

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

VICTORY

JULY 2024

Remembering

Jerry Savelle

P.9

He didn't just hit a
home run. He hit a...

GRAND SLAM!

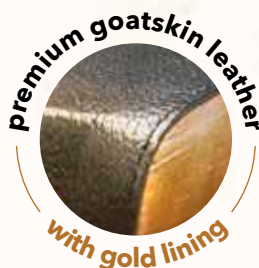


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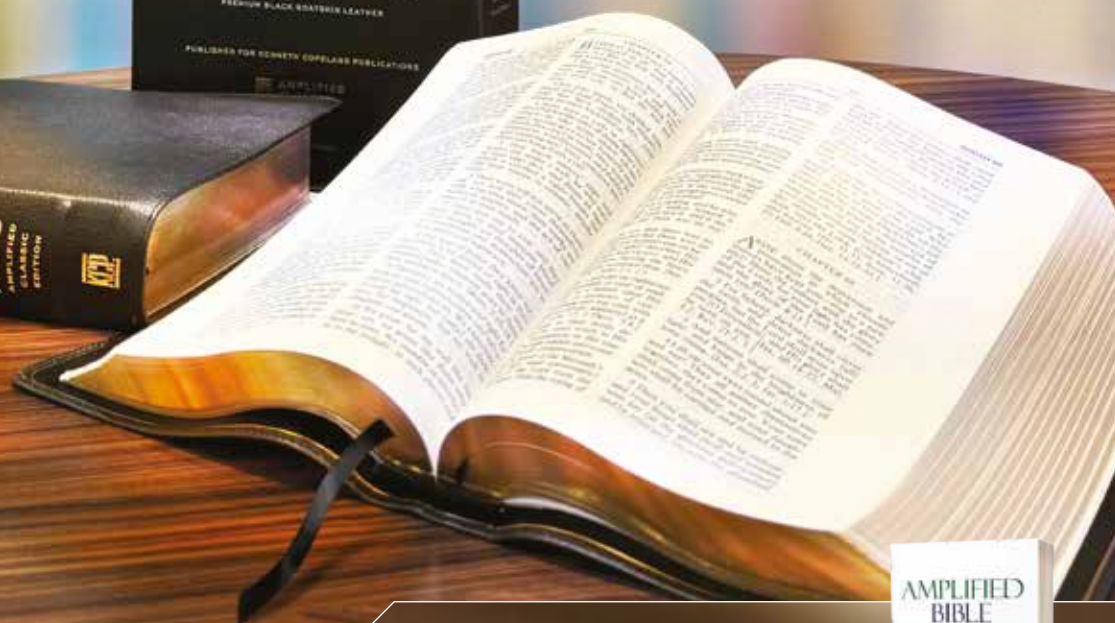
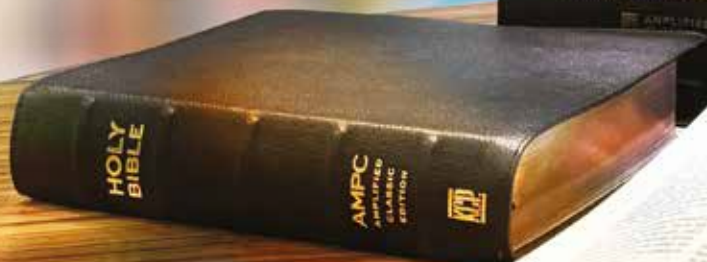
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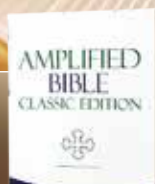
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Editor's Letter



Check It Out!

Hearing that phrase recently, I couldn't help but remember how often we used those words as young "hipsters" growing up in the mid-1900s. Back then, the phrase was mostly used to direct someone's attention to something special or unusual. Whenever we discovered something new, or had something we thought was cool and wanted to share with others, we would say, "Hey, check it out!"

No doubt this present generation has a different way of saying this today. But the meaning remains the same.

In fact, the Bible had its own way of drawing one's attention long before "check it out" came along. For example, Psalm 66:5 invites us to "come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!" (*New International Version*). In speaking of the goodness of the Lord, the psalmist challenges us in Psalm 34:8 to "taste and see that the LORD is good." And in 1 John 4:1, we are urged to "test the spirits to see whether they are from God" (*NIV*).

Come. Taste. Test. Each saying boils down to one thing: *Check it out, and see for yourself!*

And that's what I hope you will do later this month as thousands of believers join us July 29 through Aug. 3, for the Southwest Believers' Convention that takes place at the Fort Worth Convention Center in downtown Fort Worth, Texas.

When the woman at the well entered into conversation with Jesus, who was a stranger, the Bible says she was overly surprised when Jesus began telling her everything about herself. So surprised, in fact, that she "left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did!'" (John 4:28-29, *New Living Translation*.)

At KCM, we are connected to a great prophet of God in Kenneth Copeland. When you join us this year at the Southwest Believers' Convention, you'll not only hear what the Lord is saying to the Body of Christ through Brother Copeland, but you'll also receive encouraging words from God, delivered by a host of other anointed ministers of the gospel.

I hope you've already made plans to come be with us and become immersed in the blessed preaching, teaching and fellowship that always takes place in these six-day meetings. If you haven't made plans, it's not too late. Register today, then saddle up and head on over for a great time of fellowship around the Word.

Come check it out!

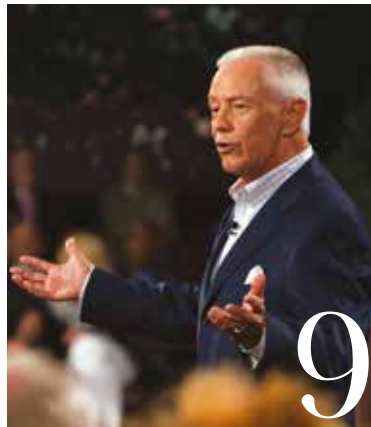
Ronald C. Jordan
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on to a family
member or friend.



When The LORD first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.*

For 50 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

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A man in a blue plaid suit is speaking to a large audience in a stadium. He is holding a book and a smartphone. The audience is seated in bleachers, and the scene is lit with stadium lights.

World Champions of Faith

“Jesus is the original and ultimate Faith Champion! The moment you believed on Him you became His joint heir.”



What if God invited you to live in a Garden of Eden... not just someday in heaven in the sweet by-and-by, but right here on earth in the rotten here and now?

What if He promised you a life so full of supernatural abundance that people wandering around in the wilderness of this world could see His amazing power and lovingkindness just by looking at you?

That sounds like a wonderful life, doesn't it? Some people would even say it sounds too good to be true. Yet, according to the Bible, it's the plan of God for every one of His children. It was His plan in the beginning when He BLESSED Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden. It was His plan when He made covenant with Abraham and promised to BLESS him and his seed; and it was His plan when He said to us in the book of Isaiah: "Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and

to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD" (Isaiah 51:1-3).

"But Brother Copeland," you might say, "those verses are in the Old Testament. They're talking about God's plan for the Jews and for Israel."

They're also talking to us as believers. According to the New Testament, Abraham is our father too (Romans 4:16). We're his seed and heirs of what God promised him (Galatians 3:29). We're citizens of Zion, the city of the living God (Hebrews 12:22).

If you're a believer, then God is talking to you in those verses! He's telling you that you have an Eden Covenant. He's promising that if you look to Abraham and follow his example, you can walk in the fullness of His BLESSING and it will turn your life into a veritable Garden of The LORD.

Gloria and I know what that's like. It's been happening to us for quite a while. Not because we're some kind of spiritual hotshots, but because almost 50 years ago we started learning how to cooperate with God's system. We started learning what He meant when He said, "It is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed" (Romans 4:16).

Faith and grace are big with God. Faith is big because it's the spiritual force that connects us to grace. Grace is big because it's what made the way for God to bring things back to the Garden of Eden level without having to wait until this whole age is over. When you connect by faith to God's grace, He can treat you like sin never even happened.

Talk about big! That's as big as it gets!

Even the Gates of Hell Can't Stop You

"Well, faith and grace are great, all right," someone might say, "but what about the devil? How do I live like I'm in Eden when I'm still in this sin-infested world dealing with him?"

You do it the same way Jesus did. When He was on earth, He defeated the devil every day of His life. He not only overcame every temptation to sin and walked continually in God's BLESSING on a personal level; He brought that BLESSING into the lives of others. He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

"But that was *Jesus*, Brother Copeland. He's the Son of God."

Yes, He is—and you're a son of God, too. You're not just an old forgiven sinner saved by grace. You're a new creation. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). You've been "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23).

“There’s nothing in this world order your faith in God won’t overcome. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

(1 John 5:4)



POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1

As a believer, you have an Eden Covenant. (Isa. 51:3)

2

It's a covenant of faith and grace. (Rom. 4:16)

3

The devil doesn't have the power to rob you of your Eden BLESSINGS because Jesus has defeated him. (Col. 2:15)

4

When the devil hits you with doubt, hit him back with faith like Abraham did. (Rom. 4:20)

5

There's nothing in this world order that can overcome your faith in God. (1 Jn. 5:4)

Your spiritual DNA and Jesus' DNA are exactly the same. Spiritually, you're identical twins. You also have the same faith He has. The very faith of God Himself was given to you as a gift the split second you were born again (Ephesians 2:8). It's so powerful that the first time you used it, it changed you forever. It connected you with so much of God's grace that your old sinful man died; you became the righteousness of God in Him; and you were raised up to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Just think; you were still a spiritual baby when that happened. You probably didn't know nearly as much about The WORD of God as you do now. Yet just by believing, confessing and acting on what little bit you knew, you blasted out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the light of God's dear Son, and the gates of hell themselves couldn't stop you.

"Yeah, but that was a spiritual victory," you might say. "In the natural I'm still subject to all the mess the devil is stirring up in the world."

No, you're not. There's nothing in this world order your faith in God won't overcome. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

When you use your faith in God's WORD like a weapon against the devil, he's helpless against it. If you want to see how helpless, look at what happened in his final showdown with Jesus. Jesus went before us with the same measure of faith we have. He developed His faith by feeding on The WORD of God the same as you and I do, and all the forces of hell combined couldn't stand against Him. After He went to the Cross, He whipped and disarmed them so completely that if they'd known what was going to happen, "they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Corinthians 2:8).

If you've read the Bible, you know the thrilling story of how Jesus' victory unfolded. It began with satan and his bunch thinking they'd finally gotten the upper hand against Jesus. As He suffered on the Cross where His form was so marred He no longer resembled a human being, they didn't know He was paying the price for the sin of all mankind. They didn't realize He was acting by faith as our substitute, so when

He died and they dragged Him into hell, they released their full fury upon Him.

Then, on the third day they found out they had made a terrible mistake!

Just as it looked like they were about to annihilate Jesus, suddenly the spiritual realm rocked with the voice of God Almighty. "That's enough!" He said. "Again I will be a Father to Him and again He will be a Son to me." With those words, Jesus was instantly raised from the dead. The first Man ever to be born again from sin to righteousness, He started preaching the gospel right there in hell. With demons bouncing off every wall, He took satan's keys away from him and said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). Then—*whoosh*—He left the bowels of the earth, went up and got His body, and went to heaven where He poured out His blood on the heavenly mercy seat.

All You Have To Do Is Pull the Trigger

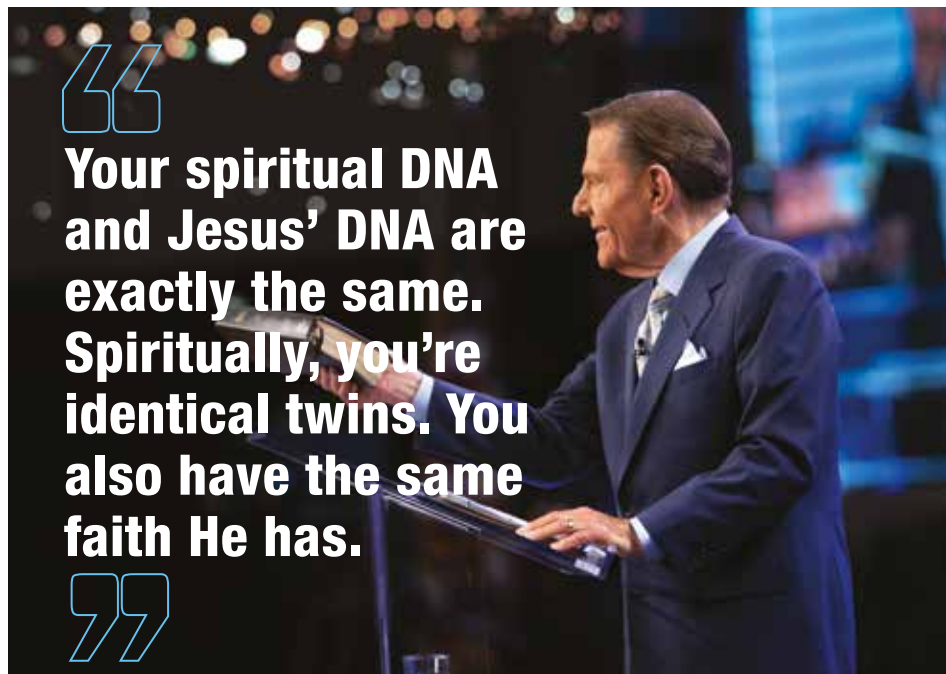
Jesus is the original and ultimate Faith Champion! The moment you believed on Him you became His joint heir. So whether you know it or not, you're the biggest thing on the block! Your Blood Covenant Brother, The LORD Jesus Christ, utterly defeated the devil in the showdown of the ages. Now He's given you the gun with a cocked hammer. All you have to do is pull the trigger!

What exactly do I mean by pull the trigger? I mean get out your Bible, find scripture that covers your situation, and fight the good fight of faith with The WORD of God. If you're believing for healing, find healing scriptures and stand on them. Learn them. Talk them. Think them. Write them down and put them up everywhere. Fill your house so full of them that when someone comes in, they see healing scriptures on every door.

Then, do what Isaiah 51 said. Look unto Abraham the father of your faith and follow his example.

He believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed

in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform (Romans 4:17-21).



What was Abraham doing in those verses? He was using the faith God had put in him, like a tool, on purpose. Every time the devil called Abraham's attention to his old, dead, wrinkled-up body, he hit back with faith. Every time the devil pointed out how old and barren Sarah was, Abraham pulled the trigger and fired off another round of God's WORD. "Shut up, devil!" he'd say. "I don't consider your lies. I don't consider natural circumstances! I believe what God said and nothing else!"

I'm not suggesting you'll come by this easily. This isn't for the wimpy. It's for champions, and you become a faith champion by staying in The WORD so that when the devil challenges you,

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IN TEACHING
BELIEVERS
**HOW
TO USE
THEIR
FAITH.**

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you can stand strong against him. You do it by developing your faith and swinging your WORD sword in the devil's direction until he flees.

"I don't know, Brother Copeland. I'm not very scary. Are you sure the devil will flee from me?"

Certainly he will! You don't look the same to him as you do to yourself. When you put on your war suit, you absolutely terrify the devil. When you strap on the breastplate of righteousness and the shoes of the gospel of peace, when you take up your shield of faith and put on the helmet of salvation with the faceplate down, the only thing the devil sees coming at him is God's armor. He doesn't know who's in there.

He doesn't know you're still growing up and you don't quite fill up the armor yet. To him you look like more than a conqueror. So all you have to do is act like one. As long you just keep speaking The WORD and don't say something stupid like, "I sure hope this works, because if it doesn't I'm dead," the devil will run from you as surely as he'll run from Jesus Himself.

"But what if he doesn't?" someone might say. "What if I try to fight and end up losing the battle?"

That won't happen! Just go lock yourself up somewhere with your Bible and stay there until the champion shows up. Get out your faith-preaching CDs and DVDs and whatever else you have, and totally immerse yourself in The WORD until you're so strong in faith you come out chewing nails and drinking gunpowder soup!

That's what Gloria and I did when we first found out about the Word of Faith. It changed both of us in major ways, but what happened to Gloria was especially amazing. She'd always been very quiet and shy, but as she spent time in The WORD she got bolder and bolder. She got so strong in faith the devil didn't want anything to do with her. (He still doesn't.) Every time he tried something, she whipped up on him.

I remember one time she got on him for attacking me. I'd just gotten home from days of preaching on the road and I was having flu symptoms. I was so tired that instead of standing on The WORD like I should have, I just collapsed onto the bed and felt sorry for myself. As I was lying there in the dark, seemingly from out of nowhere Gloria jumped on me, praying in tongues and shouting at the top of her voice, "You flu demon, in the Name of Jesus, you get off my husband!" She knocked me completely out of the bed and onto the floor.

"OK! OK!" I said. "I'm healed!" I was totally healed when I hit the floor.

I remember another time a few years later when she jumped on our young son, John, in much the same way. He'd said something sassy to her, thinking he could get away with it because she's so sweet and even-tempered all the time. I don't recall exactly what he said, but whatever it was, Gloria could tell the devil was working on him. Instantly, she turned into "Faith Woman!" She flat-footed it over the living room sofa to where John was and dealt with that devil right then and there. His eyes got big and he said, "Wow, Mama!"

I'm sure the devil was saying much the same thing as he was running out the door. He was saying, "Wow!" because Gloria knows who she is in Christ Jesus.

As a believer, you ought to know who you are in Christ Jesus, too. You ought to be acting like a world champion of faith and keeping the devil on the run. So get in The WORD and get after it! Connect by faith with God's grace and let Him turn your life into a little Eden right here on earth. Let Him fill your life so full of supernatural abundance that people wandering around in the wilderness of this world can see His power and lovingkindness through you! 📌



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events

2024
Southwest
Believers'
Convention

July 29-Aug. 3 | Fort Worth, Texas

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Schedule is subject to change without notice.

Remembering Jerry Savelle

In February 1969, during a meeting in Shreveport, La., Kenneth Copeland called a young Jerry Savelle out of the crowd and said to him, “Jerry, God has shown me that someday you and I will become a team. It’s your responsibility to believe God for His perfect timing.” In the summer of 1970, Jerry and his wife, Carolyn, packed up and moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where Jerry would go to work for Kenneth Copeland Evangelistic Association.

It would be six years later, in 1976, that Jerry would start preaching with Kenneth—first in Jubilee meetings and later progressing to meetings around the world. For more than five decades, the two ministered around the world and co-labored together, demonstrating friendship, faithfulness and loyalty—not just to one another, but to God as well.

On Monday, April 15, 2024, Jerry’s labors here on earth ended when he crossed over into God’s kingdom to receive his eternal reward. In honor of his dear friend of more than a half century, Brother Copeland shared these words:

“Jerry and I have been preaching together for over 55 years. We have never had a cross word between us. Our families are intertwined with each other. He was my first preaching partner, other than Gloria. He began in this ministry by driving me to my meetings, setting up the equipment, and making the tapes. His first assignment was during the Jesus Revolution. He won so many to the LORD at Pismo Beach, Calif. Jerry Savelle is now in heaven with his Savior. He will always be dear to my heart.”

In tribute to Jerry, his ministry family posted the following at Jerry Savelle Ministries International:

“Brother Jerry’s journey on earth was one of immense impact, rooted in the

powerful love of Jesus Christ. His life testified to the beauty of grace and power of faith. As he often reminded us, through God’s hands, ‘nobodies’ are turned into champions; and today, he himself has received the crown of righteousness laid up for all who are called according to His purpose. While our hearts miss his physical presence, we are comforted by the Holy Spirit and filled with a joy that transcends earthly understanding. As the Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonians, we stand firm in our hope and the knowledge that this separation is but temporary. We do not mourn as those without hope, for we know that in Christ, we shall see Brother Jerry again.... Well done, good and faithful servant.... Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

The lives Brother Jerry won for the

Lord in his more than 50 years of ministry number in the hundreds of thousands. The impact of his life and ministry is immeasurable. Jerry was more than a friend and Partner to us here at KCM. He was family! In a feature article we published in November 1997, we shared Jerry Savelle’s testimony — and how he went from a boy of 12 years old wanting to be a professional baseball player, to his love of tinkering with and repairing old cars, to getting born again and filled with the Holy Spirit and hearing the call to preach. As we honor the life and legacy of our friend, our brother, and one of God’s generals in the Body of Christ, it is our pleasure to share that testimony with you in the following pages. →

Ronald C. Jordan, Editor

by Melanie Henry

GRAND

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD JERRY SAVELLE
WIPE SWEATY HANDS ON HIS LITTLE LEAGUE
BASEBALL UNIFORM BEFORE STEPPING UP TO THE
PLATE. GRIPPING THE BAT, HE SQUARED HIS SHOULDERS
AND PLANTED HIS FEET FIRMLY IN THE RICH LOUISIANA
SOIL. HE GLANCED ONCE AROUND THE BALLPARK
BEFORE LOCKING HIS EYES ON THE PITCHER.

SLAM!

The boy on the pitching mound spat in the dirt, swung his arm in a wide circle and stared defiantly at the batter.

Jerry didn't flinch. Through all the pitcher's gyrations, he watched the ball. The moment it came flying toward him with a spin, Jerry tightened his grip and, at just the right second, arched to meet it.

The *crack* of ball meeting the bat echoed across the field. In one fluid movement, Jerry dropped the bat and lunged toward first base. Throwing his head back in delight, he grinned into the wind and ran.

Lightly touching first, he raced on toward second. Once there, he took a chance at third, then on to home plate. The ball whizzed past his head as he dove, sliding into home in a cloud of dust.

"Safe!" the umpire shouted.

Jerry picked himself up out of the dirt with a grin. He *loved* baseball. It wasn't just his pleasure, it was his passion. It had been ever since the first time he'd seen his dad put on a uniform and step onto the field to play on a company team. That day, Jerry Savelle felt sure he'd met his

destiny. Since then he'd never doubted or wavered—he would play professional baseball. He mapped out his life like a coach maps out a game.

He figured that later in life, after his baseball career had ended, he would fall back on his second love—tinkering with and repairing old cars. Someday, he imagined, he might even own his own automotive repair shop.

Baseball and cars. Life didn't get much better than that.

A few weeks later, Jerry arrived at his grandmother's house in Oklahoma City for a family reunion. Flipping through the channels on her television, he paused at the sight of a man on the screen. Oral Roberts was preaching a sermon entitled "The Fourth Man." Like most 12-year-olds, Jerry didn't spend much time listening to television preachers. He liked sports. But for some reason, what this man was saying interested him.

The fourth man described in Brother Roberts' fiery sermon, Jerry discovered, was Jesus. He'd heard about Jesus all





***“I heard the call of God watching Oral Roberts.
It took Kenneth Copeland, a man who’d been trained
by Brother Roberts, to get me to fulfill it.”***





his life in the Baptist church his family attended. But he'd never heard about Jesus like *this*. Although he couldn't remember a time when he hadn't believed in Jesus, there'd never been a time when hearing about Him raised the hair on the back of his neck.

Somehow the Jesus that this man preached about was...*alive*. Some of Jerry's family members didn't share his interest in the sermon. They said Oral Roberts

was a fake, that he paid the people in wheelchairs to act healed.

Jerry knew they were wrong. He didn't know *how* he knew, he just knew.

He never did change the channel. He listened to every word until the program went off the air. Then, sitting there quietly, for the first time in his life, Jerry Savelle heard the voice of God.

Someday you'll do that. You'll preach, and pray for the sick.

He bolted out of that chair, shaken. God wanted him to do something with his life. Something that had nothing to do with baseball or cars.

No, I won't! he vowed. *I'm going to play professional baseball!*

Jerry didn't tell anyone what he'd heard so clearly that day.

The next Sunday, back at his home church in Shreveport, Jerry Savelle walked the aisle and publicly declared Jesus as his Savior. He joined the church and was baptized.

Jerry gave his heart to Jesus, but he refused to give Him his life. He would never, ever give Him his life.

"That was a very eventful year in my life," Jerry recalls. "My family moved to Millard Street, to a more country-like atmosphere, where I raised chickens, sold eggs and had a horse."

Carolyn Creech, age 10, also lived on Millard Street.

"The first day she saw me ride my bicycle past her house she told her mother, 'I just saw the boy I am going to marry.'"

"I was unaware of Carolyn's declaration, and we became good friends. By the time we reached high school, I was driving her to class every morning. She sat in the back seat and my girlfriend sat in the front."

Before long, Jerry discovered, it was impossible to serve God and run from His call at the same time. Even in college he was running. He lived in an apartment off campus and got mixed up with a group of young men who majored in cards, gambling and beer. It was the worst of both worlds. Because he had given his heart to the Lord, but refused to acknowledge God's call on his life, church and any form of spiritual life brought conviction.

Jerry couldn't find any peace.

He was no longer the confident young dreamer he'd once been, so he dropped the idea of ever playing baseball.

He switched to Plan B.

His love of automotive repair took first place in his life.

God was still out of the ballgame.

"I was a physical education major at Northwestern State College in Natchitoches," Jerry remembers. "During my second year of college, I came home for the weekend and ran into Carolyn again. This time I took a good, hard look and asked her out. Eight months later we married."

The night before their wedding, Carolyn ripped Jerry's newfound peace to shreds.

"When I was 8 years old," she told him, "I had a powerful experience with God. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. I promised Him that the man I married would be born again, filled with the Spirit, preach the gospel, and go to Africa."

Jerry hadn't accepted the call on his life from God. He certainly wasn't going to accept it from Carolyn.

"Then you're marrying the wrong man.

"After the wedding, I went to college at night and worked in a paint and body shop during the day," Jerry explains. "In 1968, I was called up for active duty in the military. Our daughter Jerriann was born while I was away.

"After my active duty, I joined the reserves. Back home, I opened Jerry's Paint and Body Shop. It was a dream come true. Then, in 1969, our second daughter, Terri, was born."

God Threw a Curve Ball

Life doesn't get much better than this, Jerry would sometimes think as he kissed his family goodbye before leaving for work each morning.

That fragile peace might have lasted a while if not

for one thing—God threw Jerry Savelle a curveball. His name was Kenneth Copeland.

In February 1969, Kenneth Copeland arrived in Shreveport to preach in Carolyn’s home church. He was a guest in her parents’ home. They just happened to live next door to Jerry and Carolyn.

Carolyn was determined that Jerry would attend the meetings.

Jerry was determined *not* to go.

She begged and pleaded with him, day after day, but he adamantly refused.

“If you won’t go to the meeting,” Carolyn said, throwing up her hands in defeat, “at least walk next door and meet the man.”

Reluctantly, Jerry agreed. Jerry spoke to Gloria Copeland when they were introduced, then waited impatiently for Kenneth to appear. He was about to leave when the man walked out of the bedroom.

“Brother Copeland,” Jerry’s father-in-law said, “I’d like for you to meet my son-in-law, Jerry Savelle.”

Kenneth waved his hand and walked to the kitchen.

That’s it! Jerry thought, I’m out of here.

He had almost reached the door when Kenneth called to him: “Wait a minute!” He pointed a finger at Jerry, then said, “God’s going to prosper you.”

Then, he disappeared.

Carolyn has been talking to him about my business! Jerry fumed silently. How else could he have known I was going to prosper?

Every night, Carolyn begged Jerry to attend Brother Copeland’s meeting. By the last night, he would have done anything just to make her stop talking about it.

“I’ll go on one condition,” Jerry said. “We’ll sit in the back row closest to an exit. As soon as he starts telling tear-jerking stories and begging for money, I’m leaving. You’ll have to get home the best way you can.”

“That’s a deal,” Carolyn agreed.

An Uneasy Feeling

Jerry felt uneasy as he slid onto the cool, hard pew. This was Carolyn’s church, not his. He felt more comfortable under a car than here in the convicting presence of God. The choir sang an old familiar hymn, then Kenneth Copeland stepped to the pulpit. He turned and addressed the choir.

“Don’t ever sing that song in my presence,” he said. “It’s chock-full of doubt and unbelief.”

“How dare he!” Jerry hissed between clenched teeth. “We can sing *anything* we want in *our* church! Besides, *God* wrote that song!”

“*God* wrote the song?” Carolyn asked. “What makes you think that?”

“It’s in the Baptist hymnal,” he explained.

“If Kenneth Copeland hadn’t made me so mad, I probably would have tuned him out and not heard a word he said,” Jerry said. “God knew it would take someone bold, straightforward and unintimidated to get my attention. I was so furious, I listened. The message he preached that night had the same effect on me as the one Oral Roberts had preached when I was 12. Both men made the gospel seem full of power, and Jesus came alive.

“The next day I went to work under deep conviction. Finally, I sent my employees home and blew the dust off the Bible Carolyn had put on my desk. I took the Bible into the restroom and closed the door. I sat there on the floor and cried all day.”

That night, Jerry tossed in bed unable to sleep. At 3 o’clock in the morning, he stood in the living room with tears streaming down his face and raised his hands to God in surrender.

“Jesus, I can’t run anymore. If there’s anything left in me that You can possibly use, here it is. Take a good look, because I’m a failure. I’m only 22 years old, and I’m already a failure.”

Don’t worry about it, son, the Lord answered, I’m a Master at making champions out of failures.

Jerry opened his mouth to speak, but the words that flowed in an unbroken stream were an unknown tongue. Time passed as Jerry lost himself in the freedom of praising God in a heavenly language.

Finally, he noticed his wife and mother-in-law sitting on the sofa.

“Guess what happened to me?” Jerry asked.

“We know,” Carolyn said, tears streaming down her face. “We’ve been sitting here for two hours.”

Jerry looked at the clock. It was 7 o’clock in the morning.

He’d been praying in tongues for four hours.

“Well,” Jerry said, turning to Carolyn, “it looks like we’re going to preach just like you said before we were married.”

Jerry went back to work at his body shop with a new plan—to prepare himself for the work of the ministry. A year later, in 1970, he left the business and spent the next three months listening to tapes by Brother Copeland and studying the Bible. A few months later, Brother Copeland came back to Shreveport to hold another meeting.

Vocabulary of Silence

When Jerry got to talk to Brother Copeland alone, he asked him: “How do you believe God for finances? I have no trouble believing God for healing. But financially I’m not having any success.”

“Your problem,” Brother Copeland answered, “is your big mouth. You need to learn the vocabulary of silence.”

The more Jerry thought about that response,

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

JULY

		Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	1	2 Kgs. 12:9-14:22	Rom. 14
Tue	2	2 Kgs. 14:23-16:20	Rom. 15
Wed	3	2 Kgs. 17:1-18:16	Rom. 16
Thu	4	2 Kgs. 18:17-20:11	1 Cor. 1
Fri	5	2 Kgs. 20:12-22:20	1 Cor. 2
Sat	6	2 Kgs. 23-24	
Sun	7	Ps. 79-81; Prov. 17:1-18	
Mon	8	2 Kgs. 25- 1 Chr. 1:33	1 Cor. 3
Tue	9	1 Chr. 1:34-2:41	1 Cor. 4
Wed	10	1 Chr. 2:42-4:23	1 Cor. 5
Thu	11	1 Chr. 4:24-6:30	1 Cor. 6
Fri	12	1 Chr. 6:31-7:12	1 Cor. 7
Sat	13	1 Chr. 7:13-8:40	
Sun	14	Ps. 82-85; Prov. 17:19-18:9	
Mon	15	1 Chr. 9:1-11:3	1 Cor. 8
Tue	16	1 Chr. 11:4-12:22	1 Cor. 9
Wed	17	1 Chr. 12:23-15:15	1 Cor. 10
Thu	18	1 Chr. 15:16-16:43	1 Cor. 11
Fri	19	1 Chr. 17-19	1 Cor. 12
Sat	20	1 Chr. 20-22	
Sun	21	Ps. 86-88; Prov. 18:10-24	
Mon	22	1 Chr. 23-24	1 Cor. 13
Tue	23	1 Chr. 25-26	1 Cor. 14
Wed	24	1 Chr. 27:1-29:9	1 Cor. 15
Thu	25	1 Chr. 29:10- 2 Chr. 2:18	1 Cor. 16
Fri	26	2 Chr. 3:1-6:11	2 Cor. 1
Sat	27	2 Chr. 6:12-8:10	
Sun	28	Ps. 89; Prov. 19:1-17	
Mon	29	2 Chr. 8:11-11:4	2 Cor. 2
Tue	30	2 Chr. 11:5-14:8	2 Cor. 3
Wed	31	2 Chr. 14:9-17:19	2 Cor. 4

***It didn't
just happen
once. Over
and over, the
sermons they
had prepared
separately
wove together
like a tapestry,
presenting a
clear picture
of Jesus.***

the more irritated he became. *My big mouth?* Jerry fumed all the way home. *I'm the only person in that church who listens to all his tapes!*

At home, Jerry stormed into the house and pulled one of Brother Copeland's tapes off the reel-to-reel tape player. He walked outside and pitched it down the street, watching it unroll as it went. Then he ran inside and grabbed another tape. But the Lord spoke to him.

The answer to your problems is rolling down the street.

"What?" Jerry gasped.

I'm going to give you supernatural recall of everything you've said.

Like a play-by-play in sports, the Lord replayed Jerry's words over the previous few months. "All my needs are met through Christ Jesus!" he declared on many occasions. "How are we going to make it?" he'd asked Carolyn on many others. "We're going under."

Instantly, Jerry realized he'd been multiplying his words of faith with an equal number of words filled with unbelief. *My problem*, Jerry admitted, *is my big mouth.*

He ran outside, picked up the tape, wiped off dirt and gravel, then began to rewind it. For the next few months, Jerry put a guard on his mouth and listened to the tapes again and again.

The next time Kenneth Copeland came to Shreveport, he called Jerry out of the audience. "Jerry," he said, "God has shown me that someday you and I will become a team. It's your responsibility to believe God for His perfect timing."

Jerry sank back into his seat, feeling like the wind had been knocked out of him. *Kenneth Copeland said that we would be a team! How many times over the past few months have I dreamed of just following him around?*

He shook his head to clear it.

This was the God he'd been running from all those years?

"Brother Copeland phoned me and said he would pay my expenses if I would go to California. There was a man named David Malkin who was winning hundreds of hippies to the Lord. Brother Copeland wanted me to learn soul-winning. He said I could stay as long I needed to stay.

"July Fourth weekend 1970, there were 140,000 drug addicts and hippies gathered at Pismo Beach in California. Our ministry team consisted of 113 converted hippies, David Malkin and me. I didn't know how to relate to them. I'd never done drugs or lived the hippie lifestyle.

"The Lord told me that it wasn't knowledge of drugs that would win them. It was knowledge of Him. In 13 days, hundreds gave their lives to Christ. We baptized them in the Pacific Ocean.

"In the summer of 1970, Carolyn and I packed all our belongings and moved to Fort Worth, Texas," Jerry recalls. "Brother Copeland's ministry was in its infancy back then. The total staff consisted of A.W. Copeland (Brother Copeland's father), a bookkeeper, a secretary and me. I was the road crew, the tape duplicator, the carpenter and the general mechanic. After two years, Brother Copeland asked me to preach the morning service. From then on, I preached with him."

In October 1973, the Lord started dealing with Jerry about launching out on his own in ministry. Jerry resisted the idea. After all, hadn't God prophesied through Kenneth that they would be a team? Why split the team?

You'll always be a team, the Lord said. *This way you can cover twice the territory with the same message.*

Finally, Jerry told Kenneth what the Lord had said.

"As much as I hate to lose you," Kenneth said, "I know it's God."

They both agreed that the team would not be split up.

"I knew that once I stepped away from Kenneth's ministry I would have to believe God for not only my salary, but for all the finances to meet the needs of a new ministry," Jerry recalls. "I told Kenneth that I would work for him through Dec. 31, 1973. But I asked that after November, he not pay me. I figured I may as well start believing God sooner rather than later."

On Jan. 1, 1974, Jerry Savelle Evangelistic Association was born.

During the next few years, Kenneth and Jerry covered twice the territory with the same message. Then, in 1976, Kenneth asked Jerry to start preaching Jubilee meetings with him.

"We'll both study Leviticus 25 and Luke 4," Brother Copeland explained. "Whatever The LORD shows you about 'Jesus Our Jubilee,' you'll preach, and whatever He shows me, I'll preach."

A Perfect Lead-In

Jerry sat through Kenneth's first sermon on "Jesus Our Jubilee" and marveled at the power of the Holy Spirit. Kenneth's sermon was the perfect lead-in for Jerry's. Kenneth finished with one verse of scripture, and Jerry's sermon started with the next.

It didn't just happen once. Over and over, the sermons they had prepared separately wove together like a tapestry, presenting a clear picture of Jesus.

This, the Lord said, *is teamwork.*

They preached about Jubilee through 1976 and

1977. Then, in 1978, Brother Copeland held his first Believers' Convention in Long Beach, Calif. Besides Kenneth and Gloria, the speakers included Jerry Savelle, Charles Capps and Kenneth Hagin.

Not only did Jerry preach with Kenneth during that first Believers' Convention, but he has preached every Believers' Convention since, both national and international. Kenneth and Gloria also asked Jerry to serve on the board of directors of Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

"In 1981 we held a Believers' Convention in Charlotte, N.C.," Jerry remembers. "I had preached all my sermons and settled back to listen to Kenneth on the last night when he suddenly closed his Bible and announced that God wanted me to preach. Then, he just sat down.

"I walked to the podium without a flicker of sermon to preach. I looked over at Kenneth and asked if perhaps God had told him *what* I was to preach. He said he didn't know.

"My Bible fell open to Hebrews 11, and I heard myself announce that I was going to preach a sermon I'd first heard from Oral Roberts when I was 12 years old. I had never attempted to preach 'The Fourth Man,' but that night the Holy Spirit brought it up out of the recesses of my heart."

Kenneth Copeland aired the sermon on his television program the following Sunday night. The next morning, Jerry received a phone call from Oral Roberts' secretary.

"Brother Roberts wants to know if you could meet with him at his office in Tulsa tomorrow afternoon," she asked.

Hands shaking, Jerry agreed. He'd never met Oral Roberts. What if he heard the sermon Jerry preached and thought he'd slaughtered it? What if he was going to sue him for using his work?

The following afternoon, Jerry stepped into Oral Roberts' office. Brother Roberts looked up from his desk and said, "I heard you preach 'The Fourth Man' Sunday night."

Jerry stood still, heart pounding, while Brother Roberts walked around his desk and stepped in front of him. In one movement he wrapped his arms around Jerry and said, "Son, I never heard it preached better. You remind me of myself when I was young."

Jerry Savelle had come full circle. Only now the man who had preached Jesus and set a fire in his heart wasn't just a face on a television screen. He was a friend.

"I heard the call of God watching Oral Roberts," Jerry explains. "It took Kenneth Copeland, a man who'd been trained by Brother



Roberts, to get me to fulfill it."

It's been more than 51 years since Jerry Savelle stopped running and stepped up to the plate to play ball on God's team. In those years, he has traveled the earth preaching the fire of God into the hearts of men. In a time when competition reigned, Jerry Savelle and Kenneth Copeland have demonstrated friendship, faithfulness and loyalty—not just to one another, but to God as well.

In 1994, Jerry started the Jerry Savelle Ministries International Bible Institute and School of World Evangelism. Like his father and grandfather of the faith, Jerry is committed to raising up the next generation of men and women for God.

Just like the Lord told Carolyn when she was 8 years old, Jerry Savelle has gone to Africa. He has established 40 churches in Kenya; has ministry headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya; and has offices in South Wales, United Kingdom; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Tanzania.

The lives he has won for the Lord number in the hundreds of thousands.

The bases were loaded when Jerry accepted his mantle and stepped up to bat to wage war on the kingdom of darkness.

He didn't just hit a home run.

He hit a grand slam.

Someday, Jerry Savelle will finish his race by sliding into home along with all the souls he has won.

The Umpire's call already echoes throughout eternity.

"Safe!"

by Jerry Savelle

This was the first-ever article by Jerry Savelle to appear in the *BVOV* magazine when it was published in December 1989.

Leaving the Tears Behind



The Valley of Baca. It's a lousy place to spend the Christmas holidays. Yet, in spite of all the seasonal "cheer," a great many people end up there this time of year.

If you don't know exactly what the "Valley of Baca" is, you can read about it in Psalm 84.

It's a phrase that means a place of "weeping or misery." A place of crisis and pain. An emotional desert where the dry winds of disappointment constantly blow. And whether it's at Christmas or another time of year, it's a place all of us eventually go.

All of us. Even faith-filled, Holy Spirit-baptized believers.

Somebody may say, "Yes, Brother Jerry, God creates those painful places for us to help us grow."

No, He doesn't. The devil, not God, is the one

that brings misery. He's the one who comes to kill, steal and destroy. And that's exactly why he designs those Valleys of Baca—to destroy us. All too often he succeeds.

That's right. Many believers don't make it through the Valley of Baca. They go in there, suffer setbacks and disappointments, and are never heard from again. They give up hope and allow misery to become their permanent dwelling place.

But I'm here to tell you, that's not how the Word of God tells us it should be!

Verses 5-6 say, “Blessed is the man whose strength is in [God]... Who passing through the valley of Baca...”

Did you notice that last phrase? Passing through the valley of Baca. Passing through! The valley of misery or weeping is not meant to be a permanent dwelling place. It’s simply a place the people of God occasionally pass through.

You’ve got to remember that. Baca doesn’t last forever. So don’t lay down your faith and die when you get there. No! Stand up and say, “This is not where I live. This is not God’s best for me. I’m just passing through!”

Here’s something else you need to know about Baca. It can be a place of blessings! Psalm 84: 6-7 says those who trust in God “make [the Valley of Baca] a place of springs; the early rain also fills [the pools] with blessings. They go from strength to strength [increasing in victorious power]” (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Blessings Await You!

Did you hear that? There are blessings for you in Baca if you’ll trust God as you pass through it. What’s more, you can come out the other side stronger than you’ve ever been.

If you’ll stand on the Word, that battle with sickness, that financial trouble, that time of misery the devil puts you through will just give you another story to tell about how powerful God is. It will just give you another testimony about how He gave you the victory. You can come out of Baca so full of faith and rejoicing that the devil will be sorry he ever messed with you.

You may be thinking, *Well, that all sounds great. But I’ve been in Baca, brother...and it can be rough!*

I know it. That’s why I want us to look at the writings of the psalmist David. He was a man who knew what Baca was all about. He knew what it was like to be betrayed by people he thought loved him. He knew what it was to live as a fugitive under a threat of death and to be unjustly accused. Every aspect of misery that you and I go through, this man experienced in some way or another.

In Psalm 3:1-2, he says, “Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God.”

David found that when he was in Baca, there seemed to be a lot of people who thought their

call in life was to talk him out of believing God. And when you’re in Baca, you’re going to find the same thing.

You’re going to find an abundance of people, most of them sincere Christian people, who are eager to convince you that there is no help for you in God.

“All this faith stuff won’t help,” they’ll say. “Why, we know Brother So-and-So, and when he was in Baca, he believed what you believe and he died. We know Brother Such-and-Such, and he was believing God for finances when he came to Baca and he lost everything he had. Went totally bankrupt.”

David heard that kind of junk when he was going through rough times; I’ve heard that kind of junk when I’ve been going through rough times; and you’re going to hear it too. The question is, how are you going to respond to it?

Start Talking Faith!

Are you going to hang your head and agree with it? Are you going to say, “Well, I guess you’re right. I guess I’d just better learn to live with this misery. After all, it looks like it’s here to stay.”

“

If you keep talking your misery, you’re going to be stuck there. But if you start talking your covenant with God and talking faith, you can keep moving on through!

”

That’s not what David said! He started talking faith. He said, “Many there be which say of my soul, there is no help for him in God. BUT THOU, O LORD, ART A SHIELD FOR ME; MY GLORY, AND THE LIFTER UP OF MY HEAD” (verse 3)!

As you read through the Psalms, you’ll find David always did that. There were many times when he was in such deep misery that he couldn’t help talking about it. But his Psalms never end with misery. No, before it’s over, he always starts talking about his covenant with God. He always starts talking faith.

You can see an example of that in Psalm 6:6. There David is talking about his pain. “My bed is swimming in tears,” he says. But then, right in the middle of his anguish, he gets hold of himself.

It dawns on him that talking his misery isn't helping him.

Suddenly he says, "Depart from me!" He's talking to his own head and his own soul. He's talking to all the people that have told him faith's not going to work. "Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. Let all mine enemies be ashamed" (verses 8-10).

Next time you're in Baca, remember what David did. Remember that if you keep talking your misery, you're going to be stuck there. But if you start talking your covenant with God and talking faith, you can keep moving on through!

Now, let's look at David in one more situation. Let's look at how he handled a Baca that was designed by the enemy to destroy him. And let's see how God turned it around.

The story of it is found in 1 Samuel 30. David and his men had been away from their homes on a military mission. When they got back, they found their whole town, all their homes, had been burned to the ground and every member of their families had been taken captive. There was no one left.

When David and his men rode up and saw that devastating sight, the distress and discouragement that came on them was so overwhelming that the Bible says, "[They] lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more strength to weep" (verse 4).

These were all grown men. Mighty men of valor. But they were so distraught, they cried until they couldn't cry anymore. Then, for David, the situation got even worse because while they were crying, his men decided he was to blame for it all.

So there was David. Not only had his home been burned and his family been taken captive, but his men had decided they wanted to kill him. That's Baca, folks, any way you look at it. Bad Baca!

Verse 6 says, "David was greatly distressed, for the men spoke of stoning him because the souls of them all were bitterly grieved, each man for his sons and daughters. But David encouraged... himself" (AMPC).

BUT DAVID ENCOURAGED HIMSELF! Notice that didn't say, "God encouraged David." It didn't say, "The pastor came by and encouraged David." It said, "David encouraged himself."

One other translation says, "He strengthened

himself." How did he do it? He started talking his covenant. He started remembering his covenant. David was a covenant-minded man. And when he sat there in all that pain, that agony, that misery, knowing that his men wanted to stone him, instead of just accepting defeat, he sat there and began to think about God.

He began to think, *Hey, God is the lifter of my head! God is my shield! God is my fortress! If God be for me, who can be against me?*

Then he stood up and asked a crucial question. "God," he said, "what do You want me to do?"

And God answered him and said, "PURSUE, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all" (verse 8, AMPC)!

Notice, when David inquired of the Lord saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" God didn't say, "No, son, you're pretty torn up about this. You'd better just sit there and lick your wounds."

No, He said, "Pursue!"

Next time you find yourself in Baca, you need to ask God the same thing David did. You need to say, "God, shall I just take this sitting down? Shall I just sit here and die? Do I just sit here when the enemy has invaded my home, and let him carry off my family and my health and my money?"

If you do, God will tell you just what He told David every time. He'll say, "Pursue!"

When David and his men followed that command, they did just exactly what God said they'd do. They recovered all! They got back their wives and their sons and their daughters, all the goods that were stolen, and they took the enemy's livestock as well. So they returned home with more than they lost!

Take a lesson from that. When you're in pain and misery, don't sit there until you die. Get up and be aggressive. Take charge! Do what David did and encourage yourself, strengthen yourself in the Lord your God.

Go back in there and get those faith tapes and listen to them again. Get your Bible out and start reading again. Get yourself to church and let somebody preach to you.

Encourage yourself! Don't wait for somebody to come along with a special anointing for encouragement. Encourage yourself! PURSUE and you shall surely overtake them, and without fail, recover all! 🍷



Watch
Jerry Savelle
on

VICTORY
C H A N N E L

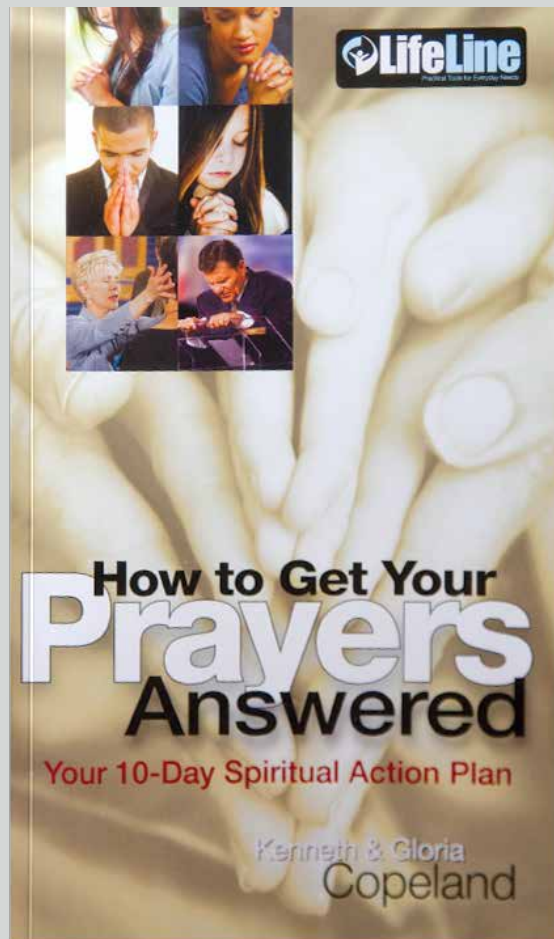
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V
**TESTIMONIES
 OF REAL-LIFE
 VICTORY**

**Harvest
 of Seeing**

I called the prayer line regarding a seed I had sown for new glasses. I had been without new ones for five years and was struggling to be able to read or see much of anything. Long story short, I hadn't seen well for 14 years. Last week, I got my new glasses. This is like a healing for me. I was able to read a whole book—170 pages—in 2 1/2 hours. It used to take me weeks to read a book. I did not realize what the world was supposed to look like. I am 55 and have worn glasses for 40 years. This was like the first time I put them on when I was 15. Praise the Lord! I sat and looked at the world outside and told Him how much I appreciated the new glasses and being able to see things that He created. Thank you for your prayers.

S.D. | Illinois



No More Pain

At *FlashPoint Live*, Lance Wallnau gave a word of healing. I took it and I am delivered from the pain and from cortisone shots!

J.S. | Virginia

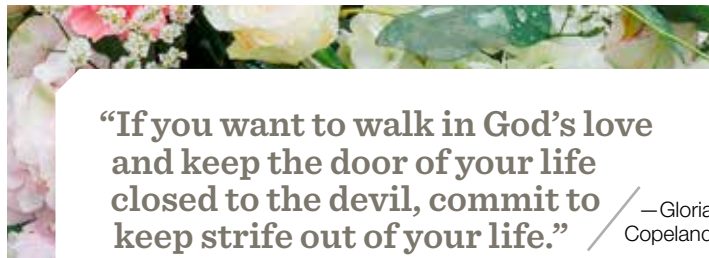
'Benefits'

I received many benefits from the 21-day fast that I joined with KCM. I found the articles, videos and posts you provided very helpful! I prayed more for America and for God to heal our land. I helped anyone I could each day. As I refrained from pleasant things like doing artwork, there was more time to rest and reflect. There were many benefits as I ate different foods like vegetables, fruits, grains, pulses, nuts and seeds; and

only drank water. Since I did not drink coffee in the morning, I got to work early.

Now the fast is finished and I want to continue in these many things. I believe God gave me grace to finish the fast well, and I was rarely hungry, as you might think you would be—praise the Lord! I feel like I could write a book.

L.M.B. | Virginia



'Thankful'

I am thankful I am out of prison after 16 years, and that the magazine is still coming to me monthly. W.H. | North Carolina

Saved and Serving

I never knew about Jesus or being saved. I went to a meeting and a Catholic priest told me I needed to get born again. I didn't even own a Bible, but he told me to get one and read several verses. That day I received salvation. My faith exploded when I was exposed to Kenneth Copeland and like ministers. My husband and I are pastors serving the Lord in faith, and I want to thank you for all that you do.

N.M. | Arizona

**Prayer
 Results**
*Thank you
 for praying
 for my
 son to get
 another
 job after
 he was laid
 off. Praise
 God; he has
 another job!*

S.M. | Mississippi

**Perfectly
 Healed**

I asked for prayer for a serious eye issue. I went to the doctor, who had told me that next time I would need more injections. But now she told me it looked perfect—totally healed.

A.H. | Oklahoma

**Faith and
 Intention**

Christians United For Israel facilitated a meeting with Pastor Al that helped me vote in faith. We learned the importance of believers taking our jurisdiction where God places us and doing so with intention. Pastor Al shared the "ActiVote" app, which allows users to view all candidates along with their social media outlets; and the importance of doing our due diligence before voting.

I took his advice and relied on the Holy Spirit to guide me into ALL truth concerning who to vote for—not based on party but based on His guidance.

I went to vote with my choices prewritten, made my confession with our election card, and voted in faith. I believe the Lord is having His way in these elections as we, the Church, represent Jesus in faith and with intention.

Thank you, Pastor Al and CUFI, for this meeting!

P.F. | Texas

SALVATION PRAYER

If you do not know Jesus as your Saviour 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.

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BVOV: Always Gives the Word!

The Holy Spirit really impressed on my heart to get my January 2024 BVOV magazine and read it from cover to cover. From Jerry's "The Maximum, Highest Level Attainable" article on giving and the hundredfold return, to Gloria's refresher course on watching what flows out of my mouth and Psalm 91, everything written wasn't by accident. Overcoming obstacles isn't small for me. It has taken faith to keep on keeping on, and everything I could muster up to remain upright, in spite of everything I have endured. I'm so glad I have family like you all to uplift, encourage and teach me—to help me through these upcoming months.

Your lives are not in vain, and I so appreciate everyone who has contributed to loving me through the BVOV magazine. God knew I needed you all more than I did! Praise God for each of the contributors to the BVOV magazine. I receive all He has for me, and I take it by faith! Thank you, Kenneth, for your integrity in preaching, teaching and living out faith! Your words ALWAYS produce a crop for harvests, and you give the Word of God in all your articles as a reference manual!

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by Terri Copeland Pearsons

The Right Kind of Prayer



Every person ever born has built into them a desire to come to God. Because we are all His “offspring” (Acts 17:29) and all human spirits originally proceeded from Him, people in general have a desire to reconnect to where they came from—to pray.

Born-again believers, especially, sense the call to pray. But they don’t always respond to that call. Some push it down because prayer intimidates them. It seems too big. They think, *I don’t know how to pray. I don’t know what to say to God.*

Other believers may attempt to pray, but then they get discouraged. They back away from prayer because their prayers don’t seem to produce any results. James 5:16 tells us what the problem is in such cases. It says,



This article is an excerpt from the new book

An Encounter With Him

by Terri Copeland Pearsons.

See ad at the end of this article.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Notice it’s not just any prayer that avails much or gets results. It’s the right kind of prayer, prayed the right way, that gets the job done.

Is there really a right and wrong way to pray? you might wonder.

Yes. James 4:3 says, “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss” (*New King James Version*). But that doesn’t have to scare us, because we have the Bible. When our prayers aren’t getting results, we can find out from the Word of God and by the illumination of the Spirit where we’ve gone awry.

Now since as Jesus said, His words are spirit and life, we know we can gain understanding of anything related to prayer directly from the Word of God. Learning from the written Word how to be led inwardly by the Spirit doesn’t readily “compute” to the

reasoning mind. Our Father, who longs for us to partner with Him through prayer, has a beautiful way of opening our understanding so that we can not only grow to maturity in our prayer lives but thoroughly enjoy the journey.

The spiritual laws that define prayer can be taught, but the nature of prayer and the ways of the Spirit are most often “caught.” Brother Kenneth E. Hagin referenced this quite often when teaching prayer. So do I.

Gladly, God has added to that the joy of learning by praying together. The fastest way to grow in prayer is by having an experienced, Word-grounded, Spirit-led mentor. This is where prayer is best “caught.”

Clearly, my grandmother was the first and foremost mentor in my life for prayer and innumerable other aspects of life. Although I heard her teach prayer in her Bible class, it was not a frequent topic. I learned by “watching” in prayer with her but I didn’t have much working knowledge of Scripture. For a Copeland, that’s a serious deficiency.

About the time I turned thirty, I received clear direction from the Lord to begin teaching prayer. I respectfully told Him, “No, thank You.” Since I had little Bible instruction, I *actually* had the thought, *I don’t think the Bible says that much about how to pray.* Can you believe it?! My argument continued: *Lord, I don’t have much chapter and verse from the Bible on how to pray. And I’m a Copeland! Without chapter and verse, I could lose my birthright!*

But thank God for His patience and His system of mentors in the Kingdom. He had a true treasure waiting for me: Sister Lynne Hammond. Listening to a message of hers on prayer, my eyes were opened. I could “see” the ways of the Spirit revealed in the Word, then watch them unfold as she prayed. Her way of tying the Word with following the leading of the Spirit was evidence of her love for the Father and her closeness with the Master. For me, this was prayer-life changing.

Quickly, I gained confidence enough to step out and teach from the Word, with chapter and verse, what I knew by the Spirit. For my weekly “Prayer School” I would often listen to Lynne, then go teach what I learned, followed by demonstration of the Spirit as we prayed. Prayer School grew rapidly as well as many, many Word-founded, Spirit-led prayer groups.

Through Sister Hammond’s ministry I came to realize that *all* spiritual truths can and must be applied to all elements of the Kingdom. The

same spiritual laws that govern faith, love, the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit are fundamental in prayer. That makes sense since prayer is working with God, doing Kingdom business.

I have been privileged to benefit as a student and as a friend of Sister Lynne for many years now. She is one of the many mentors, only some of whom are mentioned in this book. Their value to my walk with God is incalculable. Because of them, I’ve been taught and caught many encounters with Him.

“But Pastor Terri, I don’t know anyone! How can I ‘catch’ prayer like that?”

I’m glad I heard Brother Hagin say that we can connect with the anointing on someone by listening with an open heart to their messages or simply reading their books (like this one!). Paul said in Ephesians 3:2-4, “Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace (His unmerited favor) that was entrusted to me [to dispense to you] for your benefit...as I already briefly wrote you. *When you read this you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ*” (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Of course you can pick up on a person’s unscriptural, carnal motives and behaviors as well. Jesus said, “Be careful what you are hearing” (Mark 4:24, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*). That’s why your own study of Scripture and fellowship with the Father by the Spirit is essential. He will never give you a serpent or a scorpion when you are hungry for the Bread of Life (Luke 11:11).

God is for us! He’s never going to say, “You prayed that wrong. Forget you!” No. He’ll keep working with us. If we keep seeking His wisdom in the Word and paying attention to the promptings of His Spirit, He’ll teach us whatever we need to know.

The Word will tell us, for instance, how to be bold in prayer. It will tell us how to be reverent and humble. It will teach us about the different kinds of prayer—such as the prayer of agreement, the prayer of petition, the prayer of praise and worship, and the prayer of faith—not because we have to stop and analyze what type of prayer is needed in every situation, but so we can easily follow the Holy Spirit in using them.

As we learn about prayer from the Word, all the aspects of it start to come together. They become for us the sword of the Spirit, and great power is delivered. I like how James 5 describes this in the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*. It says:

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]. Elijah was a human being

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One way we cultivate such sensitivity is by learning from the Word how to distinguish between the Holy Spirit’s leadings and the impulses of our flesh.
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THE LORD DIDN'T SPEAK QUIETLY TO ELIJAH BECAUSE HE WANTED TO MAKE HIMSELF HARD TO HEAR. HE DID IT TO TRAIN ELIJAH TO BE SENSITIVE TO HIM.

”

with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months. And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops [as usual] (verses 16-18).

Those verses point to Elijah as our example. So, let's think about him for a moment. What kind of power was delivered through his life? Well, let's see...

Elijah prayed, and it didn't rain for three years. During those three years, the ravens fed him by the brook Cherith. When the brook dried up and the ravens stopped coming, a widow fed him from a jar of meal that never ran out. When the widow's son died, Elijah raised him from the dead.

After that, Elijah called down fire from heaven and killed 450 prophets of Baal. Then he prayed for the rains to return, and when it began to rain, even in the mud he outran the king's chariots.

The greatest thing of all, however, was that Elijah learned to recognize the still, small voice of the Lord—a voice that was small, not because it lacked power but because it was quiet and subtle. The Lord didn't speak quietly to Elijah because He wanted to make Himself hard to hear. He did it to train Elijah to be sensitive to Him. He wanted Elijah to learn to respond to even His slightest whisper.

Psalms 32:9 says, "Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you" (*New King James Version*). Have you ever heard of a horse that is trained to neck-rein? A neck-reined horse is a horse that's so responsive to a rider's direction that you don't have to pull on the bit in his mouth to turn him. You just lay the rein on the side of his neck in the direction you want him to go, or lean a little this way or that way, and the horse will respond.

That's how we want to be with the Holy Spirit. We want to be sensitive and responsive to His slightest touch. One way we cultivate such sensitivity is by learning from the Word how to distinguish between the Holy Spirit's leadings

and the impulses of our flesh. The more we're able to do that, the more we'll be able to pray like Elijah.

Describing Elijah's prayer life, Sister Lynne said that "Elijah, through prayer, projected God onto a situation to stop things and to start things. One aspect of prayer is to release God out of your own spirit's deposit. The power residing in us is released through prayer. To not pray locks up this power."

How much of God's power do you, as a believer, have inside your spirit? According to Ephesians 1:19-21 you have within you:

...the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power...as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Now *that's* power! It's God's own power. It's *Him*.

It's up to you, though, to connect with that power and release it through prayer. If you don't pray, the power remains locked up. If you do pray but you don't pray the right prayer the right way, the power can't do what it's designed to do.

Even natural power needs to be rightly regulated and directed. We see this with electricity. For example, my electrician will not use an aluminum ladder. He knows that when working with electrical power, that's not a safe thing to do.

There are safe ways, however, to channel electricity that provide the right supply of power and direct it exactly where is needed. That's a wonderful thing. If you aren't familiar with the laws of electricity though, or you misapply them, it's much less wonderful. You don't *eat* toast, you *become* toast. (I'm not an electrical expert but I'm smart enough to know that!)



Terri Copeland Pearsons

is Chief Visionary Officer of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and president of Kenneth Copeland Bible College. The eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland, along with her husband, George Pearsons, she is also senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church at KCM in Fort Worth.

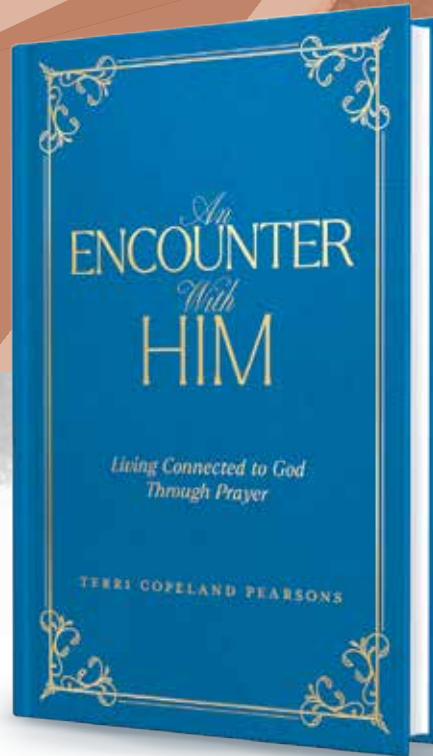


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Prayer itself is powerful because of the great power it releases. To use another metaphor, prayer is powerful like a gun is powerful—because of the ammunition it delivers. But you need to know how to load your prayer gun. You need to know how and where to aim it so that your prayers hit the mark.

Just think how much depends upon prayer!

The salvation of souls depends on it. Souls are not won nor lives transformed without prayer.

Forgiveness depends on it. Without prayer, forgiveness cannot be received and without forgiveness people remain trapped in sin.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit depends on it.

Our nation depends on it. According to 1 Timothy 2:1-4, our prayers for those in authority maintain conditions in our nation that allow us to live peaceful lives in godliness.

All you have to do is look around at society these days to see that somebody, a lot of somebodies, didn’t pray. On the other hand, you can look in the Bible at people who did pray and see the many wonderful things that have happened as a result. For example:

- Abraham prayed and Isaac was born.
- Moses prayed and received from God the first five books of the Bible, including the Ten Commandments.
- Joshua prayed and the sun stood still, and Israel was victorious.
- David prayed and he slew giants, became king, built a natural kingdom, laid the foundation for the Messianic Kingdom, and—most importantly—found the heart of God.
- Solomon prayed, became the wisest and wealthiest man ever, built the Temple and the glory appeared.
- The prophets prayed and fire fell, armies fell and lions went hungry.
- Jesus prayed—and thank God He did, because without prayer there would have been no choosing of the disciples, the Father would not have sent the Holy Spirit, and Jesus would be unemployed because He ever lives to make intercession for you and me (Hebrews 7:25).

No wonder 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to “pray without ceasing”! 🙏



The Secret

To Fulfilling
Your Call

“Don’t try to figure out all the things you need to do and how to do them.

Just listen day by day, take one step at a time, and you will come to the place where God wants you to be.”

How many of you feel God has called you to do something that is absolutely impossible? That was the question I asked a group of ministers one time. The number of hands raised in response was many. Almost every one of them felt God had called them to do something they didn’t have the ability to do.

Chances are, if you’ve been seeking God and asking Him to show you His plan for your life, you’ve run into the very same thing. Whether you are called to the fivefold ministry, or to serve in some other capacity in the Body of Christ, the vision God has given you is most likely something



completely out of reach. Something bigger than you ever dreamed you could do.

If that’s the case, I want to encourage you today. I want to share something God told me years ago that took a great deal of pressure off me in the area of ministry. It was this: *Everything God calls us to do is impossible to men.*

Now, doesn’t that make you feel better? It did me. When God said that to me, I suddenly realized He didn’t expect me to know how to do His work. He didn’t expect me to have the natural ability or strength to accomplish it.



It's not the lack of God's power. What stops us is taking our attention off Jesus and putting it on our circumstances.



It lifted the pressure off me to realize that what I have to do in God is impossible anyway. If He doesn't do it through me, it's not going to get done.

Impossible With Men

Just think about it. You can't lay hands on the sick and have them recover without the Anointing of God on you. You can't cast out devils without the Spirit of God moving through you. You can't even speak in tongues unless the Spirit gives you utterance.

Everything we're called to do in God is impossible with men. Once I realized that, it took the pressure off me—and put it on God. I no longer looked to my ability, or lack of it, but to God's ability.

When God gives us an assignment, He's not depending on us to use our own intelligence and power to complete that assignment. In fact, the Bible says He actually chooses us considering our lack of intelligence and power. First Corinthians 1:26-29 says:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.

God knew you weren't smart enough or strong enough to do His work when He

called you. That's *why* He called you. He knew you would have to depend on Him. And, believe me, He knows exactly how to get the job done.

I remember, years ago, when we were living in Tulsa, Okla., and Ken was a student at Oral Roberts University. One day he went down to the riverbed behind our house to pray and God spoke to him about ministering to nations.

Now at that time in our lives we could hardly afford to get across town. But God said, *You are going to minister to nations.* That was so impossible. No one even knew who we were. We didn't have any money. Just getting to Texas to visit Ken's parents was a big deal—and God was talking about *nations!*

We've been in the ministry 57 years now. In January 1990, God spoke to Kenneth again and told him, *You're just now in position to do the main work I've called you to do.*

Now things are happening in the nations. Nations are continuing to open up to us. We're on television in countries around the world. Doors have opened everywhere.

We're not trying to do it. God is taking care of it all. It thrills me to think of that!

He didn't expect Ken and me to know how to reach nations. He knew we didn't have an extra \$15 to get from one state to the other when He told us to go into all the world and preach the gospel. But God is not broke. He had the money. He knew where it was.

He has paid every bill all these years. We didn't need it in the bank. He had it! God doesn't expect us to have the resources or the know-how to do His work. Do you know what He expects from us? He just expects us to take the next step.

All He wants is for us to spend time with Him, pray and find out what He wants us to do next. He'll always reveal to you the next step to take. He may not show you any more than that, but you can be sure He will tell you the next step.

Walking on Water!

I like to compare it to walking on water like Peter did in Matthew 14. You know, walking on water is an impossible thing to



WORDS OF FAITH

do! Peter had absolutely no ability to do it. Yet, Jesus said to him simply, “Come,” and Peter jumped over the side of that boat and started walking. When he did, sure enough, the power of the word of Jesus took hold of him and held him up.

But then something happened. Verse 30 says, “But when he [Peter] saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.”

Take note of that. Peter was walking on the water just fine until he took his eyes away from Jesus and started looking somewhere else. He started looking at the size of the waves. He started looking at the circumstances. And he began to sink.

Every failure you’ve ever had in your Christian life has come exactly that way. It has come because you quit looking at who called you, quit trusting in His Word and started focusing on the problems around you instead.

That is what stops the people of God. It’s not the lack of God’s power. It’s not that He is unwilling to move and do supernatural things on our behalf. What stops us is taking our attention off Jesus and putting it on our circumstances.

“Oh, but Gloria,” you may say, “you don’t understand how really bad my circumstances are.”

It doesn’t matter how bad they are! For years the Apostle Paul was faced with the worst circumstances you could imagine. He was imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked and abused in almost every way imaginable for preaching the gospel. But those things didn’t stop him. At the end of his life he was able to say, “I have finished my course.”

Paul fulfilled an impossible call in the midst of impossible circumstances. How did he do it? He tells us in Philippians 3:13-14: “This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Paul had his eyes on the prize. He was looking ahead. He wasn’t looking at today. He wasn’t looking at his problems. Paul focused his eyes on Jesus and on the goal Jesus had set

If you’re a child
of the living God
you are a born
overcomer! Even
if you don’t feel
like one right now,
as a believer you
have within you
the overcoming
spiritual substance
that comes from
God. You have in
your spirit His life,
His divine nature,
and the dominion
that makes
Him God.

AS YOU FEED
ON GOD’S
WORD YOU
LEARN TO
OPERATE LIKE
HE DOES AND
ESCAPE THE
DESTRUCTION
THAT IS IN THE
WORLD.

(2 Pet. 1:4)



Kenneth Copeland



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before him. That focus carried him through in triumph.

The same thing is true for us today, which was true for Paul. If we're going to do the impossible, there's only one way to do it—by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the One who is Lord over this universe.

It's the Pleasures, Not the Problems!

One thing you need to be aware of, however, is this: It's not always the *problems* of this life that distract us. Sometimes it's the *pleasures*. Sometimes we just allow the natural things of living to draw us off course. If you're going to run your race effectively, you'll have to lay aside some things.

Hebrews 12:1 says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Weights and sin are not the same thing. Most of us are willing to lay aside sin. But we're reluctant to let go of those "harmless" things that just weigh us down. Things which occupy the time we need to be spending in prayer and the Word, for example. Things that hold us down and keep us in the natural realm instead of allowing us to soar in the Spirit.

Weights like that won't just go away by themselves. They have to be purposely laid aside. God won't lay them aside for you. You have to do it.

It's not easy to finish your course. It is easier to fall by the wayside, to let some distracting circumstance or some lying devil talk you into giving up by making you feel inadequate and alone.

If that has happened to you, let me tell you something today. In yourself, you *are* inadequate. But you're not alone! That makes all the difference.

When God spoke to the faith heroes in the Old Testament, men like Moses and Joshua, He would always say, "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. It doesn't really matter who you are. It is who is with you that counts!"

God didn't expect Joshua to be able to knock over the walls of Jericho with his own strength. Those walls were going to come down supernaturally. All Joshua had to do was trust God and take the next step. God told Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

He's saying the same thing to you today. "Don't be afraid. Be strong. Be courageous for I am with you!" That's the thing we have to remember. God is in us. He is with us.

If God has given you an impossible assignment, don't worry about it. He knows exactly how to complete it. And He intends to complete it through you.

It's the Anointed One in you who is going to do the work. It's the Spirit of God who will bring those impossible things to pass. All you have to do is take the next step.

Of course, you will have to do some things to find out what that next step is. You'll have to spend time in the Word, time praying in the spirit, time listening for and expecting to hear His direction.

But don't expect Him to give you 10 steps at one time. He rarely does. He just tells you what you can do today.

The secret is to be trusting and simple, to come as a little child before the Lord and hear from Him every day. Don't try to figure out all the things you need to do and how to do them. Just listen day by day, take one step at a time, and you will come to the place where God wants you to be. You will finish your race.

In the meantime, don't be weighed down with the need to get everything done right now. Don't struggle along, trying to hurry up the process. Learn to obey and, day by day, let God get it done on His schedule.

Kenneth Hagin prophesied years ago that days of preparation are never wasted days. So if you feel like you haven't arrived yet, relax. *You haven't arrived yet!* But if you're out there walking on the water with your eyes on Jesus, taking one step at a time, you're well on your way. 🙌

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Prison On Purpose!

Commander
Kellie's Corner

Superkids, pack your bags for our next journey into the Kingdom realm!

We've discovered our identity in Jesus as we've studied Ephesians, so don't forget to bring your ID (identity). We've learned from the life of the Apostle Paul that as we draw closer to Jesus, our love for Him creates a deep passion and connection with our God-given purpose. Paul wouldn't leave home without it! Because of his love for Jesus, Paul was a prisoner to his purpose; to share the gospel, the goodness of God, to those who were not Jews and did not know God (Ephesians 3:1-2).

On our recent journey to Greece we learned about Lydia, who lived on the river near Philippi. Lydia's heart was open to receive the good news and she became the first person to be born again in Europe! The Bible calls her house a house of prayer and worship. Superkids, that's a key we need to take on our journey.

When I was in Greece and saw Lydia's river, my heart began to worship our Jesus. I believe yours is burning with love for Him right now. Take a minute to sit with Him. He loves you so much.

As we continue to follow the journey of Paul and Silas, it gets crazy.

It was a short bus ride for me from Lydia's river and an easy walk for them to the busy market town of Philippi. They came out of a nice worshipful rest into a Wild West kind of showdown with a woman controlled by an evil spirit (you can read about it in Acts 16:16-22). They came to preach in the city, but she followed them around for days, stirring up confusion and

trouble to distract them from their mission. When the city leaders ordered that they should be beaten and thrown into prison, it seemed like they had failed at what God asked them to do.

Have you ever felt like you were doing what God asked you to do and then, BAM, something happened that messed up everything? That's the enemy's trick to stop us from fulfilling our purpose. For example, Satan thought he could stop Jesus by sending Him to the cross. Wow, did he get that one wrong! The cross was the very place Jesus needed to be to fulfill His purpose—to die for our sin! Satan didn't win, Jesus won (and so did we)!

What about Paul? Was it over for his assignment to preach in Philippi? Would being beaten and thrown into prison stop him from completing his purpose there? Sure, it looked bad. The jailer put Paul and Silas in a cell with no windows and bound their feet in chains. But Paul and Silas didn't even try to escape! Instead, they sang and worshipped God! They were surely not being quiet about the goodness of God. You might think they would worry, but they were not afraid. The Bible says



the other prisoners were listening to them singing when, "Suddenly, a great earthquake shook the foundations of the prison. All at once every prison door flung open and the chains of all the prisoners came loose" (verse 26).


Suddenly, they were free! Not just Paul and Silas, either. ALL the prison doors flew open and the chains were loosed from every prisoner! The jailer thought they all ran away, and he was in big trouble, but not even one of them ran.

Why didn't Paul and the other prisoners try to escape? What would make them stay? In the middle of their worship, the presence of Jesus showed up in that prison and they entered into the kingdom of God, held still by the glory. Jesus Himself makes His plans work in those hard places! Just like the cross put Jesus in the right place to live out His true purpose to be our Savior, Paul being in prison was exactly where he needed to be to fulfill his mission. If his job was to tell people about Jesus, there was no better place than the prison at Philippi! He had a whole audience of people, chained and going nowhere! Paul didn't need a nice church building to preach to Philippi. Those people became the church in Philippi!

Never forget, Superkid, when we refuse to be stopped by the enemy, God can cause what tries to distract us to become the very opportunity we need to do what He has asked us to do. The next time you feel like things are going wrong, remember Paul and Silas.

Superkid, this journey we are on is an adventure that never ends. Here is a perfect word to remember from Ephesians 3:7 (*New Living Translation*), "By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News."

It was God's power that changed Paul's prison into a house of worship, just like Lydia's. And it's His power that changes your every day into a BOLD adventure with Jesus!

Never turn back, Superkid!
Commander Kellie 



Kellie Copeland is responsible for Covenant Partner Relations at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and is the developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ.



2024

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