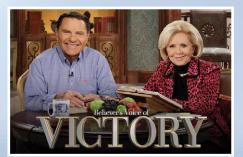


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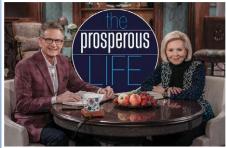
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### Editor's Letter



### Voting: The Real 'New Norm'

Four years ago this month, I used this space to talk about the coronavirus pandemic, and the effect it had on our nation. How, for a time, it forced almost everyone to live what we came to know as the "New Norm." It resulted in an almost nationwide lifestyle of mask-wearing, as well as introduced phrases like "social distancing" and "shelter in place," and for students across the country, "distance learning." Many of us even left the workplace and were sent home to work.

Other than these, and a few other subtle changes, I'm not sure what the "new norm" was all about. One thing I am clear on, though, is the realization that in the throes of this devastating tragedy that left thousands dead, and changed the lives of families forever, we, as a nation, were all in it together. COVID-19 didn't have a target audience. It exposed itself to everyoneand most everyone was fighting to avoid it. In other words, the results of being exposed to COVID had consequences for everyone. We were all susceptible to its effects.

That's the message we're hoping to convey in these pages over the next few months leading up to our country's elections in November. But it's also a universal message that encourages everyone who is eligible to register and then vote. Voting, or not voting, in political elections has consequences for everyoneincluding you, me and our families!

In his article this month, titled "We Hold the Keys," Kenneth Copeland writes: "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 are God's people, called by His Name, and we can stand in faith before God for the healing of our land.... 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!"

It's important that we do not allow the busyness of life to keep us away from the voting booth. We encourage you to take seriously your responsibility as a member of the Body of Christ. Acknowledge your right and privilege, and let your voice be heard by going to the polls and voting.

Voting is not a new norm, it's the responsibility of every believer-because we are all in this together!



KCM EUROPE













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"My heart is drawn to broken people because we don't have to stay broken."

-Reba Rambo





When The LORD first spoke to us about starting the Reliever's Voice of Victory magazine, He said: This is uour 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 newsthrough 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 evervdav life.

-Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

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With all the mistaken ideas that tend to surround the subject of divine healing, thankfully there's one thing about it a lot of folks accidentally get right. When they hear someone sneeze they say, "God BLESS you."

That's actually a very scriptural thing to say.

Although most people don't realize it, according to the Bible, healing truly is a manifestation of THE BLESSING of God.

It's not just a BLESSING. It's a part of THE BLESSING God gave to Adam right after He created him. It's a manifestation of the same power that was released upon mankind when "God BLESSED them, and... said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion (Genesis 1:28).

THE BLESSING is the most powerful spiritual force there is. It's more than just something God said to just encourage people to have babies. It contains God's own creative power. It was given not only so mankind could populate the earth, but so they could replenish it.

From the very beginning, God knew (even if most folks today don't) that without THE BLESSING, as people multiplied on this planet they were going to use it up. They were going to eat everything, wear everything, and build with everything; and eventually everything would get depleted.

That's what's happening around us right now. The earth is wearing out. It's being depleted. But the depletion isn't just a result of natural conditions. It's not just being caused by the ozone or car exhaust or the lack of windmills.

The real problem is spiritual. The earth is groaning under the effects of the corruption that entered the world when Adam bowed his knee to satan. It's suffering from the curse that came on it through sin and it's waiting for "the manifestation of the sons of God" (Romans 8:19).

Why is it longing for us?

Because we have THE BLESSING that has the power to fix this place. It contains

everything that's needed to liberate creation and turn this planet back into a Garden of Eden.

God didn't leave anything out of THE BLESSING. He made it all-inclusive. He incorporated into it everything that's needed to produce the conditions of heaven on earth.

Wherever THE BLESSING is in operation, it brings God's power on the scene to prosper people in every way. It replenishes us spiritually, physically, financially, relationally and even affects our environment. When you walk in THE BLESSING, believing God's WORD and obeying His voice, as Deuteronomy 28 says, "all these blessings...come on thee, and overtake thee" (verse 2):

You're BLESSED in the city and in the field (verse 3)

The fruit of your body, the produce of your ground, and your livestock are BLESSED (verse 4)

Your food is BLESSED (verse 5)

You're BLESSED coming in and going out (verse 6)

You're BLESSED financially and in every other way (verses 7-13)!

Notice those verses don't say The LORD "will come and BLESS you." They say His BLESSINGS will come upon you and overtake you, because as a child of God you're already BLESSED. As you believe and obey Him, THE BLESSING manifests in every area of your life—even while you're living in the middle of a cursed world.

### Snug, Dry and Protected

Sometimes, when I read about THE BLESSING in Deuteronomy 28, I envision it like a big umbrella with all God's people gathered up under it. There's rain and hail falling all around us, but we're protected.

# There's not one scripture in the Bible that says sickness is ever a BLESSING.





In this groundbreaking new book from Kenneth Copeland and Greg Stephens, discover how the holy Bible is a book of Blood covenants ratified in the sinless blood of Jesus—guaranteeing your access to healing, peace and provision in every area of your life!

### God, the Covenant, and the Contradiction

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We're nice and snug under there with our Father and everything is just fine.

That's how it is with THE BLESSING. Even in Old Testament times God opened it up like an umbrella as a refuge for His people. He made covenant with them and gave them His WORD so they could be shielded from the curse that was operating out there in satan's territory, and live under THE BLESSING of God

The power of THE BLESSING was actually what Jesus operated in when He was on earth. It was behind everything He preached, every miracle He performed, and every healing that took place in His ministry. The power of THE BLESSING was what raised Him from the dead after He was crucified, caught Him up at the Ascension and carried Him out of this planet.

Talk about powerful! If THE BLESSING could do all of that, just think what it can do for you. Certainly it can heal any sickness that tries to attack your body. It doesn't matter whether it's a simple cold or a so-called incurable case of cancer, THE BLESSING can handle it.

"Well now Brother Copeland, you have to remember, while God's BLESSING might be powerful enough to heal anything, sometimes He leaves sickness on us to teach us something. Sometimes He even sends sickness as a BLESSING in disguise."

No, He doesn't! That's a lie of the devil.

There's not one scripture in the Bible that says sickness is ever a BLESSING. On the contrary, Deuteronomy 28:61-62 says point-blank that "every sickness" is a part of the curse. It's the result of the evil that came into the world through sin, and a manifestation of satan's hatred of the human race.

Healing, on the other hand, is a manifestation of God's Love and redemption. It's the result of His mercy and of the goodness that overflows from His huge, compassionate heart.

John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish." Sickness is perishing coming to pass. It's a part of death. It gained access to mankind through Adam's spiritual fall and Jesus came to redeem us from it. He came, as Acts 10:38 says, "anointed...with the Holy Ghost and with power...doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

### God Never Appointed Sickness the Teacher

That last verse alone settles the issue! Sickness and disease are not from God. They're not good; and never a BLESSING. They are from the devil and always a curse.

That's why Jesus healed everyone who came to Him. He never told anyone they had to stay sick because God was trying to teach them something. Even when "great multitudes followed him...he healed them all" (Matthew 12:15).

What's more, He continued to heal "all" through His disciples when His earthly ministry was over. He empowered them to do the same works He did and, as Acts 5 records, they were soon healing multitudes too. "Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one" (verses 15-16).

Some people seem to think Jesus changed His attitude toward sickness after His resurrection. They think He decided sickness is good in certain instances and should be used as a teacher. But clearly, that's not true. Jesus continued in Acts, to treat sickness as an enemy. He continued to release the power of THE BLESSING to the sick people who crowded onto the streets of Jerusalem... "And they were healed every one."

God never has and never will appoint sickness to be the teacher of the Church! The very idea is not only unscriptural, it's unimaginable. God is a good Father. He would never put cancer on one of His children in order to teach them something. That would be child abuse in the highest form.

Even we as earthly parents know that. We may not be perfect, but we would never purposely give one of our children a disease. We'd never dream of taking away their health or injuring them so they'd learn some kind of lesson—no matter how important that lesson might be.

I remember a time when my son, John, was a little boy and he got interested in knives. He hadn't yet learned that they can be dangerous and one day I found him in the kitchen trying to open a pen knife. "Wait a minute there, son," I said, "that knife is sharp. It could really hurt you. I'll show you how to open it, but I don't want you to try to do it without Daddy here to help you."

"OK," he said.

We had our little lesson and, thinking I'd gotten my point across, I went into another room to do something else. After a while I heard John in the kitchen again yelling at the top of his lungs. I ran back in there to find him flailing around with that pen knife stuck on his hand. He'd tried to open it again by himself and it had closed on his thumb. He'd worked his hand around on the blade trying to get free and it had really done a number on him.

Obviously, if he'd heeded my previous warning he could have avoided that pain. But I didn't just let him suffer in order to teach him a lesson. I didn't say, "Boy, you think it hurts now, let me show you how bad this can be," and then clamp the knife down on him a little harder.

Certainly not. I would never do any such thing, and neither would any other decent parent, yet that's what some people have accused God of doing. They've said He gets mad and puts curses like sickness on us when we disobev.

God is not that kind of Father. He's never been into cursing people. He's into BLESSING them. As Psalm 118:1 says, "He is good: because his mercy endureth for ever." Even if we mess up some way and get ourselves into trouble, we can cry out to God and He'll come to the rescue just like I came to John's.

"Yeah, but doesn't God get mad at us when we sin and leave sickness on us for a while as a punishment?"

Absolutely not.

First, to do so would violate His loving nature; and second, it would be unjust. The punishment for our sin has already been meted out. Jesus bore it on our behalf. When He went to the Cross, He paid the price for us to be completely set free from the threefold curse of spiritual death, sickness and poverty. He "redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...that the blessing of Abraham might come on" us (Galatians 3:13-14).

For God to put any part of the curse on us now would be a miscarriage of divine justice. It would be like convicting and sentencing a person to prison twice for the same crime: "Surely [Jesus] has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment].... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole" (Isaiah 53:4-5, Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).

This is the good news! Because of what Jesus did, God isn't mad at us anymore and He never will be again, so we can always run confidently to Him. No matter how badly we might have fouled up, we can always repent and come boldly to His throne of grace, knowing that Isaiah 54 declares: "With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the broadcast LORD thy Redeemer. For this is as **Enlace** or the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee" (verses 8-9).

The scriptural promise about the "waters of Noah" is the most famous in the whole Bible. Every believer knows it. You can stop in any church and ask anyone if God is ever going to send another worldwide flood, and they'll say, "No. God said there wouldn't be and confirmed it with the rainbow. It's a done deal."

For you as a born-again child of God, the same is true when it comes to the curse. Your deliverance from it is a done deal. You don't ever have to bear it again. Through Jesus you've been freed from it, and you've inherited THE BLESSING in all its creative, replenishing power.

Once you get hold of that reality, and the revelation of it begins to bathe and renew your mind, your days of sickness will be over. You won't have to wait anymore for someone else to say, "God BLESS you."

Sneeze or no sneeze, your constant, victorious confession will be- "I am healed by THE BLESSING OF THE LORD!" V



Kenneth Copeland

Sun., June 2 How To Apply the Fundamentals of Faith In Your Life **Kenneth Copeland** 

June 3-7 God Has Taken Sickness and Grief From You **Kenneth Copeland** 

Sun., June 9 Jesus Is the High Priest Over Your Confession of Faith Kenneth Copeland

June 10-14 A Faith Review **Kenneth Copeland** 

Sun., June 16 Successful Prayer Is Based on God's WORD **Kenneth Copeland** 

June 17-21 Vision Connects You to Your Calling Kenneth Copeland

Sun., June 23 Seven Steps of Faith That Make Prayer Successful Kenneth Copeland

> June 24-28 Looking at Your **Problems With Faith** Kenneth Copeland

Sun., June 30 Faith-Filled Prayer Connects You to God's Divine Answer **Kenneth Copeland** 















Watch

## Journey to the Kingdom! Commander Kellie's Corner

Superkid, this month Commander Kellie's Corner is coming to you from the land of GREECE! Around the time I was to write to you, I took a mission trip near the town of Thessaloniki.

We've been working our way through Ephesians, Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. Guess where that is? Greece! A big part of Paul's ministry was to the Greeks, so much of his writing occurred there. It was no easy job, but Paul was so in love with Jesus he didn't let anything, including being stoned (Acts 14), stop him from doing what Jesus had asked him to do.

We ended last month with Acts 14:22, "At each place they went, they strengthened the lives of the believers and encouraged them to go deeper in their faith. And they taught them, 'It is necessary for us to enter into the realm of God's kingdom, because that's the only way we will endure our many trials and persecutions'" (The Passion Translation).

I couldn't get that phrase in the second part of that verse out of my head! I just kept thinking, We need to take a side journey! We need to see how to enter into the Kingdom realm. Again, the Lord would bring that thought: We need to take a side journey.

Little did I know that Jesus already had it planned, but there I was in Greece, headed to the city of Philippi, and it hit me: I'm on a journey where Paul journeyed and the Superkids are going on a journey with me! I got excited for you to know what Paul experienced and how he endured!

What we've learned in Ephesians is only part of what the Lord wants us to see. In the book of Acts we can see the way Paul—well, ACTED! We see how Paul LIVED out the words in the letters he wrote to the churches (the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians).

Look at that phrase from Acts 14 again: "It is necessary for us to enter into the realm of God's kingdom, because that's the only

way we will endure our many trials and persecutions."

They entered into the realm of God's kingdom to escape trouble, and to have courage and strength in dangerous or even deadly situations. The Lord wants us to expand our hearts to know what that means. What is the Kingdom realm? Is there a place in God where the enemy can't touch us? I say, "YES!" As we journey on, we will look for keys in Paul's words, his actions and his worship. His whole life was a worship to the Lord as he went where the Lord sent him.

When God gave Paul a vision of a man from Macedonia (and Thessalonica, Philippi and other cities in the Bible), asking him to come help them, Paul, Timothy, Silas and Luke went to Philippi. Acts 16:13-18 says,

"When the Sabbath day came, we went outside the gates of the city to the nearby river, for there appeared to be a house of prayer and worship there. Sitting on the riverbank we struck up a conversation with some of the women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia, a

businesswoman from the city of Thyatira who was a dealer of exquisite purple cloth and a Jewish convert While Paul shared the good news with her, God opened her heart to receive Paul's message. She devoted herself to the Lord, and we baptized her and her entire family. Afterward she urged us to stay in her home, saving, 'Since I am now a believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house.' So we were persuaded to stay there."

Superkids, prayer and worship are important keys to living in the Kingdom realm. When the missionary team and I went to Philippi, we stopped first at Lydia's river. You could feel the presence of the Lord there. We stood on that same riverbank where Paul met Lydia. She and other women had gathered at the river to pray and worship God. When Paul told her about Jesus, the Holy Spirit opened her heart to receive Jesus as her Lord. She gave herself fully to the Lord and her family did too! She asked Paul and the team to stay at her house and they did. Lydia is known as the first person to become a Christian in Europe!

The doorway to the kingdom of God is the heart and Lydia was the doorway to the heart of Philippi. Prayer and worship becomes the meeting place with God's presence. I believe this little meeting at the river prepared Paul for what he would face in the days ahead.

This month, I challenge you to have conversations with Jesus every day. This is prayer. Open your heart to go deeper, to know Him more, and to hear His message to you. This is worship. This is the beginning of your journey into the Kingdom and into a place of protection and victory!

m was Lydia, a and into a place of protection and was lity of So, off we go!

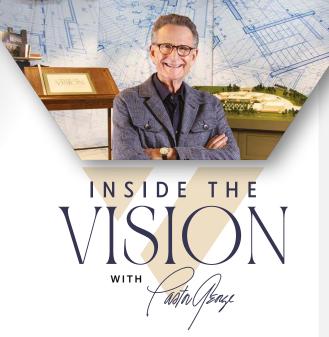
So, off we go!

Commander Kellie

Thessaloniki

My granddaughter Kate at the Lydia river

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.



## Inside <sup>z</sup>ision:

### A Step-by-Step Process

By now, you have most likely viewed my weekly program on VICTORY Channel, called *Inside the* Vision. The main purpose of the program is to share with you everything that is taking place at KCM, EMIC, KCBC and VICTORY Channel, as well as through each one of our global offices.

The other purpose for ITV is to encourage your vision.

From time to time, I conduct "Vision School" on the program. It is designed to teach about various aspects of believing for and walking out your vision.

Let's talk about how to walk out your vision.

My frame of reference for vision over the last 48 years has been Kenneth Copeland Ministries. I have diligently observed Kenneth and Gloria

Copeland as they have sought The LORD, exercised their faith, and fulfilled their God-given vision. They literally began their ministry with nothing except faith in God's WORD. That was all they needed. It is truly amazing to look at where they started and where the ministry is today.

They gave, and still give, The WORD of God first place in their lives and make it final authority in everything they

So, it is only proper to begin this study with the written WORD of

Habakkuk 2:1-4 says,

"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end

him: but the just shall live by his faith."

it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in

Based on that scripture, here are some fundamental steps I have learned from Kenneth and Gloria about fulfilling their vision:

STEP No. 1-Take time to seek The LORD.

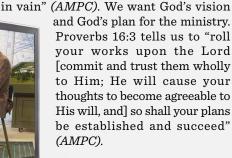
First, find out what He wants you to accomplish for His kingdom. Proverbs 19:21, Amplified Bible, Classic Edition, says, "Many plans are in a man's mind, but it is the Lord's purpose for him that will stand." The Message translation says, "We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but GOD's purpose prevails."

Psalm 127:1 says, "Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; except the Lord keeps the city, the watchman wakes but

> [commit and trust them wholly (AMPC).

"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets. that he may run who reads it."

Habakkuk 2:2, (New King James Version)



The starting point for all vision is, "LORD, what do YOU want us to accomplish? What is YOUR will concerning this project? What is YOUR vision?"

Kenneth and Gloria have always wanted God's plan for their ministry.

### STEP No. 2-Write the vision.

Make it clear and specific. It helps our faith to write the vision so that we can run with it. When



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we do that, the vision won't be ambiguous. How can we successfully hit the bull's-eye if we don't know what the target is? If we don't know what our destination is, how will we know when we have arrived?

A lack of clarity makes our purpose elusive and unattainable. Writing a God-given vision makes it clear and measurable. It focuses time, energy and effort toward the priorities rather than the problems. It provides a way to measure progress and makes decision-making easy.

One university study revealed that only 3% of the graduates followed written goals with an accompanying plan of action. The 3% who followed their written plan earned more than the combined earnings of all the other 97%!

We are still operating from the vision The LORD gave Brother Copeland in 1976: *Preach this uncompromising Word of Faith on every available voice!* 

Recently, I heard Brother Copeland say something I had never heard before, as He was sharing about the importance of writing down what The LORD gives us. He said: "I heard The LORD say, I will honor your written word the way you honor My written WORD, if you get your written word out of My WORD. He doesn't have anything to honor if you don't write it down. Put it on paper in your own handwriting."

That is powerful!

### STEP No. 3-Locate your scriptures.

Kenneth and Gloria have always emphasized the vital importance of locating scriptures that support their God-given vision. God's WORD and prayer are the foundations to all that KCM accomplishes. Whenever a vision has been presented and the scriptures have been given, we have stood on those scriptures and declared them out loud.

Many years ago, we were building the Student Life Center. One of our scriptures was Hebrews 3:4 (AMPC): "For [of course] every house is built and furnished by someone, but the Builder of all things and the Furnisher [of the entire equipment of all things] is God." We stood on that scripture, as well as others. We declared it all the time. Today, the Student Life Center houses both KCBC and our children's ministry.

You could say that the Student Life Center was built by one confession of faith at a time.

### STEP No. 4-Don't give up!

Habakkuk 2:3 (AMPC) says, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end [fulfillment]; it will not deceive or disappoint. Though it tarry, wait [earnestly] for it, because it will surely come; it will not be behindhand on its appointed day." Galatians 6:9 tells us to "not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint" (AMPC).

Kenneth and Gloria have had many opportunities to give up. However, they have held fast and haven't quit. And, look what The LORD has done over these 57 years of ministry!

### STEP No. 5-Keep walking by faith!

Vision is sight. It is the ability to see what others don't see. It is the ability to see beyond natural limitations.

For example, The LORD spoke to Abram regarding his ability to see into the spirit. He said,

Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you (Genesis 13:14-17, New King James Version).

There are visionaries throughout history who were able to see what others could not see.

When Disney World first opened in October 1971, Walt Disney's wife, Lillian, was asked to speak at the grand opening. Disney died in December 1966. When she was introduced, someone said to her, "Mrs. Disney, I just wish Walt could have seen this."

Lillian Disney stood and replied, "He did."

Hebrews 11:1 (AMPC) says, "Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]." Habakkuk 2:4 tells us, "The just shall live by his faith."

I am so thankful for the teaching of faith we have received from Kenneth and Gloria Copeland over all these years. They are visionaries who have taught us to see the written WORD of God manifest in our lives.

It really does take faith to be able to see the fulfillment of our vision.

As I heard Brother Copeland say years ago, "Every step is a step of faith."  $\mathbb V$ 



### Steady In Troubled Times

The Word of God will hold you steady in times of trouble. An unbreakable, divine covenant, it's filled with promises of victory sworn to you in the precious blood of Jesus that will empower you to triumph every time.

REMIND THE DEVIL THAT GOD'S PROMISES TO YOU HAVE BEEN RATIFIED IN JESUS' BLOOD.

(REV. 12:10-11)

MEDITATE ON THE FACT THAT JESUS' BLOOD CANCELS ALL SATAN'S CLAIMS ON YOU.

(COL. 2:14-15)

WHEN THE DEVIL ACCUSES YOU, PLEAD THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

(HEB. 10:14)

DON'T JUST TALK
ABOUT YOUR
BLOOD COVENANT
WITH GOD, WALK IN
IT BY COMMITTING
YOURSELF FULLY TO
HIS PLAN.

(ROM. 12:1)

WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE THREATEN TO SHAKE YOU, USE GOD'S WORD TO ANCHOR YOUR SOUL.

(HEB. 6:17-19)







REBA RAMBO
SAT ON HER PALLET
ON THE FLOOR. SHE
LEANED AGAINST THE
COLD CEMENT WALL,
THINKING.

SHE WAS NOT GOING TO BE A SINGER.

# Lifting Him D

As the only child of Buck and Dottie Rambo, she adored them and what they did. But their life wouldn't be hers. An exceptional student with an inquisitive mind, Reba had already set a lofty goal. She would be a neurosurgeon.

Reba's early life had been normal, if poor. Her parents had been living in Dawson Springs, Ky., when God called them to minister through song. He impressed Reba that this was something they had to do.

Buck and Dottie packed everything and loaded it into boxes. When they drove away, 3-year-old Reba stood on her grandparents' porch smiling and waving a hanky. In all her young life, she never let them see her cry when they followed God's calling.

To protect her from the hard life on the road, Reba stayed behind in Kentucky with family. In addition to her grandparents, there were lots of aunts, uncles and cousins. Her dad had been one of 13 kids. Her mother, one of 11.

One of the people Reba admired most was a family friend who was a neurosurgeon. Reba had been 11 years old the first time he let her watch a brain surgery. She was awestruck.

In the summers, she traveled with her parents. Churches often put them up in what

### READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

### Old Testament New 2 Sam. 12:1-13:33 Sun 2 Ps. 69-70; Prov. 14:15-35 2 Sam. 13:34-15:23 Acts 22 Mon 3 2 Sam. 15:24-17:29 Acts 23 Tue 2 Sam. 18:1-19:30 Acts 24 Wed 5 2 Sam. 19:31-21:22 Acts 25 2 Sam. 22:1-23:7 Acts 26 Fri 2 Sam. 23:8-24:25 Sat 8 9 Ps. 71-72; Sun Prov. 15:1-15 Mon 10 1 Kgs. 1:1-2:9 Acts 27 Tue 11 1 Kgs. 2:10-3:28 Acts 28 Wed 12 1 Kgs. 4:1-6:10 Rom. 1 1 Kgs. 6:11-7:39 Rom 2 14 1 Kgs. 7:40-8:53 Rom 3 Sat 15 1 Kgs. 8:54-10:23 Sun 16 Ps. 73-74; Prov. 15:16-33 Mon 17 1 Kgs. 10:24-12:15 Rom. 4 Tue 18 1 Kgs. 12:16-13:34 Rom. 5 Wed 19 1 Kgs. 14-15 Rom 6 Thu 20 1 Kgs. 16:1-18:6 Rom 7 21 1 Kgs. 18:7-19:21 Rom. 8 Sat 22 1 Kgs. 20:1-21:16 Sun 23 Ps. 75-77;

Prov. 16:1-17

Tue 25 2 Kgs. 1-3

Wed 26 2 Kgs. 4:1-5:19

Thu 27 2 Kgs. 5:20-7:20

28 2 Kgs. 8-9

Sat 29 2 Kgs. 10:1-12:8

Prov. 16:18-33

Sun 30 Ps. 78:

Mon 24 1 Kgs. 21:17-22:53 Rom. 9

Rom. 10

Rom. 11

Rom. 12

Rom 13

they called "prophet's rooms." One such place was in the basement of a church.

With only one bed, Dottie made Reba a pallet on the floor. During the night, Reba woke to find a rat nibbling on her fingers. Jerking away she sat up and said, "I don't want to do this.

### A Different Direction

"I understood that my parents had a call on their lives," Reba explains. "I just felt called to be a neurosurgeon. They were always supportive of that."

In December 1964, the young man who sang with her parents got married and left the group to go out on his own, Reba recalled. Her parents hired a woman to take the man's place.

"I came home from school one day and heard them practice," Reba recalled. "It was awful. The music sounded great, but the blend just wasn't working. My mom was an alto and my dad sang lead. They didn't realize that this woman's voice was such a low alto. Two altos and a lead do not make a trio.

"In frustration, I said to the woman, 'Pat, this is how the part goes.' Then I sang it.

"Afterward, my mom cried, and my dad grinned. Mom said, 'Reba, would you sing with us?'

"I reminded her that I wanted to be a neurosurgeon. She said, 'Would you just take a year and sing with us?"

Buck and Dottie had several concerts coming up, Reba recalled.

"They would be singing with the Happy Goodman Family, The Statesmen Quartet and the Blackwood Brothers. So, I agreed to do it.

"The Rambos had a very distinctive style of phrasing. They switched parts in the middle of the line. Fortunately, I knew all the parts. I just didn't know all the phrasing.

"I played classical guitar. Now that I was going to sing with them, Dad had me learn to play the upright bass, called a bull bass.

"Right after Christmas, I did my first concert with them. That first year, I felt

so scared that I cried myself to sleep every night."

It wasn't long before Reba started writing songs. How could she not? Her mother had written hundreds.

One night a woman walked up to Reba.

"I know you've always wanted to be a brain surgeon," the woman said. "What you've got to understand is that the words you write and the songs you sing go inside people. They renew their minds. It's like a kind of brain surgery."

"I'd just started writing songs, so what she said really resonated with me," Reba recalls. "I wondered if God had something for me in music. I decided to continue singing. If God wanted me to be a surgeon, there would be time for it later."

Reba was 13 when she started recording with her parents and wrote some of the songs that appeared on their albums. At 15, she recorded her first solo album, *On the Folk Side of Gospel*.

In the early '70s, Buck suffered five heart attacks. Doctors told him that he would never sing again. Longtime friends Andraé Crouch and his sister, Sandra, invited Reba to travel and sing with their group, Andraé Crouch and The Disciples. She remained with them for 11/2 years.

### Sweet Hour of Prayer

One night they were traveling through Nashville when Andraé knocked on Reba's door.

"Hey, get up and show me how to get to your house," he said. "The Lord told me we're supposed to pray for your dad."

"It was around 3 o'clock in the morning when we arrived," Reba remembers. "There were more than a dozen of us on the bus." As she descended the bus, Reba looked up to see her mother opening the front door.

"I knew you were coming," Dottie told her. "The Lord told me."

The group crowded into the bedroom, where they prayed for Buck for an hour, Reba said.

Some healings are gradual, but Buck's healing came instantaneously. As soon as he regained his strength, Reba rejoined the group and went back on the road with her parents.

In 1976, Reba said, she wrote a jazz arrangement to the song, "Just As I Am." She recorded the song, which later led to her solo album, *Lady*. The song became the largest-selling gospel record that year. It didn't fit in any category so one was created: contemporary Christian. *Lady* also won a Dove Award.

### Alone In a Crowd

"When *Lady* did so well, I received calls to sing at Jesus festivals and colleges," Reba remembers. "After a lot of prayer, I went out on my own.

"Mom and Dad wanted to take a break, so I leased the band and the bus. My second concert on my own was in Texas. I was scheduled to open for Andraé Crouch and The Disciples, except they got caught in a blizzard and couldn't make it. The place was sold out with more than 3,000 people in the audience.

"When they announced that Andraé wouldn't be there, most of the crowd booed," Reba remembered. "I stood in the folds of the curtains as they introduced me. The audience was promised a full refund if they didn't like my performance. The audience was hostile, and I felt terrified.

"I looked up and saw huge angels all around the room. All of them were looking at me. I heard the Lord say, If you'll lift Me up, I'll draw all these people to Myself.

"When I walked onstage, the band was playing the intro to our first song. I signaled them to cut it and said, 'Give me a C.' I'd never done anything like this before. I sang prophetically, *Lift Him up, lift Him up, lift the Name of Jesus higher*. The band picked up the melody and played with me. God gave me a full song with three different verses. Before it was over, 300 people gave their hearts to Jesus. Nobody asked for a refund."

In 1980, at the suggestion of her producer, Reba began writing songs with Dony



McGuire. They were well-matched. Although they could each write lyrics and compose music, Reba's strength was her lyrics. Dony's was composing music.

They married within a year.

Reba and Dony wrote a musical called *The Lord's Prayer*. Each line of the prayer became a song. It won a Grammy in 1981. They performed a six-minute medley of it at the awards show, and it received the longest standing ovation in the history of the Grammys up to that time.

### Changing Laws and Changing Lives

In 1982, Reba and Dony wrote a musical called *The Bride*. The play was a metaphor about the Bride of Christ. Across the U.S., thousands gave their hearts to Jesus after seeing it. That number grew to millions as the play went around the world. To date, it has been translated into 30 languages.

That year, Reba and Dony flew to South Africa to see it performed there. At the time, it was illegal to have a cast of mixed races. That law was changed to allow *The Bride* to perform there.

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I was raised during a time when people didn't talk about sickness. disease or emotional pain. They sure didn't talk about abuse. But there comes a time of reckoning when you need to turn and face the dragon.





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While their music career thrived around the world, at home Reba and Dony faced a private problem. Reba suffered three miscarriages. She had several corrective surgeries. Seven specialists told her that she could never have children.

About the same time, they heard Kenneth E. Hagin teach on the authority of the believer. Grabbing hold of that message, they began studying the Word of Faith.

"When we began learning about faith, I started watching Brother Kenneth and Gloria. We went to several of their crusades and ended up doing some together. When they started having ministers' conferences, we attended those when we could.

"In 1976, we were in Zimbabwe. The day before we were supposed to fly home with our team, we realized that we were \$5,000 short. It may as well have been \$5 million. We fell on our faces in prayer.

"The next morning, Brother Copeland called our office. He said, 'The Lord told me that Reba and Dony need \$5,000. Where should I wire it?"

One time Brother Copeland prophesied that Reba and Dony were a "bridge ministry." In her mind's eye, Reba saw the London Bridge. But Brother Copeland stopped and said, "No, no, no, no, no. You're not a big, fancy bridge. You're a rope. You'll be thrown across dangerous crevices. Men will crawl across the rope. Some will look back and say, 'If it hadn't been for the rope, I would have perished."

### See It and Seize It

They traveled to Los Angeles for Reba to undergo surgery. While she was in the hospital, Dony went shopping in Beverly Hills and bought her a stunning maternity dress.

"The Lord spoke to me to buy this," Dony told Reba. "I know that if we can see it, we can seize it."

Dony later took Reba to a photographer, and had her picture taken while wearing the maternity dress. She stuffed a pillow underneath to give the impression of being pregnant. Once back home, they posted those pictures throughout the house, in their office—even on their travel bus.

When people would ask, "Is Reba pregnant?" Dony would reply, "Isn't she?"

Eventually, Reba became pregnant. While on a trip to Miami, at five-and-one-half months pregnant, she began to hemorrhage—just as she had done three times before. Only this time, faith rose in their hearts and Reba and Dony prayed like they'd never prayed before. Afterward, Reba slept nearly 24 hours.

Back home, they went straight to her doctor's office for an ultrasound. They couldn't hear a heartbeat. The nurse had urged Dony to not watch the ultrasound.

"No, I'm going in there," Dony said. "I'm going to see my baby alive."

During the ultrasound the tech said, "She looks great!"

She?

"I was stunned," Reba recalls. "Not because the baby was alive, but because it was a girl! As soon as Dony and I married, I saw a little boy running across the room. It was so vivid, I thought he was real. The Lord told me that his name was Israel Anthem McGuire. His initials would be I AM. He was a son of God and would have a unique prophetic gift. I didn't know I was going to have a daughter. If I'd had Israel first, I probably would have relaxed my faith."

Destiny was born in 1976. Israel was born in 1988.

### Darkness and Light

In 1993, Reba and Dony traveled to Riverside, Calif., for a three-day meeting. Revival broke out and they stayed for 77 services. It didn't stop. One revival in Arizona lasted for two years. They finally shredded their schedule.

"During that time, Dony struggled physically and mentally," Reba explains. "Two days after Christmas in 2018, he told me that he was leaving me, and the ministry.

"I ended up having a breakdown too."

This trauma episode triggered an old one in Reba's life that she thought she had buried.

"When I was a child, a man in our community sexually molested me," she said. "The Lord directed me to a place that deals with trauma. I stayed there seven weeks.

"I was raised during a time when people didn't talk about sickness, disease or emotional pain. They sure didn't talk about abuse. But there comes a time of reckoning when you need to turn and face the dragon.

"To do it you have to use your faith while being vulnerable. I learned to admit that I'd considered suicide. Not because I wanted to die, but because I wanted the pain to stop. I could speak that fact and follow it with the word of God that says by His stripes we are healed."

### A Voice Gone Silent

For about four years after her marriage ended, Reba didn't minister. She did, however, continue to write songs.

"Today I have such compassion for people who struggle with mental illness, anxiety, shame and fear. My heart is drawn to broken people because we don't have to stay broken.

"My partnership with Kenneth and Gloria is precious to me. Not only did they teach us how to walk by faith, they gave me another gift.

"When Kenneth looked at me, I felt as though he was saying, 'I see you. I see what you've been through.' People don't feel seen these days."

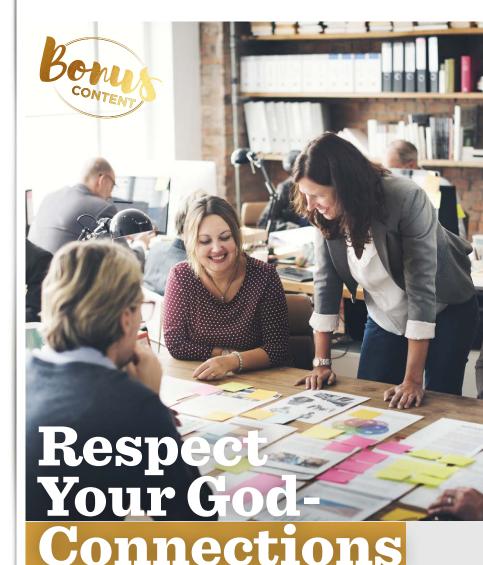
Today, Destiny is very much like her grandmother Dottie. She is a strong woman, a worship leader and songwriter. She and her husband, Joel, produce worship projects, and travel around the world.

Israel and his wife, Lauren, work in film. He creates music videos while she does animation and Claymation.

Reba's bonus child, Dionne, was three when she married Dony. Today Dionne is an amazing interior designer.

Reba and Destiny just finished a project called *Rambo Women*. It's an Americana sound, featuring three of Dottie's songs, three of Reba's songs, and three of Destiny's songs.

In both good times and difficult times, Reba Rambo still does what she learned to do so many years ago. She continues to lift Jesus higher.



"God never planned for believers to be lone wolves. None of us have all the anointings we need for navigating through life. God intended for us to appreciate the giftings in each other."

It was not by chance that you heard the gospel. It wasn't even by chance that you heard it from the specific person you did. That was a *God-connection*, and having walked with the Lord for many years, I can attest to God-connections being so, so important.

I was saved at a little Baptist church in Mississippi. Praise God for those precious people. They were part of my and my wife's faith journey. None of our time together was an accident. They were God-connections, pure and simple.

And it wasn't an accident that someone gave us a cassette tape of a message by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. We'll never forget it. Phyllis and I took that message into our little mobile home with its shag



### When we quit trying to build our individual kingdoms and instead pool our resources and faith, nothing that God has told us can be kept from us.



carpet and plastic couch, and we listened. My, how our spirits leapt! Redeemed from the curse of the law? We've never heard anything like this! It was through Kenneth Copeland Ministries and those teachings that we were first introduced to Kenneth E. Hagin. That God-connection set the course of Moore Life Ministries and Faith Life Church.

God-connections are precious for all believers. But the enemy is out to sever them. He wants to stop the combining of anointings that cause something bigger to happen than what we can achieve on our own. We must make up our minds to keep that from happening and instead honor what God has done.

### Man-Joined Versus God-Joined

Mark 10:9 says, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Yes, Jesus was talking about marriage, but the principle of being God-joined versus manjoined is the same. There's a temptation to join ourselves to people and things that God didn't put together.

Second Chronicles 20 provides an example of this.

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, joined himself with Ahaziah, the wicked king of Israel:

And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongaber. Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish (verses 36-37).

Jehoshaphat had joined with an ungodly king, something God didn't ordain, and the results were devastating. God wasn't in it, so it didn't succeed.

We see the same principle in the parable of the prodigal son. The story tells us of a young man who took his portion of inheritance and squandered it on riotous living. When he was out of money, Luke 15:15 says, "He went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine." The story's lesson was that God hadn't planned for that young man to even be there, much less go through all of that. The young man had made the decision to join himself to someone outside of God's best.

There's a difference between being manjoined and God-joined. Man-joined is not blessed. God-joined is! What God joins together should be honored and protected because it's *powerful*.

### When We Come Together

God never planned for believers to be lone wolves. None of us have all the anointings we need for navigating through life. God intended for us to appreciate the giftings in each other. Many times, I have been in meetings when the Spirit of God moved, my brothers and sisters in Christ yielded to the Spirit, and their anointings manifested. It was beautiful and without each of them there, it wouldn't have been possible.

None of us will ever produce that kind of corporate anointing on our own. Never, no matter how much we pray or fast. The enemy knows this, and he fears it. That's why when we resist the devil in faith and stand on our authority in Christ, the anointing manifests and the enemy flees.

The devil is always working to instigate some kind of strife and division in the Body of Christ. His greatest nightmare is when believers unite in faith, because when we quit trying to build our individual kingdoms and instead pool our resources and faith, nothing that God has told us can be kept from us.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good...." Many people stop reading that verse right there, but that's not all it says. Paul was talking to a specific group of people. He finished by saying, "to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Does everybody love God? No, a lot of people hate God. Is everything working for their good? No, the promise isn't for them. It's for us, those whom He loved and called.

### **Prospering Together**

Two months after I was accepted into Rhema Bible Training College in Broken Arrow, Okla., the Lord gave me three words: *Help Brother Hagin*. I thought I'd be there a year, but those three words were my ministry directive for the next 20 years! Brother Hagin didn't know me personally. There were thousands of students on the campus. I didn't know how to help him, but whenever the school or church asked for volunteers, I signed up.

Every time they said, "We need this," I'd think, Brother Hagin needs help.

One thing led to another and eventually the leaders let me help in Healing School. Then they asked me to teach at the school. I felt so inadequate. I didn't have a lot of higher education, so I started reading big theology books to prepare. I needed a dictionary just to get through them. Still, that didn't set well with me. I was paddling upstream and getting more frustrated.

When I finally started seeking the Lord, He spoke to my heart and said, *Keith, I have many good ministries all over this world. I could have sent you to any one of those. I sent you here. Get this.* 

Those final two words, *Get this*, rang in my ears. I went back to basics. I put the big theology books away and got out Brother Hagin's book *What Faith Is*.

That taught me a valuable lesson: We are limited in our time, scope and contacts. If we try to do things He didn't direct and connect us to, we'll spread ourselves too thin. Instead, we each need to focus on what we personally are supposed to be doing, and connect with other believers who we can come alongside.

That's what God provided for Lot when He connected him with Abram (Genesis 12: 1-4). Together, the two prospered. Genesis 13 tells us they had so much that the land wasn't able to bear them. Lot was blessed with the same things that Abram had because he had connected to his uncle.

### Remember and Appreciate

The Lord made it clear to me that He blesses God-connections when He connected me with KCM. He said, Kenneth Copeland Ministries has an abundance of resources, and they're reaching multiple countries.

In the beginning, when we first connected with KCM, our ministry couldn't afford to buy a TV for our house, let alone equipment for a TV studio. We were using our faith just to get a used car. Believing for an airplane hadn't even crossed our minds.

Today our ministry has its own television studios. We're part of KCM's VICTORY Channel and other networks. We have our own aviation department and fly internationally. Why did all this happen? God connected us to Kenneth Copeland Ministries. That connection helped us reach people and fulfill what God called us to do.

We refuse to let our connection with this ministry to be severed.

That's what eventually happened with Lot and Abram. Genesis 13:8 says, "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren."

Lot didn't know that when he separated from Abram, he moved away from his protection. It was only the mercy of God that he and his daughters were saved out of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24-25). But even that didn't save him. He ended up losing everything—his family, his honor and his prosperity—when he severed what God had joined him to.

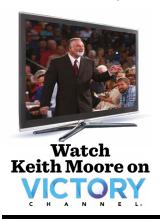
The Bible says, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth" (Isaiah 52:7)!

We must remember and appreciate those who first preached the gospel to us, those who have invested in us, those who helped us grow and mature, and those who made it possible for us to fulfill what God has called us to. They are our *God-connections*, not chance encounters. God ordained and blessed them, and what "God has joined together, let not man put asunder!"  $\P$ 



Keith Moore is founder and president of Moore Life Ministries and Faith Life Church in both Branson, Mo., and Sarasota, Fla.

For more information or ministry materials visit moorelife.org.



### The Lord's Word **Produces Life**

**Dear Pastors** Terri and George, I have been watching the series on healing promises and wanted to share this with you. The teaching has renewed my commitment to keeping the Word in my heart/eyes/ears all day long. I have scripture inside cupboards and on index cards, and a scripture on my door to read and touch as I exit my home. Also, I am reflecting on activities that drain my time and take me away from the Word. Thank you for your enthusiastic, scriptural teaching!

L.L. | Florida

### Victorious and **Triumphant**

Recently I tuned in to one of your broadcasts. I repeated a prayer with you and the congregation. It consisted of healing, victory, wholeness and triumph, as I recall. When I went to sleep that night, an affliction that I had been suffering with since the age of 2 was broken! I had prayed many days and nights for this, as this is something I was trusting in God to help me with. I know by faith in the spirit realm that affliction is finished and behind me now.

Thank you for listening to my testimony, for preaching the Word of God, and for all that you all are doing.

### 'Back to Normal'

I have been on dialysis for a few months. My wife got a text from the doctor's office, and they said I wouldn't need dialysis anymore because my kidneys were getting back to normal and beginning to function as

they should! I've been watching the EMIC services and had decided to join the fast, and this came about on the first day of the fast.

L.S. | New Mexico

### Let Every Creature **Praise the Lord**

I called in for prayer for my dog, that was not able to stand or use its legs. My dog started to respond immediately after prayer and three days later she is standing on her legs and moving. T.G. | Texas



"Living a lifestyle of love is essential if you want to maintain living contact with God." - Gloria Copeland

### He **Provides** for Our Needs

Shortly after I prayed with a prayer minister, I received two checks and was able to pay two bills.

M.S. | Arkansas

### The Lord Has the Final Say

Dear Brother and Sister Copeland. I wanted to share, as a Partner, I had bloodwork done and got the results. There was something off, so they did another test.

I have been speaking healing over my body, declaring that every drop of my blood would be divinely healed. I got a call recently from my doctor's office and the second round came back as completely normal. Praise God!

M.W. | Tennessee

### Others

**Faith for** I called a couple weeks ago asking prayer for a young woman who had COVID and was on a respirator to keep her alive. Now she is off the breathing machine, recovering well. PTL! D.P. I Rhode Island

### **Open Door**

I called because I have been out of work for months. I received prayer several times for work, after applying for many jobs. Recently, I was hired to do a job perfect for me. PTL!

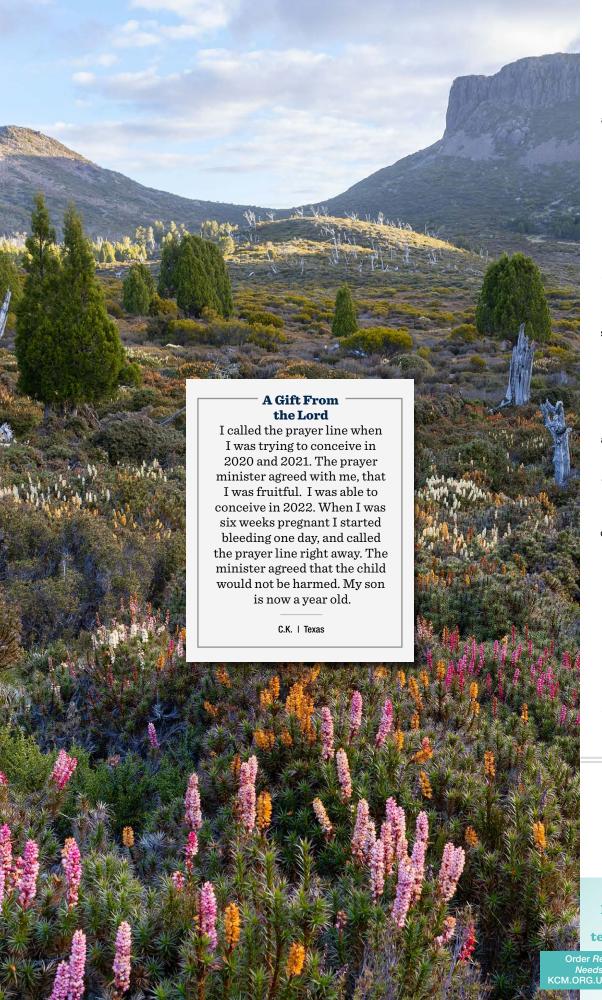
C.M. | North Carolina

### Forgiven To Forgive

Brother Copeland prayed a prayer that believers have redemption from destruction, as promised in God's Word in Psalm 103 and 91. I pray this prayer daily over myself and my family. I was led of the Holy Spirit to add: "Father, thank You for activation and application of the blood of Jesus to us." I asked the Lord how to do that. Fast forward, Pastors George and Terri were on Believer's Voice of Victory and began teaching on the lifestyle of forgiveness, which answered my prayer—and what an answer it was.

I had been in sin and unforgiveness, and out of love with my neighbors. As I responded, I was able to apply and activate the blood. I went to my neighbors, repented and asked for forgiveness. Weights were immediately lifted and God is restoring relationships. Thank you, Brother and Sister Copeland and Pastors Terri and George, for your faithfulness, obedience, and willingness to hear and honor the Lord Jesus.

A.B | Mississippi



### 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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### PRAY, LISTEN AND OBEY...

As the Body of Christ, we have great authority in the kingdom of heaven and in the things of God. It may come as a shock to many to learn that even though politicians will have to answer to God for what they do. the **Body of Christ** will also be held responsible.

We are responsible for everything that happens in the earth politically.

The condition of the world is supposed to be controlled by our prayers. The Church has been given the power to change things. We stand in a Covenant. We have the armor of God and the power of attorney to use the Name of Jesus and the power of His blood.

God desires for His people to pray and take a stand with Him in faith. First Timothy 2:1-2 says, "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."

It is vitally important that we pray daily for our leaders.

It's also crucial that we ask God how to vote. Voting is our God-given right and responsibility. In this nation and others, people have suffered and died so we could have that right. We must not take it lightly.

Not voting is the same as casting a vote for the wrong side. Yet there are Christians all over this country who are not even registered to vote—enough of them to swing every election.

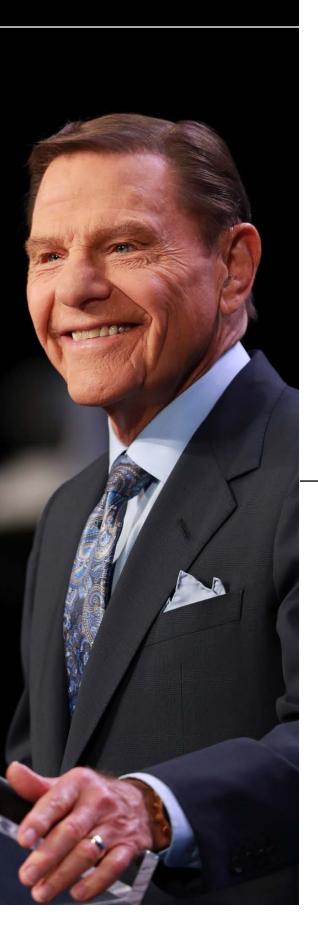
The time has come to take our place. We are responsible.

When God speaks, we are to listen and obey, and we need leaders who will do the same. Party affiliation is not what matters. The person God can use is the one with a willing heart who will obey His voice.

Ask God to give us leaders with willing hearts who will stand for what is right. Then vote as He leads you.

Your Holy Spirit-directed ballot is a powerful seed. When you vote in faith, in obedience to God, your household will be protected. God will take care of you no matter who is in office or what is happening in the world. So don't fear. Remember that God is your Source, not the people who get elected.

Whether you live in America or another country, don't miss your God-given opportunity to lift up your leaders in prayer and to vote when elections are held. Remember, you have authority and a responsibility to pray, listen and obey. You have a voice in the kingdom of God, so let it be heard!



We are responsible for everything that happens in the earth politically.

An Election Year Prayer for the Nation Heavenly Father, I join with my brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ and lift up our nation to You. During this crucial election year, I claim Your personal choice for every office, in the Name of The LORD Jesus Christ. Give us leaders who have willing hearts to listen to Your voice and follow Your will. Remove any who refuse. I pray that all our leaders come into the knowledge of Your perfect will and carry it out. Give them wisdom and revelation.

Give us leaders who will do what is right so the Church can live in peace, honesty and godliness and The WORD can go forth freely.

Thank You, Father, that this country has a God-fearing president. I declare that we have God-fearing leaders in every position of authority at national, state and local levels.

Reveal to me, LORD, how to vote. I commit to do my part, and I'll be a witness to encourage others to do the same.

I declare that we have a record turnout of Christian voters in every election this year. Father, we choose You. We choose to pray, listen and obey.

Thank You, LORD, that people all across the land are repenting and turning to You. Our finest hour as a nation is just beginning. Thank You for watching over and protecting us. I declare that we are, and we remain, one nation under God. I give You all the praise and the glory for it, in Jesus' mighty Name. Amen!







"It will clear the weeds from the ground of your heart. It will cause the soil of your life to BE RICH AND PURE AND PRODUCTIVE. So when you sow to the spirit, you'll reap your harvest much faster."

## Holiness: Living Unto God

Faith in God's Word always works. There's no question about that. But have you ever noticed it seems to work more quickly for some people than for others?

I have. In fact, I've experienced it both ways in my own life. There was a time years ago, when Ken and I had just begun living by faith that we would dig into the Word, believe God for something, then wait...and wait...and wait...for the manifestation. The process seemed so slow. Often we could have gotten what we wanted much faster by natural means. But we'd keep confessing

and acting on the Word anyway because we knew that faith pleased God (Hebrews 11:6).

If we were steadfast, the answer always came eventually. It had to because the Scripture says,

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.... And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:7,9).

When you sow the Word by faith, you'll always get a harvest. But I'll confess to you, there were times when Ken and I got weary in well doing because our "due season" took so long to arrive!

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Since then, praise God, we've learned a few things. We've discovered that although, when you live by faith, there is always a time of patiently waiting for God's promises to be realized in your life, it *is* possible to speed things up a great deal. If you're a wise spiritual farmer, you can shorten the time between seed planting and harvest! How? By carefully tending the soil of your heart.

When you think about it, that just makes good sense. After all, no farmer just sows seed in the ground and leaves it there untended. Even in the natural world there's no such thing as an effortless harvest. If you want a good crop, you fertilize the ground. You water it. You keep the weeds out.

### Beware of Vain Amusements

The same thing is true in the realm of the spirit. There are some things you have to do if you want your faith to produce effectively. What are those things? I can sum them up in two words: Sanctify yourself.

Sanctify is a scriptural word that means "to separate yourself" in two ways: 1) from the things of the world; and 2) to the things of God

Some Christians don't want to do that. They want to go the places worldly people go, watch the things they watch, spend their time the same way other people spend their time—and still reap a harvest of blessings. But I can tell you, that's not going to happen.

We live in a world that is going the opposite direction from the Spirit of God. On every hand, things are getting darker. Things that wouldn't have been said or done in public 25 years ago are now being said and done every night on prime-time television.

We have come to that time Paul was referring to when he said to Timothy:

But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]. For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy]

desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appearement): [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash [and] inflated with selfconceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:1-4, Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).

### Break the Habit

Those verses accurately describe the way the world is going. But you're not of the world. If you're born again, you're not to conform to the image of this world, you're to conform to the image of Jesus.

That means your lifestyle shouldn't be the "normal" lifestyle of this world. Now, I'm not just saying you shouldn't be involved in gross sin. That is true, of course. But the things of the world that trip up most believers are more subtle. Many of them would fall into the category of "vain amusements."

For example, I think one of the worst enemies to the growth of God's people today is the television—that box that's always ready to show us adultery, sin, murder and bad news.

Of course, we don't necessarily intend to watch those kinds of things. It's just that at those times when we want to relax, when we don't want to have to think—the television is right there for us. We can just turn it on and let it feed us. It requires no effort on our part.

What's more, it's addictive. Some people can't go 10 days without their television fix. But you can unplug it for a few weeks and break that addiction. In fact, you'd be amazed at how effective that one decision could be in revolutionizing your life.

I'm not telling you it's wrong to watch TV. But I am telling you this: You can't feed

constantly on its junk and expect your spirit to be ready to manifest the power of God. You just can't do it.

Whatever you give your attention to is what's going to be inside you either fertilizing or depleting the soil of your heart. Don't kid yourself into thinking you can watch negative stuff and it won't affect you. There are no two ways about it; what you do gets into your heart. And what you spend an abundance of your time doing will be in your heart in abundance.

Don't be one who goes after vain amusements instead of the things of God. Don't sell out to TV when you know you should be reading the Word or praying in the spirit. I know it takes discipline to say no to vain amusements. But that's what it takes to walk in the better things of God.

### **Check Your Affections**

Separating yourself from the ways of the world doesn't always mean just leaving destructive activities behind, either. It often means simply getting rid of those things that don't build you up spiritually.

Hebrews 12:1 says it this way: "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."

You may have weights in your life that are slowing you down spiritually. They may not be bad things in themselves, yet they are draining you of spiritual power. You may be so wrapped up in your occupation, for instance, that you spend all your time thinking and talking about it. Or you may have a hobby that has become the center of your attention.

The problem with things like that is not that they are sinful, it's that they've captured your affection. And the Bible says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which

You may be so wrapped up in your occupation.... Or you may have a hobby that has become the center of your attention. The problem with things like that is not that they are sinful, it's that they've captured your affection.



are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2).

God wants you to set the affection of your heart on Him. Why? So that He can pour out His affection on you!

You can't give anything to God without His giving you much more in return. When you set your affection on Him, He will bless you and bless you and bless you!

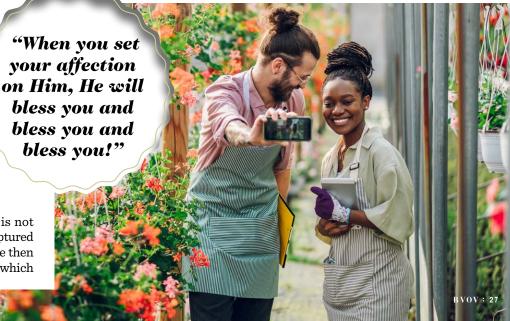
If you're not sure whether or not your affection is set on God, you can find out. Simply evaluate how you're spending your time and attention. If you're doing the things that please yourself when you know you should be seeking after the things of God, then your affection is set on yourself.

Whatever has your affection will get your attention. But do you know what? The reverse is also true. Whatever gets your attention will eventually get your affection.

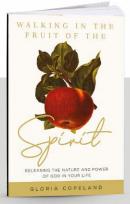
That means you can redirect your affection by redirecting your attention. You can begin to set your heart on things above by purposely turning your attention to the Word, and by replacing those things that don't build you up spiritually with things that please the Lord.

### **Rich Rewards**

What we're actually talking about here is holiness. Contrary to what you might think,



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holiness is not some kind of sanctimonious religiosity. Holiness is living unto God.

Unlike the world's way of living, holiness isn't easy. You can't just coast along doing what everybody else is doing and be holy. It takes determination. It takes effort. It takes submitting yourself to God when naturally speaking, you want to do something else.

But the rewards are tremendous.

Hebrews 12:14 says without holiness, "no man shall see the Lord." Does that mean if you're holy you *will* see Him? Yes!

Jesus Himself said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:21).

In other words, if you live the way we're talking about right now—doing things that are pleasing to God—Jesus will reveal Himself to you. He can become so real to you through the Word, it will be as if He's standing right in front of you. You can be closer to Him than you are to your best friend.

That, in itself, would be reason enough to live a holy lifestyle. But the Bible promises even more rewards!

You can find one of them in 1 John 5:17-18. It says, "All unrighteousness is sin.... We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

Can you imagine what life would be like if the devil couldn't touch you? Well, that's the way God wants your life to be. He wants you so free, Satan can't hurt you in any way.

### Condemnation or Consecration?

Look at 1 John 3:21-22 and you'll see another reward that awaits those willing to live holy: "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

Do you know why so many people's prayers fail to get answered? It's not because God

doesn't do His part. It's because the people had no confidence when they went before God in prayer. They couldn't ask in faith because their hearts condemned them.

You can mentally justify yourself and rationalize all day long. You can tell yourself that the things you're spending time on are good, that there's really "nothing wrong with them." But you can't fool your heart.

Deep inside you know whether you're giving God top priority or not. You know if you're spending quality time with Him every day in the Word and in prayer. And if you're not, your heart will condemn you.

When your heart condemns you, your faith is impaired. On the other hand, when you're sold out to God, your heart knows it. So instead of condemning you, it gives you confidence toward God.

Your faith rises up. Something inside you knows you're going to receive whatever you ask of Him, because you keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

### Rapid Results

When that happens, your faith not only works—it works more quickly and effectively than ever before. I can testify to that from personal experience.

Many years ago, before I understood much about this kind of lifestyle, I prayed and believed God for the money to buy a house. At the time, it seemed to me like a big request. After all, Ken hadn't been in the ministry very long and we'd never owned a house before. What's more, we'd committed to God not to borrow money, so the amount of cash we needed seemed monumental to us at the time.

But I believed for it anyway, and I got it by faith. Let me tell you though, it took a while. Six years, to be exact.

Some years later, I found another house I wanted. Once again, I prayed and believed God for it. But this time it was different. I had begun to walk in the things I am teaching you here, so when I prayed, I had a confidence

toward God that I hadn't experienced with the first house.

Somehow I just expected Him to give me what I asked. I knew in my heart I'd been diligent to do the things He wanted me to do. I'd been faithful to Him—and I expected Him to be faithful to me.

It wasn't something I had to work up in my mind and believe. It was a confidence that was simply there when I needed it.

There was nothing in my heart to condemn me and say, "You know, you haven't really been spending time in the Word like you should. You've been lax about your prayer time."

You see, it's not God who holds out on us. Our prayers are hindered because our own lack of consecration affects our hearts. It keeps us from receiving what God wants to give.

Jesus had so much confidence in the Father that His faith knew no possibility of defeat. He also said, "I always do those things that please My Father." Can you see the connection?

Jesus' total dedication to pleasing God caused total confidence in the Father. And total dedication in your life to the things of God will do the same thing for you.

It will clear the weeds from the ground of your heart. It will cause the soil of your life to be rich and pure and productive. So when you sow to the spirit, you'll reap your harvest much faster.

You'll plant God's Word in your heart and confess it with your mouth, and before long you'll see the results springing forth. Jesus will make Himself real to you. And your heart will be constantly filled with confidence toward God.

If that's not a fabulous way to live, I don't know what is!

Why don't you take the challenge God has for you? Determine to please Him. Clear out all the unproductive things and step up to a new level of dedication. Don't put it off another minute. Pour on the power of obedience—and open the door for God to pour out His power on you!



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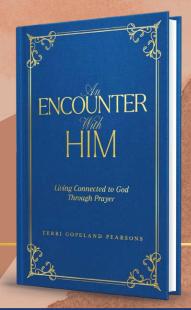
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