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BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

 KENNETH  
COPELAND  
MINISTRIES

# VICTORY

JULY 2019

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# SOUTHWEST BELIEVERS' CONVENTION

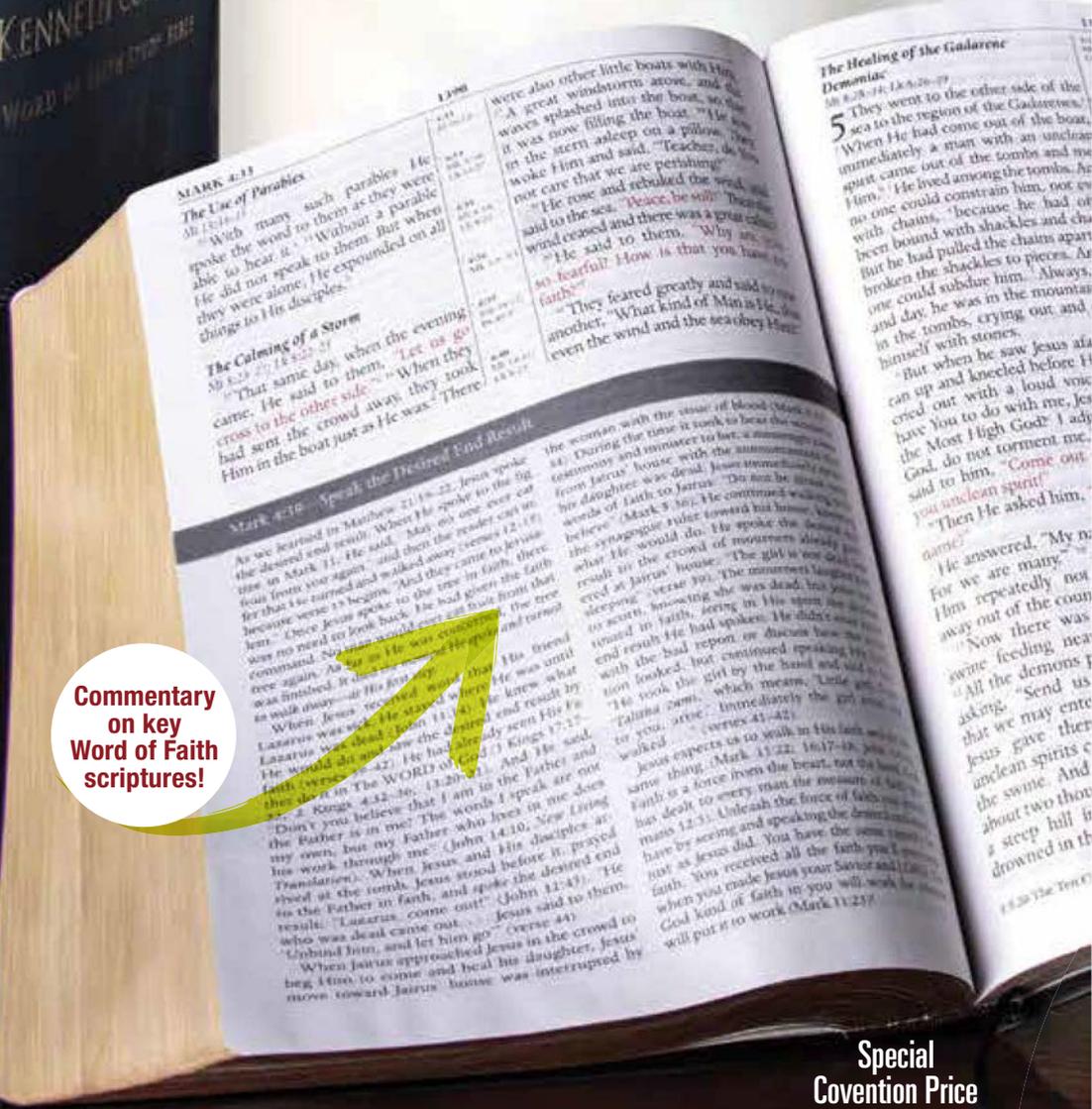
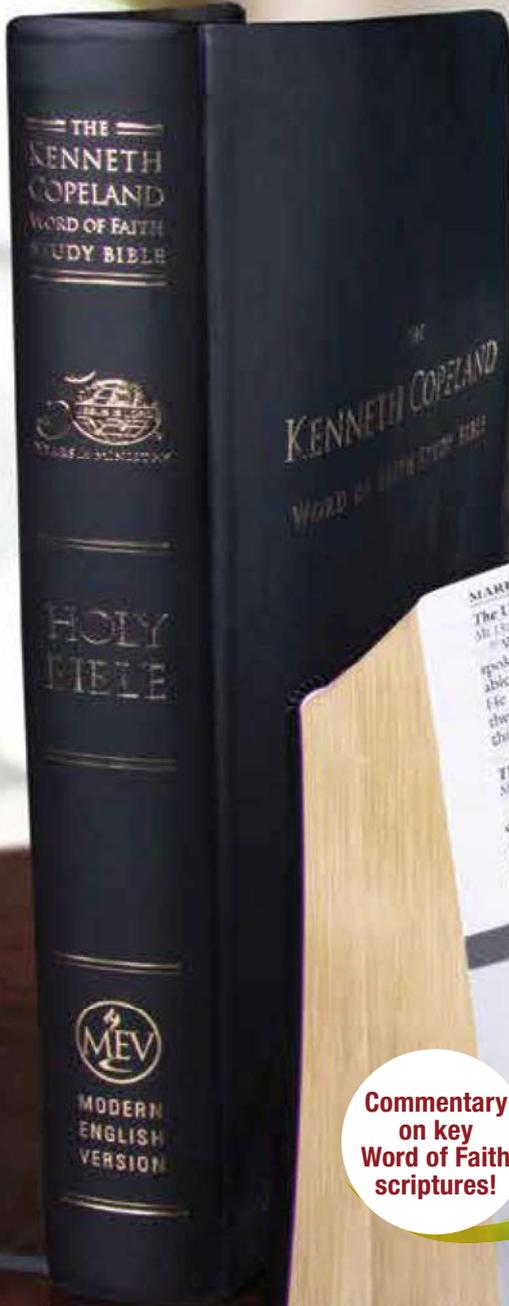
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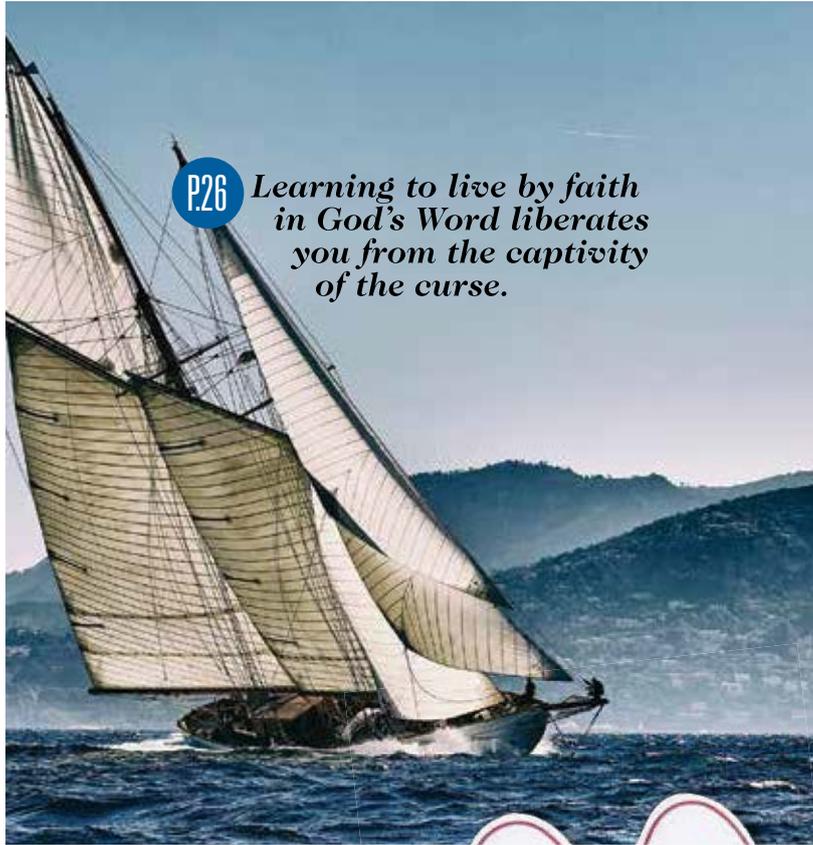
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**P26** *Learning to live by faith in God's Word liberates you from the captivity of the curse.*

## 4 **Clothed With Humility**

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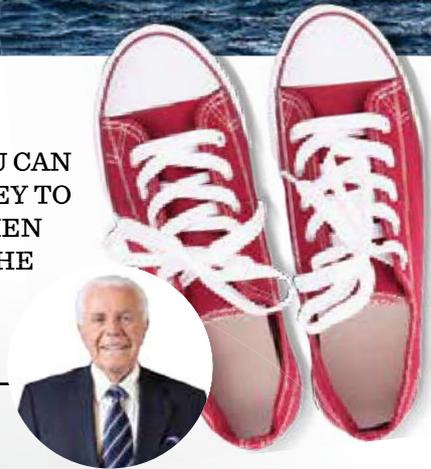
by Melanie Hemry  
When Nikola Dimitrov, a young communist, met the living God, it was a game changer. The staggering power changed Nikola, his family and thousands living in Bulgaria.

## 20 **A Lifetime of Favor**

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## 26 **An Overcoming Victory**

by Gloria Copeland  
The world is under the power of darkness that keeps people in prisons of sin, sickness, lack and defeat. But faith in Jesus opens prison doors. Put God's Word in your heart and mouth and be a world overcomer.



“THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN FAIL, AND FALL PREY TO THE ENEMY, IS WHEN YOU GET OUT OF THE SPIRIT AND BEGIN WALKING IN THE NATURAL.”

**P23**



**P4** “TOUCHY PEOPLE ARE QUICK TO ANGER AND SLOW TO REPENT. THEY NEVER THINK THEY'RE WRONG, SO THEY CAN'T BE CORRECTED.”





“

**Clothing ourselves with humility doesn't mean putting ourselves down. It doesn't mean we go around saying, 'I'm unworthy and no good.'”**

by  
Kenneth  
Copeland

# Clothed With Humility

You might not think a Canaanite woman from an idol-worshipping culture would have much to teach us as born-again believers. But the one whose story is recorded two different times in the Gospels most definitely did.

Even though when she appears in Scripture, she isn't yet a child of God. Even though she had no covenant with Him at all. She set an example for us to follow. She left us a lesson we would all do well to learn by doing something that

caught Jesus' attention.

Something that positioned her to receive exactly what she needed from Him.

Something that lifted her from the spiritual lowlands into the ranks of the handful of people in the New Testament who received from Jesus the ultimate compliment: "Great is your faith!"

Let's look at the Matthew 15 account of what happened. It says that when Jesus was traveling through the coastlands of Tyre and Sidon: "And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (verses 22-24).

Talk about a less than warm welcome! That woman got one, didn't she? Not only



POINTS  
TO GET  
YOU  
THERE:

1

The Canaanite woman who came to Jesus asking Him to deliver her daughter is an example of how powerful humility can be.  
Matt. 15:22

2

The Canaanite woman humbled herself under the lordship of Jesus, even though initially what He said to her seemed tough.  
Matt. 15:25-26

3

Instead of arguing with Jesus, she agreed with Him and refused to get offended.  
Matt. 15:27

4

Because the Canaanite woman received Jesus' words humbly, they moved her into a place of faith.  
Matt. 15:28

5

Humility isn't putting yourself down; it's submitting to Jesus, rolling your cares over on Him, and trusting Him to exalt you.  
1 Pet. 5:5-6



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did the disciples want to get rid of her, Jesus said He wasn't called to minister to her.

Imagine for a moment how most people in our touchy, easily offended culture today would react to that kind of reception. They'd end the story right there! They'd storm away with their feelings hurt, saying something like, "I don't care how anointed Jesus is, I'm not going to put up with that kind of treatment. If He doesn't think I qualify for Him to minister to me, I'm out of here!"

But the Canaanite woman wasn't like most people today. Instead of getting offended with Jesus, she did just the opposite. She humbled herself.

"Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour" (verses 25-28).

Those verses provide us with one of the greatest examples of humility in the entire Bible. They paint the picture of a woman who had no pride at all.

She didn't understand why Jesus called her and her daughter dogs. She didn't understand that He'd said it not to hurt her, but to provoke her into declaring her faith so He could get her little girl delivered. Yet she humbled herself and agreed with Him anyway.

She kept her heart open to what Jesus was trying to accomplish in her and took the attitude, *If You say I'm a dog, I suppose I am, but I came here to get deliverance for my daughter and I'm not leaving without it.*

What happened as a result? She rose above all the circumstances that were stacked against her and wound up getting a miracle. Despite her heathen background and lack of covenant, God exalted her by responding to her request

as if she was His very own child.

### **Pride Will Keep You Up at Night**

If humility could have such a powerful effect in that situation, think what it can do for us as New Covenant believers!

It can make the difference between our living below our divine privileges and living the high life God has provided for us through Jesus. It can spur on the development of our faith and open the door for us to walk in great grace. That's why God talks to us about it so much in the Scriptures. It's why 1 Peter 5 says: "...all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (verses 5-7).

Clothing ourselves with humility doesn't mean putting ourselves down. It doesn't mean we go around saying, "I'm unworthy and no good."

True humility is simply agreeing with what God says. It's giving up on trying to exalt ourselves, casting all our cares over on Him, and trusting that if we simply believe and obey Him, He'll exalt us Himself at just the right time and in just the right way.

Pride, on the other hand, is taking the attitude that we know best. That we're right and we can handle our cares ourselves. Pride will keep you up all night trying to figure out a way to fix whatever problem you're facing. And when your fix doesn't work, pride will put the blame on everyone else—including God.

You'll find yourself saying things to Him like, "I just don't understand why You didn't help me with this!" You won't realize that He couldn't help you, because you were carrying the care of it yourself instead of giving it to Him.

I remember some years ago I got into that situation where our ministry finances were concerned. We'd gotten behind on paying our TV bills and over about a 12-month period we'd kept



VICTORIOUS  
LIVING

by Gloria Copeland

## Give the Holy Spirit Something to Help!

"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

John 14:16-17

God has made mighty provisions for your continued success.

That's a powerful statement. But it's true. He has given you *much!* He has given you everything you need to succeed in this life. He's given you His Word, the blood of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit...to name just some of them.

But for them to work, you have to do your part. Some people who don't understand this waste a great deal of time. When they find themselves in a hard situation, they often sit back and wait for God to rescue them.

You won't get anywhere by just waiting for God to do everything. As one minister says, "The Holy Spirit is your helper, and if you don't do what you're supposed to, He doesn't have anything to help!"

So don't just sit there—do something!

Fight the good fight of faith. Put the Word of God in your heart and in your mouth and get aggressive about it. I know it's hard to speak words of faith when you're facing an impossible situation. But you were born again to be able to accomplish hard things!

I think it was a great blessing that Ken and I were in an impossible situation financially when we first began to hear the Word of Faith. (I didn't think it was a blessing then, of course, but I do now!) Our finances were minus zero at that point in our lives. We didn't have anything but our debts!

We were so desperate we had to believe God. It was the hardest believing we ever did too, because we didn't know very much in those days. But we got aggressive with our faith. We got aggressive with the Word.

The fact is, if you want to lay hold of the authority of God and walk in the supernatural, you aren't going to do it from your spiritual easy chair. You have to press yourself. As Jesus said, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseseth into it" (Luke 16:16).

Press. That is such an important word today. If there ever was a generation that needed to press in to God, it's ours. So take what God has given you. Get the Word in your heart and in your mouth. Plead the blood of Jesus over your circumstances and your family members. Get aggressive. And give the Holy Spirit something to help! 

slipping further back until we were \$6 million in arrears. I was just beside myself over it.

When the time came for our annual board meeting, I so dreaded having to tell the board what a horrible year we'd had, that I put off reading the year-end report our staff had put together until the night before the meeting. Oh, I didn't want to look at that report! When I finally did though, I was shocked.

It didn't say what I'd expected. On the contrary, it showed that in one department after another we'd had our best year ever. Overall, the ministry had flourished. I should have been rejoicing all year long, but I'd been too busy fretting about the TV bills to realize it.

That's the way it always is when you're carrying care. You major on what's going wrong and forget about all the good things and the BLESSINGS you're experiencing. You get so problem-minded that, even though The LORD is trying to help you, you're too blinded by care, for Him to get through to you.

*Kenneth*, The LORD said to me as I marveled over that year-end report, *did you notice the only department that flopped was the one you were trying to carry?*

"Yes, Sir," I said, "please forgive me. I know better." Humbling myself before Him, I acknowledged that I'd been the problem in the ministry and wept over it.

It was midnight by then, and Gloria had already gone to bed. But I woke her up and told her what The LORD had showed me. We repented together and then we rolled the care of the whole situation over on God. We put it into the hands of Jesus, the Great Financier.

Three months later, that \$6 million we owed was paid—and the month after that, for the first time in the history of this ministry, we paid the entire TV bill in one check.

### Let Jesus Be Your Care Taker

"Brother Copeland, I've tried rolling my cares over onto The LORD, but every time I do, it seems like the devil ratchets up the pressure. He keeps pushing those

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To commemorate 50 years since the launch of his own ministry, Jerry Savelle will minister alongside Kenneth Copeland at each Victory Campaign during 2019, in addition to the Southwest Believers' Convention.

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cares right back onto me.”

Sure he does. That's his M.O. But you can shut it down by obeying 1 Peter 5:8-10. It says: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”

What does the phrase *after that ye have suffered a while* mean?

I'll tell you what it doesn't mean. It doesn't mean God intends for you to have to suffer for a while with things like sin, sickness and lack. No! Those things are part of the curse that Jesus redeemed us from on the cross. He paid the price for us to be free from them.

When they try to attach themselves to us, we're not supposed to lay down and suffer under them. We're to agree with what the Bible says, refuse to be moved by contrary circumstances, and declare, “By Jesus' stripes I am healed. My God supplies all my need according to His riches in glory.” Then we're to roll the care of those symptoms of sickness and lack or whatever over on Jesus.

When the devil tries to put that care back on us, we're to resist him with all our being. We're to keep slamming him with The WORD, rejoicing in The LORD, smiling when the fight gets tough, and saying, “I don't have a care today. I am carefree because Jesus is my Care Taker!”

That's the kind of suffering born-again believers are called to do. The kind that comes from fighting the good

fight of faith. The kind that comes from refusing to give in to the flesh and the devil and submitting our will, ideas and lives to Jesus of Nazareth. The kind that comes from humbling ourselves under His absolute authority.

Think again about the Canaanite woman. She submitted to Jesus even when He called her a dog. She called Him *Lord* and agreed with everything He said. She wasn't the least bit touchy about it, even though initially His words must have stung a little.

If we're going to receive what we want from Jesus, we must be the same way. We must avoid being touchy, because touchy people are quick to anger and slow to repent. They never think they're wrong, so they can't be corrected.

Where there's no correction, there's no direction from The LORD. Where there's no direction, there's no protection. So, when we're touchy we wind up off somewhere we shouldn't be, and the devil gets a shot at us he shouldn't have had.

When we're humble, however, God can correct us, direct us and protect us. As 1 Peter 5:10 says, He can strengthen us, establish us and make us *perfect*. The word *perfect* there carries the same connotation it does in the phrase *practice makes perfect*. It refers to “something being developed, completed and brought to maturity.”

Jesus' aim when He corrects, is always to develop us. It's never to hurt us. Everything He says is designed to perfect our faith, because faith is what opens the door for Him to move in our lives.

Remember this: Jesus is always for you. He's never against you. So, don't

# “Touchy people are quick to anger and slow to repent.

*They never think they're wrong, so they can't be corrected.”*

by  
Jeremy  
Pearsons

# THE DANGER OF DISTRACTION

Have you noticed how, in today's fast-paced, always-on, internet-connected world, it can be challenging to keep your focus?

ever get offended at Him. Don't ever start thinking when you're in the middle of a faith fight that He's missed it some way and let you down.

Instead, just humble yourself and admit that if there's a problem, it's with you and not with Him. Say, "Lord, I know You've been trying to get me through this thing. I know You've been talking to me the whole time. How come I didn't hear you?"

Then stop talking and start listening. Be like Rufus Mosely, who tells how he was lying on the floor one time, praying and crying out to God about a problem he had, and he suddenly had a brilliant thought: *Here lies a fool that knows nothing doing all the talking to Someone who knows everything. I believe I'll just hush and see what He has to say.*

"But Brother Copeland, what if I get quiet and the Lord doesn't speak to me?"

He will. Jesus said so in the Bible. In John 16, He said the Holy Spirit who is living on the inside of you will guide you into all truth: "...for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you" (verses 13-15).

The Holy Spirit is always speaking. He's always revealing to you what Jesus is saying. So just humble yourself and listen. Roll your cares over on God, take time to worship Him, and open your heart to what He has to say. When you hear it, agree with Him, and resist the devil's lies by continually slamming him with The WORD.

As you do that, if you stick with the process, God will keep developing and strengthening you. He'll keep perfecting your faith until Jesus can say to you the same wonderful words He once said to the Canaanite woman:

"Great is your faith! Be it unto thee even as thou wilt!"

Sarah and I have seen how our children's ability to pay attention is a definite earmark of their growth. The more mature they become, the better they can keep their minds set on one thing.

Watching them struggle to stay focused is cute sometimes. What's not so cute is when a fully grown adult still has that struggle...especially when it's you or me.

As adults, we must have the ability to lock in on something and not let

go. According to the Word, our peace depends on it.

Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You..." (*New King James Version*). That's pretty straightforward: Peace depends upon our ability to keep our mind in one place—stayed on Him. In fact, the Lord shared it with me this way, *The absence of peace is the product of a wandering mind.*

"But that's just my personality," some say. Sure, having a wandering

**"He knows if he can subtly distract you, he can get what he wants."**

“Satan is like a master pickpocket.”

# “To think that you and I could neglect intimacy with Jesus for the sake of our ministry is foolish.

## And yet, it happens every day.”

mind can sound innocent, but no matter how we're wired, we must build our ability to stay focused...or risk our peace.

### The Parable That Rocked My World

To stay focused on the Word, we have to receive it into our lives. This is the principle found in Jesus' parable of the sower in Matthew 13. In it, Jesus revealed how, when the seed of the Word is sown, one of four things happens:

Some seeds fall by the wayside and the enemy comes to devour them (verses 4, 19).

Some seeds fall on stony places...and get scorched and wither under the fire of tribulation because they have no roots (verses 5-6, 21).

Some seeds fall among thorns, the cares

of this world, which choke the Word (verses 7, 22).

Or, some seeds fall on good ground where someone hears the Word, understands it and yields a crop, some a hundredfold, some 60, some 30 (verses 8, 23).

Now, I grew up in a faith-filled household. Anytime I needed anything, Mom and Dad would say, “Go to the Word, Jeremy. What does the Word say?” Implied was the idea that whatever you're facing, the Word has the answer.

Then I read this parable. You know what it implies? Three out of four times the Word did *nothing*—because, one way or another, the enemy stole it.

That rocked my world.

Clearly, the moment the Word is sown, Satan goes to work. When we think of Satan's tricks, we think about him spreading sickness or lack in our lives. But I don't think he's wringing his hands over whether we're healthy or wealthy, sick or poor. What he cares about is *distracting*

us, because distraction serves to talk us out of what we believe.

Sickness, disease, lack...these have one thing in common: They're all major tools of distraction, designed to get our minds off the Lord and out of a place of perfect peace.

You can see this principle at work when Jesus went to visit Mary and Martha.

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving.... And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.... Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:38-42, *NKJV*).

What a beautiful meeting that must have been. Martha invited Jesus to come in and share His Word with them. Jesus wasn't preaching to thousands on a hillside, or from the bow of a boat. He was sitting with a select group of people in Martha's home. Can you imagine what an opportunity that was?

Now if you're familiar with this story, you might already be thinking about how Martha gets busy—but it didn't start out that way. According to verse 39, Mary “also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.” The word *also* tells us that Mary *and* Martha were there, both sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to His teaching.

“But,” the passage continues, “Martha was distracted.”

It's hard to fathom how anyone could get distracted in that house. The atmosphere was ripe for revelation. Jesus was likely sharing things He didn't share in larger groups.

Yet, Martha found herself suddenly preoccupied.

As she sat there, perhaps she started thinking, *I've been here awhile. All these people are in my house. They're going to be hungry. What should I do?*

And with that seemingly innocent line of thinking, Martha was drawn away.

### Jesus' Guarantee

Satan is like a master pickpocket. When he comes to steal the Word, he starts with a small distraction. He knows if he can subtly distract you, he can get what he wants.



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Jeremy &  
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Jeremy Pearsons 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.



That day in Martha's house began with everyone having their minds on Jesus, but then a thought pulled Martha away, and pretty soon she was running around. Weust translates it this way: "But Martha was going around in circles, overoccupied..." (verse 40).

Before long, Jesus addressed the issue, saying, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things" (verse 41, *NKJV*).

That's it—she had lost her peace. Where did it go? It left the moment her focus did, the moment she took her mind off the Word.

Jesus then added a very powerful insight. "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, *which will not be taken from her*" (verse 42, emphasis mine).

The Word was spoken, and as usual, Satan came to steal it. Martha got distracted, and let him. But Mary chose differently. She chose "the good part"—to keep her mind on His Word—and Jesus Himself guaranteed that Word wasn't going anywhere. It was going to take root and produce fruit in Mary's life.

How would you like a guarantee like that? How would you like Jesus Himself to guarantee that when you hear the Word, it will take root and produce fruit in your life? Here's how you get that guarantee; you do what Mary did. You value the Word. You honor the Word. And you *refuse* to be distracted from the Word. That's choosing the good part!

You have to wonder, what was so important to Martha that she allowed herself to choose to be part of something that wasn't so good, to be distracted from the best that God had for her?

It's easy to judge Martha for her choice, but if we examine ourselves closely we'll see we're not so different from her.

### **Distracted by Ministry**

What was so important to Martha? According to this passage, she was distracted "with much serving" (verse 40). If you look up the word *servicing*, you'll discover what distracted Martha was *ministry*. Martha's challenge wasn't learning to tell the difference between something important and something that was a waste of time. It was learning to tell the difference between what was important and what was *more* important.

Martha was distracted by her own ministry.

Her motivation for getting up was to serve Jesus. But ministry is a bad substitute for intimacy with the Lord.

To think that you and I could neglect intimacy with Jesus for the sake of our ministry is foolish. And yet, it happens every day.

Jesus says, "Hey, come here. I want to talk to you."

We reply, "I can't. I'm too busy doing the work of the ministry."

It doesn't matter if God has called you to pastor a church or to be a blessing through hospitality, that ministry isn't supposed to be a distraction from what's *more* important.

Martha was a woman whose mind was on the Word. She was in Jesus' presence, in an intimate environment, hearing a word she'd never heard before. She was in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.

And then a thought carried her away.

### **The Tale of Two Meals**

Two meals were being served in Martha's house that day; one by Jesus, and one by Martha. And the only meal that was "that good part" was the one Jesus was serving.

What should Martha have done? When that thought came, she shouldn't have moved. She should have said to herself, *Prepare a meal? Have you seen what this guy can do with a piece of bread and a fish? I'm not moving a muscle. I'm staying right here.*

Had she done that, Jesus could have guaranteed that what she heard that day would never be taken from her.

How about you? There are things you can do to guarantee the Word will take root in your life and produce fruit. You can make it a habit to spend time in the Word and in prayer; never neglecting that time for anything—including for the sake of your ministry. You can make a quality decision to keep your mind on God's Word, to be part of the 25% of people who receive...not the 75% who let it be stolen.

Ask the Lord to help you identify when it's time to go and serve, and when it's time to stay and receive. When you put Him first, above all else, and keep your mind stayed on Him, Satan won't be able to steal one word that the Lord has for you. And you'll find yourself in perfect peace. 🙏

## **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**

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*by Melanie Henry*

# Game Changer

Eighteen-year-old Nikola Dimitrov stood on the terrace of his family's apartment looking over the familiar scene of Burgas, the fourth largest city in Bulgaria. He understood that the choice he made right now would change his life forever.

Nikola felt as though he was standing over a fault line, a chasm spreading between his feet. He couldn't straddle it. He'd have to choose. Either stay with the familiar life he knows, or take a leap of faith to a new one.





“  
I’ve translated and distributed more than 1400 messages from KCM, including ones by Creflo Dollar, Jesse Duplantis and Jerry Savelle. They have been like manna for us.  
”

His life until now hadn’t been bad. He lived with his parents and younger brother in a loving family. His father worked at a technical facility as a mathematician. His mother worked in schools as a dentist. Back in 1992, computers, phones and the internet weren’t available in his country. For a kid in a communist state, he’d lived a normal life—occupying his time by playing sports and games outdoors.

Still, when Nikola assessed his life, he considered himself adrift. Untethered. Irresponsible. Out of 1250 classes required to move to the next grade, he had skipped 1200. It wasn’t that he couldn’t grasp his studies. He just didn’t want to bother with them. He preferred working out, strengthening his body for what he loved—sports. He did graduate eventually, but he really didn’t care.

The first quake in life as he’d known it, had been the fall of communism. That had opened the door to waves of people who had previously been forbidden to enter the country. Missionaries had come with outrageous stories about God and how He loved people. They spoke with reverence about a Name no one in Bulgaria knew—Jesus.

Nikola had just returned from another city where a guy had told him about the Name. He’d heard about the Garden. Sin. The Fall of Man. He’d heard about Jesus, Calvary, death and hell. He’d heard about a new kind of life as a believer. The message had tugged at his heart in a way that nothing else ever had.

That was the choice he had to make—whether or not to follow Jesus and serve Him.

Nikola stood still, listening to the sounds of children playing. The hustle and bustle of city life. Making a choice, he bowed his head, pouring out his heart

to God, repenting of all his sins. Then, as his friend had suggested, he asked Jesus into his heart.

Afterward, Nikola felt different.

No more adrift, he felt tethered to something or Someone greater than himself.

In that divine connection, Nikola felt something about his life he had never experienced.

*Purpose.*

#### A New Life in Christ

“Jesus’ presence in my life instantly filled it with purpose,” Nikola recalls. “I was a different person who made different decisions. Until then, I’d been interested in sports. Now I wanted nothing more than to serve God.

“The first thing I did was lead my brother to the Lord, then my parents, and my grandparents on both sides of the family. Before long, every member of my family was a Christian. My mother was 41 years old, and she had never heard the Name of Jesus. None of my family had—not even my grandparents. I later learned that there had been an underground church all along, but it had been persecuted so hard that after the fall of communism, only a few pastors, now in their 90s, had survived the atrocities of the regime against the evangelical church.

“I spent a lot of time praying, asking God to connect me with other believers. We lived in a block of apartments, 100 families in each block. One hundred apartments on eight floors with four entrances. I witnessed to my best friend, and he became a Christian. Together, we started evangelizing the kids on the block. Soon, we had won about 25 other young people to the Lord. We started meeting together in my home.

“None of us knew much except the plan of salvation, but we were starving for God’s presence. The guy who told me about the Lord had given me a magazine called *Believer’s Voice of Victory* that was published by Kenneth Copeland Ministries. I’d taken English in school, but you have to actually attend classes to learn. Now I worked hard to take what I

knew and persist in learning English so that I could read that magazine. It was my strong motivation.

“The city of Burgas is divided into regions and I lived in the largest one. There were some other believers in another region who heard about us. We met and merged, becoming one larger group of young believers, most of us in our 20s. Together, we set about evangelizing the city.”

Using the address on the magazine, and every cent he had, Nikola ordered other materials from KCM.

“There were very few churches at the time,” he recalls. “We had no one to mentor us. So, we depended on those materials to learn. I also ordered tapes, listened to them and translated them to the group. The only gospel we’d ever heard was the message of faith.”

#### Army Life

In 1994, Nikola began serving in the army. Military recruits were forbidden to practice Christianity. They were required to sign papers about that and pressured not to speak of their faith. So, Nikola used the time to learn. Taking all the materials he had received from KCM with him, he hid them under the seat of his army truck. During every free moment, he immersed himself in them.

Unable to go home, except for a few very short visits, he wrote long letters sharing what he’d learned with his friends. Whenever possible, the leaders of the group back home took a bus to visit him. Nikola preached to them and then sent them back to share what they’d heard with the others.

In 1995, after being discharged from the army, Nikola continued to order all the tapes, videos, books and other materials from KCM that he could afford. In all, he bought over 40 different teaching series, spending all the money he had. When he saw an ad in the magazine to order back issues of the magazine, Nikola ordered them all.

“At the time, there were very few Christian materials in Bulgarian and not many Bulgarians could speak English,” Nikola explains. “But people were hungry for the Word of God, so we gathered in homes, in churches and outside. I translated the messages from KCM into our language for them. I also taped improvised translations of Brother

and Sister Copeland’s teachings and distributed them around the country. We were just a bunch of 20-year-old kids, but we were on fire for God.

“I’m not sure where the man who shared that *BVOV* magazine with me got the copy,” Nikola recalls. “There had to be a connection somewhere, but during those early years I never heard anyone else preach those messages. I don’t mean to say people weren’t preaching faith in God, because they were. I mean I never heard anyone else preaching KCM’s specific messages. Over the years, I’ve translated and distributed more than 1400 messages from KCM, including ones by Creflo Dollar, Jesse Duplantis and Jerry Savelle. They have been like manna for us.

“In 1996, our first church started a prison ministry. Soon the church inside the prison outgrew the one outside. Although at one point the group had not been allowed to officially register as a church, they continued to thrive, registered as a ‘charity organization,’ with the leaders meeting every day to pray, prophesy and practice moving in the spirit.”

During one meeting, the Lord told Nikola that Helen, one of the other leaders, was to be his wife. Two years later, Nikola and Helen were married. Their first child, Anna, was born in 1999 and then in 2001 Mikaela was born.

“In about 2000, we began ministering to the Gypsies, called Roma in Bulgaria. The Lord connected us to a Gypsy reformer we have been working with to transform the Roma ethnicity in our nation, which involves spiritual, educational and social work among the poorest of the poor amidst severe racism and discrimination. Their living conditions are appalling. We are committed to working with this leader and doing whatever we can to help.”

#### Faith for Food

The aroma of baking bread wafted in the air as Nikola stepped into his apartment. Helen called, “Dinner’s ready!” urging their children, Anna and Mikaela, to the table. Helen cut each of them a piece of bread, plating it and drizzling honey on top. Seated at the table, the family bowed their heads as Nikola thanked God for the bounty of their meal. They took their time, savoring each bite.

JULY		READ THROUGH THE BIBLE	
		Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	1	1 Chr. 5-6	Rom. 13
Tue	2	1 Chr. 7-8	Rom. 14
Wed	3	1 Chr. 9-11	Rom. 15
Thu	4	1 Chr. 12-14	Rom. 16
Fri	5	1 Chr. 15-16	1 Cor. 1
Sat	6	1 Chr. 17-20	
Sun	7	Ps. 79-81; Prov. 17:1-18	
Mon	8	1 Chr. 21-23	1 Cor. 2
Tue	9	1 Chr. 24-26	1 Cor. 3
Wed	10	1 Chr. 27-28	1 Cor. 4
Thu	11	1 Chr. 29	1 Cor. 5
Fri	12	2 Chr. 1-3	1 Cor. 6
Sat	13	2 Chr. 4-6	
Sun	14	Ps. 82-85; Prov. 17:19-18:9	
Mon	15	2 Chr. 7-9	1 Cor. 7
Tue	16	2 Chr. 10-12	1 Cor. 8
Wed	17	2 Chr. 13-15	1 Cor. 9
Thu	18	2 Chr. 16-18	1 Cor. 10
Fri	19	2 Chr. 19-20	1 Cor. 11
Sat	20	2 Chr. 21-23	
Sun	21	Ps. 86-88; Prov. 18:10-24	
Mon	22	2 Chr. 24-26	1 Cor. 12
Tue	23	2 Chr. 27-29	1 Cor. 13
Wed	24	2 Chr. 30-31	1 Cor. 14
Thu	25	2 Chr. 32-33	1 Cor. 15
Fri	26	2 Chr. 34-35	1 Cor. 16
Sat	27	2 Chr. 36; Ezra 1-2	
Sun	28	Ps. 89; Prov. 19:1-17	
Mon	29	Ezra 3-6	2 Cor. 1
Tue	30	Ezra 7-8	2 Cor. 2
Wed	31	Ezra 9-10	2 Cor. 3

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Bulgaria had long been among the poorest nations in Europe. But after being under the heavy rule of communism for more than 45 years, in 2007, when it was admitted into the European Union, there had initially been a slow drip of financial aid. The economic depression that followed, however, had left the Bulgarian people in even worse financial shape.

The price of petrol, food and clothing had skyrocketed to match those in France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain. But there had been no matching increase in income. Except for those in the capital city, the average Bulgarian made an equivalent of \$300 to \$400 a month.

Millions fled the country to escape starvation. Although Nikola had numerous job offers outside the country, he'd refused each one. He loved the Bulgarian people and was determined to stay and help them.

Besides, Nikola and Helen had been very blessed. Helen's parents owned a small plot they allowed someone to use to plant crops. In return, they received flour which they shared with Nikola and Helen. Helen's grandparents were also blessed to have a beehive on their property. They gave Nikola and Helen a bucket of honey each year. Nikola's parents were a tremendous help during those hard times as well. They bought food, paid for utilities and took care of the children's immediate needs as much as they could.

Even though Nikola and his family had gone on bread and honey for quite some time, it never occurred to them to complain. They were grateful for every bite. Blessed far beyond most of their neighbors, they had something many people in Bulgaria did not have.

They had food.

"Our children were small and growing," Nikola says. "We made sure they had enough to eat. Helen and I often didn't get enough, especially me, but I can live now on one small meal a day. We'd always shared our food with others, but once the depression hit, we had less to share.

"About five years ago, I saw a man living nearby whose wife occasionally attended our church. I hadn't seen her in a couple of months and asked about

her. He said, 'Hadn't you heard? She died. Starved to death.'"

The woman was 45 years old.

"The situation is a lot better in and around the capital," says Nikola. "Some

people there now make up to \$700 to \$800 a month. But once you drive 100 miles away, there isn't enough money to buy food. Those of us who began on a solid foundation of faith are still standing. We did as we were taught. We never talked about the problem. We spoke the Word of God. We never talked about poverty and lack, we spoke the blessing of the Lord.

### Faith for Miracles

"In 2014 and again in 2018, we planted new churches. As the church has continued to grow, we've experienced amazing healing miracles. In 2017, someone brought a Muslim woman, a heavy smoker, to us. She'd been diagnosed with end-stage cancer which had spread to her liver, lung and breast. She had been given 10 days to live. The entire church prayed for her in glorious unity.

"Afterward, we sent people to her house every day to pray for her, cook and clean. Her doctors couldn't understand why her tumor markers started dropping and continued to drop. Today she is totally healed, vibrant and walks faster than I do.

"More recently, one of my friends called to say his wife had had a baby. Immediately afterward, she suffered a stroke. The situation looked grim. I told him, 'Don't listen to your thoughts. Don't listen to relatives. Don't listen to the doctor's prognosis. Listen to me. I guarantee you by the Lord's living Word that your wife will recover. When this passes it will be as if she never went through it.'

"I notified the intercessors at the church, and we committed to pray until her healing manifested. It took 5 hours and 23 minutes before her brain was restored, she woke up and was discharged from the hospital. All to the glory of God."

The Lord instructed Nikola to write a book in English, a compilation of the four Gospels. The book combined Matthew, Mark, Luke and John into



Helen ministering to a Gypsy woman

**"I CAN'T FATHOM  
WHAT WE WOULD  
HAVE DONE WITHOUT  
THE UNCOMPROMISED  
WORD OF GOD."**

a single chronological story written in a novel format. Not a single word or punctuation was deleted, only repetitive words. Nikola spent 10 years writing the book and then trying to get it into print. Facing thousands of rejections, he refused to get discouraged and quit. Instead, he stood in faith, speaking God's blessing over the book.

Then, one day Nikola received a call from an American publisher asking to publish his book. A well-respected theologian endorsed it, and *The Four in One Gospel of Jesus* was accepted into the Oxford Library of Apologetics.

"When I look back over the past 27 years," Nikola says, "all I see is God's faithfulness. I am 100 times hungrier for God today than I was yesterday. All these years later, those young people on fire for God are still on fire. I can't fathom what we would have done without the uncompromised Word of God, which I was first introduced to through KCM, as our foundation. That's what partnership with KCM means to me. It's been the difference between life and death. Many times, it has meant not only the difference between life and death for individuals, but for the church in Bulgaria—and for the nation." 📖

## **Tithe Led to Debt Cancellation!**

I received my tax return which I badly needed. I have watched George and Gloria for years and knew that I needed to tithe on it even though in my head I kept saying *no*. It took three days to do it and yesterday I sent it to the ministry. Today, I got word that a debt of \$3500 had been cancelled. It was something I was accused of doing that I had not done, but it had been hanging over my head for three years. When they called me, I told them thanks be to God, who worked through them to provide me with justice.

Sadie P. | Austin, Texas

## **Prayer for a New Car**

I called in and requested prayer for a new car. A week later, a couple in my church bought a new pre-owned car for the wife, but the Lord told them to give it to me. They paid for six months of insurance and the tag and tax transfer costs, too! Thank You, Jesus!

A.N. | Hartselle, Ala.

## **'Thank You for Standing With Me!'**

I wrote to you back in May about my mother and her COPD condition. The doctors went from telling my family to pull the plug, to sending her home because she's healing from her brain trauma faster than anyone they've seen. It's a process, but I know God has her. Thank you for standing with me!

D.A.J. | Kincheloe, Mich.

## **Faith Teachings Are a Blessing!**

Dear people of God, thank you for this wonderful ministry. I'm listening to the teachings on faith. They are such a blessing. I thank God for allowing me to get these so I can repent of sins of offense—I didn't know how terrible offense was. Only last week, a student played an awful trick on me just before the final exam. Normally, I would have raked him over the coals or

rebuked him severely, but instead I quietly forgave him and went on to have a wonderful weekend with no stress.

This morning that same student came and sat down beside me, and all was well. I thank God for helping me learn from these messages. May God continue to bless and keep you.

K.S. | Ontario

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE RIGHTEOUS AVAIL MUCH**

I called in last year regarding employment for my son, and for him to get his driver's license. Today, he works full time, he saved and purchased a car, and is debt free. Thank you for your prayers!

T.C. | New Bern, N.C.

**"The LORD is not holding back direction for your life. All you have to do is ask."**

—Kenneth Copeland



## **Healed Watching BVOVN**

When the minister spoke to those of us who were watching on BVOVN®, saying that our healing was happening right then, I felt the power of pure faith within me that my left knee and right toe were healed instantly. I felt the power of God's Word work right through me as he spoke. And, then he said, "Lady, you are healed!" That put the cap on it! Amen and Amen! Thank You, God, for Your healing power, in Jesus' Name.

J.M. | Summerville, S.C.

## **BVOVN Has Helped Us Grow!**

Thank you so much for the free material so readily available to us, your Partners! What a glorious blessing! So much of what I order I listen to over and over again, to get it down inside my heart. I am currently listening to Pastor George's six-part series *Living Your Life Stress Free*. I think he originally taught it back in 2010, and it's still a powerful word so many of us need to really grab hold of. I also purchased and began reading the John G. Lake book. What an incredible life of discovery in the will, purpose and work of God!

My husband and I have been longtime members and volunteer staff members of our local church and have always felt this is where God has called us to be. However, BVOVN has been a tremendous source of spiritual inspiration and nutrition for us since we discovered it about two years ago. It has helped us grow to a new level in our relationship with God, in our ministry and in our lives. Especially the EMIC services, the Copelands' teachings, Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons, Creflo Dollar and Keith Moore. You are all such a blessing to us! I can't thank you enough. I have so much more growing to do, but I know you will be with me along the way.

M.P. | Roseburg, Ore.



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VICTORIOUS  
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# GOD'S SUCCESS FORMULA

by Gloria Copeland

“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”  
Joshua 1:5

May I ask you a very direct question? How much do you want to succeed in life?

I've been amazed over the years at the people who have come across the formula for success, only to leave it lying on the table while they stay broke, sick and defeated.

Such people initially think success is easy for those who are gifted with great abilities. When they run into the truth, however, it stops them cold. The reality of it is this: *Real supernatural success is no picnic for anyone. It takes courage. It takes faith. And it is not dependent on natural ability.*

If Joshua were around today, he could tell you just how true that is. When God called him to lead Israel after Moses' death, he faced an overwhelming task. As Moses' successor, Joshua had some big shoes to fill. Several million people were under his command, and he knew if they didn't stay in line with God, His blessing would not be on them. Without God's blessing, they would never be able to take the Promised Land.

Joshua had to succeed.

“But Gloria, you don't know me! I've tried and failed with every formula in the book. I just don't have what it takes to succeed.”

If that's what you're thinking, you haven't tried the formula in God's Book. Read again what He said in Joshua 1:5. God said the same thing to Moses in Exodus 3:12, “Certainly I will be with thee...” In other words, “It doesn't matter who you are, Moses. It matters who I am. For I am with you!”

That's the great thing about God's success formula. It's not based on our abilities, it's based on His abilities. We may be inadequate in a dozen different ways, but the One who is with us is more than enough. 

## ‘You Did It, Jesus!’

I had a prolapsed bladder. When Pastor Gene Bailey laid his hands on my head and said, “Be healed from the top of your head to the soles of your feet,” the power of God went through me and I went straight down! I knew I was healed and told the sweet lady sitting next to me. When I got home and checked, I said, “You did it, Jesus, You really did it! You put my bladder back in its rightful place! Thank You, Jesus!” I know Jesus still heals people today!

Mary S. | Fort Worth, Texas

## ‘God Delivered Me’

I want to thank you for all the help and support you have given me through the toughest time of my life incarcerated at Trousdale Turner Correctional Center in Tennessee. You'll never know how much your prayers and support meant to me. I will never forget all KCM has done, and I know

you'll help others like me stay in the Word of God and on the right track!

God bless you for all the help and support I received. God delivered me from a life of doing and selling drugs and made me a new man. Thank you, KCM, for everything.

S.W. | Houston, Texas

by Jerry Savelle

# A Lifetime of FAVOR

**What can cause unusual, extraordinarily favorable things to happen in your life? What can open doors and change rules and regulations on your behalf? What creates out-of-the-ordinary occurrences every day instead of once in a while?**

**The favor of God will cause all of this and much more!**

**T**o understand all that *favor* encompasses, let's look at the dictionary definition: "to support, endorse, assist, make easier, provide with advantages, show special privileges." There are many scriptures about the favor of God and they are easy to find when you realize the Hebrew words for *goodwill, goodness, kindness* or *good pleasure* and the words *gracious* or *grace* in the Greek can also be translated "favor."

Psalm 145:8 tells us, "The Lord is gracious," meaning God is favorable toward you. He wants to manifest that favor every day. Psalm 65:11 says, "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness..." "His favor is for a lifetime" (Psalm 30:5, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

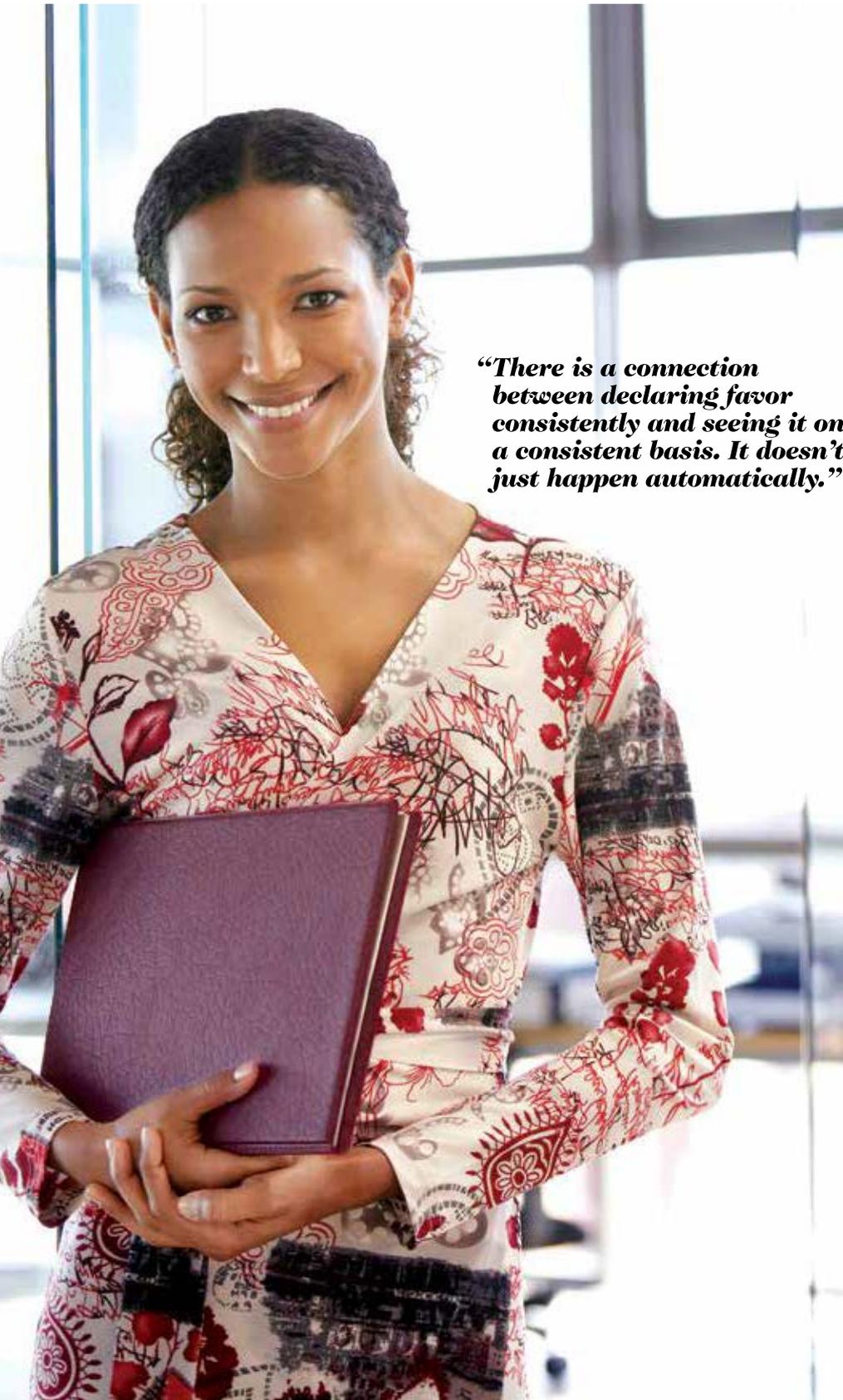
You can expect the favor of God to promote you even when you don't have the expertise, training or knowledge others have. Where you work, people should be asking, "Why do you get the bonuses? Why do you get the raises?" You should be able to say without hesitation, "It's the favor of God!"

The favor of God brings victory to God's people. Psalm 44:3 says, "For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them." Notice it was not their wisdom, their ability or their might that gave them the victory and possession of the land. It was the favor of God.

When the favor of God is on your life and you know it,

***"You can expect the favor of God to promote you even when you don't have the expertise, training or knowledge others have."***





***“There is a connection between declaring favor consistently and seeing it on a consistent basis. It doesn’t just happen automatically.”***

and you’re tapping into it, Satan ceases to win battles in your life. Psalm 41:11 declares, “By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me.”

When Carolyn and I were believing for 102 acres of property for the ministry, the Lord said, *If you’ll be patient I’m going to arrange for you to have that land and pay whatever you want to.* Time went by. Five different corporations bought the land and then went bankrupt. Finally we bought it for \$200,000, even though it had a \$1.2 million lien! Land developers found out and asked how in the world we were able to buy it, and why didn’t they get to make an offer.

It was the favor of God!

The favor of God produces success for God’s people. When you constantly attribute your successes to the favor of God, eventually someone will want to know your God.

#### **The FOG Is Rolling In!**

All of my Christian life I have experienced unusual manifestations of the favor of God. One of the first times this happened to me was when a man pulled up in our parking lot in a bobtail truck and delivered 1500 pairs of dress slacks. I didn’t keep one pair for myself. I sent them all over the world. People in Haiti and Africans in the bush were wearing my brand-new slacks. That was fun, praise God. That was the favor of God!

Another time a gentleman took me to buy a new suit. As I



was changing clothes, the Lord said, *My favor on your life is going to produce clothes. You'll never want for clothes again as long as you live.*

There is a connection between declaring favor consistently and seeing it on a consistent basis. It doesn't just happen automatically.

The Spirit of God told me, *Every time you see a manifestation of My favor, stop right then, no matter where it happens, no matter who is in your presence, and say, "That's the favor of God!"* He taught me to acknowledge His favor immediately in every situation—even if I just got a better parking place than the day before or someone bought me a meal.

If you will immediately acknowledge God's favor every time you experience it, it will happen more and more frequently—God enjoys people who have an attitude of gratitude. Psalm 107 says four times, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness."

The favor of God is given to every person God calls His own. It is available to all, but some people see greater manifestations of it than others do because they apply their faith to receive it. You must develop your faith in the favor of God by declaring it all the time. Speaking it charges the atmosphere with His favor.

One member of our family heard me preach this so often that when I asked how he was doing, he responded, "Well, it looks like the fog is rolling in."

I said, "What?"

He said, "Fog—F-O-G—favor of God."

So now we give weather reports at our house. "Looks like more FOG is coming in for the Savelle household. FOG is



POINTS  
TO GET  
YOU  
THERE:

**1**

The person who draws back from trusting what God says He will do, robs God of the pleasure of blessing him.  
Heb. 10:38

**2**

God's desire is to bless you, and not to teach you a lesson. God desires for you to excel in the entire realm of human existence:

spirit, soul  
and body.

3 John 2

**3**

God is not holding back anything that will set us free and assure us total, overcoming victory in life.

2 Pet. 1:3

**4**

God is pleased when you turn from the pressures of your circumstances to the promises of His Word by continually confessing His promises.

Ps. 35:27

coming in every day." Why? Because it's for a lifetime. What's the forecast going to be in the morning at your house? You decide.

### Favor, Favor Everywhere

And that's an easy decision when you realize you are surrounded by favor. Psalm 5:12 says, "For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield." This gives new meaning to: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life..." (Psalm 23:6). You and I can expect God's favor to manifest in our lives every day no matter where we might be.

God is very generous with His favor as we see in this scripture: "In Him we have redemption (deliverance and salvation) through His blood...in accordance with the riches and the generosity of His gracious favor" (Ephesians 1:7, *AMPC*).

That reminds me of a time I was praying for some partners of my ministry. They were tithers and generous, faithful people, but the enemy had leveled an attack against their business that threatened to destroy them financially. As I began to pray, I heard myself saying, "God, as a favor to me, don't let this happen to them." Have you ever asked God for a favor? I'd never thought of doing that before.

A few days later the situation turned around, and they came out better financially than they had ever been.

I learned how much God values our relationship when I said, "Lord, all I asked You for was a favor." And He replied, *I granted it. You have no idea how much weight you carry with Me.*

I never ask a favor from anyone unless they are a close friend, do you?

**"IT WAS NOT THEIR WISDOM, THEIR ABILITY OR THEIR MIGHT THAT GAVE THEM THE VICTORY AND POSSESSION OF THE LAND. IT WAS THE FAVOR OF GOD."**



Jerry Savelle is president and founder of Jerry Savelle Ministries International and founder of Heritage of Faith Christian Center. For information or ministry materials, visit [jerrysavelle.org](http://jerrysavelle.org).

I wouldn't walk up to a total stranger and ask for something. But I wouldn't think twice about asking for a favor from someone I'm intimate with. We have that kind of relationship with God. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace...." When we translate *grace* as "favor" here, suddenly this is a throne of divine favor. In other words, we have a right to approach God, who is favorable toward us. He is saying that He will grant us a favor any time we need one because it goes on to say, "that we may obtain mercy, and find grace [divine favor] to help in time of need." We have a personal invitation to approach God and obtain divine favor. Isn't that encouraging?

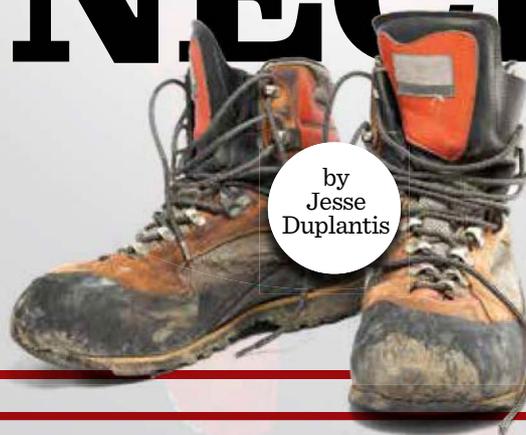
#### A Limitless Generation

I'm convinced Paul was seeing into our generation when he wrote about the ages to come in Ephesians 2:7, "That He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace (His unmerited favor) in [His] kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus" (*AMPC*).

God has been waiting for a generation of people with whom He can take off the limits. This generation will experience the favor of God like no other—because we're the generation that will usher in King Jesus. When the world sees the favor of God operating in our lives like He wants to demonstrate it, there will be an evangelistic landslide.

Psalm 102:13 says "the set time" has come for the favor of God. The set time has come and we are that generation. From this moment forward, expect the favor of God to manifest in your life—on the job, in the department store, at the cafeteria, everywhere you go. When it does, acknowledge it. And be consistent in declaring it and you'll experience unusual, extraordinary things most people never see in a lifetime... every day! It's the favor of God! ♣

# Keep Your Foot ON THE DEVIL'S NECK



by  
Jesse  
Duplantis

**My grandfather was a giant of a man with a great sense of humor. It was always so much fun to be around him. I remember him lifting me high in the air with his huge hands to help me pick oranges.**



When I was very young, about 6 years old, he took me with him to the chicken coop one day to get a chicken for supper. I didn't notice the little hatchet he held in his hand.

After we closed the gate, Grandpa told me to "shoo" a chicken into the corner. Now this was not an easy job for a 6-year-old, but I loved my grandpa and would do anything he asked. He waited patiently until I finally said, "OK, Grandpa, I have one of the chickens in the corner!"

Grandpa came from behind me and grabbed that chicken. In an instant, he put his foot on the chicken's neck and chopped its head off with the hatchet. Then, Grandpa reached down and grabbed that chicken and threw it at me.

I was terrified! Everywhere I ran, that dead chicken followed—his bloody neck sticking up and his wings flapping in the air. Grandpa got the biggest kick out of seeing me run around the yard, away from that dead chicken. He kept hollering, "Jesse, that chicken can't hurt you, he's dead!"

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Running, I hollered back, "He doesn't know it, Grandpa. He thinks he is alive!"

Then, all of a sudden, the chicken stopped flapping its wings and fell down dead. After seeing this, I became very brave and boldly kicked that dead chicken as hard as I could.

Grandpa told me, "Jesse, as soon as I cut that chicken's head off, he was dead. But because of what you saw, you thought he was still alive and were scared."

### He Is Already Defeated!

Now, we think that's funny, but do you know Christians are doing the same thing every day in the way they react to the devil? Let me tell you something, the devil has been destroyed! Jesus bruised his head and kicked his brains out on the cross at Calvary. Many Christians think the devil still has power because of what they see. He is running around the earth flapping his wings at the Church and Christians are calling on God to save them from this dead chicken. They're doing it even though the devil is already defeated!

Instead of running scared from the final flappings of a defeated enemy, we need to do what we see Joshua and the children of Israel doing in Joshua 10. God had appointed Joshua as the new commander in chief with orders to possess the land that He had given to the nation of Israel. All odds were against Joshua. Five kings and five nations came against Israel to try and stop the promise of God. Most people would have advised him to run.

"Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies" (verses 12-13).

### You Can't Lose

Joshua had a God-related thought, sent from the throne of Jehovah. With 5-1 odds, he subdued and captured the five kings because God was on his side.

When Joshua decided to put his foot on the devil's neck, he did not do it in a closet. In front of the whole nation of Israel, he commanded the five kings to bow down before the servant of the Lord!

And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them. And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight (verses 24-25).

The entire nation of Israel saw that every enemy that came against them was subdued because God fought for them. They put their foot on the devil's neck and received the promise!

You can receive the promises of God if you will stand strong in the Word against the schemes of the enemy. If God is on your side you can't lose! Romans 8:31 says, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

If sickness or disease comes against your house, believe Matthew 8:17, "...Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Tell your body to line up with what the Word of God says. The Holy Spirit will flow through your natural body and push out every disease.

### Jerk That Devil Down!

I saw this work firsthand when I was 9 years old. I spent the night in the home of a missionary friend of mine whose father had 12 kids. This missionary really amazed me because he kept his foot on the devil's neck all the time.

When dinnertime came, we sat at the table and bowed our heads for prayer. I said, "There's no food on the table." In a confident voice, he answered, "The Lord will provide."

I said to myself, *Jesse, you are going hungry today. I have never eaten air*

before in my life, but I guess I will today. I wanted to go home!

We all bowed our heads and closed our eyes as the missionary prayed, "Father, in the Name of Jesus, we thank You for the food that has been given to us." I opened my eyes. Nothing. I thought, *This cat's going to eat plates today.*

Suddenly, the silence was broken by the sound of the doorbell. We went to the door and discovered four sacks of groceries.

It was impossible to get away from that house so quickly without being seen. Yet, no one was in sight! Who, but God, could have brought all that food and left so quickly without a trace?

When I came home from the missionary's house, I told my mama that the angels fed me. She asked me, "What did they look like?" I told her that I did not know, but their food sure was delicious!

Folks, there's a spiritual truth here that we must see.

Jesus expects us to keep our foot on the devil's neck at all times, and He tells us how to do it. By submitting ourselves to God and resisting the devil. Then, he will flee from us (James 4:7).

We have no reason to fear the devil, or anything he tries to do to us. He has already been defeated!

God tells us in 2 Corinthians 2:14 that we are victorious, and we have been made to triumph in every situation. "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

The only way you can fail, and fall prey to the enemy, is when you get out of the spirit and begin walking in the natural. "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" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

It's time we stop trying to live out our lives in the natural, and stop allowing the devil to walk all over us. Jesus has made us to be world overcomers! In Him we are triumphant in everything, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"

(1 John 5:4).

If you've accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, you have been "born of God." And as a blood-bought child, that means that no matter what this world is throwing at you today, you can overcome it with your faith! Nothing is too difficult for you because you serve a God who is more than able to meet all your needs. Even if He's got to send angels to put groceries on your front steps, God will work a miracle on your behalf if you put your faith in Him!

So, come on! Make a decision today to strengthen your faith by standing firm on God's promise to you. Stand up and declare, "Devil, I'm not running in fear! I'm not standing in defeat! I'm not putting up with you and your stealing, killing and destroying ways another day! I'm putting my foot down...right on *your* neck!"



Jesse Duplantis is president and founder of Jesse Duplantis Ministries, with international headquarters in Louisiana and offices in the U.K. and Australia.

For ministry materials and information, visit [jdm.org](http://jdm.org).

**“THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN FAIL,  
AND FALL PREY TO THE ENEMY,  
IS WHEN YOU GET OUT OF THE  
SPIRIT AND BEGIN WALKING  
IN THE NATURAL.”**





**LEARNING TO  
LIVE BY FAITH IN GOD'S  
WORD LIBERATES YOU  
FROM THE CAPTIVITY  
OF THE CURSE.**

# AN OVERCOMING

*by  
Gloria  
Copeland*

**Ken and I have been living by faith in God's Word for so many years now that I can't even conceive anymore of living without God's supernatural power. I can't imagine being limited to the natural, and just living like the world does. That would be the worst thing ever!**



# WINNING TORY

It would be hell on earth to go back to being bound by whatever torment the devil decided to bring our way. It would be miserable not to know any better than to just open the door whenever Satan comes knocking, so he can come in and steal, kill and destroy.

Ken and I have been there and done that, and we wouldn't go back for anything. As Galatians 3:23, *New English Translation*, says, "Before faith came we were held...prisoners...." We weren't literally behind bars, but we were prisoners of things like lack and debt. We were prisoners of whatever sickness happened to be going around or whatever negative circumstances happened to erupt in our lives.

We even lived that way after we were born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit. Because we didn't know much about God's Word, we had no clue He had provided healing, prosperity and BLESSING for us in Jesus. We had no idea there was a higher way for us to live. So, for about five years things in our lives stayed the same.

We kept thinking and talking and acting like the world and getting the same results the world gets. We remained captive to our circumstances and kept living like prisoners, even though spiritually God had set us free.

Then one happy day we began to hear this wonderful message we call the Word of Faith. We found out what the Bible says about the victory that belongs to us as believers. We learned to operate according to the simple principles of faith and, as a result, things began to change.

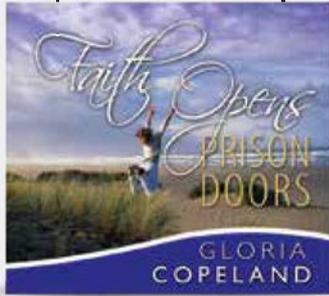
Our bank account, for instance. Within 11 months it went from being deep in the red to in the black. That was a miracle! We'd lived on borrowed money our entire married lives. We owed so much it didn't look, in the natural, like we could ever get out of debt. But once we began to believe God in that area, and do things His way, the impossible happened. All those bank notes got paid off and we began to prosper.

At the same time, we also began to walk in health. Instead of being prisoners to sickness, we learned to resist it by faith. When symptoms came knocking, we





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prayed, believed God's Word about the matter, and got healed.

Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). So, from those early days when we first began learning about faith until now, we've continued in God's Word. We've put it first place in our lives, believed it and obeyed it.

We enjoy being free, and God's written Word is our freedom Book. It tells us how to think, talk and act in such a way that God can be free to come into our lives and work supernaturally all the time. It tells us

how to walk by faith, and the more we do that the freer we get because faith opens prison doors!

**Victors,  
Not Victims**

"Well," someone might say, "I don't think we can really be free from things like sickness and lack on this earth, because it's been corrupted by sin. Since Adam's Fall in the Garden of Eden the curse has been operating here."

Yes, it's operating here, all right, but we, as believers, don't have to live in bondage to it. We've been liberated from it by Jesus. As Galatians 3 says, He "redeemed us from the curse...being made a curse for us...that the blessing" might come on us (verses 13-14). He paid the penalty for sin so that we could be made righteous and victorious, be well and prosperous, and have every need met.

The Bible is clear about that. What's more it just makes spiritual sense. After all, we're God's children and He's a good Father. We can learn a lot from Him when it comes to being good parents. If we had 10 children, would we want five of them to be prosperous and five to be poor? Would we want eight of them to be sick and two of them to be healed? No! As good parents, we'd want all our children to be thriving in every way—and that's what God wants too. He doesn't want us to be dominated by the negative conditions in this world. He doesn't want us to be victims of the devil and the demonic corruption he's brought on this earth.

On the contrary, God created us to be victors. He said it plainly in 1 John 5:4: "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Faith has always made God's people overcomers!

We see it even in the Old Testament with the Israelites. Time and again, the amount of victory they experienced corresponded directly to their level of faith. When they came out of Egypt, for instance, they believed and acted on what God said and His power was

present to heal, prosper and deliver them from their enemies. "He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes" (Psalm 105:37).

When they got to the Promised Land, on the other hand, they got into unbelief and God couldn't do much for them. They doubted His Word, got out from under His BLESSING, and wound up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years.

We see the same principle at work in the New Testament in Jesus' ministry. When people didn't believe what He preached, He couldn't help them very much. When they did, He could work miracles for them. He could minister to them the healing, delivering, liberating power of God. He was free to prosper them exceedingly.

That's what happened with blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10. He was sitting outside Jericho begging one day when Jesus passed by. He'd heard that Jesus preached recovery of sight to the blind, and because he believed it, he started hollering, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me" (verse 47).

He made such a ruckus that the people around him told him to hush, but he refused to be silenced. He kept crying out more and more, "Thou son of David, have mercy on me," until eventually... "Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. ... And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way" (verses 48-49, 51-52).

To the world, Bartimaeus was a nobody. He was just an old beggar, hopelessly imprisoned by blindness. But his faith got Jesus' attention. It stopped Jesus in His tracks and opened the door for Him to set Bartimaeus free.

Sadly, Jesus didn't find that kind of faith everywhere He went. In Nazareth, for instance, people didn't respond to what He preached like Bartimaeus did.

Although He said the same thing to them that He did in other places, they didn't put any faith in it, so the Anointing of God that was on Him didn't benefit them. "He could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief" (Mark 6:5-6).

### First Priority and Final Authority

How can you make sure you have Bartimaeus-type faith and not Nazareth-type unbelief operating in your life? It's simple. Make God's Word your first priority and final authority. Continually spend time listening to and reading what God says in the Scriptures and change your mind to agree with it. Don't let what your natural senses tell you or what the world says cause you to doubt what God says. Don't read the Word and disqualify yourself for one reason or another. That's not faith. If you read 1 John 5:4, and think, *I could never be an overcomer*, that's unbelief.

"But Gloria," you might say, "I have more flaws and weaknesses than you know. I really don't have what it takes to be an overcomer!"

None of us do—in ourselves. That's why, when we were born again, God came to live on the inside of us. He moved into us so He can make us anything He wants us to be.

You could be tongue-tied (like Moses was) and God could make the greatest preacher out of you that the world has ever known. You could be a deaf-mute (like the man Jesus ministered to in Mark 7), and God could give you speech and hearing and send you out to be a walking demonstration of His power to everyone you meet.

God loves to do that kind of thing! He



VICTORIOUS  
LIVING

by Kenneth Copeland

## One Step Outside of Love is Hate

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth."

1 John 1:5-6

Oftentimes people associate forgiveness only with those major resentments they've been carrying against someone. But true forgiveness is also for all those "little" hurts and offenses that cause you to go out of your way to avoid someone. It's those memories that cause you to treat someone with less warmth and love because they have injured you in some way.

I'm talking about any attitude you have that falls short of the full light and love of God Himself.

Some people don't want to give up those kinds of things. They'll say, "I love God. Glory! Hallelujah! My fellowship with Him is fine. I'm just having a tough time fellowshiping with Sister So-

and-So. But after what she did to me, I just can't help it."

According to the Bible, people who say things like that are lying. They're trying to walk in darkness and light at the same time, and 1 John tells us it can't be done. Notice he didn't stutter. He didn't say, "Well, bless your heart. Unforgiveness is a sin, but I know how hard these things can be sometimes."

No, he said bluntly: "If you walk in darkness and say you have partnership with God, you're lying about it."

The sad thing is, many Christians who are walking in unforgiveness don't know they're in darkness. They think that because they read their Bible and say "Amen" at church, they're in fellowship with God. But 1 John 2:11 says, "He that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." A man who does not forgive is hating his brother.

"I don't hate him," you may say. "I just don't like him very much!"

How far outside of love do you have to go before it can be called hate? As far as God is concerned, just one step outside of love is hate. To Him there are no shades of gray. In His eyes, anything less than love is sin.

So make the decision today to forgive...every little hurt. 



**1** God's Word is your freedom Book—the more you continue in it the freer you become.  
John 8:31-32

**2** God created you to live as a victor over this world, not as a victim of it.  
1 John 5:4

**3** Even in the Old Testament, when Israel acted by faith on God's Word, He brought them out of Egypt as world-overcomers.  
Ps. 105:37

**4** Your natural weaknesses don't disqualify you from being an overcomer, they give God an opportunity to show Himself strong through you.  
1 Cor.1:27-29

## JULY BROADCAST CALENDAR



Kenneth Copeland

**July 1-5**  
**The WORD Is the Victory That Overcomes All**  
 Kenneth Copeland

**July 7**  
**How to Operate the Laws of Increase**  
 Kenneth Copeland

**July 8-12**  
**Living Free From Condemnation NOW**  
 Kenneth Copeland

**July 14**  
**God's Great Love for You**  
 Kenneth Copeland

**July 15-19**  
**The Laws of the Spirit**  
 Kenneth Copeland

**July 21**  
**Love Gives the Answer**  
 Kenneth Copeland

**July 22-26**  
**God's Word Is Final Authority**  
 Kenneth Copeland

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delights in showing the world through us that “the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” As 1 Corinthians 1 says: “For...not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence” (verses 26-29, *New King James Version*).

Think about the condition Kenneth E. Hagin was in, for example, when God called him. He was a 16-year-old boy lying paralyzed on his deathbed, suffering from a deformed heart and a medically incurable blood disease. He was so weak, and his condition was so hopeless, everyone around him had given up on him. The doctors, his family, even the ministers who came to visit him, all told him he had no choice but to die.

But then he read in Mark 11 that Jesus said, “Have faith in God. For...whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (verses 22-23).

There on his deathbed, young Hagin believed those verses and acted on them, and his faith opened the prison doors of disease and paralysis. He got up off that bed healed, and went on to preach the Word of Faith, and change the lives of people all over the world—including Ken’s and mine.

Oral Roberts had a similar story. As a little boy, he had a severe speech impediment. He stuttered so badly all the other kids made fun of him. As a teenager, he collapsed on the basketball court during a tournament and was later diagnosed with tuberculosis. Instead of playing basketball, he wound up lying at home, weak, spitting blood and about to die.

His sister, Jewel, heard about a healing evangelist, so she put him in their old car and took him to the meeting. “Oral, God is going to heal you,” she said. He believed it, and it happened. He was miraculously raised up and went on to preach the gospel to multitudes, minister healing to the sick, and build a great Christian university.

God sees things differently than we do! When He looked at those two sickly boys, He saw them as conduits for His power. He saw their weakness and everything they were lacking and thought, *This gives Me something to do*. He made Kenneth Hagin and Oral Roberts overcomers by filling them with His Spirit, and turned them into two world-changing, mighty men of God.

He wants to do the same thing with you. So, quit looking at yourself in the natural and look at yourself in Jesus. Believe that you’re an overcomer simply because He says so. Put your faith in His Word and let Him empower you to do whatever He’s called you to do.

It doesn’t matter whether you’re called to be a preacher, a homemaker, a bus driver or a brain surgeon, God has put His power in you to enable you not only to be supernaturally BLESSED, BUT TO BE A SUPERNATURAL BLESSING. He’s called and equipped you to release into this world the kingdom of heaven that’s within you, take dominion over your circumstances, and reach out to others and help them get free.

That’s what we, as believers, are here on earth to do! We’re the Body of Christ. We’re His hands. We’re His feet. We’re His mouthpiece. We’re the ones He’s sent to minister His power, love and BLESSING to the lost people out there in the world.

So, for their sake as well as our own, let’s rise up by faith and do it. Let’s believe God’s Word, live as the overcomers He created us to be, and “shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life” (Philippians 2:15-16). Let’s use our faith to share the good news and show those who are still living as captives, that faith in Jesus can open prison doors and set them free! 🙏



Commander  
Kellie's Corner

# SHINE, SUPERKID!



***This is my gift to You, Jesus. I give You ME! My life, my thoughts, 24/7, every beat of my heart, my skill, my talent, my good and my bad, my strengths and my weaknesses, I give to You now.***

Our prayer is changing us, Superkid! "Jesus, I give You my talent." What does that mean? A talent is a natural ability that makes it easier to succeed in an area such as athletics, the arts or sciences. Your talent is a gift from the Father. Why should you give it back? Someone said, "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it, is your gift back to God."

### Talent Is a Gift From God

Daniel 1 tells the story of four amazing young men of God, taken as prisoners from the royal and noble families of Judah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem. The king had them brought to the palace, where Daniel and his friends were given Babylonian names—Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They were chosen because they were strong, healthy, smart and educated, TALENTED and GIFTED with knowledge and good judgment. These young men stood out from the rest of the captives. Because they gave their lives and abilities to God, He increased their talent for understanding and wisdom. God also gave Daniel the ability to tell people the meaning of their dreams and visions! They were 10 times more capable than all the wise men in the kingdom!

Even though they were the king's slaves, Daniel and his friends knew they really belonged to God! When we acknowledge Him, He can cause us to stand out too. James 1:17-18 in *The Passion Translation* says, "Every gift God freely gives us is good and perfect, streaming down from the Father of lights, who shines from the heavens with no hidden shadow or darkness and is never subject to change. God was delighted to give us birth by the truth of his infallible Word so that we would fulfill his chosen destiny for us and become the favorite ones out of all his creation!"

God has gifted you with a talent for a purpose.

### Talent With a Purpose

"Every gift God freely gives us...." We talked about the gifts, now let's talk about the whys. This says, "to give us birth by the truth of his infallible Word." God spoke the Word to create the universe, and to create you! You were not an accident, but a well-planned-out

person with a destiny, "so that we would fulfill his chosen destiny for us and become the favorite ones out of all his creation!"

Connect that with the verses we looked at last month (Psalm 139:13-16, *New Living Translation*). God wrote every moment of your life, and then He created you with all the right ingredients—talents, personality and gifts—to make those moments happen...to enable you to DO what He created you to DO!

"...and become the favorite ones out of all his creation." He wants you to be His favorite, and for others to see Him in you, and to know they can be His favorite too!

When we serve God with our talents, we can affect those around us like Daniel and his friends did. Throughout every story in Daniel, God showed the kings that He Himself is the great ruler. Every time those young men were challenged to give their loyalty to the king, they stayed faithful to serve God first. This allowed God to use their talents to help the king!

### Don't Use Your Talent Selfishly

Daniel (Belteshazzar), Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego outlived several kings! Because these young men served only God with their gifts, God turned the hearts of the kings toward Him and blessed them, as long as they honored Him as Almighty God.

Daniel and his friends didn't become prideful but served God with their talents. When people become prideful, pointing to themselves and not to God, He cannot bless them.

Romans 12:1-3, *NLT*, says:

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and

perfect. Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us."

Verse 6 says, "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."

In *The Message Bible*, "...go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't."

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you" (Philippians 2:13-15, *NLT*).

Jesus is NOT criticizing you, He created you! He knows how to help you "live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people" (verse 15, *NLT*).

### Shine, Superkid, Shine!

Lastly, realize you were MADE to SHINE! Matthew 5:14-15 (*NLT*), "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."

"So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven" (verse 16, *TPT*).

Daniel and his friends didn't hide their abilities, and neither should you! God made you with special care because He wants you to let Him shine. When you give your talent to Him, He uses it to open doors so you can bless others, and He opens doors for you! So, it blesses Jesus, others and you!

So, let that talent shine brightly for Jesus, Superkid! ❤️

Commander Kellie



Kellie Copeland is responsible for Covenant Partner Relations 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 & Jerry Savelle

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