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KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

# VICTORY

AUGUST 2018

## *GOD'S NOT MAD*

BY KENNETH COPELAND

## *ARE YOU READY FOR HIS CALL?*

BY JEREMY PEARSONS

***BARRY TUBBS*** WAS A "BAD BOY" FROM MARKED TREE, ARKANSAS, WHO HAD VIEWED CHRISTIANS AS WEAK PEOPLE WHO NEEDED A CRUTCH TO GET THROUGH LIFE. HIS ROAD TO KCM, AND A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH KENNETH COPELAND, WAS NOT SOMETHING HE SAW COMING.

*by Melanie Hemry*

# PREPARING THE WAY

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P.26

*"As you believe, speak and do what He says, the kingdom of God on the inside of you starts coming out and changing the elements around you."*

# AUG


**4** **God's Not Mad**
by Kenneth Copeland
God poured out all His anger for man's sin—past, present and future—on Jesus. Through the blood of Jesus, we are righteous and holy and loved by our heavenly Father.

**14** **Preparing the Way**
by Melanie Hemry
Over the past 35 years, Barry Tubbs has served in several positions at KCM. Most notable is that he does for Kenneth and Gloria Copeland a version of what John the Baptist did for Jesus. Traveling to various venues around the world ahead of the Copelands, Barry prepares the way by arranging everything needed for the meetings they conduct. A bad boy who hailed from the wrong side of the tracks in Marked Tree, Ark., Barry's road to KCM, and a close working relationship with Brother Copeland, was not something he ever saw coming.

**19** **Are You Ready for His Call?**
by Jeremy Pearsons
If you're sincere about following Jesus, then you can't look back at where you came from, where you were once comfortable, or what used to keep you safe. Instead, look to Jesus...He'll be your guide and your safety net!

**23** **Where's the Power?**
by Kenneth Copeland
In the early Church, Jesus' disciples electrified the world by healing the sick, raising the dead and casting out demons. Today, we should be doing the same and even greater things, in Jesus' Name.

**26** **Press On!**
by Gloria Copeland
Jesus has paid the price for you to receive all THE BLESSING and authority of the kingdom of God. But it is up to you to take what is rightfully yours—it won't just fall into your lap. You must press in to claim your Kingdom inheritance!


GRACE IS HIS OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO TREAT MANKIND AS IF SIN HAD NEVER HAPPENED.

P.4

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*by Kenneth Copeland*

# GOD'S NOT MAD

***A few months ago, my grandson Jeremy Pearsons was preaching to our ministry staff about victorious faith, when he made a statement that went off in me like a rocket. He said, "Do you know what you're seeing when you watch two championship teams play for a title? You're watching masters of the basics."***

**Man, *I thought*, that's the absolute truth!**

Whether it's baseball players competing in the World Series, football players fighting it out in the Super Bowl, or golfers playing in a PGA championship tournament, the champions are always those who've focused on mastering the fundamentals of their game. They're the kind of athletes who say to their buddies when practice is over, "You guys go on back to the house if you want. I'm going to stay out here and practice another two or three hours."

That's the attitude we as believers must have when it comes to the faith life! We want to go at it like champions.

We want to be so determined to walk in the victory Jesus provided, that we do whatever it takes: We go over and over the same faith-building scriptures. We turn off the unbelieving mess on TV, and tune in to the Believer's Voice of Victory Network® or drag out our old faith tapes. We say, "I'm going to immerse myself in God's WORD. Whether I feel like it or not, I'm going to keep practicing and mastering the basics of how to walk by faith!"

Why are faith basics so important? Because everything in the Christian life depends on them. We can't get anywhere as believers without faith!

We can't get saved without it because, as Ephesians 2:8 says, "By grace are ye saved through faith."

We can't live the Christian life without it because, as Hebrews 10:38 says, "The just shall live by faith."

We can't walk with God without it because, as 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight."

We can't win spiritual battles without it because, as 1 Timothy 6:12 says, it's a "good fight of faith."

We can't please God without it because, as Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

We can't receive the fulfillment of God's promises in our lives without it because, as Romans 4:16 says, "It is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed."

According to that last scripture, it's by faith we receive God's grace. So, where there's no faith, there's no grace. That's the reason you can't please God without faith. When it comes to His relationship with man, grace is what God is all about!

What exactly is *grace?*

This is the working definition God gave me: Grace is His overwhelming desire to treat mankind as if sin had never happened. In other words, it's His desire to restore us to the way things were in the Garden of Eden.

Eden reflected God's original plan for mankind. It included everything good and nothing that was bad. It was a place where man could enjoy unhindered fellowship with God and walk in the

***"Grace is His overwhelming desire to treat mankind as if sin had never happened."***

## POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1. Everything in the Christian life depends on faith, and faith operates on the foundation of love. Galatians 5:6
2. God proved how much He loves you when He sent Jesus to die for your sins. 1 John 4:9
3. All the wrath God had over sin was put on Jesus the moment He went to the cross. Isaiah 54:8
4. God swore an oath never to be angry with you. Isaiah 54:9
5. God doesn't want you to remind Him of your sins; He wants you to remind yourself of His WORD so He can BLESS you. Isaiah 43:25

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fullness of His BLESSING. A place full of joy and love where God and His family could be together and have a wonderful time.

I remember an experience I had a few years ago that gave me a sense of what Eden must have been like. I was sitting in a meeting, waiting to preach, and from the platform I was watching the people in the congregation. They were all praising God and enjoying His presence. Everyone was singing, jumping up and down, shouting, and getting happy.

Suddenly, I heard The LORD speak to me as plain as can be. *If it hadn't been for sin,* He said, *I never would have had a serious thought!*

I realized when I heard that, God isn't somber by nature like most people think. He's joyful and likes to have fun. If it had just been up to Him, life on earth would have been one big Garden of Eden party.

But satan got in and messed things up. He pulled his stupid stunt that Adam and Eve fell for, forfeiting THE BLESSING and opening the door to the curse. That didn't change God's original desire, though. He still wanted to treat us like sin never existed, and He had a plan that would allow Him to do it. His plan of Redemption would put us right back in the middle of His BLESSING and satisfy His great big heart of love.

Understanding that love, is part of mastering the basics of faith. Since "faith…worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6), the more you know about and believe the love God has for you, the stronger the foundation of your faith will be.

**Forget Feelings, Believe The WORD!**

"Yeah, but Brother Copeland, that's exactly where I struggle. I have a hard time feeling like God really loves me. Given all the times I've sinned and fallen short, I feel like He must be mad at me."

Then stop believing your feelings and start believing God's WORD. According to The WORD, God loves you so much He wiped out all your sins. He put them on Jesus when He went to the cross and poured out on Him all His wrath about sin. He got rid of all His anger about it so that He could say to you what He's wanted to say to mankind all along:

With great mercies will I gather thee…. with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; ***so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee,*** nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee (Isaiah 54:7-10, emphasis mine).

God isn't mad at you over your sin! He couldn't be. He left all His wrath about it at the cross. He doesn't have any more. All He has for you now is mercy.

What's more, He wants you to know it! He wants you to be able to rest so completely in the fact that He'll never be angry with you, He settled it in an oath that's as irrevocable as the oath He swore to Noah after the Flood. You remember that one. It was instituted after the flood waters had receded. God said to Noah and his sons:

I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And…This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth (Genesis 9:11-16).

Talk about a strong, unrelenting covenant! That one so marked the consciousness of mankind, most people still know about it today. You can go into any church anywhere and ask the question, "Is God ever going to destroy the earth again with a flood?" and everyone in the congregation will get the answer

right. They'll respond with a resounding, unequivocal, "No!"

As Christians, we ought to respond that same way if someone even dares to imply that God might be mad at us about something. Without even having to think about it we ought to say, "No way! God will never be mad at me. The LORD Jesus, Commander in Chief and LORD Advocate General of the Body of Christ, has given me His WORD on it. He swore to me, as He swore that the waters of Noah would no more go over the earth, that He would never be angry with me!"

**What God Doesn't Want to Remember**

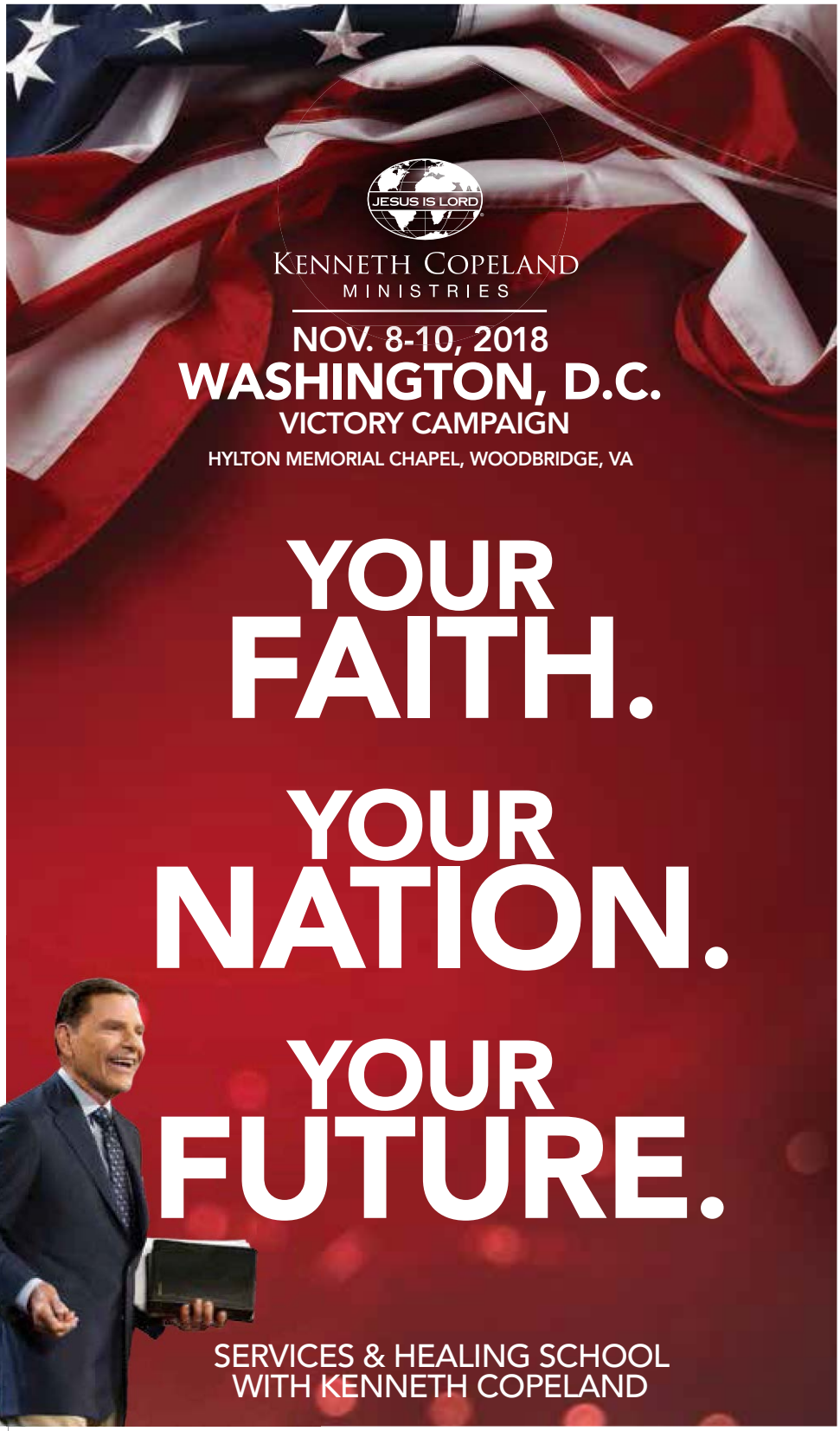
Sadly, however, a lot of believers don't have that kind of certainty. They think God is irritated with them and likely to punish them. They're afraid that if they do something wrong, rather than wanting them to receive His mercy, God is more inclined to smite them with the curse.

"But Brother Copeland, isn't there actually some scripture for those ideas? Isn't the last part of Deuteronomy 28 all about God smiting people with the curse?"

No, that's not what Deuteronomy 28 is about! It's about God telling His Old Covenant people how to walk in THE BLESSING. It's God saying, "If you'll listen to Me and do what I say, all these BLESSINGS will come upon you and overtake you."

It does have some serious warnings in the last part of the chapter. Starting in verse 15, God did tell them that if they refused to listen to Him and stubbornly insisted on living in disobedience, the curse would overtake them. But He didn't have to smite them with it. Because of the devil and Man's Fall, the curse is already out there. All the Israelites had to do was get out from under God's protection, and—wham!—there it would be.

The curse wasn't what He desired for them, though, and it's certainly not His desire for us! He sent Jesus to redeem us from the curse, so THE BLESSING could come on us. He reinstated the Eden plan by washing away our sin with the blood of Jesus, so that He could say to us: "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and

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**Questions & Answers**

**by Kenneth Copeland**

# Q: In what way is the Holy Spirit my helper?

**A:** Romans 8:26 reads like this: "Likewise the Spirit also *helpeth* our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

John 15:26, in *The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* refers to the Holy Spirit as the Comforter, Counselor, *Helper,* Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthener and Standby.

The Holy Spirit comes to our aid. He is our Helper. He will help us overcome any weakness of the mind or body by making intercession for us according to the will of God.

When you don't know how to pray as you ought concerning a situation, allow the Holy Spirit to be your Helper. Let Him take hold together with you and see to it that The WORD of God comes to pass. He will lead and guide you in prayer and you will be confident that The WORD is mightily at work.

No matter how big satan makes a mountain look, the faith of God always works. It merely has to be applied (Mark 11:22-24). As you speak God's WORD in faith, that WORD will remove any size mountain and stop the attack of satan.

You can build yourself up on your most holy faith by praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 20). Your faith and the Holy Spirit of God dwelling within you as your Helper will cause you to be victorious in every area of your life.

The following is a prayer of commitment to allow the Holy Spirit to be your Helper.

"Father, in Jesus' Name, I see from Your WORD that the Holy Spirit, the Greater One who indwells me, is my Helper. I recognize His vital part in my prayer life and as I intercede, I acknowledge the importance of allowing Him to take hold together with me.

"I am willing to be a vessel unto honor, fit and ready for Your use.

"I will to yield my members as instruments of righteousness. I will to present my body a living sacrifice to You, Father, that the Holy Spirit can flow through, so He can work to bring the will of God to pass.

"I ask You, Holy Spirit, to take hold together with me in prayer. When I don't know how to pray as I ought, I ask You to be my Helper. Lead and guide me, instruct me as I intercede. The WORD I speak in faith will cause the perfect will of God to come to pass.

"In Jesus' Name. Amen."

will not remember thy sins. Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified [Or in other words: Repent of your sins and receive the forgiveness I've provided for you.]" (Isaiah 43:25-26).

The first few times I read those verses they puzzled me. I couldn't figure out why they say that God blotted out our sins for *His sake.* It seemed obvious to me that He did it for our sake. When I asked Him about it, He said, *Kenneth, do you want to remember bad stuff about your children?*

"No, of course not," I replied.

*Well, neither do I,* He said. *I don't want to remember My children's sins. I want to be reminded of My WORD. That's why I put your transgressions on Jesus. I did it for My own sake because if I remember your sins I can't BLESS you.*

"Well," someone might say, "God might not have the same attitude toward me He has toward you, Brother Copeland. I've done some really bad things."

Maybe so. But, then, so did Steven Moran, and God had nothing but love and mercy for him. A serial killer who'd murdered 21 people, I baptized Steven in the Bexar County Jail in San Antonio, Texas.

He'd gotten born again when he kidnapped a woman who happened to be a KCM Partner. He'd held her hostage at gunpoint for hours in her car and repeatedly threatened to kill her, but her response had stopped him.

"Steven, you're not going to kill me," she said. "You're not going to kill the only person who ever loved you."

He told her to shut up, and she promised to be quiet if he'd let her listen to the car's cassette player. He agreed, and she put in a tape of one of my messages. When I finished preaching, she turned off the tape player, and he heard Jesus speak to him from the back seat of the car. *Steven, this is your last chance, son,* He said.

He turned around to see who was talking, but no one was there. "Who was that?" he asked Marty.

"Steven, that was Jesus," she told him.

He believed her and got saved that day. A few hours later he surrendered to the authorities. After confessing all his crimes to the police, he ultimately waived his right to appeal, and chose to spend his last years in prison praying, praising God and winning everyone on death row to Jesus. I was right there when he went to be with The LORD, and the last thing he did was give me two-thumbs-up to let me know that, all the way to the end, God's grace was more than enough.

Think about that: Even though Steven had been a murderer many times over, Jesus never was mad at him…and He's not mad at you either!

He loves you with everything He is and everything He has. He loves you so much that there's nothing you could do that's so horrible it would make Him love you any less… and there's nothing you could do that's so wonderful it could make Him love you more.

He just loves you. Completely. Without reserve. Forever.

That's one of the most basic principles of faith. It's the foundation of victorious living. So, no matter how well you think you know it, keep meditating on it, my friend. Practice walking in the revelation of it. Keep gaining mastery of it and you'll live like the champion God created you to be.

# DON'T SHOOT!

*by Keith Moore*

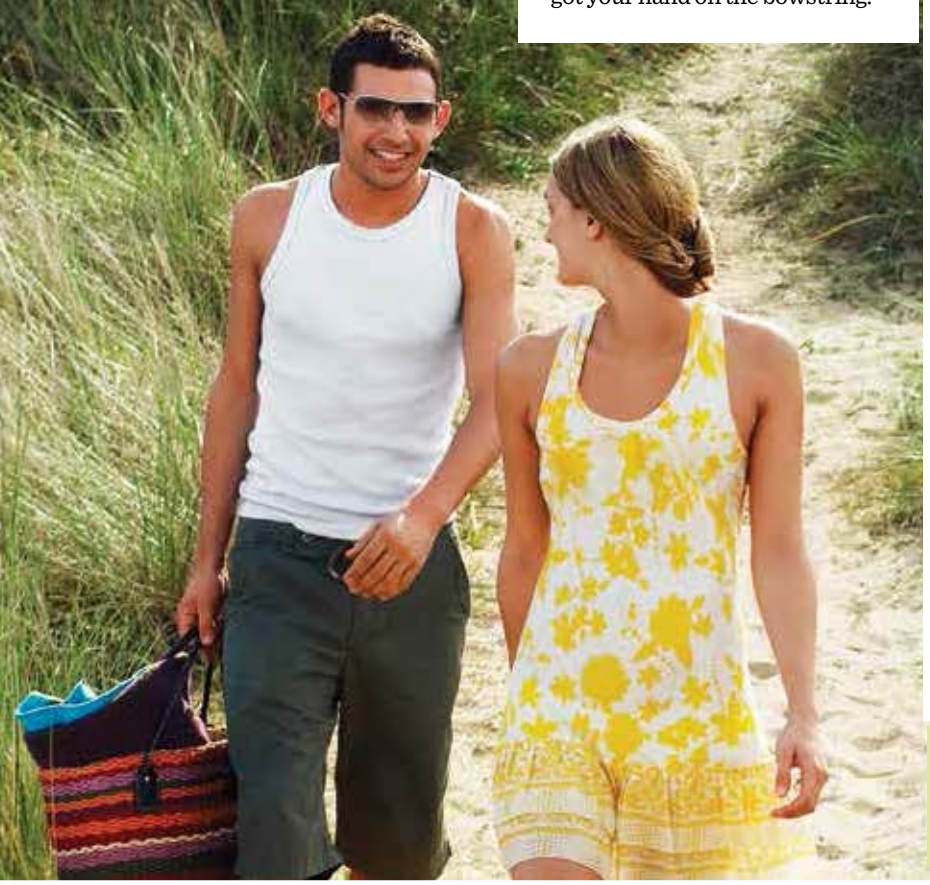
In Psalm 64:3, David compared words to arrows. The wicked, he said, "sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows" *(New International Version)*.

I was reminded of this comparison some years ago when I was given a compound bow and a set of razor-tipped arrows. Because of its power and the sharpness of the arrows, this bow is a lethal weapon. Consequently, I have to be careful how I use it.

As long as I have the bowstring in my hand, I'm in control of the arrow. But the moment I release the string, it's no longer in my control. The arrow will simply go where it was pointed. I cannot get it back or slow it down. Once I've loosed it, it's on its way to a target.

And that's exactly how words are. As long as words are in your mind and in your heart, as long as you haven't spoken them, you've got your hand on the bowstring.

**"STUDY THE EFFECT OF YOUR WORDS BEFORE YOU SPEAK, AND THEN YOU WON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THEM LATER."**



You're still in control. You can let the bow back down and not shoot at all. But if you let go of the string—speak the words—the arrow flies. There's no way you can recall words once they're spoken.

And if your words are "deadly arrows," they may do unintended harm.

Suppose I carry my bow to work some morning when I'm angry and just start shooting arrows in every direction. What happens? When I cool off and look, I see people lying all around with arrows sticking out of them.

Of course, I can run over to the nearest victim and apologize. "Oh, man, I'm sorry. I was upset about something. I didn't mean to shoot you. I wasn't even thinking about you. I wasn't aiming for you. I was just shooting. I'm sorry!"

But the trouble is—you're still shot! I can pull the arrow out and pour oil and wine on the wound, but no matter how much I apologize, I can't unsay the words that wounded you. You're still shot, and I have some idle words to give account of to God (Matthew 12:36).

We can avoid disasters like this by following the principles in God's Word. Proverbs 15:28 says, "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things." And James 1:19 tells us to be "slow to speak."

So, the next time you're tempted to "shoot off your mouth," stop and consider whether your words may become "deadly arrows." Study the effect of your words before you speak, and then you won't have to apologize for them later.

**Keith Moore** is founder and president of Moore Life Ministries and Faith Life Church in both Branson, Mo., and Sarasota, Fla. For more information or ministry materials visit moorelife.org.

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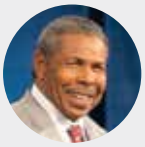
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# GoodNEWSGazette

**SURPRISE FINANCIAL INCREASE!**

God is a good God. My Father has blessed me again with another surprise of financial increase and I want to brag on Him! I receive a benefit [that was under review]. I know it was God. He had a specific person set for me who helped me a lot, and when I was answering the questions, she said, "We owe you money! Besides that, you're getting a raise." It's an increase of almost half what I was making. Praise the Lord! My back pay will be paid out in two lump sums—at least $5,000. It's amazing that I would get this bonus! I started crying and praising God right there. God is so wonderful. Psalm 138:8. Thank you!

Violet P. | Texas

**YOU STOOD WITH US!**

In December I contacted the ministry to stand in faith with my husband and me for a miracle. We sowed a seed that the Lord had led us to sow and stood on scriptures the Lord had given us. We needed a $9,000 miracle. Feb. 14, 2018, this miracle came to pass and our bill for $9,000 was paid in full. Praise the Lord! We are so thankful for the ministry of KCM and EMIC and the fruit that abounds from them. To God be the glory! Thank you all so much for standing in faith with us. This has forever changed our lives.

Stephani T. | Jamestown, Tenn.

**'NO CANCER CELLS'**

Praise the Lord! My wife's last MRI brain scan came back not only showing no new cancer cells, it showed no cancer cells at all. Her doctor said they do not see results like this. We know it is the Lord. Thank you for your prayers. R.S. | Strasburg, Ohio

## Putting Her Words to Work

Gloria, as I am studying from your *Put Your Words to Work* guide, I stopped on Day 10, "Talk, Talk, Talk." This has been such a powerful and eye-opening study. The most important thing I have learned through this is to use patience as a weapon against the enemy. What a life-giving truth! Thank you for putting this study guide together! Praise God! Mary R. | Gloucester, Va.

Sow a copy forward to someone you know!

(U.S. only)

**THANK YOU!**

I had cried out to God for direction when I felt spiritually dry and there seemed to be nowhere to turn. My instructions were simple: Follow Kenneth Copeland's ministry. As a result, that is what I have done. For 11 years you have poured into me such a wealth of teaching, prayers and love. I am so grateful and thankful for all the infallible Word you have sown into me to make this deliverance possible. Thank you for your persistence in preaching, teaching and sowing into my life and literally thousands of others here and around the world. I pray you will continue to reap a great harvest of souls and that you receive testimonies of deliverance from demonic oppression, sickness and disease as you continue to be faithful to God in His assignment for your lives.

**"Gloria is right, in consistency lies the power."**

Thanks to all of you pastors and teachers at EMIC for your faithfulness in teaching the Word. May our God richly bless each and every one. I love you all in the Lord and am extremely blessed to be a part of the ministry of Kenneth Copeland.

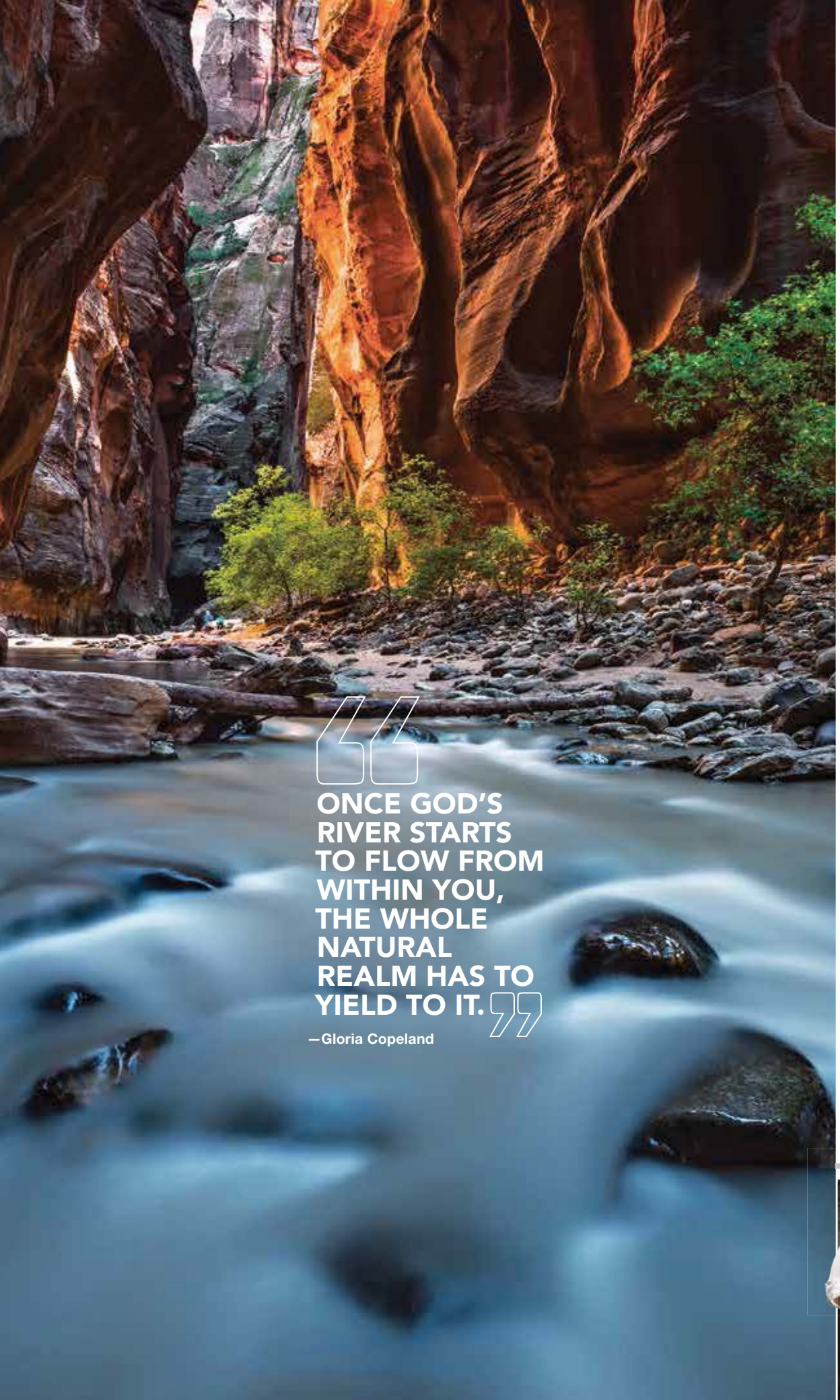
Betty S. | Plainview, Texas

**'I KEPT REMEMBERING KELLIE COPELAND'S TESTIMONY'**

My family was on holiday last November. On our last day, we rushed my 8-year-old son to the emergency room. He was suffering with headaches and was suddenly unable to speak properly! He was diagnosed with meningitis. My husband and I immediately refused that diagnosis. A lumbar puncture was performed. But, my boy only got worse. He was now not speaking at all. It was the most heart-wrenching time of our lives! I kept remembering Kellie Copeland's testimony of how God restored her daughter from meningitis.

We listened to Gloria Copeland's *God Wants You Well*, 24/7. It was music to my ears. No matter how many times I listened to it, each time I would hear something new that fed my faith and renewed my hope. My son was unresponsive for two days...but God! Our great and mighty God has completely restored my boy! He is healed, whole, undamaged, complete and intact, as Gloria would say. This has since become my declaration for myself and my family. I praise and thank God for our miracle. I thank KCM for teaching me the power of my words, and the power of God and His Word. God bless you all.

Avril N. | South Africa



> ONCE GOD'S RIVER STARTS TO FLOW FROM WITHIN YOU, THE WHOLE NATURAL REALM HAS TO YIELD TO IT.
>
> —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.

## *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!
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Ruby M., prayer minister

*by*
*Melanie*
*Hemry*

# PREPARING THE WAY

**ON APRIL 4, 1968, 25-YEAR-OLD BARRY TUBBS LEFT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE WHOLESALE PAPER COMPANY IN AN INDUSTRIAL AREA OF MEMPHIS, TENN., WHERE HE WAS TRAINING FOR A NEW JOB. A WARM BREEZE RUFFLED HIS HAIR AS HE CLIMBED INTO HIS 1961 WHITE LINCOLN CONTINENTAL.**

**AFTER WORK, BARRY AND SOME OF THE GUYS MET AT A BEER JOINT FOR DRINKS AND TO PLAY SHUFFLEBOARD. IT WAS A DUMP IN A BAD PART OF TOWN, BUT THE BEER WAS COLD AND THE MUSIC LOUD.**

Barry parked his Lincoln across the street from the bar where a Budweiser® sign sagged in the window. On the second floor, above the bar, was a weary-looking flophouse with a bathroom at the end of the hallway, with a view of the Lorraine Motel behind it.

Barry stepped inside the bar, blinking against the dim light. One of his buddies fed coins into the jukebox, and strains of The Beatles singing "Hey Jude" made the seedy place seem a little more uptown.

Barry started a tab, then joined one of his friends in a game of shuffleboard.

Memphis seemed a lifetime away from the small town of Marked Tree, Ark., where he was born. He lived there with his grandmother after his dad had been deployed in World War II. To make ends meet, his mother had moved to Memphis to work. Following his dad's death at Normandy, Barry had remained with his grandmother in Marked Tree. When he was 7, his mother remarried, leaving him with his grandmother. The two lived in a shack next to the railroad track, with no telephone, television or indoor plumbing.

Although racism had been alive and well in Marked Tree, Barry hadn't experienced it. A Native American, his grandmother didn't own a Bible or go to church, but she believed in God and had strong opinions about the way a boy should be raised. Since African-American children lived just the other side of the tracks, they were Barry's closest friends and playmates. His grandmother encouraged those friendships.

While racism had not been allowed in their home back then, the nation seethed with unrest over it. Barry had long rejected belief in God. As far as he was concerned, Christians were no more than weak people who couldn't make it through life without a crutch. Still, God or no God, some things were just wrong. Racism was one of those things.

### A Powder Keg

Without warning, the front door to the bar swung open. A man stood in the doorway holding a revolver.

"Don't anybody leave!" he shouted.

"We had no idea what was happening," Barry recalls. "I looked out the window and saw a swarm of policemen with guns and rifles surrounding my car. Their staging area was right across the street, and they were using my car for cover. I had visions of my Lincoln being riddled with bullet holes."

As soon as the bar's customers were free to leave, Barry got in his car and high-tailed it to Arkansas, barely escaping the citywide lockdown. It was some time later before Barry learned what had happened.

The Lorraine Motel was behind the bar, across the street. And the activity centered on civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had come to Memphis in support of a sanitation workers' strike.

Dr. King, who was staying at the motel, had just been shot and killed.

"We learned a man who was later identified as James Earl Ray had taken a position in the bathroom above the bar," Barry explained. "At around 6 o'clock that evening, while we had been drinking and having a good time, Dr. King had stepped out onto the balcony of his motel room. James Earl Ray assassinated him with a single shot.

"When they surrounded us, the police thought the assassin might still be in the building, but he was gone," Barry recalled.

"In the aftermath, the FBI interviewed everyone in the bar at least twice," Barry said. Subsequently, Ray was captured and arrested.

While race riots broke out in 62 cities across the nation following King's assassination, Memphis became a powder keg. It was enough to cause Barry to decide to move back to Arkansas.

"The country was being torn apart by racism, and my life was a mess," he said.

In truth, Barry's life was no different from what it had been before he left Arkansas years earlier.

"I lived with my grandmother until I was 13," he recalled. "When she couldn't take care of me any longer, I was sent to live with my mother, stepfather and two half siblings. It was a challenge adapting to a family. I needed a male influence, but that didn't mean I liked it. They were Baptists and took me to church. I liked the social part, but the spiritual part didn't take with me. I finally graduated from high school, but I had no idea what to do with my life."

### Majoring in the Wrong Thing

Through the War Orphans Act, which exempted him from military service because he was the sole surviving son, Barry received educational assistance to attend the University of Arkansas. Although he declared engineering as his major, Barry admits his true major was in fraternity life. His grades tanked, and he changed majors so many times he ran out of money and had to return home.

The drinking and partying continued. And even after his stepfather, himself a former alcoholic, kicked him out, Barry still refused to change his lifestyle. For a while, he lived out of his car and did whatever it took to survive.

Attempting to get his life back on track, Barry enrolled at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Still living in Marked Tree, he drove back and forth to classes. But the partying continued, and Barry was constantly getting into trouble. Toward the end of the spring semester, he was called into the dean's office at the school.

"You have 193 credit hours but no degree," the dean told him.

Then, he gave Barry two choices:

"If you take some additional courses this summer," the dean said, "you can graduate. Or, you can refuse to take the courses and just leave. Either way, you

## AUG READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

| | | Old Testament | New Testament |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wed | 1 | Neh. 1-3 | 2 Cor. 4 |
| Thu | 2 | Neh. 4-6 | 2 Cor. 5 |
| Fri | 3 | Neh. 7 | 2 Cor. 6 |
| Sat | 4 | Neh. 8-9 | |
| Sun | 5 | Ps. 90-92; Prov. 19:18-29 | |
| Mon | 6 | Neh. 10-11 | 2 Cor. 7 |
| Tue | 7 | Neh. 12-13 | 2 Cor. 8 |
| Wed | 8 | Est. 1-2 | 2 Cor. 9 |
| Thu | 9 | Est. 3-5 | 2 Cor. 10 |
| Fri | 10 | Est. 6-8 | 2 Cor. 11 |
| Sat | 11 | Est. 9-10 | |
| Sun | 12 | Ps. 93-96; Prov. 20:1-15 | |
| Mon | 13 | Job 1-2 | 2 Cor. 12 |
| Tue | 14 | Job 3-5 | 2 Cor. 13 |
| Wed | 15 | Job 6-8 | Gal. 1 |
| Thu | 16 | Job 9-11 | Gal. 2 |
| Fri | 17 | Job 12-15 | Gal. 3 |
| Sat | 18 | Job 16-19 | |
| Sun | 19 | Ps. 97-101; Prov. 20:16-30 | |
| Mon | 20 | Job 20-23 | Gal. 4 |
| Tue | 21 | Job 24-29 | Gal. 5 |
| Wed | 22 | Job 30-32 | Gal. 6 |
| Thu | 23 | Job 33-36 | Eph. 1 |
| Fri | 24 | Job 37-39 | Eph. 2 |
| Sat | 25 | Job 40-42 | |
| Sun | 26 | Ps. 102-103; Prov. 21:1-15 | |
| Mon | 27 | Eccl. 1-4 | Eph. 3 |
| Tue | 28 | Eccl. 5-8 | Eph. 4 |
| Wed | 29 | Eccl. 9-12 | Eph. 5 |
| Thu | 30 | Songs 1-4 | Eph. 6 |
| Fri | 31 | Songs 5-8 | Phil. 1 |

won't be coming back here in the fall."

Although the classes he needed began at 7:30 in the morning, Barry completed the requirements and graduated in 1968.

"I had no work ethic at all," Barry admits. "I hired on to different jobs, but I didn't actually *do* anything. I was like a nice display window, with nothing in the warehouse.

"I couldn't keep a job until I went to work for Winthrop Rockefeller during his campaign for governor of Arkansas. It was nonstop partying. Rockefeller financed the booze, provided free barbecue and hosted people like Johnny Cash. He won the election, which meant my party was over. I wasn't political, but I liked the benefits of working in politics and wanted to find a similar position."

Sue and Barry Tubbs, 1969

***"When Sue's mother received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, it was Kenneth Copeland who prayed with her. That event changed the lives of our family forever. We wouldn't be who we are without this ministry."***

**Finding a Wife**

The imposing dome of the Arkansas State Capitol building stood tall against a sapphire sky as Barry jogged up the steps. Inside, he saw Susie Brishin walking through the rotunda. Barry knew Susie from when they were both students at Arkansas State. Back then, he would have never considered asking her out on a date. He had a well-earned reputation as a bad boy, and it was well-known that Susie was born again. *Very* born again.

Now she worked for the secretary of state.

Despite his past, Barry decided he would ask Susie to go out with him.

Turning on the charm, he persevered until finally she agreed.

Barry and Susie went on a date the following Monday. Then, the two went out again on Tuesday. When Barry took Susie out for a third time—on Wednesday—he proposed. To his surprise and amazement, she accepted.

Though his proposal was sincere, it came with one caveat: "If we get married, I've got to be No. 1 in your life," Barry told Susie. "There can be nothing or no one else except me."

"I'm sorry, but I can't do that," Susie replied.

"Why *not?*"

"Because Jesus has first place in my life."

"*Jesus?* What does He have to do with this?"

Barry was angry, but he realized the only way to get Susie to marry him was to agree to her terms.

"I was agnostic," Barry says. "Totally self-centered. A mixed-up guy who spouted Socrates and humanism. Susie was not only a Christian, her family was Baptist, and her dad, Eldon, was a deacon in the church.

"We married in February 1969, and things didn't go well from the beginning. Susie worked during the day, and I ran a beer joint all night. We never saw one another. I lied…*a lot.* Her parents had me figured out.

"Susie's parents were friends with Johnny and Suzanne Best, a couple who were close with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland," Barry recalled.

"One day Suzanne invited Sue's mother, Wilra, to a meeting. Wilra came home baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Sue's whole family was horrified. They wanted no part of it. Meanwhile, Suzanne and Wilra decided to take me on as a prayer project. They met regularly to pray for me. Sue began talking to me about God and would even leave her Bible lying open to John 3:16.

"I felt pressured, and I resented it, so I came up with a plan to solve the problem. I agreed to attend a service with Sue during a revival. I walked down the aisle and pretended to become a Christian. Everyone shook my hand, but of course there was no heart change because I didn't mean it."

**One Last Opportunity**

That night, however, Barry woke up in the middle of the night in excruciating pain. Every muscle in his body contracted in a spasm, pulling him into a fetal position. He had lost total control of his body, unable to move so much as a finger.

What was happening? He hadn't been sick.

If he had the ability to move, his body would have been shaking with fear. Was he going to be this way for the rest of his life? Barry wondered.

Suddenly, a vision opened before him.

A light…and a Presence.

Barry knew right away it was the One he had mocked and pretended to believe in—the One whose very existence he had denied.

The Presence didn't need to introduce Himself.

*Here we are,* the Lord said. *You've rejected Me all these years. I'm giving you one last opportunity. You have two choices. You can follow Me. Or you can go your own way. This is your last opportunity.*

*OK, OK,* Barry thought, unable to even speak. *I'll receive You.*

The Presence vanished, along with the vision.

Barry lay awake, enveloped in a cocoon of divine peace the likes of which he had never experienced. In an instant, he had been changed from a hardened agnostic to a trembling believer.

But he still couldn't move.

"I wondered if I was going to be paralyzed for the rest of my life," Barry recalls. "Sometime the next day, the muscle spasms stopped and I could move again. I've always called Wilra my *mother-in-love* because there was no question how much she loved me. When I could move again, I called her and told her what had happened.

Barry Tubbs serves as associate minister and director of ministerial relations and oversees the department that develops personal relationships with KCM Partner ministers and pastors, as well as with those who host Brother Copeland as a speaker.

### A Blank Slate

"I was a newborn in Christ, but my mind hadn't been renewed. My thinking hadn't changed. Sue and her family had received a lot of wrong teaching about the Holy Spirit, but I was a blank slate. There was nothing for me to unlearn."

Wilra took Barry to a Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship meeting.

"The first thing I noticed was that there were a lot of very successful businessmen," Barry remembers. "They said I needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. I *really* wanted to succeed financially. My motivation wasn't quite right, but I did it anyway. When I came home filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, Sue *wasn't* happy. But no one could deny the change in my life."

Sometime later, Wilra took Barry to another meeting—this time in Little Rock, Ark.

"It was in a small room with only about 20 to 30 people present," Barry said. "I didn't really like sermons because they were too theological. But this preacher, Kenneth Copeland, was different. He didn't sermonize so much as he said straight out what God would do for us. He also said something that I had never heard in my life. He said you could be a Christian and prosper.

"Sue eventually came around and received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. During that time, I listened to tapes, read the Bible and attended meetings. I grew up spiritually in the wonderful era of the Charismatic Renewal, listening to young ministers who would someday become generals in the faith. I studied the Word of God under Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, John Osteen, Charles Capps and Hilton Sutton. I also grew up under the ministry of Happy Caldwell. Before becoming born again while at the Grand Ole Opry, Happy had been in the wholesale liquor business, and I was one of his best customers. Happy pastored the church we attended in Little Rock."

### Financial Breakthrough

Despite their newfound life with the Lord, Barry and Sue endured financial struggles. Pregnant with their first child, Barry Jr., Sue lived with her parents while Barry drove a catering truck in Memphis and lived with an aunt.

One day, the thought occurred to Barry that if he needed more money he should get into the money business. He went to a mortgage company and applied for a job. After being trained, they sent him back to Arkansas where his job was to make loans on single-family residences.

For the first time in his life, Barry was finally making decent money—lots of it!

Barry and Sue bought a house. Then, they began buying rental properties. Along the way they began to partner with several ministries, but the primary one was Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Everything was going great until a hard recession hit in the 1970s. With interest rates rising to 20 percent, no one was borrowing money.

The Lord directed Barry and Sue to leave Little Rock and move to Tulsa, Okla. Two years later, He called Barry out of business and into ministry as crusade director for Bill Basansky, an evangelist from Ukraine. The job paid only $1,000 a month, considerably less than Barry and Sue's house payment. Suddenly, the financial problems had resurfaced. Barry and Sue sold their house. Then they sold their rental properties. Barry even sold his pride and joy: a 1965 Austin-Healey he had bought and restored.

### The Work of the Ministry

"It was a lot of fun, but hard work," Barry says of his time working with Basansky. "When I showed up for work and asked to meet my staff, someone said to me, 'Look in the mirror.' I had no clue about how a ministry worked. It was a culture shock—a learning experience! I arranged Bill's schedule and drove to the meetings with books and tapes. I set up the venue. The only help I had was through local volunteers. Bill and his wife, Bea, were wonderful people. The best part was that Sue and I knew we were right where we were supposed to be."

In 1983, Bill and Bea moved to Florida. Barry and Sue sensed that Florida was not part of God's plan for them.

"We weren't sure what was next, but we were positive about one thing: We weren't supposed to go back into business," said Barry.

Johnny and Suzanne Best were traveling with Kenneth and Gloria at the time, and Suzanne suggested to the Copelands that they talk to Barry and

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Sue. The position of associate minister was open at KCM, and Doug Neece, Gloria's brother, asked if they were interested. The ministry flew them to Indianapolis, where Kenneth and Gloria were holding a meeting.

"The first morning, the Lord spoke the same thing to both Sue and me. He said, *This is where I want you to be.*

"We had dinner with Kenneth and Gloria after the Saturday service, and flew home Sunday. Monday, I was offered the job," said Barry.

In July 1983, Barry, Sue and their two children, Barry Jr., 12, and Micah, 5, moved to Fort Worth and Barry went to work at KCM. The first meeting he attended as an employee was the 1983 Southwest Believers' Convention.

Over the years, Barry's position at KCM has varied. Many times, he oversaw a department until the person God called to fill the position was hired. In addition to serving as associate minister, he has served as head of the events and prayer departments, as well as benevolence. One assignment that has remained constant is that Barry continues to do for Kenneth and Gloria Copeland a version of what John the Baptist did for Jesus. He prepares the way, traveling to various venues ahead of the Copelands and paving the way by arranging everything needed for their meetings. On average, Barry travels 100,000 miles a year. To date, he has logged more than 3 million air miles.

Today, he serves as associate minister and director of ministerial relations, overseeing the department that develops personal relationships with KCM Partner ministers and pastors, as well as with those who host Brother Copeland as a speaker. Barry also serves as prison and military representative for Brother Copeland.

"When I came here, I had it in my heart to give 20 years of my life to this ministry," Barry remembers. "It's been 35 years and I'm still here. When Sue's mother received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, it was Kenneth Copeland who prayed with her. That event changed the lives of our family forever. We wouldn't be who we are without this ministry. This is our place, and as Keith Moore teaches—God gives you grace for your place. It gives me great joy to know that we've been faithful to our call."

# ARE YOU READY FOR HIS CALL?

by Jeremy Pearsons

*FOLLOW ME.* :: SOONER OR LATER, THIS TWO-WORD INVITATION COMES TO EVERYONE. EVERY PERSON WHO HAS EVER LIVED, AND EVERY PERSON YET TO BE BORN WILL HEAR THIS CALL FROM JESUS. HE DOESN'T RELY ON A BUNCH OF MARKETING. HE DOESN'T COERCE ANYONE. HE'S NOT TRYING TO SELL ANYTHING. HE SIMPLY SAYS, "I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE GREATEST GIFT GOD HAS EVER GIVEN: OPPORTUNITY. HERE IT IS—*FOLLOW ME.*"

He extended that invitation more than once in Scripture.

Jesus and His disciples were headed to Jerusalem when Jesus called a man He met on the road, and said to him, "'Follow Me.' But [the man] said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father'" (Luke 9:59, *New King James Version).*

Of course, Jesus said, "I understand. Family comes first. Go ahead and do what you've got to do. This opportunity is open for you any time. I'll be ready whenever you are."

No! Jesus never said that! Here's how Jesus actually responded: "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God" (verse 60).

> YOU'LL NEVER BE MORE PRODUCTIVE, EFFECTIVE OR BLESSED THAN DOING WHAT HE CALLS YOU TO DO.

Ouch.

Another man received the same call from Jesus. Notice how he responded, "'Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.' But Jesus said to him, 'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God'" (verses 61-62).

Ouch, again.

**Why Is Jesus Responding Like That?**

Jesus' responses may seem harsh, but let's take a step back and consider a passage the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy. In 2 Timothy 2:20, he wrote, "In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor."

When you read that, you may equate being a vessel of

# AUG BROADCAST CALENDAR

Kenneth Copeland

Gloria Copeland

George Pearsons

Buddy Pilgrim

David Barton

**July 30-Aug. 3**
**Faith for Our Nation: Voting on Biblical Issues**
George Pearsons, David Barton, Buddy Pilgrim

**Sun., Aug. 5**
**Your Faith Makes You Whole**
Kenneth Copeland

**Aug. 6-10**
**Stay in God's Healing Flow**
Kenneth Copeland

**Sun., Aug. 12**
**Today Is Your Day to Be Healed**
Kenneth Copeland

**Aug. 13-17**
**Living in the Overflow—Part 1**
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

**Sun., Aug. 19**
**How to Receive Your Miracle**
Kenneth Copeland

**Aug. 20-24**
**Living in the Overflow—Part 2**
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

**Sun., Aug. 26**
**Spiritual Growth Requires Daily Work**
Kenneth Copeland

**Aug. 27-31**
**Mastering the Basics of Faith**
Kenneth Copeland

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gold and silver with "being good" and being a vessel of wood and clay with "being bad." But is there really anything bad about a wooden box or clay pot? No, they're simply boxes and pots. The main difference is in *who* uses them. Vessels of gold and silver are used by the master of the house.

Now you may feel like a wooden box or clay pot, unfit for use by the Master. But you serve a God who can change you in an instant.

In the next verse, Paul wrote: "If anyone cleanses himself from the latter (dishonor), he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work" (verse 21). In other words, you can become a gold and silver vessel because "old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). You can be useful to the Lord, and guess what? He *wants* to use you.

How can I say that with certainty? Because God *loves* you! There's nothing you can do to change His love for you. You can't undo Jesus dying on the cross for you. You're simply *loved.* Period. Establish that in your heart and mind above all else. But also know this: His loving you doesn't necessarily mean He can use you. It's up to *you* to become that vessel of gold and silver, fit and prepared for His use.

Consider the two men we just read about in Luke 9.

Did Jesus love them? *Of course.*

Were the men called? Sure they were. Jesus Himself met them on the road, eye to eye, face-to-face, and said, "Follow Me." You can't get much more called than that.

But remember what the Apostle Paul said? To be a vessel used by the Master, you must be "prepared for every good work." Being prepared means being ready...ready for your calling, ready for an open door.

Those men weren't. They had other business to take care of first.

### I Missed the Boat

I understand where those men were coming from. Compared to many of the ministries featured in this magazine, Sarah and I are the new kids on the block. We're in our eighth year of ministry, and God has blessed us with extraordinary opportunities. One of those came a few years ago when my grandparents, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, who I call Papaw and Mimi, called and told us about the Believer's Voice of Victory Network®, the new television network KCM was about to launch. Papaw said, "In September we're making room for other ministers, and we want you to be part of it." It was the sort of opportunity ministries dream about.

It was July. We had two months. But when September came, we weren't ready.

In October, we didn't go on the air.

November...nothing.

December came and went.

Then January, too.

In February, the Lord woke me from my stupidity. *How long?* He asked. *I have given you an opportunity to preach on television—the thing I've called you to do—and you have not been ready. How long until you are ready?*

I knew I'd missed the call. It was time to turn things around. Sarah and I immediately lit a fire under our staff saying, "We're going on the air in April." Over the next six to eight weeks, even though we had no experience creating a broadcast, we did it, learning as we went. By April, *Legacy TV* was on the air!

But the Lord arrested me and said, *You should have been ready the day you received the invitation.*

God is so merciful. Our broadcast is on the air and seeing great results. Testimonies are coming in. But I have to reconcile the fact that I wasted seven months of opportunity. That's seven months lost of preaching, teaching and leading people in worship. Seven months lost of extending altar calls all over the world. Seven months lost of giving people the Word. Seven months lost of preaching Jesus to people from the top of the world to the bottom. Seven months of opportunity lost for people to get on board and partner with us.

All because I wasn't ready for His call.

Can you tell I know how those men on the road with Jesus felt? He said, "Follow Me," and they responded, "Lord, let me first..."

The kingdom of God is not, nor ever will be, *me* first. It's always *Kingdom first.* Those men didn't say no, but to Jesus it was the same thing.

He said, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (verse 62). In other words, "I'm here because I love you, and you heard Me call you. But if you've got

something else to do first, I can't use you. You're not fit for this. Not yet."

**A Different Reaction**

Not everyone in the Gospels responded to Jesus that way. Compare the responses of those two men to others Jesus called.

Mark 1:16 says, "As [Jesus] walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen." Casting nets is what fishermen do. They weren't fishing for a quiet afternoon of catch and release. They were trying to catch as many fish as possible, as quickly as possible.

"Then Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.' They immediately left their nets and followed Him" (verses 17-18).

What a difference! Jesus gave them His invitation, and Simon and Andrew didn't hesitate. They had their nets—their livelihood—in their hands. They depended upon their nets. But when Jesus called, they dropped them without hesitation. They didn't only leave their profession; they left the very safety that was there to catch them if they fell.

Today people tell Jesus, "I'll follow You, but let me first get more money in the bank. Let me first get my kids through school. Let me first get more givers in my congregation."

Jesus would say to that, "I love you, but there's no faith in that. I can't use you as long as you're holding on to a net." He's calling us into the deep, and He wants to be our net.

Here's another example.

"When [Jesus] had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father...and went after Him" (Mark 1:19-20).

Did you catch that detail about James' and John's nets? They had to be mended. That's the way nets are. Those things you build all your hopes and dreams on, those things you need to keep you sustained have to be regularly mended—by *you*. And if they have to be mended, that means there's something wrong with them. They're unfit. You're only as fit as what—or *who*—you put your faith in.

Just as He did to James and John, Jesus is saying to you, "Pick Me! I'll be your net! You don't ever need to fix Me. I am *forever* strong. I'm fit, and I'll make *you* fit. I'll make you someone I can use."

You may feel afraid to get out there and drop your net because you don't have anything to fall back on, but you do. You can fall into the arms of the One who called you.

**Hand to the Plow**

Now is the time for you to heed the call He has on your life. If you're sincere about following Him, then you can't look back at where you came from, where you were once comfortable or what used to keep you safe.

As we read earlier in Luke 9:62, Jesus said, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." If you're ready to have the kind of impact your heart is hungry to have, plow forward. Remember, ground must be plowed to take seed. So get yourself ready. *Live* ready. Plow the hard ground so that when God's call comes, you're ready to sow and reap. Plow so when the opportunity comes, you can drop your nets and go.

God wants people who are fit for His use and prepared for every good work. You'll never be more productive, effective or blessed than doing what He calls you to do. If you're ready, He can use you. You can be that gold and silver vessel fit for His use.

He's calling. When He says, "Follow Me," how will you answer?


**Jeremy Pearsons**

Jeremy and his wife, Sarah, are founders of Pearsons Ministries International. They travel to preach Jesus to congregations across the U.S. and around the world. For more information, visit them online at pearsonsministries.com.

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# *Victorious Christian Living*

**While ministering in the Far East in 2007,** Gloria and I met an extremely successful pastor and businessman from unusually humble beginnings. This man had started out peddling toilet paper from a bicycle truck for a living.

Now in most Western economies, that does not sound like a career with much of a future. But where this man was born and raised, you earned a living doing whatever your father did. He did what *his* father did, who did what *his* father did, and so on.

"That's what I did, and what I had planned to do the rest of my life," he told us, pointing to one of the several trikes with carrier boxes his family had used to transport and sell goods. "That's what I thought even after I found out about Jesus and made Him Lord of my life. I was satisfied, from what I'd been told, that if you made Jesus the Lord of your life, then you'd get poorer the rest of your life."

Then something happened. He found out about the Word of Faith. He got hold of our books and tapes, and some books by Kenneth Hagin, and began to learn who he really was in Christ Jesus. He found out about the privileges and rights available to him as a joint heir with Christ.

We rejoiced with him as he showed us a picture of the latest of several new homes. Today, he owns several businesses and is an overseer—or bishop—to an unknown number of churches representing more than a million people.

By every definition, he has become a prosperous man—one who has the ability to use the power of God to meet any need: spirit, soul or body.

*To prosper* means "to be able to meet any need that exists in humanity with the power of God, and meet it to overflowing abundance."

This is not an American doctrine. It is God's goodness at work. It is a law that works the same for anyone, anytime. It is THE BLESSING in action.

This powerful man of God learned to live through Christ.

—Kenneth Copeland

by Kenneth Copeland

# WHERE'S THE POWER?

*YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER.*

THAT'S WHAT JESUS SAID TO THE EARLY DISCIPLES. AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SCAN THE BOOK OF ACTS TO SEE HOW DRAMATICALLY HIS WORDS WERE FULFILLED.

**THE FIRST-CENTURY CHURCH ELECTRIFIED THE WORLD AROUND THEM.**

They healed the sick. They raised the dead. And, they cast out demons. The power of God so surrounded the Apostle Peter that members of his community actually dragged their sick into the street, in hopes that his shadow would fall on them as he passed.

*Ye shall receive power.*

Jesus has made that promise to us, too. To you, to me and to everyone who believes on Him. He has sent us out to carry on the miraculous work that He and the early Church began.

But somewhere along the way, there's been a power failure.

For years, we've tried to sweep it under our religious rug. We've given excuses. We've explained it away by saying that the age of miracles is past. We've tried to cover up our lack of power with plans and programs and activities.

But today, more and more believers are facing the problem head-on. More and more are daring to ask the question that's been secretly on our minds for years: *Where's the power?*

It's a crucial question. And the more we ask it, the more we're beginning to see that there *is* an answer. An answer that can set the Church on her feet again. An answer that, once we grasp it and apply it, will give us the ability not only to be victorious in our own lives, but to electrify the world around us once more with the glorious power of God.

In John 14, there's an urgency in His voice as Jesus speaks to His disciples. Jesus is about to go to the cross, and He's taking His last real opportunity to talk with the members of His staff before His death. He has little time left to get across to them all they need to know. He is about to put His miraculous ministry into their hands—to give them the keys to His power.

There was a seriousness about that moment that must have arrested the attention of His disciples as never before. Read carefully what Jesus said to them in verses 12-15: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Then, in verse 21, He said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

In those last precious hours before the cross, Jesus spoke to His disciples about supernatural power. He told them they would soon be able to have *whatever* they asked for in prayer. He told them He was about to make so much power available to them that they would not only be able to do the miraculous signs and wonders He had done, but they would be able to do even greater things.

Jesus also told them exactly how to keep that power operating in their lives. He gave them a three-part power package that will work for us as surely as it worked for those first disciples. It's a package with three inseparable elements, none of which will work without the others. It's a package that provides a sure solution to the supernatural power failure so many believers are facing today.

**Part 1: Keeping the Commands**

The first, and perhaps most obvious part of this three-part power package is

the Name of Jesus. He said, "If ye shall ask any thing *in my name, I will do it"* (verse 14). But I don't want to begin there. The reason is simple. Most believers try to use that part without the other two, and they fall flat on their spiritual faces. So, let's look first at verse 15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Most of us know that scripture well. But few realize it is one of the precious keys without which we can never unlock the power of God.

You see, when Jesus said, "Keep my commandments," He wasn't just encouraging His disciples to be good. He was letting them know if they wanted the power to receive whatever they asked for in prayer, if they wanted the power to work wonders as He did, they were going to have to meet some conditions. They were going to have to do the things He had commanded them to do.

In other words, Jesus was saying to them, "Boys, there's power in My Name. And if you'll keep My commandments, that Name will get you anything you ask for. But if you don't keep My commandments, My Name won't work for you."

The same thing is true for us today. If we will keep the commandments of Jesus, His Name will release tremendous, miracle-working power when we say it. If we don't, it won't. It's that simple.

As Jesus continued to speak to His disciples that day, He drove that point home again and again. In John 15:7, He said: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." In verse 10, He told them, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." And in verse 14, He said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

To get a better grasp of what Jesus is talking about in all these verses, go back and take another look at verse 7.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you...."

That word *abide* is so important.

When Jesus told us to obey His commandments and keep His WORD, He wasn't just telling us to follow a bunch of religious rules and regulations. He was telling us to allow His WORD—which is a living thing—to make its home within us. He was telling us to spend time with it, to meditate on it, to fill our minds and our mouths with it, and to let it guide our every action. The Apostle Paul put it this way in Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...."

***"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."***
Colossians 3:16

MOST BELIEVERS DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT MEANS.

AND THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS THEY'RE SO SHORT ON POWER.

Most believers don't have any idea what that means. And that's one of the reasons they're so short on power. One man who *did* know what it meant, however, was Brother Oral Roberts. And he once said something to me about it that I'll never forget. He said that when The WORD is really abiding in you, when it's alive and producing like it should, you can *hear* it.

And he was right! When you begin to spend quality time in The WORD of God, you'll begin to hear it down inside you.

You know what it's like when you get a song on your mind and you just keep hearing it over and over inside you? You may be busy doing something else and still that song will just play on. Well, when you start letting The WORD abide in you, you're probably going to hear it in much that same way. And, believe me, that's a tremendous thing!

Many times, I've been in desperate situations, wondering what I was going to do, when suddenly I'd hear a scripture down on the inside of me. I'd hear verses from some Bible tape I'd been listening to. And suddenly, I'd know exactly what the answer to my situation was. I'd be delivered by The WORD of God that was dwelling in me.

"Oh, but Brother Copeland," you might say, "how on earth am I ever going to be able to remember all those verses? How am I going to be able to think of them when I need them?"

Jesus Himself answered that question. He said: "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

So, invite the Holy Spirit to go to work on your behalf. Just keep telling Him, "Whatever You bring to my remembrance from The WORD is exactly what I'm going to act on. I'm going to be obedient to every command of Jesus that You bring to mind."

Sounds simple, doesn't it?

It is, but it's not necessarily easy. Let me show you what I mean.

In verse 27, Jesus gave us this command: "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Now, if you're going

to operate in power, that means you're going to have to keep that command. In other words, when all kinds of chaos seem to break loose around you, you'll have to refuse to panic. You'll have to be willing to say to your heart, "Heart, you're not going to be troubled and you're not going to be afraid in any situation and particularly not in this one I'm facing right now. Jesus said not to do it, and I'm going to keep His command!"

"Oh, Brother Copeland, I don't think I could do that!"

Yes, you can. And when you do, you'll have put the first part of God's supernatural power package to work in your life.

**Part 2: Speaking the Name**

Once you make up your mind to keep the commands of Jesus, and begin to allow The WORD to dwell in you richly, the Name of Jesus will become something far more powerful to you. It will become more than just a word. It will become a force that will cause every circumstance and every demon that tries to stand in your way to bow its knee to your command.

I tell you, the Name of Jesus works. There is far greater power in it than any of us have yet realized. As Philippians 2:9-10 says, God has given Jesus "a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth"!

Every prayer I utter is in His Name. My faith is so set on the authority of the Name of Jesus, there are times I just say, "In the Name" and the power of God comes on the scene. In fact, I've discovered that the Name of Jesus—just the Name alone—is effective when spoken by a WORD-abiding believer. It doesn't need a lot of other fancy words to go with it.

Revelation 19:13 says the Name of Jesus is The WORD of God! So, when an evil spirit is trying to bring sickness, poverty, depression or any other garbage into my household, I don't have to quote every scripture I know to stop him. I can just point my finger at him and say, "Jesus!" That's like throwing the whole WORD of God in his face at one time!

**Part 3: Living the Love**

Letting The WORD of God abide in you, and speaking the Name of Jesus. They are two parts of a power package that can absolutely tear the devil's kingdom apart. And although those two are vital, always remember it's a three-part package. And it won't work without all three parts.

Jesus tells us what the third part is in John 15:12-13: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Love.

That's the power charge of this whole package. The rest is simply no good without it. And though I realize that keeping the law of love could be included in the first step we talked about (after all, it is the first and foremost command Jesus gave us), I think we need to talk about it separately, because so many believers neglect to do it. I'm talking about believers who can quote tremendous amounts of Scripture and who may speak the Name of Jesus 35 or 40 times a day, yet they're rough and insensitive to the needs of their friends and family. They're so busy "serving God," they don't have time to serve people. They're often critical of others in the Body of Christ. And they'll fuss and fight with each other at a moment's notice. Strife is their hallmark.

Such folks are not only devoid of real spiritual power, the Bible says they are spiritually foolish.

Look at 1 Corinthians 2:14 and you'll see what I mean. There, the Apostle Paul addresses the Corinthian believers about their lack of love, saying: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." In 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, he said, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.... For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

**When Jesus told us to obey His commandments and keep His WORD, He wasn't just telling us to follow a bunch of religious rules and regulations.**

In other words, Paul was saying strife will bring you down to the level of the unbeliever. It will dull your spirit until you can't see or understand spiritual things! You may have been saved 45 years. You may talk in tongues all day long. But if you've got strife in your heart and you're not living by the love commandment of Jesus, spiritual things are foolishness to you. And as long as spiritual things are foolishness to you, satan is going to do with you just about anything he wants to.

When you're in that condition, the Name of Jesus won't work. Faith won't work. Prophecy won't work. The word of wisdom won't work. In fact, none of the gifts of the Spirit will work if you don't have love! First Corinthians 13 says so.

Do you want to see the incredible power of God released through your life? Then you're going to have to love one another. You're going to have to stop arguing and criticizing and start laying down your life—for your wife...and your kids...and your pastor...and even that bunch down at the church that has their doctrine all wrong.

Love is the power charge. You can lay hands on people until you rub all the hair off their heads. You can shout the Name of Jesus until you're hoarse. But if you aren't obeying the commandment of love, you're not going to see anything happen at all. God's power package just won't work without it.

We've put up with this power failure long enough. We've whined and cried and begged God to fix it. We've done almost everything except what Jesus told us to do. But, starting today, you and I can change all that.

We can make up our minds to let The WORD dwell richly within us. We can set our hearts on keeping the commands of Jesus. And we can begin to speak His Name with confidence and authority. And, most important of all, we can begin to love one another.

Then, instead of asking, *Where is the power?* we can answer boldly—"It's here, and, praise God, it's beginning to flow!"

*by*
*Gloria*
*Copeland*

# Press On!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WHEN YOU MADE JESUS CHRIST THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE? NOT ONLY DID YOU RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS…NOT ONLY DID YOU BECOME A NEW CREATION ON THE INSIDE…YOU WERE BORN AGAIN INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

HIS KINGDOM IS A WONDERFUL PLACE!

It's the place where God has dominion and His perfect will is done. It's where His righteousness reigns, peace abounds and joy in the Holy Ghost overflows (Romans 14:17). It's full of divine BLESSINGS, such as healing and prosperity.

Those BLESSINGS don't just start falling on you, however, like ripe apples off a tree, the moment you're born into God's kingdom. For them to manifest in your life, you must press in and lay hold of them. You must believe God's Word, get it in your heart and your mouth, and put it into action.

Doing that will involve fighting your way through some opposition. At times, it will even require you to be as fierce and determined as the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5. You probably remember her story.

She spent 12 long years suffering from a debilitating illness. Sick, weak and dying, she was forbidden by Jewish law to even be out in the street. But when she heard about the gospel of the kingdom that Jesus was preaching, and about all the sick people in His meetings who were getting healed, faith rose in her heart.

"If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed" she said (Mark 5:28, *New Living Translation).* And, getting up out of bed, she headed out to find Jesus.

Talk about having to fight through opposition!

This woman not only had to press through her symptoms and defy religious law to get to the healing meeting, once she got there she found Jesus surrounded by a huge crowd of people. It looked impossible to get anywhere near Him! Even so, she didn't give up. She forced her way through the throng, touched the hem of Jesus' garment, and instantly, the Bible says, she was healed.

Jesus said in Matthew 11:12, "A share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion" *(Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)* "and the violent take it by force" *(King James Version).* That's a good description of how this woman went after her healing. She went after it with intensity. She exerted a lot of effort and overcame a lot of opposition. But the results were worth the press.

They always are! When you press through and receive THE BLESSINGS of God's kingdom, even if you have to fight your way through some obstacles and resistance, in the end you're always glad you did. The

***"You can't just sit back in unbelief, do things your own way, and expect a free ride."***

# POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1 When you believe God's Word and do things God's way, you always come out on top.
Isaiah 55:9

2 **All the BLESSINGS of God's kingdom already belong to you as a believer.**
Ephesians 1:3

3 **Those BLESSINGS must be received by faith for them to manifest in your life.**
Hebrews 11:1

4 **Faith requires a press because the flesh, the world and the devil always oppose it.**
1 Timothy 6:12

5 **Jesus told us how to live the overcoming faith life.**
Matthew 6:33

"WALKING BY FAITH IS A PRESS, NOT BECAUSE GOD PUTS PRESSURE ON US, BUT BECAUSE TO WALK WITH HIM WE MUST PRESS OURSELVES IN TO HIS WAYS."

results are always worth the press.

"But Gloria," you might say, "I don't see why that kind of press should be necessary for me as a New Testament believer. I'm a citizen of God's kingdom. Why should I have to fight to lay hold of His BLESSINGS? Why doesn't He just give them to me?"

He *ha*s given them to you!

He's BLESSED you with "all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). He's provided for you every BLESSING in the Bible and they're all waiting for you now in the realm of the spirit.

You just have to reach out and take them.

How do you do that?

By faith.

As Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for…." It's what brings physical materiality to God's Word in this natural realm. It's what causes THE BLESSINGS that are stored up for you in heaven to manifest on earth so you can touch them, see them, feel them, wear them, drive them and enjoy them.

**Simple…but Not Easy**

Acquiring faith is relatively simple. It comes "by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). But walking in it isn't easy. It always involves a press because it's contrary to the ways of the world.

The world trains you to be negative. It teaches you to think and speak doubt and unbelief. To walk by faith, you have to press through that negative training. You have to break a lot of old habits. You have to resist the downward pull of the world, believe what God says and do things His way.

You also have to resist the devil. He's here on this earth and he's on a mission to steal, kill and destroy. So, as soon as you step out in faith, he always shows up to throw obstacles in your way and tell you God's Word won't work for you. When he does, you have to take authority over him in the Name of Jesus. You have to rebuke him and cast down the ungodly doubts and imaginations he tries to plant in your mind.

First Timothy 6:12 refers to resisting the flesh, the world and the devil as fighting "the good fight of faith." It says that's how we "lay hold on" the abundant, kingdom of God kind of life. Sadly, many lovely, sweet, precious Christians don't want to engage in this fight.

They want God to do everything for them. They want Him to heal them while they just lie in bed, talking about how sick they are. They want Him to prosper them and get the devil off them, while they're sitting around watching soap operas on TV. But that's not how God's kingdom works. It works the way Jesus said: "Seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides" (Matthew 6:33, *AMPC).*

This is how you walk in God's BLESSINGS! You seek Him in His Word. You find out His ways of doing and being right and put them into action. As you believe, speak and do what He says, the kingdom of God on the inside of you starts coming out and changing the elements around you. His dominion is released through you, and His BLESSINGS start showing up in your body, your family, your bank account and your circumstances.

I'm not saying everything will change all at once. But if you'll press in to God, before long you'll begin to see a difference in your life. Regardless of where you are or what's going on around you, your conditions will start to improve.

Ken and I have seen it happen even in the lives of people who are in prison. I remember one man we heard from was locked up in a maximum-security unit when he got born again and started learning about faith. An old outlaw biker, his ways were about as far from God's ways as they could possibly be. But he saw in the Bible that God would supply his needs, so he believed God for some money. Sure enough, after a few days, his mother (whom he hadn't heard from in five years!) sent him a letter with some money in it.

The next thing he believed for was to get out of maximum security. That required a bigger fight of faith. Because of his background, he didn't feel like he was worthy to get out of that place. He felt like he was nothing but trash. But he latched on to God's Word and pressed through those negative thoughts. He took a stand of faith, and a short while later he was transferred out of the maximum-security unit into a much better situation.

Ken and I have a similar testimony. We weren't literally behind bars when we first heard the Word of Faith, but we were in another kind of prison. We were locked up in a financial prison of debt and lack. Our ways of dealing with money were so different from God's ways at that time, we really had to renew our minds to get with His system. We had to disconnect from the old ways we'd depended on, and that was a press.

When we saw in Romans 13:8, for instance, that God said to "owe no man any thing," it came as a total shock! We'd lived our whole married life on borrowed money. We didn't think you could do anything without it (and as a result we owed more money than we could see any way to repay). But we stayed in the Word until we got in agreement with God, did what He said, and in 11 months we were debt free.

Another area where we had to press was in tithing. Initially, we weren't too excited about that. We'd tithe for a month or two, and then stop because we thought we needed God's money more than He did. As we kept going back to what the Bible says about it though, we got stronger on the inside and we made a commitment to make the tithe our first financial priority. We stuck with that commitment… and we've been increasing financially ever since.

This is one of the reasons why, if you want to walk in God's kingdom, you must keep pressing in to His Word. The Word gives you the strength and the faith to do what's right. It gives you the spiritual fortitude to disconnect from the world's system and walk in agreement with God.

His system will work! It will work for anyone, anywhere, anytime. It doesn't matter if you're so broke you can't pay attention. It doesn't matter if you're so sick the doctors have given up on you. It doesn't matter how impossible your situation might look. The Scripture says, "With God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27), and "All things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23, *New King James Version).*

**Faith in God can turn any situation around! But walking by faith is a press, not because God puts pressure on us, but because to walk with Him we must press ourselves in to His ways.**

***"As you believe, speak and do what He says, the kingdom of God on the inside of you starts coming out and changing the elements around you."***

**There's No Free Ride**

If you don't press in to God, you'll never change the way you talk; you'll never get the unbelief out of your mouth and replace it with words of faith. If you don't press, you'll never get up early enough in the morning to pray. If you don't press, you'll let the natural affairs of life take over your schedule and you won't take time to read, study, listen to and meditate on what God is saying to you in the Bible or in your spirit.

The Bible is full of the ways of the Kingdom! It's full of what works. The

whole Book is God telling us about His higher ways so that we can live in them right now while we're in the earth. It's Him teaching us how to operate like He does, so we can always keep learning and increasing, growing and moving up to new levels in Him.

God doesn't want us to spend time in His Word just so we can check a religious box. He wants to share His thoughts with us because He wants to BLESS us. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

This is what Jesus preached when He was on earth. When He said, "The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15), He was calling us to a whole new way of life. He was saying, "I'm here and I'm anointed to connect you with THE BLESSINGS of God's kingdom. So, drop your old, worldly ways, believe and follow Me. Leave the low life of the world behind and walk in the high life of God."

"But Gloria," you might say, "I've already done those things. I repented and believed on Jesus when I was born again."

Yes, but your new birth was just the beginning. It brought you into God's kingdom, but just like when you were born physically, you start out as a spiritual baby. If you want to grow, you have to keep feeding on the truth of the Word and learning to walk in it.

Spiritual growth doesn't happen automatically. You don't mature and increase in God just by the passing of time. There are a lot of 50-year-old believers who are still spiritual babies. Sometimes that's because they haven't heard any truth. In other cases, it's because they heard it and spit it out. They said things like, "Yeah, I've read in the Bible about tithing, but I don't believe I can do that. I can't afford it."

You can't walk in THE BLESSINGS of God's kingdom with that kind of attitude. You can't just sit back in unbelief, do things your own way, and expect a free ride.

Ken and I have been living the faith life for more than a half century now and we can tell you: There's no free ride as long as you're living here on earth. You have to keep pressing if you want to increase and prosper in God. You must decide that however God says things are to be done, that's the way you're going to do them; you're going to believe and act on whatever He says.

That's the way you operate in Kingdom dominion! That's the way you live free. You continually press in to God's way of life. You press through the negative influence of the world, the whining of your flesh, and the lies of the devil, and walk by faith in the Word of God. You fight your way through everything that rises up against you, just like the woman with the issue of blood fought her way through to Jesus, and you lay hold of what belongs to you as a citizen of God's kingdom!

First Timothy 6:11-12 says, **"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."**

The good fight of faith is a fight you win! It is the victory that overcomes the world!

Schedule is subject to change without notice.

# The BIG MISSION

Superkid, I am excited about you, and so is Jesus! In fact, He has been waiting thousands of years for you. In John 6:39, 40 and 44 *(The Passion Translation),* He says, "I will raise them up in the last day." Who? You—Superkids, who will come, believe Him and let Him live **BIG** through them.

Last month we talked about Jesus' disciple Matthew. His story wasn't the same as the others Jesus had called. Matthew was a tax collector—an occupation with a bad reputation! Yet when Jesus called, he jumped up and followed Him. Matthew 9:10 says, "Later, Jesus went to Matthew's home to share a meal with him. Many other tax collectors and outcasts of society were invited to eat with Jesus and his disciples." Hmmm, I wonder whose idea it was to invite Matthew's friends? Even though society had no love for his friends, Jesus wanted to meet them and get to know them. I wonder how Matthew introduced Him? "Hey, come meet my friend Jesus!" Matthew knew his friends NEEDED to know Jesus, but he may have been nervous that Jesus wouldn't like them.

But as Matthew came to know Jesus, he realized that He loves EVERYONE! He saw Jesus go out of His way to help the hurting. Have you ever wondered why Jesus would eat and hang out with "lowlifes"? When Jesus overheard someone say that, He said, "Healthy people don't need to see a doctor, but the sick will go for treatment" (verse 12). Jesus understood that people who think they are OK don't come to Him for help, but the sick who know they need Him will. So that is who He will call on, or answer!

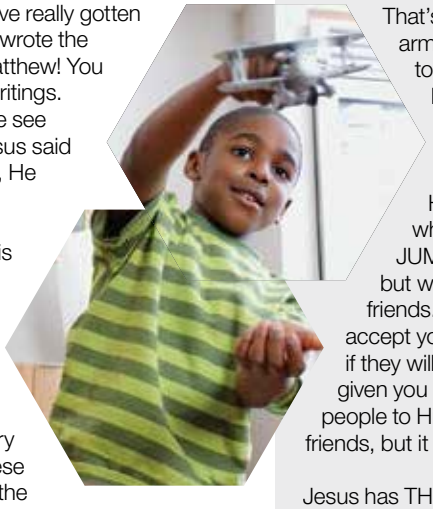
Superkid, Jesus cares about every person, but the person He can help is the one who will come to Him, believing. Before He can live through you, you must understand what He wants to do. When Matthew began to follow Jesus, he saw many miracles! One day, as Jesus was helping and healing people, He seemed to be almost overwhelmed with love as He saw the crowds of hurting people. Hear His heart in Matthew verses 37-38: "He turned to his disciples and said, 'The harvest is huge and ripe! But there are not enough harvesters to bring it all in. As you go, plead with the Owner of the Harvest to thrust out many more reapers to harvest his grain!'"

Jesus just told us what Mission No. 1 is, and His No. 1 goal in life. You and I can see the heart of Jesus right here. He wants harvesters—people who will go out and bring people to Him. He wants us to pray this prayer and He also wants US to be the ANSWER to this prayer!

He wants to THRUST us out there! As Superkids, this is OUR BIGGEST mission, because it's the BIGGEST mission on HIS heart.

*To thrust* means "to put forth boldly, to PUSH forcibly." He wants us to pray so He can push us to go and bring people to Him. Matthew's first assignment was a success—he brought a big crowd and made Jesus happy!

Matthew must have really gotten the message! He wrote the whole book of Matthew! You can see it in his writings. In Matthew 10, we see that right after Jesus said to pray the prayer, He answered it!



Jesus gathered his twelve disciples and imparted to them authority to cast out demons and to heal every sickness and every disease. Now, these are the names of the first twelve apostles: first, Simon, who is nicknamed Peter, and Andrew, his brother. And then Jacob and John, sons of Zebedee. Next were Phillip and Bartholomew; then Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; Jacob the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus; Simon, the former member of the Zealot party, and Judas the locksmith, who eventually betrayed Jesus. Jesus commissioned these twelve to go out into the ripened harvest fields with these instructions... (verses 1-5).

I call our assignment **MISSION THRUST:**

- Go and find the lost sheep.
- Preach the love of Jesus.
- Bring healing to ALL those who are sick.
- Break off the demonic presence from people.
- Raise the dead back to life.
- Don't hold back in any way when giving Jesus and His LIFE to others.

Superkid, **MISSION THRUST** is for you! Jesus is calling you to share His love and healing with the world. You can do every one of the steps above, because you are a disciple just like those in Jesus' day! You may think, *Really? Lay hands on someone, share Jesus, drive out a demon, raise someone from the dead?* YES! Jesus said, "I will raise them up in the last day." That's YOU! He is RAISING up an army of people who will choose to JUST BELIEVE, GO AND DO! It's really that simple. You do your part and Jesus DOES the rest.

He's looking for Superkids who, like Matthew, will not only JUMP AND RUN when He calls, but will take Him to meet their friends. While you know Jesus will accept your friends, you don't know if they will accept Him. But Jesus has given you all authority to go and bring people to Him. It doesn't stop with your friends, but it can start with them.

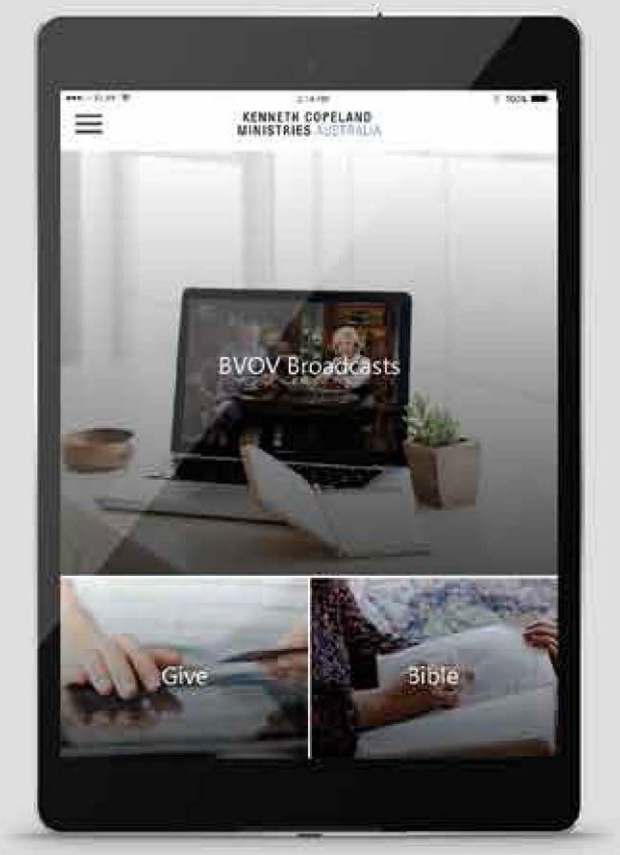
Jesus has THRUST you out there, and He is with you to back you up with healing, salvation and power over the enemy.

So GO, Superkid! It's BIG MISSION time!

Commander Kellie

**Kellie Copeland** is an outreach minister at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and 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.

KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES

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