One Dangerous Marine

When Tom Westberry lost everything, including his business, he refused to give up and quit. Tom stood strong in faith, believed God’s promises and fought for the restoration due him.
The Holy Spirit is there on the inside of us every moment to direct us and tell us what to do.

—Gloria Copeland

Read more.
page 26
Editor’s Letter

The New Norm

That’s how some are describing the life we’re required to live today because of the coronavirus pandemic. Because of COVID-19, our nation was introduced to a different lifestyle which, until recently, did not include such phrases as “stay at home,” “social distancing,” “shelter in place,” and, for students across the country, “distance learning.” For most of the country, we left our workplaces and were sent home to work.

But while COVID-19 has had a major impact on our lives over the past several months, tragically including many deaths, we’ve witnessed something else taking place. As a nation, people have become more united; reaching out with compassion and coming together to help one another. We have acknowledged a norm that, though it has always existed, we overlooked: We’re all in this together!

I believe that’s what God intended when He said in Genesis 1:26, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us” (New Living Translation). He planned for all mankind to show the same love and compassion He does. Jesus said in Mark 12:29-31, “The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”

This space is intended to introduce this issue’s content. With that in mind, I encourage you to take time to read every article. You’ll discover not only that, as a believer, you are God’s special treasure, but that faith in His Word will enable you to triumph over life’s challenges.

I especially urge you to read Brother Copeland’s article titled “We Hold the Keys.” With the upcoming elections, it’s important that we be serious about the state of our nation; that we recognize our responsibility as believers and not let the affairs of life keep us away from the voting booth. As Christians, we must unite and prevent the wicked spirits in high places from taking authority. The key is prayer and involvement.

Voting is the responsibility of every believer. That should really be our new norm, because we ARE all in this together!

Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor

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A number of years ago, when I began teaching again on the basics of faith, I knew it was going to help people who were new to the faith message. What I didn't know was how much it was going to help me.

I've been around the faith message for over 50 years now. I thought I had the basics down pretty well. But in setting out to teach them again, I initially found myself struggling and came to a startling realization: When it came to the fundamental operations of faith, I'd let a lot of things slip!

That's an easy mistake to make, and no matter how seasoned we may be as believers, it's one we can't afford. After all, our faith "is the victory that overcometh the world" (1 John 5:4). It's the force by which we triumph over the challenges of life. So for us to finish our spiritual race as champions, we must continually practice the faith fundamentals because, in every arena of life, that's what champions do.

Think about Super Bowl champions, for example. What are you seeing when you watch them play? Masters of the fundamentals of football. What are you seeing when you watch the champions of the NBA? Players who've become experts at the basics of the game.

In 1961, after the Green Bay Packers lost the championship, the great coach Vince Lombardi addressed his team on the first day of spring training. Holding a football aloft, he reintroduced them to their sport. "Gentlemen," he said, "this is a football."

The Packers were professionals! They were expecting their coach to tell them something they didn't already know. They were hoping he'd let them in on some secret strategy that would give them an edge over the competition and put them back on top. But instead, he focused on the ABCs of blocking, passing, receiving and tackling. As a result, under his leadership, they never lost a championship again.

As a believer, under the leadership of The Lord Jesus Christ, I want to have the same kind of winning record, don't you? I want to live as a world-overcomer, fight the good fight of faith and defeat the devil every time.

That's why I like comparing the Christian life to that of successful athletes and Olympians. Before every one of them got to where they were, they had to answer some questions. They had to say, "I have this body; now what am I going to do with it? How far am I going to go in this sport?"

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"They had to say, 'I have this body; now what am I going to do with it? How far am I going to go in this sport?'"

1. Your faith level determines your victory level. 1 Jn. 8:4
2. We all receive the same measure of the God kind of faith when we’re born again. Rom. 12:3
3. Jesus is the Source of our faith and He will help us develop it if we put His WORD first place in our lives and do what He says. Heb. 12:1-3
4. The most basic law of faith is believe with your heart and say with your mouth. Rom. 10:10
5. For The WORD to consistently come out of your mouth it must be in your heart in abundance. Matt. 12:34
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As a believer, under the leadership of The LORD Jesus Christ, I want to have the same kind of winning record, don’t you? I want to live as a world overcomer, fight the good fight of faith and defeat the devil every time. That’s why I like comparing the Christian life to that of successful athletes and Olympians. Before every one of them got to where they were, they had to answer some questions. They had to say, “I have this body; now what am I going to do with it?”

The same is true for us Christians. Before we can excel in our faith, we have to decide what we’re going to do with our lives.
to do with it? How far am I going to go in this sport?” They had to make a quality decision to go for the gold. Otherwise, they would have gotten all excited, and after two weeks of hard workouts, when they got a blister on their toe, they would have reconsidered. Instead of pressing through, they would have backed off and said, “You know, I don’t think this is really what I want to do.”

The same principle applies in our lives spiritually. If we’re going to go for the gold in the kingdom of God, we must all answer some questions, too. Each of us must decide for ourselves: What am I going to do with the WORD of God? How far am I going to go with my faith?

“Yeah, but Brother Copeland, I’ll never go as far as you because you’re a preacher. God gave you more faith than me.”

No, He didn’t. He dealt to all of us the same measure of faith the moment we were born again. (See Romans 12:3.) The development of that faith depends on our own personal choices. But there’s no such thing as preacher faith, or somebody getting an extra measure. We all start out with the same faith, and we know it will work because it’s the faith of The LORD Jesus Christ!

**Faith’s Author and Developer**

Hebrews 12:2 calls Jesus “the author and finisher of our faith.” He is its Source and its Developer. Many believers, however, don’t give Him the opportunity to complete His work. They receive Him as their Savior, but they don’t receive Him as their LORD. They get the measure of His faith, but then they just go about their own way.

Jesus can’t develop something you haven’t placed into His hands. He can’t finish something you’re not paying any attention to. If you want to walk by faith in the fullness of His marvelous will for your life, you must make the decision to yield to His Lordship. You must put Him first place in your life, make His WORD your final authority, and endeavor 100% of the time to do everything He says.

When you do that, you’ll be amazed at what Jesus can and will do with you. He’ll open your eyes to truths in God’s WORD and develop your faith in ways that affect every area of your life.

Take, for example, how He developed my faith some time back where longevity is concerned.

Reminding me that Genesis 6:3 says man’s “days shall be an hundred and twenty years,” He took me through the Scriptures and showed me that life span is the only scriptural standard. Except for the 70- or 80-year limit set on the Israelites in the wilderness as a result of their disobedience, there’s no other age limit mentioned in the Bible. Every time it refers to long life, it’s talking about 120 years.

The LORD didn’t command me to set my faith to live that long. He just asked me the question: *Will you do this for Me?* And I said, “Yes, I will.”

Talk about going back into training! I soon began to realize: *There’s a prize to this!* I can’t get away with carrying around 30 or 40 extra pounds, and still make it to 120. I have to stay in top shape.

I didn’t like exercise when I was 23, and I can tell you, at 83 it isn’t any easier. But God had laid it on my heart to go for the gold for His glory. So, I made the decision.

I got on my knees before The LORD and said, “Sir, I am Yours to command. In the Name of Jesus, I commit myself from this time forward to do whatever it takes to be in the best spiritual, mental and physical condition I can be.”

The commitment, of course, was just the beginning of the process. Once it was made, I had to walk in it—and my flesh protested strongly. “I don’t want to do this!” it squallled. “These workouts are hard on me. Can’t we just skip them?”

You know what that’s like! You have flesh just like I do, and it can really get on you when it gets uncomfortable. When it does, Jesus will meet you, and you’ll be able to “bring it into subjection” (1 Corinthians 9:27). But you’ll have to do it by faith.

Our faith is the victory that overcomes the world, and everything in it—including our flesh.
By our faith in ways that affect every area of your life. Jesus can and will do with you. He'll open your heart to walk in it—and my flesh protested strongly. "I don't want to do this!" it squalled. "These workouts are uncomfortable. When it does, Jesus will meet you, like I do, and it can really get on you when it gets to the beginning of the process. Once it was made, I had to stay in top shape and still make it to 120. I have to stay in top shape and the devil himself. That's why our Faith Developer has been reminding us lately that we must stay strong in the fundamentals. It's why time and again, He takes us back to Mark 11 and reminds us that He said: "Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whatsoever ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (verses 22-24).

What the Greeks Understood That We Didn't

Those verses reveal the first, most basic law of faith: Believe in your heart and say with your mouth. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10).

The Greek word sozo, which is translated salvation in that verse, refers to more than the new birth. It covers everything that's necessary for us to be made sound—spirit, soul and body. It covers not only the re-creation of our human spirit but things like deliverance and healing.

Greek-speaking people in the early Church understood this. They received Jesus as Healer because when sozo was preached, that's what they heard. As English-speaking people, we didn't. So, we cut THE BLESSINGS of salvation into different pieces.

But they're not different! They're all part of the same package and they're all received the same way: "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (2 Corinthians 4:13).

What we want to believe and speak, of course, is the WORD of God. We want to say what He says about us. But really, whatever you say is your faith speaking. It may be faith in something you wish you didn't have, such as sickness. But you're always believing and confessing something, and for better or for worse, the law of faith is going to work.

That means if you don't want something, you'd...
You're always believing and confessing something, and for better or for worse, the law of faith is going to work.

better stop saying it. You need to rely on the vocabulary of silence until you can fill your heart with God's WORD in that area. For as Jesus said: “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh…. [And] every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matthew 12:34, 36-37).

What exactly are “idle words”? They’re words that don’t proceed from faith in The WORD of God. Throw away words. Fear words. Worry words that are based in death, such as, “That embarrassed me to death.” “That just kills me.” “I’m just dying to go.” Those kinds of words are dangerous and condemning. They will weaken you and rob you of the benefits of salvation. If you keep saying them, they can make your faith so feeble you'll have to fight to hang on to your very life.

“Well, Brother Copeland, I don't really mean it when I say those kinds of things.” Satan doesn't care whether you mean it or not. He’ll accuse you by what comes out of your mouth, because he knows the Bible. He knows what God said about idle words, and he knows his own words were what ruined him. They dethroned him and doomed him forever.

Our idle words would have done the same to us, except that we have a way out. We have a Redeemer, so we can come boldly to God's throne of grace, repent of our negative, unbelieving words, and Jesus' blood will wipe them out. We can receive God's forgiveness and His power to keep our mouths in line.

I can testify to that! Before I was born again, I had the foulest mouth you ever heard. I cussed without even thinking about it. But on the first week of November in 1962, when I gave my life to Jesus, it felt to me like someone put a bar of soap in my mouth. Since then, I've refused to express myself by using words and phrases that open the door to satan and his works.

Am I saying you have to be that picky when it comes to your words? That depends. You do if you want to live as a victor. You do if you're going for the gold because the words you say are fundamental to the operation of world-overcoming faith.

If you're picky about your words now in the small matters of life, then the right thing is going to come out of your mouth when your words count big-time. In moments of crisis, when you’re facing something major, words of faith will be the first thing you speak.

First words matter! Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue,” so you always want your first words to be words of life. When you get a bad report from the doctor, or the meteorologist says a tornado is headed your way, or you get laid off from your job, the first thing you want to do is shout as loud as you can:

“Thank You, Jesus, I'm healed!” “Thank God, I’m in the secret place of the Most High, and no evil comes near my dwelling!” “The LORD is my Shepherd and I shall not want. He supplies all my needs according to His riches in glory, and always causes me to triumph!”

For such words to be the first ones you say though, your heart must be full of them. They must be in you in abundance because you've made a quality decision to make God's WORD the central focus of your life.

Let me ask you: What’s the last thing on your mind when you turn out the light at night? Is it the news or the weather? Or is it The WORD of God?

I can tell you what it is at our house. It’s The WORD! Especially since I began reteaching the faith fundamentals. Gloria and I have started taking my iPhone and occasionally my iPad to bed with us and listening to and watching services we attended back when we first started learning about faith. We've stepped up our spiritual game. We’re focusing again on mastering the basics. Because, like you, we are training to be champions in the kingdom of God!
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I have, and I’m happy to say that The LORD has shown me how to approach each new year full of expectation. He’s shown me how to get ready to step over into a realm of glory that I’ve never stepped into before. He’s shown me how to look ahead in faith, with clear direction about what to believe for and what to expect.

You can approach each year like this, too. It comes down to receiving marching orders for the year from His prophets. Amos 3:7 says, “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”

God reveals those things He wants to get done on the earth through His prophets. He always has. Hosea, Zechariah, Micah, Jeremiah and Isaiah all saw and declared the coming of Jesus. They said, “There’s One coming! There’s One coming!” They spoke
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thee to deliver thee, saith the/uni00A0 LORD. Then the
speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with
and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt
for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee,
LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child:
cannot speak: for I am a child. But the
Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I
ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.
out of the womb I sanctifi  ed thee, and I
knew thee; and before thou camest forth
saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I
Then the word of the LORD came unto me,
prophet's ministry. Jeremiah wrote:
unleashing God's secrets.

Weighty Words
The prophetic word hasn’t passed away. In fact,
we need it as much today as ever. God gave the gift
of prophecy to us to edify us, to prosper us and to
perfect us for the work of the ministry (Ephesians
4:11-12). That’s why, after all these years, I still
listen intently whenever a prophet speaks. I wait
with anticipation to hear what Kenneth Copeland
prophesies about each coming year. I wait to
hear what Jerry Savelle and others have to say,
prophesies that come down over their eyes that makes
things clear. They can see farther than any being
on earth. That is the way of the prophet. It is not a
natural eye. It is an eye that God gives them to see
things that are yet to come.”

Twenty-eight years passed and people
were convinced the [Berlin] wall was a
permanent fixture.

LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth.
And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my
words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee
over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root
out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw
down, to build, and to plant (Jeremiah 1:4-10).

This passage reveals that words are the primary
equipment of a prophet’s ministry. They are
words that come down from heaven itself, into
the heart of the prophet, and then are spoken
out prophetically. It also shows the weight of a
prophet’s words. God said Jeremiah had to go
wherever he was sent and had to say whatever
God commanded Him to say.

Prophetic words are spoken with an unusual
force and level of authority. They’re words that
change realms, spheres, nations and kingdoms.
Like an alarm clock, they wake everyone up. Often
they even declare coming judgments in order to
give people the opportunity to repent and receive
deliverance.

To some degree, each of us operates in
prophecy. We are the prophets of our own lives.
We prophesy and make declarations over our
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By contrast, the prophetic office deals with
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The Berlin Wall
Time and again, we’ve seen living proof of how
a prophet’s words carry great weight and effect
great change.

On June 4, 1989, The LORD spoke through
Brother Copeland, declaring things that would
root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build
and plant. Here’s just a portion of that prophecy:

Now this is what The LORD is saying. So
hearken and heed to it. Take heed to it. Listen.
For mighty waves of the supernatural are
coming and soon to burst on the scene. Soon
to crash like a mighty tidal wave and burst on
the scene. Not just here and there, and a little
here and a little over there, but as a mighty
wave splashes and covers entire continents.
And the power of God will rise in places that
people didn’t even know that there was a God. But
it will be there. And there will be things that will
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LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant (Jeremiah 1:4-10).

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DON’T LISTEN TO PROPHETIC WORDS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR JUST FOR A ‘GOOD FEELING.’

The Berlin Wall will come down. It’s a sign. The Berlin Wall will come down. There will be other walls that will come down. There will be some walls that will go up. Many changes are going to take place. But those that are wise in their heart and listen to the Spirit of God will be quick to say, ‘Oh, The LORD is at work in the land.’ And they will be quick to pray. And they will be quick to rise up as a witness in the streets. And they will be quick to testify wherever they go. ‘The LORD is working! The LORD is working! He’ll save you! He’ll heal you! He’ll deliver you! He’ll bring you into the place that you ought to be.’

What a powerful word! The Berlin Wall was constructed in August 1961, dividing east Berlin from west Berlin. It was a terrible thing that divided families. I was 8 years old at the time, but I still remember seeing pictures of people trying to scale the wall and getting shot.

Twenty-eight years passed and people were convinced the wall was a permanent fixture. But then the prophetic word you just read was declared. The mountain was spoken to and those words started chipping away at the spiritual root of the matter. No one realized what was happening below the mountain, but 158 days later the supernatural force behind those words blew that wall apart!

Believe and Prosper

It’s time we paid close attention to God’s prophets and take them seriously. Second Chronicles 20:20 says, “Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” That word prosper means you will “push forward, break out, advance, make progress, succeed and go over.”

Are you ready to live like that? If you are, then take hold of what Paul charged Timothy. In 1 Timothy 1:18, he said, “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.”

When you hear a prophecy, hold onto it. Don’t listen to prophetic words at the beginning of the year just for a “good feeling.” Keep them before your eyes all year long. Write them in your Bible. Put them on your mirror. Confess them every day. Keep those prophetic utterances alive in your life. Contend for the words you hear by expecting, believing, praying and acting as if they were true... because they are! Apply your faith to the operation of that prophetic word, receive God’s marching orders, and fight for them to come to pass.

The prophetic word hasn’t passed away.
The Year of New Visions

“The LORD is revealing new visions this coming year that will be absolutely stunning. They will include insights, ideas and concepts that have never been heard of before. Joel 2:28-29 (and Acts 2:16-18) tells us, ‘It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.’

The Year of Change and Manifested Power

“2020 will be a year of great change. Wonderful and magnificent changes in the kingdom of God in the earth. Changes that will come because of insights, ideas and concepts directly from Jesus to His Church by His mighty Spirit. Glorious concepts of how His laws work; the laws governing increase and financial prosperity; the laws of the Spirit that release miracles and divine healings and manifestations of His Almighty power on the earth. New concepts of His love; His very person; for He is love. Insights into the true power and strength of His joy.

“It will be days of political change, great victories and great defeats. For the spiritual enemies of God and His people shall be crushed—spirits, not flesh and blood. But there are those on both sides of the political divide who refuse to listen to The LORD Advocate General of the Church. Their dreams shall be dashed, their desires shall be wounded, and they will be removed from their offices and replaced, some by the ballot, some by tragedy, and some who in despair will quit and go do something else.”

This is My country, saith The LORD Jesus. It was founded by people who love Me for the sole purpose of their love and desire to worship Me and to worship the Almighty God, and I will never forget that.

Change, 2020—the Year of Change and Manifested Power, saith The LORD.

The Year of Removal of Politicians

Those politicians who refuse My call to unite and become the United States of America, and not just “America.” Those politicians who refuse to listen, and those politicians who continue the pathway of hate, I will remove them from their places. I will remove their influence from the record books. I will remove their candle in their families. I will remove them from office and put someone in there who will.

“IT WILL BE DAYS OF POLITICAL CHANGE, GREAT VICTORIES AND GREAT DEFEATS. FOR THE SPIRITUAL ENEMIES OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE SHALL BE CRUSHED—SPIRITS, NOT FLESH AND BLOOD.”
The Year of Abundant Harvest Fulfilled

I want to give praise and thanks to KCM for the word of the Lord regarding the Year of Abundant Harvest. When my self-employment income this year began to disappear, the Lord blessed me with a great job that paid more, paid 100% of my health care coverage, and provided me with a 401(k) retirement plan and contribution. In addition, the Lord greatly blessed my retirement account this year. In the Year of Abundant Harvest, I continually confessed that the Lord has commanded the blessing upon my barns and storehouses (retirement accounts) and all that I put my hand to. I remember years ago, during the Great Recession, Kenneth said, “Remember, that stock is worth what you say it is.” I took those words to heart and declared what my investments were worth, and in 2019 they climbed to the value I was declaring. Praise the Lord! It really was a tremendous victory, and I have been giving thanks ever since for the victory God gives us through Jesus Christ.

R.R.  |  Mount Vernon, Wash.

BECOMING SPIRITUALLY MATURE

Since I’ve been listening to the spiritual meat of the Word from KCM, I now have a better understanding, have become more mature spiritually (Hebrews 5:14), and the whole essence of my spiritual walk with Almighty God is much clearer. I am now certain that my victory in Christ is assured and guaranteed. Thank you, KCM.

S.A.  |  Houston, Texas

Angelic Protection

I was taking my time heading home. I slowed to the light...it was green. I looked before turning. A very fast, small, black car was zooming down the middle of the road. I just sat there through another light, and praised our Lord and thanked Him for angels.

V.D.  |  Texas

Prayer for a Job

I would like to thank you and the prayer team at KCM for carrying me in prayer—I’ve found a job that’s beyond my expectations. May God richly bless you and the prayer team for standing in agreement with me for God’s grace.

V.  |  South Africa

‘God Is Good!’

Praise report: My husband is closer and closer to 100% healed from a stroke. This ministry stood in agreement as of Sept. 11, 2017—thank you. God is good!

P.M.  |  Georgia

The Lord Delivered Him!

I submitted a prayer request for my father who had lost mobility due to Parkinson’s disease and sepsis. I asked for the prayer of agreement, standing on Psalm 34:19: “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

Praise be to God! My father was released from the hospital after four days and has regained mobility. Jesus is Lord over sickness and disease, and High Priest over the ministry of healing!

C.D.  |  Hawthorne, N.J.

Her Healing Manifested

I was healed from severe back and leg pain yesterday when Kenneth prayed for all inflammation to leave people’s bodies! I love the From Faith to Faith daily devotional. I read and meditate on it and the scripture it gives every morning.

C.D.  |  Anderson, Ind.

Faithful Provider

In the past 11 years since my husband went home and I lost my job, my income has never diminished. The Lord told me my barrel would never be empty. Seniors should never use the term “fixed income.” It does not exist.

D.P.  |  Michigan

NO PAYMENT DUE!

When I logged in to my medical insurance company’s website to pay my monthly premium, it showed that I did not have a payment due. I called them, and they said that I do not owe anything for the remainder of the year. Praise God! That would fall under the “rebates and returns” that Pastor George has us claim every Sunday during the offering confession.

C.K.  |  Fortson, Ga.

NO MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE YOUR SITUATION MAY SEEM IN YOUR EYES, OR YOUR FAMILY’S EYES, THE LORD HAS THE PLAN TO DELIVER YOU.

—Kenneth Copeland

order on kcm.org

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S.A.  |  Houston, Texas
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.

**Double Restoration!**

Our computer was hacked over Thanksgiving and all the money we had in the bank, $3,000, was stolen. We stood on the Word, gave a sacrifice of praise, selected scriptures and stood on them, and forgave and prayed for the thieves. Then I called your prayer line to request prayer for restitution. A very nice young man prayed with me. Within three weeks, $6,000 had come in! God gave us double! Thank you for the blessing you are in our lives—for teaching us how to stand on God’s Word and for your prayers. Overcoming victory has been given by God in response!

— T.B. | Caldwell, Idaho

**“NO MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE YOUR SITUATION MAY SEEM IN YOUR EYES, OR YOUR FAMILY’S EYES, THE LORD HAS THE PLAN TO DELIVER YOU.”**

— Kenneth Copeland

**connect with us**

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

kcm.org/salvation

**PRAYER IS OUR PRIORITY.**

+1-817-852-6000

7 days a week

Nohemi R.,
prayer minister

Hablamos Español
Some guys washed out of the Marines. Tom received honors. Spending a year in ordnance training, he became an explosives specialist. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, Tom went to his master sergeant, and told him: “This is what I was born to do. I want to be on the first bird out of here.” He and one other Marine were the first to deploy to Saudi Arabia—a month before the rest of their unit.

Whether aboard an amphibious carrier making and loading ordnance, or on the ground in combat, God had protected him. Tom couldn’t imagine a more fulfilling life.

That changed overnight when President Clinton took office. One of the first things he did was to cut the military. God told Tom to take his son, move to Texas and connect with Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

It was there that life began to get better for Tom.

His building business had thrived. He’d remarried and now had a 4-year-old daughter. Tom had also learned to fly and had ventured into doing some flying for various ministries, including KCM.

After arriving home one evening, Tom picked up 4-year-old Hannah and spun her in the air. He then hugged his wife and fist-bumped his 18-year-old son, Robert, before switching on the television in time to catch some breaking national news.

The real estate bubble had burst, the news announcer said. Banks were no longer giving
Some years later, after his marriage imploded, God told Tom to take his son, move to Texas and connect with Kenneth Copeland Ministries. It was there that life began to get better for Tom. His building business had thrived. He'd remarried and now had a 4-year-old daughter. Tom had also learned to fly and had ventured into doing some flying for various ministries, including KCM.

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loans or honoring some they had already made.

Walking into the kitchen he told his wife what had happened.

“Don’t spend another dime,” he warned.

The sequence of events that followed seemed like a row of dominoes falling. Tom lost his business, his wealth and his home. His son moved away, and his wife filed for divorce—leaving him with a 4-year-old child to raise on his own.

Worse, five other builders in the area solved their financial problems by committing suicide, Tom said. “I am so thankful for John Copeland and a few of my close friends through KCM for rallying around me and encouraging my faith.”

No Going Back

“I knew all five of those men; three were good friends,” Tom recalls. “I suspect that I was leveraged heavier than some of them. The banks just stopped lending money and people stopped buying homes.” It was a very dark time in Tom’s life, but he never considered giving up.

“Faith had been planted in me from a young age, and it was inconceivable to stop believing God’s promises,” Tom said.

“In 1973, when I was 3, my parents were born again. We moved to New Orleans where my dad attended a Baptist seminary. While there, he discovered Word of Faith Temple. The pastor was Brother Charles Green. He was, and is, close to Kenneth Copeland. We were always Partners with KCM. I grew up listening to, and later watching, the broadcasts.

“Something happened to my mother a year after we arrived. Almost overnight, she went from being normal to being unable to sit up or walk. She suffered excruciating pain. One Sunday morning we were at church with Dad when Pastor Green announced that if anyone needed healing to bring them to church that evening, because God said, I am going to heal them.”

A Harvest of Miracles

“I ran up three flights of stairs and down a catwalk to get to our apartment and tell my mother that she was going to be healed. Dad, my aunt and uncle were able to get her into a wheelchair and to church. There was an altar call where Pastor Green and the associate pastor, Garland Pemberton, laid hands on her.

“I remember watching my mother stand up out of the wheelchair. Then she started walking. The next thing I knew, she was running to us. From that day forward, a seed of faith was planted in my heart. I’ve never doubted that God was real or that He healed.

“Sometime later, Dad went to China with Nora Lam who wrote China Cry. He came back with story after story of miracles. I couldn’t get enough. Once, my sister and I went with Dad to Alabama where he was to preach. When we left to return to New Orleans, Dad said, ‘Thomas, I want you and your sister to get on the floorboard on your knees and pray. They didn’t give us a love offering and the gas tank is almost empty. We need gas for the trip.’ We prayed and drove all night to get home. We never stopped for gas.

“I’ve seen my dad drive through a flood. We had water up to the hood. ‘Thomas,’ he said, ‘I need you kids to pray.’ Water seeped in through the doors and filled the floorboards. A man in a canoe rowed up and Dad rolled down his window and talked to him. The engine never stuttered or stopped.

“These are just a few stories from my early childhood. You can’t witness those kinds of things without knowing God will always bring you through hard times.”

One of the hardest times in his life happened when Tom was 14 and his parents divorced.

“Although I knew Dad was hard on me and had contributed to the divorce, I also knew I needed to stay close to the anointing on his life,” Tom recalled.

“While my three siblings moved to California with my mother, I stayed with Dad. It wasn’t easy, but I never regretted it. To this day, I don’t know anyone who has had more people healed in his ministry than my dad.”

By the time Tom was 14, college scouts were already circling. A gifted athlete, he was a fast runner. There were hints at college scholarships and high hopes he would compete in the 1988 Olympics.

That dream fell apart when Tom’s dad moved to Long Beach. Miss., and later took a church in Indiana. Without the support of his team or his coach,
he didn't have the help he needed. That's when he changed his life's goal and joined the Marines.

**God Takes On Biological Weapons**

Just prior to President Bill Clinton taking office, Tom had been stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Getting ready for work one day, he noticed that his hair was falling out. Rashes covered his arms and legs. Worse, his bones ached. He also suffered debilitating fatigue.

Doctors at the VA hospital always asked the same questions: “Were you exposed to a nerve agent in combat? Were you ever exposed to weapons of mass destruction?”

“No,” Tom answered, “but when we were deployed for Desert Storm, our superiors were concerned that we would be hit with biological weapons. Someone got the bright idea to give us small doses of nerve agents to make us immune to them. When we were in the desert, they came to us once a week giving us packets of pills. They also gave us each a shot of anthrax. We had to sign a document agreeing never to give blood again. We were also warned not to have any more children.”

Doctors didn't believe what he said.

By the time Tom was out of the Marines and trying to start a new life in Indiana, his symptoms had worsened. The exhaustion was so pervasive that some days he had trouble getting out of bed. Circles the size of a silver dollar appeared on his legs. Hair didn't grow inside them. Worse, his right arm had lost all feeling.

One day, Garland Pemberton, the same minister who laid hands on Tom's mother years before, came to Tom's church to preach. Responding to an altar call, Tom went forward and raised his hands. When Pemberton touched Tom's forehead, feeling began to creep into his shoulder. It traveled all the way to the tip of his fingers.

“I've never had a symptom of Desert Storm syndrome again,” Tom explains. “I don't give blood because I signed a document saying that I wouldn't. I hadn't signed anything about not having more children. Although there were stories about vets from Desert Storm having children with deformities, I knew I was healed. I've had two perfectly healthy daughters since then, Alyssa is 23 and Hannah is now 16. In the mid-2000s, the government admitted that we'd been given nerve agents. There are benefits available for vets with the syndrome. I'm thrilled that I don't qualify.”

**Building a New Life**

True to His Word, God helped Tom rebuild his life following the economic collapse. Tom's son, Robert, returned home after a short while. In May 2009, Tom married for a third time to Kim, a wonderful
woman who was a great help raising Hannah. That same year, he fasted and prayed for God's direction.

Years before when Tom still lived in Indiana, the Lord had spoken to him: No longer will you be a builder of buildings. You will be a builder of My people. In his previous marriage, he had stepped out on that word too soon and before his wife got into agreement. She hadn't wanted to be in the ministry.

One day while fishing, God told him it was time for him to enter the ministry. When Tom told Kim, she wasn't in agreement. This time, Tom didn't act on the word or mention it to her again. Instead, he said, “Father, You heard Kim. I'm not going to make the same mistake again. You're going to have to deal with her.”

Two months later, Kim changed her mind. “If God has called you into ministry, I'll support you.”

“What I sensed in my spirit was that our ministry would have some kind of hope center for the community,” Tom recalls. “However, my dad had resigned from his church and gone to the mission field. He came to our house to say that the Lord had told him that I was to administer his ministry.

“Kim and I renamed and restructured the ministry, bringing in the best attorneys and CPAs to help. By March 2010, we were a legal entity. The first year, we went to Fiji and held a crusade which we livestreamed. A thousand came each night and a few hundred gave their hearts to the Lord. I created a little studio and read From Faith to Faith and created a year's worth of videos to share online.”

### A Place of Hope

Meanwhile, Don and Mary Colbert had taken Kenneth and Gloria to visit a ministry in Florida. Under the umbrella of Harvest Time International, founders John and Mary Murphy had opened a nonprofit grocery store there called The Hope Center.

“God showed me this 45 years ago,” Kenneth said, “but I never knew how to do it.”

“We'll show you how and train your employees,” John Murphy said.

In October 2010, John Copeland, Kenneth and Gloria's son and then the CEO of KCM, called Tom. “My dad wants me to go look at an organization in Florida,” John told him. “I feel in my spirit that you are supposed to go. Besides, you can help me fly.”

Tom toured The Hope Center with the group from KCM.

“This is exactly what our ministry would look like,” he thought.

Back in the conference room, Tom sat back and listened.

“I told your dad that I would teach them and train their employees so you could do this in the metroplex,” John Murphy told John.

“I don't believe this is for KCM to do,” John said. “I believe that if God has put this in Tom Westberry's heart, it's his ministry to do. If you will give him your support, we'll help him put this in the metroplex.”

Back home in Texas, Tom met with Kenneth and John Copeland.

“If you do this, we'll help see it through,” John told him. “We want to do it through you.”

“That is so like them,” Tom says.

By June 2011, with the financial backing of KCM, World Covenant Ministries purchased and remodeled a 50,000-square-foot building in nearby Haltom City, that had formerly housed a major chain grocery store. Soon after, Tom and Kim opened The Joseph Storehouse, a nonprofit grocery store, based on the model that God gave Joseph: Gather food during times of prosperity and sell to those in need in times of famine.

Operating under the motto, “Providing Help for Today and Hope for Tomorrow,” the mission of the storehouse, in part, is to demonstrate God’s love by reaching out and touching the lives of people in practical ways, including providing high quality, name-brand foods and household items, and other necessities at low, affordable prices. In addition, the ministry is heavily involved in community outreach, providing budgeting classes and one-on-one coaching to teach families to manage their finances. It also maintains close relationships with local churches and other non-profits, such as governmental agencies, corporations and faith-based organizations, to help assist those in need.

“I love this model because it offers people a hand up instead of a handout,” Tom explains. “Although you have to qualify to shop here, we help anyone who is struggling. With KCM's help, we've created a ministry that provides food at deeply discounted prices. It sustains...
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"I love this model because it offers people a hand up instead of a handout," Tom explains. "Although you have to qualify to shop here, we help anyone who is struggling. With KCM's help, we've created a ministry that provides food at deeply discounted prices. It sustains discipleship training. We have a church that meets on-site. We also have weekly chapel services and other programs.

"We're in the process of launching a transitional life center to train people in new careers. For instance, I will teach people how to build using Kingdom principles. I don't think it's any accident that in the parable of the talents, mentioned in Matthew 25:14-30, the word for money is talent. We urge people to use their talents to help other people."

These days, Tom Westberry is one dangerous former Marine. He's using God's Word to attack the gates of hell, preach good news to the poor and set the captives free. He is shining his light and sharing his talents with a hurting world.

As testimony to KCM's confidence in the newfound life and mission of this former Marine, each month Eagle Mountain International Church sows financially into The Joseph Storehouse as part of its local outreach ministry. Tom is also a longtime KCM partner who is quick to express his appreciation for KCM's life-changing impact on him and his mission.

"Although I had always studied the Word, never to the degree that I learned at EMIC," Tom says. "It has made me much more stable in my walk with Christ. I can't imagine what my life would be apart from my partnership with KCM. They've demonstrated covenant to me in ways that are beyond words."
The United States has entered another election year. This is the time when believers in Christ must unify in prayer. What we do, or don’t do, during this election will have a direct effect on the affairs of this world.

"WE CAN TAKE AUTHORITY OVER THE EVIL SPIRITS THAT ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THIS NATION."

Our involvement, or lack of it, will be the key factor in whether revival fires will burn hot or smolder across this land. I am very serious about this issue. I hope that the words I write will have a profound effect on you today.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Romans 13:1).

It is amazing how little attention is paid to this very important scripture. You can tell by the way most people talk about the government, that they don’t realize our leaders are ordained of God. Romans 13:4 says that God has ordained them because of us; they are ministers for our good. The reason our officials don’t manifest that ordination any more than they do, is because of our lack of prayer on their behalf.

People say, “I can’t pray for the president! Just look at what he has done!” It doesn’t matter how things look, you can pray. God is a just God and He will never instruct you to do something that you are not capable of doing. You can do it by the power of the Holy Spirit, in obedience to The WORD of God.

When God instructs you to do something, it is always in order to gain an avenue into your life. He will never tell you to do something just because He wants to. He is always looking for a way into our lives.

Praying More Than Ever!

First Timothy 2:1-2 tells us we should pray and give thanks for all of our leaders, so that we might live in peace. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."
The United States has entered another election year. This is the time when believers in Christ must unify in prayer. What we do, or don't do, during this election will have a direct effect on the affairs of this world.

BVOV: 23

“I urge you, if you haven’t already registered to vote, do it today—right now! It is your responsibility, as a believer, to get involved in the affairs of your country.”

Our involvement, or lack of it, will be the key factor in whether revival fires will burn hot or smolder across this land. I am very serious about this issue. I hope that the words I write will have a profound effect on you today.

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There is now a considerable amount of intercession going on. People are in prayer now more than ever. We are having to make up for years of apathy from Christians who have refused to take their prayer responsibility seriously. We are having to catch up on our “quiet and peaceable life.”

It shows up in various examples around the country. For instance, in 1980 a plaque of the Ten Commandments was removed from a classroom wall in Kentucky by court order! And just last year, a Ten Commandments plaque that had been displayed at an Ohio middle school for almost 100 years was removed under protest by an atheist group. Is this an example of a nation living a “quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty?” No!

We are facing a great battle, a war not of flesh and blood, but of the spirit. This combat of the spirit realm can only be fought through prayer and faithful intercession.

I want to show you some things from The WORD that you and I can do concerning the deliverance of this nation in the days in which we live. It will work for America and it will work for every country on earth. This Bible truth begins by saying in Ephesians 6:10-12 that our warfare is not carnal, but spiritual. It says, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

We are to stand against satan. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” We need to realize the fullness of what it means to resist the devil where our nation, and even our own households, are concerned. We are in combat. One of the first rules of war is to know your enemy.

Let’s look at Daniel 10.

Daniel had been fasting for 21 days. Then an angel of The LORD appeared to him: “Then said
The life or
death of our
world has
been in the
hands of the
Church.

he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before they God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words” (verse 12).

This angel had departed from heaven the very first day Daniel prayed his prayer. He came because of Daniel’s words. But it took 21 days for him to appear before Daniel. Why? Look at verse 13: “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.” Then in verse 20 he says: “...and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.”

No Flesh-and-Blood War

These scriptures are clear examples of the activity and warfare going on in the spiritual realm.

Here’s what I want you to see: We wrestle not with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in heavenly places. Throughout the Bible, we are taught that there are three different areas called heaven:

1. The heaven where God resides.

2. The stellar heavens (what we refer to as outer space).

3. The heavens around this earth (the atmosphere of this planet).

Ephesians 2:2 calls satan “the prince of the power of the air.” Ephesians 6:12 speaks of wicked spirits “in high places.” There was a wicked spirit assigned to Persia. There was a wicked spirit assigned to cause the kingdom of Grecia to come into existence, and then to rule it and run it.

What does all this mean to us? It means that we are involved in spiritual warfare. Jesus said in Matthew 18:18, “Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” The heaven Jesus is talking about is not the heaven where God is. Nothing needs to be bound there. We have no authority there. Our authority lies here in this earth through the Name of Jesus. “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds” (2 Corinthians 10:4). We have been given the authority to pull down the strongholds of satan. We can bind the wicked spirits in heavenly places and loose the angelic powers of God to work in our behalf.

In Matthew 16:19, Jesus told Peter, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” The Greek text literally would read, “I give you the keys of the kingdom. Whatever you declare locked on earth is locked in heaven and whatever you declare unlocked on earth is unlocked in the heavens.”

Daniel couldn’t do that. He didn’t have the authority of the Name of Jesus. All he could do was hang on for 21 long, hard days until the angel of God could get through to him.

But, praise God, you and I, as believers and as children of the Most High God, don’t have to wait 21 days. We don’t even have to wait 21 seconds for the angels to begin their work in our behalf. Philippians 2:9-10 says we have been given a Name which is above every name, and at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow! Where? In heaven, in earth, and under the earth. That covers it all!

As believers, we have total authority over the powers of satan. We can take authority over the evil spirits that are trying to destroy this nation. We can take authority over them in the Name of Jesus and pull down their strongholds.

We are beginning to realize how important we are to world affairs. Since the day Jesus gave us the Great Commission, the life or death of our world
has been in the hands of the Church. We have the power of attorney to use the mighty Name of Jesus and the awesome strength of the gospel to bring life and abundance to every creature! That includes every office of authority in the land.

Very soon our national elections will take place. And if we want a nation of “godliness and honesty” it’s up to us to intercede and use that power of attorney.

Right now, you need to be praying for all the candidates. But how can you pray for them if you don’t know who they are? Don’t just take what the news media gives you about someone. If you do, you’ll wind up being totally ignorant of what’s really going on.

Don’t just go by what happened during the Great Depression or any other political idea of the past. Those days and times are gone forever. We are a new age and generation. Pray for guidance and direction. This is the only sure way.

But not only do we need to ask guidance in battling this spiritual attack against our nation, we also need to exercise our right as Americans and cast a prayerfully considered vote.

A Call to Intercession

God has called us to intercede. He has given us His WORD, His power, His Name, His authority and His faith. We have all the tools necessary to pray effectively for our government and its leaders. Let’s band together as never before in intercession for this country and all the nations of the world. We are God’s people, called by His Name, and we can stand in faith before God for the healing of our land.

I urge you, if you haven’t already registered to vote, do it today—right now! It is your responsibility, as a believer, to get involved in the affairs of your country. God wants this great land of ours—and the only way He’s going to get it is through His ambassadors—you and me!

If you have already registered, then come November, YOU NEED TO VOTE! Don’t let the affairs of your life sway you from the voting booth. Don’t let anyone but the Holy Spirit tell you who to vote for. God has an army marching in this land. We must band together and prevent the wickedness in high places from taking authority. The time has come for Christians to be counted. Let your voice be heard this coming November.

For those of you that read this article outside the United States, the same applies to you. If you will humble yourselves in unity and pray, God can change whatever injustice and corruption may exist in your nation. The key is prayer and involvement.

We may all come from different lands with different backgrounds, but we all have one thing in common—Jesus Christ is our LORD! That alone is enough to alter the spiritual complexion of this earth.

Together, we can do it. With the help of Almighty God we can raise our banner high and proclaim: “Jesus is LORD over this world!”

“I just heard The LORD say this. Within the next two years, you’ll have to hide under the bed to keep from getting a good job."

This nation is going back to work. It’s going back into a supernatural place of prosperity that it has never seen before in its history.”

Kenneth Copeland
Monday, July 31, 2017
Southwest Believers’ Convention
It's someone who in life wasn't liked by the world much at all (many were ridiculed or even martyred), but now that they're dead, people have decided they were perfect. That they were better by far than the rest of us could ever hope to be.

God, on the other hand, says in the Bible that every one of us who has received Jesus as Lord and Savior is a saint, right now! We don't have to wait until we've been dead a thousand years. We don't have to wait for a group of people to decide we qualify. God Himself has qualified us.

He's made us righteous with His own righteousness, sanctified us by Jesus' blood, set us apart for Himself, and made us holy.

“Holy one” is what the word saint literally means. So, according to God, if you're born again this is your true identity: You are one of His holy ones. You are indeed a saint. So are all the rest of us in the Body of Christ. That's why God can say to us, as He does in 1 Peter 1:16, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” We have the capacity to do it. We can be holy on the outside because we've already been made holy on the inside.

Of course, being holy doesn't mean we never mess up. It doesn't mean we've never done anything wrong and never will. (That concept comes from the world, which is why all their saints have to be dead. Only dead people don't mess up.)

No, as Vine's Bible Dictionary says, holiness simply “signifies separation to God and conduct befitting those so separated.” It refers to being dedicated to God and being His special treasure; to coming out of the darkness of the world and putting Him first so He can fellowship with you and be God in your life.

This is what God has wanted for His people ever since the beginning! It's what He had in mind when He created Adam and Eve.

Remember how, in Genesis 3, He used to come down in the cool of the day to fellowship with them in the Garden of Eden? He did that because He wanted to have a special relationship with them.
Everyone of us, as Holy Spirit-filled believers, knows on the inside of us what God is saying to us about our individual lives.

He wanted them to be His family, to believe His Word and obey Him so He could be their Source of supply and BLESSING, and they could enjoy His presence forever. Sadly, however, Adam and Eve decided they wanted something else. They listened to the devil, chose to sin, and after that they didn’t want to talk to God anymore. They didn’t even want to be in His presence. Instead, they ran away and hid from Him.

Even then, God’s desire didn’t change. His heart still yearned to have a people who would separate themselves to Him. He still dreamed of having a people who would be His special treasure, who would draw near to Him so He could draw near to them.

He even made a way for the Israelites to do that under the old covenant. After He brought them out of Egypt, He said: “Ye have seen...how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people...And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation” (Exodus 19:4-6).

God’s treasure isn’t gold or diamonds or jewels! (In heaven, He paves streets and builds walls with those.) The treasure of God’s heart is an obedient people. His greatest desire is to have sons and daughters who will walk with Him and do what He says, so He can manifest Himself in their lives and be a Father to them. So that He can be their El Shaddai and be everything they could ever need.

God’s Purchased, Special People

People who are good want to do good things. Their greatest joy comes from giving to others, and that’s the way God is. His heart yearns to pour out BLESSINGS on people, most especially His children. But He can’t do that to any great measure unless they’re willing to obey Him.

If you’re a parent, you understand that. You probably know from experience that when your children are disobedient, you can’t do a lot of the things for them you’d like to do. You can’t give your teenager a car, for example, if they don’t follow the rules you’ve established. Although they might want a car very much, and you might want to give them one, as long as that child refuses to do what you say, you can’t wisely give them a car because it would endanger them.

God is in the same position with us. He can’t fully manifest His BLESSINGS and power in the lives of His children when they’re living in disobedience. He’ll do for us all we’ll allow Him to do, certainly. But if we really want Him to put His glory on display in our lives, we must obey Him. We must live out our true identity as it’s described in 1 Peter 2:9. It says: “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God’s] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).

What exactly does it mean to live as God’s purchased, special people; to come out of worldly darkness and live like children of the light? Does it just mean we avoid doing the things the world considers to be sin? No, it must mean more than that because the world has no idea what sin really is. Because it’s under the influence of the devil, the world thinks that things God says are wrong are actually all right.

Talk about crazy! Today’s worldly culture has gotten people so confused about morality that they’ve all but completely lost their moral bearings. They’ve become convinced that whatever their flesh wants is OK. Forget about what the Bible teaches. “We don’t have to go by that anymore,” the world says. “The Bible is old fashioned. We know more now. We’ve progressed.”

These days, you can turn on the television anytime of the day or night and find adultery, fornication and all kinds of other darkness being broadcast as entertainment. You can find ungodliness being presented as comedy, and people laughing at sin.

What are they doing? Most of them don’t realize it, but they’re laughing in the face of God. But how can we do this? Even Christians sometimes get caught up in all kinds of worldly things. How can we?
They’re saying, “God, we don’t care what You say. You’re out of touch with the times. We like immorality. We want to play around with it. So that’s what we’re going to do.”

Certainly, that’s no way for us, as believers, to live. We don’t want to entertain ourselves with, much less partake of, the sins of the world. But that’s not the end of the story. As God’s treasured people, our aim isn’t just to live a little better than the world does. Our aim is to be like our heavenly Father.

We want to be holy as He is holy. We want to say yes to everything that pleases Him and no to anything we can’t do “to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

How are we supposed to do that?

With the help of the Holy Spirit. He’s there on the inside of us every moment to direct us and tell us what to do. He’s there to remind us of what God’s Word says and empower us to obey it.

Following the Holy Spirit is holy living! As Hebrews 8 says, living according to His leading in our hearts is the New Covenant way. “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest” (verses 10-11).

The Guide Inside

Unlike God’s people under the old covenant, who were dependent on Levitical priests and prophets to tell them what to do, everyone of us, as Holy Spirit-filled believers, know on the inside of us what God is saying to us about our individual lives. We know when we’re giving Him the place of honor He deserves, and when we’re giving other things too much of our affection. We know that Voice that speaks to our heart and says things like, “You need to spend more time in the Word and less time watching television. You need to fast a little and get your flesh in line. You’re eating too much junk food.”

“Whoa!” someone might say. “You mean the Holy Spirit will even talk to me about food?”

Sure, He will. Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. It’s been bought with the price of Jesus’ blood. First Corinthians 6:20 says you’re to “glorify God in your body.” So obviously, you can expect the Holy Spirit to have a lot to say about it.

You can expect Him to remind you of what the Word says about controlling your bodily appetites. You can expect Him to speak to you about how to eat to keep your body healthy. You can even expect Him to talk about things you can do physically that will help you walk more closely with the Lord.

I remember one time He spoke to me along those lines when our church was on a Daniel fast. (That’s a fast where you temporarily give up something your flesh is fond of in order to focus...
more on the things of the spirit.) During the dates of the fast, Ken and I were on a long motorcycle trip with some friends, and the Holy Spirit put it on my heart that while we were on the trip, I was to avoid eating desserts.

In the natural, I wasn't very excited about that idea. On those long days, riding across the country on a motorcycle, I often looked forward to desserts as the highlight of my day. So, for my flesh, giving them up was a big sacrifice. But, knowing that whenever the Lord leads us to separate ourselves from something, it’s because He wants to BLESS us, I committed to stay away from sweets during the fast.

For the first few days, it was difficult. It seemed like wherever we stopped to eat, they'd have luscious-looking desserts on display. I'd see homemade carrot cake 6 inches high and lemon icebox pies and think, Mmmm, that would sure taste nice.

But then I'd hear that Voice on the inside. The Holy Spirit would remind me of the Daniel fast and of my desire to separate myself unto God, and out of love for Him I'd say no to that cake and pie.

What happened? After a week or so, my desire for those things began to wane, and my desire for the things of God got stronger. Simply by following the leading of the Holy Spirit in what I ate, I experienced to a greater degree the presence of the Lord. I drew near to Him, and He drew near to me (James 4:8).

That’s just a small example of how the Holy Spirit helps us live as God’s special treasure. Sometimes He’ll lead us to lay aside perfectly legitimate things for a time, not because He doesn’t want us to enjoy life, but because He doesn’t want us to desire anything more than we desire God.

God wants to be first place in our hearts and our lives. That’s what making Jesus the Lord of our lives really means. It doesn’t just mean that we’re saved from sin. It means that Jesus is our Head, and we’re His Body; that we’re so loyal to Him that whatever He tells us to do, we do it.

Even if our flesh doesn’t like it.
Even if it’s uncomfortable or hard.
Even if there’s something we think we’d enjoy doing more, we do what Jesus says because He is Lord.

“But Gloria, that doesn’t sound like very much fun.”
Are you kidding? No pleasure the flesh or this world has to offer can even compare with the thrill of what Jesus has for us—especially right now!

We’re living in the last days prophesied about in the Bible. God is about to do some mighty things in the earth, and He plans for us to be a part of them. He plans to manifest His glory through us, in signs, wonders, great healings and miracles.

This is the grand finale! God is about to gather into His kingdom the final, great harvest of souls, and He’s not going to do it through a lukewarm, semiworldly bunch of backslidden Christians. He’s going to do it through those who have answered His call to be holy as He is holy. Through “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but…holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). The people He has called out of the world and separated unto Himself.

His special treasure.
The living saints of the living God! 🙌
Thank you, Jesus, for that awesome word! Superkids, I join you in appreciating our dads. I give honor to my own dad, Kenneth Copeland. He is a wonderful picture of our heavenly Father. Many have been blessed by his life and fatherly teaching.

Love you, Daddy! —Commander Kellie

PS.
WE CANNOT BE DEFEATED
AND WE WILL NOT QUIT!

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