

Believer's Voice of

VICTORY

1981 // Southwest Believers' Convention // 2016



Featuring messages from the 1981 convention by Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

Jerry Savelle // John Osteen // Norvel Hayes // Charles Capps // T.L. Osborn // Hilton Sutton

COMING SOON FROM KENNETH COPELAND!

**Racism. Strife.
Political enmity.
These are the
divisions that tear
apart families,
churches and
governments.**

But the Word reveals a startling truth: Every one of these schemes has a common root—and once that root is dealt with, there's no twisted tree left to support evil and destruction!

In this call to arms, Kenneth Copeland boldly pulls back the veil to reveal the true enemy and provide the solution to restoring unity and peace to our families, churches and nation.

Be the Answer. Don't allow the devil to trick you into being part of his divisive plans. See how *you* can be part of the *answer* when you discover the true enemy behind *Racism in the Church!*

RACISM IN THE CHURCH

Kill the Root, Destroy the Tree

Book by
Kenneth
Copeland

RELEASING AT SOUTHWEST BELIEVERS' CONVENTION ON **JULY 4**

July



“When we started living the Word that says, ‘Give and it shall be given unto you...’ our world changed.”

—Barry Sharp

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by Kenneth Copeland
If you want to win at the life of faith, you have to really want it. You have to take the same attitude Abraham did.

10 Delivered From Debt

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A quarter of a million dollars in debt and on the verge of bankruptcy, Barry and Shirley Sharp were in a financial hole and didn't know how to climb out. As Partners with KCM, the word of faith had changed everything in their lives, except their finances. Now, Barry feared he might lose his family.

14 Faith in God's Word

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Faith in God's Word is the No. 1 way to fight the devil and become victorious in every area of life.

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The only thing you need to receive a miracle is to discover who you are in Christ.

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When you study the Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to direct your steps, you'll walk in the plan of God.

22 How to Increase Your Faith

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As you meditate on God's Word, He imparts faith into your heart. The measure of faith you started with matures and grows stronger.

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28 Growing Together in the Glory of God

by Gloria Copeland
The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is about to grow up into what God ordained for her to be from the very beginning—“a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.”

Gloria and I consider **PARTNERSHIP** a very sacred thing and are convinced that the principles of partnership are **KEY TO VICTORY** in these last days.



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RAISING UP A NEW GENERATION

WHEN HE STEPPED ONTO THE PLATFORM OF THE FIRST SOUTHWEST BELIEVERS' CONVENTION IN AUGUST 1981, KENNETH COPELAND WAS TAKING A MAJOR STEP IN FULFILLING A VISION AND CALL THE LORD HAD GIVEN HIM NEARLY 15 YEARS EARLIER.

at the first SWBC and the anointed word from God that was delivered to the Body of Christ. The articles included here came from messages delivered at that meeting.

It was evident God was raising up a new generation of believers. In a word delivered through the late John Osteen about the meeting, the Lord said: *I'm sending a Word revival to cause the Church to know who they are in Jesus Christ. And they will arise like a giant and they will go forth into a darkened world saturating them with My glory and My power. And they'll cast out demons and heal the sick and bring deliverance to mankind. And I will show My glory in your generation.*

From then until now, those words have rung true as the power of God has been evidenced in every SWBC. Southwest has continued to be a catalyst for change in the lives of hundreds of thousands as new Kingdom keys have been revealed and new strength infused into their lives.

Many of you have been along for most, if not all, of the journey. Others have connected with us along the way. We rejoice that you chose to allow the SWBC to play a role in your spiritual growth and maturity. And we thank you for being part of this exciting piece of history. 🙏

— Ronald C. Jordan, Editor



WHEN I ASKED THE LORD ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, "WHAT DO YOU WANT OUT OF THESE MEETINGS? WHAT IS OUR SPECIFIC PURPOSE?" HE SAID TO ME, **I WANT YOU TO CONDUCT MEETINGS WHERE PEOPLE CAN TOTALLY IMMERSE IN THE WORD OF GOD. GET INTO THE WORD OF GOD AND STAY THERE! TALK ABOUT FAITH AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE WORD— TALK ABOUT IT AND TALK ABOUT IT...THERE IS A PEOPLE IN THE LAND TODAY WHO HAVE ENOUGH HUNGER FOR MY WORD TO COME AND SIT UNDER THAT KIND OF INTENSIVE EXPOSURE. THAT'S OUR CALLING AND WE'RE SEEING IT DONE!**

—Kenneth Copeland

In 1966, on the campus of Oral Roberts University, he was still basking in the anointing after Brother Oral Roberts laid hands on him in a ministry line. As he did, God opened his eyes to see the spiritual condition of believers as he'd never seen it before.

Suddenly the bodies of the believers passing before Brother Roberts for ministry were transparent. Only a vague outline could be seen. Though physically healthy in most cases, their spirits were so scrawny and sickly they could hardly walk. Yet, on top of each emaciated, little spirit body was a huge head.

Son, the Lord said to him, I have called you to feed My people. They are out of balance. They are physically developed. They're mentally developed. Some are so developed mentally that they can hardly hold their heads up. I'll show you how to feed

My people and build them up spiritually until they become balanced.

That commission was the goal as the doors of the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas, opened on Aug. 17, 1981, for the first-ever SWBC. A powerfully anointed lineup of speakers for the six-day meeting included Norvel Hayes, Charles Capps, John Osteen, Hilton Sutton, T.L. Osborn, Jerry Savelle and of course, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland.

In the 35 years since it began, the SWBC has continued to thrive, remaining committed to total immersion in God's Word. Free and open to the public, the convention is designed to build up the Partners and Friends of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and to take them from the milk to the meat of the Word.

In this special commemorative edition of *BVOV*, we look back

6 DAYS TO HEAR WHAT THE LORD IS SAYING TO YOU FROM 7 ANOINTED SPEAKERS.



Southwest Believers' Convention
July 4-9
 Fort Worth, Texas



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GLORIA COPELAND

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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ABRAHAM

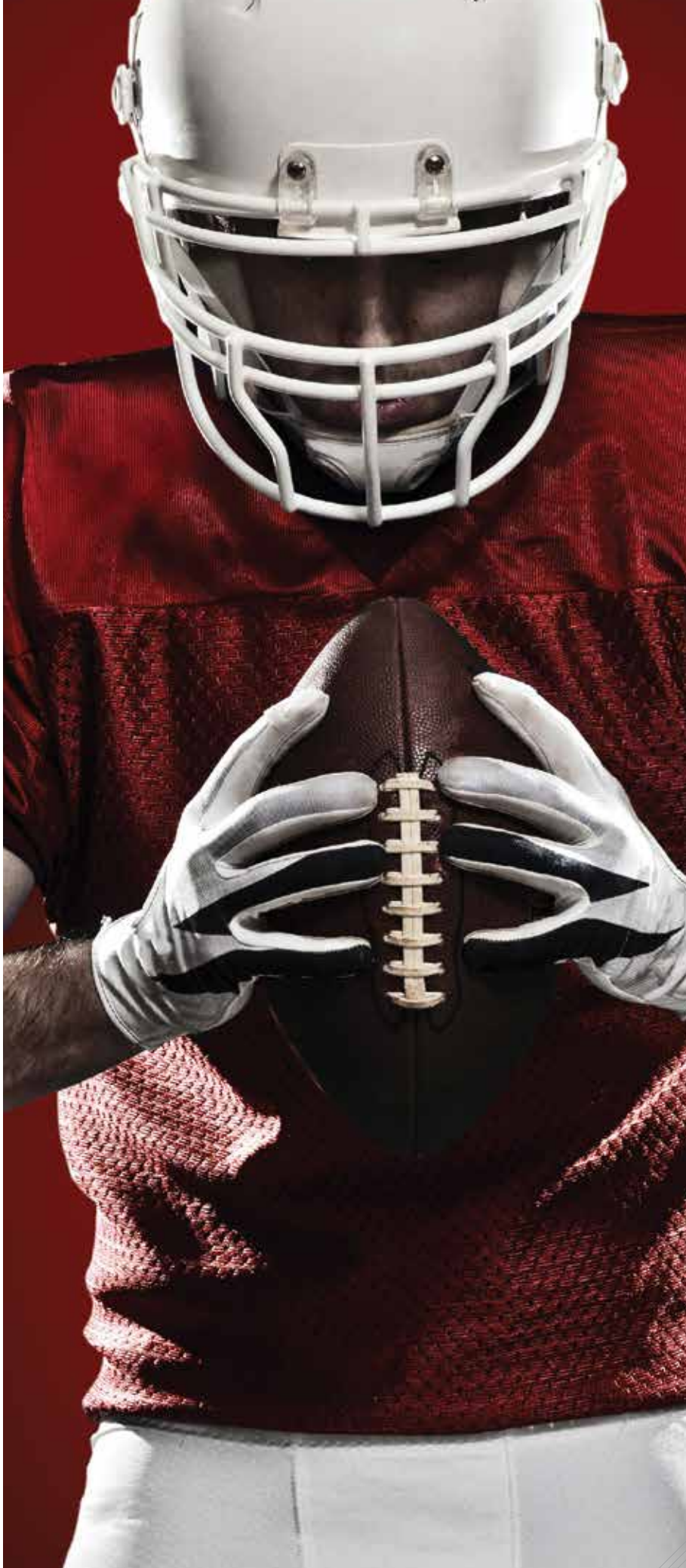
by Kenneth Copeland

WHEN I WAS PLAYING HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL, I ALWAYS GRINNED WHEN GUYS SHOWED UP AT THE START OF THE SEASON SAYING, "I'M GOING TO TRY THIS OUT!" I KNEW RIGHT AWAY WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. WHEN THEY GOT OUT ON THE FIELD, THEY WERE GOING TO GET HAMMERED... AND THEY WEREN'T GOING TO MAKE THE TEAM.

One reason I knew this was because I understood what they were up against. They were going to be facing guys whose greatest thrill in life was to flatten each other. Guys who pushed themselves almost to the breaking point all week long to get in shape. Guys who put up with sore muscles, bruises, bloody noses and whatever else they had to endure—all to play a game they didn't even get paid for.

When you're playing against a bunch of guys like that, the "try this out" mentality doesn't cut it. You have to absolutely love the game. You have to be determined to play—and play to win. You have to want it so much, that even when you're getting slammed from all sides you're saying, "Somehow I'm going to succeed at this!"

Otherwise, you won't last long at all.





**YOU
HAVE TO
ABSOLUTELY
LOVE THE
GAME.**

You'll get the wind knocked out of you and end up running for the locker room while the rest of the team is still out there on the field punching and pounding one another and calling it "fun."

In my years as a believer, I've discovered something similar is true about living by faith in God. It's the most thrilling, powerful adventure there is, but it doesn't work for those who take a wait-and-see attitude. It doesn't produce results for people who just hear a few messages about it and say, "I think I'll give that faith stuff a try." If you want to win at the life of faith, you have to really want it. You have to take the same attitude Abraham did in the Bible.

Talk about someone who wanted to walk by faith! Abraham set the standard!

He wanted to walk in the manifestation of God's power more than anything else on earth. He wanted it more than he wanted his family. He wanted it more than he wanted his own life. He wanted God so much, that he'd believe and act on His WORD no matter what anyone else thought or said about it.

You can see that by how he responded when God told him at 100 years old that he and his 90-year-old wife were going to have a baby. He not only had audacity enough to believe it, he made a public announcement: "I'm the father of many nations," he said. "From now on, don't call me Abram anymore. Call me Abraham, the Father of a Multitude!"

Can you imagine how people reacted to that? They must have treated Abraham like a laughingstock. They might not have mocked him to his face because he was the richest man around; but behind his back, I'm sure they pointed at him and snickered, "That old man has taken leave of his senses! There's no way he and his old, barren wife are

going to have children at their age. It's impossible."

While they were scoffing, however, Abraham was believing. He was refusing to be moved by impossibilities. As Romans 4:19-21 says: "Being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

When it came to living by faith in God's WORD Abraham was as rugged and determined as they come. Like those guys I used to play football with, he was all-in. One hundred percent committed to believing God.

The Same Kind of Faith God Uses

You and I, as born-again believers, can have the same kind of attitude! When we see in God's WORD that by the stripes of Jesus we were healed, we can choose to consider not the symptoms of sickness in our body. We can jump up in faith and say, "Yes, Sir! I am the healed of The LORD!"

When we see that our covenant with God declares that His BLESSING makes us rich and adds no sorrow to it, we can say, "Yes, amen! I am BLESSED and I am rich!" We can believe God 100 percent, regardless of what our bank account or other people might say about it.

"Yeah, but Brother Copeland, I just don't have that kind of faith."

The Bible says you do. It refers to all of us who believe in Jesus as those who "walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham" (Romans 4:12).

Exactly what kind of faith did Abraham have? He had the same kind God uses! No human being ever had that kind of faith until Abraham came

**YOU HAVE TO BE
DETERMINED TO PLAY—
AND PLAY TO WIN.**

WE BECOME A SPIRITUAL VERSION OF THAT WILD BUNCH OF WINNERS I PLAYED FOOTBALL WITH IN HIGH SCHOOL.

along. But he caught hold of it and once he did, he used it to the max. He actually believed God to the point that he perpetuated his seed to a thousand generations. He put so much faith in his covenant with God that there was no way God could ever annul that covenant or call it off. As He said to Abraham in Genesis 22:16-18: “By myself have I sworn, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”

Notice that according to those verses Abraham’s faith in God was so strong he didn’t withhold from Him even his own son. He went up the mountain and put Isaac on the altar of sacrifice simply because God asked him to. As a result, he obligated God, as his covenant partner, to do the same. He put God in the position where He was bound by covenant to sacrifice His own Son for the sake of all mankind.

Up until Abraham, God hadn’t found that kind of faith on the earth. He’d found some people who would believe Him for financial BLESSINGS or for healing. But no one had ever believed God to raise someone from the dead—and when Abraham offered Isaac, that’s exactly what he was believing God would do.

Abraham wasn’t brokenhearted and crying the day he took Isaac to the altar, like the silly Hollywood movies portray him. He had the fire of faith flashing in his eyes. He was “accounting that God was able to raise [Isaac] up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (Hebrews 11:19).

As far as Abraham was concerned, the outcome was certain. God had said, “In Isaac shall thy seed be called” (Genesis 21:12); and Abraham absolutely believed it. He fully expected to sacrifice that boy and then watch God raise him up from the ashes. Of course, God sent the ram to take Isaac’s place so his blood was never shed...but ultimately what Abraham believed came to pass.

Jesus died on the cross as God’s sacrifice, to set us free from sin and the curse, and after He spent three days in the heart of the earth, Abraham’s faith finally bore fruit. His faith for resurrection slammed together with the power of Almighty God and Jesus was raised from the dead!

If you’re wondering how Abraham’s faith, which was released thousands of years before the cross, could have anything to do with Jesus’ resurrection, it’s because there’s no time in God. It doesn’t make any difference to Him if it’s a thousand years, 10 minutes or a split second. God doesn’t forget anything except the sins we put under the blood of Jesus. Every ounce of faith any of us have ever released is still on record with Him.

You might have believed God for something 35 years ago and then let go of it, but as far as God is concerned that faith is still in force. If you’ll stand on your covenant rights, you can reconnect with it and pick up right where you left off. You can get back on your faith in that area and receive the fulfillment of the promises that are yours through Abraham’s covenant with God.

A Covenant With God on Both Ends

“But Brother Copeland,” you might say, “as a New Covenant believer, God’s promises to me aren’t through Abraham,

they’re through Jesus. They’re mine because of what He did.”

That’s absolutely true. It was also true for Abraham. His was a covenant with God on both ends. Read in Genesis 15 about how God established it and you’ll see what I mean. When He cut His covenant with Abraham He came down Himself, walked in the blood of the sacrificial animals, and made covenant promises to Abraham’s *Seed*. “He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ” (Galatians 3:16).

Abraham’s covenant had God Almighty on one side and His Son, Jesus, on the other!

God basically said to Abraham, “If you’ll believe this covenant and act on it, I’ll treat you just like I treat Jesus. You’ll be able to approach Me with the same confidence He does, and I’ll receive you and treat you like you’ve never sinned.”

God has said the same thing to us in the New Covenant. He’s not saying, “Get away from Me, you sinner.” He has invited us to come boldly to His throne of grace. He’s saying to us, “I’ve wiped out your sin and I’m no longer holding it against you. You’ve been washed in the blood of the Lamb and if you’ll walk before Me by faith in Him, I’ll treat you like you never sinned!”

This is the reason we can follow in the footsteps of Abraham’s faith. We’re in on the same covenant. Galatians 3 confirms this. It says clearly, “They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (verses 9, 26-29).

Look again at the last verse. It refers to you and me, as believers, as Abraham’s “seed.” The word *seed* there is singular, talking about us just as it is in verse 16 when it’s referring to Jesus. That’s important. It lets us know that when it comes to walking in the faith of Abraham, we’re all in this together. We’re one with Jesus and He’s one with us.

bonus video

Watch as Kenneth Copeland shares how to follow God's path to find your place in His kingdom.

In times past our failure to realize this has hindered our walk of faith. We stumbled around more than we should have because we fragmented the Body of Christ. We divided ourselves up until we forgot that when we're talking about believers, we're talking about Jesus; and when we're talking about Him, we're talking about the whole Church. He's the Head and we're the body.

You can't separate a head from a body and expect it to keep functioning. For life to keep flowing, the two have to be united. That's why no one ever says when I walk into a room, "Here comes Kenneth and his body." They just say, "There's Kenneth," because my head and my body are one.

The same is true spiritually with the Body of Christ. As Jesus said in John 17:23, we're one with Jesus and with each other just as Jesus and the Father are one. Jesus is in us, God is in Him, and we're in God "made perfect in one."

It's time we renewed our minds to this and stopped separating ourselves from each other. We need one another! We have to have one another to walk "in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God" (Ephesians 4:13).

There's too much at stake here for us to let petty doctrinal differences and offenses drive us apart. Believing God for the fullness of the manifestation of God's power among us is too important! It's worth more than anything else in the world, and the only way we're going to have it is by working together in unity—by clinging to each other in love (faith works by love), praying for each other and releasing our faith on each other's behalf.

Do you know what happens when we come together like that? We become more than just individual Christians wandering around on the field of life trying to do something for God. We become a faith team! We become a spiritual version of that wild bunch of winners I played football with in high school.

That's the kind of team God is putting together in these last days before Jesus returns. It's a team of believers who absolutely love God, love each other and love living by faith in God's WORD. It's a team of believers who are in this for keeps and who are 100 percent committed to running roughshod over the devil.

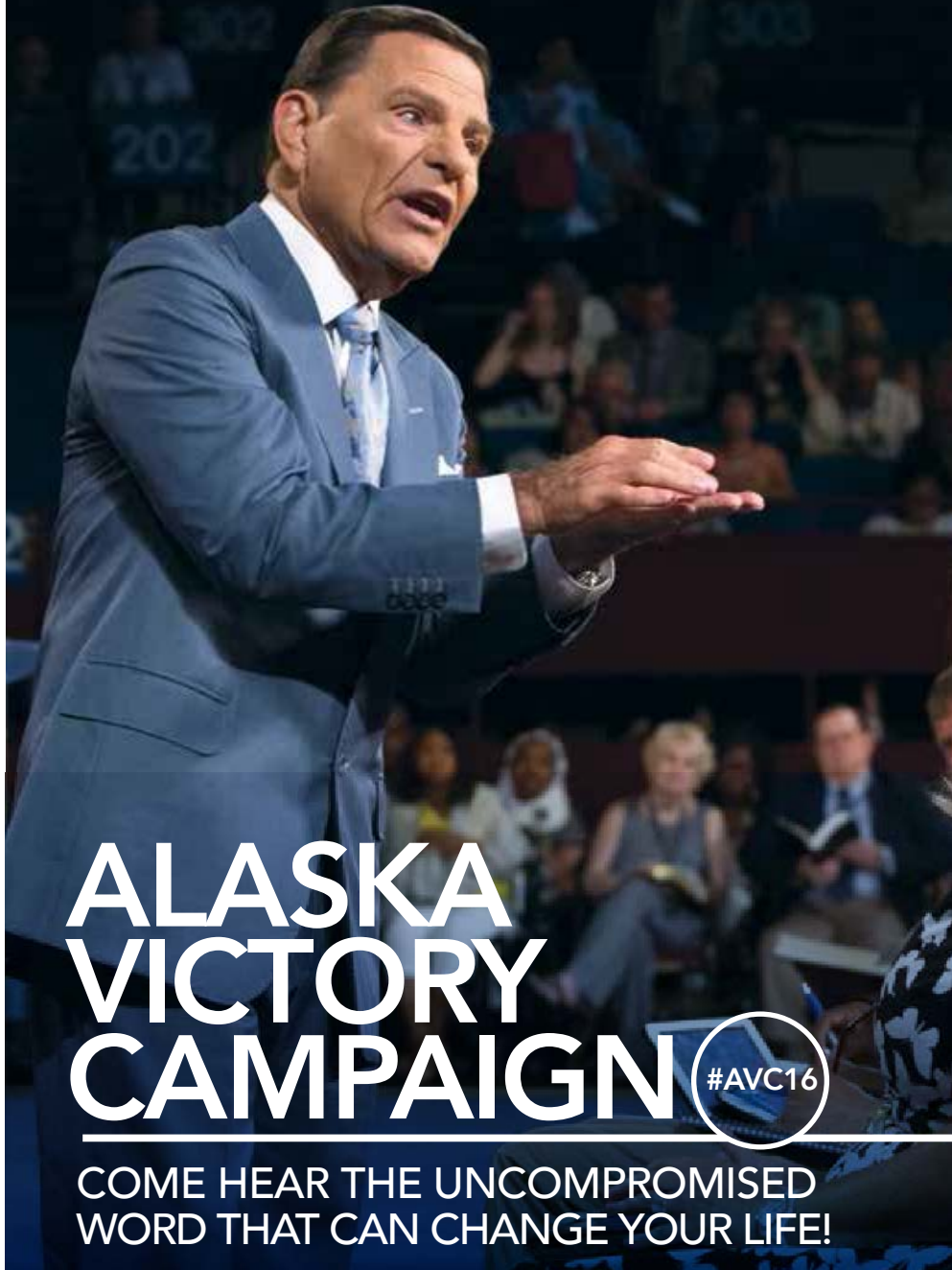
It's a God-squad of people like you and me who were born again to walk in the footsteps of Abraham's faith! 🙌

Schedule is subject to change without notice.



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by Melanie Henry

DELIVERED

FROM DEBT

THE SUN HUNG LIKE A GOLDEN ORB OVER FULTON, KY., ITS LIGHT DIFFUSED THROUGH FILIGREED CLOUDS. THE MORNING SMELLED OF FRESHLY MOWED GRASS AND RICH SOIL. BARRY SHARP ENJOYED THE BREEZE ON HIS FACE BEFORE STEPPING BACK INTO THE HOUSE.

The shrill jangle of the telephone pierced the silence and Barry's brow furrowed at the sound. Walking toward the phone, he paused when his wife, Shirley, answered it. Her face looked stricken. She glanced at him, reproach in her eyes.

Slipping out of the house, Barry drove to his automotive business where he shut himself in his office. Dropping into his desk chair, Barry let his head fall into his hands. How had this happened? He'd tried to protect Shirley from the ongoing stress of their finances, but the problems had come home to roost. Creditors called the house day and night.

"Lord, I'm a hard worker!" Barry whispered in his own defense.

It was true. He worked hard running his business. He'd heard about some business opportunities and had made some money. Encouraged, he'd borrowed money to invest more. But somehow, over the years, he'd dug himself into a financial hole and didn't know how to climb out.

Shirley had no idea that everything they owned was hocked. They were a quarter of a million dollars in debt, and on the verge

of bankruptcy. The thought of losing their home, made Barry feel weak-kneed. He couldn't imagine looking into the eyes of his wife and four children and telling them they'd lost everything.

But that wasn't the worst of it.

Barry knew he'd lost his wife's respect. Now, house or no house, he thought there was a good chance he would lose his family.

Learning to Be Led

"Shirley and I met as high-school freshmen and there was never anyone else for me," Barry remembers. "Shirley earned a teaching degree in home economics and I started my own business. We were active in our church and taught Sunday school. When our four children came along, she home-schooled them, and later we drove over 50 miles each way to a Christian school. While I trusted God for my salvation, I figured I could handle everything else. But that wasn't working out so well.

"Back in the '90s, a friend

gave us a set of tapes by Kenneth Copeland. They sat for a year, until one day I listened to them in the car as I traveled. When I got home I told Shirley, 'This is a whole new world!'

"She listened to them and we wanted more. We became Partners with KCM and learned about 2 Timothy 2:15, which says we should study to show ourselves approved by God. For the first time in my life, I started studying the Bible. We attended the Southwest Believers' Convention each year and learned so much. I believed everything Kenneth Copeland taught—except about finances. I still thought I could fix the problem."

One of the most profound changes in Shirley's life came as she read Gloria's book *To Know Him*. In it, Gloria asked what we would do if we got up one morning and found Jesus at the breakfast table. Would we take time to spend with Him, or would we say something like, "I'm thrilled You came by...but I have to run. I'm having lunch

downtown and I have to take care of some business. Maybe we'll have time to talk when I come home tonight."

From that time on, Shirley got up early and met Jesus at the breakfast table. She prayed and read the Bible, making index cards on verses that stood out to her. She

watched the daily *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast and incorporated the Copelands' literature in her home schooling.

Since she and Barry loved reading the *Pursuit of His Presence* and *From Faith to Faith* devotionals, Shirley included them in her curriculum as well.

Once a month when the *BVOV* magazine arrived, Shirley would confess that she and Barry would someday be featured in the magazine and that "our story won't be a tragedy. It will be, 'We heard the Word, believed the Word, obeyed and were really blessed.'"

Shirley endeavored to hear the voice of the Lord and obey. At the grocery store one day, she made her selections with care, hoping she wouldn't have to put anything back at the checkout. The quiet voice of the Lord interrupted her shopping: *Pay for what's in the basket in front of you.*

The Goodness of God

Approaching the checkout, Shirley noticed that the last woman in line had a huge basket of groceries. She swallowed hard, knowing she'd have to put her food back, but she *would* obey. At the last moment, an older woman slipped her basket in front of Shirley's. All she had were two cans of green beans.

"I want to pay for those," Shirley said when the woman was about to pay.

"I need those beans!" the woman argued.

"I don't want your beans. I just want to pay for them," Shirley said, handing the cashier the money.

When Shirley left the grocery store, the lady was waiting.

"Why did you do that?" she asked. Shirley explained that the Lord had told her to pay for what was in her basket.

"My husband died," the woman said with tears streaming down her face. "This morning I told the Lord, 'You're going to have to show up today and let me know You love me if You want me to go on living.'"

Both women rejoiced at God's goodness.

"When we first started attending the conventions, three of our four children

were too young for Superkid Academy," Shirley recalls. "We sat in the nosebleed section [in the main auditorium] with pillows, blankets and snacks. We stayed in cheap motels, eating bologna sandwiches and cantaloupe.

"When the children were old enough to attend Superkid Academy, they were excited to go. When they got too old, they volunteered as counselors, getting up at 6 a.m. to stand in line at the convention center."

One Exception

"The Word was changing everything in our lives, except our finances. Creditors called day and night. My parents never had any debt, so it wasn't something I'd considered discussing before we married. When we came home after our honeymoon, Barry joked that he only had \$20 left in his pocket. I was shocked to discover that was ALL the money we had! There was no money in the bank, no savings.

"When creditors started hounding us, I realized we were in debt. But the worst part was Barry's secrecy. He wouldn't tell me what was going on. I felt unloved, and it put a strain on our marriage."

In 2004, when Barry realized they were on the brink of bankruptcy, their oldest son, Ben, was applying to colleges. There was no money to send him, so Barry applied for a loan.

Sitting in his office one day, Barry read Romans 13:8: "Owe no man any thing but to love...." Then he read Proverbs 22:7 which said, "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

Suddenly, Barry felt like a slave to debt.

A few minutes later his banker called. "Barry, you're not going to believe this! I actually got your loan approved with *your* credit record!"

Conviction washed over Barry in waves.

"Thanks," he said, "but I'm not going to take the loan."

The banker, who knew the Sharp's financial situation, sighed. "Your son won't go to college," he said.

It looked that way.

JULY

		Old Testament	New Testament
Fri	1	2 Chr. 14-15	Heb. 4
Sat	2	2 Chr. 16-18	Heb. 5-6
Sun	3	2 Chr. 19-20	Heb. 7
Mon	4	2 Chr. 21-22	Heb. 8
Tue	5	2 Chr. 23-24	Heb. 9
Wed	6	2 Chr. 25-26	Heb. 10
Thu	7	2 Chr. 27-28	Heb. 11
Fri	8	2 Chr. 29-30	Heb. 12
Sat	9	2 Chr. 31-33	Heb. 13; Jas. 1
Sun	10	2 Chr. 34-35	Jas. 2
Mon	11	2 Chr. 36; Ezr. 1	Jas. 3
Tue	12	Ezr. 2-3	Jas. 4
Wed	13	Ezr. 4-5	Jas. 5
Thu	14	Ezr. 6-7	1 Pet. 1
Fri	15	Ezr. 8-9	1 Pet. 2
Sat	16	Ezr. 10; Neh. 1-2	1 Pet. 3-4
Sun	17	Neh. 3-4	1 Pet. 5
Mon	18	Neh. 5-6	2 Pet. 1
Tue	19	Neh. 7-8	2 Pet. 2
Wed	20	Neh. 9-10	2 Pet. 3
Thu	21	Neh. 11-12	1 Jn. 1
Fri	22	Neh. 13; Est. 1	1 Jn. 2
Sat	23	Est. 2-4	1 Jn. 3-4
Sun	24	Est. 5-6	1 Jn. 5
Mon	25	Est. 7-8	2 Jn.
Tue	26	Est. 9-10	3 Jn.
Wed	27	Job 1-2	Jude
Thu	28	Job 3-4	Rev. 1
Fri	29	Job 5-6	Rev. 2
Sat	30	Job 7-9	Rev. 3
Sun	31	Job 10-11	Rev. 4

The one area where Barry and Shirley hadn't applied the principles they learned was in finances, but Barry finally realized he couldn't fix the situation without God.

Putting the Brakes on Debt

“For the first time in my life I prayed and turned the care of our finances over to God,” Barry says. “Then I made a vow to the Lord that I would never borrow another dime. I was determined to get settled on God’s Word and walk in His ways.”

The first thing Barry had to do, was talk with Shirley. He had to be honest with her about the state of their finances, and tell her about his vow to God. Then, together, they would have to tell Ben that he would not be able to enroll in college.

“He was disappointed, but we were honest with him and that helped him understand what we were up against,” Barry said. “I told him I would send him as soon as I could do it without debt.”

Ben got two part-time jobs to help with the finances.

“We’d always tithed, but I scraped anything off that I could, like tithing on the net instead of the gross,” Barry recalled. “Those days were over. We gave the full tithe and started giving. Naming our seed, we planted for our mortgage to be paid off, for the kids’ educations, and to be free from the bondage of debt.”

One of the things Barry had admired about Brother Copeland was that he was a pilot.

“I’d dreamed of flying since childhood,” he said. “At 21, I’d taken my first flying lesson and had been a student pilot off and on for years. Now I planted seed for an airplane.

“I know there must have been a lag time but it seemed as though everything changed at once. I started getting calls to do big projects that I’d never done. More jobs and more money started coming in and I got caught up on our house payments. Little by little, I started paying off debts. In addition to having more income, things stopped breaking. The devourer was being rebuked.”

One day Ben came home from work frustrated.

“Mom,” he said, “here are my paychecks from both jobs. That’s not enough money to do *anything!*”

“What are you going to do?” Shirley asked.

“The only thing I can do. I’m going to plant it and let it grow!”

Shirley and Barry rejoiced over Ben’s decision. They had always believed, children learn more from what their parents do than by what they say. They prayed and confessed that their children would never be caught in the bondage of debt, but live by God’s principles.

Shirley and Barry were seeing their seed take root and grow.

In 2006, two years after Ben had planned to begin college, he moved to California and enrolled in the Los Angeles Film School. Barry paid cash for Ben’s education, and when he graduated with a degree in production design, Ben didn’t owe a cent. He was surprised at the number of graduating students who faced mountains of debt. In retrospect, the two-year wait had been worth it.

Within six years of Barry committing their finances to God and putting the brakes on debt, the Sharps had paid off all their debts, including their mortgage. They were debt free and stress free.

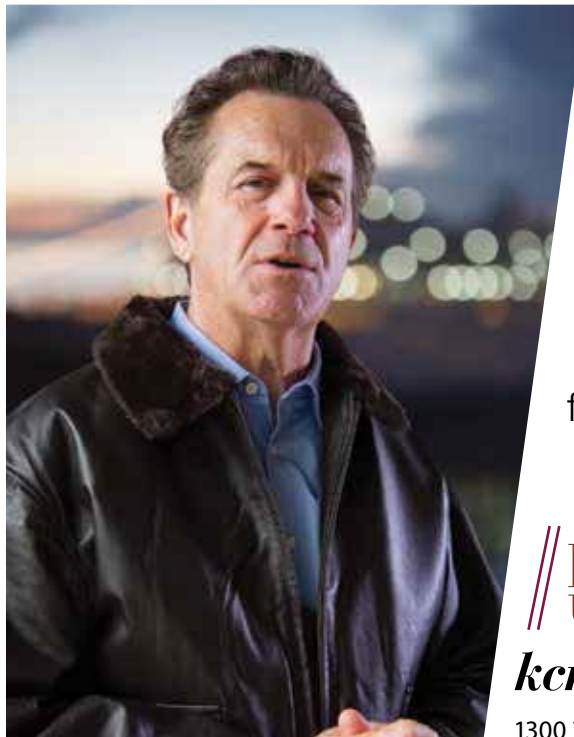
Meanwhile Barry had gotten his pilot’s license. Now, he paid cash for a Cessna 172 airplane. In 2015, having become instrument rated, Barry paid

cash for a Piper Comanche 260B.

“When Barry was 16, he went to church camp and gave away his car in an offering,” Shirley explains. “During our married life, a harvest of many cars has come to us as a result of that seed. So in addition to Barry’s two airplanes, his hangar is home to an old Cadillac, two Corvettes, a Camaro SS convertible, a TR3 Triumph Roadster and a motorcycle. When his hangar became so full that something had to go, he sold his Cessna. Barry has become an excellent businessman and won my respect.”

These days Barry and Shirley Sharp fly to Fort Worth for the Believers’ Convention in their own plane, and stay in a nice hotel. When their adult children—none of whom have debt—join them there, they often tease their mother, saying: “Mom, this just doesn’t seem like convention. Our room doesn’t smell like bologna and cantaloupe.”

“We got tired of milkshake religion and living under the bondage of debt,” says Barry. “Partnership with KCM and obedience to God’s Word freed us from both. When we started living the Word that says, ‘Give and it shall be given unto you...’ our world changed and we truly are blessed in all we do. The blessing of the Lord has made us rich.”



“

We got tired of milkshake religion and living under the bondage of debt.

Partnership with KCM and obedience to God’s Word freed us from both.”

”

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FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

by Norvel Hayes

I KNOW OF NO BETTER WAY TO KICK OFF A MEETING—THIS BELIEVERS' CONVENTION—THAN TO TEACH YOU TO HAVE FAITH IN GOD'S WORD. WHY? BECAUSE THAT'S THE NO. 1 WAY TO FIGHT THE DEVIL!

IF I CAN TALK YOU INTO HAVING FAITH IN GOD'S WORD, YOU CAN HAVE VICTORY. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHAT ANYONE ELSE BELIEVES, WHAT YOUR BACKGROUND IS OR WHERE YOU'RE FROM.

If you'll just make a decision to stand on the Scriptures for yourself, God will come to your house. He'll come to your body. He'll come to your mind. He'll come to your business. He'll come to anything you have and He will make it successful, if you will only get your mouth straightened out!

God's Word will work for

every person who has faith in it!

Many people think God will come on their scene just because they are born again. Although He's always on the scene, the truth is, He only responds to faith in His Word coming out of your mouth. You've got to KNOW what God has said in His Word about the area of your life where you need victory. What's more, you've got to SPEAK what His Word says about it.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, "...Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Jesus went on to say in verse 37, "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

By your words!

Victory Scriptures

Your victory comes directly from the Word of God that you have in abundance in your heart and the Word you speak out your mouth! So the key is to get the Word into your heart.

You may say, "Brother Norvel, how about telling me what the victory scriptures are for my situation?"

There could be a hundred scriptures that would apply to your circumstance. Don't be lazy—look them up yourself! You see, the only scriptures that will work for you are the ones you "get." You

THE WORD YOU
SPEAK ABOUT
PROSPERITY WILL
WORK PROSPERITY
INTO YOUR LIFE
EVERY DAY.



Norvel
Hayes

Founder and president of Norvel Hayes Ministries, he is a businessman, seasoned teacher of the Word and an accomplished author. His multifaceted ministry includes a church; a full-time Bible training center and correspondence college; a food kitchen for the needy; and a maternity home. For more information or ministry materials go to nhm.cc.

can ask the Holy Spirit to help you find the right scriptures. But you won't *get* them just by reading the Bible every once in a while. Your victory scriptures must be in your heart *abundantly*. They must become a part of you.

So look them up. Type them out. Then start speaking them until they become like your right arm and then like your left arm. Just like you use your arms every day to get things done, you'll use the Word of God that's part of you to accomplish things in your life. The Word of God you speak about healing will work healing in your life day in and day out. His Word you speak about prosperity will work prosperity into your life every day.

Fighting the Devil

When I first started preaching God said, *Son, I want you to teach the Church how to fight the devil.*

Faith in God's Word and speaking the Word is the No. 1 way to fight the devil. As you speak the Word right into the ear of God, you are also speaking it right in the face of the devil. When you do that, God will come on the scene and run the devil off!

Think about it. Isn't that exactly what Jesus did?

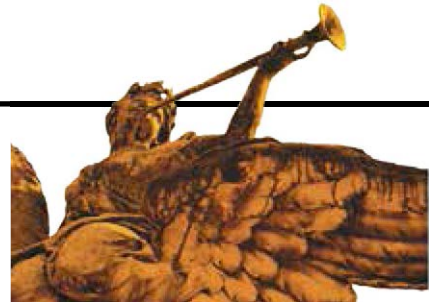
After Jesus had been in the wilderness for 40 days, the devil came around to try to convince Him that He could bring God's plan to pass in His life through His own effort. Jesus knew exactly how to get the devil to shut up and clear out. Matthew 4:1-11 tells us how He did it. Jesus countered every attack of the enemy with the Word of God.

"It is written," He said.

Three times Jesus responded to the temptations and mocking of the devil with the Word. He knew the Word—it was part of Him—and He had faith in it to bring victory over the devil.

God wants you to know you can do the same thing Jesus did! Get the Word into your spirit. Make it part of you. Speak it out. Use it every day, like you use your arms. By faith, do it! And you'll have victory—total victory! 📖

The Ministry of Angels



A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO THE LORD DIRECTED ME TO START TEACHING THE BODY OF CHRIST ABOUT ANGELS. WHEN I TOLD GOD I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM, HE SET ME STRAIGHT. **by Charles Capps**

Neither does anyone else, He said. That's the reason I want you to teach it. It's time the Body of Christ woke up to the supernatural deliverance that I put in the earth for them.

So I began studying about these heavenly beings. I discovered the supernatural ministry of angels in the earth is very real. But how effective they can be depends heavily on you and me. We actually can hinder them from doing what they're created to do. That's why we must understand their ministry and learn how to cooperate with them according to the Word of God.

In Hebrews 1 and 2, we find out that angels are created beings. They aren't born as men are born, nor do they have the same authority as human beings. But they are created with purpose. Hebrews 1:14 tells us about their ultimate role. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

Who are these "heirs of salvation"? You and I. We are the heirs of salvation and, as such, the "ministering spirits," or angels, are sent by God to minister for us.

What are we heirs of? *Salvation*—which

includes "preservation, healing, soundness and deliverance from temporal evils."

The Bible gives us numerous accounts of angelic deliverance and protection. Jesus was always aware of their presence. When arrested, He said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53).

One Roman legion was 6,000 soldiers. Jesus said one prayer could have called 12 legions—or 72,000 angels—to come to His aid. Jesus understood the power of angelic protection.

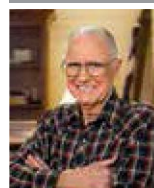
As a "joint heir" with Jesus we can have that same protection. Through prayers and speaking God's Word we can have that kind of divine protection that comes by the ministry of angels!

The apostles Peter and Paul experienced the assistance of angels. On more than one occasion angels delivered Peter from jail (Acts 5:18-20, 12:6-8).

Paul was facing shipwreck—a potentially fatal situation. After much prayer he said, "And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me" (Acts 27:22-25).

Now getting that kind of results will do wonders for your prayer life! Angels are "mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word" (Psalm 103:20, *The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Angels are an important part of the spirit world. Their assignments are very real. God created them to be available at a moment's notice to minister for us, and their ministry includes providing divine protection. 📖



 **Charles Capps**

The late Charles Capps was president and founder of Charles Capps Ministries. For more information or ministry materials go to charlescapps.com.



GoodNEWSGazette

OUR DAUGHTER IS WALKING

Our 3-year-old daughter had been unable to walk since birth. She started walking Dec. 12, 2015, praise be to our God almighty. We thank You, Jesus and the KCM team—we love you guys.

N. & Z.M. | South Africa

NEW NAIL, NO SURGERY

My 1-year-old daughter, Zoe, got her pinky finger slammed in a door about two months ago. It looked bad. When the ambulance came, the EMTs thought her nail just got ripped off. At the hospital, they told us she would lose her nail, and that her finger was broken. Two nurses said

her nail most likely wouldn't grow back.

I said, "No, I believe God." The doctor said he could probably save her nail with surgery, but after he found out her finger was broken, he wouldn't operate and instead had us follow up with an orthopedist. The orthopedist said she needed surgery to remove the nail completely and stitch the bed, but another

doctor said he wanted to leave it, that the nail should grow back and even regenerate a new nail bed if need be. I could agree to that! My friend and I agreed for no deformity because the doctor said he couldn't promise that. Praise and glory to the Father! The new nail is more than halfway in and it is beautiful!

Jennifer W. Greenwood, S.C.

'JOIN US'

I joined this community group two weeks ago (the *Prayer/Tongues/Fasting* group) and it was one of the best decisions I've made. My personal study and prayer time has increased and it is so refreshing to pray in tongues with other saints. God bless you for establishing this group. I encourage others to join us.

Faye P. | Detroit, Mich.

community.kcm.org

online partner community

MY WIFE FOUND A JOB

I asked you to pray that my wife would find a job. She applied for one at 8 p.m. on Thursday, and Friday at 11 a.m. she received a call. Two days later she was hired. Thank you for praying for us.

James R. | Greenville, N.C.

'NO SIGN OF HEPATITIS'

Yesterday, I requested prayer for my husband. He had been diagnosed with hepatitis B that morning by his doctor, based on bloodwork done the week before. After requesting prayer for him, and praying for him myself during the

day, the doctor's office called back. They had taken another blood sample while he was there to retest his blood. They reported that his blood was normal with no sign of hepatitis! That's an awesome God!

Melanie M. | South Carolina

A NEW HOLY GHOST FIRE

Just want you to know how very thankful I am to watch your anointed programming on the BVOVN channel on DISH®! I have been so refreshed and renewed! Love the "in-betweens" and testimonies also! I feel like a new fire from the Holy Ghost has been set ablaze in my spirit! Glory to God! Thank you again, and may He bless you beyond measure! Laura M. | U.S.



'I AM A NEW WOMAN!'

I had a nervous breakdown about 2½ years ago that had me pretty much nonfunctional for a while. I thought I was dying. I immersed myself in the Bible, prayer and repentance. I also sought medical help, but no one found anything wrong with me.

The Lord provided supportive people and professionals, but I still had serious problems. My body ached, I was losing my hair, and I couldn't walk or see straight. I was reduced daily to tears of torment. Finally, the Holy Spirit revealed to me that the anti-anxiety meds were making me sick, so I got help to wean off of them. On Friday night, July 10, I joined in with the three-hour Healing School from the Southwest Believers' Convention that I had recorded. The next day, I woke up with a great feeling of peace and comfort and knew I had the strength to take the final step. This is day six of no medication. For the first time in over two years I'm not trembling and I have tears of joy, not torment. I am a new woman! This has been a journey of learning—prayer, letting go, forgiveness and faith. Thank you and bless you for the daily messages, teaching resources and prayer! I believe and receive that I am healthy and whole spirit, soul and body. Glory to God! L.H. | Dartmouth, Ma.

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testimonies

“JESUS LEFT
NO ROOM FOR
COMPROMISE
ESPECIALLY
WHEN IT COMES
TO LOVE.”

—Gloria Copeland

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.

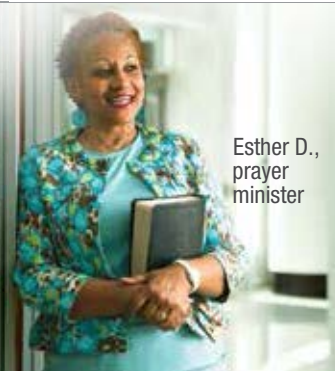
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If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision. We have a **Free Gift** to help you begin your new life in Jesus!

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Esther D.,
prayer
minister



How Do You Spell **MIRACLE?**

DO YOU NEED A MIRACLE IN YOUR LIFE? :: WELL I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU: YOU *ALREADY* HAVE IT! THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WERE CREATED BY A MIRACULOUS GOD, AND THROUGH JESUS CHRIST YOU'RE CONNECTED TO A MIRACLE. **by T.L. Osborn**

The only thing you need to receive your miracle is to discover who you are in Christ.

When you understand who you are in Christ, you understand the miracle-working power Jesus has given you. You then become contagious and you can't help but share His truth with the world!

SPELLING OUT YOUR MIRACLE

I want to help you take hold of whatever miracle you need in your life. So I asked myself how I could achieve that and I found the answer in the book of Acts. The first sentence says:

The former treatise have I made of all that Jesus began both to do

being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: and, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me (Acts 1:1-4).

In this passage we find seven milestones based on the word *MIRACLE*. So letter-by-letter let's go through the word *MIRACLE* and discover how you can unlock your miracle.

'M' IS FOR MATURITY

Miracle success begins with *maturity*. When you discover who you are in Christ, you begin to measure your life

Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Jesus came to save the lost and He wants you to do the same thing. When soul-winning becomes your passion, you are developing the maturity God desires for you to have.

'I' IS FOR INSPIRATION

Jesus did all He did right up "until the day in which he was taken up." His example is supposed to be the inspiration for the way you live your life. Think about that. Jesus never knew a failure. He never met a sin that was too bad to forgive. He never met a sickness He couldn't heal. In essence, Jesus never met impossibility. Christ, the hope of glory, is in you—*He* is your inspiration. Follow His example. Just like Him, you can believe there is no failure, sin, sickness or impossibility you can't overcome!

'R' IS FOR RATIFICATION

The definition for *ratify* is: "to approve or confirm; especially to give official sanction to." You have been approved to continue doing and teaching all that Jesus did.

God sent Jesus to redeem and justify you. Jesus sent the Holy Ghost to live in you. "He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments" (Acts 1:2). The Holy Ghost in you allows you to continue doing the things Jesus did. Ratification renounces anything that holds you back. It recognizes the challenge God has set before you to reach this lost world. Then it decides, accepts and agrees to meet that challenge.

'A' IS FOR ACTION

Action! Acts 1:2 next says, "The apostles whom he had chosen." *Apostles*

JESUS NEVER MET IMPOSSIBILITY. JUST LIKE HIM, YOU CAN BELIEVE THERE IS NO FAILURE, SIN, SICKNESS OR IMPOSSIBILITY YOU CAN'T OVERCOME!

and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: to whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs,

and ministry by Jesus' model. You begin to want what He wants for the same reason He wants it. Your starting point for spiritual maturity begins when you desire to do "all that Jesus began both to do and teach" (Acts 1:1).

First Timothy 1:15 says, "Christ



are “the appointed ones” or “the sent forth ones.” You are an apostle, and you have been sent forth to accomplish the Great Commission—to take action. One of my favorite verses is John 17:18. In it Jesus said, “As [My Father] sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”

You’re one of the appointed ones, and Jesus has sent you to the world.

When we take action, God honors it! I discovered this truth as a 13-year-old boy. When someone gave me a toy paper press, I made salvation tracts based on John 3:16. Then I went door-to-door and passed out those tracts. And people got saved. That experience planted a seed in my heart. I didn’t understand it then, but God was showing me the power of the printed word. Today my ministry publishes literature in 132 languages!

That’s action! That’s putting the gospel to work, and it’s an important element to having miracle success.

‘C’ IS FOR CREDIBILITY

Success depends on being credible, or reliable, with the gospel. Acts 1:3 says, “he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs.” If Jesus’ ministry hadn’t continued after His death, the gospel wouldn’t have been credible. As one of His disciples, you must demonstrate the same ministry He demonstrated. You must reach out and share His message and power with others.

And the gospel is only credible if it is for everyone. If it’s only for a select few, then it’s not trustworthy. It would mean that God prefers some over others. It’s only reliable if Hebrews 13:8 is true: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

‘L’ IS FOR LEGALITY

There’s a legal contract in Christianity. Acts 1:3 says He spoke “of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” When I read that I thought, *There is*

legality in the kingdom of God.

The greatest miracle Jesus performed was that of forgiving sins. As a joint heir with Jesus, you have legal rights. Before you were saved, sin stood between you and God. But because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, that debt was paid. You are now *legally* free. Of course Jesus didn’t forgive your sins just for you. He did it so you could take His message to others so that they can be free too! The freedom Christ purchased is for everyone. That’s part of its legality.

‘E’ IS FOR EXPERIENCE

Finally “E” is for: *experience*, for the *enthusiasm* of ministering the way Jesus did and for the *excitement* of being a Jesus person. Acts 1:4 says He “assembled together with them.” Jesus assembled with His disciples. That tells me everywhere you go, Jesus is there too!

I’ve been blessed to see people saved and healed in almost 70 countries. The world needs to hear that Jesus loves them. The world needs to know the experience, enthusiasm and excitement of the Jesus kind of life.

CARRYING ON

When you teach people who they are in Christ, you teach them how to spell their own miracle. As they mature, live inspired lives that are ratified by Jesus’ blood, take action, understand the credibility and legality of the gospel and crave the experience of living the Jesus kind of life, they can’t help but reach the world for Him.

Your life in Christ is a miracle! It’s one you can pass on to others so they can have the same miracle-working power in their lives too. So don’t wait. Christ in you, the hope of glory, has paved the way for you to receive your miracle! Christ in you, the hope of glory, is ready to help you do even more than He did! 🙏



Kenneth
& Gloria
Copeland



Billye Brim

June 27-July 1

Prophecies in the Psalms

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sun., July 3

Harvesting Your Nation

Kenneth Copeland

July 4-8

Worry Is Sin

Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

Sun., July 10

Faith Develops in a Focused Heart

Kenneth Copeland

July 11-15

How to Destroy the Worry Habit

Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

Sun., July 17

Faith Develops From Dreaming to Deciding

Kenneth Copeland

July 18-22

Ezekiel and the Glory—Part 1

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sun., July 24

Your Holy Ghost Trainer

Kenneth Copeland

July 25-29

Ezekiel and the Glory—Part 2

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Sun., July 31

Five Reasons to Preach Faith

Kenneth Copeland

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T.L.
Osborn

The late world missionary evangelist was best known for his mass-miracle ministry to millions. He was the first to go to open fields or parks, in non-Christian nations, to proclaim Christ and to pray for miracles as proof that He is alive. For more information or ministry materials go to osborn.org.



Divine Order Brings the Divine

GOD IS A GOD OF DIVINE ORDER. HE HAS EVERYTHING PLANNED. NOTHING HAPPENS BY CHANCE. THAT MEANS THAT THIS GREAT SOUTHWEST BELIEVERS' CONVENTION WAS ORDERED OF GOD. **by Hilton Sutton**

It isn't something that Kenneth Copeland decided to do because he didn't have anything else to do. Every one of us here is here by the divine order of God. I know I am here by the absolute will of Almighty God.

From the time this first Southwest Believers' Convention was announced, people began asking how I became one of the speakers. I said, "Because I'm a *believer*. I preach from the same book. We have the same vision."

God has called us *all* according to His divine plan, and we all fit into it. Aren't you glad we don't all sound alike? If we did, some people would never get ministered to. That's why God has raised up such a variety. Together we offer to you the complete ministry of our Lord Jesus.

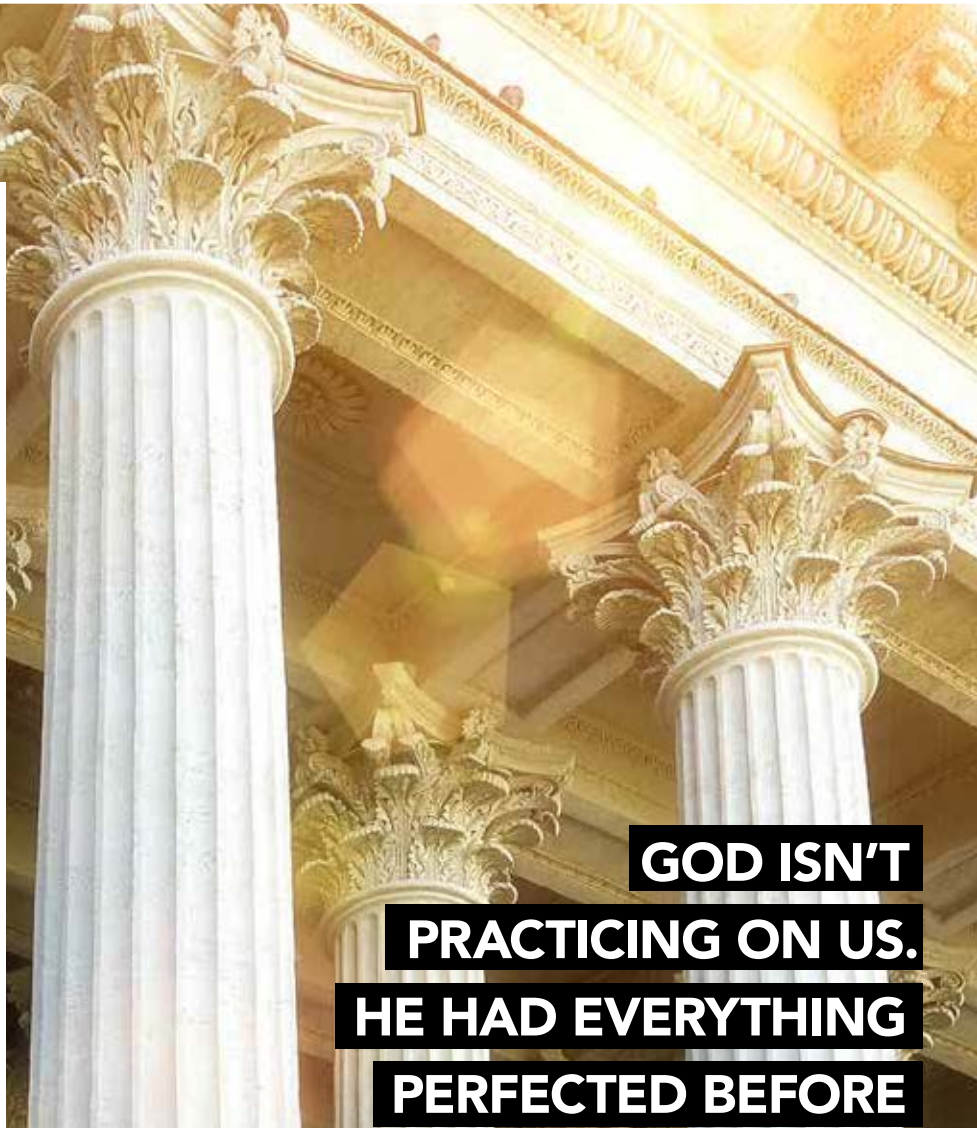
Ephesians 4:11-13 says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man....*" This scripture lets us know the unity requested in John 17 is on the way in the Body of Christ. It's beginning to take hold.

As I listened to the other speakers, I realized that almost every one ministered on subjects they had learned from someone else. And

why shouldn't they? Are we not workers together with the Lord (2 Corinthians 6:1)? Are we not directed by the same Holy Spirit? Then why shouldn't we feed one another and be used of God to inspire

each other?

But we haven't seen anything yet. God is ready and the Church must come into its full maturity and shift into the highest gear of productivity the world has ever known.



GOD ISN'T

PRACTICING ON US.

HE HAD EVERYTHING

PERFECTED BEFORE

WE GOT INVOLVED.

God keeps revealing to us, in His Word, what He's doing and what He's going to do next. Years ago when I was growing up in the Church, I heard people say, "You never know what God is going to do." We didn't realize that's not what the Word tells us.

We are better students of the Word now than any previous generation of the Church. But we don't have as much time as previous generations had. We must give more diligence to the Word so we can accomplish the tremendous assignment God has given us in the short time remaining.

The Church Age concludes with the catching up of the glorious Church. Not a defeated Church, not a sick Church, not a Church that's been beaten black and blue, driven underground, trying to hold out till the end—but a glorious Church! A glorious Church is a dynamic Church! A glorious Church is a successful Church! A glorious Church is a productive Church! A glorious Church is a smart Church—mature, holy, pure and superanointed.

Where do we get that kind of smart? By growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

YOU'RE HEADED FOR GREAT FAITH!

Folks, that's what's happening in these conventions! God has raised up the most outstanding faith teachers in the history of the Church for us. Why? Because we are the *concluding* generation of the age of the Church. We must be the generation that gets our act together and accomplishes exploits for God on a scale the world has not yet seen!

In Luke 18:8, Jesus asked His disciples, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" The only answer for even a new believer with little faith is, yes!

We are people of faith. There may be times we use it just a little or not at all. But when we move in the full authority of the Word of God, we can operate in great faith!

In these meetings where the Word is being preached, faith is spreading like wildfire in a dry thicket fanned by a strong wind.

GOD'S ORDER IN YOUR LIFE

God is a God of divine order, and He has ordered everything. When you and I study His textbook, the Bible, and we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our steps, we'll walk in the order of Almighty God.

It's exciting to think that daily you can walk in the absolute order of Almighty God! But to do that you'll have to learn the leadership of the Holy Spirit and become a student of the textbook.

If you do neither, you'll only cross paths with God's order once in a while. When you're not observing His order, anything is liable to come your way and oftentimes does.

But oh, how marvelous it is to discover that God is a God of order and a master creator. He isn't practicing on us. He had everything perfected before we got involved.

God sets up divine order for your individual life, your marriage, your family, your relationship to people outside the Church, even your private devotion time. God does not leave anything to chance. Even one's relationship with fellow believers is ordered by God.

Let the divine order of God begin to control your life, and you will become a more effective and productive person to the glory of God. You'll become a powerhouse for God!

GOD'S ORDER IN THE CHURCH

You see, the Church is not to be a poor, sick, anemic, troubled, defeated group.

The Church is the light of God and the salt of the earth. As the Church, we're to move with authority and power, wearing the armor of God, using the weapons of our warfare that are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

The Church is the representative of Almighty God and Jesus Christ on the earth. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." That means He will start it and finish it.

If Paul said in Ephesians 5:27 that the Lord will present to Himself a glorious Church having neither spot, wrinkle nor blemish, that's exactly the way it will be—a glorious Church. To understand spots and blemishes, carefully read 2 Peter 2:9-20.

You know why it has taken us so long? We don't have our act together with one another! The Holy Spirit wants us to recognize each other as members of the same family. We are all born again and energized of the Spirit of God, under the leadership of Jesus Christ. We are to lift Him up so the world may know that the Father has sent Him, that they may be drawn to Him (see John 12:32, 17:23). That's the assignment for the Church!

We are to be workers *together* with one another. We need one another.

Each of us has his own assignment, but together we make up a whole. So get involved in the work of God with one another.

Once we begin to flow in the anointing of the Holy Spirit in unity and harmony, supporting and encouraging one another, it will cause what we do to be many times more powerful! 📖



The late Dr. Hilton Sutton was chairman of Hilton Sutton World Ministries. One of the world's foremost authorities on the prophetic scriptures, he authored numerous books, including the acclaimed *Revelation Revealed*, a verse-by-verse study of the book of Revelation. For more information and ministry materials visit hilton-sutton.org.



by
Jerry
Savelle

how to
INCREASE
YOUR FAITH

Years ago when I worked for Brother Copeland, we had gone to Alabama to hold a meeting. Every morning of the meeting, he and I met at 5:30 to pray about the needs of KCM's television ministry. After about three days, he told me, "I received the wisdom of God I needed."

"You did?" I asked. >>

“Yes, I know how we’re going to pay for this television ministry. God just told me. I’m going to give my airplane away.”

At the time, an airplane cost at least \$30,000. I’d never heard of anyone giving away \$30,000 before.

“And you know what else I’m going to do?” Brother Copeland continued. “I’m going to get it in tiptop shape before I do.”

“How much will that cost?” I asked.

“About \$8,000.”

“You’re going to add another \$8,000 to what is already worth \$30,000 and then give it away?” I was shocked. At the time, I was believing God for \$38. I couldn’t imagine sowing \$38 *thousand!*

But Brother Copeland followed the voice of the Holy Spirit and gave the plane away. About 11 days later, God brought a bigger airplane into the ministry—completely paid for—as well as the cash to pay for the television ministry.

I was so impressed that I started thinking, *What can I give away?*

But the truth is, I faced two problems. First, the Holy Spirit hadn’t led me to do what Brother Copeland did. Second, my faith wasn’t at a level to believe for an airplane. If I had tried to follow Brother Copeland’s example, I would have failed. I needed to increase my faith first.

Understand Your Measure

The Bible is clear: Every Christian in the Body of Christ has been given the same amount of faith. Romans 12:3 puts it this way, “...according as God hath

dealt to every man the measure of faith.” In the Greek, the word *measure* is the word *metron*, which means “a determined extent.”

Let me illustrate that definition.

Imagine that I have a large pie that I want to share with every person reading this article. So no one misses out, I would give each person a “measure” of the pie. No one person would receive the whole thing. Instead, I would count how many people we needed pie for, then I would calculate how much of the pie each person would receive so that the portions would be equal.

It’s the same with faith.

God gives every believer the same measure of faith. The question then becomes, *What are you going to do with your measure?*

Strength Fluctuates

You, right now, have the same measure of faith given to me, and Brother Copeland, and every other believer. But the *strength* of your measure of faith can fluctuate. Now, of course, God wants every Christian’s faith to grow, but that growth depends on *you*. If you want your faith to increase in strength, then you must follow Romans 10:17, which says, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” You must feed your faith every day with the Word.

People often try to live on the strength of the faith that got them through the past month, but your faith needs to be fed daily. You need to look at your faith like a bank account and your heart as a treasury. When you go to the Word, faith cometh, making

deposits into your heart. Every time you use your faith you’re making a withdrawal. If you’re not careful, you can get to the point that you are making so many withdrawals that you are facing a deficit. You’ve got more demands on your faith than you’ve got Word in your heart.

Instead, you need to increase the strength of your faith by depositing the Word into your heart daily.

If you need to believe God for your health, deposit the Word.

If you need to believe God for your finances, deposit the Word.

If you need to believe God for your marriage, deposit the Word.

Never let a deficit exist in your faith bank account.

Increasing Your Faith

In 2 Corinthians 10:15 the Apostle Paul said, “Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men’s labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly.”

While Romans 12 said, “God hath dealt to every man *the* measure of faith,” this scripture, which was written to the Christians at Corinth, says, “When your faith is increased....” Clearly, the measure that God dealt to you can be developed and strengthened.

If you have *the* measure of faith residing in you (and you do)... and if you discover that “faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word” (which you have)... and if you apply that law (which you can)—then while you’re meditating on God’s Word, God is imparting the faith in that Word into your heart. You already had a measure of faith, but now it’s *growing stronger*. >>



Jerry
Savelle

He is president and founder of Jerry Savelle Ministries International and founder of Heritage of Faith Christian Center. For information or ministry materials, visit jerrysavelle.org or call 1-817-297-3155.



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What happens to your original measure? *It matures.* Whether it's reading the Word on your own, joining in a corporate Bible study or immersing yourself in a Spirit-filled, faith-charged atmosphere like the Southwest Believers' Convention, God is strengthening your faith.

Of course, if your faith can increase, it can also decrease. Referring to people who hear God's Word, Jesus said, "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath" (Matthew 13:12).

In other words, if you choose to hear God's Word, mature faith will come to you. If you choose not to hear God's Word, even the measure you were dealt originally will diminish—not in measure, but in strength.

And if your faith isn't developing, if you're not listening to the Word, then you'll be susceptible to the words of the enemy—words which breed fear. And when fear is present, faith can't flourish.

The Word Is the Answer

A lot of people have very little spiritual strength because they won't get into the Word enough. The measure of faith that they've tried living on since they got filled with the Holy Ghost 20 years ago hasn't grown. So how do you increase your faith? We've already seen it plainly: The Word is the answer, folks. And it's not just a one-time fix. The Word says, "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). That's an ongoing process. There's not a day goes by that we shouldn't bolster our faith.

Right now, wherever you're reading this, take a moment to worship the Lord. Thank Him for the measure of faith He has given to you as a born-again believer, and then say, "Father, I'm going to take my measure and let it increase by the Word. I thank You that my measure is going to grow." Then take a stand and commit to do it. Begin studying the Word and applying it to your life so that your measure of faith can mature...and you can be ready for anything that comes your way! 🙌



When the Tempter Comes

I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU: **WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE TEMPTER COMES?** :: THAT'S AN IMPORTANT QUESTION YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE. **by John Osteen**



YOU see, you have a very real enemy—a tempter—the devil. The Bible describes him this way: “Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

You can stick your head in the sand and think you’ll escape his temptation, but he’s not going to leave you alone. The devil’s whole purpose is to destroy you, and you can rest assured that he’s not going to stop trying to achieve his goal.

In Matthew 4, the devil unsuccessfully tempted Jesus. He threw every imaginable enticement at the Lord—food, power, vanity, even suicide. In every instance, the Lord resisted him, and he fled. Since you are one of God’s children, you look like Jesus. Therefore,

the devil is going to tempt you too. He’s going to do everything he can to try to discourage and defeat you. First, he’ll tempt you to *think* wrong. Then he’ll tempt you to *plan* wrong. Finally, he’ll tempt you to *do* wrong.

That’s why you must ask yourself a pointed question when you’re faced with a wayward thought or a nagging feeling: “What does God’s Word have to say about this?”

Four Areas of Temptation

I want to touch on four areas where I’ve seen the enemy tempt Christians. He approaches them with harassing ideas that try to take root. If they’re not careful, those wrong thoughts begin to grow. Soon, Christians begin planning

their lives around them, and finally they begin acting on them.

It’s a dangerous business, but if you’ll guard your mind and keep it full of the Word of God, you won’t find yourself planning wrong or doing wrong. You’ll stop yourself from going down that rabbit trail, and you’ll overcome the devil’s temptation every time (James 4:7).

No. 1: The Sick Are Tempted to Give Up

Many sick people are tempted to lose faith and give up on their healing. Wouldn’t the enemy love that? He even cloaks that temptation in piety. He gets those struggling with sickness to say, “It must be God’s will for me to accept that this is the end.”

But I challenge you to stand up and say, “I’m not going to die! I’m going to live for God! The devil is not going to have one day of my life!”

When you’re sick and hurting, it’s easy to listen to the enemy. It’s tempting to throw in the towel and believe God doesn’t have a miracle for you, but I promise you—God has never wanted you sick! He wants you to have a miracle.

I know what it is to believe God for healing. My daughter was born with cerebral palsy. The doctors never gave her a chance at a normal life, but thank God, my wife, Dodie, and I heard the words of Jesus. We heard that Jesus was a healer, and we heard that He was the same yesterday, today and forever. We believed those words, and today, our daughter is healed. Praise God!

Whether you’re 35, 55 or 85... God didn’t spend years training and investing in you to set you on the shelf.



The late John Osteen served the Lord as pastor, evangelist, author and teacher for 60 years. He and his wife, Dodie, traveled extensively throughout the world, taking the message of God’s love, healing and power to people of all nations. For more information or ministry materials, go to lakewoodchurch.com.

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The prophet Jeremiah said, "Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee" (Jeremiah 32:17). Jeremiah went on to hear God's response, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).

You serve a mighty God. He can melt a tumor, mend a bone or even grow another arm for you. Nothing is too hard for Him!

No. 2: The Aged Are Tempted to Feel Useless

A lot of people dread old age. They think that because they get a little wrinkled or up there in years, God doesn't have any use for them. I'm here to tell you that whether you're 35, 55 or 85, the best age to be is the age you are right now. It can seem like the older you get, the quicker the calendar turns. Instead of getting depressed each birthday, say, "God, this is going to be my BEST year yet!"

God didn't spend years training and investing in you to set you on the shelf. He has work for you to do.

Remember Caleb, one of the 12 spies Moses sent into the Promised Land? Only he and Joshua believed that God could defeat the giants and give the Hebrew people the land. Because of the unbelief of the other 10 spies, Caleb spent 40 years with the other Hebrews wandering in the desert. When he and his brothers finally returned to the Promised Land, ready to take it, he was 85 years old. He didn't discount his contribution. He didn't ask for a rocking chair. Instead, Caleb said, "I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain" (Joshua 14:11-12).

I don't care how old you are. God doesn't want you to give in to the devil's suggestion that you are *too* old to do something for your heavenly Father.

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He's been preparing you for years. Now it's time to act!

No. 3: The Divorced Are Tempted to Feel Unusable by God

I often think about the many men and women crushed and beaten down by divorce. The devil wants you to feel unclean, unwanted and unusable by God. I'm happy to tell you that "the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 103:17).

When I think about my Christian brothers and sisters who have faced this, I remember Jesus' example with the woman at the well (John 4). She had been married five times. Five times! Even then as she spoke to Jesus, she was living with a man who wasn't her husband. Jewish tradition dictated that Jesus shouldn't have even been talking to her. What did Jesus do? He saved her and sent her back to the city without the weight of guilt.

Some people explain their divorce away by saying, "Yes, I was divorced before I got saved."


Do we really believe God is more forgiving and merciful to an unsaved person than to His own child? Of course not! Whether you divorced before or after you were saved, God's mercy always has been, always is and always will be "from everlasting to everlasting."

No. 4: Those in Need Are Tempted to Disbelieve the Message of Prosperity

The devil prefers that you live in lack—plain and simple. He'll go so far as to try to convince you that poverty is a blessing. As someone who has known poverty, I can tell you that's a lie.

Some even try to explain the idea that poverty is a blessing by pointing to Paul's statement that he was hungry and thirsty (1 Corinthians 4:11; 2 Corinthians 11:27). The difference is that Paul didn't stay that way. He said, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound" (Philippians 4:12). Yes, you may go through battles, but you don't have to live there. You, too, can abound.

When the devil tries to convince you to give up and say, "I just don't believe God wants me to prosper," turn to him and use the Name of Jesus. Tell him, "Satan, my heavenly Father is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He's the God of our Lord Jesus Christ who became poor that we might become rich. My God says He'll supply all my needs according to His riches in glory, and I take Him at His Word!"

When you learn how to resist the enemy, you will never be the same. When the tempter comes, no longer will he be able to convince you to think wrong, plan wrong or do wrong. You'll be ready to rise up in your covenant rights and privileges as a joint heir with Jesus and drive the devil out of your life. And Jesus will proudly say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23). 

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by
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SOMETHING ASTOUNDING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. SHE'S ABOUT TO GROW UP INTO WHAT GOD ORDAINED FOR HER TO BE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

She's about to come into "the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

That's what the Word of God says, and you can count on it. It's coming to pass—soon! We're in the last of the last days. The signs are all around us. Jesus is coming! He's about to catch away the Church, and when He does we're going to be unified, glorified and ready to go.

Now, you might wonder, *How are we going to get that way? With so many different denominations disagreeing and arguing with one another, how is the Church ever going to come together?*

By the Spirit of God. He's the One who's been sent to unite us, and even if it looks impossible from a natural perspective, He is up to the job.

The Holy Spirit has the ability to reveal to believers all over this planet the truth of God's Word and bring us all into agreement with it. He can cause every one of us to see the same thing in the Scriptures. He lives on the inside of us as our own private tutor, and He can make the Word of God so plain to us that, as we give our attention to it, we think more and more like God thinks!

That's really the bottom line, isn't it? It doesn't matter what we think. It doesn't matter what our denomination thinks. It matters what God thinks. He's not going to change His thoughts to accommodate us and our denomination. He's going to change our thoughts to align with His so that when Jesus comes He can present us to Himself the way Ephesians 5:27 describes us—as "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing"!

A glorious church isn't just a wonderful church. It's a church where the glory of God is manifested. It's a church where God's power flows so freely that lives are transformed, crippled legs are made strong, cancer disappears, and demonic spirits leave people's minds and bodies.

A glorious church is a church where God's presence is revealed in signs and wonders and visible demonstrations of miracle-working power that people can see!

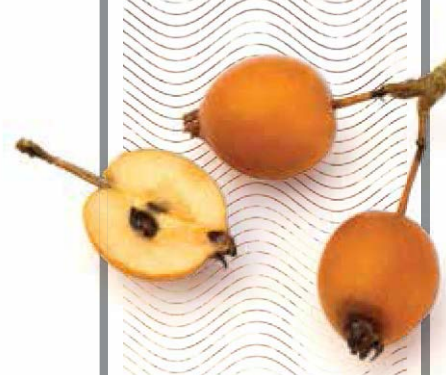
What We Believe Determines What Happens

Truth be told, that's the kind of church God has always wanted. He started the Church on the day of Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and signs, wonders and miracles; and He made every provision for those things to continue in full force. They would have, too, if it had all been up to God. But it's not just up to Him. It's also up to us.

What happens in the Church is what the Church believes for!

When we believe for healing to manifest in our midst, healing manifests. When we believe for people to be filled with the Holy Spirit, people are filled. When we believe we can do the works of Jesus, we do them.

The Church is heading toward the finish line and we need to believe God for everything He's promised! We don't have time anymore to sit around just remembering the great miracles and outpourings of the Spirit that happened in the past. We can't be content to wait passively for the Church to be filled with God's glory some day in the distant future. The hour is late. We need to rise up in boldness right now and declare, as Jesus did in Luke 4:18-21: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to



1 The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is about to come into "the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:13). God is bringing it to pass; and He's called you to be part of it. Here are some points to get you there:

1 As you read the Word, let the Holy Spirit reveal its meaning to you so you can think more like God thinks.
John 14:26

2 Stir up your faith to believe for God's power and glory to manifest in your life.
2 Corinthians 3:18

3 Believe and declare that today is the day of God's miracle-working power.
Luke 4:21

4 Expect to do the works of Jesus just as He said you would.
John 14:12

5 Make it your purpose every day to destroy the devil's works and minister life to people everywhere you go.
1 John 3:8

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.... *This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*"

Those are exciting words, aren't they? Yet when Jesus first said them in Nazareth people got offended. They weren't ready to believe for Scripture to be fulfilled in their day. "We believe God moved in the past," they said. "We believe He'll move in the future. But we're not going to start expecting Him to do supernatural things right now!"

For many years, the contemporary Church took the same attitude. Preachers and congregations alike relegated the fulfillment of God's plan to another generation or a different

the gospel. They thought the plan of Redemption was only designed to keep people out of hell.

But that's not the plan God had throughout the ages! He doesn't just want to keep people out of hell. His plan is to have a family. He wants spiritual sons and daughters He can fellowship with on His own level who will do His will on earth as it's done in heaven. He wants sons and daughters who will walk in His BLESSING and reign in this life just like He would if He was here in full manifestation.

Only One Restriction

That's been God's will from the very beginning. It's what He had in His heart when He created Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden. As Genesis 1:27-28 says, "God created man in

Adam was this: "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Even after giving him that command, however, God let Adam choose. He let him decide whether or not he would obey.

God didn't force Adam to do anything because He didn't want him to be a slave. He wanted him to be a son. He wanted him to serve God of his own free will and to only know good and never know evil. But Adam made the wrong choice. He sinned. He disobeyed God, bowed his knee to the devil, and opened the door to spiritual death. He lost THE BLESSING and the glory of God, brought the curse upon all mankind, and let the devil steal God's family.

How did God respond? He immediately went to work to get His family back! Right there in the Garden of Eden He said to the serpent, the devil, who had tempted Eve, "Because you have done this, you are cursed.... And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:14-15, *New King James Version*).

From that moment on, God began working toward the day when He could once again have sons and daughters on earth who were made in His image and filled with His glory. That was His plan. It was His will, and because He never changes, even though it would cost Him a dear price He intended to see it come to pass.

I'm telling you—the patience of God is something to behold! For thousands of years He worked...and worked...and worked on the plan of Redemption. All through the Old Testament He said through His prophets again and again, "There's One coming who will pay the price to get My family back!" When at last the stage was set, the Spirit of God hovered over a young woman named Mary and caused Jesus to be conceived.

Jesus came not only as the Son of God but as the Son of Man! Setting aside His rights as divinity, He operated as a man throughout His life on earth because it's

WE'RE NOT JUST HANGING AROUND ON EARTH WAITING TO GO TO HEAVEN WHEN WE DIE. WE'RE HERE TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.

dispensation. But in recent years a wonderful change has been taking place. More and more believers have started expecting the Scripture to be fulfilled in our day. We've started expecting God to move among us now and change us into the image of Jesus, "from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18)!

Why did it take so long for the Church as a whole to expect this?

One reason is because for a long time people didn't know anything about it. All they'd been taught was that if they believed on Jesus they'd go to heaven when they died. For years, that's all preachers preached because they thought that was the sole purpose of

his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...."

By making Adam in His image, God made Adam as much like Himself as it was possible for Adam to be. He clothed him in divine glory and breathed into his spirit His own *zoe*, eternal life. Adam looked like God, inside and out. He had the same power in his spirit that God had. He had authority on earth just as God had authority in heaven. God gave him dominion and put the rulership of earth into his hands.

The only restriction God put on

▶ bonus video

Watch as Gloria Copeland explains how God has given you the power to resist fear and live a stress-free life.

the only way He could undo what had happened through Adam's fall. A man had given God's family over to the devil by committing spiritual treason, and a man had to get it back.

That's why there had to be a virgin birth. It wasn't so we could sing Christmas carols about it. It was so that, as One born of a woman, Jesus would have authority on earth; and as One fathered by God, He could redeem us from the curse of sin.

The Perfect Picture of God's Plan

During Jesus' earthly ministry He gave us a perfect picture of God's will for His family. "I seek not mine own will," He said, "but the will of the Father which hath sent me.... I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.... The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 5:30, 8:28, 14:10).

Every word Jesus said and every work He did reflected the heart of His heavenly Father. That's the reason He never refused to heal anyone. It's the reason He never prayed, "Lord, is it Your will for this person to be healed, or do You want this person to stay sick so You can teach him something?"

Some people today might pray that way but Jesus never said anything even remotely like that. On the contrary! When multitudes came to Him, suffering with every imaginable sickness and disease, He healed them all because He understood that sickness is an enemy of God. It's part of the curse that came on mankind as a result of sin. It's a work of the devil who comes to steal, kill and destroy.

First John 3:8 says, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil," and Jesus fulfilled His purpose at every opportunity. Anytime anyone opened the door to Him by believing He was anointed of God, He destroyed Satan's works. He undid the effects of the law of sin and death and brought people abundant life.

When Jesus came to earth it was as if God had created Adam all over again. He was the fulfillment of what God

originally intended for His family to be. Just as in Genesis when man was first created, Jesus was born in the image of God. He had on the inside of Him the same life that God first breathed into Adam. That life was so powerful that if someone just touched His garment in faith, it would drive sickness and disease right out of their body.

"But Gloria," you might say, "that was 2,000 years ago. What does it have to do with God's plan for the Church today?"

It has everything to do with it! As believers, we've been re-created in God's image so that spiritually we're just like Jesus. We're filled with the same Holy Spirit that filled Him. We have the life of God in our earthly bodies just as He had God's life in His earthly body, so the same power that flowed through Him can flow through us.

That's what the laying on of hands is all about. Jesus said we as believers "shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:18). He said the life and the Word of God will not only be made health and healing to our own flesh, it will go into someone else's body and be made life and health to their flesh, too.

God's purpose for you and me, as His born-again sons and daughters, is the same as it was for His Firstborn. We're not just hanging around on earth waiting to go to heaven when we die. We're here to destroy the works of the devil; undo the results of sin and death; and minister life to people. We've been born into God's forever family so we can fellowship with Him, walk in His glory and do His will on earth as it's done in heaven.

I said it before and I'll say it again: God's patience is something to behold! He's been working to bring the Church into unity in the fullness of the stature of Jesus for thousands of years, and now it's about to happen. Jesus is coming soon and what God says in His Word is going to come to pass. So get ready, Church! Believe it. Expect it.

We're about to grow up together in the glory of God! ♥



The Next 35 Years!

Hey, Superkids!

I have a question for you: *Where will you be in 35 years?*

I know, you're probably thinking: *How would I know the answer to that?* And I can surely understand that. I wasn't thinking much about my future 35 years ago, either. Back in 1981, when I was 17, I had no idea I would someday become Commander Kellie. But even then, I loved kids! I never gave any thought to ever becoming a minister. And look how that turned out! Growing up, I just had such a love for people. I also had no idea I would someday be making movies but, as a kid, I was pretty dramatic!

As I think back 35 years, and remember the very first Southwest Believers' Convention, and the many lives that have been blessed and changed for the good as a result of those

meetings, I had a neat idea that I think you'll enjoy.

I'm issuing a challenge to all our Super Families to make the time to sit down and talk to each other. Kids, ask Mom and Dad: "Where were you in 1981? What interested you then?" Think about how they turned out. Were the interests they had then part of God's plan for their lives today?

And what about you, Superkid? What will you be doing 35 years from now? Talk to your parents about what you like doing today, and how the Lord might weave those things into His plan for you in the future.

Thirty-five years from now sounds like a long time, but time goes by so fast. Read Psalm 139 and realize how put together by God you really are! I can't wait to see what you and Jesus will be doing.

Exciting stuff! We'll all stay tuned! ♥



Kellie Copeland An outreach minister at Kenneth Copeland Ministries, she is the developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ.



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