

# edifying of it "The whole compacted." That's us— Jesus is the











One million Partners! It's a mission Kenneth and Gloria Copeland set out to accomplish years ago after the Lord spoke to them during a *Believer's Voice of Victory* TV broadcast and said: If 1 million Partners come into this ministry, I'll put this broadcast on every TV station in the world that will accept it!

In the years since, Kenneth Copeland Ministries has amassed more than 442.900 Partners as it has extended its ministry outreach beyond the United States through offices in six other regions, including Australasia; Canada: Europe: Africa: Ukraine: Germany; and Latin America.

Through social media, the ministry has over 4 million followers on Facebook. a combined total of nearly 1.5 million followers on X and Instagram, and over 1.3 million YouTube subscribers.

Ephesians 4:14-16 says, "That we henceforth be no more children. tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the

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edifying of itself in love."

"The whole body fitly joined together and

That's us-the Church!

Jesus is the Head, and we are His Body. We are compacted together—called to be 1 million strona!

One million Partners! That's the mandate God has given us here at KCM and we believe that, by putting action to our faith, we will bring it to pass.

It's not just about having a million Partners, it's about what a million Partners can do worldwide. Think of the impact when you have that kind of an army. Think of what we can all

do together. One million people praying for each other and for the nations every

single day. One million people joining their finances to reach those who desperately need the gospel. One million people covering each other, and the nations, with the love and the power of God!

Imagine how quickly we could get the gospel preached to the whole world!

If you are a Partner with KCM, you are part of something that is growing. It's time for the final harvest of souls. and God has promised us a million

Partners. Believe God with us for that. because when it happens...vou will have grown to a millionfold!

Thank you for standing with us and for being so faithful!



# Editor's Letter

#### The Master's Plan!



Ever wonder why it is that, as Christians, we can exercise patience when it comes to receiving some things-like buying a car, building a house, or even waiting for payday to come around; but when it comes to trusting God and waiting to receive something from Him, we become so impatient?

I thought about this recently while reading a strong admonition from the Apostle Paul in Hebrews 10:35-36, where he stressed the importance of staying in faith and not giving up. Paul wrote: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." In The Message, verse 36 says, "But you need to stick it out, staying with God's plan so you'll be there for the promised completion."

We may not realize it, but God has a plan for our lives. He confirms it in Jeremiah 29:11, where He says, "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out-plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for" (MSG). The problem is, we lack understanding when it comes to God's timing.

God has an established timetable, and we're all very much a part of it! It's His Master Plan to get us from where we are now to where He desires for us to be. To somewhere down the road that provides us with the things we "hope for"-as long as they line up with His will for us.

Our responsibility as believers is, first, to acknowledge that He really is in control of our lives, and second, to do whatever is necessary to position ourselves to walk out that plan. Or, as Paul said, we "stick it out, staying with God's plan."

How do we do that? In an excerpt in this month's issue, taken from her New York Time's bestselling book God's Master Plan for Your Life, Gloria Copeland gives the answer: "Just keep trusting God and be patient. Keep believing He always has your best interests at heart. Even when things seem to move more slowly than you want them to, trust God to deliver every blessing He has promised and fulfill every righteous desire He has put in your heart. And trust Him to do it right on time."

You can read the entire article, titled "Are We There Yet?", on Page 18. And, if you've never gotten around to ordering God's Master Plan for Your Life, now's your chance.

Ronald C. Jordan Managing Editor

KCM EUROPE







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

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

-Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

#### Other Editions of the BVOV Magazine











Portuguese Edition kcm-pt.org/revista





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# Honor Between God and Man

It's time to examine a little more closely the relationship of honor between man and God.

In previous chapters, we have looked at bits and pieces. Now, let's put it all together.

You remember we talked about the fact that to honor is to delegate authority. That works both ways. When you and I humble ourselves before God, we delegate to Him authority over our lives. Rarely has it been preached this way, but I believe it should have been. In the future, this is how we should think of honor.

We have been backward about some of these things over the years. We need to tell people when they come to Jesus, "You are a unique human being. There has never been anyone exactly like you, and there never will be. As far as God is concerned, you are unique—one of a kind. You can never be replaced."

It doesn't matter what kind of life you've lived, or how deep in the jaws of sin you may be, Jesus has already died for you. As far as God is concerned, your outcome has already been decided. The Bible says that God reconciled us to Himself through the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son. Now it's up to us to reconcile ourselves to Him.

God is not willing to do without any person.



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



We need to tell people that it is an honor to God and an honor to Jesus for someone to come to Him and say: "LORD, I turn my life over to You. I give You my spirit, soul and body. Everything I am and everything I have, I submit to You. You are my LORD and my God. Take complete power and authority and dominion over me." You are the only one who has the authority to give yourself. Only you can make that decision.

It is an honor to God for us to do that—to yield ourselves to Him. He has promised that when we do that, when we honor Him with our lives, He will honor us.



Honor Only We Can Bestow

When we give ourselves to God, He accepts us and, in return, bestows upon us all that He has. Once we give ourselves and our time to God, then it becomes our great honor to give Him, out of our love for Him, anything else above that. We truly honor Him with our finances by giving Him our first 10 percent—our tithe, because it belongs to Him (Malachi 3:10). He counts it an honor and rebukes the devourer for our sakes (verse 11) and opens the windows of heaven to pour out so much BLESSING upon us that there will not even be room enough to contain it all.

The authority
God has
delegated to
us is not based
on our strength
or power.
It is based on
His WORD.
Let The WORD
fight its own
fight.

Then, He makes the 90 percent that is ours produce far more than if we had kept it for ourselves, because He is honorable.

When The LORD says, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (see Luke 6:31), He is telling us this to enhance the quality of our lives. He knows if we practice the Golden Rule, doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, eventually we will be surrounded by people who are doing the same thing to us. That's spiritual law: Whatever a person sows, that shall he also reap (Galatians 6:7).

A sword has two edges. The principle of the hundredfold return Jesus talked about, for example, has a front side and a back side. All Scripture does.

The WORD of God also says we will have what we say (Mark 11:22-23). It does not say we will have only what we say that's good. It just says we will have whatever we say. Now, this comes into play very seriously in the study of living honorably before God and man. When you and I act honorably, even if we have to swear to our own hurt, we bring our heavenly Father on the scene.

As we've seen, God says that whoever honors Him, He will honor (1 Samuel 2:30). Honor is a powerful spiritual force. It is an

act of the will, an act which triggers covenant realities.

Our wills, not our spirits, are what govern our lives. I like to illustrate it the way God illustrated it to me when I was a young boy.

#### Honor and the Will

When I was a young boy, my dad was quite a fisherman. Often he would take me along, and I loved it.

Dad traveled for a living, and I missed him while he was gone. The day he was due home, I

## 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.

#### connect with us

If you have just prayed this prayer, we have a Free Gift to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Call +44 (0) 1225 787310

#### PRAYER IS OUR PRIORITY.

prayer@kcm.org.uk

+44 (0)1225 787310 UK time: 9:00 - 16:30 could hardly wait. Sometimes, when he came in, he would say we were getting up early the next day to go fishing.

The evening before our trip, I couldn't sleep. I would get up in the middle of the night, make sure my tackle box was full, and lay out my fishing clothes. Then I would wake up at 4 o'clock the next morning. When Dad came in to get me up, I would already be dressed, with rod, reel and tackle box in hand. I was ready because we were going fishing. It was glorious!

Now the same man could come home from his travels, tell me something different and get a totally opposite reaction from me. He could say we were going to get up early the next morning to work in the yard. Strangely, I wouldn't be eager at all. Why not? Because yardwork was my idea of absolutely nothing to do. Even today, I don't like it. I have never liked it. If it were left up to me, we would cement the whole yard, paint it green, and forget about it.

Gloria can go out there and dig and scratch around in that dirt all she wants to. I will buy her all the tools she wants. But as long as I have a choice, I'll leave all that yard work up to her and whomever else she can find to help her.

As for mowing grass, there isn't a lawn mower made that is fine enough to make me want to use it. I have no desire to work in the yard, no matter the enticement. If someone ever invents one that will fly, I might decide to try it a time or two just to see what it's like, but aside from that, I'm not interested.

When I knew my dad was going to get me up early to work in the yard, my response was not the same as when we were going fishing. I didn't wake up during the night and look for my work clothes. The next morning when Dad came to wake me up, I wasn't up already, with a smile on my face and a hoe in my hand. I was sound asleep. He had to call me at least three times. Even then, I had to drag myself out of bed.

What was the difference? My will. My dad was the same man in both instances. I loved him just as much in either case. Whether we were going fishing or digging, I felt exactly the same way about him. I willed to go fishing. I didn't will to do yardwork.

Our will determines whether we act with enthusiasm or with dread, in faith or in fear, and whether we act on what God says or on what the devil says. It is like a thermostat on the wall. The thermostat has no power to cool a room. It just sends a signal to the air conditioner, telling it that the room temperature has reached the point that some cool air is needed. This alerts the air conditioner to turn on until the thermostat says, "OK, that's enough."

Like that thermostat, our wills send out information—requests and commands. Do you need healing? Your faith won't come in line until the thermostat of your will sends a message: "Healing, please."

It makes no difference what sickness it is, whether cancer or a head cold. Your body doesn't know the difference, and your will and faith shouldn't either. There is no law, no demon, that can overcome faith. Only you control your faith.

We have done The LORD a terrible injustice by not honoring Him in receiving what

He wants to do *for* us, *through* us and *about* us. Why have we done Him this injustice? Because of our lack of

knowledge, which affects our will.

We did the same thing for a long time with the Holy Spirit. The Body of Christ, for the most part, refused to receive Him. We did the same thing with the gifts of the Spirit, refusing to receive them.



What happens when we use our will to honor God? The Father honors us in return. He says to us: "Because you have honored Me, I will honor you. You are acting in honor, so the honorable thing for Me to do is to take care of you. You are obedient to Me, so I will be obedient to you." You draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you (James 4:8).

The LORD asked me one time, *Kenneth*, will you do anything I ask you to do?

"Yes, LORD," I answered. "You know I will."

I know you will, He responded. But you don't understand that I will do anything you ask Me to do.

I could hardly believe my ears!

"What did You say, LORD?"

I said that I will do anything you ask Me to do.

Jesus says this in John 16:23: "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."

I didn't believe that, though. I believed I would do anything God asked *me* to do, but I wasn't really sure He would do anything for me.

There I was—born again, a man of faith and prayer, who was out preaching the gospel—but I didn't really think God would do whatever I asked in Jesus' Name. I did pray correctly, and I did have prayers answered, but that kind of thought had never entered my mind.

Then The LORD asked me: Kenneth, don't you realize that I am far more committed to you than you are to Me? I loved you before you were ever saved. I loved you even before you were born. I gave My life for you.

That stirred me to the soles of my feet.

#### Honoring God With Praise

Praise ye The LORD. Sing unto The LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. For The LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment

written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye The LORD (Psalm 149).

What is the sword in our hand that has two edges? The WORD of God. It is sharper than any two-edged sword. Its purpose is to execute vengeance upon the heathen.

In the New Testament, this two-edged sword is part of the full armor of God we use in our spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:11-17). We must remember, however, that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (verse 12).

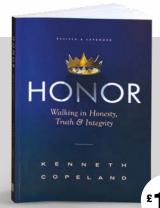
We are to use the sword of the Spirit to execute vengeance upon the forces of darkness and punishment upon satan, to bind the rulers of darkness with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute against them the judgment written. This honor belongs to all the saints of God. The Church of Jesus Christ has been given the honor of using Jesus' Name to cast out the devil.

The Bible says that glory and honor are in The LORD's presence (1 Chronicles 16:27). When we speak in the Name of Jesus, the devil has to

## What does honor mean?

We are living in a time where entire generations have not experienced God's honor and presence. Now we have a dishonorable society, because the concept of honor is not being passed on from parent to child.

In this revised and expanded edition, Kenneth Copeland takes a powerful and scriptural look at the biblical definition of honor.



This important revelation will challenge and inspire you to live an honorable life—a life of truth and integrity. It's a life that results in God's demonstrated favor surrounding you in your relationships, your business dealings and every other area of life.

Honor: Walking in Honesty, Truth and Integrity -Revised and Expanded paperback by Kenneth Copeland #300090

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do what we say, because God Almighty is in us and works through us. When we stand firm with that two-edged sword held in our hand and its power coming out our mouths, we are in the presence of God, working together with Him, which is our glory and honor.

But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour (Hebrews 2:6-9).

As we have already seen in Psalm 8, God created man and crowned him with honor and glory (verse 5). Then it tells us what that honor was: dominion over all the works of His hands (verse 6). Adam's act of dishonor gave that dominion to satan: but he lost more than just dominion over the works of God's hands. He lost the Life of God that was in his spirit.

God said, "The day you eat that fruit, you will surely die." Adam's physical body didn't fall dead. His spirit lost its life that day. It was separated from God. His body lived a total of 930 years (Genesis 5:3-5).

In Hebrews 2:9, we read that Jesus was crowned with glory and honor. All things have been put in subjection to Him. That includes life itself. Jesus regained what Adam lost.

#### Authority of the Believer

No man in himself has authority over God or what belongs to Him. God has authority over it, and He has given that authority both in heaven and earth to Jesus.

we talk about the authority of the believer. I've never been able to figure out why. It makes no sense to me. God's people should be hungry to learn about our God-given rights and responsibilities.

By now it ought to have become clear to us that God is not going to do everything in life for us. Why? Because most things are in our realm of authority and responsibility.

Suppose someone were to break into your garage and steal your lawn mower. When you call the police, one of the first questions they would ask is, "Was the garage locked?" You wouldn't say, "No, I've got faith in the police." They are faithful and devoted to duty. But if you are not willing to lock your garage, how can they help you?

That is the way religious people have been about the works of satan.

One of the very first things Jesus did after being raised from the dead was to honor the Church by crowning it with glory and honor. In Matthew 28:18-20, He said that all power and authority had been given to Him, both in heaven and in earth. He ordered His followers to go into all the earth and operate in His Name. There is no higher authority. His Name is above every name that is named, in heaven, in earth and under the earth (Ephesians 1:21; Philippians 2:9-10).

Then God gave us His full armor. He told us to receive the Holy Spirit and become His witnesses in all the earth (Acts 1:8). We are to do what He does, say what He says, and act like He acts. He has promised He will be with us even to the end of the world (Matthew 28:20).

The devil will flee before us. But not if we don't exercise the God-given power, authority and dominion that's ours as sons and daughters of the Most High God. He will not flee from us if we're not willing to walk in the faith that allows us to use the spiritual weapons God has given us.

The authority God has delegated to us is not based on our strength or power. It is based on His WORD. Let The WORD fight its own fight. God has honored us with the authority to use His WORD. As we do so He will honor it. Mark 16:20 says about Jesus' disciples after He was raised from the dead: "And they went forth, and preached every where, The LORD working with them, and confirming The WORD with signs following."

schedule is subject to change without notice.

It makes some religious folks mad when



Kenneth Copeland



Pastor George Pearsons



Terri Copeland Pearsons



**Jesse Duplantis** 



Keith Moore



Bill Winston



Jeremy Pearsons



Nancy Dufresne



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What's Your Next Faith Step?

# Onward to Phase 3

**Headquarters Building** 

I am thrilled to report that Phase 2 of the KCM Headquarters renovation project is now totally complete.

> **Mission** accomplished!

We were able to move 70 staff members into the newly renovated second floor, and they are excited and appreciative.

To remind you, this wing, along with areas of the other two floors in the Headquarters building, incurred extensive water damage as a result of the 2021 winter storm. We had to evacuate our staff into another building. resulting in very cramped and crowded

working conditions. Even though new architectural

drawings were created, we did

not begin construction until

last year because of other projects we needed to accomplish. One day, I was walking through one of the empty, storm-torn wings of the building when The LORD spoke a clear word to me. He said, This is a faith project. Activate your faith to get it done. It is time to take back what the devil stole from you!

He gave me Joshua 18:2-3 as our foundation scripture: "And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes. which had not yet received their inheritance. And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?" In The Message, verse 3 says, "How long are you going to sit around on your hands, putting off taking possession of the land that GOD, the God of your ancestors, has given you?"

> I went to Brother Copeland about this, and he told me, "Go for it!"

> > I took this before the KCM staff, and they said, "Go for it!"

I knew that you, our Covenant Partners, were with us and that you, too, agreed for us to "go for it!"

The whole building is a massive renovation project. It seemed overwhelming.

But The LORD told us to do the same thing He said to Joshua: He told him to take the Promised Land one city at a time.

So, we are using our faith to take back our building—one wing at a time! And every time we complete a wing, we will celebrate the faith victory.

We don't take one accomplishment for granted. We fulfill Philemon 6, which says,



Staff members in KCM's Communications Department settle into their newly remodeled office space in the Headquarters building.





watch as Pastor George and Aubrey take you on a tour of the newly renovated Communications Department.

"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."

#### Onward to Phase 3

Now that Phase 2 is complete, we are moving on to Phase 3—a wing on the top floor.

Even though the finances are not physically in the bank for this phase, The LORD instructed me to *invade the city*. What does that mean? It means to do something to take the next faith step and let the devil know that we are taking back our territory.

As a step of faith, I instructed our building and maintenance department to sweep out the top floor and remove all the trash. They took the mandate one step further, deciding to strip down the walls and pull up the old carpet.

Brilliant idea! That was a faith idea!

I want to encourage you today.

Perhaps to you, your vision seems to be somewhat overwhelming. You might be thinking, *This is just too much. How are we ever going to complete this?* 

My advice to you is to accomplish your vision one faith step at a time. Take possession of it by faith and then ask The LORD, "What is the next faith step?" He will show you exactly what to do. It may seem like a little step, but every step is a step of faith toward the fulfillment of your vision.

"But, Pastor George," you might say, "We don't have the money in hand."

That's OK. The most important part of your walk is to see it completed by faith. See it with the eye of faith. As I heard Keith Moore say years ago, "If you can see it, you can have it."

I heard someone else say, "The LORD always has provision for the vision." Faith prepares. Faith gets ready.

Many years ago, Terri and I were believing for a new home. Again, the money was not in

hand—but our faith was! We asked The LORD what we could do to inspire our faith.

Start packing! He said.

So, we did.

Clean out the garage!

We did that as well.

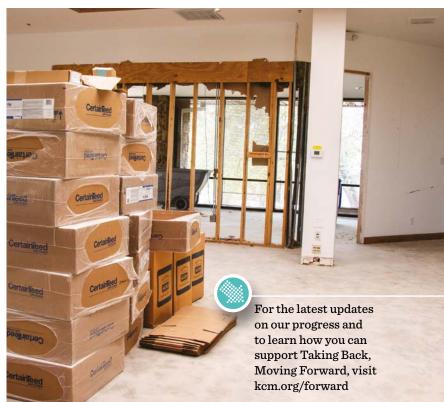
Thinking back, I can recall what the living room looked like.

We sowed our furniture into another family. We had boxes packed and were ready to go. If someone came to the house, it looked like we were moving out. What were we doing? We were obeying The LORD by preparing to move.

It took a little while. However, we eventually moved into our next house. And then the next house. And finally, into the debt-free house we are living in today.

I agree with you right now that you will hear from The LORD about your next faith step. Whatever it may be, we agree together that your faith project is finished, furnished and completely funded!

**Phase 3 has begun!** Join with us in faith with our vision to take back the next wing of the Headquarters building.



#### Our Faithful Advocate

I get Kenneth and Gloria's daily From Faith to Faith devotion, and it really helps me!

It often speaks to me at the exact moment that I need to hear it. My SSA payments were wrongly terminated at the end of 2023, and I did without them for 13 months. My pleas for reinstatement went ignored. Then I did what the daily devotions said—I declared God's WORD regarding that issue and believed I had the answer.

After about two weeks of this, without my having contacted them at all in recent months, I got a call and they told me they were reinstating my benefits—with full back pay for the whole year of 2024, then renewing my benefits altogether! It works, if we will just believe and keep standing!

Thank You, God!

R.C.



#### He Is the Miracle Worker!

I received diagnosis of stage 3 ovarian cancer. The Doctor said that it was difficult to treat. I am a Christian of over 25 years, but in everyday worries I lost my faith. I plugged into the Word of God through YouTube programme of Kenneth Copeland. I

started to be a Partner of KCM and believe for my total healing. I have been totally healed there are no cancer cells in my body.

N. A. | Israel

Become One In a Million. Partner With Us.

kcm.org.uk/partner

#### It's True, He Did!

I received the book He Did It All For You and learned the importance of praying in tongues. Now, I am baptized in the Holy Spirit and pray in tongues every day! I know I am a lot stronger in the Lord and have more knowledge of the Holy Spirit operating in my life. J.S. I Minnesota

"When you begin to think without fear, you begin to see things through the fact that God loves you as much as He loves Jesus." –Kenneth Copeland

#### He Shall Cover You

Recently my youngest child was involved in a car accident in Johannesburg, and God spared his life. I thank God for protection over my boy's life. I have been partnering with KCM since 1987, and I thank God for the powerful teachings of the Word

I pray Psalm 91 every day over my family and have taught my children to do so.

To God be the glory forever in the Name of Jesus Christ.

C.M. | South Africa

#### A Daughter's Prayer

I called for my mom to be able to overcome the terrible effects of the chemo pills that she is taking.

Thank you for your prayer of agreement for her. Praise the Lord, she is doing much better and has regained strength in her body! I'm so thankful for your prayers!

K.E. | North Carolina

#### A Friend's Faith

I called the prayer line for my friend who was in need of a new kidney. Shortly after the prayer, my friend called to say she got 'the call' that they had a kidney for her.

B.C. | South Carolina

### The Windows of Heaven

In the early 1990s, Brother Copeland was teaching about lack. At that time our finances were OK, but we were not tithing like the Word of God was saying. After listening to Kenneth's teaching, I decided to sit down and write down exactly what we owed; it was \$75,000.

I put my head down

However, I remembered the message, so at that very moment I made a list of how much I needed to give each month to God and planted my seed. We did that faithfully.

on it and said, "This is

insurmountable."

Then in 1996, my aunt and uncle died. They had no children. I remember being called to attend a reading of the will and was given \$370,000.

I paid off the mortgage and all the bills; and best of all, I knew God is faithful to supply all my needs! God's Word is true in a big way. Glory and praise to His mighty Name! We have never been in debt since and never will be again.

B.G. | Michigan

Let's take a moment to honor some special people: the fathers, grandfathers and those who step into those roles. My dad, Kenneth Copeland, showed me a beautiful picture of the love, guidance, correction and protection that our heavenly Father gives. Dads play a powerful role in our lives, showing us what strength, kindness and love look like. Whether it's your dad, stepdad, grandpa, uncle, pastor, teacher or coach, let's thank God for these strong men who reflect His love, encouragement and

Speaking of love, encouragement and wisdom, let's connect that with what we are learning.

This year, as we continue studying Ephesians, we are gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to walk with the Lord. Last month, we saw that Ephesians 4:29-32 isn't a checklist of things to do to be a "good Christian." Instead, the behaviors in these verses are the proof, the evidence, that Jesus is living inside us and flowing out of us. As I said last month, we don't have to perform tasks to qualify for His love; His love coming out of us proves that we are His children.

Our lives are not about our own perfection, but His! That's especially good to remember when we mess up.

Superkid, let's pause and talk about "messing up."

Sometimes we sin, like maybe lying, stealing or disobeying our parents. Other times, we make mistakes. Either way, Jesus is here to make things right when we come to Him. First John 1:8-9 says: "If we boast that we have no sin, we're only fooling ourselves and are strangers to the truth. But if we freely admit our sins when His light uncovers them, He will be faithful to forgive us every time. God is just to forgive us our sins because of Christ, and He will continue to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (The Passion Translation).

Jesus knew we would mess up. So, He came to make it possible for us to live with Him, inside of us, in order to make things riaht.

There! Now, take a moment and check your heart. Do you feel that peace? That's Jesus! Like Ephesians 4:24, The Message, says, "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 vou."

With that in mind, let's break down Ephesians 4:29-32. New International Version.

#### **Building Up With Our Words**

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Christlike Character: Jesus speaks words of life, encouragement and truth.

Evidence: When we speak kind, uplifting words, instead of negative or hurtful ones, we show that Jesus is alive in us. Our words become tools to build up others, just like Jesus did!

Christ In You: Instead of trying hard not to say bad things, Jesus changes our hearts so we desire to speak words that help, heal and encourage others. His love in us helps us use our voices for good!

#### **Grieving the Holy Spirit**

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Christlike Character: Jesus always walks in step with the Holy Spirit, listening and obeying with love.

Evidence: When we live in a way that honors God, we show others His character and all the fruit of the spirit. (This is what the fruit of the spirit is really about!)

Christ In You: Instead of worrying about making mistakes, we trust that Jesus helps us follow the Holy Spirit. His love in us makes us want to please God and quickly get back on track when we miss it.

#### Letting Go of Bitterness

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Christlike Character: Jesus forgives and loves completely-no grudges, no bitterness, no gossiping or fighting.

Evidence: When we let go of anger, grudges and harsh gossipy words, we show that Jesus is at work in our hearts. He replaces all that negativity with peace, patience and self-control. Instead of holding on

to hurt, we are healed and can show His love to those who hurt us.

Christ In You: Jesus fills our hearts with His love so much that there's no room for bitterness! When we walk with Him. it's easier to let go of anger and walk in peace instead.

#### Kindness and Forgiveness

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Christlike Character: Jesus is full of kindness and a powerful love that forgives completely.

Evidence: When we show kindness and love, even when others don't deserve it. we show the love and forgiveness He first showed us. This is one of the biggest ways people can see Him in us!

Christ In You: Instead of trying to be kind and forgiving on our own, Jesus fills our hearts with **His** kindness. His love in us helps us treat others the way He doeswith compassion and grace.

#### Your Turn, Superkid!

Take a moment to ask Jesus to help you recognize the evidence of His love in your life. Take notice when He helps you use kind words, let go of anger, or forgive others. That's Jesus alive inside you, shaping your heart to be more like His. You don't have to do it alone - He's with you every step of the way.

So get loud, Superkid. You are His microphone! Speak words of life, let go of hurts, and walk in His love. That's HIM coming out of YOU!

#### MAKE JESUS LOUD!

Commander Kellie



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



In looking back
over the years,
more specifically
the years of the
Depression, Vinita
and I can see how
God really took care
of us. He kept me
in jobs when there
were no jobs to be
had and because of
our decision to live
for Him, He made
sure that our every
need was met.

Giving

The Depression lasted from 1929 until about 1940. I was farming and had a parttime job. After I got off of the farm, I worked in a filling station for \$1 a day. Vinita was working in a beauty parlor where she would set a woman's hair for 25 cents. Later, I went into the insurance business as a salesman and traveled a lot selling insurance.

Even though those years during the Depression were so hard for so many people, as we look back, we see how the Lord met our needs and kept us; so much so that we were never in a position where, if we ran out of money, we were without food or a place to live—which many people faced every day.

The Depression never had any devastating effect on our lives because we knew the Lord.

One of the real keys that kept us going was the fact that we were tithing. Whether we were working for a salary or on the farm, we tithed. When I made Jesus the Lord of my life, I also made Him Lord over everything I had.

The Word of God became so clear to me in Malachi 3. When the Lord said to bring a tenth of your income into the storehouse He didn't mean from your net income, He meant from your gross income. As I studied that, it seemed unbelievable, but that's what He said. Another thing that seemed so amazing to me was that He said He would rebuke the devourer (Satan) for me.

I began to realize that it wasn't just in tithing. The more you give, God will return to you. I began to really test it and found that the more I gave, the more God gave back to me. There is no way to outgive God. I found I was getting money back in ways I never imagined. I would pray about deals I was going to make and my prayers were quickly answered. Not only were things I prayed about answered, but things I just thought about and desired, God would give me. I began to see that God's Word was true; that He really did give a man the desires of his heart.

We never missed a payment—on our home or any of the cars we owned. I just kept on working and we kept on tithing and we never did lack for anything. My feeling was that we were going to make it. I had decided that I was going to work as hard, if not harder, than anybody else. I also decided to do what was right by every person I worked for or dealt with.

Looking back on those experiences, Vinita and I know that God took care of us. We were blessed of the Lord during those years in our lives.

Looking at the world situation today—the state of the economy—there are a few things I would remind people do to live victoriously:

Make Jesus your Lord. When you make Him your Lord, you can turn everything on the inside of you over to Him. He'll not destroy it. He'll not make it hard on you. He'll make it better for you in ways that you can't possibly imagine. Jesus knows what you're doing. As long as you are walking in Him and He is walking in you, He will watch over you and direct you.

**Learn that God is your Source.** After I found out that God was my source it wasn't near as hard. Whatever work I did, I knew that it was a tool for me to use that my Source had supplied.

Work. You will find out that work isn't hard. If you are interested in what you are doing, you will do more of it than anybody else because you've got the vision. Get that vision and go after it. It will come true. It will grow for you as fast as you can handle it. Keep the vision in your heart. That's so important!

**Keep tithing.** Keep casting your bread upon the water. Don't *try* doing it. It's already been proven. Just *do it* and keep on doing it. As you keep casting it upon the water, it will keep coming back to you.

Keep that positive confession of God's Word going. God's Word is true and it will work for you all the time. Keep talking it. It will come to pass in your life.

To the natural eye, the world situation looks bad. When something looks like it's a problem, when it looks like there is no way out, when they are going to come and take everything you've got, then is the time to go sit down and talk with the Lord. He'll always be fair with you.

There is no one between you and God. Just sit down and talk with Him. Tell Him what you need, roll the care of it over on Him, stop worrying about it, and He will take care of you. Think about your Source, not the problem!

God will provide you a job when there is no job. He will provide you with income when there seems there is no possible way, in the natural, to get income. God will provide for you regardless of the world situation. Just keep your eyes on Him. He will never let you down.

(A.W. Copeland went home to be with the Lord June 26, 2000.)



# Escaping the Comparison

My first job in full-time ministry was at Eagle Mountain International Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where my parents pastor. I was in my early 20s, and enthusiastic about my position as the youth pastor. Motivated by the desire to reach young people with the gospel and help them learn to walk by faith, I would attend ministry and church growth conferences and come back to my parents, full of ideas of the things I thought we should be doing. I was convinced that if we just did what those other churches were doing, then those ideas would work for us just like they did for them.

I came to realize, however, that although my intentions were good, I'd fallen into the trap of comparison. I spent a lot of time, energy and resources doing things I wasn't meant to do. Instead of following the Lord's leading for the group He'd called me to pastor, I was looking at everyone else, comparing our ministry to theirs, and believing that we were coming up short.

Now, after more than 20 years in ministry, I see how dangerous it is to compare ourselves with others. Also, how easy it is to spend all

our time and energy trying to get what others have—whether in our ministry, career or home.

People have been falling into the trap of the comparison pit for a long time, going all the way back to the early Church. The Apostle Paul dealt with it, and we're still dealing with it today.

The good news is, the Word of God shows us the way out of the perilous pit of comparison and competition.

## An Atmosphere of Faith and Love

In his letters to the churches, Paul wrote to several of them celebrating the good things that he had heard were happening among them. In Ephesians 1:15-16, he wrote, "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers."

Paul couldn't stop giving thanks and praying for those believers because of their faith in God and their love for each other. That's powerful! And they weren't the only ones. He wrote similar letters to the Colossians and Thessalonians. Believers in those churches were putting their faith in Jesus, loving each other, giving to one another, and serving one another. That atmosphere of faith and love inspired Paul to intercede for them.

When my wife, Sarah, and I founded Legacy Church in Green Mountain Falls, Colo., that's something we took to heart. The Lord gave us a clear directive that mirrored those early churches. He said, I want you to create an atmosphere full of faith and full of love.

We received a vision for that mission. We wanted people to walk into the lobby of the church, take a deep breath, and sense the love of God. We wanted it to be intoxicating, like a warm scent that drew people in, comforted them and let them know they were in the house of God.

But God's directive wasn't just for our church, or for those first-century churches.

"We can't enjoy what God's called us to do if we're constantly looking at somebody else and thinking they're doing it bigger and better than we are."

It's a directive for the entire Body of Christ. We're *all* to create places where faith and love permeate the atmosphere.

Of course, those kinds of places

don't happen by accident. We must be purposeful if we want those places to exist. We aren't faith people because we talked about faith one time a few months back. And we aren't automatically people of love because our pastors taught a six-week message on love a year ago. The atmosphere around us doesn't change because of what we do sporadically. It develops because of what we do habitually. We create atmospheres and cultures in our churches, offices and homes by what we do over and over again.

directive for the entire Body of Christ. We're all to create places where faith and love permeate the atmosphere."

"It's a

#### Avoid Fixating on Outward Appearances

Of course, not every church under Paul's leadership received this same glowing report. Take the church at Corinth, for example; believers there received two tough letters of correction from Paul.

In 1 Corinthians 13, which we sometimes refer to as the "Love Chapter," Paul spent time defining the love of God because evidently, the Corinthians weren't practicing it. In his letter, Paul addressed "envy, strife, and divisions among you" (1 Corinthians 3:3, New King James Version), which resulted in people judging each other by outward appearances. The Corinthians were never going to have an atmosphere of faith and love if they continued to fixate solely on outward appearances. And guess what? Neither will we.

In 2 Corinthians 10:7, Paul pointed to one of their problems when he asked, "Do you look at things according to the outward appearance?" (NKJV). He went on to warn of what happens when we judge by what we see outwardly instead of seeing the way God sees. Verse 12 says, "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (NKJV).

# Resist Comparison and Competition

Looking at outward appearances is how we fall into the pit of comparison. Reread verse 12 in the *New Living Translation:* "Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only

comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!"

I love this translation because it shows Paul getting right to the heart of the issue. It is *ignorant*, he says, for us to compare our ministries, gifts, talents, businesses, workplaces or homes to others. Our only responsibility is to focus on what God has called us to do. We're called to steward our gifts, talents and resources, not compare them to the gifts, talents and resources of others.

As I said, I wrestled with this when I first began in ministry. I assumed that if I wasn't doing what others were doing, I wasn't doing it right.

One day, I decided to ask my grandfather, Kenneth Copeland, about it. He and I were flying together in a twin-engine Beechcraft Baron from Tulsa, Okla., to Fort Worth. I'd spent that whole day waiting for the opportunity to ask this question. After we had taken off out of Tulsa Riverside Airport, climbed to altitude, and on course for home, I asked him, "Papaw, in the beginning days of your ministry, were you tempted to see another minister and want to copy them?"

His answer was so prompt and profound.

"No." He answered, without hesitation or further explanation.

In the ensuing silence I thought to myself, *Yeah, me neither. Who would do that?* 

It seemed like an eternity of quietness that followed as he sat in the left seat and I slumped in the right. But it wasn't long until he spoke up again and explained: "Jeremy, the Lord told me in the beginning days that when it came to other ministers, I could learn from them; but when it came to being like somebody, the Lord said, Be like Me."

That was a profound piece of wisdom that I've never forgotten.

Galatians 6:4-5 echoes what my grandfather said: "Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct" (NLT).

None of us is called to duplicate another's call, and yet we all too often tend to get our eyes on what others are doing and the perceived success and impact they are having. When we do that, we fall headlong into the comparison trap and will be left thinking over and over again that we are not succeeding in our ministries or prospering in our lives. It is good to learn from the example of others.

However, I have found that when you fix your eyes on them, you run the risk of becoming more familiar with the call of God on their lives than you are with the one on your own.

This is a dangerous trap to fall into, but the way out is simple—do what the Spirit of God said in Galatians 6:4 and pay attention to your own calling. What has God told *you* to do? What work has He anointed *you* for? What grace has He given *you*? If you give your life to answering these questions, you will escape the comparison trap and live free from the spirit of competition that is steering many people in the wrong direction for their lives. Pay attention to your own calling.

This is a lesson we must all learn, but sadly, many learn it the hard way. Even Timothy, Paul's son in the faith, faced this challenge in his ministry. When he was a young pastor, he dealt with contention from the older, disgruntled believers who didn't think he was mature or seasoned enough for the position he held. Paul, like a true father in the faith, promised to straighten the situation out when he arrived. Meanwhile, in 1 Timothy 4:13 he wrote to Timothy and said, "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

He was telling Timothy to get his eyes off what others thought he should be, and to focus on the assignment God had given him. In verse 15 Paul said to Timothy, "Meditate on these things; give yourself *entirely* to them" (NKJV). You and I avoid falling into the trap of comparison and competition when we find out what God has called us to do and give the full measure of our lives to fulfilling His assignment.

#### **Bring Back the Fun**

Being driven by the spirit of competition will absolutely drain all the fun out of ministry and life. We can't enjoy what God's called us to do if we're constantly looking at somebody else and thinking they're doing it bigger and better than we are.

So right now, let's commit to resisting the spirit of comparison and competition in our churches, ministries, workplaces and homes. Instead of focusing on what someone else is doing, let's focus on what God has called and equipped us to do, so we can fulfill our assignment, according to the Word, with faith and love. Then not only will we succeed in what God has called us to do, but I'm convinced we'll also have a whole lot of fun in the process.



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If you've ever taken young children on a road trip, chances are you've heard those four words again and again. When you stopped at a traffic light, when you pulled into a service station to get gasoline, when you slowed the car down for any reason, the hopeful question chanted by vacationing children everywhere repeatedly filled your ears: "Are we there yet? Are we there yet?"

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

More often than not, your answer was no because the journey had just begun. You may have been on the road five minutes, but to your small, impatient passengers it had already seemed like five hours. So when you informed them the destination was still miles away, they wailed in despair, "Why does it take so long to get there?" That's a popular question, not just among children eager to start their vacation,

"When we give in to impatience and anxiety, or rush ahead of God, trying to carry out His plan in our own, natural strength, that divine connection is interrupted."

but also among Christians trying to stay connected to God's Master Plan. Once we get a glimpse of what God has called us to do and who He has called us to be, we often become impatient. We become weary of the growth process and the time it takes to see God's plans fully realized.

So, like children, we pester God with that familiar old question, "Are we there yet?"

When it becomes clear the answer is no, we can easily get cranky and irritable. We start wondering why this whole thing is taking so long. And it is at precisely this point many believers begin disconnecting from God's plan. They become discouraged and tired of waiting for their divinely inspired hopes and dreams to come true. So they start badgering God about those things, pushing Him to give them everything they want—right now!

But it takes time for God's plans to develop. Even though God has the ability to work instantly and miraculously to bring things to pass, usually, He does things by process. He brings them forth gradually—over days, weeks, months, even years.

That's why, before He took the Israelites into the Promised Land, He warned them in advance that it would take time for them to overcome all the enemies there and fully occupy the land. He said:

But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the

Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off... I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land (Exodus 23:22-23, 29-30, New King James Version).

If you listen, you'll discover God is saying the same thing to you. He is telling you in advance it will take time for all the good things He has planned for you to develop. So, if you want to stay connected, you must learn to be patient with that process. Learn to do what immature children everywhere find almost impossible—sit back and enjoy the journey.

The Israelites weren't very good at that. When they were on their journey to Canaan, their patience with God's process quickly wore thin. They didn't want to wait for God's plans regarding them to develop. So, as the days went by, they grew increasingly irritable with the tedium of the wilderness.

As we've already seen, they expressed that irritation by complaining about almost everything along the way. They griped about the dangers and fussed about the scarcity of water. They wailed about the lack of food and even after God miraculously provided food for them, they got upset because that food was too boring. They craved something spicier than the heavenly bread that continually rained on them from the sky and, most shocking of all, they doubted God's ability to provide it for them, saying: "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in



Kenneth Copeland





John Copeland

Kellie Copeland

Sun., June 1 An Unshakable Life Is Built on God's WORD **Kenneth Copeland** 

June 2-6 Building a Legacy of Faith Kenneth Copeland w/ John Copeland and Kellie Copeland

Sun., June 8 The BLESSED Life Begins When You Choose To Fear Not **Kenneth Copeland** 

June 9-13 God Is Your Father Kenneth Copeland w/ John Copeland and Kellie Copeland

Sun., June 15
God's BLESSING Plan Leads You
to a Fear-Free Life
Kenneth Copeland

June 16-20 Walk by Faith and Not by Sight **Kenneth Copeland** 

Sun., June 22 Victory In Life Comes by Being a Doer of God's WORD **Kenneth Copeland** 

June 23-27 The God of More Than Enough **Kenneth Copeland** 

Sun., June 29 Walk In Victory by Speaking Jesus' Words **Kenneth Copeland** 

#### WAYS TO WATCH

Watch with English, German, Portuguese or French captions!







Watch the Spanish broadcast Enlace es.kcm.org Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" (Numbers 11:4-6, *NKJV*).

God doesn't respond well when His people complain and doubt His ability to care for them. They tempt Him to anger when they say, "Can God really do this for me?" Psalm 106 confirms that by giving us God's response to the Israelites' complaints. It says:

...They did not [earnestly] wait for His plans [to develop] regarding them, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness and tempted and tried to restrain God [with their insistent desires] in the desert. And He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their souls and [thinned their numbers by] disease and death (verses 13-15, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Instead of their impatient grumbling opening the door for fire and snakes to come upon them, the Israelites' request for meat resulted in something entirely different. God "sent leanness into their souls." He gave them exactly what they wanted. In fact, He gave them more than they wanted. He gave them meat to eat, but not just for a meal or two. God rained quail down for thirty days until it came out of their nostrils and became loathsome to them (Numbers 11:20). If that wasn't bad enough, "While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was aroused against the people...." A great plague resulted, "So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving" (Numbers 11:33-34, NKJV).

The moral of that story is clear: It's better to wait for God's plans concerning us to develop. If we push ahead of His timing to get what we want, we may regret it in the end. If we get impatient and try to force things to happen more quickly than God intended, the thing we thought we wanted can become a snare and a burden to us. We may get a substitute while we miss God's best. God's promised blessings, obtained too soon in a carnal way, can actually turn out to be a curse.

The Israelites proved that at least twice—once in the wilderness, and again many years after they reached the Promised Land. The second time they made that mistake, they were pushing God to give them a king. At the

time, the prophet Samuel was the spiritual leader of Israel, so the people brought their demand to him. Samuel knew that the Lord had not chosen "any man to be a ruler over My people Israel" (2 Chronicles 6:5, *NKJV*). He realized their insistence on a king displeased the Lord, but when he prayed about it, God gave him a surprising answer. He said: "Hearken unto the voice of the people in all they say unto thee; for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not be King over them" (1 Samuel 8:7).

Why were the Israelites in such a hurry to have a king? Why did they disregard God's warning and demand He give them a ruler even though they knew he would be hard on them? They wanted to be like all the other nations (1 Samuel 8:5, 20, AMPC). That's a tendency we, as believers, can fall prey to as well. Sometimes as we're walking out the plan of God for our lives, we'll start envying others who are further down the road. We'll see the seasoned believer who has been tithing and giving for years, developing his faith and his confidence in God's provision. Then we'll start comparing our financial status to his. We might think, Hey, that man has a nicer car than I do! He has a bigger house!

Or we might look at someone who has a better job or a bigger ministry, and become dissatisfied with what God has currently given us.

Well, God loves me just as much as He loves him, we'll start thinking. So I'm just going to step out by faith and buy that big house. I'm going to get a car just like his. I'm going to push for a higher position at work or a bigger ministry.

There's a flaw in that kind of reasoning. Even though God loves us all equally, even though He wants to bless us all richly, He has a plan and a timetable that will bring those blessings to each of us at just the right time, in the best possible way.

#### Patience Makes Us Stronger

How do you keep from making that mistake? Just keep trusting God and be patient. Keep believing He always has your best interests at heart. Even when things seem to move more slowly than you want them to, trust God to deliver every blessing He has promised and fulfill every righteous desire He has put in your heart. And trust Him to do it right on time. Continually keep in mind the instructions God gave us in Hebrews 6:11-15 and see to it that:

...you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise (NKJV).

When the good things you're expecting from God seem slow in coming and you begin to get anxious and in a hurry—slow down. Remind yourself of these verses and remember that the Bible says, through Jesus, you have inherited the very same blessing that Abraham received (Galatians 3:14). God has said to you, just as surely as He said to the patriarch, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." He has sworn to prosper you in every area of life—spirit, soul and body. But to fully receive those blessings, you must do the same thing Abraham did. You must patiently endure.

You can only do that if you have entered what the Bible refers to as *the rest* that belongs to those who live by faith.

#### We Can Rest In Him

We enter into God's rest by drawing near to Him, by dwelling, as Psalm 91 says, in the secret place of the Most High and abiding under the shadow of the Almighty. We do it by maintaining a continuous living connection with the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit.

When we give in to impatience and anxiety, or rush ahead of God, trying to carry out His plan in our own, natural strength, that divine connection is interrupted. We get sidetracked and the power and life-flow that gives us the divine ability to do what God has called us to do begins to diminish. When that happens, no matter how much human energy we expend trying to move ourselves on down the road of God's Master Plan, nothing happens. We find ourselves revving our engines and spinning our wheels...going nowhere fast!

That's why Jesus so clearly told us to dwell and abide continually in Him. "Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine," He said, "neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me" (John 15:4, AMPC).

I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken-off] branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and they are burned. If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is honored and glorified, and you show and prove yourselves to be true followers of Mine. I have loved you, [just] as the Father has loved Me; abide in My love [continue in His love with Me]. If you keep My commandments [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and live on in His love. I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing (verses 5-11, AMPC).

I'm convinced that if we'll abide in Jesus and continually remind ourselves He is abiding in us, we can live every day in the rest of God. If we feed our hearts on His Word and meditate on the fact that we are His temple—that He not only dwells in us, He spreads Himself over us like a tent—we'll be able to patiently endure and overcome

If we get impatient and try to force things to happen more quickly than God intended, the thing we thought we wanted can become a snare and a burden to us.

#### READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

#### I I I I I I

	Old Testament	NEW Testament
Sun 1	Ps. 69-70; Prov. 14:15-35	
Mon 2	2 Sam. 9-11	Acts 20
Tue 3	2 Sam. 12:1-13:33	Acts 21
Wed 4	2 Sam. 13:34-15:23	Acts 22
Thu 5	2 Sam. 15:24-17:29	Acts 23
Fri 6	2 Sam. 18:1-19:30	Acts 24
Sat 7	2 Sam. 19:31-21:22	
Sun 8	Ps. 71-72; Prov. 15:1-15	
Mon 9	2 Sam. 22:1-23:7	Acts 25
Tue 10	2 Sam. 23:8-24:25	Acts 26
Wed 11	1 Kgs. 1:1-2:9	Acts 27
Thu 12	1 Kgs. 2:10-3:28	Acts 28
Fri 13	1 Kgs. 4:1-6:10	Rom. 1
Sat 14	1 Kgs. 6:11-7:39	
Sun 15	Ps. 73-74; Prov. 15:16-33	
Mon 16	1 Kgs. 7:40-8:53	Rom. 2
Tue 17	1 Kgs. 8:54-10:23	Rom. 3
Wed 18	1 Kgs. 10:24-12:15	Rom. 4
Thu 19	1 Kgs. 12:16-13:34	Rom. 5
Fri 20	1 Kgs. 14-15	Rom. 6
Sat 21	1 Kgs. 16:1-18:6	
Sun 22	Ps. 75-77; Prov. 16:1-17	
Mon 23	1 Kgs. 18:7-19:21	Rom. 7
Tue 24	1 Kgs. 20:1-21:16	Rom. 8
Wed 25	1 Kgs. 21:17-22:53	Rom. 9
Thu 26	2 Kgs. 1-3	Rom. 10
Fri 27	2 Kgs. 4:1-5:19	Rom. 11
Sat 28	2 Kgs. 5:20-7:20	
Sun 29	Ps. 78; Prov. 16:18-33	
Mon 30	2 Kgs. 8-9	Rom. 12

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KCM.ORG.UK/PROMOTION +44 (0)1225 787310 every trial and temptation the devil sends our way. We'll be able to rest quietly in faith, wait on God's perfect timing, and everything He promised will come to pass in our lives. When you think about it, what often pushes us into anxiety and impatience is our fear that God has forgotten us, or that He might be overlooking us. But such a thing would be impossible!

Read the Old Testament accounts sometime about all the attention God gave the Jewish temple. He was very particular about everything that went on there because that temple was His Old Covenant dwelling place. It was His home.

And what a magnificent home it was! Adorned with gold and precious stones, filled with beautiful vessels and immaculately dressed priests, the Old Testament temple was an absolute marvel. Yet even that temple was not adequate for our God. He said, "Heaven [is] My throne, and earth the footstool for My feet. What [kind of] house can you build for Me...or what is the place in which I can rest?" (Acts 7:49, AMPC).

First Corinthians 3:16 answers that question. It says we, as believers, are God's house. We are His resting place. It says, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" If God so hovered over and cared for the details of Solomon's temple, how much more will He hover over and care for every detail in the lives of those temples who are born again in His image. We are His temple not made with hands. We can truly rest knowing that "He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]" (Hebrews 13:5, AMPC).

Through the years, Ken and I have spent a lot of time meditating on these truths. We've had a lot of practice patiently enduring and laboring to enter God's rest. We know more about it now than we did when we first started our walk with God. We had to keep trusting Him through the good times and the hard times.

It wasn't always easy, but I'm so glad we did it. Every blessing has been worth the wait. Ken and I have never been more fulfilled. We've never enjoyed life more. I'd do it all again a hundred times to have the peace and satisfaction we enjoy today.

Of course, even now, we don't "have it made." We still encounter difficulties and sometimes wait longer than we'd like for certain things to happen. Things aren't always easy for us. We still have to walk by faith. But I will tell you this, they are easier—a lot easier—than they used to be. Why? Because through the years we've experienced for ourselves how faithful God is. Our confidence in Him has grown. Even in the hard times, it's easier to be patient because we know in advance how things are going to turn out. They're going to turn out for our good.

After seeing God come through for us again and again, it's easier now for us to do what James 1:2-4 says: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (NKJV).

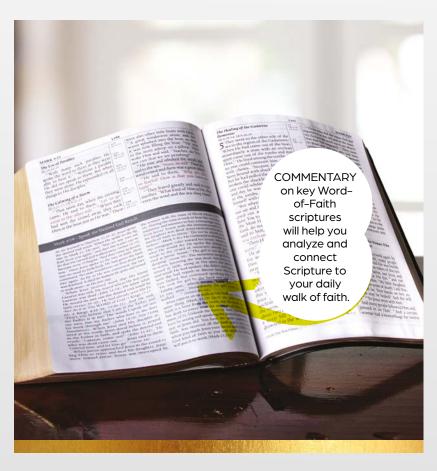
Ken and I can wait in joy now for God's plans to develop in our lives. We've discovered that patience enables us to walk by faith until we receive full victory. It also increases our fortitude and builds our character in the process. That's why Romans 5:3-5 (AMPC) says:

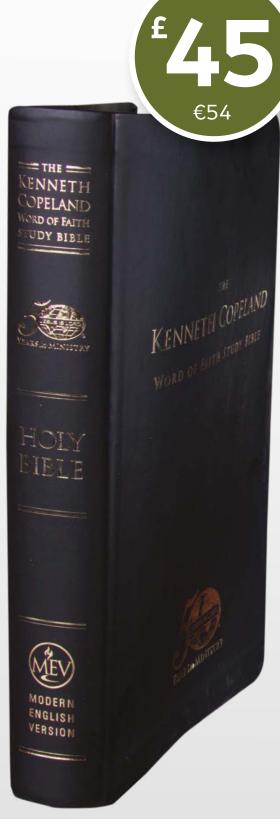
Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation. Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.

Patiently enduring the delays and hardships that come our way makes us stronger, more mature believers. It increases the blessing in our lives and prepares us for the next phase of God's plan. When we exercise faith and patience, overcoming challenges and gaining the victory, it pushes us forward into bigger and better things.

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