we can do to make sure they happen to us.

Look at Acts 8:5 and you'll see what I mean. It tells us very clearly the first thing that's required to set a miracle in motion. Describing an outbreak of healings and miracles that took place among the people of Samaria in the days of the early Church, it says the miracles started when "Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them."

What exactly does it mean to preach Christ? you might wonder.

The word *Christ* is the Greek word for *anointing*. According to Isaiah 10:27, it refers to the burden-removing, yoke-destroying power of God.

**ONCE WE'VE HEARD THE
GOSPEL, RECEIVING OUR
MIRACLE IS UP TO US.**



Here are some points to help you receive from God:

- 1 Miracles happen by the power of the anointing. Isaiah 10:27
- 2 Jesus is *the Christ* which means *the Anointed One*. Acts 8:5
- 3 The gospel, which is the message of Jesus and His Anointing, brings His miracle-working power on the scene. Acts 8:6
- 4 You connect with the anointing by choosing to believe and receive it. Deuteronomy 30:19
- 5 Jesus did miracles for everyone who reached out to Him in faith, so you can be confident He'll do one for you. Luke 6:19

STIR YOURSELF UP

8 STEPS OUT OF
SPIRITUAL DROUGHT



KENNETH COPELAND

STIR
YOURSELF
UP

8 STEPS OUT OF SPIRITUAL DROUGHT

B160201

Without warning, all believers can find themselves in a stagnant place...a weary place...a place where burnout seems the only viable option.

But there's something you can do—a scriptural step you can take—to rise up and make your faith active again: Stir Yourself Up!

In this charge to living a vibrant life, Kenneth Copeland shares how you can reach down into your spirit deeper than you have ever reached—and find the faith to not only continue, but also to live above the fray.

Don't settle for a mediocre existence. Stir Yourself Up!

That power is on Jesus, and when the miracles broke out in Samaria it's what Philip was preaching about. He was preaching essentially the same message Peter preached that's recorded in Acts 10:38-40: "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly."

This is, and always has been, the message that brings the miracle-working power of God on the scene. It's the good news that Jesus is anointed—that He was anointed during His earthly ministry; that He was crucified, God raised Him from the dead, and He's still alive and anointed today!

When the people at Samaria heard that message, they didn't argue with it. They didn't just shrug their shoulders as if it was no big deal. They "with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did" (Acts 8:6).

Notice, those people didn't just see miracles, they also heard them. How did they *hear* miracles? Philip was an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry, and he told them about all the wonderful things Jesus did. He told them about his own life and how Jesus had transformed it. He told them about people like blind Bartimaeus who got his sight, and the woman with the issue of blood who touched the hem of Jesus' garment and got healed.

Philip told the multitudes in Samaria about miracle after miracle—and they paid heed to what he said. They chose to believe that Jesus is anointed and, as a result, the living, Anointed Jesus manifested Himself among them!

When Even Jesus Can't Work a Miracle

"Yeah, but Brother Copeland, miracles don't always happen in those

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As believers, we can do the same miracles Jesus did, but it takes faith! Watch as Kenneth Copeland shares about the key to working miracles.

situations. I've been in services where the gospel was preached and the minister talked about miracles, and yet, as far as I could tell, no one received much of anything at all."

Then you're in good company. Jesus had the same experience in His hometown of Nazareth. When He preached in the synagogue there, not one major miracle happened, even though the power of the Holy Spirit was on Him and He delivered the greatest sermon any group of people could ever hope to hear. Reading from Isaiah 61, He said:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book.... And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. (Luke 4:18-21)

If you think that message sounds a lot like what Philip preached, you're right. Philip got that message from Jesus! He'd heard Jesus preach it time and again.

Everywhere Jesus went, He preached the same message: "The Spirit of The LORD is upon me. I'm here with the Anointing of God on Me to remove all the burdens and yokes the devil put on you through the curse. Poor man, you don't have to be poor anymore! Sick man, you don't have to be sick anymore! Blind man, you don't have to be blind anymore! I AM THE BLESSING of The LORD, and I'm here!"

In Nazareth, however, unlike in Samaria, the people didn't pay heed to that message. Instead, they got offended. They'd known Jesus since He was a child and they didn't like what He was saying. "Who does He think He is going around claiming to be anointed by

God?" they said.

As a result, "He could there do no mighty work" (Mark 6:5).

Look at that verse again. It doesn't say that Jesus *wouldn't* do any mighty work among the people in Nazareth; it says He *couldn't*.

That goes crosswise to a lot of people's theology. They think God can do anything He wants, anytime He wants. They believe that whether or not they receive a miracle is totally up to Him. But it's not. Once we've heard the gospel, receiving our miracle is up to us.

"But Brother Copeland, what if I hear the gospel and believe it, but it's just not God's will to heal me?"

Why wouldn't it be His will? What's so special about you that He wouldn't want to heal you? Multitudes of people came to Jesus to receive healing when He was on earth and "he healed them all" (Matthew 12:15). Not one time did He ever tell anyone it wasn't His will to heal them. It didn't matter who they were or what their condition was, Jesus was willing to work miracles for the worst of the worst.

Take the leprous man described in Luke 5, for instance. According to Luke, who was a physician, this man's body was "full of leprosy" (verse 12), which means he was in the last stages of the disease. He had open sores all over him, and he was ready to just go somewhere and die.

Totally cut off from friends and family and rejected by society, if anyone ever had reason to wonder if God would heal him, this man did. But he went to Jesus anyway. Having heard about the anointing on Jesus, he fell on his face in front of Him and said, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean" (verse 12).

How did Jesus respond?

"He put forth his hand, and touched him" (verse 13).

Imagine it. This man probably hadn't been touched in years. His disease was contagious. He was disfigured. He smelled bad. No one even wanted to get

near him. Yet Jesus not only got close to him, He touched him, saying, "I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him."

Talk about a miracle! Suddenly, the killer disease that had been gnawing away at that man was gone, along with every foul thing that had happened to his body because of it. His whole life changed in an instant.

Why did it happen? For the same reason miracles happened to the people in Samaria. Because of the anointing. The man took heed to what he had heard and chose to believe.

Your Miracle, Your Choice

"But Brother Copeland, that happened thousands of years ago!"

So what? Jesus is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). He's as loving and anointed today as He ever was. He still has the same power and He's still speaking the same word to everyone who looks to Him in faith for a miracle. He's still saying, "I will..."

That's why you don't have to wonder if He'll do a miracle for you. He's already made His choice where you're concerned. He's chosen *you!* He's chosen to love you, redeem you, heal you and BLESS you with THE BLESSING of Abraham. He's chosen to make His Anointing fully available to you.

Now the choice is yours. As God said in Deuteronomy 30:19: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

The power to release the anointing in your life is in the word *choose*. It's when you choose to believe in the anointing on Jesus that the connection is made.

I'll always remember the first time I saw this. It was many years ago, before Gloria and I went into ministry. One day, I came down with all the symptoms of the flu and

I was hurting all over. I'd driven Gloria to the shopping center, and as I sat in the car waiting for her, I felt so sick that I didn't think I'd be able to drive home.

My Bible was on the passenger's seat next to me. I'd opened it to 1 Peter 2:24, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." I hadn't been born again very long at that time and I didn't know anything about living by faith. But I was praying that God would help me.

As I prayed, I sensed the leading of the Holy Spirit. I picked up my Bible,

Although it was a relatively simple healing, the impact of it has lasted for years because it showed me just how powerful my choices are. It helped me realize I can *choose* to believe God's WORD. I can *choose* life. I can *choose* to believe in the power of His Anointing, and that power will manifest.

If you want to see a more dramatic example of what can happen as a result of such a choice, read in Matthew 14 about what happened to Peter one stormy night on the Sea of Galilee. You remember the story. He was with the other disciples in a ship and Jesus came walking toward them on the water.

Peter's water-walk didn't end quite as gloriously as it started. While he was out there on the sea, doing what no man except Jesus had ever done before, he ran into a problem. "When he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" (verses 30-31).

Let me ask you something. What did the boisterous wind have to do with anything? Apart from the Anointing of God, Peter couldn't have walked on the water if it had

God wants you to have the miracle you need, and He wants you to understand exactly how to receive it.

put my finger on that verse, lifted my eyes toward heaven and said, "LORD, I choose to believe this. I choose to believe that by Jesus' stripes I was healed."

Immediately, I could sense something tangible had happened on the inside of me when I said those words. I still had the symptoms of the flu, but I knew I was on the winning side. Something had taken hold in my spirit, and within minutes I started feeling a little better.

By the time Gloria finished shopping, I felt well enough to drive the car home, and when we got there I was feeling pretty good. That night I had a good night's sleep, and by the next morning I was just fine.

Initially, the disciples were frightened and thought they were seeing a ghost. "But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus" (verses 27-29).


Notice Jesus didn't initiate Peter's miracle there. Peter did. He set it in motion by saying, "Bid me come." Jesus said, "Come," and the power to walk on water was in that word. Peter chose to connect with that power by faith and got out of the ship.

As you probably know, however, that wasn't the end of the story.

been smooth as glass. So why was he worried about the weather conditions all of a sudden? Because he got his eyes off Jesus and started focusing on natural impossibilities.

Don't let that happen to you.

Make the choice to believe The WORD of God. Connect by faith with the power of His Anointing. Then refuse to back off.

No matter how hard the devil tries to distract you, keep your eyes on Jesus, keep believing, and keep walking, because God wants to work a miracle for you. 



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love extravagantly!

Love. It is the obvious thing to talk about in February, right?

Superkid, I want to show you that it's the main thing to think about, talk about and walk in ALL the time.

We all want to know God and see Him more clearly in our lives. But without making a decision to LOVE, we will never know Him like we could.

You might say, "Commander Kellie, God is BIG. How could I ever understand or know Him?" Sounds like a hard question, but guess what—it's not! If you really want to know God, you have to start with love and end with love. And the best place to start is with the Bible and 1 Corinthians 13. We're all familiar with that chapter, which has come to be known as the "love chapter." It's one of my favorites because it helps me remember what love IS and what love DOES, especially when I NEED to DO love and don't want to.

The love chapter helps you DECIDE to love. It changes your thinking and your perspective, which means it helps you keep your eyes off yourself.

If you've been reading and growing along with me this past year, then you have made a lot of decisions about following after Jesus, to act like



Him and talk like Him. Do you realize what has happened? You have learned to walk in love.

Just by making some simple decisions, you now know God better. Everything we've talked about is represented in this one chapter of the Bible.

Let's look at what God says love is in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, *The Message*:

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end.

Superkid, I am confident that you have grown up in the past year. Grown up in love and grown up in Jesus. Never ever stop!

The funny thing about God is the more you love others, the more you begin to know He loves you. Jesus first loved us. You've probably heard that your whole life. But I want to challenge you this month to become AWARE of His love coming TO you and going THROUGH you to others.

Love doesn't just SAY, "I love you," love DOES, "I love you." Every time you put someone first, every time you put up with things (or brothers/sisters) that annoy you, or you care for someone else more than you do yourself, you are DOING love. You're doing Jesus,

being Jesus, knowing Jesus. What an awesome adventure! What a wonderful life we have with Him.

Superkid, we need Jesus every day of our lives. We need to have a living, growing relationship with Him and our heavenly Father. We have all we need when we have Him. First Corinthians 13 tells us so! Love trusts Him in all things and keeps on going to the end.

You know what I like the best about this chapter? The last two verses, which tell us what we are all about: "We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love" (verses 12-13, MSG).

This is what God's Word says to you today, Superkid: Trust in God, hope unswervingly and above all, love EXTRAVAGANTLY!

Don't you like that word extravagantly? I do. It means "excessively high, going beyond what is justifiable or deserved." I am so glad that Jesus loves me more than I deserve. And I'm ready to put into practice all that we've learned this past year, and love people excessively much, even more than they deserve.

You've come up to a new level, Superkid. You've joined a new class, and there's a new teacher for this class. Start expecting to hear more from the Lord. He can trust those who walk in love with new missions, new ideas and new adventures. Never forget that, Superkid. Trust, hope and love. Love, love, love! That's by far the best thing to do. How do I know? The Bible tells me so! ❤️







Tailored to fit

In 1995, Edgar Pomeroy walked into an office building wearing a couture suit, fit to perfection. In addition to his custom clothes, he wore success as though he'd been born into it. In a way, he had. Born and raised in Savannah, Ga., Edgar had enjoyed a lifestyle of privilege. His father and grandfather had both been lawyers, men who dressed for success.

Pouring himself a glass of Wild Turkey, a straight bourbon, he drank it while watching the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast. He did like Kenneth Copeland, and that experience prompted Edgar to start reading his Bible.

As a boy, Edgar loved watching his father dress in beautiful suits cut from expensive fabric. By the age of 12, he knew he wanted to dress that way, too. What he didn't want was to study law.

Edgar wanted to design couture clothing.

After earning a degree in illustration from the Savannah College of Art and Design, Edgar had moved to Atlanta where he started his own business. He designed the clothes and his tailors sewed them onsite. His parents sent their friends and business associates to him. From there the business had taken flight.

Soon, Edgar found himself flying all over the country and beyond, designing clothes for people with discerning tastes. Meeting many interesting people, Edgar designed clothes for businesspeople and celebrities alike including actors and famous musicians.

Walking into his client's office, Edgar carried the confidence of a man comfortable in his own skin—and his clothes. Following the fitting, Edgar's client said, "Let's go upstairs for a drink." Relaxing in posh surroundings, his client ordered them each a scotch and soda.

Edgar sipped his drink, one he'd never had before. He liked the way it tasted. Even more, he liked the way it made him feel. A sense of euphoria enveloped him. He liked it so much that on his way home that evening, he stopped and bought a bottle of scotch.

The Insidious Spiral

"I didn't realize it at the time, but I have an addictive personality," Edgar explains. "My grandfather had had a problem with alcohol, but the gene skipped my father. I'd never had a problem with alcohol until my client

introduced me to scotch and soda.

"My drinking escalated and I soon wanted to drink all the time. I drank in the morning, sometimes sipping wine on my way to the office. I had drinks with lunch. I stopped for cocktails at 3 p.m. I had drinks with dinner and I drank all evening. I was a very high-functioning alcoholic and I never suffered a blackout or got sick. It never affected my work, but it took a toll on my marriage. My wife marked the level of alcohol in the bottles at home so I stashed alcohol in the trunk of my car and behind the sofa."

In a bustling household with small children, Edgar helped his wife with chores by volunteering to do the laundry. The washer and dryer were in the basement where no one interrupted him. The area became a man cave, complete with a TV and treadmill. The basement was a treasure trove of hidden bottles of alcohol. His golf bag was filled with it. While the washing machine agitated the clothes, Edgar watched the news and had a cocktail. As they dried, he ran on the treadmill while drinking wine.

"Edgar, I'd like you to come to my house this evening," a friend said to him one day in 2000. "I've discovered this preacher named Kenneth Copeland and I want you to watch his program with me. I think you'll like him."

Edgar arrived at his friend's house at the appointed hour.

Pouring himself a glass of Wild Turkey, a straight bourbon, he drank it while watching the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast. He did like Kenneth Copeland, and that experience prompted Edgar to start reading his Bible.

The following year his children brought home a stomach virus which

FEBRUARY

		Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	1	Ex. 18-19	Mark 9
Tue	2	Ex. 20-21	Mark 10
Wed	3	Ex. 22-23	Mark 11
Thu	4	Ex. 24-25	Mark 12
Fri	5	Ex. 26-28	Mark 13-14
Sat	6	Ex. 29-30	Mark 15
Sun	7	Ex. 31-32	Mark 16
Mon	8	Ex. 33-34	Luke 1
Tue	9	Ex. 35-36	Luke 2
Wed	10	Ex. 37-38	Luke 3
Thu	11	Ex. 39-40	Luke 4
Fri	12	Lev. 1-3	Luke 5-6
Sat	13	Lev. 4-5	Luke 7
Sun	14	Lev. 6-7	Luke 8
Mon	15	Lev. 8-9	Luke 9
Tue	16	Lev. 10-11	Luke 10
Wed	17	Lev. 12-13	Luke 11
Thu	18	Lev. 14-15	Luke 12
Fri	19	Lev. 16-18	Luke 13-14
Sat	20	Lev. 19-20	Luke 15
Sun	21	Lev. 21-22	Luke 16
Mon	22	Lev. 23-24	Luke 17
Tue	23	Lev. 25-26	Luke 18
Wed	24	Lev. 27-Num. 1	Luke 19
Thu	25	Num. 2-3	Luke 20
Fri	26	Num. 4-6	Luke 21-22
Sat	27	Num. 7:1-48	Luke 23
Sun	28	Num. 7:49-78	Luke 24
Mon	29		

swept through the whole family. After being sick at his stomach for hours, when the nausea stopped, Edgar tiptoed to the basement and drank a whole bottle of wine.

Looking at the empty bottle in his hand he thought, *This isn't normal.*

A Time to Stop

"In 2001 I quit drinking. My wife and I divorced in 2005, and I still didn't drink for the next five years. While I was sober, I started dating Leigh, a wonderful woman who didn't know I'd ever had a problem with alcohol. In 2007 we married. The year before, in 2006, my father called and told me that my mother had been diagnosed with leukemia.

"I didn't know how to cope with my mother's illness. All I knew was that I needed a drink. I didn't want to get back into drinking all the time. I just needed something to help me through the situation. I decided it would be OK to sip a wine spritzer. I ended up drinking the whole bottle of wine.

"For an alcoholic, one drink is too many and 12 aren't enough. I realized I could go years without a drink but when I took that first sip, it was over. Once again I found myself drinking to excess. Leigh knew I was drinking but she had no idea how much. She didn't drink, but she never harped at me. Alcoholics believe that nothing about our situations are our fault. And we're never wrong. So nagging wouldn't have changed anything.

"I consumed so many empty calories that I began packing on weight. My blood pressure was high. My cholesterol soared to 325. My triglycerides were high. My health was suffering."

Divine Appointments

"George Pearsons knew one of my clients and somewhere around 2008, he hired me to design a custom suit for Jeremy. Afterward, I flew to Texas to do the fitting at KCM. While I was there, I met Kenneth Copeland in his aviation office. I started making suits for him, and knowing Kenneth made me get more serious about my faith. He taught me a lot of things."

The tinkling of fine crystal, the murmur of conversation and the scent of delicious food assailed Edgar's senses as he sat in a restaurant having dinner with friends. The cocktail in his hand gave him the euphoric buzz he craved.

The waiter placed a hot dish of food in front of him. Picking up his fork, Edgar noticed a tremor in his hand. In a moment of clarity he realized that his drinking was affecting his central nervous system. Motioning to the waiter he said, "Bring me another drink."

Edgar's plan was to drink more to make the tremor stop.

His plan didn't work.

The week of Thanksgiving 2009, Edgar flew to Los Angeles for a fitting with a client. By now he was drinking his breakfast. Returning to his hotel room that evening, he fell to his knees and cried out to God. "God, I need Your help! This stuff is killing me! If You get me off of it, I'll never touch it again. I don't know what You're going to do, but I need to quit permanently."

Two days later on his flight home, Edgar drank 10 of the little two-ounce bottles of vodka, neat. Back home, he had drinks with dinner. Afterward he and a friend went to a bar. Later they left that bar and went to another.

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“

Over time Kenneth became more than a client. He became my friend and he helped me learn how to live in victory. I learned how to turn to God for comfort instead of to alcohol.

”

The Awakening

Rain fell in sheets as Edgar left the last bar around 2 a.m. Backing up, he didn't see the car behind him. He didn't tap it hard. It was more like a kiss. When he left, the car pulled out of the parking lot behind him. Watching the headlights through the pouring rain, Edgar felt uneasy. He was being followed.

Edgar pulled into his driveway and stepped out of his car. Moments later he was staring down the muzzle of a gun. "Police!" someone shouted, before slamming him to the ground and cuffing his hands behind his back. "You have the right to remain silent..."

Five policemen showed up and not a single one had a breathalyzer. "I live right here," Edgar reasoned. "Let's go inside and I'll make coffee and we can talk about this."

They didn't like that idea. Instead they threw him into the back of a paddy wagon and left him there for two hours. Then they transferred him to the back of a police car and drove him to Grady Memorial Hospital to draw a blood alcohol test. Afterward, wearing a stunning pinstripe suit, Edgar was photographed and fingerprinted. They shackled his feet and frog-walked him to the drunk tank.

Edgar had never seen anything like it. The large room was filled with couches and drunks. Some had passed out. Others were throwing up. A few urinated on the walls. His mouth felt as dry as the Sahara as he whispered a prayer. "Lord, thank You for letting me see this."

They held him for 18 hours. Since his wife was out of town, Edgar used his one call to phone a friend who bailed him out.

The First Day of a New Life

"I went to my house in Atlanta and threw away all the alcohol," Edgar

remembers. "I threw away what I had hidden in the house, in my golf bag and in the trunk of my car. I even threw out the Listerine! Afterward I promised God that I would never touch it again. God said, *If you ever go back to it, you're on your own.*"

"I called my wife and told her what had happened. She said, 'Thank God! It took Him sending a ballistic missile to get your attention!'"

"I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that I would never drink again. I should have gone through withdrawal, but I didn't. I should have had the shakes, but I didn't."

On the legal front things didn't look good. Charges had been filed against Edgar and he'd been cautioned to hire a good lawyer. Twice, Edgar told his attorney, "You're going to see a miracle. They're going to throw my case out of court."

Both times, his attorney laughed.

But it was Edgar who would have the last laugh when it was discovered that police had lost his blood sample. Suddenly there was no evidence, and the case against Edgar was dismissed. There were no fines, no community service, no time served.

The DUI charge simply went away!

Edgar Pomeroy had been given a second chance.

Living by Faith

Sometime later, during one of his fittings, Kenneth Copeland showed Edgar 1 Corinthians 6:10, which reads, neither "thieves, nor covetous, nor *drunkards*, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

"I invited Christ into my heart," Edgar says. "I'd invited Him in once or twice before, but God knows our hearts. He knew I wasn't inviting Him to be THE Lord of my life. It had been more like suggesting He

stop by for a drink. But this time, I meant it.

"I went to Columbia, S.C., to listen to Kenneth preach. I watched him on TV. I became a Partner and started reading the magazine. Over time Kenneth became more than a client. He became my friend and he helped me learn how to live in victory. I learned how to turn to God for comfort instead of to alcohol.

"Some people tell me that they just like the taste of the alcohol. My response to that is that you can't fool the king of fools. I have a Ph.D. in alcohol. It's the buzz; the feeling. I would have drunk battery acid to get it.

"Recovering from an addiction is different for everyone. God may put some people through rehab. He knows what will work best for each of us. He scared me straight. He clocked me a good one!"

"Because alcohol is legal and can be bought in the grocery store, people forget that it's a very potent drug. It's dangerous, addictive and will eat you alive. If you're trapped in addiction, get on your knees and ask God to help you stop.

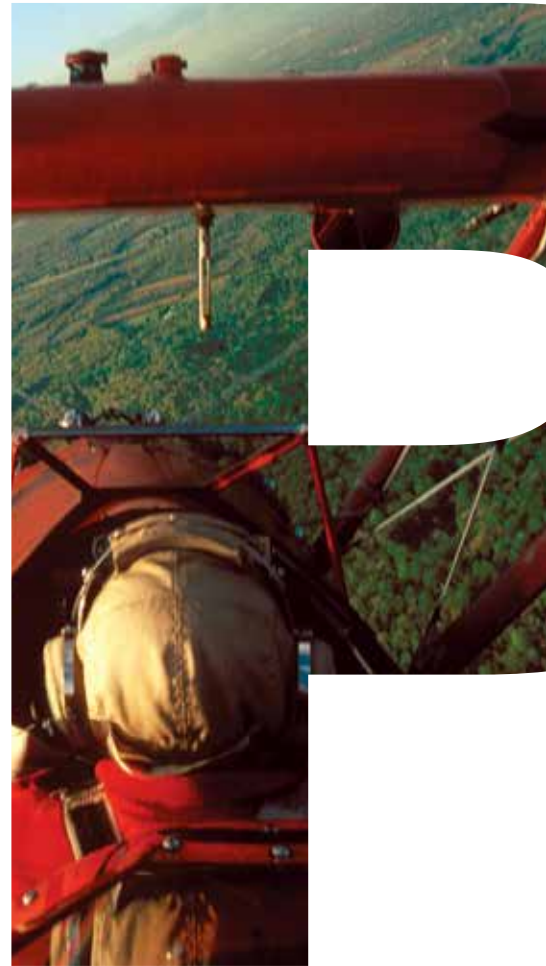
"I've watched a lot of my friends die of alcoholism, including the man who introduced me to scotch and soda. I know a woman who died at 43; a man who died at 50. Without God's intervention, that would have been me."

Without alcohol in his life, Edgar emerged 55 pounds lighter. His blood pressure, cholesterol and triglycerides returned to normal, as did his liver.

Today, Edgar Pomeroy has a new lease on life, both now and for eternity. He is a living, laughing, loving example that with God all things are possible.

Whatever miracle you need today, God has it ready, custom-designed just for you. Your answer has been tailored to fit. 📖

Nowhere But



Have you ever expected anything less than excellence from God? Have you ever gone to God with a problem, for instance, and expected Him to be anything less than right—100 percent of the time?

Of course not. God is God. You can always count on Him being right.

BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD PART 2

You can read part 1 in January's issue: kcm.org/read/magazine

by Kenneth Copeland



The Bible is full of His unwavering excellence revealed to mankind down through the ages.

What's more, when Jesus stepped out of heaven and into this natural realm, He was no less excellent than His Father. The New Testament recounts how His life and ministry on this earth was one of excellence.

him, it's obvious that a spirit of excellence does not come easily, and that it does not come by being lazy. Walking in a spirit of excellence—walking in excellence of thought, excellence of action, excellence of speech—only comes with diligence.

The Apostle Paul gave us a good idea of what it

GOD DECLARED ALL THE PROMISES CONTAINED IN HIS WORD LONG BEFORE SIN EVER EXISTED... LONG BEFORE THE UNIVERSE WAS EVEN CREATED.

So where does that leave you and me?

We are, after all, the children of God, too. We are sons and daughters of the Most High God...the Most Excellent God.

Shouldn't there be some mark of excellence in our lives, as well?

Excellence Takes Heart

Throughout the Scriptures there are many accounts of God-fearing men and women who demonstrated excellence in their lives. One of those was Daniel.

In Daniel 6:1-3, we are reminded of the favor Daniel received during his lifetime from the different kings of Babylon, and why: "It pleased [King] Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; and over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes..."

Here was Daniel, an exiled Hebrew slave, basically running the entire Babylonian empire. In fact, Darius actually trusted Daniel more than he did all of the other people who had political authority in the land.

What made Daniel so special?

Verse 3 goes on to tell us that it was "because an excellent spirit was in him."

Daniel had a spirit of excellence.

In studying the life of Daniel and others like

takes to lay hold of the spirit of excellence when he said: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in [the Anointing of] Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

Excellence in spirit requires pressing toward the mark, pressing toward the finish line for the prize of the high calling—which is simply another way of saying, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness," and as you do, things will be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

To be *excellent* in something, or *excel*, means "to go to the highest place." *Excel* can also be defined as "to prosper."

So when we talk about a spirit of excellence, we're talking about prospering in the things of God, desiring and walking in the highest place, the highest realm of God's power, His Word, His goodness, His grace, His mercy.

Psalms 66:12 speaks of a wealthy place in God, a place of abundance in Him. It is a place of divine favor (such as Daniel knew), divine health, divine protection. It includes a wealth of goods, properties, assets, influence and so on.

Jesus referred to this wealthy place when He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Later, the Apostle Paul expanded the revelation of this life of abundance when he wrote: "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in [the Anointed] Jesus [and by His Anointing], [born anew] that we may do those good works which God

predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]” (Ephesians 2:10, *The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Notice that Paul said we are to live a *good life*—a life “prearranged and made ready for us.”

When were all those arrangements made?

Before the foundation of the world.

God promised eternal life before the foundation of the world (Titus 1:2). He ordained Jesus before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20). The Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world

It was the air that he breathed. It was what drove his entire existence 24 hours a day.

In Philippians 3:13-14, he wrote, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling....”

If you drop the italicized words *this* and *I do*, which were inserted by the Bible translators, the thrust of what Paul said becomes even more powerful.

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but one thing, forgetting those things which are behind....”

Those “things” that Paul chose to forget were his worldly credentials.

the knowledge of [the Anointed] Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung...” (Philippians 3:7-8).

As far as Paul was concerned, all his fleshly efforts and achievements of the past were waste in comparison to the high calling he was after in God. Consequently, he did what we must all do if we want to live a life of excellence. He chose to pursue a spirit of excellence. He decided to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling, while forgetting all that lay behind.

So excellence in life begins with a decision.

It was Paul who also wrote, “But in a

“BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, GOD MADE MAN WEALTHY BEYOND HIS WILDEST IMAGINATION.”

(Revelation 13:8). We were even chosen in Him before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4).

God declared all the promises contained in His WORD long before sin ever existed, long before satan tempted Adam, long before the universe was even created. Then, He sealed those promises so we couldn’t lose them.

In short, God finished *all* His works before the foundation of the world (Hebrews 4:3). What’s more, everything God did, He did to get us to our wealthy place in Him.

To reach that place of abundance, however, we must have a spirit of excellence.

Excellence Takes Passion

For the Apostle Paul, excellence in life and ministry was far more than a desire.

After all, if there ever were a man who had all the advantages to set him solidly on a path to what the *world* would define as a life of abundance, it was Saul...the Paul who had not yet been born again.

He had been born into the right family. He had been given the finest education. He had become a Pharisee, and was a Roman citizen. His entire life had been carefully planned and plotted to lead him down the road to a prosperous life (Philippians 3:4-6). The only difference, however, was that he was well on his way to a wealthy place *in the world*, not in God.

But then *Saul* encountered Jesus—and after that happened, the born-again *Paul* wrote this: “What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for [the Anointed One and His Anointing]. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the *excellency* of

great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour” (2 Timothy 2:20).

His point was that there are vessels of gold and vessels of mud, vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor. We have the right to choose which we want to be.

Yes, God loves the little mud pots in life. But every time it rains, He has to put them back together. On the other hand, a golden pot will *not* fall apart in the rain. Nor can the rain even tarnish it.

Excellence Takes Work

Once we’ve made the decision to become a vessel of honor—a vessel of excellence—we must take the next step, which is found in 2 Timothy 2:21: “If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour,



God has a plan that only YOU can fulfill. Kenneth Copeland teaches about God's plan for your life and the importance of connecting to His plan.

sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

Notice that Paul didn't tell Timothy, "If you cry long enough God will purge you." No, he said, "Purge yourself."

To reach our wealthy place, or high calling, in God and walk in all the *good works* He ordained for us before the foundation of the world, there is some purging we will have to do.

Taking this principle a step further and applying it to his own ministry, Paul wrote: "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness [manipulating people to do what we want them to do], nor handling the word of God deceitfully..." (2 Corinthians 4:1-2).

The bottom line is, the only way to walk in excellence in any area of life is for us to be brutally honest with God, brutally honest with ourselves and then brutally honest with others.

Now, I'm sure you can imagine that our flesh won't like this part of the process. But that's the only thing that makes purging ourselves difficult, because it's not difficult to do when we follow The WORD of God and do it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Actually, it's when we try to purge ourselves by the strength of our flesh and work it out with our minds that it doesn't work, and it seems like a tough road to take.

We are reminded, however, that God's WORD is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105). We don't have to stumble around in the dark when God has given us His WORD. All we have to do is turn it on.

The Apostle Peter said it like this: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).

Revelation from God and revelation from His WORD come up like a little light in a very dark place.

Have you ever stayed in a hotel, and

when you got out of the bed in the middle of the night, you nearly hurt yourself stumbling around in the dark? Well, in an unfamiliar room like that, it's smart to give your eyes a couple of minutes to adjust to the dark, then look for that little sliver of light that shines in underneath the hallway door, or around the curtains on an outside window. Once you locate even the tiniest bit of light, you can orient yourself to the room making it easier—and safer—to find a light switch.

In the same way, no matter how dark or unfamiliar a situation may seem to you, God's WORD is at hand. It's always available. It will talk to you and guide you—but only if you let it.

Excellence Takes Commitment

The decision to become a vessel of honor and live a life of excellence and abundance in God is a decision to live by The WORD of God. In other words, we have to commit to putting God's WORD first place in our lives. Whatever The WORD says, we will do, even when it means making adjustments in our words, our actions or our thinking.

If we want to be like Daniel and other men and women of excellence, we must allow ourselves to be taught, trained and corrected by God. We must walk in the love of God. We must walk in the faith of God. We must be vessels of honor unto God, prepared and able to be used by Him.

Once we make the decision to live in excellence, to purge ourselves of our old fleshly ways and to live by The WORD of God, we open the door to the road of our wealthy place.

Paul described the end result of this life of excellence, when he wrote: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus [the Anointed One, and in the face of His Anointing]" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

When did God shine in our hearts

to give us that light of the knowledge of His glory? Again, it was *before the foundation of the world*.

The glory of God is the Anointing of God. And it was this same glory that raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 6:4).

So having been given the light of the knowledge of God's glory—that is, His Anointing—we now have a working knowledge of it available to us. That means, we have a working knowledge of His WORD. We have a working knowledge of His love. We have a working knowledge of His faith. We have a working knowledge of His honor. We have direct access to the knowledge of how the entire kingdom of God works.

Paul went on to say in 2 Corinthians 4, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the *excellency* of the power may be of God, and not of us" (verse 7).

The treasure that you and I have is this knowledge of the glory of God. And, yes, we have it in earthen vessels. But, even though we may have started out as a bunch of mud pots, God is treating us as vessels of honor. He is treating us as vessels of His glory. As far as He is concerned, we are of the purest gold.

Why?

Because we're allowing His WORD to strip away all the old flesh, all the old soulish parts of us, all the old waste.

Meanwhile, God sees us as He did before the foundation of the world. He sees us as vessels of honor on the pathway to our wealthy place in Him.

Even before the foundation of the universe, God made every man and woman who would ever be born into this earth, wealthy beyond their wildest dreams and imaginations. He did that by creating a place of abundance—a place of love, a place of faith, a place of honor, a place of His WORD.

My friend, God is calling us to that place in Him, today. He is calling us up into *His excellence*. 🙏



YOUR VOICE. YOUR VICTORY. YOUR MINISTRY.

GoodNewsGazette

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” Titus 2:11, *New King James Version*

Tonsillitis Had to Go

Several people I have close contact with had tonsillitis, and I was getting symptoms, too! I had a rough time swallowing and was debating about going to the doctor in the morning. I turned on Kenneth and Keith and somewhere in the broadcast we were praising God when Kenneth looked at the camera and said, “Someone is being healed of tonsillitis right now.” I felt those words of faith hit my spirit. I kept right on praising God. I was healed! Thank You, Jesus! And thank you, Brother Ken, for your obedience.

S.C. | Tulsa, Okla.

God Is Good!

I already had two sons when my daughter died during delivery in 2000. I had just come to the Lord, and after that I had miscarriages. Once it was twins. Then I read books by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Creflo Dollar, Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Hagin and others. When I knew I was pregnant again, I

had no more fear, although the pregnancy was problematic.

The doctors recommended abortion. The delivery was hard, but God is good! Right now my little son is at home and makes us happy. He is proof of God’s mercy and victory in our lives.

T.C. | Ukraine

Healing School Spells Relief

This week I felt very bad. I was thrown from fever to shiver, and I felt weak. My neuropathologist said it was the beginning of hypertonic crisis and prescribed medication. I decided to watch Healing School with Gloria Copeland

on the Internet. She said God is no respecter of persons and He freely gives healing to everybody, by faith. The day after watching the broadcast, I had no fever, no weakness. I even could start working in the garden!

I.Y. | Zaporozhye, Ukraine



watch the broadcasts on demand kcm.org.au

‘All My Pain Has Left’

After experiencing pain in my right hip for months, I called KCM for prayer. The minister who prayed with me was awesome, and glory be to God, all my pain has left. I’m so thankful for Kenneth and Gloria Copeland and the prayer minister who prayed with me, thank you. May God bless this ministry! A.C. | Columbus, Ga.

Ten Years Later

My husband just paid off \$40,000 of student loans with an unexpected stock cash out from one of his former companies. Ten years later from his work, the Word is fulfilled! Thank you to KCM who taught [us] how to believe in faith. Now we are moving on to being totally debt free!

Gennean C. | Sunnyvale, Calif.



Commitment Is the Key

What George and Jeremy Pearsons have been saying recently on *BVOV* about getting out of debt has had a profound effect on our lives. Having watched the DVDs, I made a commitment to get out of debt on our business. We run an importing business, and I have been borrowing funds from the bank to cover shipments. Within three weeks of making this commitment, we received an “out of the blue” offer on an investment property we own. We have agreed on a price, and part of the proceeds will be put into an account to cover shipment costs. No more borrowing from the bank! How swift God was to honour our commitment and what a great sense of relief to have loans behind us.

Out of this experience I would say that there is a significant difference between a desire to get out of debt and a commitment. I had wanted to get out of debt for some time but couldn’t see how we could do it. However, when I made a commitment, it opened the door to God’s blessing and financial breakthrough.

Thanks to Ken and Gloria, and the team, for the great help they are to our family in revealing God’s Word at pertinent times in our lives and underlining the actions we need to take to receive and accomplish all God has for us. God bless you and kind regards.

B.L.
Queensland, Australia

bvovn
BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY NETWORK
REAL. LIFE. FAITH.

A few days ago I emailed KCM asking for prayer because I've been struggling to believe God for a withdrawal from my heavenly account. I was so frustrated because I don't have a church home where I could ask a pastor for guidance. The very next day I turned on the **BVOVN channel** and heard the answer to my prayers. Bill Winston was ministering on “The Power of Prayer and Praise.” Right after, Jerriann and Terri Savelle preached on “The Audacity to Receive.” Every single question I had was immediately answered. I am so grateful for KCM's support. Whenever I need help or guidance I can always call or email KCM and I'm guaranteed the perfect response. Thank you so much.
Sharon M. | St. Louis, Mo.

click &
watch  *more*
testimonies

God Protected My Daughter-in-Law!

Praise God for His protection over my daughter-in-law and her friend. While she was driving on the road in Colorado, she hit a deer. The car overturned twice and all the windows shattered. But God protected her and her friend. Praise God!

L.S.

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.

connect with us

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision. We have a Free Gift to help you begin your new life in Jesus! kcm.org/gift/salvation



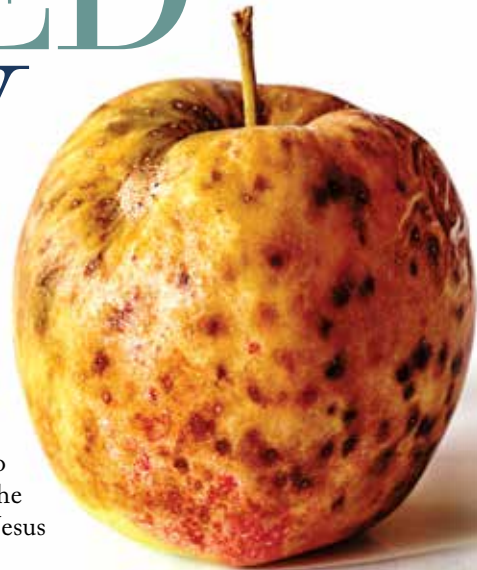
Esther D.,
prayer
minister

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by Happy Caldwell

DEFEATED VICTORY



“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called... [to] earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”—Jude 1, 3

Why were we told to contend for the faith?

The answer to that question is found in the next verse. It says, “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 4).

I know this is strong, but Jude said that any man who condemned the faith which was once delivered unto the saints was ungodly, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

When you condemn the faith that was delivered to us, you are denying the One who brought it. You are actually opposing Jesus as Saul of Tarsus did when he fought against the faith. Jesus said, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” (Acts 9:4).

The Just Shall Live by Faith

I was privileged to be born again in 1972, during the move of God called the Charismatic Renewal. Immediately, I was handed E.W. Kenyon’s basic Bible study course, “The Bible in the Light of Our Redemption.” Therefore, I cut my spiritual teeth on faith. I had many opportunities to quit, give up, get sidetracked and be persecuted. After studying the Bible for a year, I became convinced that the just shall live by faith.

In 1974, my wife, son and I went full time into the ministry. Although I was just a novice, I knew the way of faith. In 1973, the Lord had told me to resign my job and instead of going to work eight hours a day, to go to my office and study His Word.

That’s what I did for one year. At the end of that year, I had no more

money; we had lived off what I had saved and invested. But I had faith in God and in His Word.

We had no hospitalization, but we had 1 Peter 2:24. We had no insurance, but we had Psalm 91. We had no credit cards, but we had Philippians 4:19. We had no retirement, but we had Psalm 71:18.

We lived by faith in God and His Word. We still live this way today, even though we now have credit cards.

Faith is not a message you preach. Faith is a life you live. Faith is not measured by the things you have or the things you do without. Faith is a lifestyle totally trusting in God. Whether you have insurance or not doesn’t prove you have or lack faith.

Faith is determined by your ability to trust God and His Word. Faith cometh (grows) by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Faith does not cope with problems. Faith overcomes the problems (1 John 5:4).

More Than Conquerors

It seems that there is a lot of emphasis today on how to cope with problems and circumstances facing



Christians in everyday life. Just about every publication I receive, with a few exceptions, is saying how to handle this problem or how to deal with that problem.

We are having conventions and seminars to learn how to cope with our problems. Christians are being bombarded with understanding, sympathy and pity. Worse yet is the teaching that God is putting you through a situation to perfect you, or God is allowing the devil to test you for your good. After all, isn't God shaking His Church? No, He is not! Nowhere in the Bible does it say God is shaking His Church.

Ephesians 5:26 says that Christ is sanctifying and cleansing His Church with the washing of water by the Word. That is not shaking the stuffing out of

In Romans 8:31, 35-36, Paul says, "What shall we then say to these [problems]? If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Is that what we are supposed to say? No, "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (verse 37).

Defeated Victory

I am very concerned with these self-centered, "woe-is-me" messages today. We are not to be self-centered, but Christ-centered. We are not supposed to be spending all our time, energy and

knowing somewhere in their hearts they should be having some victory. Defeated victory is putting victory off until the future and being defeated in the here and now.

How do we turn it around? By preaching the message of faith. By contending for faith. God gave us the revelation of living by faith for this generation, for the harvest of the world.

Why do you think there have been so many enemies of faith? Why do you suppose the message has been watered down by those who are afraid to stand strong? It's because Satan is afraid of faith. He is not afraid of self-helps or religion, but is terrorized by a man or woman of faith.

The faith message is coming full circle. And in the days to come, the faith message will again be the loudest

IF ALL YOU DO IS COPE, THEN YOU WILL NEVER OVERCOME.

If we are not careful, we will make crybabies and weaklings out of today's Christians by dwelling on the problem.

it. Hebrews 12:28 says we have received a kingdom which cannot be shaken.

Jesus said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against [the Church]" (Matthew 16:18). He went further in Luke 10:19 to say, "I give unto you power...over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

If we are not careful, we will make crybabies and weaklings out of today's Christians by dwelling on the problem. The Bible does not teach us to cope with problems. The word *cope* means "to oppose with equal force." If all you do is cope, then you will never overcome. The Bible says we are to overcome the world with our faith (1 John 5:4). To *overcome* means "to oppose with a greater force than the problem."

money fixing ourselves and each other. We are supposed to be preaching the message of Christ, the message of faith, not a message of defeated victory.

If a manufacturing plant spent as much time fixing its broken machinery as the Body of Christ does ministering to itself, it would go broke. Can't you see that is what is happening to many believers? Satan doesn't mind you talking about victory as long as you don't have any.

Many Christians (including preachers) live defeated lives while

voice in the land, charging and challenging people to stand on God's Word.

In Luke 18:8, Jesus said, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Don't live in defeat. Get up, brush yourself off, vow never to be defeated again! Begin to study faith. If you have pulled away from faith, regardless of the reason, get back into it.

Don't allow yourself to live in defeated victory. Contend and fight for the faith. 🙏



Happy
Caldwell

He and his wife, Jeannie, are founders of Agape Church in Little Rock, Ark. Caldwell is also president and founder of Victory Television Network. For ministry materials or more information, go to vtntv.com.

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Get the Devil Out of **your** **Garden!**

One day many years ago, the Lord said something to me I wish every believer on earth could have heard. He said, *I want My people well!* :: At the time, He was dealing with me about teaching Healing School. So I already knew from the Bible that healing is God's will.

Our family had received healing from Him many times. Yet when He spoke to me, it hit me with fresh force how much He wants all believers everywhere to be healthy and whole. I saw more than ever before how very passionate He is about His people getting healed.

God really is passionate about it,

you know. He wants us to be healed even more than we want it ourselves!

Why wouldn't He? He's our heavenly Father. We're His children and He loves us. Even as earthly parents, we love our children so much that if they're sick, we'll do anything in our power to make them well. We'll make any sacrifice and go to

any lengths possible to relieve their pain and cause them to be at peace.

God feels the same way about each of us. As a good God and a good Father, He's always provided healing for His people. Even under the Old Covenant, He taught the Israelites how to diligently hearken to His Word so that none of the diseases



**Dealing with
the devil's
attacks on
our lives is
not God's
responsibility.**

It's ours.



As believers, we can do the same miracles Jesus did, but it takes faith! Watch as Kenneth Copeland shares about the key to working miracles

they'd seen in Egypt would come upon them. He told them: "Ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil" (Exodus 23:25-26).

Certainly, if God provided healing for the Israelites in the Old Testament, He's provided it for those of us in the New Testament Church! After all, we're His born-again sons and daughters. We've been redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

We not only qualify for the promises of healing in the Old

to find out what His will is and get in agreement with it.

Our Garden, Our Choice

Actually, as believers, we're in much the same situation Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden. God's will was for them to be blessed in every way. He wanted them to be full of life and health, and to experience only abundance. When He prepared the Garden for them to live in, He didn't put bad things in it, like sickness and poverty, because those things weren't His will. He wanted Adam and Eve to experience only good.

Even though that's what God wanted,

sickness to corrupt their bodies. He didn't want sin to wreak havoc on the earth. Yet, because He'd given Adam and Eve a free will, He allowed them to do what they wanted to do.

God still allows people to do what they want to do today. He lets them make their own choices. A lot of them make the wrong ones and then blame Him for the results. They say silly things like, "If God is running things in this world, He sure does have them in a mess."

God isn't running things in this world!

If He were running things, He would have dealt differently with Adam and Eve in the garden. He would have

THEY SINNED AND SURRENDERED THEIR AUTHORITY TO THE DEVIL.

As a result, God's will wasn't done in the Garden of Eden.

Covenant, we have an even "better covenant...established upon better promises" (Hebrews 8:6). And in that covenant, God has made His will for us absolutely clear: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2).

Sickness doesn't have any right at all to be in the midst of the Church today!

"Then why are so many Christians sick?" you might ask. "Why doesn't God see to it that His will is done in their lives?"

Because seeing to it that His will is done in our lives isn't His job. It's ours. God has given us authority on earth, and He can only do for us what we allow Him to do. Therefore, if we want His will we have to believe for it. We have

He didn't force it on them. He gave them authority on earth and He gave them a choice. Either they could do things His way, and enjoy the God kind of life, or they could disregard His will, do things their own way, and experience sickness and death.

They made the wrong choice. When they were faced with a challenge, they disobeyed God. They sinned and surrendered their authority to the devil. They ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and opened the door for the curse to come on the earth.

As a result, God's will wasn't done in the Garden of Eden.

It wasn't His will for the curse to be released on mankind! He didn't want Adam and Eve, and their descendants, to die spiritually. He didn't want

grabbed Eve by the ear and said, "Get away from that snake! I forbid you to talk to him!" He would have slapped the forbidden fruit out of Adam's hand and said, "Stop it! I don't care what you want to do, I'm not going to let you sin and bring the curse on My family. I've prepared this garden and filled it with good things and I'm not going to let you ruin it."

But that's not what God did.

Having created Adam and Eve in His likeness and given them a free will, He let them use it. He didn't come barging in and run their garden for them. He let them make the decision about what they were going to do.

He does the same thing with you and me. Although He loves us and we're His children, He won't run our lives for us.

He won't barge in and take control when the devil starts trying to saddle us with sickness or some other part of the curse. Dealing with the devil's attacks on our lives is not God's responsibility. It's ours. God said to us in James 4:7: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

But who am I to resist the devil? you might wonder. Even if I am a believer, why would he flee from me?

He'll flee from you because you're a joint heir with Jesus, and 2,000 years ago Jesus utterly defeated him. Through His death and resurrection, He disarmed the devil and all his demonic cohorts and "made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:15, *New King James Version*).

The devil will never recover from the whipping Jesus gave him. It was his ultimate nightmare—and it caught him completely by surprise. He thought he'd won when he saw Jesus being nailed to the cross. He thought he'd finally turned the tables on God and had His Son under his control.

But it turned out he was wrong. After the price for mankind's sin had been completely paid, God raised Jesus from the dead, and He stripped the devil of all his armor and authority. He brought him to naught, made him of no effect, took away from him the keys of death and hell, and made a bold display of his defeat.

According to the Bible, if the devil had known what was about to happen as a result of the Cross, he "would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Corinthians 2:8). But he didn't know, and by the time he found out, Jesus had conquered him and people were getting born again.

Suddenly, instead of just having one Jesus on earth ruling over him, the devil was faced with multiplied thousands (and now, millions) of believers re-created in Jesus' image. He was hearing Jesus say to them, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all

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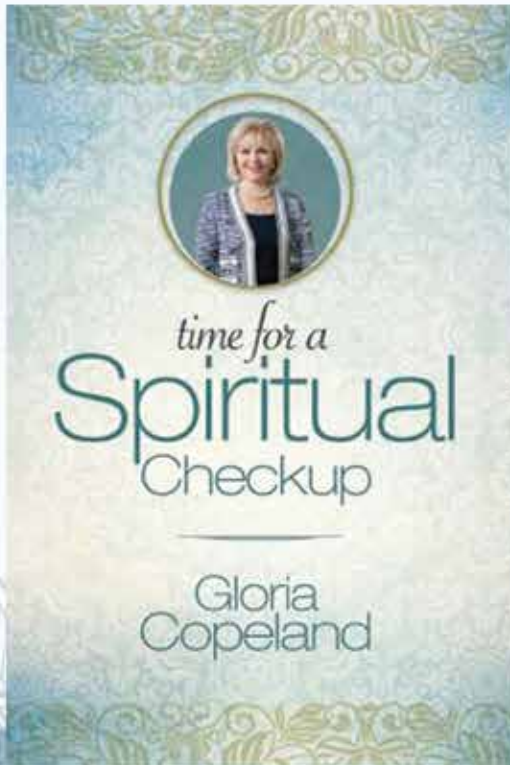
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nations.... And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils..." (Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 16:17).

Dealing With a Criminal

The devil is defeated and he knows it! Jesus took away from him everything he stole from Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan doesn't own anything anymore! He doesn't have any authority. He doesn't have any real power. With nothing left to him but empty lies and deceit, he's a total loser.

You, on the other hand, are a total victor in Christ Jesus. Born again in His image, you look just like God on the inside. You have His nature and His authority.

The devil isn't even in your league!

"So how come I'm still having trouble with him?" you might ask.

Because he's a thief who comes "to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (John 10:10). He's an outlaw and a criminal. You know how criminals are. They do whatever they can get away with. They don't care if stealing or selling drugs or murdering people is illegal. They keep on doing it until someone catches them and enforces the law.

That's the way it is with the devil. He doesn't have the legal right to steal your health. He doesn't have any right to make you sick. But he'll keep right on doing it until you stand up to him and enforce the Word of God in your life.

Of course, to enforce the Word where your healing is concerned, you first have to find out what the Word says about it. You have to build up your faith with verses like these:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:2-3).

"But he [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38).

“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!” (Psalm 107:20-21).

I recommend you make a list of such scriptures and read them every day. Meditate on them and learn to think about healing like God does. Keep His Word in front of your eyes and in your ears until you believe what He says about it more than you believe anything else—even more than what your physical senses tell you is true.

Then, when the devil attacks your body with symptoms of sickness, you’ll have the spiritual strength to resist him. You’ll have the faith you need to stand fast on God’s Word. Despite what your body may be feeling, you’ll be able to say, “Devil, you pack up your symptoms and get out of here. God says, ‘By His stripes I was healed,’ and I agree with Him. I am the healed of the Lord and you have to flee!”

When you stand against the devil like that and refuse to back down, whatever problems he’s been trying to cause in your body will have to leave.

“But Gloria,” you might say, “you don’t know how serious my diagnosis is! The doctor says there’s no cure for what I have.”

Then don’t let the doctor have the last word about the matter. Let God have the last word. God’s Word is greater than any sickness or disease the devil can come up with. His Word is so powerful that all you have to do to receive healing is believe it and take it! All you have to do is

what God said in Proverbs 4:20-22: “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.”

This is the way you enforce God’s will in your life! You attend to God’s Word above everything else. You receive it as if it was written specifically to you. Instead of approaching it with skepticism, like many people do, and thinking, *This sounds too good to be true. It might work for someone else, but not for me*, you take the opposite perspective. You think, *This is God speaking to me! It’s not just for someone else. It’s for me!*

John 8:32 says, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” The Word of God is truth and it makes you free from Satan’s dominion. So dive into the Word. Stop buying the devil’s lies like Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden. Renew your mind to what God said about your healing and enforce His Word in your life. Use the authority He has given you, kick the devil out of your garden, and refuse to let him put sickness on you anymore.

I can tell you from experience, once you start walking in that kind of victory, you won’t be content just to receive healing for yourself. You’ll go a step further and add yet another chapter to the devil’s nightmare. You’ll start taking God’s healing power to others.

According to Jesus, “These signs shall follow them that believe... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17-18). When you step out by faith in that promise, Jesus Himself will back you. His power will flow through you to others in miraculous ways, because He is passionate about healing.

He wants His people well! 🍷

by Gloria Copeland

Live Free From Fear

Is it possible to live free from fear in this dangerous and

unpredictable world? Yes, it most definitely is! Because protection is a solid promise of God.

But it’s not a promise that’s offered to just anyone. It is promised to those who abide in the Lord. To abide means “to dwell, to remain and to continue.” Psalm 91:1 says, “*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*” To abide in the shadow of the Almighty is to live in continual union with Him, keeping His Word and obeying His voice. Those who abide in the Lord can live without dread of what the devil will do.

Let me make this clear though—God’s promise of protection doesn’t guarantee that the devil will leave you alone! It means that God will give you a way of escape every time the devil rears his ugly face at you.

If you are afraid of the dangers around you, spend more time in the Word and in prayer until your trust in God overcomes your fear. Draw closer to the Lord until you are abiding in the shadow of the Almighty and—no matter how dangerous this world becomes—He shall surely deliver you. 🍷

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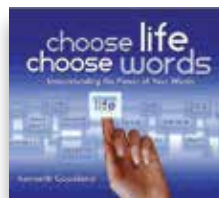
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