

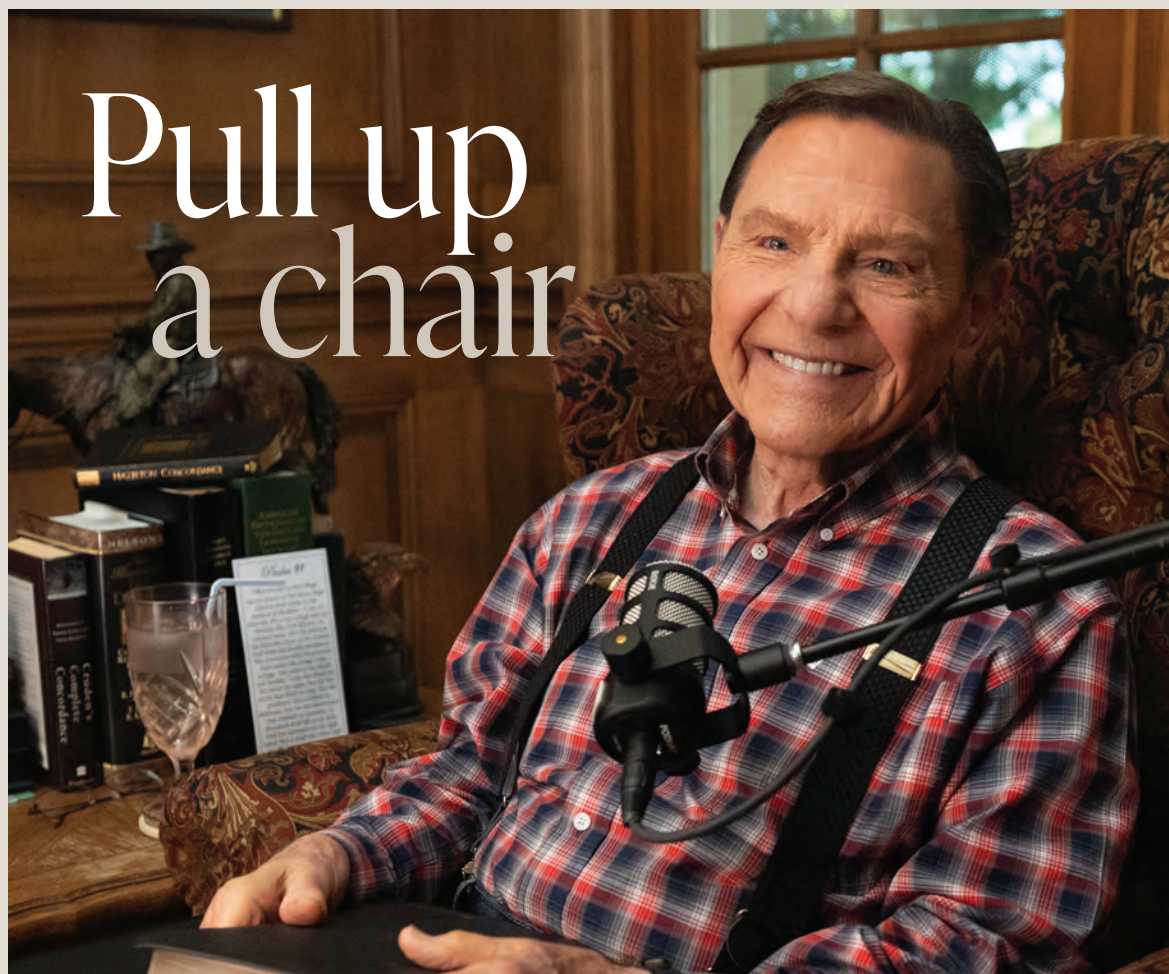
Believer's Voice of
VICTORY

From age 5, recurring dreams seemingly guided Bryant Bell's life. Little did he know, God was warning him to flee an apparent family curse, revealing his spiritual heritage, and leading him to God's plan for his destiny.

FROM DREAMS TO REALITY

by Melanie Hemry : Page 12





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VOL. 54 : N°8 : IN PRINT SINCE '73

From The Editor

IT'S NOT ALWAYS 'WHAT IT IS'!

While preparing to write this letter, two questions came to mind. The first was, *What are people looking for in life?* And second, I wondered, *What are people hoping for?*

In a world so filled with misfortune, confusion and uncertainty, I believe most people are looking for a ray of hope—something to assure them that eventually everything is going to be all right. They're hoping for something to take their minds off the negative, fill them with joy and peace, and help them forget all the darkness and emptiness that exists in the world.

They're wondering, *Can we ever have hope that things will change for the better?*

The answer is yes! There is hope, and it comes through Jesus Christ—the only One who has the power to turn things around. Only He has the ability to turn our darkness into light, our brokenness into wholeness, our despair into hope. Unfortunately, there are many who disagree. They have such negative views on life that they're willing to accept whatever comes their way. Their attitude is simply this: *It is what it is!*

My response to that? No, it's not always "what it is." People who say things like that usually don't have any hope. They're not willing to believe things can change, so they choose to accept anything the world throws their way.

The truth is, God always has something to say about the negative situations we face. And in most cases, He has different thoughts about them than we do. Our bad circumstances may be a reality, but they will remain that way only if we allow them to. Reality is never finality. That's because God can change any situation—

especially those that don't line up with His plan and purpose for our lives.

If you don't believe there's such a thing as hope, read the story of Abraham. He was 75 when God told him that he and his wife, Sarah, who was almost as old, were going to have a child. He was 100 when that promise was fulfilled. Abraham took God at His word, hoped when he had no reason to hope, and then hoped some more.

Instead of confessing "It is what it is," try standing firm on God's Word and your faith, and believe that "It is what God said it is." If there's something you've been hoping for, don't stop. Keep on hoping, and hoping. And if you have to, hope some more. If it's in line with God's will for you, He'll see that you have it.

Need more assurance? Read Kenneth Copeland's article this month, titled "God Is Not the Problem," where he reminds us of our authority as believers. He writes: "Lack of knowledge is a huge problem among Christians today, and it leaves them vulnerable to the devil's destructive works. He's able to put on them the same sicknesses and diseases, the same financial crises, the same misery and strife he's inflicting on the rest of the world—all because they don't know that they have dominion over such things through their Covenant with God."



Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor



Believer's Voice of Victory: A Newsletter for the Power People!

When the Lord instructed Kenneth and Gloria Copeland to publish the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said to them: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.*

Acting in obedience to those instructions, in September 1973, the Copelands published the first ever *BVOV*, then subtitled "A Newsletter for the Power People," and mailed it to about 3,000 people. Within two years, circulation had grown to 20,000, quickly becoming a pacesetter in the growing sphere of Christian magazines.

In describing the magazine in those early days, Gloria said: "There's a ceiling on worldly publications that we don't have. They can't reach beyond where they are into the realm of the anointing. Yet, the whole purpose of our magazine is to present the Word of God on paper *through* the anointing."

And the anointing has truly made the difference in *BVOV*, and in the lives of people around the world. Since those early days of *BVOV*, our Partners and Friends have sent in thousands of letters with their own stories of faith. These have become the foundation for the testimonies and feature articles that now appear in every monthly issue.

In 2025, we mailed nearly 1.4 million copies of the now-32-page, full-color magazine to households in the United States alone. Thousands more were sent to 159 countries in six languages around the world.

Knowing the good news is being spread throughout the world on the powerful voice of the printed page, is as exciting today as it was 53 years ago when it all began. God is working through its pages month after month! And the most exciting part is the lives that continue to be changed every day because *BVOV* is delivering the Word and telling the stories, sowing them

"There's a ceiling on worldly publications that we don't have. They can't reach beyond where they are into the realm of the anointing. Yet, the whole purpose of our magazine is to present the Word of God on paper *through* the anointing."



The first *Believer's Voice of Victory* newsletter

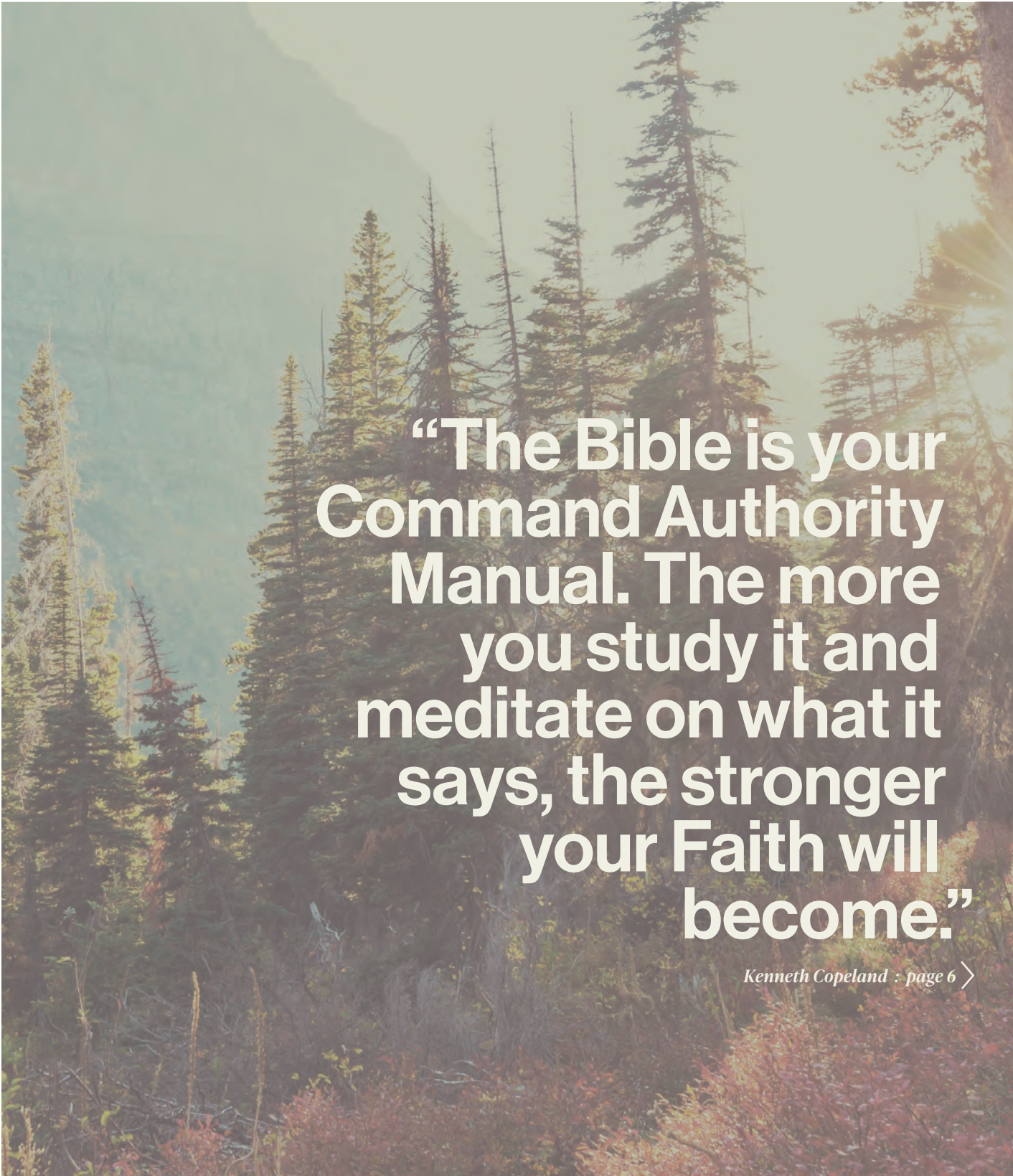
into nations around the world.

Here's an example of how God has continually used *BVOV*:

A Partner in the United States stands on God's Word in faith and receives her husband miraculously raised from the dead. She sends her praise report to KCM. The story is written and published in *BVOV*. A Partner in England receives the magazine and, being led of the Holy Spirit mails it to a friend—a struggling pastor in Guyana who all but consumes the magazine the day he receives it.

The very next day, his newborn son, delivered months prematurely, is pronounced dead in a Brazilian hospital. Even on the way to the hospital, the father has read and reread the testimony about the man being raised from the dead in the U.S., and faith has come to him! He stretches his hands toward his lifeless son, voices his faith, and rebukes the spirit of death, commanding it to lose its hold on his son in the Name of Jesus! His son revives!

Believers, that's the power of the Word of God, presented on paper *through* the anointing. *That's victory!* 📖



**“The Bible is your
Command Authority
Manual. The more
you study it and
meditate on what it
says, the stronger
your Faith will
become.”**

Kenneth Copeland : page 6 >

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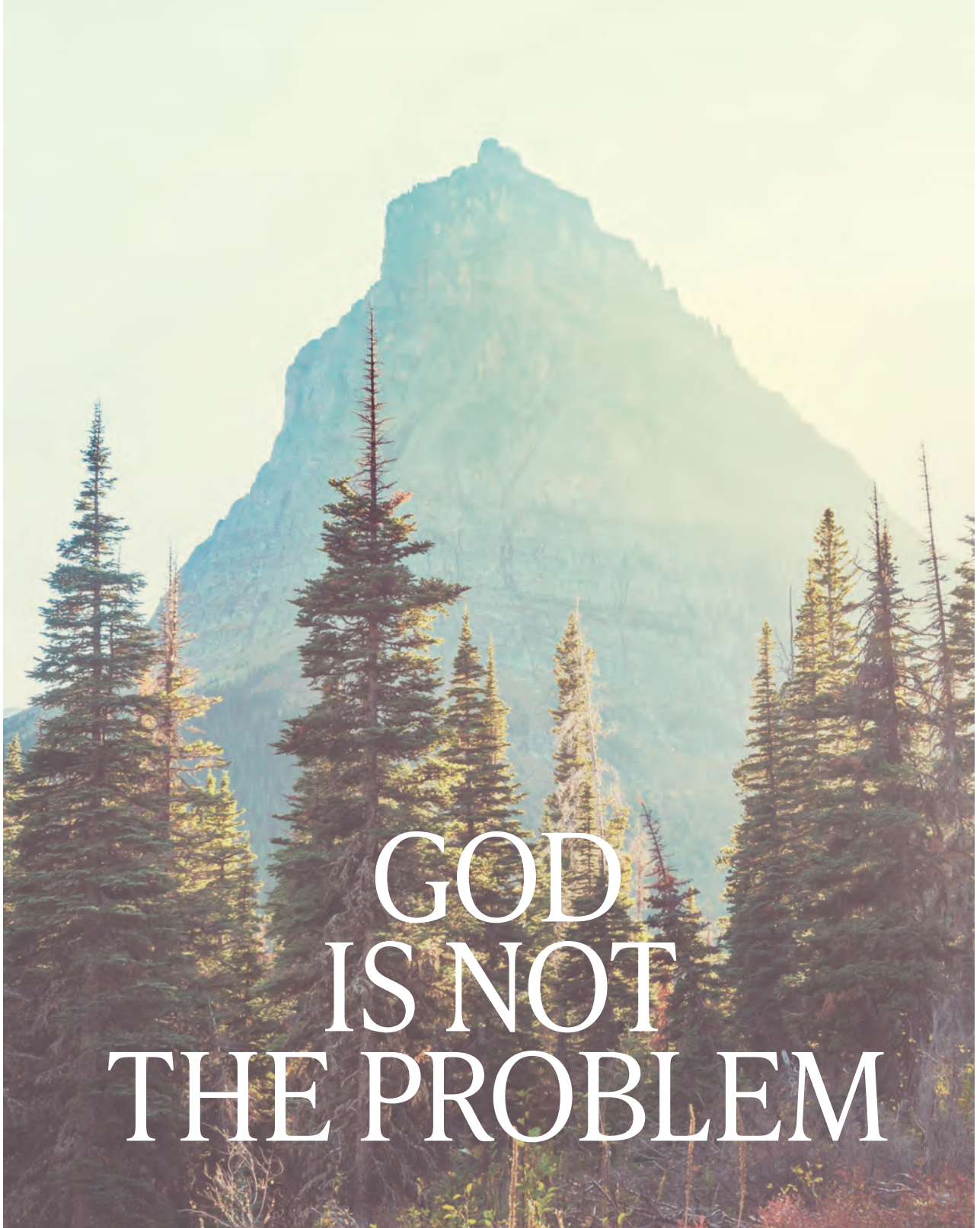
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There's a phrase that's become popular in religious circles over the years. When questions arise about why we see so much chaos and evil in the world around us, very often someone will say that *although we may not understand it all*, "God is in control."

Those who say it mean well. They're usually trying to offer comfort and a spiritual perspective. But as seemingly spiritual as it may sound, there's a major problem with the statement, "God is in control.": It's contrary to Scripture. Which means, of course, it's not true.

If it were true, we'd all be in big trouble. We'd have to agree with a statement made by a newspaper reporter years ago who, because of all the tragedy he witnessed in his line of work, claimed to be an agnostic. Looking to religion for the answer, he was simply assured that, yes, there is a God, and He is in control.

"If He is, He sure does have things in a mess!" the reporter said.

The man had a valid point. If everything that's going on in this world is under God's control, any thinking person would have reason to question His competence, if not His very existence. The Bible tells us, however, that God is *not* in control of everything that's happening on this earth right now. From Genesis to Revelation, it assures us that God is not the one who has gotten things on this planet into such a mess.

"Wait just a minute, Brother Copeland.



Doesn't the Bible say God is Sovereign?"

Not in the sense that many have thought. In fact, the word *sovereign* doesn't appear even one time in the *King James Version* of the Bible. Some of the other versions use it, but even in those instances, when God is described as *Sovereign*, it doesn't mean all-controlling. It simply means what the dictionary says: "first in rank, order and authority."

Certainly, by that definition God is unquestionably Sovereign. He is the Eternal, Omnipotent One who was and is and is to come, so He is *first in rank*. He existed before anyone else and created all things, so He is *first in order*. He is above all, and there is no authority higher, so He is *first in authority*.

God does not exercise His sovereignty, however, by controlling everything and everybody on earth. On the contrary, the Bible tells us that the first thing He did after He created the earth was to put mankind in charge of it. As Genesis 1:27-28 says:

God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God BLESSED them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (*New King James Version*).

What did God mean when He said, "*have dominion...on the earth*"? According to the dictionary, *dominion* is defined as "supreme



This article was adapted from the new book by Kenneth Copeland, titled *Speak the Word: Walking in the Authority of the Believer*.

For more information, or to order your copy, see the ad on Page 9, and scan the QR code.

authority, or sovereignty.” In other words, in the same sense that God is Sovereign over all, He made mankind sovereign on earth. He gave the first man and woman and their descendants full authority over this planet and everything in it (Psalm 115:16).

“Yes, but that was in the beginning in the Garden of Eden,” you might say. “A lot of things have changed since then.” That’s true. But God hasn’t changed one iota. Neither has His WORD. God’s WORD is His bond. He never breaks it. “The WORD of The LORD endures forever” (1 Peter 1:25, *NKJV*), and, since He “is not a man, that He should lie” (Numbers 23:19, *NKJV*), the words God spoke over mankind in Genesis 1 still stand.

It is amazing that God ever spoke those words at all. Considering how fallible the first man and woman and all the rest of us have proven ourselves to be, it’s astonishing that God, in all His greatness, majesty, power and foreknowledge, would choose to give human beings dominion over the earth that He created. Why would He do it?

We find David asking God that question in Psalm 8. After praising the excellence of the name of The LORD who has set His glory above the heavens, David says:

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our LORD, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! (verses 3-9).

David wrote that Psalm thousands of years after Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. Yet in it, he confirmed that what God said in Genesis 1:28 was still true: God has given mankind “dominion over” all the earth.

“It doesn’t look like it!” someone might say. “It doesn’t even look like Christians have much

dominion. For the most part, it looks like the Church is as subject to all the messes in this world as everybody else is.”

I know, and one of the biggest reasons that’s true is because many Christians have the idea that God doesn’t want them to have any authority or dominion. Although they’re born again and love The LORD, they continue to see themselves as just helpless bumpkins trying to beg God into the notion of answering their prayers. Time and again over the years, in visiting various churches, I’ve heard dear, sincere Christian people carry on like they’re spiritual orphans.

I’ve heard them pray as if God is pretty much disgusted with them. I’ve heard them talk to Him as if they’re trying to scratch their way back into His good graces by putting themselves down. “Oh, LORD, we’re no good!” they’d say. “We’re so unworthy!”

Of course, most Christians only believe that about themselves when they’re in church. Once they step outside the church building, they wouldn’t tolerate for a moment being told they were unworthy. Even after saying that very thing to God on Sunday, if on Monday you told them that they weren’t good enough to go into a certain restaurant or shop at a certain store, or sit at the front of the bus, they would fight you all the way to city hall.

Why? Because on Monday they don’t have their religious cap on—and it’s religion, not the Bible, that has taught God’s people that they’re unworthy and no good.

Destroyed by a Lack of Knowledge

Don’t misunderstand me. I agree that we were all spiritually unworthy before we were born again. As sinners, not yet saved, we were totally spiritually bankrupt. We didn’t have a leg to stand on before God. But He didn’t leave us in that condition. He didn’t just leave us, as the old hymn says, “Just as I am without one plea....”

No, God sent Jesus to shed His blood and give us His own righteousness to stand on before God forever!

The moment we received Jesus as our LORD, each of us ceased to be an unworthy sinner and became a “new creature” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). We became God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:10). So now, instead

You weren't created to be ruled by fear, pressure or circumstance.

You were created to live by the Word of God.



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of telling God what unworthy, helpless failures we are, we can go to Him and say, “Heavenly Father, I was once unworthy but, in Christ, You have made me worthy. So, I know that when I pray in His Name, according to Your WORD, You will do whatever I ask.”

The thought of approaching God with that kind of confidence actually scares some believers. They consider it to be presumptuous. They think boldly telling God that, based on His WORD, they fully expect Him to do what they ask, is like bossing God around.

But it's not. It's getting with His original plan of dominion. It's believing the Bible and exercising the “command authority” God has delegated to us in Christ, to bring His power on the scene and change things on this earth that are out of line with His will.

Command authority is a phrase The LORD Himself dropped into my heart when He instructed me to write this book. Although I'd preached many times in the past on the believer's authority, He told me to teach it again and call it the command authority of a follower of Jesus of Nazareth. *You have to teach this in every generation*, He said, *because My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge* (Hosea 4:6).

Lack of knowledge is a huge problem among Christians today, and it leaves them vulnerable to the devil's destructive works. He's able to put on them the same sicknesses and diseases, the same financial crises, the same misery and strife he's inflicting on the rest of the world—all because they don't know that they have dominion over such things through their Covenant with God.

Some precious believers don't even realize they have a Covenant with God. They know they're saved. They know the Bible contains an Old Testament and a New Testament. But nobody has ever told them what a *testament* actually is.

A testament is a covenant. It's a legal document like a will. A person's last will and testament is a legal declaration of how their belongings are to be distributed after their death. The New Testament is Jesus' Last Will and Testament. He is the only Man ever who left a will, died to put it into effect, then rose from the dead to ensure it's carried out!

We, as believers, are the beneficiaries of His Will, and nowhere in it does it say that Christian people ought to be poor or sick or defeated. Nowhere does it say, like one old hymn does, that we are “just poor beggars” trudging along on this earthly sod.

No, Jesus' Will says by His stripes we were healed (1 Peter 2:24). It says Jesus became poor, that we through His poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). It says we have been BLESSED by God with every spiritual BLESSING in the heavenlies and that “this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Think of it: By Faith in Jesus, all of us, as believers, have world-overcoming victory! Yet many have been overcome by the conditions in the world, simply because they didn't know what's in our Covenant. They've never learned how to take possession of what Jesus provided for us in His Will.

What's the solution?

Finding out what the Bible says.

Everything we need to know to live as victors is in that BOOK.

The holy Bible is as much an earthly manifestation of God as Jesus was when He was on earth. Yet many people who have copies of it sitting on their coffee tables or their nightstands haven't taken the time to find out what's in it. They're being destroyed, not because the evil in the world is so great or because the devil is so powerful, but because of a “lack of knowledge” of God's holy BOOK.

The word *knowledge* in Hosea 4:6 comes from the same Hebrew root word the Bible uses to refer to marital relations—as in “Adam *knew* Eve his wife, and she conceived...” (Genesis 4:1). It means to have an intimate relationship with someone or something.

Victorious believers have an intimate relationship with God's BOOK! As Charles Spurgeon once said, “A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.” Christians who spend so much time reading and studying their Bibles that they wear them out know how to live as world overcomers. No matter what kind of trouble comes their way, they can rise above it. They're able to walk in their command authority and receive from God whatever they need because they know that

“WE DON’T NEED TO BE FURTHER CONFUSING UNBELIEVERS BY TELLING THEM THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL, LEAVING THEM THINKING THAT HE IS THE PROBLEM.”

in the Bible, Jesus said:

“Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:13-14, *NKJV*).

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7, *NKJV*).

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7, *NKJV*).

The Bible is your Command Authority Manual. The more you study it and meditate on what it says, the stronger your Faith will become. The more you hear what The WORD says about who you are in Christ and what you have in Him taught and preached, the more proficient you’ll become at operating in the victorious Faith that overcomes the world.

That’s the reason The LORD instructed me to write this book; to help you get increasingly established in the scriptural truth about your authority as a believer. To help you learn how to exercise it and to become so confident in it that you act on it.

God wants you to walk in your authority. That’s His will for every Christian, and it’s time for all of us to do it—not only for our own sakes but for the sake of a lost world. The world is in a big enough mess already. We

don’t need to be further confusing unbelievers by telling them that God is in control, leaving them thinking that He is the problem.

God is *not* the problem.

He’s not the one behind all the evil, chaos and destruction in this world. The devil is the thief who comes “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” Jesus came that “they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10, *NKJV*). He went to the Cross, paid the full price for sin, rose from the dead, and defeated the devil. Then He gave us, as believers, everything we need to enforce the devil’s defeat. He gave us His authority, His Name and His Spirit, and said to us before He ascended into heaven:

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20, *NKJV*).

Take Him at His WORD. Make a quality decision right now to become more proficient at operating in your command authority as a believer in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. As you read this book, ask The LORD to give you more revelation about how to take your place of dominion, put the devil on the run, and live as the overcoming victor the world is longing to see. ❶

FROM DREAMS TO REALITY

Following the death of his mother, Bryant Bell had packed his belongings and moved from Detroit to Florida. He knew his mother and aunt practiced “curious arts,” though he didn’t know exactly what they were. What he did know was that, since he was 5, he’d had recurring dreams of being chased by that aunt.

Now, at age 21, Bryant believed those curious arts his mother and aunt practiced somehow involved something dark. That they were connected to what seemingly was a generational curse that was affecting many of his relatives.

The dreams he had been having, Bryant believed, were God’s warning to flee the practices his mother and aunt embraced.

He was ready for a break, both from family and from Detroit.

A Change of Plans

At one point Bryant’s girlfriend, LySandra, had been a Christian. But admittedly, she had fallen into a backslidden state. Also looking for a change of scenery, LySandra had decided to move to Miami to be with her mother. She thought it would be good for Bryant to make the move along with her.

Their first weekend they were in Miami, LySandra’s mother invited them to church.

Bryant heard the gospel for the first time, and gave his life to Christ that day.

“That wasn’t the way I expected things to go,” LySandra recalls. “I was a backslidden Christian ready to have some fun. Yes, I’d prayed and told God that if He saved Bryant, I would turn back and serve Him. But I didn’t mean *now*! I’d been raised Baptist and then Pentecostal Holiness. We couldn’t do much of anything. I just wanted to have fun. I wanted to skate. To wear jeans and makeup. Bryant

was different. When he gave his life to Christ, he was on fire and never looked back.”

In July 1988, Bryant and LySandra were married. After the first of their three children was born, they moved to Jackson, Miss., where they attended Word of Life Church. The pastor, Ronnie Sims, was a graduate of Rhema Bible Training Center in Tulsa, Okla., and taught extensively about faith and the importance of speaking the Word of God, LySandra recalls.

“It was there that Bryant was first introduced to Kenneth Copeland, and where we became familiar with his ministry,” she said.

When God told Bryant to study to become a paralegal, he had to look up the word to learn what it meant. During college, Bryant interned at the Office of the Secretary of State. While there, he applied what they had learned about faith and God’s Word, and saw God work on his behalf.

On one occasion during his internship, for instance, the governor announced that no one would be receiving paychecks. Choosing to not accept those words, Bryant boldly declared: “I’ll receive my paycheck today.” When another intern reminded him of what the governor had said, Bryant responded, “The Word of God says I can have whatever I say. So, I’ll get my paycheck.”

Within a couple of hours, Bryant received his paycheck.

Other state employees did not.



“The Lord has always spoken to me in dreams. In the late 1990s, I had a short, vivid dream that I was with Pastor Creflo Dollar. He walked me out of a building and put me in a car with Kenneth Copeland.”

The Power of the Spoken Word

Throughout college, and after graduating with an associate's degree as a paralegal, Bryant continued to speak his faith until what he had been declaring came to pass. On one occasion, for instance, he said that he would be given a position that had never existed and that he wasn't qualified to have. He confessed that he would be treated like a lawyer, including having his own office and secretary.

Soon after, Bryant learned that a new position had been created in the city attorney's office. The job required that applicants have a bachelor's degree and at least three years of experience. Though he met neither requirement, Bryant applied for the position and was hired—becoming the first paralegal, and the first African American male ever hired by the city attorney's office in Jackson, Miss. Bryant later learned he had been selected from a field of about 50 lawyers who had applied.

The Lost Legacy

Bryant had often wondered why God called him into the ministry when there were no ministers in his immediate family or among his relatives. He had always believed his ancestors came from Raleigh, N.C. When his mother's oldest sister came to visit, however, she explained that his ancestors were actually from Wadley, Ga., about a 3 ½ hour drive from Marietta.

During a visit to Wadley with a relative, Bryant met an older woman who took them to her church. Inside the building, the woman pointed to a picture on the wall and said, "That's your great-grandfather, Alexander Burton. He left the Methodist Church and founded this church in 1895. It became the first Church of God congregation in Wadley. Later, he traveled to California for the Azusa Street Revival and returned as one of the early Church of God ministers to embrace the Pentecostal movement. This church remains the state campground for the Church of God today."

The revelation stunned Bryant. The question he had carried for years had suddenly been answered.

"My great-grandfather was a Pentecostal, tongue-talking, Holy Ghost-filled believer who founded a church?"

"That's right," the woman told him.

One Dream After Another

"The Lord has always spoken to me in dreams," Bryant explains.

"In one of my dreams, LySandra told me the name of our ministry would be 'Enlightened,' Bryant said, "In the dream, I said, 'That doesn't even sound scriptural.' But when I woke, the Lord directed me to Ephesians 1:18, which says, 'The eyes of your understanding being enlightened.'"

"In May 1999, I was at a meeting when the Lord spoke to me and said, *Go build Me a church*. He said it twice. The words were so strong that I almost passed out."

Called to plant the church in Marietta, the Bells took their first step when LySandra found a meeting room at a local library, where they launched Enlightened Christian Center.

"The Lord has always spoken to me in dreams," Bryant explained. "In the late 1990s, for example, I had a short, vivid dream that I was with Pastor Creflo Dollar. He walked me out of a building and put me in a car with Kenneth Copeland. That was where the dream ended."

Then, in 2006, the Bells invited Creflo Dollar to come speak at their church. During the service, Dollar prayed over them, releasing the generational blessing of Oral Roberts, Kenneth Copeland and

himself over them, Bryant recalled.

"I had no expectation that this would happen," says Bryant. "We were from the Hagin camp and were not looking for another ministry connection. I knew what Pastor Dollar had done was significant, but I did not yet know how significant it was."

While exploring his family history, Bryant discovered something that gave him greater insight into his connection with Brother Copeland, and why what Pastor Dollar did was so integral.

"My uncle once told me that my great-grandfather had 17 children. One of them was my grandfather," Bryant said. "He was a spiritualist, did not attend church, and exposed our family to a curse. Yet, he said my grandfather had sown seed into Oral Roberts' ministry. That's when it became clear: My grandfather sowed the seed, and God used Pastor Dollar to release the generational blessing that connected us to the spiritual family of Oral Roberts and Brother Copeland."

The Stand for Land

In 2002, Bryant had one of the most significant dreams of any he ever had.

"God took me to a property with two church buildings. A man there gave me a tour and then I asked him, 'Do your people know we're moving in here today?'"

"'Yes, Pastor Bell, they know you're moving in today,' the man answered."

"The dream then shifted to the dilapidated church building on the same property. The floor rolled back like a scroll, and I saw old furniture in the basement: sofas, tables, lamps and a corduroy La-Z-Boy chair. The next Sunday, I told our church congregation about the dream and said it was our next church home."

For two years nothing happened. Then, in 2004, Bryant prayed and asked the Lord to show him the building.

"He told me where the building was and gave me turn-by-turn directions as to how to get there," Bryant recalled. "It was literally like a GPS system. It was just as it appeared in my dream, including the furniture in the basement."

"We offered to lease the building, but they said no."

In 2007, the Bells signed a contract to buy the building but the bank chose to put the property in foreclosure. It was later purchased by Creflo Dollar Ministries.

At that point, Bell asked God, "Why does he have the building You promised me in the dream?"



He's a holder in due course, the Lord said. I put it in the hands of a man I can trust.

In 2012, with Creflo Dollar's ministry still occupying the building, Bryant prayed and told the Lord, "God, if You give us land we can build on, I will never say You did not keep Your Word. Don't You know how powerful Pastor Dollar is? He is not going to give us that building."

This time God's response didn't come to Bryant in a dream; it came through a vision.

"As soon as I fell asleep, the Lord caught me up in the spirit and carried me away," Bryant recalled. "After showing me several things, He lowered me into a chef's kitchen. A man wearing a chef's coat stood there crying out to God. He had a full head of hair, a mustache and a beard, and he wore a chef's coat."

"Suddenly, the man changed from being in front of me to being on the cover of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine. Then the magazine covers began changing quickly, moving from July to August, to September and so forth. Then, the Lord carried me back home and lowered me down into my bedroom."

"In July 2019, I opened my mailbox and pulled out a copy of the August issue of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine. On the cover was a picture of a chef. It was the exact image of the man I saw in the vision. He had a full head of white hair, a white beard and mustache, and was wearing a white chef's coat."

"Through the fulfillment of that vision, the Lord made it clear that just as He knew who would be on the cover of the *BVOV* magazine six years and eight months in advance, He also knew the building would be ours. I began to sense it would be soon."

Years later, Bryant would discover that the man on the magazine cover was Jim Noble, a business entrepreneur and KCM Partner who owns and operates several restaurants in and around Charlotte,



N.C.—about a four-hour drive from where the Bells lived in Georgia.

"To this day I have never met Mr. Noble," Bryant said.

A Dream Realized

Years passed with the Bells seeing occasional signs that the property was still theirs, Bryant said, but nothing happened. Then,

in January 2022, he was diagnosed with a severe case of COVID. The illness left him confined to his home, which didn't sit too well with one as outgoing as Bryant.

LySandra didn't mind taking care of him, she said, "but the man was *grumpy*."

"My husband was at home camped out on the sofa," LySandra recalls. "As I prayed, the Lord directed me to place pictures of the building before him to remind him of God's promise. That instruction led me to purchase the largest easel I could find and very specific colors of artists' pens."

"Years before, when Bryant first saw that building for the first time, he had taken pictures and made a collage," says LySandra. "I taped the collage to the large art pad, placed it on the easel, and arranged the pens on the tray. I put all the colors on the tray. I said, 'The Lord will show you what to write.' Then, I left the room."

It was a good thing that LySandra left the room because Bryant was angry. There he was sick, and she wanted him to draw and paint, he thought. Then Bryant looked at the pictures and realized something: His wife and the Lord had conspired to keep him alive.

They had put his vision before his eyes.

"From that point on, the Lord reminded me of every dream, every vision, every scripture and every word that He'd given me regarding that building He had reserved for us," Bryant said. "That's when my strength started returning. I filled up seven pages on that art pad and created a vision wall."

"By April, I was able to walk again. I was walking down the street looking at the beautiful colors," Bryant said. "After almost dying, the world didn't look the same. As I walked, I listened to Jerry Savelle teach about how the Lord instructed him to call in



“They gave us the building, all the land and everything inside the building, debt free.”

an airplane in front of businessmen and executives at the manufacturing plant where it was built. When I heard this, I knew the Lord wanted me to publicly call the building into our ministry, regardless of who heard me as I walked. I had nicknamed the building Sarah because Abraham had to get her back from Abimelech. I walked for a mile yelling, ‘Sarah, I command you to come into my ministry now!’ Then back home, I stood in front of the vision wall and called it ‘home.’”

Suddenly, something broke, Bryant said.

“In April, Pastor Dollar put the building up for sale. By now it had been appraised for just under \$4 million. On June 15, I was reading through my emails when I almost deleted one, thinking it was junk mail. It was from the CEO of World Changers Church—Creflo Dollar’s church. He said that they had heard I was interested in their building, and if I was still interested, he would like to meet with me.”

What happened when the two finally met was surprising!

“Pastor Dollar believes that the seed is greater than the sale,” the man told Bryant. “If you would accept it, we would like to sow this building into your ministry.”

“They gave us the building, all the land and everything inside the building, debt free,” Bryant said. “When God first showed me the property in a dream, I never imagined the process would last 20 years, from 2002 to 2022. It was well worth the wait.”

Catching the Anointing

The dreams didn’t just stop after they acquired the property.

In one dream he recalls, Bryant was standing in a parking lot in front of a large building when he looked up and saw a man peering out a window on the second floor. Suddenly, the man leaned out the

window and shouted, “Brother Copeland is leaving the building in four minutes. If you want to catch his anointing, you must be in the building.”

Waking from the dream, Bryant’s thoughts kept returning to the words “you must be in the building.”

“I told the Lord, ‘OK, we need to get into those meetings with Brother Copeland,’” Bryant said. From that time on, Bryant and LySandra have made a point of attending every KCM meeting possible in person.

Another significant dream that stands out with the Bells happened on Feb. 18, 2024. In the dream, Bryant and LySandra were seated on the front row along with other ministers when Brother Copeland singled them out.

“People don’t know you now,” Brother Copeland told them, “but soon they will know you as prophets.”

Two years later, while they were attending a ministers’ conference at KCM, Billye Brim approached them, prayed over them, and anointed them for the office of the prophet.

“Directly after this happened, Brother Copeland announced that he was ending his traveling ministry, but would still be teaching and ministering on campus at KCM,” Bryant recalled. “I knew this referred to the dream where it was said that we needed to be in the building.”

The next time Brother Copeland would be ministering at KCM was Feb. 17 and 18 of this year (2026). The Bells, along with two of their children, flew from Georgia to Texas to be in the two-day meeting. On Feb. 18, the second day of the meeting, Brother Copeland met privately with four of them.

“During the meeting, he laid hands on each of us and released the anointing of his prophetic office, as well as the anointing for ministry, finances—everything,” Bryant said. “That happened on Feb. 18, 2026, exactly two years from the date in 2024 that I had dreamed we would be set into the office of a prophet in 2024.”

Today, Pastors Bryant and LySandra Bell lead a thriving congregation at Enlightened Christian Center in Marietta, Ga.

“When I look back over the journey, I see that God never failed to keep His Word. Through dreams, visions and His voice, He warned me, guided me, revealed my spiritual heritage, established our church, released generational blessings, transferred anointings and provided us with a debt-free building. Every step was part of His plan.” 📖

KCM 2025: Snapshot

The year 2025 was a year of faith, breakthrough and expansion for Kenneth Copeland Ministries and its Partners and Friends around the world. Did you know...

485,956

We prayed over 485,956 prayer requests that we received via mail, phone and web forms.

10,858,299

KCM recorded 10,858,299 salvations in 2025—through our partnership with twice-sown seed ministries—alongside the faithful work of KCM outreach and evangelism teams around the world.

Since we began tracking partnership, more than **982,000** men and women worldwide have said yes to standing in covenant with this ministry. In 2025, **312,619** Partners and Friends were actively connected with KCM.

In 2025, KCM invested approximately **\$20 million** into **147 ministries** and outreach programs around the world.

Over **30** Disaster Relief team call projects were completed in response to geographic disasters. When catastrophic flooding struck Central Texas, destroying more than 12,000 structures and leaving 107 people dead, our Disaster Relief team made five relief trips into the area and sowed more than **\$200,000** into the community.

In 2025, our partnership helped provide ministry through prison outreach to three ministry units, five correctional facilities, and more than **6,000 inmates**. The harvest saw **1,939 salvations** and **319 baptisms**.

For six days in Fort Worth, believers gathered for the Southwest Believers' Convention—hungry for the Word and ready to grow in faith. Online, viewers from **169 countries** and **8,729 cities** joined in, and more than **139,900** users streamed sessions. The SWBC website surpassed **1 million** engagements. More than **1.5 million** unique visitors accessed kcm.org

In 2025, **386,254** resources were given away free of charge through broadcasts, digital offers and outreach initiatives. Additionally, **1,370,335** magazines were mailed to subscribers at no cost; live event broadcasts reached **336,178** viewers; and programming extended across all 50 states; Washington, D.C.; and **154** countries and territories worldwide through cable, satellite, streaming platforms and the GoVictory app.

In 2025, Eagle Mountain International Church saw **5,691 salvations**. Of those, **2,757** came through street evangelism by taking the gospel directly into the community.



Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, is famous for saying, “Winning isn’t everything—it’s the *only* thing.”

That was definitely my philosophy when I was growing up. From the time I was a small boy, I loved to win and absolutely detested losing. I used to get downright upset over a lost game of marbles!

Later, it was Little League games, swimming and, ultimately, flying in the military. Whatever I was involved in—I wanted to be a winner at it.

I don’t think I’m unusual in that respect. I believe most people in our society (at least in secular society) want to be winners.

With believers, it’s another story. Somehow many Christians have been conditioned to believe that winning is not a valid goal for them. They’re convinced that winning is unimportant at best and positively unbiblical at worst!

If that’s what you’ve been told, I have news for you. God created you to win, not

just spiritually, but in your relationships, your finances, your profession and every other area of life.

I’ll go one step further. If you’re not at least in the process of becoming that kind of winner, you’re not fulfilling God’s whole purpose for your life. And you’re missing out on the contentment and sense of fulfillment God wants you to have.

“That’s a pretty strong statement, Pastor Mac. Can you back it up with Scripture?” You bet I can.

In Genesis 1:26-27 God says: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over...all the earth.... So God created man in his own image....”

Would you agree that God is a winner? If we are made in His image and likeness, then redeemed man must be designed to be a winner, too.

In fact, after God made Adam and Eve, He

commanded them to go win! Look at the very next verse, “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion....”

God’s very first marching orders to mankind were “subdue” and “have dominion.” In other words, “Go out there and win!”

Likewise, as a born-again, restored child of God, you are to exercise dominion over *your* world. That means every aspect of daily living—every circumstance in your life—should be in subjection to God.

Winning Ways

Let’s get practical. It’s one thing to know that God wants you to be a winner. It’s another thing to know how to become one.

Thankfully, God has given us His Word to guide us, and great men of faith to be our examples. Philippians is a book about winning, written by a winner—the Apostle Paul. What is it that made Paul such an outstanding winner? We find the answer to that question in Philippians 3:12-14:

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Look again at that last phrase: “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God.” A powerful prescription for victory, it contains four terms that represent the keys to finding and fulfilling God’s destiny for your life. They are “press,” “mark,” “prize” and “high calling.”

“Too often, we think of eternal life as beginning in heaven. But that’s simply not the case. Our eternal life has already begun.”

The winning life isn’t a casual stroll. It’s a press.

We’ve heard this term used frequently concerning very spiritual matters. We’ve been urged to “press in to prayer” or “press in to the Word.” And certainly we need to press toward those things. But we mustn’t stop there.

Our life is comprised of more than spiritual things. Among others, there is a press to make relationships work, a press to keep your body healthy, and a press to succeed in business. These are areas that have very natural or physical components to them.

Life itself is a press—a determined movement toward a goal or ideal. Paul knew that. He was a winner because he knew *what* to press toward—“the mark for the prize of the high calling of God.”

The Prize

What is the prize of the high calling of God? In a nutshell, it is life—eternal life.

The Greek word the New Testament uses to describe this kind of life is *zoe*. It is a word that refers to the very life of God Himself. And God’s Word says you have that life inside you if you’re a born-again believer.

Too often, we think of eternal life as beginning in heaven. But that’s simply not the case. Our eternal life has already begun. It is here and now.

Furthermore, *zoe* refers to a *quality* of life as well as a “forever” *length* of life. It literally means life as God has it.

Does God experience sickness, poverty, strife-filled relationships, unforgiveness or bitterness? Of course not.

I realize it may seem almost sacrilegious to your natural mind, yet that kind of life—the life of God Himself—is the prize Paul is talking about. That’s the prize God has made available to us, not just in heaven but right here on earth. It can be ours now!

The High Calling of God

To really experience the fullness of zoe life this side of heaven, you’ll have to lay hold of God’s high calling. What is that high calling? It’s different for each of us.

Basically, your high calling is God’s perfect will for your life. It is your divine destiny. It’s being in the place for which He uniquely created you.

Please understand, I’m talking about much more here than just finding the right career. God’s high calling touches every area of your existence. Certainly it involves your vocation, but it also includes your relationships, your health and your material wealth as well.

God’s high calling is a wonderful place to be. It is a place of all-sufficiency. It is a place of great influence. It is a place of supernatural health and harmonious relationships.

Most of all, reaching God’s high calling means realizing and living the dream that He has placed in your heart.

That dream may be crystal clear to you. Or it may be only a vague idea stirring in your heart. But don’t worry! As long as you are moving in the right direction, you’ll eventually find your high calling. So just look for “the mark” and go.

The Mark

In many respects, the concept of “the mark” is the most important of all in Paul’s statement about “pressing toward the mark of the high calling.”

Notice that Paul didn’t say, “I press toward the prize.” Nor did he say he was pressing toward the high calling. No, it is the mark that he has his sights set on, but why?

The mark, as Paul describes it here, is an intermediate goal or objective. If you’ll focus on it and move toward it, it will keep you on course.

If you know anything about bowling, you know that each lane has on it a series of marks that lie just a few feet in front of the bowler. Good bowlers use these marks to aim their ball so it ultimately strikes the pins in the proper place. The bowler doesn’t aim at the pins—he focuses on the mark.

That’s what Paul is talking about here. You may not yet know what your high calling is. The dream God has placed in your heart may not be well-defined enough for you to know what to do next. But, praise God, His Word has given us a mark to press toward. Head for that mark and ultimately God’s dream or “high calling” for you will come into view.

The Mark: Service

There is one interesting thing about this “mark.” It is the same for all of us no matter how widely our individual callings may vary. It is a universal signpost that will put all who follow it on the pathway of the winner.

What is this mark that we must press toward? In a word, it is *servanthood*.

Jesus, the ultimate Winner, established that with His words and with His example. Remember when the disciples were arguing about who among them was the greatest? Jesus told them that the greatest among them was he who would be the servant of all. Later He demonstrated that principle by washing their feet.

Service is the key to becoming a winner. It’s the mark by which we should measure every decision, every action and every thought.

The problem is, many of us have a negative stereotypical image of what a servant is. We equate servanthood with slavery and forced servitude. We think the role of the servant is degrading and certainly not something we equate with winning.

But if you’re going to win the prize of true “zoe life,” you’re going to have to change the way you think about servanthood. You’re going to have to realize that it *is* the way of the winner.

The more you press toward the mark of service, the more you’ll find yourself moving into God’s marvelous zoe life. Your every step will bring you closer to the center of God’s will because, at last, you’ll be walking the way of the winner! 🏆

Mac Hammond is senior pastor of Living Word Christian Center, in Brooklyn Park (a suburb of Minneapolis), Minn. For more information go to lwcc.org

KCBC

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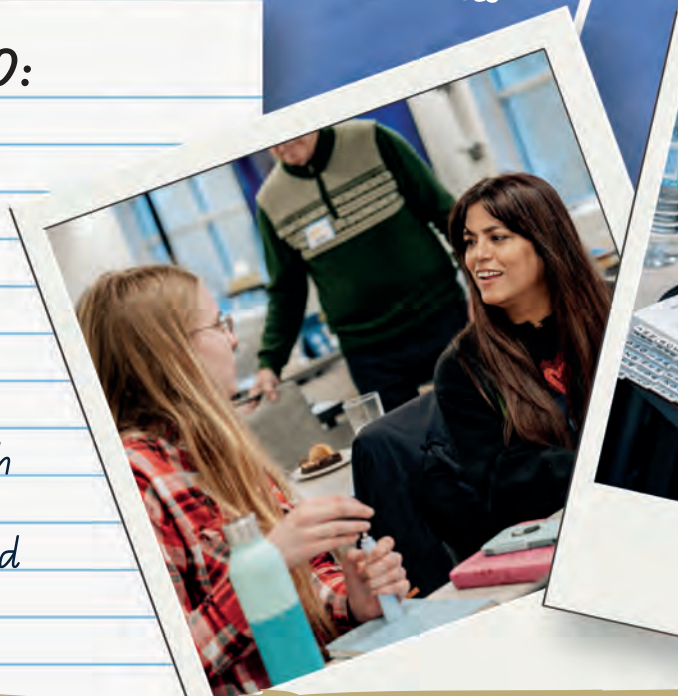
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Testimonies of Real-Life VICTORY

A Miraculous Turnaround

Since April, I have been calling the prayer line for my son-in-law, who was hospitalized with difficulty swallowing after being diagnosed with a brain tumor the year before. In April, he underwent a 13-hour surgery, and 90% of the tumor was successfully removed. Despite ongoing complications with swallowing and breathing, my family and I continued standing

on God's Word and believing for his healing. After praying with a KCM Canada prayer minister and agreeing in faith for a miracle, we saw a breakthrough. On June 13, he was moved out of ICU and can now breathe and swallow on his own. Thank you for standing with my family in prayer during this time. God bless you.

R.S. | Ontario

Healthy Heart, Thankful Heart

I want to thank the KCM Canada Prayer Team for standing with me in prayer. I recently received a wonderful report that my blood work came back normal and that blood is flowing properly to my heart. I am so grateful for God's faithfulness and for the prayer support of the prayer ministers. Praise God! K.L. | British Columbia

Protected Through the Storm

I want to thank the Lord for His protection and faithfulness. After severe weather and tornado warnings were issued in Manitoba, I called Kenneth Copeland Ministries and prayed in agreement with a prayer minister, standing on God's promises of protection.

Although tornadoes were reported throughout the area, none touched down where I was, and no damage occurred. I truly believe God kept us safely under His care. Prayer works! Thank You, Jesus, for Your protection and mercy.

D.B. | Manitoba

He Is Faithful

After praying with a KCM Canada prayer minister, I received the results of a biopsy on my gums, and everything came back normal. I am so thankful for this good report and for the prayers and support I received. Praise God for His faithfulness, goodness, and healing power!

M.A. | British Columbia

The Power of Partnership

I want to thank Kenneth Copeland Ministries for the resources and prayers you shared with me after the sudden loss of my husband. It was a great comfort to know that others were standing with me in faith and continuing to pray for me. Your encouragement, support, and the resources you provided

have been a real blessing during this difficult time. They have helped strengthen my faith and reminded me of God's goodness and faithfulness. I see even more clearly the importance of partnership. Thank you for being there for me when I needed it most..

P.T. | Ontario

The Power of Agreement

One of my glands became swollen and was found to be cancerous. After surgery, I spent two weeks in the hospital recovering. Throughout this time, the KCM Canada Prayer Ministers stood with me in faith and prayer. Their encouragement meant so much to me. The doctors were amazed that I experienced no pain throughout the entire process, and the remaining swelling continues to improve. Today, I was able to return to my daily three-and-a-half-mile walk. Praise the Lord for His healing and goodness in my life!

A.W. | Alberta

Do You Know Jesus?

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.

Prayer is Our Priority.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision.

Call or go to kcmcanada.ca/salvation. We have a Free Gift to help you begin your new life in Jesus!

1-877-480-3388
6 a.m.-4 p.m. PT, Mon.-Fri.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE SEPTEMBER

1 Eccl. 5-6; Ps. 18	2 Eccl. 7-8; Ps. 19	3 Eccl. 9-11; Ps. 20-21	4 Eccl. 12; Song. 1; Ps. 22	5 Songs. 2-3; Ps. 23		
6 Songs. 4-5; Ps. 24	7 Songs. 6-7; Ps. 25	8 Songs. 8; Isa. 1; Ps. 26	9 Isa. 2-3; Ps. 27	10 Isa. 4-6; Ps. 28-29	11 Isa. 7-8; Ps. 30	12 Isa. 9-10; Ps. 31
13 Isa. 11-12; Ps. 32	14 Isa. 13-14; Ps. 33	15 Isa. 15-16; Ps. 34	16 Isa. 17-18; Ps. 35	17 Isa. 19-21; Ps. 36-37	18 Isa. 22-23; Ps. 38	19 Isa. 24-25; Ps. 39
20 Isa. 26-27; Ps. 40	21 Isa. 28-29; Ps. 41	22 Isa. 30-31; Ps. 42	23 Isa. 32-33; Ps. 43	24 Isa. 34-36; Ps. 44-45	25 Isa. 37-38; Ps. 46	26 Isa. 39-40; Ps. 47
27 Isa. 41-42; Ps. 48	28 Isa. 43-44; Ps. 49	29 Isa. 45-46; Ps. 50	30 Isa. 47-48; Ps. 51			

Winning the Battles of Life

No one is given a free run down the sideline of life. The devil actively opposes God's people, but God has made provision for you to prevail in every battle of life.

The Word of God is simple. First John 5:3 says, "...his commandments are not grievous." If you listen to God's Word and do what it says, you'll be set on high above all the nations of the world and experience "all these blessings" (Deuteronomy 28:2).

The Word of God is not just a life raft designed to get you through life's storms. God's Word turns you into a holy storm that destroys every weapon the devil has aligned against you. You may *look* like everyone else, but you're not *like* everyone else. You are in covenant with God.

Life doesn't give you what you deserve or some preordained set of circumstances, life gives you what you demand from it based on God's Word. Job 36:11 makes that clear. It says, "If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures."

Here are four keys you can apply when it comes to winning the battles of life.

1. Never Mistake a Challenge for a Defeat:

It's normal to be challenged, it's unscriptural to be defeated. It violates God's Word.

2. Immerse Yourself In Victorious Scriptures:

Don't focus on the sympathetic and merciful scriptures in the Bible. They're in the Bible to help people who have endured unnecessary



defeat, but they should not be your foundation. Instead, focus on scriptures like 1 John 5:4, which says: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

3. Actively Resist the Devil:

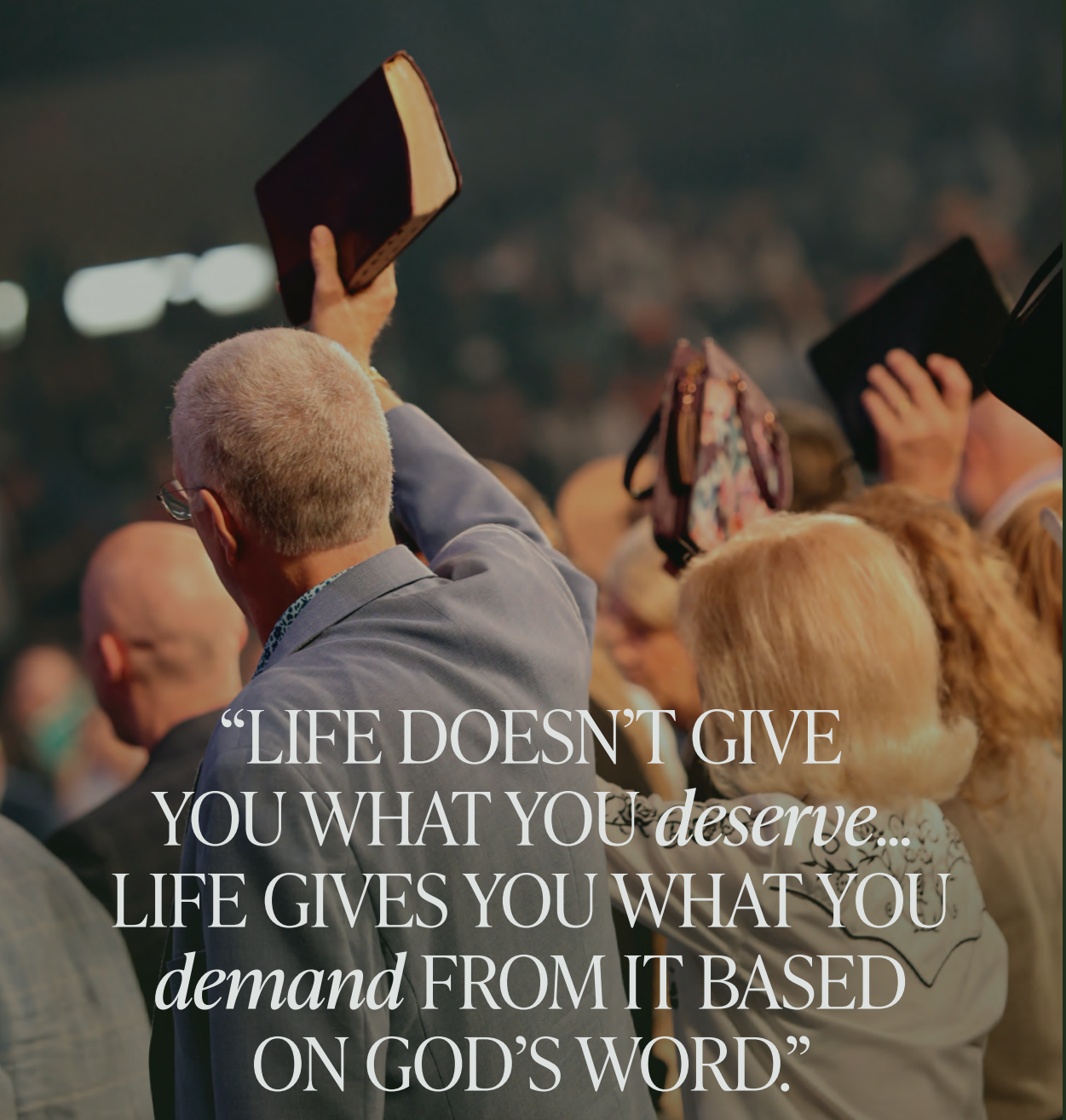
"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). You have been delivered. The hold the devil once had on you doesn't exist anymore. If he's not fleeing, you're not resisting. The Bible doesn't instruct you to beat or fight the devil. He's already been defeated and he's in the exact same place today as he will be tomorrow—under your feet!

4. Respond With the Gift of Faith:

Anything the devil tries to discourage you from doing, do it twice. Push forward and refuse to take a single backward step. Any spirit challenging your ministry, health or family will lose its head. You will be victorious—not by might, not by power, but by the Spirit of Almighty God.

Read what the Bible says in Acts 27:41-44, *New Living Translation*:

But they hit a shoal and ran the ship aground too soon. The bow of the ship stuck fast, while the stern was repeatedly smashed by the force of the waves and began to break apart. The soldiers'

A photograph of a large crowd of people at what appears to be a religious or spiritual gathering. In the foreground, a man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue shirt, is seen from the back, holding a brown Bible high in his right hand. Other people in the crowd are also holding up Bibles or books. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and some bright lights, possibly from a stage or arena.

“LIFE DOESN'T GIVE
YOU WHAT YOU *deserve*...
LIFE GIVES YOU WHAT YOU
demand FROM IT BASED
ON GOD'S WORD.”

commanding officer wanted to spare Paul, so he didn't let them carry out their plan. Then he ordered all who could swim to jump overboard first and make for land. The others held on to planks or debris from the broken ship. So everyone escaped safely to shore.

God will shut the mouth of your accuser and raise you to a place of honor, just like He did Paul. Faith not only overcomes the attack but makes the devil pay for attacking. Never stop pursuing your God-given purpose amid an attack. The child of God can't lose because whatever is born of God overcomes the world!

Many Christians are Spirit-filled but lack the gift of faith. Faith is the confidence that we

have what we've asked for when we ask for it. You can't curse whom God has blessed. The devil doesn't get to determine how loud you speak, how high you climb, where you go or what you do. Victory belongs to you! 📖

Evangelists Jonathan & Adalis Shuttlesworth lead Revival Today, a global ministry since 2007, reaching the lost through crusades, media and Revival Today Church.

For more information please visit revivaltoday.com

by Gloria Copeland

A Higher Level of Holiness



We're living in the last of the last days. Jesus is coming soon, and the greatest spiritual outpouring in all of history is going to take place before His arrival. More signs, wonders and miracles are going to be

manifested in our day than ever before, and we're going to have the opportunity to help bring into the kingdom of God the greatest harvest of souls that's ever been reaped in one generation.

Already, it's beginning to happen all around us. As anyone who's been paying attention can tell you, the last days' move of God is on!

For it to come to its fullness, though, something more must happen. The Church as a whole, and each one of us, as individual believers, must come up to a higher level of holiness.

For God's glory to flow through us to the max, we must cleanse our lives of anything that's contrary to His will, get our flesh under control, and go all-out for God. We must drop everything that pulls us away from Him so that we're living like 2 Timothy 2:21 commands: as "an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work" (*New International Version*-84).

God isn't going to bring His work to a climax in this age through half-baked believers who have one foot in the world and one foot in His kingdom. He's going to put on the front lines of His grand finale, Christians who are running their spiritual races full-out. He's going to pour out His power through a Church that's rejected worldliness and sin and given itself 100%—spirit, soul and body—to Him.

That's the kind of Church Jesus intends for

“For us to experience the grace that enables us to be blessed and a blessing, we must embrace the grace that empowers us to live in holiness as well.”

us to be in these last days. It's what He had in mind when He gave His life for us. According to Ephesians 5:25-27: "Christ...loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Those verses don't say Jesus gave Himself for the Church so that we could live pretty much like the rest of the world and then go to heaven when we die. They don't say He gave us His Word so that we could be *just old sinners saved by grace*. No, they say that Jesus gave Himself for us so that He can present us to Himself, a Church that is glorious, holy and without blemish.

"Well," someone might say, "that holiness business sounds like bondage to me. It sounds like legalism, and I'm into grace."

I'm into grace too! I love everything about it.

I love that grace causes God's unmerited favor to manifest in my life. I love that it's by grace we're saved through faith and not by our own works. I love that by God's grace, all His promises and blessings are mine in Christ Jesus.

But you know what else I love about grace? I love that, as Titus 2 says: “The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared...teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (verses 11-13).

I’m not sure we talk enough these days about that aspect of grace. But we should because all the aspects of grace work together. For the divine favor of God to operate in our lives, the grace of God that teaches us to deny ungodliness must also be in operation. For us to experience the grace that enables us to be blessed and a blessing, we must embrace the grace that empowers us to live in holiness as well.

Nothing Scary About It

I realize the word *holiness* scares some believers, but it really shouldn’t because for us there’s nothing scary about it. It doesn’t represent some impossibly high standard that we can’t achieve. The word *holy* just means “separated to God, taken out from the rest of the world and set apart for Him.” Holiness simply refers to conduct befitting that separation.

You were made holy when you were born again, so for you, living in holiness is normal. It’s just walking out what God has already done in you. It’s acting on the outside like who you are on the inside. It’s taking dominion over your flesh, yielding to your inner man, and living in tune with the Holy Spirit.

Many believers don’t realize this, but one of the Holy Spirit’s primary missions is to lead us to “mortify” the sinful tendencies of our flesh and

live holy lives. He constantly helps us to do that because He understands (even if we sometimes don’t) how important it is. “For if ye live after the flesh,” Romans 8:13-14 says, “ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

In your Christian life, every time you got into trouble by giving in to your flesh, you had to override the leading of the Holy Spirit to do so. Every time you messed up and got into sin you had to ignore His still, small voice, because He was talking to you and telling you not to do it the whole time.

He wasn’t just talking, either. He was also making available to you the power you needed to do what He was saying. But for some reason, you didn’t choose to use it. Either because of spiritual immaturity or because you just wanted to do things your own way, you chose instead to sin.

We’ve all done that at times, and because we’re all still growing and maturing spiritually, we’ll do it again from time to time. When we do, thank God, we can repent and receive the Lord’s forgiveness. It’s always there for us no matter what we’ve done.

Even so, we don’t want to become flippant about it. We don’t want to start thinking that sin is no big deal, or that we can persist in it willfully and there won’t be any price to pay.

That’s just not true.

Sin is a destroyer. The Bible says so, and I’ve seen it proven out time and again. I remember one ministry I visited many years ago. It was doing quite well at the time I was there, but during my visit I became concerned about it. Although

I didn’t see anything going on that was blatantly sinful, a casual attitude toward holiness had crept in among the leaders. They seemed to be taking on the spirit of the world.

After I got home, I realized those leaders didn’t have anyone around them who could alert them to the problem. They’d surrounded themselves with paid staff who said only what they wanted to hear. It was a

KEY POINTS

When you cleanse your life of everything that’s contrary to God’s will, His glory can flow through you. (2 Tim. 2:21)

God empowers you to reject ungodliness and live in holiness by His grace. (Titus 2:11-12)

The Holy Spirit will lead you to put to death your fleshly tendencies to sin. (Rom. 8:13)

You weren’t born again to live like people in the world; you were created by God to live in holiness. (2 Cor. 6:17)

Laying aside worldly weights and sin enables you to run your spiritual race to win. (1 Cor. 9:24)

“YOU WERE *made holy*
WHEN YOU WERE BORN
AGAIN, SO FOR YOU, LIVING
IN HOLINESS IS NORMAL.
IT’S JUST WALKING OUT
WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY
done in you.”

dangerous situation, as it would be for any of us, as believers.

We all need people around us who will speak truth into our lives. We all need Christian friends and mentors who love us enough to tell us when they see us slipping back in our relationship with the Lord. When everyone around us agrees with us, we can overestimate ourselves. We can become legends in our own minds and think that we’re no longer subject to the commands in the Bible. That we’re so special we won’t be negatively affected by sin.

Sadly, the leaders in this particular ministry fell into that mindset. Over time, they became involved in immoral behavior and the ministry was destroyed. When it all came to light, people were appalled. “How could such a well-known minister ever slip into such shocking sin?” they asked. “How does that kind of thing happen?”

It happens a little at a time. A little sin here not repented of, leads to a little more sin there not repented of. As the sins pile up, the heart gets hardened to them. It stops sounding the alarm, and the sinning believer keeps moving further and further away from the light and into the darkness.

No matter how far out into the darkness that believer gets, if he’ll repent, God will receive him with open arms and help him get back on track again. And in the case of these dear Christian leaders, that’s how the story ended. But the sobering truth is, it’s not always that way.

Sometimes believers who willfully and persistently choose to sin get to the place where their hearts are so hardened, they no longer have any desire to repent. They could repent if they only would, but they don’t want to.

Kenneth E. Hagin used to tell a story about a woman like that. She was a pastor’s wife with a beautiful voice who’d spent years singing in church. One day the devil started whispering in her ear, telling her she was missing out on something better. “You’re a beautiful woman,” he said. “You could have anything you want. You could be a movie star. Your life is being totally wasted here.”

For a while she resisted the devil’s lies, but he kept coming back and talking to her—and eventually she started listening. She started thinking about what he was saying, and it took root in her mind. Eventually, she embraced it so completely that she left her husband and

turned her back on the Lord. She rejected the pleas of the Holy Spirit and the other believers who tried to help her, committed herself to a life of sin, and never repented.

Seek Those Things Which Are Above

Such stories are sad to hear. They're also relatively rare because sin is so foreign to our nature as believers. In our hearts, we really don't want to walk in darkness because we're literally born of the Light.

That doesn't mean, though, that we don't need to take the warnings in the New Testament seriously. If we're going to shine brightly in this sin-darkened world, when the devil tempts us to become a little more like it, we must remember that the Lord says in 2 Corinthians 6, "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?... Come out from among them, and be ye separate... and touch not the unclean thing" (verses 14, 17).

To *separate* means "to disconnect," and that's what we must do to live a holy life in this unholy world. We must disconnect not just from the sinful behaviors it considers acceptable, but from its ungodly mindset. We must disconnect from sinful thoughts.

Don't buy the idea that you can fantasize in your mind about sin and it won't affect you physically. Don't think, *I'm just going to imagine what this would be like, but I'm not going to act on it.* You can't have an unclean mind and a clean body. If you think about something long enough, you'll do it.

So, don't even go there in your mind. The moment you catch unholy thoughts trying to get a hold on you, take authority over them and steer your mind in a different direction. Separate yourself from them and rise above them, like cream separates from milk and rises to the top.

"But Gloria, I'm not sure I can do that. Sometimes my flesh and the temptations of the devil are just too strong for me."

No, they're not!

You're a child of Almighty God. You're

born of Him and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Unholy thoughts and fleshly lusts can't conquer you. You have Holiness Himself living inside you. You have God's holy Word to guide you, and an unlimited supply of His mighty grace to empower you to overcome. All you need to do is avail yourself of it and do what God says in the Bible:

"Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. [And] set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2).

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.... And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:1-2).

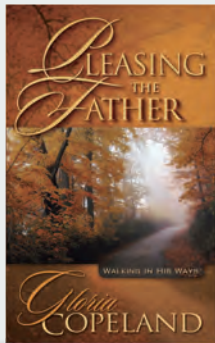
"Lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Granted, doing those things takes effort and commitment. But the rewards will be worth it—especially in this day and hour.

This is the time of God's grand finale. The greatest move of God this world has ever seen is starting to take place. Jesus is about to present to Himself "a glorious church,...holy and without blemish," and you have the opportunity to be part of it.

Don't slough off and waste that wonderful opportunity. Give yourself to God 100%—spirit, soul and body. Drop everything that pulls you away from Him and head toward the finish line of this age, as if how you cross it will matter for eternity, because it will.

As the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:24, "Those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize[.] Run in such a way that you may obtain it" (*New King James Version*). By the power of God's grace, run your race to win! 



The prophets of God are telling us we are about to see the greatest outpouring this earth has ever known. But what is our part? Simply to walk pleasing before Him—to think His thoughts, to speak His words.

Gloria Copeland discusses what it takes for you to do your part—to set yourself apart from the world.

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FAITH THAT SPEAKS IS FAITH THAT WINS!

Commander
Kellie's Corner

Superkids, I hope you are ready to jump back into our exploration of the fruit of the spirit, because faith is one of my favorite things about being infused with Jesus! Remember, Galatians 5:22-23, *The Passion Translation*, says:

The fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue (or goodness), faith that prevails.

Faith that PREVAILS. To *prevail* means “to push through, hold your ground, and come out on top.” The God kind of faith is not quiet or weak, but faith that WINS! And just like every fruit we’ve talked about this year, it doesn’t come from trying harder. It flows from Jesus living inside you. Let me tell you a story.

When I was a kid, I got sick with flu-like symptoms. I don’t know exactly what it was, but I remember feeling awful. I went in to see my dad, Kenneth Copeland, and he just looked at me, and said something that grabbed my attention: “Kellie, you are not a sick person trying to get well. You are a well person, and the devil is trying to make you sick.”

Something happened on the inside when he said that. It hit me like big, solid truth that made me mad at the devil! I said, “Hold on! I’ll be right back!” and ran to my room.

I didn’t waste time, I started talking to Jesus and opened my Bible. I looked up what GOD said. I had read and heard these scriptures many times before, but I needed to put my eyes on them again:

“By His stripes we are healed”
(Isaiah 53:5, *New King James Version*).

“By His wounds you are healed”
(1 Peter 2:24, *New Living Translation*).

And especially this one, “He SENT OUT HIS WORD and healed them” (Psalm 107:20, *NLT*).

Those words didn’t just sit on the page. They became real on the INSIDE of me. It was like Jesus spoke them straight to my heart, and I KNEW they were true. A

few minutes later, I ran back out and said, “DADDY! I’M HEALED!”

I didn’t need to go lie down and recover. Jesus had told me who I was—a healed person. And I believed it! Jesus HAD sent out His Word, and it healed ME!

That, Superkid, is faith that wins.

Hebrews 11:1, *TPT*, says: “Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen.”

Faith isn’t invisible guessing or wishing really hard. It’s substance. It’s REAL! Real, God-infused faith is knowing something on the inside is true just because Jesus said so. In my room that day, His Word became my reality before anything in my body had changed. That’s faith that wins from the inside out!

So, how does faith get inside you?

Romans 10:9 tells us that when we believe in our heart, AND confess with our mouth, that’s when things change. When I ran out of that room and said, “DADDY! I’M HEALED,” I was speaking what Jesus had already told me on the inside. That’s faith speaking! Not just my own words, but the very words Jesus had already put in my dad’s heart to say to me!

Romans 10:17 says, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (*NKJV*). Not just *by reading*, but *by HEARING*. When my dad spoke those words and I found them in the Bible, Jesus spoke and made them real inside my heart. That day, when He spoke to me, my heart believed and my mouth spoke what He spoke!

That’s why Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd in John 10. He also says His sheep know His voice. Superkid, that’s YOU! You can hear Jesus! He speaks to your heart through His Word and through the Holy Spirit living inside you.

Hebrews 12:2 says Jesus is the Author and the Finisher of your faith. He starts it and He completes it. How? By talking to you! Superkid, you don’t have



to try to find faith or talk yourself into believing His words are true. He is already TALKING His words into you, authoring faith from the inside because HE IS on the inside. That’s the infusion!

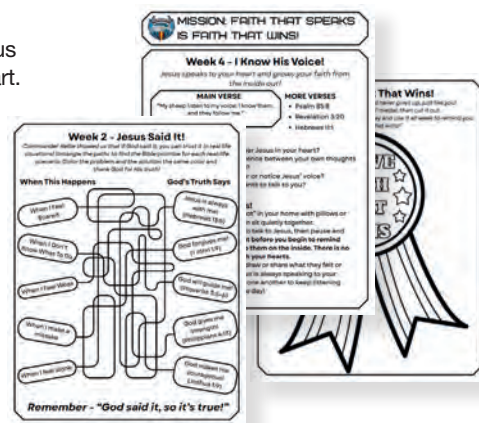
Faith is the fruit, or the proof, that Jesus lives in you. When His words become real to your heart, and you just KNOW something is true because He said it, that’s when what you believe becomes real. Like it did for me that day 50 years ago! He’s been walking with me and talking IN me ever since. Jesus lives in you too, producing faith that wins!

Superkid, you can have that same kind of conversation with Jesus. Open His Word. Talk to Him about your day. Tell Him what’s bothering you or ask Him questions! Then just listen. His voice is already on the inside because that’s where He lives. Let His words become YOUR words. That’s faith. That’s fruit. That’s being INFUSED with Jesus!

Say this with me, “Jesus, I hear Your voice! Your Word is real to me on the inside. I am infused with faith that wins over anything because YOU live in me!”

If Jesus speaks » faith comes » you believe » you speak » faith wins, then Jesus + Superkid = A Winning Combo!

Commander Kellie



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Kellie Copeland is the chief strategy officer 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.

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— Matthew 18:19 NKJV

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COPELAND**
MINISTRIES 