KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES

OCTOBER 2026

Believer's Voice of VICTORY™



My Grandmother's Prayers

Despite excelling in school, living lavishly, and sometimes earning six figures, Lyle Weber was on a fast track to self-destruction. Alcohol held him captive from age 13, and drugs took hold by age 19. Today, Lyle credits one person with leading him to surrender to Jesus, give his life to God, and turn his life around: "I had a praying grandma."

by Melanie Hemry

Live In THE BLESSING
by Kenneth Copeland

Yield to Joy!
by Keith Moore

Change Your Routine
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From The Editor

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE TICKET!

The story is ages old, so likely you've heard it before in one form or another.

It's the tale of a poor, young immigrant who saved for years, and finally had enough money to buy a ticket to America. With barely enough to pay his fare, he was content to use what remained to pay for a box of crackers and some cheese to eat while on his journey.

Each day while on the voyage, he watched as other passengers filled the ship's dining room, enjoying the lavish meals, while he sat alone eating his meager rations of cheese and crackers. Near the end of the journey, a steward stopped the man and said, "Sir, I've noticed that you haven't eaten a meal with us throughout this trip. Is our service offensive to you? Is the food unsatisfactory?"

"Oh no, I'm not offended," the young man responded. "It's just that I only had the money for my ticket. There wasn't enough left to pay for meals."

Surprised, the steward said, "Well sir, did you not know that the meals were included with your ticket?"

"The meals were included with your ticket."

Imagine how the young traveler must have felt upon learning what he had missed—all because he didn't realize what was already his. How might you have felt?

The story is a simple picture of what it means to have something, but not realize you have it. For the believer, the message is about the inheritance that many don't realize is already theirs.

The *ticket* represents our redemption through Jesus Christ. It was purchased at the highest possible price—the blood of the Son of God. When Christ declared, "It is finished," He didn't buy us a seat on the ship and leave us to fend for ourselves. He secured everything necessary for our spiritual journey—including our forgiveness, peace, wisdom, strength, purpose, grace and *provision.*

These are not extras reserved for a select few. They are included in the finished work of Christ. Yet many Christians spend their lives living on spiritual crackers and cheese; surviving on just enough faith to make it through while never discovering the abundant life Jesus came to give us all (John 10:10). They live beneath their covenant privileges because they don't fully understand who they are in Christ.

Though it came too late, that revelation was the turning point for the young traveler. Nothing about his ticket changed. Nothing new had to be purchased. The change came in his understanding; in his discovery that the meals were available all along—that they were already paid for!

When you truly realize you are a child of God and an heir of His kingdom, you stop thinking like someone who barely has enough to get by. You begin living with the confidence that Christ has already provided everything you need to fulfill God's purpose for your life.

That's the revelation of our inheritance.

Don't spend your life outside the banquet hall, eating spiritual crackers and cheese, when Christ has already prepared a banquet for you—at the Father's table.



Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor



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by Gloria Copeland

Fear the Lord

What does it mean to fear the Lord? It means to give Him total respect, to honor Him, to let Him be God in your life. If you fear the Lord, whatever He says, you'll do. When you find something in His Word, you implement it immediately. You're quick to make changes.



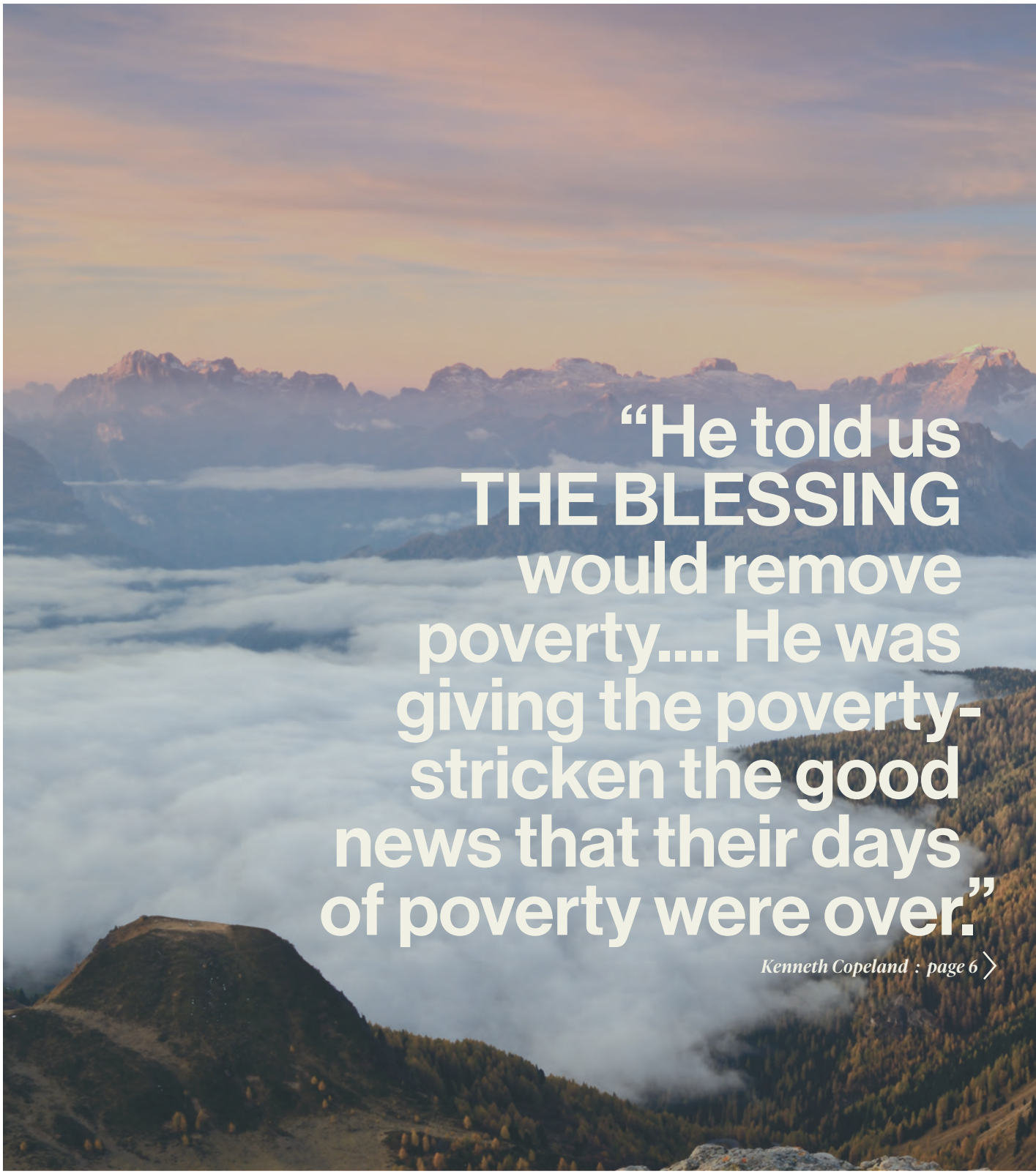
God says people who live that way have no want. *No want!* That's a vast statement. But read the Bible and you can see that it's true. God has always taken total care of His people. When Israel followed Him, there was no lack in the whole nation. They had everything they needed. They were strong. They were prosperous. No enemy could stand before them. There was no sickness or disease among them.

God doesn't have any problem backing up His Word. The only problem He's had since the Garden of Eden has been finding people who would do what He says and allow Him to be God in their lives.

Listen to me closely. God knows exactly how to get you out of trouble. He hasn't forgotten how to part the Red Sea. He never changes. When He finds someone who is loyal to Him, He's loyal to them.

Second Chronicles 16:9 says, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." That word *perfect* doesn't mean one who doesn't make mistakes. It means "one who is loyal."

God isn't just *willing* to deliver you from trouble, He *wants* to deliver you. He is constantly searching for opportunities to show Himself strong on your behalf! But He won't force it on you. You'll have to fear Him, give Him total respect, and honor Him. If you want to walk in the delivering power of God, you will have to want it enough to let God be God every day of your life.



"He told us THE BLESSING would remove poverty.... He was giving the poverty-stricken the good news that their days of poverty were over."

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Live In THE BLESSING



If you are a born-again child of God, you are *BLESSED!*

For years now, that's the message I've been preaching to the Body of Christ. I've been talking about it everywhere I go, to anyone who will listen.

I am on a divine mission to let God's people know THE BLESSING God gave Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that empowered them to be fruitful and have dominion over the earth; THE BLESSING He gave to Abraham that made him heir of the world and a BLESSING to all the families of the earth; THE BLESSING that empowered the life and ministry of The LORD Jesus Himself. That same BLESSING now belongs to all of us who are born-again believers. We are THE BLESSED!

"Yes, I know that, Brother Copeland," someone might say. "How long are you going to keep talking about it?"

I'm going to keep talking about it until we all get it. I'm going to stick with this message until the Body of Christ wakes up and starts living in THE BLESSING!

Now, I've been around long enough to know that won't happen overnight. We won't step into a whole new lifestyle of BLESSING just because we hear two or three sermons about it.

Sure, hearing those sermons will get us moving in the right direction. But if we truly want to live in THE BLESSING, we must renew our minds 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We must get to the point where our revelation of it completely governs our thoughts and directs our actions. We must, as Romans 12:2 says, be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

I learned what's involved in that kind of mental transformation many years ago when I first found out how to live by Faith. I'll never forget the first time I heard a tape of Brother Hagin preaching on Mark 11:23. In one hour, I learned something I'd been hungry to know for years. I found out not only what Faith will do, but how to develop and release it.

But, as powerful as it was, that one message alone couldn't totally renew my mind. It took time for me to change the unbelieving mindset I'd developed over the years. Gloria and I both had to reprogram ourselves to think and act by Faith in our daily lives by spending months listening to tapes, studying The WORD, and attending every seminar on Faith we could find. Day and night, we focused on learning about Faith. Even in casual conversation, we constantly reminded each other to talk and behave in accordance with it.

Those first months were intense, but I've found out since then that total mind renewal always requires that kind of intensity. To get it done most effectively, you have to put yourself through a spiritual version of boot camp.



"WHEN WE TRY TO *save our own* LIVES, WE CUT OURSELVES OFF FROM THE BLESSING BECAUSE WE'RE LOOKING TO OURSELVES—INSTEAD OF GOD—*to save us.* WE BECOME OUR OWN GOD."

I went through basic training in the Army so I know what that's like, and it's painfully rigorous. During boot camp, the U.S. military does everything necessary to turn a civilian into a soldier by changing the way he thinks, talks and acts. Obviously, transforming our minds with The WORD and learning to think like THE BLESSED isn't as painful as the boot-camp process of turning a civilian into a soldier. It is, however, just as important because, just as learning to think like a soldier will keep that soldier alive on the battlefield, becoming BLESSING-minded will ultimately save our lives.

BLESSED Are the Poor?

No one knows that better than Jesus Himself. That's the reason He spent so much time during His earthly ministry teaching people how to understand and act in accordance with THE BLESSING. Although most believers don't realize it, that's what He was doing when He preached the message in Luke 6 called the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus delivered that entire message to outline the process of THE BLESSING.

Because we haven't understood that, however, there's been much confusion about what Jesus said there. Most people think, for example, that because He started His message

with the statement, "Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God" (verse 20), that He wanted us to believe poverty is godly. They think Jesus taught it's a BLESSING to be poor.

That wasn't what He said at all. He told us THE BLESSING would remove poverty. When He said "Blessed be ye poor…," He was giving the poverty-stricken the good news that their days of poverty were over. He was saying, "I'm here to restore THE BLESSING to you. You're not going to be the poor anymore because yours is the kingdom of God!"

When I think about how Jesus intended us to respond to that news, I'm reminded of the story Brother Oral Roberts used to tell about his once-poor, Oklahoma kinfolk. They got rich in one day when they struck oil on their struggling dirt farm in Pontotoc County. Brother Roberts said when they hit that gusher, old "Dad Roberts" took off his hat and filled it up with the oil that was raining down all around him. Then he slapped his hat back on his head, let the oil drench his face until nothing but his white teeth were showing, and hollered, "Whew! We ain't going to be poor no more!"

That's what we'll all be saying when we fully grasp what Jesus was telling us. When we really begin to see what God has given us through THE BLESSING, we'll be hollering just like old Dad Roberts did. We'll be holding our Bibles over our heads and saying, "Praise God, I'm not going to be poor anymore! I'm not going to be defeated anymore! I'm not going to be oppressed anymore. I am THE BLESSED!"

Watch Out for the 'Woes'

Of course, there's more to walking in THE BLESSING than just jumping and shouting. There are attitudes we must have and actions we must take to keep it operating in our lives. Jesus told us about them in Luke 6:27-31. He said: "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

To people who have been brought up in the traditional, worldly way of thinking, those instructions don't make any sense at all. In fact, they sound like a recipe for disaster. Everyone knows that according to the fundamental law of the street—the worldly law of survival—you must protect yourself from your enemies at all costs.

A lot of folks have lived by that law and made millions of dollars that way. They've shoved their way to the top and flattened anyone who tried to stop them. They'll tell you that ruthless system works and they have the riches, fame and worldly power to prove it.

But do you know what Jesus said about those people?

He said, "Woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!" (verses 24-26).

Again, many people misunderstand what He means. They assume He is teaching that riches are evil. But He isn't saying that at all. He is telling us those people are under a curse, not because they're rich but because they acquired their wealth through worldly ways instead of through THE BLESSING; and worldly wealth always brings grief and misery. It literally brings woe.

The wealth that comes through THE BLESSING, however, is quite different. It isn't gained by grabbing everything you can from people. It comes from giving to them. That's the kind of wealth that makes us rich and adds no sorrow with it (Proverbs 10:22).

Losing Your Life To Find It

"Well, I just don't see how giving could ever make me wealthy," someone might say. "How can I ever get ahead in life if I'm always throwing away everything I have?"

Jesus didn't tell us to throw away everything we have. He told us to stop thinking all the time about



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how we can protect ourselves from other people, and start thinking instead about how we can be a BLESSING to them. He was trying to teach us that by walking in THE BLESSING, we can get to the place where someone could steal our coat and we'd never miss it because THE BLESSING would replace it with a better one.

That's just what THE BLESSING does. It is raw, pure spiritual power, and when we release it by walking in it by Faith, it will turn any ugly, terrible situation in our lives into a veritable Garden of Eden. If you don't believe it, look at Jesus. He lived perfectly in THE BLESSING. That's why everything people tried to do to hurt or destroy Him just ended up exalting Him.

"Oh Brother Copeland, surely you're not saying THE BLESSING will work for me just like it did for Jesus?"

Why shouldn't it? It's the same BLESSING! You inherited it by Faith in Him, so did I, and so has every other believer. The only reason it hasn't worked for us as powerfully as it worked for Him is because we haven't lived in the revelation of it. We've lived too much like the world lives—focusing on trying to protect ourselves and meet our own needs. Jesus said in Matthew 16:25: "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

When we try to save our own lives, we cut ourselves off from THE BLESSING because we're looking to ourselves—instead of God—to save us. We become our own God; and none of us is qualified for that position. We're not qualified to protect and provide for ourselves because we don't have the power to do it. We could work so many jobs we wouldn't have time to sleep, and we'd still be unable to gain the kind of wealth God wants to give us.

On the other hand, when we give our lives to God, when we pour ourselves out loving Him with all our heart, soul and strength, and loving our neighbor as ourselves, we put ourselves under the care of the One who is qualified to make us more than conquerors in every situation. We activate His BLESSING on our lives.

When God Says, 'Thank You'

"Yeah, but that turning the other cheek stuff is hard!" you might say. "I don't mind being a BLESSING to people who are nice, but do I really have to Love those folks who act ugly too?"

You do if you want to live in THE BLESSING. For, as Jesus said:

If ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again (Luke 6:32-38).

For years, we've quoted that last sentence all by itself, as if Jesus said it so we'd have something to read in church at offering time. But actually, that verse is not meant to stand alone. It's part of Jesus' whole discourse on THE BLESSING.

When He said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you," Jesus is reminding us that God never meant for us to use THE BLESSING just for our own personal enjoyment. He intends for us to spread it around so others can benefit from it. Jesus is actually reminding us of what God told Abraham thousands of years ago when THE BLESSING was given to him: "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). In other words, "You are BLESSED to be a BLESSING."

To understand why it's so important to God that we pass His BLESSINGS along, we must look at things from His perspective. We must remember He doesn't just Love you and me; He doesn't just Love the good folks; He doesn't just Love the Christians; He loves all mankind and wants to extend His kindness even to evil and ungrateful people.



But He has a problem: Those people have cut themselves off from Him. He doesn't have any contact with them. They won't come to Him to receive what He has to give.

So, how can He BLESS them?

He can BLESS them through us! Since you and I have fellowship with Him, we can receive His BLESSINGS and pass them along to those who don't know Him.

Think again, for example, about the thief who steals your coat. That thief is more precious to God than any coat could ever be. Jesus bled, died and was raised from the dead for him. So when the thief steals your coat, Jesus says to us, "Don't fight him over it. Give him the coat he stole and offer to give him another one as well!"

When you do that, you end up BLESSING the guy God wanted to BLESS all along. In return, God says to you, "Thank you for offering that man My BLESSING. Keep up the good work and I'll keep supplying the money. I'll keep supplying the coats. I'll keep supplying the victory. You keep spreading My BLESSINGS; you keep giving them; and I'll keep putting them into your hands pressed down, shaken together, running over." Can you see it?

I believe with all my heart that in the coming days, God is going to find a group of believers who will actually start doing that. I believe that a bunch of wild-eyed, Love-motivated Faith folks are waking up and becoming such a BLESSING, the whole world will take notice.

As they do, we'll finally see what Jesus meant when He said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over…." We will finally see what it really means to be BLESSED.

"Jesus didn't tell us to throw away everything we have. He told us to stop thinking... about how we can protect ourselves from other people, and start thinking instead about how we can be a BLESSING to them."

by Melanie Hemry

MY GRANDMOTHER'S PRAYERS



Lyle Weber danced the night away in an upscale Amsterdam nightclub, his body moving to the pulse of the electric music. The volatile mix of alcohol, drugs and pounding music sent his heart racing. He'd never imagined that his humble beginnings in Cape Town, South Africa, would bring him here.

He had excelled in academics, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's of commerce in computer auditing. He was selected for an exchange program in the Netherlands, where he studied international finance and formed connections with wealthy people from across Europe.

When a friend sought to open a nightclub on an island in Scandinavia, Lyle was there to provide his financial expertise.

At 20, that was a heady experience.

Lyle's wild lifestyle had begun when he was 13. Shy and suffering from low self-esteem, he had gone to a matinee at a nightclub and been given a drink of orange juice and vodka—followed by another, and then another. The alcohol helped his insecurity, but it also began to drive what would become his new lifestyle. Soon, he was running with the wrong crowd and taking substances that could have killed him. Several times he couldn't even remember how he got home.

Although he loved and enjoyed the parties in Europe, at times he felt guilty.

He knew his family wouldn't approve of his lifestyle—especially his grandmother, who was the only Christian in the family. She had had an encounter with God when Lyle was a baby, and had faithfully served Him daily. The rest of the family thought it was kind of weird. She served her God, but her God wasn't theirs. Still, when anyone in the family had trouble, they went to her and she would pray for them. Soon, their situation would be resolved.

Lyle thought if he followed Jesus, he wouldn't be able to enjoy himself. So, for the next few years he continued drinking—often heavily.

"I started college at 17 and was still drinking heavily," Lyle recalls. "Then, I went to a party and was introduced to drugs. I started taking a variety of different drugs. Funny thing is that it never affected my grades in school. Here I was doing drugs, yet in the university I was at the top of the class and on the dean's list.

"At one point I got a scholarship and an opportunity to study in the Netherlands through a foreign exchange program. I remember arriving in the Netherlands, where I quickly discovered that drugs were available there, so I wasted no time becoming involved with the culture.



"The truth is, I knew my grandma was praying for me. She was always praying."

"When I returned to South Africa, I was still at the top of my class. Everything was going well for me, even though I knew what I was doing wasn't right."

Though he didn't practice religion, or even acknowledge God, for that matter, Lyle recognized that someone, somehow, was protecting him.

"I had a praying grandma," he said.

"I had decided that if I'm doing so well, if I'm making money, living such a lavish lifestyle, and everything is great, then why do I need God?"

Knowing he had an upcoming exam in school, he threw out a challenge to God.

"I remember praying to God and saying, 'OK, God, if I do drugs again, I want to fail this exam,'" he said. "I did drugs again, but I passed the test."

Was it a sign that God was OK with him doing drugs?

Lyle wasn't sure.

"The truth is, I knew my grandma was praying for me," Lyle said. "She was always praying. There were so many opportunities for me to get caught, but God was protecting me.

An Audible Voice

"One day I was driving to the university when I pulled up to a stoplight right next to a police vehicle," Lyle recalls. "I hadn't drunk alcohol or taken any substance, but I heard a voice say, 'Drive.'

"I wasn't about to drive through a red light because the cop would pull me over. Then I heard

the voice again, very stern and very audible, telling me to *drive*. I put my foot down and sped through the red light. When I looked in my rearview mirror, I saw an SUV take my place. Then an 18-wheeler smashed the SUV to pieces.

"If I hadn't run that light, I would've died," Lyle said. "I was in a little car and wasn't wearing a seatbelt. I remember thinking later that God had protected me from being harmed."

Lyle now believes that it was the enemy trying to discredit the fact that he had heard God's voice.

Later that year, Lyle began noticing a change.

"I attended a barbecue at my professor's home, and had had one too many drinks when I began talking with him about inappropriate things like what kind of substances I used," Lyle said. "I was so upset that I told myself that I wouldn't drink alcohol again.

"A week later, I was supposed to go to a party with a friend but decided to stay home and relax. I was watching sports when I stumbled across a program on TBN that showed young people in their 20s and 30s praising God.

"What I saw didn't make any sense to me. They seemed to be happy, enjoying themselves and filled with peace. Yet I was doing all these supposedly *cool* things, but I didn't have what they had.

"The host of the show led a prayer of salvation and I prayed it. When I did, I felt something leave my body. Then I fell asleep and had the best night's sleep I'd ever had.

"The next night a friend picked me up to go to a nightclub, but I didn't want to go. Instead, we got something to eat. The following week, one of my friends was having a housewarming party. I walked in and saw two kegs of beer and different types of alcohol. I asked for orange juice.

"I realized that something had happened when I prayed that prayer. I was fully delivered from alcohol and all forms of drugs, from lust and low self-esteem. My life changed completely, and I never touched any of those things again."

A Season of Isolation

Lyle's life changed overnight. All his former desires disappeared. He was a new person but had no idea how to navigate his new life. Just prior to being born again, he'd developed such a spiritual hunger that he found himself drawn to Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn.

The little he knew about God wasn't good. He'd believed that if you did something wrong, God would punish you. Yet that wasn't what Kenneth Copeland taught.

"He taught that God loved people and had a good plan for their lives," Lyle said.

After becoming born again, he entered a season of isolation and seeking God. Those teachings shaped Lyle's new identity in Christ. Eventually he started attending his grandmother's Pentecostal church. She was overjoyed.

Like his grandmother, Lyle wanted everyone to know about Jesus. He'd been set free and longed to see others enjoy that same freedom. One day he was invited to come on a Christian radio station where he gave his testimony on air. Members of his family heard him speak. They had known about the drinking, but the rest of his story was new to them.

"My grandmother was over the moon when I gave my life to Jesus," Lyle says. "Finally, she had someone in the family to pray and stand in agreement with her for the rest of her children and grandchildren to be saved. She taught me many principles of prayer. My grandmother didn't have a lot of material possessions, but I've never met anyone who had the sort of relationship with Jesus that she did.

"My mother was the first to give her life to Jesus. Eventually my father, sisters, grandfather and the rest of my family came into the kingdom. Many of my cousins were bound by drugs. One by one they had encounters with Jesus and gave their hearts to Him. Some have even stepped into the ministry."

Following the Leading

In 2005, while still living in South Africa and following Kenneth Copeland and his teachings, Lyle received his first *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, which advertised one of the ministry's upcoming meetings. Feeling a nudge from the Holy Spirit, Lyle knew he was supposed to attend. He had a good job but wasn't making much money.

Taking first things first, Lyle applied for a U.S. visa. Though the process normally requires stacks of documentation, which he didn't have, Lyle was granted a 10-year visa. After buying an airline ticket, he encountered problems at the airport because he didn't have a Canadian transit visa. By that time, Lyle had begun to grow spiritually.

"ONE OF MY COUSINS WAS ON DRUGS AND LIVING ON THE STREETS. *My grandmother was praying* AND HE HEARD A VOICE TELLING HIM TO GO TO HER HOUSE. HE DID, AND SHE LED HIM TO THE LORD."

He prayed and the Holy Spirit reminded him: *I have plans to prosper you and to give you a future and a hope. Those words brought peace.*

Initially, he was not permitted to take the flight, and faced taking a later flight and paying an extra $800, which he did not have. After fasting and praying, the next day he was permitted to make the flight without having to pay the additional fee. When he arrived in Milwaukee, Wisc., Lyle had only $20 in his pocket. He had arranged to stay with the relative of a friend, but that fell through—leaving him nowhere to stay. His friend arranged a one-night stay at a motel that was about 45 minutes from the convention and it would require him taking a bus to get to the meeting.

Knowing he didn't have the money to pay for lodging for the rest of the trip, but determined to make the first day of the Great Lakes Prosperity Convention, Lyle put his concerns on the back burner and went to the meeting. On the first day of the meeting, he put the $20 he had in the offering.

Five minutes later, someone tapped his shoulder.

"God told me to give you this," the man said, and handed Lyle $100. A few minutes later, someone else gave him another $100, and then someone else.

He was so blessed with money that he was able to pay for a place to stay, plus bless someone else with finances and a place to stay that week.

A Difficult Decision

By 2013, with his life of alcohol and drugs clearly behind him, Lyle got what he describes as his "dream job."

"I was teaching finance at a university and loved every moment of it," Lyle recalls. "God started dealing with me about moving to the U.S. and attending Rhema Bible Training Center. I didn't want to leave my job, my family or my country. I didn't mind traveling for conferences and conventions, but I had no desire to move.

"I had a dream that I'd been given a great opportunity, but I procrastinated and missed it. I asked the Lord what it meant, and He said, *Lyle, in life the window of opportunity is opening for a season. But it's opening and closing at the same time. If you don't step through this particular window at this time, you'll miss out on the thing I've called you to do. You'll see*

somebody else doing it.

"I knew I had two options. I could either move or stay. If I stayed, the Lord would still love me and I would be comfortable, but I would miss the bigger path for my life. While I wasn't committed to moving, I told the Lord I knew I wanted to go to the U.S. for the Branson Victory Campaign. The dates worked out and I flew to attend.

"I can't say that I had peace because I had so many questions," Lyle remembers. "While Brother Copeland was preaching, I asked the Lord three of my questions. On all three occasions, he paused his message and addressed my questions.

"Then I asked Him another question: 'I'm 30 years old; will I get married?' Brother Copeland paused and turned toward the section where I was sitting, and said, 'The Bible says that he who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor with The LORD. In this case, the word *find* doesn't mean you date and connect with everyone. It means that she shall appear. She's part of God's plan for your life. So, you need to be in the place where God wants you to be.' Then he returned to his message."

A week later, Lyle spoke at a church in Houston where the pastor gave Lyle a word that further confirmed that God wanted him to move to the U.S. With his questions answered, Lyle finally agreed to move to the U.S. and attend Rhema. By that time, he had become financially solvent and owned a thriving consulting company. The Lord told him to give it away, not tell anyone about his financial needs, and trust Him for everything.

Finding a Wife

After emotional goodbyes with his family and friends, Lyle moved to Tulsa to attend Rhema. During his second year in school, the Lord told him to go to New York City and minister in the streets.

"I had only $1 to my name," Lyle recalls. "The only food I had to eat was a box of Fruit Loops, and I didn't even have milk to go with the cereal."

During the Sunday evening service, he gave the only dollar he had in the offering.

The next day, a friend called and said his aunt wanted to bless him and a friend with a trip to New York City. Lyle and he traveled to New York where they ministered on the streets of Manhattan. A number of people received Jesus as a result of their ministry.

"One holiday weekend in 2015, several of us had a barbecue," Lyle remembers. "It was 10 p.m. and someone suggested we go to a lake. We put random GPS coordinates in our phones and drove for six hours. We found ourselves in Dallas, Texas, where we knew no one.

"I remembered that a friend had given me the contact information for a girl she wanted me to meet named Brittany. I had texted her a few days earlier to introduce myself because she lived in Texas, but that was about the extent of our conversations.

"I remember that it was around 6 a.m., on Martin Luther King Jr. Day that I texted Brittany and asked if she could suggest a cool place for breakfast. When she asked for our location, she told me that we were literally two minutes from her house! So, we went to her apartment to freshen up.

"A few weeks later, the Lord began speaking to me about Brittany. Within a few months, I knew she was the woman He had planned for me to marry. The following year, we married and laid our roots in Dallas. Almost immediately, I knew exactly why God had given me Brittany. She taught me how to serve others, and has been my biggest encourager to walk out the plan of God for my life.

"Several months after we got married, I went to work for a CPA firm where I focused on serving nonprofit clients. Looking back, I now see how that position equipped me for the season I'm in now. It was my first real exposure in the U.S. to working in the nonprofit industry.

A New Career

"When God had me move to the U.S. to attend Rhema, I thought my career in finance was over. I thought I'd go into a full-time traveling ministry, preaching in Europe. However, that wasn't God's plan.

"Following my time at the CPA firm, I went to work for The King's University in Southlake, Texas. When we decided to move from one side of the Metroplex to the other, Brittany encouraged me to apply to work at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. I applied and was hired as a senior budget analyst, and began work at the ministry in August 2019."

Moving to the U.S. and coming to work at KCM transformed Lyle's life.

"I had always loved being a Partner with KCM," he says, "but working here, I'm able to see all the other ministries impacted by the teaching of God's Word. Unless you see it for yourself, it's hard to imagine how many lives we impact. Before I gave

my heart to Jesus, I stumbled onto KCM. If not for Partners, I wouldn't have been able to watch those programs."

Today, both Lyle and Brittany are employed by KCM—he as the vice president of finance and she works in payroll. They have two children: Evan, age 9; and Addison, age6.

Even though Lyle works full time in finance, that doesn't exempt him from fulfilling the Great Commission. He still travels wherever the Lord tells him to go, whether it be on the streets or in a pulpit, to share the Word of God.

One of his favorite places to minister is still South Africa.

"There is such a hunger for God in South Africa, that ministering there is different," says Lyle. "When I'm there, I always operate in the word of knowledge. When I pray for people on the street, I see miracles all the time.

"One of the things my grandmother taught me is that when you pray, you must expect God to move. Through his ministering to others, Lyle has seen those words come true countless times. One time in particular, he recalled, was when a friend in Australia was involved in a serious automobile accident.

"When I was a new Christian, while I was in South Africa I heard the Lord tell me to pray for a friend in Australia," Lyle recalled. "I prayed for him for about 30 minutes. Later, when I called to talk with him, he told me had just been in a car accident and that his car was totaled. He said he should have died in the accident, but had escaped.

"I've had so many encounters like that with Jesus, and after hearing God's voice. I've watched deformed bones crack and move back into place. I've witnessed deaf people hear again. I've seen people condemned to wheelchairs get up and walk."

As far as Lyle is concerned, it all points back to the fact that he "had a praying grandma."

"One of my cousins was on drugs and living on the streets," he recalls. "My grandmother was praying and he heard a voice telling him to go to her house. He did, and she led him to the Lord. Today, he runs several drug rehabilitation centers in South Africa. He has been given many properties and has been entrusted with millions in currency because he is doing the Lord's work and impacting lives each day.

"My whole family is a testament to my grandmother's prayers."

by Kenneth Copeland

Change Your Routine

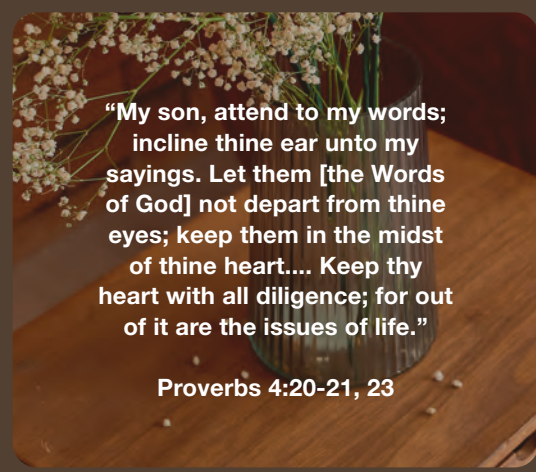
So many people walk around saying things like, "Well, I'm just so tired.... I'm so weak... Things are looking so bad." Then suddenly, they think they're going to jerk their faith out from under the table and raise the dead with it.

Well, they're not going to do it because spiritual things don't work that way. Faith needs to be taken out from under the table, all right, but not to just use it to get out of a jam and then toss it aside again. Keep it in action every day so it can grow.

According to Proverbs 4, God says you must keep His WORD constantly in your ears and in your heart. He says to guard your heart diligently. To be *diligent* means to be "hard-working, industrious, persevering."

Why do you have to be so diligent with The WORD? Because the devil is diligent with his junk. He's constantly throwing fiery darts at you. He works diligently to make sure the world is surrounding you with fear and sickness and poverty and every other kind of garbage he can use to destroy you.

But you can protect your spirit from those things by conditioning yourself to respond to every one of them with The WORD of God. Change your routine, and make a decision right now to begin that spiritual conditioning. Start today and make speaking The WORD part of your daily life.



Testimonies of Real-Life

VICTORY

I Was Never Alone

I have been a partner with KCM Canada for several years, and I am truly grateful for this ministry. During some of the hardest seasons of my life, when I felt discouraged, overwhelmed, or faced important job interviews, I always knew I wasn't alone. Whenever I needed prayer, I would pick up the phone and call the prayer line. The prayer ministers would stand in agreement with me according to God's Word, encouraging my faith and reminding me of His promises.

Their prayers brought me peace, strength, and hope when I needed it most. God has carried me through difficult times, opened doors, and continually shown me His faithfulness. I am so thankful for this ministry and for everyone who faithfully stands in prayer with people like me.

To God be all the glory!

K.H. | Alberta

A Top-Dollar Answer to Prayer

I reached out to the prayer team at KCM for my aunt, believing for her home to sell for top dollar and for the Lord to provide a beautiful, quiet place for her to live. We stood in faith together, and God answered our prayers. Her home sold, and the Lord opened the door to a wonderful new place for her. I praise God for His goodness and for bringing everything to pass just as we believed.

I.P. | Quebec

The Power of Praise

After receiving prayer for healing and restoration in a friendship, I began to see things change. Communication improved, misunderstandings were resolved, and our friendship grew stronger. I am so thankful for the power of prayer and the goodness of God.

L.B. | Quebec

Addiction to Freedom

Since receiving prayer in March, I have been delivered from a gambling addiction and have started paying off my debts. Praise the Lord for His grace and freedom!

J.A. | Alberta

Big Blessings

About a year ago, I phoned KCM for prayer, believing God for a financial breakthrough. Two months ago, I received a big blessing of $210,000! God is so good, and I praise Him for His abundant provision. I am so thankful for all He has done!

P.O. | Saskatchewan

His Word Heals

I connected with the KCM prayer team for healing. As the prayer minister was praying and specifically mentioned my lungs, I immediately felt something lift off of me. Instantly, my breathing improved, and I could tell a change had taken place. I am so grateful for God's healing power and His unfailing love for He is good.

E.B. | Ontario

Cancer Free

Two years ago, I asked for prayer for my nephew, who had been diagnosed with tongue cancer. We stood in faith, believing God for his healing and complete restoration. Today, I am overjoyed to report that he is cancer-free! Praise God for His healing power and abundant goodness in answering our prayers. Thank you to KCM for praying and believing with us.

S.H. | Ontario



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE OCTOBER

				1 Isa. 49-51; Ps. 52-53	2 Isa. 52-53; Ps. 54	3 Isa. 54-55; Ps. 55
4 Isa. 56-57; Ps. 56	5 Isa. 58-59; Ps. 57	6 Isa. 60-61; Ps. 58	7 Isa. 62-63; Ps. 59	8 Isa. 64-66; Ps. 60-61	9 Jer. 1-2; Ps. 62	10 Jer. 3-4; Ps. 63
11 Jer. 5-6; Ps. 64	12 Jer. 7-8; Ps. 65	13 Jer. 9-10; Ps. 66	14 Jer. 11-12; Ps. 67	15 Jer. 13-15; Ps. 68-69	16 Jer. 16-17; Ps. 70	17 Jer. 18-19; Ps. 71
18 Jer. 20-21; Ps. 72	19 Jer. 22-23; Ps. 73	20 Jer. 24-25; Ps. 74	21 Jer. 26-27; Ps. 75	22 Jer. 28-30; Ps. 76-77	23 Jer. 31-32; Ps. 78	24 Jer. 33-34; Ps. 79
25 Jer. 35-36; Ps. 80	26 Jer. 37-38; Ps. 81	27 Jer. 39-40; Ps. 82	28 Jer. 41-42; Ps. 83	29 Jer. 43-45; Ps. 84-85	30 Jer. 46-47; Ps. 86	31 Jer. 48-49; Ps. 87

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.

by Keith Moore



Yield to Joy!

Sometime ago, my wife, Phyllis, and I were walking through church when a beautiful little girl ran up to us and latched onto my leg. This little girl loves Phyllis and me, and she's a joy to be around.

I picked her up, and we continued walking through the children's area. A photo of a small elephant hanging on the wall caught her eye and all of a sudden, she started laughing a deep belly laugh. "Look, look, look!" she said, pointing at the picture. "He's silly! He's silly!"

I did a double take at the little elephant on the wall. "He *is* silly, isn't he?" I started laughing right along with her.

That little girl and little children everywhere know how to do something so simple, something that so many grumpy, grouchy adults have forgotten. They know how to *yield to joy.*

What's the Deal With Joy?

Nehemiah 8:10 contains a passage that many of us know by heart, but look at it again: "The joy of the LORD is your strength."

When the Lord spoke these words through the prophet Nehemiah, the Israelites had returned to Jerusalem and were gathered to hear the reading of the Book of the Law of Moses. When they heard the perfection of the Law, they realized how short they had fallen, and were yielding to condemnation. They started crying and mourning, which is the typical Church reaction. As God's people, we've been trained for centuries to think that if we mourn and cry, we've had a move of God.

But the Lord instructed them, "Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

In essence God said, "Get up and get out of here. Quit your squalling and bawling. Celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad."

Why were they to do this?

Because the joy of the Lord was their strength.

"THAT'S WHAT THE BODY OF CHRIST IS SUPPOSED TO DO—HAVE FUN AND *rejoice* IN OUR SALVATION. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO *enjoy* THE GOODNESS OF GOD."

And I've got news for you: The joy of the Lord is *your* strength, too.

What Science Shows

Years ago, I was reading one doctor's findings on the importance of laughter. "Laughter is strong medicine for the body and the mind," he said. "It's one of the most powerful tools you have."

Don't you love it when science catches up with the Word of God?

Medical studies show that laughter is a powerful remedy for stress, pain and conflict. It brings peace to a person's mind and body, and builds relationships. This doctor went on to say, "With so much power to heal and renew, the ability to laugh easily and frequently is a tremendous resource for surmounting problems, enhancing your relationships, and supporting both your physical and emotional health."

Laughter relaxes the body and relieves physical tension and stress for up to 45 minutes. It boosts the immune system, triggers the release of endorphins—the body's natural feel-good chemicals—and protects the heart by improving blood vessel function.

All of this, just from laughing.

Now let me ask you: Is it really so far-fetched for the joy of the Lord to be your physical and emotional strength? Of course not.

Now mind you, I'm not talking about laughing like a fool. I'm talking about laughing by faith and rejoicing in your redemption. Remember, the joy of the Lord is inside you. When you rejoice and laugh by faith, you tap into true joy, and resist yielding to depression and fear.

Resisting and Yielding

Two of the most important things we can learn are what to yield to and what to resist. There are Christians yielding to things they ought to be resisting, and resisting things they ought to be yielding to. Millions of Christians are resisting tongues, prosperity and healing. At the same time, we've got millions of Christians yielding to depression, fear and strife. When you know what you should yield to and what you should resist, you don't have to think about it. You can yield or resist according to God's Word and prevent the devil from getting a foothold in your life.

Depression is one of the enemy's favorite weapons, and he does his best to wield it against believers. You can be in a powerful church meeting, surrounded by faith-filled believers, and get so full of the Word that all you can do is pray in the spirit. Then you can

go home, get in strife for 30 minutes, sit down and yield to depression. It's like someone pulled out the bathtub plug. All the strength and life that you received from the meeting runs out of you, and you feel as weak as water.

When that happens—or when your peace and joy are threatened in any way—repeat this verse: "The joy of the Lord is my strength."

Say that a few times. Stir up your faith as you speak it over yourself: "The joy of the Lord is my strength!" "The joy of the Lord is my strength!" "The joy of the Lord is my strength!"

Don't yield to depression, heaviness, grief or self-pity. Resist it with every fiber of your being. Your ministry, your marriage and your health depend on it. Train yourself to yield quickly to the Holy Ghost in joy and gladness. Part of doing this is being quick to yield to joy, quick to smile, quick to laugh and quick to shout.

Lord's business, the Lord says, "Ha! Ha! Ha! He never learns."

This is revelation: God laughs. Say it out loud: "God laughs." Let me give you a few other scriptures to meditate on:

"The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming" (Psalm 37:12-13).

"But thou, O LORD, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision" (Psalm 59:8).

"The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17).

"Train yourself to yield quickly to the Holy Ghost in joy and gladness. Part of doing this is being quick to yield to joy, quick to smile, quick to laugh and quick to shout."

What God Says

The topic of joy can seem so simple. You may be reading this and thinking, *Yeah, I already know that scripture. I've heard that before.* But if you are still yielding to depression, strife or fear, then you don't really believe it.

Instead, respond like your heavenly Father responds. When the devil pulls out the big guns, does God look out from His throne and say, "Oh, no! Michael! Gabriel! Do you see this? Oh, no!"

Of course not!

In Psalm 2, He gives His response: "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh" (verses 1-4).

The Almighty sees the devil in all his devious, dirty-dog schemes. When it looks like Satan is about to run over the Church and tear up the

God laughs. God rejoices. God sings. When we get to heaven, do you really think we'll stand in God's presence, listening to Him make the most beautiful harmonies and say, "You know, this makes me feel blue"? No! It will be unspeakable joy, full of God's glory!

The world doesn't know that this laughing, singing God exists. Sadly, most of the Church doesn't know it either. What's been taught is the suffering Jesus, the man of sorrows. That has eclipsed everything else in the Word concerning Him.

Isaiah 53:3 refers to Jesus as "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." This grief was more than just physical pain. Every emotion—good and bad—that you and I have ever experienced, Jesus experienced, too. But notice it says He was "acquainted with grief." In other words, He *met* grief. It doesn't say He lived with it and made it His constant companion.

The idea has been around that if you're truly spiritual, then you're very, very serious. Some

of the very few places in the Scripture that refer to this are in Timothy and Titus where wives, young men and other individuals are exhorted to be "sober minded" or "grave." These translations—or paraphrases, really—leave a wrong impression. From studying dictionaries and lexicons, I've found that the word *grave* actually means "venerable, honorable, commanding respect, impressive," and the word *sober* refers to not being drunk with alcohol.

People have formulated whole theologies around the idea that if you're really spiritual, you're intense…because that's how they imagine God. They see God as sitting on the throne—a serious old man with a long, straggly beard and fearful eyes.

But that's not true. He is amazing. He is love and peace and goodness and grace and, yes, He is joy!

The Lord once said to me, *You've let this slip.* He wasn't just talking about me; He was talking about the Body of Christ as a whole. We've let our joy and laughing by faith slip. Understand, we don't have to feel like laughing to laugh. It doesn't have to be funny for us to laugh. Job 5:22 tells us we're to laugh at famine and destruction.

Why? Because the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Begin to practice laughing by faith. Maybe you haven't done it since you were young, but if you'll practice yielding to it, it'll just roll out of you. Anything will set it off. You'll look at something and go, "Ha, ha," just like my little friend with the elephant picture. We stood there laughing for several minutes, just having fun.

That's what the Body of Christ is supposed to do—have fun and rejoice in our salvation. We're supposed to enjoy the goodness of God. We're supposed to be so blessed and happy that sinners look at us and say, "I want that! I want that kind of Christianity." Glory to God!

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

WORD SEARCH

Depression is one of the enemy's favorite weapons, and he does his best to wield it against believers. When depressions threatens your peace and joy, stir up your faith as you speak over yourself: "The joy of the Lord is my strength." Repeat it over and over as you search out the words based on Nehemiah 8:10 in the puzzle below.

THE	LORD
JOY	IS
OF	MY
THE	STRENGTH

Circle the hidden words, crossing them off the list as you find them. Words can go horizontally, vertically, diagonally or backward.

A D M J U G I O D O Q V B
L S G Y B N T I O N Z I S
E G N I Q W E R R K U E P
L N J U G F D S A A D C V
B E M W O C E F H E A O S
W R R A Z H H C R W V Y H
T T K Q W E T A Y U I O P
A S F W G H J I N Z X C V
B N A A C O W N W G O D O
Q Y I L O R Y R N P F O S
Z R T O M L G H H T R T Y
U O H E A B H G F D E A H
X C V B N C O R X R S T Y
Y M I K L Q A D T E G R F
U Y H L I F E E Y N H V U
I A N D S T F S E J K C K
E C V B O M V R I J O G I
E D R N S B T I G N B N B
I I O D O S E T S G R W I
R T Y V O P F I J D F P D
S A C S C G D N M W S X R
R V Y H I E K L B N Z E D
C O I L R H N C T E H E G
Y Y W E O P G S D T I I J
K L D X P R B N C O A N M
J U G I O D D Q V B L S G
Y B N T I O N Z R S E M T
G W W E R R Y U E P L K J
U O F D S A N D J V B N M
W N C R F V Y A O S W H R
A Z H H C R F V Y H T I K
Q W S T R E U T H P A S D
W G H J Y N I K L Q A E T

Answer key on page 30

by Laurie Graves



Depression Getting the Best of You?

I suffered from depression several years ago. It wasn't just the blues. There was a period of nearly two years when I often contemplated suicide. My circumstances overwhelmed me. Past hurts and rejection kept me in a very dark place, and I actively participated in negative thinking—even as a born-again, Spirit-filled believer.

My poor diet, lack of exercise and poor sleep habits certainly didn't help matters. Research continues to show that poor nutrition, physical inactivity and inadequate sleep are associated with an increased risk of depression.

So, what's a person to do?

Here are four steps I took to walk out of depression and rediscover joy:

1. Meditate on God's Word and pray.

Psalm 34:17-18, *New International Version,* says, "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." When I began spending time with my heavenly Father, He changed my mind about who I was, what I could do, and who I could become in Christ. His Word renewed my thinking, gave me hope and reminded me that my circumstances did not define my future. His Word was sent to heal us of every destruction, including depression.

2. Limit ultra-processed foods.

Over the past decade, research has found that diets high in ultra-processed foods are associated with an increased risk of depression. While food isn't the only factor affecting mental health, nourishing your body with lean proteins, fruits, vegetables, healthy fats and whole grains supports both your brain and your body. You **may also notice you have more energy and feel less sluggish when you reduce your intake of highly processed and fast food.**

3. Limit added sugar.

Eating large amounts of added sugar can contribute to inflammation, blood sugar spikes and crashes, and fluctuating energy levels that may negatively affect mood. Although sugar by itself does not cause depression, reducing added sugars often helps people feel more energetic, mentally clear and emotionally balanced. Instead, choose whole, nutrient-dense foods that provide lasting energy throughout the day.



4. Move!

It can be hard to get moving when you’re depressed, but the joy of the Lord really can be your strength! Put on some praise music and start with a gentle sway. March in place, dance around the room, or take a gentle stroll with a friend. Exercise is one of the most effective natural ways to support emotional well-being. It releases endorphins, reduces stress hormones, improves sleep and increases brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a protein that supports healthy brain cells and brain function. Just a 20- to 30-minute walk can make a difference! Don’t underestimate the power of simply moving your body.

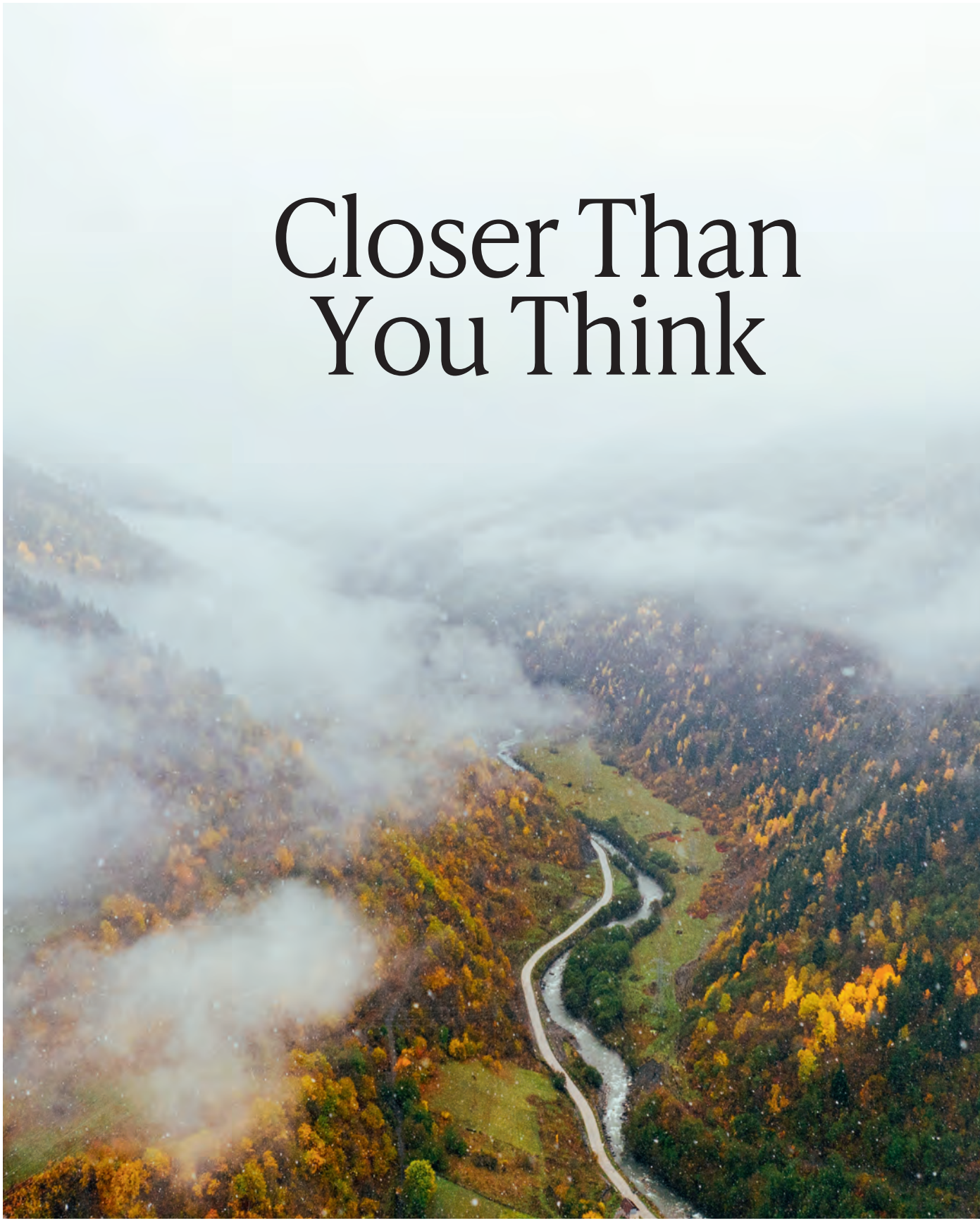
Over the years, I have worked with many clients who struggled with everything from mild depression to bipolar disorder. As they consistently improved their nutrition, increased their physical activity, took their spiritual life seriously and adopted healthier lifestyles, many experienced significant improvements in their overall well-being. In some cases, their physicians were able to reduce their medications, or they were able to come off their medications completely.

While everyone’s journey is different, I’ve seen firsthand how caring for the body can support emotional health alongside appropriate medical and spiritual care. If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide or severe depression, please reach out to a trusted pastor, counselor, physician or mental health professional for help. You don’t have to face it alone.

Certified through the National Academy of Sports Medicine, Laurie Graves is passionate about helping people move from feeling unhealthy and fatigued to feeling inspired, energized and equipped to live the abundant life God desires for them.

by Gloria Copeland

Closer Than You Think







If all you want from your salvation is the privilege of going to heaven when you die, you don't need to read this article. Because this article is for people who want more than that.

It's for people who aren't content to get born again and yet still live their earthly lives in sickness and defeat. It's for believers who aren't content to let Satan run their lives and tear up their families and steal their money.

It's for those who don't want to postpone their victory until the sweet by-and-by; who want to live as more than conquerors in the here and now.

If you're one of those people, God is looking for you.

That's right. If you'll read the Bible, you'll see that ever since the world began He's been looking for people who, by faith and obedience, would allow Him to bless them right here on the earth. He's been looking for people who would allow Him to demonstrate His power on their behalf. People whose supernaturally abundant lives would make them a walking advertisement of the mercy and power of God.

For example, look in the Old Testament at the children of Israel. That's the kind of people He wanted *them* to be. He prepared a marvelous land for them to live in. A land, the Scripture says, that was flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8). It was a land of rest. A place of abundance where no enemy could stand before them and no sickness or disease could stay on their bodies (Exodus 23:25).

In fact, after God brought them out of slavery in Egypt, He wanted them to go immediately into that land. It was only a short journey, and God was ready to take them. But they wouldn't go! Instead they spent 40 years wandering around in the wilderness getting nowhere.

> "We've got to get away from being so self-conscious, so aware of what we think we can or can't do. That's what keeps us from entering into our promised land."

Now I know all that happened thousands of years ago, but do you know what? God hasn't changed one bit since then (see James 1:17). He still wants to lead His people into a place of blessing and prosperity.

The problem is that, in many ways, His people haven't changed that much either. And the same thing that kept the Israelites from going into the Promised Land back then is keeping most of His people out of our promised land today. Do you know what it is?

It's unbelief.

Now you're probably thinking, *Well, that doesn't apply to me. I* believe *in God.* But that doesn't necessarily get you off the hook. Israel believed in God too. They'd seen Him do signs and wonders with their own eyes.

Yet, even though they believed *in* God, there were many times when they didn't believe what He *said.* When He told them about the Promised Land, for instance, He assured them they wouldn't have to take it in their own strength. He said: "I will send My terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people to whom you shall come, and I will make all your foes turn from you [in flight].... I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand and you shall drive them out before you" (Exodus 23:27, 31, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).*

But when most of the scouts they sent into the land came back and reported there were giants there, they got scared. "Why, we can't try to fight those people," they said. "We look like grasshoppers."

If they had believed God, it wouldn't have mattered how big those giants were, they could have marched right in there expecting God to make those giants scatter in every direction. But they didn't believe God. So, instead of following His instructions and going forward to victory, they simply refused to go into the land.

Now I want you to notice something. Their unbelief led them into disobedience. Unbelief always does that.

You Don't Have To Be Smart

So often we try to be smart and figure things out instead of just trusting God and doing what He says. And as a result, we end up in disobedience.

Listen, God doesn't ask us to be smart. All He asks us to do is to listen to His Word and obey His voice. Why? Because He knows that if we don't, we'll end up living out our lives on this earth in a wilderness of defeat like that generation of Israelites did.

Read the warning the Apostle Paul gives us in Hebrews 3. There he says:

Then while it is [still] called Today, if you would hear His voice and when you hear it, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion [in the desert, when the people provoked and irritated and embittered God against them]…. So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest], because of their unwillingness to adhere to and trust in and rely on God [unbelief had shut them out] (verses 15 and 19, *AMPC).*

In verse 1 of the next chapter, Paul says something else that's very important so read it carefully. He says, "Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still holds and is offered today, let us be afraid [to distrust it], lest any of you should think he has come too late and has come short of [reaching] it" *(AMPC).*

Let us be afraid to distrust God's promise. Did you know we're not supposed to fear the devil? We're supposed to fear God. We're to have so much reverence and respect for Him that we would immediately make any adjustment in our lives just to please Him.

When He tells us to do something that looks risky from a natural point of view, we ought to be more afraid of what we'll miss if we don't obey Him than of what will happen if we do.

In other words, when He tells you that you are more than a conqueror (see Romans 8:37) and instructs you to march in and take back some part of your life the devil has stolen from you, you shouldn't sit around debating about whether or not you can do it. You should just start marching!

You might think, *Well, I just couldn't do that. After all, I've been defeated in that area of my life for so long that I've got a poor self-image.*

If that's what you're thinking, let me tell you something. If you'll believe God, even a poor self-image won't keep you from success. There's one Israelite who proved that. It was Moses.

Moses didn't have a very good self-image. He'd made a terrible mistake early in his career. It was a mistake that drove him into the wilderness and kept him there for 40 years herding someone else's sheep.

No doubt he assumed his ministry as a deliverer of God's people was over. But as far as God was concerned, he hadn't even started. In fact, when God came to Moses in that wilderness and gave him his seemingly impossible assignment, He didn't ask for Moses' credentials. He didn't mention his shady history. He just told him to go see Pharaoh and tell him to let God's people go.

Moses, however, was still wrestling with his poor self-image.

"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" he stammered.

Just Believe God

You know what God said in response? He just said, "I will surely be with you" (Exodus 3:12, *AMPC).*

He didn't say one word about who Moses was. He just said, "I will be with you." You see, it didn't matter who Moses was. What mattered was that the living God was with him.

The same thing is true for you today. When God calls you to do something—whether it's to lay your hands on a sick person or go to another country and preach the gospel—it doesn't matter who you are. What matters is who is with you.

We've got to get away from being so self-conscious, so aware of what we think we can or can't do. That's what keeps us from entering into our promised land. Instead of simply obeying God, we start to wonder, *Now what will people think of me if I do that? What if I command that person to get out of the wheelchair and he doesn't get up? What if I start believing for prosperity and go broke? What about that, God? I won't look too good, will I?*

It doesn't matter how you look! What counts is that you obey God. Your own reputation doesn't count and the sooner you forget it, the better off you'll be.

But you know what's ironic? Once you do that, your reputation gets better. Funny thing. When you lose that desire to protect your image,

"WE'VE GOT TO STOP LOOKING AT THINGS WITH A *natural* PERSPECTIVE. BECAUSE A NATURAL, WORLDLY PERSPECTIVE WILL KEEP US FROM *living* THE LIFE GOD INTENDS FOR US TO LIVE."

your image gets better. Why? Because then the image of the Lord Jesus can come forth instead of that puny little image you had of yourself.

"Certainly I will be with you," God said. And He's said it to us just as surely as He said it to Moses (see Hebrews 13:5).

That's what we need to grab hold of. That's what will cause us to live in the supernatural and do impossible things. We've got to quit hanging on to our own idea of ourselves. We've got to do what Moses finally did—abandon our ways of thinking and start agreeing with God.

We've got to stop looking at things with a natural perspective. Because a natural, worldly perspective will keep us from living the life God intends for us to live. It will keep us from being supernaturally healthy and prosperous and peaceful.

Remember what I said a moment ago about fearing God instead of the devil? Believers who have a natural rather than a supernatural perspective get that switched around. Instead of walking in the fear of God, they walk in the fear of the devil and his work. In the fear of death. In the fear of sickness. In the fear of poverty. And those fears keep them from listening to and obeying the Word of God.

Look again at what the Israelites did when they came out of Egypt. They had just seen a marvelous display of God's miraculous power. Yet, as they faced the Red Sea with the Egyptian army at their backs, they turned on Moses and said, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that You have taken us away to die in the wilderness?" (See 14:11, *AMPC.)*

What could possibly have caused them to doubt God and make such a traitorous statement after all He had already done for them? Fear.

They began to fear what the enemy could do to them, and they were overwhelmed by the drive toward self-preservation. Let me tell you something. That apparently innocent desire you have to protect yourself will cost you dearly when it comes to walking with God.

It infected the Israelites to such a degree that they forgot the signs and wonders. Suddenly they saw themselves as just people again—not people with whom God dwells, but just people.

If you don't watch out, Satan will try to give you that perspective too. When you start believing the promises of God and marching toward victory over sickness or sin or poverty, Satan will try to tell you you're just a natural person. He'll tell you that you can't trust the supernatural power of God to pull you through.

Rest In Him

That's why you need to learn to think with the mind of Christ. You need to learn to live with your thoughts on the things of God instead of the things of the world, to come to a place where

Answer key



you're resting in the power of God.

God wants us to rest in His power. He wants us to know Him so well and trust Him so much that when Satan tries to threaten us, when he tells us we're going to go broke or we're going to die or whatever manipulation he uses, we just laugh at him.

You and I need to come to a place in this world where we trust God with every detail of our lives. When we do that, when we're not trying to preserve or protect ourselves but trusting in the living God to do that for us, we'll be in that place of rest we read about in Hebrews.

Make no mistake though, that place of rest is not a place of inactivity. In fact, to get there and stay there, you'll have to take more aggressive action than you've ever taken before. The difference will be that your action will be based on God's plans and power instead of your own.

When Moses and the Israelites were caught between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army, Moses appealed to God and God said a remarkable thing.

He said, "Moses, why are you crying to Me? Speak to the children of Israel. Tell them to go forward. You lift up your rod and stretch your hand over the sea and divide it" (see Exodus 14:15). That's what we need to do, too. We need to hush up our complaining and rise up in faith. When we do, the same thing will happen to us that happened to them. God will give us His plan of action, and He'll deliver the power to carry it out.

If you'll determine to go forward with God, He'll tell you what steps to take. Moses didn't know what to do in that impossible situation. But he did know how to rise up. He knew how to tell the children of Israel, "On your feet. We're going on."

You see, the hard part of walking with God is not the miraculous. Moses didn't have to know how to part the Red Sea. All he had to do was lift up his rod and speak the command. God did all the rest.

I'll tell you what the hard part of walking with God is. It's learning to give Him your time and attention so you can come to know His voice.

That's where the labor comes in. If you're going to march forward in victory toward your promised land, doing what God says for you to do, you're going to have to know what He's saying. You're going to have to learn to hear His voice.

The hard part for Moses was not that moment at the Red Sea when he lifted up his staff and commanded the waters. The hard part was the time of preparation, that time when nothing significant seemed to be happening. That time of learning about God; of learning to trust Him, obey His voice and know His ways.

What if, during those preparation days, Moses had said to himself, *I don't know about all this. I've failed so much already. I don't think I can ever learn to know the voice of God*. What if he had let his past, his opinions or his self-image stop him?

Thank God, he didn't! And you don't have to either. It doesn't matter if you think you've failed or succeeded, or what you think you've done with God in the past. Remember, it doesn't matter who you are...it matters who is with you.

So don't look back. Today is a new day. Determine that you are going to rise up in faith. To throw aside that fear. To throw aside the unbelief that has kept you from taking God at His Word.

Determine to rise up and go forward. Don't put it off any longer. Your promised land is closer than you think.

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THE SHEPHERD-WARRIOR

Gentleness of Heart Part 1



Have you ever seen a picture of Jesus holding a little lamb? Maybe in Sunday school or in a Bible storybook? In those pictures, Jesus looks so kind, gentle and loving with His arms carefully cradling the little lamb.

Jesus IS kind, gentle and loving, but there is so much more to Him than that. The story of our loving shepherd is also a story of the mightiest warrior.

Superkids, I want you to understand what it means to be filled with the Jesus kind of gentleness the Bible calls a fruit of the spirit. Let's look at David, another famous shepherd-warrior.

What Does It Mean To TEND?

The Bible says that before David was ever a king, before he fought the giant Goliath, he was a shepherd. He tended his father's sheep. His big warrior brothers looked down on him and probably made fun of him. After all, to "tend" does sound simple, doesn't it? Maybe they thought, *That's so easy, a kid like David can do it. He just sits in a field, plays his harp and watches the clouds go by*. Maybe people today would think that too, but tending sheep in Bible times was one of the most difficult duties!

To TEND meant you knew every sheep and lamb. You knew if one was missing. You were their guide, doctor and, when needed, their protector. A shepherd had to be strong and brave; a warrior, on watch day and night for predators like wolves, lions and even bears looking for a midnight snack!

David told King Saul in 1 Samuel 17:34-35 *(New King James Version):* "When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth."

When David went after the lion and bear, he didn't know that one day he would run toward something even bigger—a giant named Goliath. All he knew was, "I have sheep to tend," even if that meant fighting off a lion and a bear! David ran TOWARD anything that threatened his sheep because that is what it means to tend.

In Bible times, there was a gentle beauty about the way a shepherd tended his sheep. If a sheep was cut or wounded, the shepherd would anoint it, pouring healing oil onto the wound to soothe it and help it heal. Shepherds carried special oil with them, knowing their sheep could get hurt on the journey. Every wound was attended to right away, because every sheep was precious and worth any effort to protect.

The Valley and the Green Pasture

When David wrote Psalm 23, he was writing from his own life, having been a shepherd. But he wasn't just describing what HE did for his sheep. He was describing what the Lord did for him. Think about Jesus and what He wants to do for you as you read Psalm 23:1-2 and 4-5 in *The Passion Translation*. Your Good Shepherd Jesus is real, and He is tending you right now.

"YAHWEH is my best friend and my shepherd. I always have more than enough. He offers a resting place for me in his luxurious love. His tracks take me to an oasis of peace near the quiet brook of bliss…. Even when your path takes me through the valley of deepest darkness, fear will never conquer me, for you already have! Your authority is my strength and my peace. The comfort of your love takes away my fear. I'll never be lonely, for you are near. You become my delicious feast even when my enemies dare to fight. You anoint me with the fragrance of your Holy Spirit; you give me all I can drink of you until my cup overflows."

Every single word of that Psalm describes the care of your strong, attentive warrior-shepherd. He leads, He guides, He walks with you through the darkest, most dangerous places. He anoints your wounds, and He never leaves. That is not weakness, but power completely devoted to the one in His care. That is gentleness and it's meant for you, Superkids.

The Greatest Shepherd-Warrior

David was a faithful and mighty shepherd, but he was pointing to Someone greater. Just like David tended his father Jesse's sheep, Jesus came to tend His Father's sheep. That's you, me and every person who has ever lived. Jesus Himself said in John 10:11 *(TPT),* "I am the Good Shepherd who lays down my life as a sacrifice for the sheep."

When Jesus died on the cross, the devil thought he had won. He thought Jesus was a weak man. One who walked in love and would not fight back. Who let himself be taken, hung on a cross and died. But he was wrong. Satan made the biggest mistake in the history of the universe.

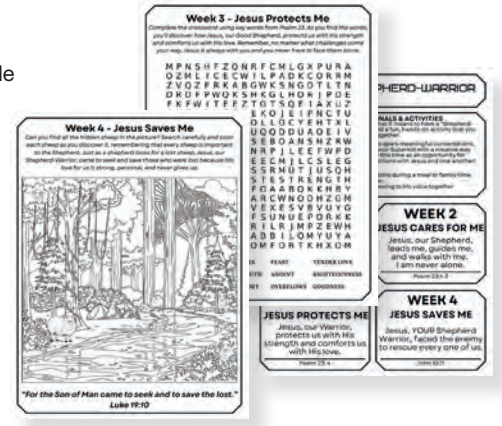
What took Jesus to that cross was not weakness. He was not there by mistake. Love, a fierce, warrior kind of love— the same love that sent David running toward a lion to rescue one sheep and toward a giant to rescue a nation—is what sent Jesus to the cross. He ran straight toward the greatest predator any shepherd has ever faced. He went into the darkest place of all and came out with you as His prize.

He ROSE from the dead and defeated our enemy forever, not just for one sheep, but for every sheep who would ever call His Name. But He WOULD have done it for just one—for you!

If you don't yet know Him as your Shepherd-Savior, just ask Him to come into your heart. He is calling your name. That is what shepherds do.

More on THAT next month, Superkids. So, STAY TUNED!

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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