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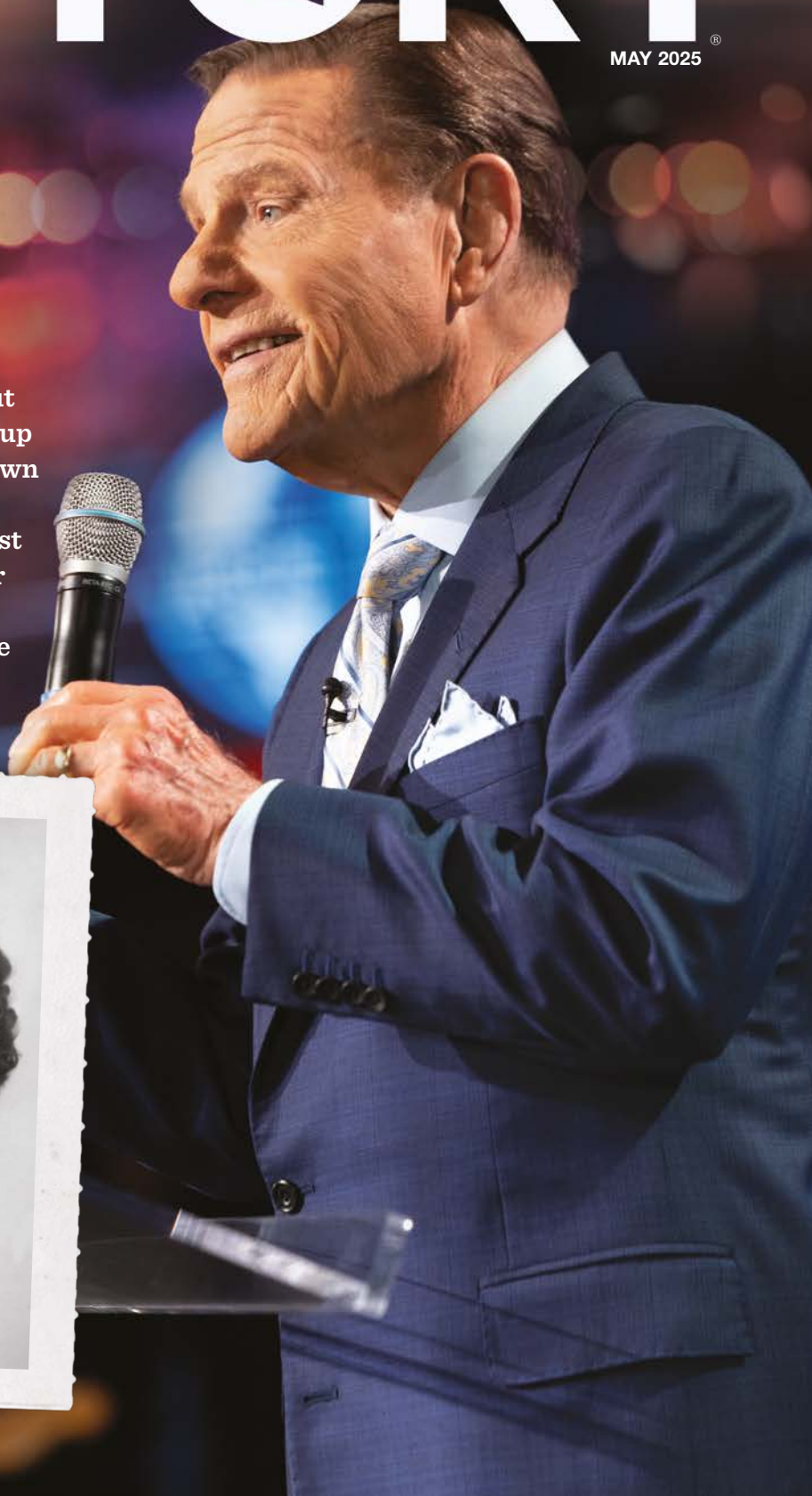
# VICTORY

MAY 2025

"I don't like to think about where I would have ended up if my mother hadn't laid down her life for me in prayer. I was headed for hell as fast as I could go. But Mother would get in prayer sometimes and stay there for days and *days*."

Featured  
In This Issue:  
***You Have  
the Power***

by Vinita  
Copeland





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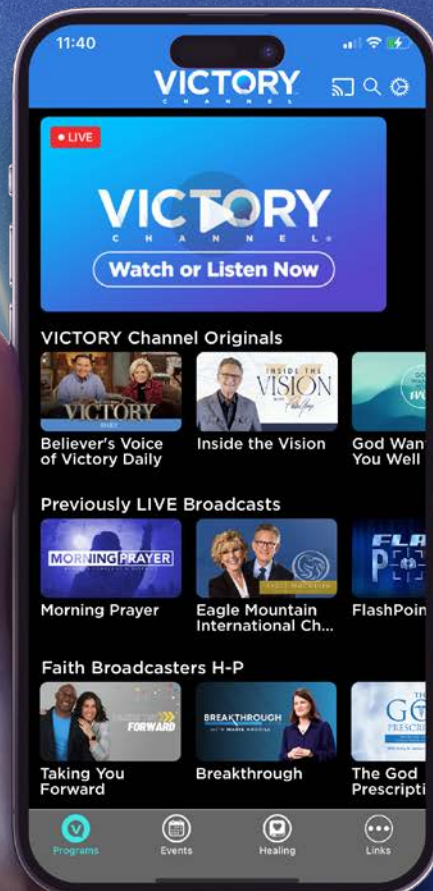
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# Editor's Letter

## 'The Struggle IS Real!'



Perhaps you've heard this expression before. It was popularized in the early 2000s, and most often is used in a humorous fashion to emphasize that a particular situation (or life in general) is difficult.

Here's a story I ran across several years ago that sheds a different light on the realness, and the importance, of "the struggle," and why, from a spiritual perspective, it is very necessary.

You may be familiar with some variations of this story.

A young boy watched as a butterfly struggled to make its way through the tiny hole of its cocoon. Sensing the butterfly might be in trouble, the boy decided to help. With a pair of scissors he cut the hole wider. Now, the butterfly was free. But the boy noticed it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

He watched eagerly, expecting any moment for the butterfly's wings to expand to support its body so that the creature could fly off. Nothing happened. The butterfly never changed, and never flew.

Through his eagerness to help, the boy actually stunted the butterfly's development. He didn't understand that he had interrupted a vital part of the butterfly's developmental process. The butterfly needed to go through the process of struggling against the cocoon to gain strength and fill its wings with blood. The restriction of the cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening would force fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings to prepare it for flight. It was the struggle that made it stronger.

This serves as a reminder that while it may be difficult to watch those around us struggle, often the best help we can provide is to do nothing. By intervening, and shouldering the burden ourselves, we rob them of the opportunity to grow and get stronger.

The Bible says you are like the branch of a tree, and God is your root system. To become all that He intends for you to be, you must receive nourishment from the roots. God, who is your source of life, is always ready to give you nourishment. By staying connected to God—through prayer and through His Word—His plan for your life provides the perfect way for you to develop perfectly, just as He intends.

Ronald C. Jordan  
Managing Editor

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# INSIDE MAY



**4**  
**Honor and  
the Covenant**  
by Kenneth Copeland

**10**  
**You Have  
the Power!**  
by Vinita Copeland

**13**  
**Get Back Up**  
by Sarah Pearsons

**18**  
**Staying  
Connected  
Step by Step**  
by Gloria Copeland



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— Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

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by **Kenneth Copeland**

The Bible, literally, is a book about covenants. Both the Old and New Testaments have honor as the primary point of focus. Honor is central to all the other principles of the Bible.

It is very interesting that we find so much about honor and the covenant in Proverbs.

# Honor and the Covenant

This entire book concerns the godly teachings of a wise man who is instructing his son how to live a righteous life.

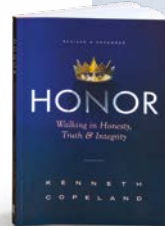
The Bible says God chose to establish His covenant with Abraham because He knew Abraham would teach his children to “keep the way of The LORD”; that is, to live a life based upon and filled with honor for God (Genesis 18:17-19). To do so is to be in right-standing with God.

## Right-Standing With God

“He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour” (Proverbs 21:21). Jesus echoed these same words in the New Testament when He said, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

He told us to seek not after the things of this world, but after God and right-standing with Him. He promised that if we would do so, all the things we need would be added to us.

Proverbs 21:21 is written in the same light. It assures us that anyone who follows, or seeks,



This article was adapted from the newly revised and expanded book by Kenneth Copeland titled *Honor: Walking in Honesty, Truth & Integrity*.

after mercy and right-standing with God will receive both with honor.

Now, most Bible interpretations of the word *mercy* give a false impression of its real meaning. Before we can talk about mercy, we have to look at some other words, as well. Remember, the Bible is a book of covenants. Both the Old and New Covenants were written to people who understood the meaning and significance of covenant relationship.

English translators have used the word *testament* in place of *covenant*. The word *testament*, in the legal field, refers to the will or desires of a person regarding their personal property, to be carried out after his or her death.







That is why this word was chosen rather than *covenant*. The English translators were showing that the New Testament is the “Last Will and Testament” of Jesus. When He died for us, we inherited His WORD, His promises.

The word *testament*, however, does not really match the original Hebrew. It loses the most important concept. The Hebrew word translated *covenant* is *beriyth* and means “...cutting...; a compact (...made by passing between pieces of flesh).” It refers to a cut made in the flesh so that blood flows as evidence of a binding agreement between two parties.

A covenant is more than a contract or a promise. It is the most binding agreement

An honorable man is one who is the same whether or not someone is looking.

***He is honorable toward his boss whether he is liked or not.***

in existence, because blood is involved. It is more serious, more formal, more permanent, because it involves a blood relationship.

The word *mercy* is similar to *testament*. It is a weak translation of a very powerful concept.

A rendering of the Greek word *agape* in the New Covenant is translated *love*, *mercy* or *compassion*. But this really has a passive or inactive connotation or meaning. The concept of mercy can best be described by the words *will love*. Now, that is powerful.

In essence, the person who enters into a covenant relationship with another is saying to him, “I swear in blood that I will love you forever.” It has nothing to do with what the other person does or does not do. It is an oath of love. It is not in return for favors. It is forever—regardless.

The Hebrew equivalent of the Greek word *agape* is *hesed*. It literally refers to the compulsion to give and to love without limit those who have no merit. That is why, in the New Testament, the English translators sometimes used the word *charity*.

Somehow, the concept did not come across. There is so much giving involved in mercy that our English words don’t really convey the full implication or significance.

This concept is best seen in a covenant. The strongest Covenant we know of is that which exists between Jesus and the Church. In essence, Jesus

said: “I am giving Myself to you. That includes everything I have and everything I ever will have. Everything that is Mine is yours. You have My Name, My WORD and My nature. Anyone who comes against you comes against Me. Anyone who curses you curses Me. Any enemy of yours is My enemy, as well. When you are attacked, just call upon Me and I will do whatever I must to guard, protect and rescue you.”

That is mercy.

Keep that concept in mind because it affects the word *honor*.

Proverbs 21:21 could be translated: “He who seeks after right-standing with God—anyone

who has a Blood covenant with Him—finds life, righteousness and honor.”

### Giving Life To Gain Life

Give, give, give—not take, take, take. That’s the way an honorable covenant believer must live. In order to give, we have to make ourselves vulnerable. Think about it. That’s what Jesus did. He made Himself vulnerable when He gave Himself for us.

Losing sight of *ourselves* will cause us to find life.

Remember how Jesus put it? “He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 10:39). The man who seeks to keep his life will eventually lose it, but he who gives up his life for the sake of Jesus and His kingdom will find it.

That person who gives his life will find life, dominion, authority—and *honor*. When he gives his life, or puts it at risk; when he makes himself vulnerable by obeying The WORD of God, he places himself in a position in which God can trust him with dominion, authority, riches, life and *honor*.

However, if an individual is dishonorable, he will be unable to handle the dominion, authority, riches and honor that come to him. Instead, he will allow them to handle *him*. Soon, he will honor the gifts rather than the Giver. God will not allow that to go on for

long. It’s not part of the Covenant, the blood-sworn contract between God and His people.

### Honor When No One’s Looking

“Love your enemies, BLESS them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

An honorable man is one who is the same whether or not someone is looking. He is honorable toward his boss whether he is liked or not. He is honorable toward the company whether he’s treated right or wrong.

An honorable man acts as if there is no one around but him and God. He acts the way his covenant or contract calls for him to act.

Imagine that I am working for you, and you are a hateful boss. As your employee, however, I am in covenant with you. There is a Blood covenant made in Jesus’ own blood that has brought us together and made us one. I must honor you and prefer you. If you continue to misuse and abuse me, I don’t have to stay in your employment unless The LORD says to, but as long as I am there, I must work for you in honor, treating you as if you were Jesus Himself, never dishonoring you in word or deed.

Jesus said we are to love those who misuse and persecute us (Luke 6:31-35). He was talking about the power of honor. When He said to do unto others as you would have them do unto you, He didn’t say to do unto others *before* they do unto you. The way we deal with others is the same way we will be dealt with.

As we walk in *God’s* honor, we are to prefer one another (even those who persecute us) and not follow our flesh or the thoughts in our own minds. Eventually, the majority of people will treat us the same way in return. Why? Because God honors His promises. If you and I keep our part of the covenant, God will see to it that others do so as well. If we give honor, we will receive honor.

We are not of this world anymore. We are new creatures in Christ Jesus, reborn of His Spirit into His kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are in a Blood-covenant relationship with Almighty God Himself. His Name is now our

“  
**You can’t  
have a  
spiritual  
bond  
without  
some kind  
of covenant  
involved.”**



name (Deuteronomy 28:10). We are one. We must represent Him the way we desire for Him to represent us.

This covenant relationship is very real to me. It's as real as if I had taken a knife, cut open my hand to let blood flow, thrust it into the bleeding side of Jesus, and said, "I covenant with You forever." But His blood was not tainted with sin like my blood. I don't need to mix my blood with His. His blood took the place of my blood. He has made me His righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30).

When I plead the blood of Jesus, the blood of my Covenant with Him, satan hears that plea. He knows that I know the power of my covenant. My enemies have become God's enemies. That blood is the ratification, the guarantee, of the eternal Covenant between me and Almighty God. I am in submission to Him, so when I resist satan based on my Covenant through the shed blood of Jesus and stand my ground, satan must flee (James 4:7). He has no choice. Jesus defeated him in awful combat in the pit of hell, making a show of him openly, triumphing over him in it (Colossians 2:14-15). Jesus handed that victory over to us (Matthew 28:18-19). The devil has not forgotten.

Honor God. Honor the Covenant. Live a life of honor whether anyone else sees it or not.

### Husbands, Honor Your Wives

"Ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands.... Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:1, 7).

The WORD of God says husbands ought to honor their wives, treating them with care, kindness, tenderness and love.

The Scripture also says for wives to honor their own husbands by submitting to them. That does not mean wives are to be under their husband's thumb and to follow their orders. That's not being submissive, that's control and domination. Wives are supposed to give place to their husband's honor toward them.

Verse 7 says that husbands should dwell with their wives "according to knowledge." This is referring to knowledge of God's WORD. Husbands and wives are to dwell with each other in honor, submitting to one another in love

and honor as God has explained in His WORD, not according to religious tradition.

For too long, women have been relegated to second-class citizenship in the kingdom of God simply because proud, foolish men have not understood what the New Testament really teaches about Covenant honor. In their ignorance and arrogance, such men have built dishonorable religious systems that bind up the handmaidens of The LORD.

These men are in for a big surprise. The husband will find himself carrying around his wife's Bible for her while she preaches the gospel and wins souls by the millions!

I believe the closer we get to the return of Jesus and the catching away of the Church, men in the Body of Christ will repent as they begin to realize that their wives have just as many Covenant rights and privileges as they have (Galatians 3:26-29). They will start treating them with the honor God expects for His daughters—as the fine, priceless treasures, gifts from Him, that they are.

Also according to 1 Peter 3:7, husbands are to treat their wives with honor *as if* they were weaker vessels. This does not mean, however, that women *are* weaker vessels. God made men and women. Each are superior to the other in certain ways. Both are made in His image: "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27).

That means God is both male and female.

Every word in the Hebrew language has either male or female gender—except one! *Jehovah* is the only word that is both male and female gender. So God is as much female as He is male. When God made Adam, Adam was both male and female. God separated the female part from Adam and deposited it in Eve. Then He brought them back together in the covenant of marriage to honor one another (Genesis 2:23-25). Where a man is weak, the woman is strong. Where the woman is weak, the man is strong. United, the two should have no weaknesses. They should honor and reverence one another as heirs *together* of the grace of life, and *together* submit to God, honoring Him.

### Honor One Another

"Be kindly affectioned one to another...in honour preferring one another" (Romans 12:10).

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I'm reaching every day to learn more from God about how to treat my wife. When I live in honor toward her, it brings the Father on the scene. The believing husband is to honor his wife as 1 Peter 3:7 says, as "heirs together of the grace of life." Why? So that your prayers are not hindered!

An agreement between a husband and wife who honor one another is an impenetrable shield. But when I am dishonorable toward my wife, I've destroyed Matthew 18:19: "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." When I am out of agreement with my wife, it also destroys verse 20: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them."

That dishonor in a marriage is strife. Your prayers will not work if you're not going to be obedient to The WORD of God. How can your prayers work if you claim to be a child of the living God, and at the same time you're whipping up on God's child—His own daughter?

I must be just as honorable to my wife as I am to God. How can I be dishonorable to the child and, at the same time, be honorable to the Father? I can't, because my wife is bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. She is a Covenant sister in The LORD, and to be treated as such.

In the world of covenant, from the moment a man and his wife are covenanted together in marriage, a remembrance is put forth. From that day forward, he cannot have a thought that doesn't include her, because his marriage covenant partner is involved in everything he does.

You can't have a spiritual bond without some kind of covenant involved. There has to be a covenant commitment. There's not a thing in my life—not one decision I make, twenty-four hours a day—in which Gloria is not involved. She's my covenant partner. There's no such thing as an independent thought as far as my life is concerned with her, because my life is totally committed to her, and hers is totally committed to me. We are one.

In the Hebrew language, covenant talk leaves the impression that something almost like a claw, or the talon of an eagle, is set into

the brain or the forefront of the face; in such a way that the person in covenant with another can't see around it without looking right at it. The covenant partner can't think without that person and their covenant connection being part of their thought life.

I don't ever think about or do anything—there's no act that I can accomplish large or small—that does not affect Gloria's life in one way or another. We are covenanted together, and I delight to honor her.

The marriage covenant is a picture of our covenant relationship with God. That's why the Apostle Paul said, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

It's a picture of God's Love for mankind. He is saying the same thing: "I can no longer have thoughts that are independent of you." Jesus is saying that every time you lift the Communion cup, you are lifting the cup representing the blood that was shed for you that ratified that Covenant. You do that in remembrance of Him because there's not anything in the life of a believer, a Covenant child of God, that He doesn't affect.

Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is honourable in all...." Now you can see why the woman is an heir of God's grace and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. She does not deserve to be mistreated, abused or dominated. She does not deserve to be put in bondage. She deserves honor because she belongs to God just as much as her husband does, with whom she is one flesh.

When you honor your wife or your husband in obedience to God's WORD, because it's His command and it's the right thing to do, you become more than a conqueror through Him who has given you His Name and His life. When you act on that honor—even if it is contrary to every feeling in you, it threatens your financial status or your business, or makes it look like you'll lose everything; and step out in faith to do it anyway—that kind of determination to honor will bring your Father, whose Name is *Jehovah*, God Almighty, on the scene. You'll *never* lose! God will honor you, according to 1 Samuel 2:30, with mercy, love, grace, marital happiness and prosperity. 🙏



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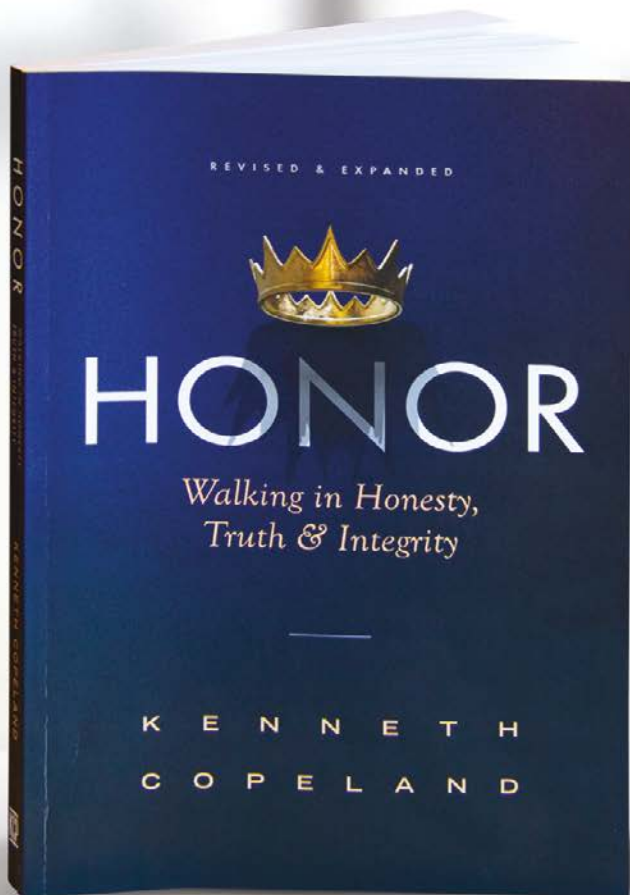
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# What does honor mean?

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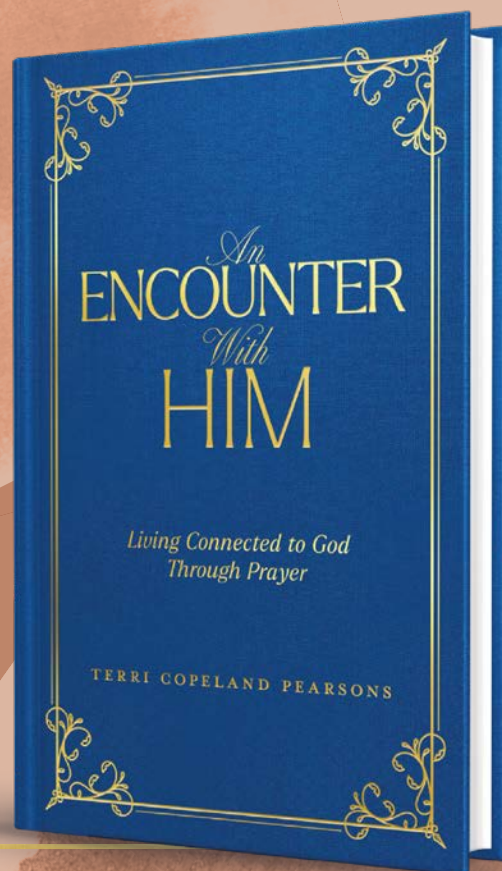


*"Every time we encounter the Lord in prayer, we're changed by His presence."*

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**“Don’t  
pray and then  
wonder, Will it  
happen? Say,  
‘Yes, it will  
happen!’”**

# You Have the Power!

**Prayer is as natural to the spirit of a person who’s been born again as breathing is to the physical body. When we breathe, we inhale air, then we breathe it out. When we pray, we breathe in the promises of God, then we confess them out.**

We ask and believe, and then God does what we ask. He hears and answers us, and His answer is always yes!

I read an article once that said sometimes God’s answer is no. But that’s not what the Bible says! It says that in Jesus, “all the promises of God...are Yes” (2 Corinthians 1:20, *New King James Version*), and “whatever” you ask the Father in Jesus’ Name, “He will give you” (John 16:23, *NKJV*).

I’ve lived long enough to prove that! I’ve seen God answer prayers that, when I prayed

them, I couldn’t see how He could possibly do what I asked. But seeing how He was going to do it wasn’t my business. The doing part is God’s business; ours is to ask in Jesus’ Name and believe.

One reason some Christians have trouble with the believing part is that they don’t understand the power of Jesus’ Name.

Once you catch hold of that, believing won’t be any problem for you. You’ll be able to go boldly to the throne of grace, and in the Name of Jesus obtain from God whatever you ask. And if the devil tries to mess with you, you can take that Name and run him off!

If you want to know why Jesus’ Name carries so much weight, just think about the three ways He obtained it.

## **No. 1: He inherited it from His heavenly Father.**

I have a friend whose niece died and went to heaven after being bitten by a snake. The doctors managed to bring her back though, and afterward she told my friend, “Aunt Tommy, there are two Jesuses!”

“Oh no, honey,” my friend replied, “there’s only one Jesus. There aren’t two.”

“Yes, there are!” her niece insisted. “I saw them both in heaven and they’re just exactly alike.”

What did that little girl actually see? She saw Jesus and the Father! She assumed they were both the same because they truly are



alike. Jesus Himself said, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).

Hebrews 1 describes Jesus as “the brightness of his [God’s] glory, and the express image of his person.” It also says that after He went to the cross and took upon Himself the sin of all mankind, Jesus inherited the Father’s Name. We read in verses 3-6:

When He had by Himself purged our sins, [He] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him” (NKJV).

A lot of people don’t realize this, but Jesus didn’t just die physically when He went to the cross; He died spiritually. He *became* sin for us and went into the pit of hell in our place. But when He had fully paid the price for our redemption, He was raised by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was born again under His own sacrifice!

When Almighty God declared over Him, “Again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son,” Jesus came out of that pit as the reborn, resurrected, glorious Son of God. And He came out having obtained by inheritance the Name of Almighty God Himself.

Before that happened, in the Gospels, Jesus was called God’s “only begotten Son” (John 3:18). Now He is called the “firstborn of many brethren” (Romans 8:29), and we are the “brethren.” As believers we’ve been born again of the Father just as surely as Jesus was, and we have inherited the same Name.

That means God in all His wealth and all He has (and He has it all) are ours through the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

## **No. 2: Jesus won His Name by conquest.**

Jesus did even more through His death and resurrection than pay the price for us to be forgiven of our sins. He totally defeated Satan and all his demonic hosts. He conquered hell and the grave. Then, “having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15).



Vinita and Kenneth Copeland, together onstage in the mid-1980s.

After His resurrection, Jesus declared: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.... and I have the keys of hell and of death” (Matthew 28:18; Revelation 1:18). That authority and those keys originally belonged to Adam, and Satan stole them when Adam sinned.

But Jesus got them back!

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9–11).

In other words, Jesus not only inherited the Name of the Father, He won it by conquering the devil in combat. He won it by conquest and then He gave His victory to us, making us “more than conquerors through him” (Romans 8:37, NKJV).

## **No. 3: Jesus’ Name was conferred on Him by God.**

As we just saw in Philippians 2:9, when God highly exalted Jesus, He *gave* Him a Name which is above every name. A Name so powerful that it is recognized as having absolute authority; not only in heaven and earth, but also “under the earth” in hell. Almighty God *conferred* that all-powerful Name on Jesus...and Jesus has given it to us.

That means if you’re a believer, that all-powerful Name is yours.

Now you’ve got the power!

You don’t have to put up with anything from the devil. You can take the Name of Jesus and stop any devilish thing you want to stop. You can be like the first 70 disciples Jesus sent out in Luke 10. They returned to Him with joy saying: “Lord, even the devils are subject unto

“  
You don’t have to put up with anything from the devil. You can take the Name of Jesus and stop any devilish thing you want to stop.  
”

us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (verses 17–19).

Don't ever be afraid of the devil. Whenever he or his demons give you any trouble, just use the Name of Jesus and the Word of God against them.

One time when I was driving from Fort Worth, Texas, to Tulsa, Okla., with my friend Erlina Phelps to speak at a meeting, the devil really started giving us trouble. He did everything he could to keep us from getting there. It snowed and sleeted so badly that we just barely arrived in time.

The devil didn't let up when we got there either. He kept at it.

So, I told God, "I need an angel, and I need one right now!"

Then I opened the meeting in prayer, hung that devil up, and peeled him right there with the Name of Jesus and the Word of God.

While I was praying, God opened the eyes of a girl in the meeting and let her see that devil. She told us he looked really mad and, referring to me, he said, "She always does me that way!" and went out the door. As he left, the girl saw angels come out of the woodwork and surround the place.

That turned out to be a wonderful meeting. Many of the young people who were there were healed and delivered.

### Don't wonder, just believe.

I want you to know today that the Name of Jesus on your lips is as powerful as He Himself is! Once you know that, you won't be one bit afraid of the devil. You won't let him get away with anything.

What's more, when you pray, you won't come to God like a beggar, just hoping that maybe He'll answer you. You'll come believing you will receive from God whatever you ask—every time! You'll come with confidence knowing that Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.... in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:23-24).

If you're just praying all the time and not getting answers, your joy is not full!

I'm thinking right now, for example, of a mother who called once to ask me to pray with

her for her daughter. She wasn't joyful at all. She was sad because, despite her prayers, her daughter kept doing things she shouldn't. "Mrs. Copeland," she said, "my other children have never given me a bit of trouble, but this one has."


"Hush that!" I said. "Don't give the devil a handle to use. He'll take those negative, unbelieving words and whack you over the head with them. God said in 1 Corinthians 7:14 that because you're a believer, your children are holy. You don't have to let Satan mess up your daughter. She's yours. Whether she's born again yet or not, she's holy because she belongs to you. So don't take that stuff."

Then I addressed Satan right there on the phone! I said, "Satan, you get your hands off that girl right now, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ," and told her mother to believe it.

That's all you have to do is just believe it!

Don't pray and then wonder, *Will it happen?* Say, "Yes, it will happen!" Start yelling it out—not for your sake and not for God's sake, but for the devil's sake.

Say, "Yes, it will happen! Now, Satan, get out of here! Doubt and unbelief, get out!"

Say it with confidence knowing that, in Jesus' Name, you've got the power! 

(Vinita Copeland, mother of Kenneth Copeland, went home to be with the Lord August 18, 1988).



### WORDS ON HEARING FROM HEAVEN

By staying in communion with the Lord you can walk every day in His rest and His BLESSING. (Acts 9:31)

You walk with God not by relying on the strength of your own flesh but by walking in the spirit. (Phil. 2:13)

The Holy Spirit (the One who knows everything!) has come to live in you to serve as your personal Counselor. (John 16:7)

***You're born again to  
walk and talk with God.***

(John 10:27)



by Sarah Pearsons



# GET BACK UP

***“Encourage yourself in the Lord, take back what belongs to you, and recover all!”***

Whether you like it or not, at some point in the arena of life, you will stand face to face with your enemy. He doesn't come at you with swords, spears, knives or guns, but with unseen weapons like discouragement, disappointment and grief.

The good news is that God has given us mighty weapons of our own that will cause us to overcome the adversary as we fight the good fight of faith. I want to encourage you that if any of these things have knocked you down, you don't have to stay down. You can get back up, rekindle the flame within your heart, and go on in pursuit of the plan of God for your life. Paul encourages us in 2 Corinthians 4:9 (*Contemporary English Version*), “In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again.”

In April of 2021, my mom unexpectedly went home to be with the Lord. For 38 years, she was one of my best friends and my greatest encourager. She taught me to never quit and to seek first the Kingdom with all my heart. She spent countless hours with me at the piano, nurturing the call of God on my life, and wouldn't let me settle for anything less than God's best.

For years prior, the Lord had taught me the importance of guarding the heart, so when this happened, I knew I had to do just that. As I was driving to the hospital on my last day with her, I felt an intense pressure surrounding my heart, deep in the center of my chest. I knew I wasn't experiencing some kind of stress-induced anxiety. Because, at the same time, I sensed supernatural peace and joy, which I now know was the comfort of the Holy Spirit. I asked the Lord about this pressure, and He answered me in His still, small voice: *Sarah, you are guarding your heart.*

I had purposed to put a guard up, and the Greater One living on the inside of me was helping push back grief and sorrow,



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keeping them from entering in. Now, I am not an advocate of burying emotions because I believe, in the long run, that can do damage. I do believe 100% in resisting the enemy of our souls, no matter how he comes against us.

As I've grown older, I've found that my relationships are what make life rich, closeness with the Lord and closeness with the people He has called me to. We were created for fellowship and connection, and it is the Spirit of God who tethers us together for such a time as this. As we spend time together, our souls become intertwined like the strands of a cord, tightly woven together by the love and memories we share. These bonds run deep, and when that cord begins to unravel through disconnection, whether by distance, divorce, offense or any other kind of separation, it's natural for the soul to be affected and to be touched even to the point of tears. The Bible tells us that Jesus "wept over" Jerusalem (Luke 19:41), that He is "full of compassion" (Psalm 145:8) and "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Hebrews 4:15).

Many people, though, believe it is necessary to grieve and even impossible not to in situations like these. But the Bible says that we who know God, should not "sorrow as others who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13, *New King James Version*). It's OK to recall, to remember, to inquire of the Lord and even cry out to Him in the most difficult of situations, but we must be diligent to guard our hearts and not allow the enemy to inflict more hurt and pain through unnecessary grief.

In 1 Samuel 30, King David faced a moment of exceptionally profound distress and loss. He and his men came home from battle to find that their wives and children had been kidnapped and taken captive. Their possessions had been stolen, and their homes burned

to the ground. The Bible says they wept until they could weep no more. However, David knew that if he wanted to win and experience victory, he would have to get back up. The Bible tells us that, as he encouraged himself in the Lord his God (1 Samuel 30:6).

How do you encourage or strengthen yourself in God? Isaiah tells us about the Anointing on the Messiah to give us "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness" (Isaiah 61:3, *NKJV*). What an exchange! What an advantage we have over the enemy when we open up our mouths and give God praise! We have the power to declare the ensuing victory instead of yielding to depression and defeat. David was a master at this. Even in the face of adversity and disappointment, he would write songs to reaffirm what he believed to be true about the Lord. He experienced triumph after triumph as he sang, "You, O LORD, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head" (Psalm 3:3, *NKJV*).

When my mom went to heaven, I too, felt the weight of heaviness try to keep me down. It was a punch that hit a little harder than the rest, but through the numbness, dizziness and my blurred vision, I heard the voice of my Coach in my corner, the Holy Spirit, encouraging me as He said, *Sarah, GET BACK UP! Powerless people lie down, but powerful people lay hold!* I know from experience that there is no better way to come up out of a daze than to open up my mouth and give Him praise. I decided to live what I preach, and made the choice to rejoice!

The morning of the Celebration of Life service for my mom, I heard the Lord ask me a question: *Sarah, didn't I say to rejoice with those who rejoice?* I realized that my mom is doing nothing but rejoicing in heaven, and I should be rejoicing with her. She isn't in the least bit disappointed



or in despair over her current condition. I began to take every depressing thought captive, rewired my thinking and used my imagination to see her laughing, serving and preparing for the marriage supper of the Lamb, because I know how much she loves to cook. I saw her riding her bike like she always did here, only now she's soaring down the streets of glory.

I got the revelation that every moment of every day, I get to choose to either be self-aware and sad, or heaven-aware and glad; because Jesus has conquered the grave, because death has lost its sting, and because heaven is a reality. We can get back up every day and put on a garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3).

Not long after this, my daughter began to express some unusual signs of grief. She was very close to my mom, and we started to connect the dots that her actions had everything to do with these recent events. It became clear that a little child does not always process things the same way that an adult does, who has walked with God for decades. Although she seemed to be confused and in distress, we consistently spoke the Word over her, declaring that she is a disciple taught by the Lord, and great is her peace and undisturbed composure (Isaiah 54:13, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*). We began to see progress but could tell she was still hurting and in need of relief.

One night, my brother and his family came over for dinner. After eating, he went to the piano and began to play and sing. Instantly, the anointing saturated our living room and swept through our home and our hearts. We had all been through a lot. I sensed the presence of the Lord so strongly that I began to cry. My daughter could sense it, too. She wrapped her light arms tightly around my neck, and in that moment I knew that spirit of heaviness was leaving her. My husband could recognize it, too, and reminded me it had to leave just like it left Saul whenever David began to play.

“  
We must  
be diligent  
to guard our  
hearts and  
not allow the  
enemy to  
inflict more  
hurt and pain  
through  
unnecessary  
grief.”

Night after night, I would sing over her. The anointing was working, and healing was flowing. She would laugh and she would cry as the Lord restored her soul. At times, she would whisper in my ear how she felt about His presence in the room. “Mommy, it’s just so sweet! It’s just so sweet.”

At her age, she couldn’t quite express the healing that she was experiencing night after night. But I knew. Isaiah 10:27 came alive to me as I witnessed God heal my baby: “It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil” (*NKJV*).

Whether the enemy has tried to knock you down through the disappointment of a breakup, the discouragement of a dream deferred, rejection from someone you admired, the end of a relationship, or a loved one going home early. No matter what he has tried to steal from you, how dark it may seem or how heavy the grief, you can open your heart again and let the King of glory come in. He will heal you to the uttermost because He is “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, *NKJV*).

Remember, because the Greater One lives in you, you are a powerful person. He has given you the words to fight a good fight! So, go ahead and take off that heavy cloak that doesn’t suit you anymore and put on a garment of praise! Encourage yourself in the Lord, take back what belongs to you, and recover all! He has more for you to do, an assignment worth living for, more people to help and more to comfort. It’s time to GET BACK UP and go on with God! Your best days are yet to come! 🙌

This article is an adaptation from the upcoming book by Sarah Pearsons titled *Get Back Up*.



# TESTIMONIES OF REAL-LIFE VICTORY

## Coming Alive In 2025!

I'm so blessed by Brother Copeland's Partner Letter from earlier this year; it reminded me that God's love never fails! I've been meditating on it, along with Pastor George's December letter. Through these two resources, Holy Spirit has challenged me to thrive in the love of God in 2025!

It has been a challenge because I don't always exhibit love toward others, especially strangers or my neighbor. It is my determination to make this the year of God's love manifested in me!

K.E. | North Carolina

## The Fragrance of Obedience

Thank you to Brother and Sister Copeland for your faithfulness to preach and teach the uncompromised Word of God. I am so thankful to God for you, because your ministry literally changed my life. Because of you, I now know who I am in Christ, my authority as a believer, and my rights as a covenant child of God.

I wish that I could hug you and tell you thank you in person. My life will never be the same because of your obedience. I love, honor and esteem you greatly. May God bless you and increase you more and more so that you can impact more people just like me.

K.H. | Kentucky

## God Bless America

Thanks so much for *Believer's Voice of Victory*. I always love tuning in. I have enjoyed listening to Pastor Terri and love the subtleness of how she is rejoicing in the victory our BLESSED COUNTRY is experiencing. I'm dancing too! Keep up the good work. God bless you, and Jesus is Lord.

M.T. | Ohio

## What Love Can Do!

I have been a Partner with KCM for quite a few years, and consider your ministry to be a foundational cornerstone for my own growth in my walk with Jesus. I have learned so much about choosing my words and aligning them with the Word of God. When I first started following KCM, I was in pretty bad shape. I struggled with alcohol and drugs, as well as some emotional demons that were wreaking havoc in my life. The changes the Lord brought about in me didn't happen overnight.

The love I have experienced has altered my way of thinking and living. Thank you for your contribution to that. I really enjoy the downloadable notes from the *BVOV* series, and I am not afraid to use them liberally when the Lord leads me to do so, in sharing His Word with others. Thank you again for having me in the family. God bless you.

E.J. | Alabama

*"Jesus never reminds you of your sin. He wiped it out. He has forgotten it and He wants you to do the same."* —Kenneth Copeland



## Glory to God!

Thank you for all the work and prayer to make *FlashPoint* available to all of us. So proud of all of you and KCM! You

have been strategic and a huge blessing to the Body of Christ!

B.P. | Montana

## The Sweetest Gift

I'd been believing for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and recently, while on the prayer line, it happened! I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues!

B.H. | New York

## Secured Hope

I just want to say thank you for sending my friend, who is in prison, the *BVOV* magazine and the *From Faith to Faith* devotional. He was so blessed and so thankful for you reaching out to him. He has enjoyed the teaching from Sister

Gloria in the magazine and is full of hope!

I'm so grateful for this ministry that gives to people who are in prison.

C.D. | California

## Anointed Acceleration

*Toward the beginning of the month I wrote you a prayer request for financial provision. Within three weeks my boss gave me a raise!*

R.W. | Georgia



## 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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### United Faith

Thank you, prayer team, for praying with me about my dear brother-in-law who was in the hospital for emotional problems. He was sent back home about a week later with the joy of the Lord in his heart! Thank you all for joining your faith with mine.

A.P. | California

### Watch Faith Grow

We were watching a *FlashPoint* LIVE event with Lou Engle, and the Holy Spirit's presence was here just like it was there. Praise God; He is so good!

We have watched VICTORY Channel many times and it is such a wonderful blessing to be able to have Spirit-filled faith teaching 24/7! Look at what God has done! Our faith has grown from watching VICTORY!

K.R. | Tennessee



by Gloria Copeland




**Staying Connected**

# Step by Step

Although God will reveal mysteries to you as you pray and seek Him for direction, don't expect Him to give you a complete set of blueprints for your life all at one time. I'm not sure He ever does that. He'll usually just reveal your next step. Often, He may not even explain to you why that step is important, or what's going to happen after you take it—or what will happen if you don't.

That's why we must learn to walk by faith and not by sight. We don't know what's coming tomorrow, next month or next year. But, God does. So we have to fully trust Him and confidently obey His instructions in big matters and small, following the leading of His Spirit, even when we don't understand them. One thing of major importance is to know that





**“The more you practice obeying God... the easier it will be to hear from Him about the details of His plan for your life. Your heart will be sensitive and ready to respond to the slightest divine leading.”**

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whatever He directs will always agree with the written Word. This helps so much to keep us from going in the wrong direction or from being misled.

That kind of step-by-step obedience will keep us constantly connected to the Master Plan. Failure to obey, on the other hand, will disconnect us. Sometimes, what even seem to be minor acts of disobedience can result in making major, long-term differences in our lives.

If you doubt that, consider Moses. Psalm 106 says that when the Israelites angered the Lord at the waters of Meribah, “it went ill with Moses for their sakes; for they provoked [Moses’] spirit, so that he spoke unadvisedly with his lips” (verses 32-33, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

One disobedient act brought great disappointment to Moses’ life. He missed part of his destiny because, under tremendous pressure, he lost his temper and disobeyed the instructions of the Lord.

If you read the scriptural account of what happened, it’s easy to see why he did it. At the time, he was leading the Israelites through the wilderness. They were in desperate need of water,



This article was adapted from Gloria Copeland’s New York Times bestseller, *God’s Master Plan for Your Life*.

and there was none to be found. As the people cried out, blaming Moses and Aaron for their predicament, Moses surely must have flashed back to an earlier time when the same thing happened.

On that first occasion, Moses had cried to the Lord and said, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

And the Lord said to Moses, Pass on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand the rod with which you smote the river [Nile], and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at [Mount] Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel (Exodus 17:5-6, *AMPC*).

No doubt, the second time they ran out of water, Moses was remembering that initial incident. He was probably expecting God to instruct him, once again, to strike the rock. Perhaps he was even looking forward to venting some of his frustration by giving that rock a good, hard whack with his rod. His anger was surely beginning to boil as the Israelites, for whom he had laid down a good portion of his life, gathered together once again and contended with him and Aaron, saying: “Why have you brought up the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here? And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink” (Numbers 20:4-5, *New King James Version*).

## MAY BVOV BROADCAST CALENDAR



Kenneth Copeland



George  
Pearsons



Terri  
Pearsons

Sun., May 4  
Follow God's  
Love Into a Fearless Life  
**Kenneth Copeland**

May 5-9  
Living a Life of Faith  
**Pastors George &  
Terri Pearsons**

Sun., May 11  
Be Fear-Free by  
Drawing Close to God  
**Kenneth Copeland**

May 12-16  
Walk In the Spirit  
**Kenneth Copeland**

Sun., May 18  
Resist Fear by Walking  
In the Light of God's Love  
**Kenneth Copeland**

May 19-23  
Put On the Whole  
Armor of God for Victory  
**Kenneth Copeland**

Sun., May 25  
Jesus Has Given  
You His Peace  
**Kenneth Copeland**

May 26-30  
Activate Your  
Freedom In Christ  
**Kenneth Copeland**

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The last time, when Moses had struck a rock at God's command, enough water had gushed out of it to meet the need of the entire nation. This time, however, when Moses cried out for instructions, God said something a little different: "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals" (verse 8, *NKJV*).

Although God altered the strategy slightly in this case, His directions were still clear and simple. Moses should have had no trouble following them.

But there was one problem. Moses was angry. He probably wasn't paying close attention. He had run out of patience with this unruly bunch of people. He was tired of being blamed for everything that went wrong and tired of all their bellyaching and unbelief. So he gathered the assembly together and said, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank" (verses 10-11, *NKJV*).

### Stopping Short of the Promised Land

If the story stopped there, it would appear that everything turned out all right. Even though Moses disobeyed God's instructions and struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it, water still came forth and the Israelites were satisfied. But the account doesn't end there. The next verse tells us the Lord spoke to Moses and said, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them" (verse 12, *NKJV*).

It's important for us to notice that God didn't say anything to Moses about that when He first told him what to do. He didn't say, "Now Moses, I want you to speak to the rock,

and you'd better do it because if you don't, you'll miss your final destination. You'll never get to go into the Promised Land."

I don't think Moses had any idea how much of his future rested on that one simple step of obedience. He probably wasn't even thinking about what might happen if he ignored the leading of the Lord in that situation. Most likely, he was just thinking about how fed up he was with that rebellious group of people he'd been stuck with for so many years. Maybe he had the same attitude Christians sometimes have today: "I'll just yield to my flesh now and repent later. This one little sin won't make much difference in the long run."

But it did make a difference—not only to Moses but to his brother, Aaron, as well. It disconnected both of them from a part of God's Master Plan. Aaron was the first to experience the consequences. Shortly after the incident at Meribah:

And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying: "Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah. Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up to Mount Hor; and strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; for Aaron shall be gathered to his people and die there" (Numbers 20:23-26, *NKJV*).

Moses lived on a while longer, but eventually, he too experienced the cost of his own disobedience. When the Israelites' 40-year wilderness trek was over and they were about to enter the Promised Land, Moses died. Instead of letting him go into that land, the Lord said to him:

Get up into this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and look at the land of Canaan which I give to the Israelites for a possession. And die on the mountain which you ascend and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and



was gathered to his people, because you broke faith with Me in the midst of the Israelites at the waters of Meribah-kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin and because you did not set Me apart as holy in the midst of the Israelites. For you shall see the land opposite you at a distance, but you shall not go there, into the land which I give the Israelites (Deuteronomy 32:49-52, *AMPC*).

There's no question about it, that's a sobering story. It demonstrates just how serious disobedience can be. There is a bright side to it, however. I realized that one day, when I was feeling sorry for Moses and thinking how awful it was that he went through that whole wilderness experience, put up with all the aggravations of it year after year, and then didn't get to complete the journey into the Promised Land.

As I thought about how he died on Mount Nebo, and how God personally buried him, it dawned on me: *Since Moses was a saint of God, when he died he went to Paradise!* He went to the real Promised Land! He bypassed all the fighting and wars that were required to take possession of Canaan, and went straight to the reward. So I never feel sorry for Moses anymore.

But the fact remains that Moses cost himself a major victory on the earth because he yielded to the wrong impulse. He yielded to the pressure of his emotions instead of the direction of God. He didn't do exactly what the Lord told him to do, and his disobedience was an expensive mistake.

#### Little Promptings Can Open Big Doors

Of course, Moses' experience was more dramatic than most of our experiences will be. None of us carry the kind of responsibility he did, so when we miss the mark the results aren't usually quite so catastrophic. Our opportunities to obey or disobey, connect or disconnect with the plan of God, don't normally involve honoring God (or dishonoring Him) before an entire nation. They more often involve everyday choices that are made when very few people are watching. But even those choices can cause

us to connect or disconnect from God's Master Plan for our lives. They can unexpectedly cost us dearly, or bring us great rewards.

That's why obedience is always best. You just never know to what part of God's plan one simple step of obedience might connect you.

Ken and I found that out big-time some years ago when we were facing one of the many financial challenges we've encountered since we first stepped out into ministry. In a way, we were in a situation similar to the one in which Moses found himself. It was not nearly as serious, of course—just similar. We were badly in need of money to pay past-due bills for our television broadcasts. We'd faced that need before, and God had been faithful. But this was the most onerous deficit we had experienced. We began to think about selling our lakefront property to bring in the extra money.

Although we hadn't been instructed by the Lord to do it, we were assuming it was the right thing to do. We hadn't signed the papers on the deal yet, but the plans were all drawn up. We were right on the verge of finalizing the sale when, as I was driving home one evening, I had a very clear impression from the Lord in my spirit. I sensed He was saying, *Don't do it. Don't make that deal. You'll regret it.* It was very strong. I knew it was the Lord.

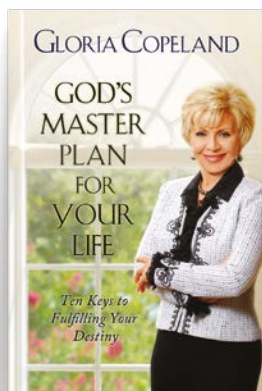
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**How  
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**Nothing is  
going to work for  
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I'm violating the  
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of love.”**



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When I got home, I told Ken about it. "OK," he said, "we'll call it off."

Remember in Proverbs 8:1-2 about wisdom crying out at the place where paths meet? That's exactly what happened to me that day. Ken and I were at a crossroad. We were about to take a particular financial path—one we thought would be a benefit. But Wisdom called out and advised us not to take that path.

We could have ignored that advice. After all, we needed the money from the sale, and didn't seem to need the land right then. What's more, the television bills needed to be paid. We could easily have yielded to that pressure and said, "Well, we'll just go ahead, get the money we need...and ask the Lord to forgive us later. After all, He's merciful. He'll understand."

Yes, God would have forgiven us had we truly repented. He would have been good to us and blessed us all He could, but we still would have missed part of His Master Plan for us because the Lord knew several things about the situation we didn't.

First, there was natural gas on that property. In the years since, we've had a number of gas wells drilled and our ministry is being blessed by the royalties from those wells. If we'd done what we originally planned to do, someone else would be getting those royalties.

Second, we were eventually able to build our dream home on part of that land. Had we ignored the leading of the Lord, the lakefront site where our home is today wouldn't have been available. It would have been part of a subdivision full of other people's homes.

That's just one of many examples I could give you of how disobeying the leading of the Holy Spirit could have resulted in making a major difference in our lives. I could tell you of other times when such opportunities to connect or disconnect from God's plan were even more subtle than that. Many, I don't even remember because they weren't spectacular. So many Master Plan connections are like that. They don't seem to be a big deal at the time. Yet if we're diligent to heed those little promptings of the Spirit, they can open big doors into our promised land.

I'm not saying you'll never make mistakes. We all stumble and do things we regret at times. But when you do, repent immediately, receive God's forgiveness and cleansing, and get right back on track.

Get your heart right before God and keep it right. Otherwise, your conscience will condemn you. You'll lose your confidence toward God and you won't be able to hear His voice as clearly as before. The condemnation you'll feel in your heart will hinder your ability to sense the promptings of His Spirit. You'll start missing Master Plan connections without even realizing it.

First John 3:18-23, *NKJV*, explains it this way:

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

I love that passage because it boils down obedience to God to its simplest, basic components. It tells us we can please God and keep His commandments if we'll simply: 1) Believe in Jesus; and 2) Walk in love.

If we'll develop the habit of obeying those two fundamental instructions God has given in His written Word, we'll have the sensitivity of heart to pick up on what He is saying to us in other areas. If we don't do those two things, we won't get anything else right, either.

I've learned over the years that if my faith isn't producing the results it should, I'd better check my love life. How have I been treating people? Nothing is going to work for me spiritually if I'm violating the commandment of love.

The more you practice obeying God in the fundamentals like walking in love, the easier it will be to hear from Him about the details of His plan for your life. Your heart will be sensitive and ready to respond to the slightest divine leading. You'll be ready and able to discern the voice of Wisdom calling out to you at the place where the paths meet. You'll constantly stay connected to God's Master Plan. 📖



# Yes, You May!

Commander  
Kellie's Corner

The month of May always reminds me of a fun game I played when I was younger called, “Mother, May I?” Have you ever played it, Superkid?

It's a game where someone (acting as the Mother) gives an instruction, like “Take three giant steps forward!” or “Hop two times!” The catch is, before you obey the instruction you have to say, “Mother, may I?” If you forget to say those words, then you go back to the starting line!

The first person to reach “Mother” wins.

It's a really fun game, especially when you get to be the one giving the directions! Have you ever had the chance to be “Mother,” and tell others what to do? You should try it sometime!

Now, you're probably wondering, *What does this game have to do with our study through Ephesians?* Let me explain!

## Our Journey to God

The goal in “Mother, May I?” is to reach “Mother” by following her instructions. If you forget to ask, you have to start over. This sounds like how many people believe a relationship with God works. They try their best to follow God's instructions. If they mess up, they feel they must start all over again. When they fall short, they might feel discouraged and hopeless.

Has that ever happened to you? I think it happens to everyone at some point! But here's the good news: **Ephesians 4** reminds us that God's grace isn't about starting over every time we make a mistake. We don't have to keep asking, “Father, may I?” when we mess up. As we've already learned, we are **one with Jesus**, and He gives us the power to live the way He lives.

## Evidence vs. Qualification: A New Way of Living

One day, while reading **Ephesians 4**, I thought, *This sounds like a checklist of behaviors*. But then God spoke to my heart and said, *This is a checklist for evidence, not qualification*. What does that mean? Well, **Ephesians 4** isn't just a list of things to do to be a “good Christian.” It's about the **evidence** of God's presence in our lives. These behaviors prove that Jesus is living *inside* us and flowing *out* of us. We don't have to perform tasks to *qualify* for

His love; His love coming out of us *proves* that we are His children.

In **Ephesians 4:24**, we read: “Take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces His character in you” (*The Message*). This means that God doesn't just want us to **act** like Jesus. He wants us to **become** more like Him from the inside out. The **Christlike behaviors** we read about aren't rules to follow—they're the **evidence** of God's work inside us!

Let's break this down, starting with verses **25-27**, to see how God's character actually comes out of us.

**Verse 25 says:** “Therefore, rejecting all falsity...let everyone express the truth with his neighbor, for we are all parts of one body and members one of another” (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

**Christlike Character:** Jesus is the Truth, and He always speaks honestly.

**Evidence:** When we speak the truth, we are showing that **Jesus lives in us**. Our words reflect His love and honesty, not just our own effort to be truthful.

**Christ In You:** Instead of struggling to avoid lies, we become truth-tellers. His love in us helps us love others the way Jesus loves.

## Managing Anger With Love and Forgiveness

Verses **26-27** say: “When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath...last until the sun goes down. Leave no...foothold for the devil.”

**Christlike Character:** Jesus was slow to anger and quick to forgive.

**Evidence:** As we live in God's grace, we handle our anger with patience and forgiveness. We don't let anger control us,



but instead, we let it go before the day ends.

**Christ In You:** His love empowers us to forgive others quickly, just as He forgives us. Instead of holding on to anger, we can choose peace and reconciliation.

## Now It's Your Turn, Superkid

**Verse 28:** “Let the thief steal no more, but rather let him be industrious, making an honest living with his own hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.”

Look up the word *industrious*. How does “Be Industrious” compare to “Don't Steal”? What does Jesus want?

Before we go, let's circle back to “Mother, May I?” In that game, you have to ask for permission to take each step forward, remember? But here's the truth: We don't need to keep asking, “Father, may I?” Jesus has already made a way for us to be **one with Him**. We don't have to keep asking if we're “good enough” to move forward because **His grace has already qualified us**.

When we mess up, we don't have to “start over.” We can immediately turn to God and receive His forgiveness. We've been given **full permission** to live as He lives and love as He loves, **because He is living in us**.

So, the next time you face a challenge, remember: You have His full permission to move forward, no matter what. He's not waiting for you to mess up so He can send you back to the starting line. **He's with you every step of the way.**

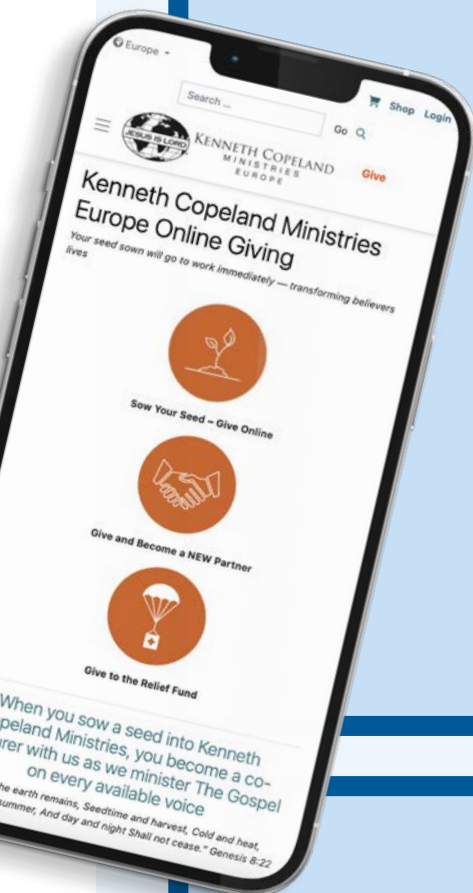
Commander Kellie 🍓



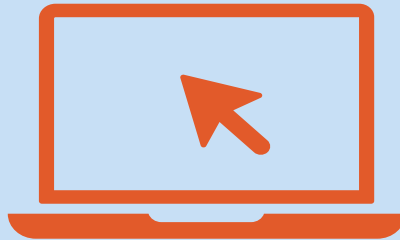


KENNETH  
COPELAND  
MINISTRIES

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