



KENNETH  
COPELAND  
MINISTRIES

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

# VICTORY

MAY 2024

## Faith for a Family

P.14

When Ben and Melinda Deckert's plan to start a family after being married five years didn't happen, they refused to allow medical issues to hinder them. They knew God wanted them to pray, and stand in faith for His promise.

**Bonus**  
CONTENT



WATCH

# VICTORY WEEK

MAY 13-17

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### The Richards'

newborn baby was stillborn. A few weeks later, they took their healthy baby home because of the power of God's Word!



### Chioma

called KCM for prayer when she was feeling overwhelmed. A few weeks later, everything was resolved!

### Abraham

was experiencing sharp pains in his legs. He began reading the healing scriptures KCM sent him, and the pain left his body!

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*"And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." —1 John 5:4 (ESV)*



# Editor's Letter



## Let Them Finish, Please!

Not long ago I was having a conversation with one of my sons when, as he was explaining something very important, I suddenly interrupted to offer my opinion. Immediately, he responded by saying, "But you didn't let me finish." Slightly offended, but mostly embarrassed, I quickly apologized and urged him to continue his thought.

But the thought of what had just happened didn't end there. In fact, it lingered long enough for me to really think about what had just happened, and to examine my actions. Not only had I acted rudely by interrupting my son's effort to share something that was obviously very important to him, but I had disrespected him in the process. In essence, I had sent him a message that giving my opinion was more important than listening to what he had to say.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that really wasn't a first for me. Truth is, it was pretty much a habit that I'd not recognized I had—until now. In retrospect, it was pretty commonplace for me to cut off people midsentence to offer my "expert" advice—even when it wasn't requested.

To be honest, I realize I had even been guilty of acting the same way with God.

*How often, I wondered, have I gone to God in prayer and stated my case, only to butt in with my unsolicited retorts while He was trying to respond to me?*

What am I proving by interrupting someone's thoughts to offer my opinion before it is asked? That I'm smart and have all the answers? No. I'm really showing that I lack wisdom—that I'm not respectful, and that I'm pretty good at being rude.

Proverbs 18:13, *The Message*, backs that up. It says, "Answering before listening is both stupid and rude." *The Good News Translation* says: "Listen before you answer. If you don't, you are being stupid and insulting."

This is not an interruption. It's an apology—to God, to my son and to anyone else I may have inadvertently offended.

Lesson learned.

Ronald C. Jordan  
Managing Editor



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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

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An aerial photograph of a rural landscape during the golden hour. A winding asphalt road curves through the scene, with a single car visible. The landscape is a mix of green fields, scattered trees, and several houses with red roofs. The sky is hazy and bright, creating a soft, atmospheric light over the entire scene.

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TO IT."**



by  
Kenneth  
Copeland

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# Faith That Heals Nations

Christians these days have a lot of different opinions about what it's going to take to save this nation. Some say it's going to take a massive win by their favorite political party. Others, who favor the opposite party, say it's going to take a win by theirs. More than a few, discouraged by the constant negative news they see on TV, are of the opinion that no matter which party wins, the future of this country is bleak. ∴ The devil is taking over everything and all we can do now is just try to hang on until Jesus comes.

Which opinion should we believe?

**None of them!**

---

When it comes to the future of this nation (or anything else) we should believe only what God said about it. He's the only One who's 100% right about the matter and He settled it once and for all by what He said in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and



seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

"But Brother Copeland, if that's the case, we're sunk for sure! We'll never be able to get everyone in this nation to pray and seek God!"

We don't have to. God didn't say if



TO STAY CONNECTED  
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everyone in the United States will pray, He'll heal this land. He didn't even say if everyone in Texas, or California, or wherever you're living, will seek Him He'll heal it.

He said, "If *My* people...."

"I know, but doesn't there at least need to be more people seeking God than rebelling against Him in a nation for Him to preserve it? Doesn't He need His people to be, if not the majority, at least a sizeable percentage of the population?"

No, He doesn't. He made that clear in Genesis 18 by what He said to Abraham about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Those cities were as wicked as they come. They were so full of sin that the cry of it had come up before God, and He had decided to destroy them.

When He told Abraham what He was about to do, however, Abraham interceded for them. Because his nephew lived in Sodom, he said to The LORD: "Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?... And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes" (Genesis 18:23-24, 26).

After The LORD agreed to spare the city for the sake of 50, Abraham took things even further. Concerned there might not be 50 righteous people left in Sodom, he asked if God would save it for the sake of just 45. God said He would, so Abraham, not certain that number was low enough, whittled it down even further to 40, then 30, and then 20.

The LORD agreed each time to the lower number, until finally Abraham said, "Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake" (verse 32).

Think of it! In this case, "My people" referred to only 10. That's all God needed to find to save the entire city from destruction!

I've always been a little disappointed that Abraham didn't go even further. If he had, I think the outcome would have been different. I think God might have agreed to spare Sodom for the sake of two—or even one.

What makes me think that?

Ezekiel 22:30. There, God said, "I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." In other words, if He could have found just one *My people*—just one person who would pray in faith and intercede—God would have honored that person's prayers, and the nation could have been saved.

### **We Make the First Move and Heaven Backs Us**

These days, more than one born-again child of God can be found in most any nation. In the United States, particularly, there are millions of us. So, when it comes to praying for the healing of this nation, we have more than enough to get the job done. We just need to stick with it and have faith that God will do what He promised. We just need to believe Jesus meant it when He said: "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That 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. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:18-20).

Notice in those verses it's not heaven that makes the first move, it's the people of God here on earth. We take The WORD of God, the blood and the Name of Jesus and bind and loose things on earth; then heaven steps in and backs us. Jesus comes into our midst to carry out whatever we've agreed on in prayer.

What does it mean to agree in prayer?

It means to believe, instead of just hope. To take a solid stand of faith on God's WORD and say, "This is the way it's going to be and no other!"

"But Brother Copeland, sometimes it seems like we pray and agree for God's will to be done in our country and it doesn't look like it makes any difference."

So what? We don't go by what things look like in the natural. We go by what God said in the Bible. Every WORD in that Book is

“  
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 makes the  
 first move,  
 it's the people  
 of God here  
 on earth.**  
 ”

blood-backed and blood-bought. The words in the Old Testament were originally backed up by the blood of animals. The words in the New Testament are backed by the blood of Jesus, and “all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

There's nothing more powerful than The WORD of God! It can change anything. It can turn the biggest mess you've ever seen into something so wonderful it's beyond your ability to imagine.

The LORD reminded me of this years ago in a way I'll never forget. He kept saying to me that the troubles we're seeing in the United States right now are birth pangs. “This nation is being reborn,” He said.

I told Him I couldn't envision such a thing, and He said, *Kenneth, do you think this nation's founders—men like George Washington, Ben Franklin, and John Adams—had any idea what it would look like a hundred years down the road?* (If you didn't read my article in last month's BVOV magazine, titled “A Born-Again Nation,” I encourage you to do so).

*Of course not!* I thought. *They didn't have a clue. They didn't even know what it was going to look like in 20 years.*

*You don't either!* The LORD said. *You don't have any idea of what this nation is about to look like after it gets reborn. It's going to be as far from what you can see and understand as it is now from what its founders could see back in 1776.*

*Sonny boy, you haven't seen anything yet!*

Just a handful of years have passed since He said that to me, and this nation has already taken giant steps forward that for decades have seemed all but impossible. When we dedicated the American Embassy in Jerusalem, for instance, and when our president formally recognized Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, we saw a major advancement in God's plan for this nation. Heavenly stakes were put in Holy Ghost soil that can't be removed.

Those developments, and others too numerous to mention, are signs that the rebirth

The LORD spoke to me about is underway. Although it's still a work in progress, it's happening. We're in it right now, and all of us, as believers, are responsible to help keep it going.

This is not just a little political thing. This has to do with the most world-changing outpouring of the Holy Ghost and fire to ever hit this planet, and everything in our lives is connected to it. Our finances are connected to it. The welfare of our families and our homes are connected to it, and we all have a part to play in bringing to pass its full manifestation.

**Even a Child Can Do It**

This needs to be in our prayer life every day. We need to be talking about it with other believers. When we come to church, we shouldn't waste our time jawing about our opinions and griping about the latest silly statement some politician has made. We should be using those opportunities to obey the instructions in 1 Timothy 2: “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be



**1**

God doesn't need everyone in the country praying and seeking Him in order to heal the land, He just needs His people to do it. (2 Chr. 7:14)

**2**

Even one believer standing in faith and praying for the nation can make a massive difference. (Ezek. 22:30)

**3**

Instead of joining in with the naysayers when they're neighing about how the country is going downhill, speak words of faith about it. (2 Cor. 4:13)

**4**

Seek The LORD about how He wants you to vote and how you can actively BLESS your neighborhood, city and state. (Jas. 2:18)

**5**

Make praying for those in authority in the nation a part of your daily prayer life. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)



saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (verses 1-4).

Not only when we're in church but in our own personal prayer times we should be praying for our city, our state and our nation. We should be doing for them what the Apostle Paul said in Galatians 4:19 that he did for the church in Galatia: “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.”

How do you travail in prayer?

You do it in the Holy Ghost. You spend time praising and worshipping God over the great outpouring He has in store for this country. You stand on His WORD and pray in other tongues until you get over in the spirit where the Holy Ghost can take hold together with you and make intercession through you according to the will of God. (See Romans 8:26-28.)

You don't have to be a spiritual giant to do that. My daughter Terri started doing it when she was just a child. She decided as a sixth grader to fast her lunch and pray for her school, and amazing things happened. Other students started joining her and asking her to pray for them in between classes to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Such a move of God broke out in that school that one day the principal felt it necessary to announce over the loudspeaker, “There will be no more praying in tongues in the girls' restroom!”

Of course, if you want to see those kinds of results from your prayers, you do have to be praying in faith. You can't get anywhere whining to God in unbelief. Faith is where everything starts. It's the key to unlocking the storehouses of the spirit.

That's why Jesus said in Mark 11:22, “Have faith in God.” Or, as that phrase can also be translated, “Have the faith of God.”

“Brother Copeland, I just don't have that kind of faith!”

Sure, you do. God gave it to you as a gift the moment you were born again. Just as He does every believer, He dealt to you “the measure” of His very own faith (Romans 12:3).

His faith is powerful stuff! It's what He used to create the heavens and the earth. He didn't just make them out of nothing, as religion sometimes teaches. He did it by speaking words that were filled with “the substance” of faith (Hebrews 11:1). He said by faith, “Light be!” and light exploded into the darkness and created 16 billion miles of universe within 24 hours.

That's the kind of thing God's faith can do, and now you have a measure of it. You may not have done a lot with it yet, but it's there in your spirit to be fed with The WORD, developed and used.

So, go ahead and put it to work. Put these four faith fundamentals into operation and help bring forth the will of God, not only in your own life and circumstances but in your nation.

First, take your stand on what God promised in His WORD He would do when His people pray. Meditate on verses like 2 Chronicles 7:14 and believe God will respond to your prayers and heal our land.

Second, give voice to your faith. Don't join in with the naysayers when they start neighing about how the country is going downhill. Say what God said about it. Follow the Apostle Paul's example and say like he did in 2 Corinthians 4:13: “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.”

Third, act on your faith. Seek The LORD about how He wants you to vote and then do it. Ask Him how you can actively BLESS your neighborhood, your city and your state, and do whatever He says.

Fourth, forgive. Faith won't work in an unforgiving heart, so refuse to stay in strife with anyone, including the politicians whose policies annoy you. Instead, let the LOVE of God flow through you as you pray for them.

If we'll do our part and pray in faith and LOVE, God will certainly do His part. He'll fulfill to the max what He promised in His WORD. He will heal our land! 🙏

“  
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AND BLOOD-BOUGHT.**”



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events

2024  
**Southwest  
Believers'  
Convention**

July 29-Aug. 3 | Fort Worth, Texas

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## *words of faith*

With God's WORD on your lips, you can do the works of Jesus and come through every challenge as more than a conqueror.

**When Jesus was on earth, He did everything by the power of God's words.**

(John 5:19, 8:28, 14:10)

**As a believer, you're called to do the works of Jesus by using the same process of hearing and speaking God's words.**

(John 14:12)

**To receive God's wisdom, simply ask for it in faith.**

(James 1:5-6)

**Spend time in The WORD and in prayer, believing to receive revelation from The LORD.**

(Mark 11:24)

**You can hear what God is saying about every situation because the Holy Spirit is dwelling within you.**

(John 16:13)





# Kenneth Copeland Ministries' Greatest Vision Is...

The year was 1966.

Kenneth and Gloria Copeland had been married only four-and-a-half years.

Those early years were a struggle for them. They were saved, but spiritually floundering. Brother Copeland was having a difficult time finding his place in life. Having been involved in a number of business ventures, nothing worked out for them until they received a very special invitation.

## A.W. and Vinita Copeland

Praise God for Kenneth's parents. A.W. and Vinita Copeland were the picture of godly parents. Even through Brother Copeland's years away from God, they had stood strong in faith and love.



Gloria and Kenneth on their wedding day, April 13, 1962.

I personally experienced that love when I came to live with them in 1976. I was new to Texas, coming from Massachusetts. They saw I would need some help acclimating. Really, though, I was also about to marry Kenneth's older daughter, Terri, and they wanted to check me out—up close and personal! I'm so glad they did. I will always treasure that year I had with them.

Everyone called them "Nonnie and Grandad." (Now, Terri has the distinct honor of being called "Nonnie" by our grandchildren.)

Nonnie is the one who taught Terri to pray. She was a great woman of God and a gifted teacher of The WORD. Grandad was a godly man of honor and integrity. He was highly respected.

## The Invitation

In 1966, Brother Copeland was going into the ministry. However, he was headed in the wrong direction. On Oct. 31, while traveling, he and his family were involved in a car wreck in Marshall,





Texas. His dad came to Marshall to take them home. It was at that time that A.W. told Kenneth and Gloria about receiving an invitation to attend an Oral Roberts University partner seminar the following week in Tulsa, Okla. The invitation came with two extra tickets, which A.W. offered to them.

Kenneth and Gloria quickly accepted.

That invitation would change their lives and direction forever!

They attended the five-day partner seminar.

*This is heaven!* Kenneth thought.

He didn't realize anyone could teach with such clarity.

At the closing service, Brother Roberts told the people that he would be laying hands on them. Following that, either they could go home or have lunch in the cafeteria.

Kenneth was in the line ahead of his parents and Gloria. After Brother Roberts laid hands on him, Kenneth sat down on the second row and waited for his family. The Anointing of God was very strong on that service and was sitting heavily on him as he waited.

Kenneth had been trying to get some of his thinking squared away about his future while they were there. He said being in a place of and surrounded by the power of God made it easier for him to hear from The LORD.

He suddenly had an open vision unlike anything he had ever experienced—before or since. He had not expected to see what he saw when God opened his eyes. He looked, then shut his eyes. He looked again. What he saw hit him with an intense force. He didn't understand what was happening—only a little understanding of it.

Eventually, he would understand that the anointing for his ministry was being imparted to him at that very moment.

### The Emaciated Spirits of People

He was looking at the line of people.

It appeared their bodies were made of glass. They became transparent. He could see right through them. He could see a vague outline of their bodies. Most of them looked physically healthy. However, he could see the inside of them. God was allowing him to see the spirit man—the hidden man of the heart.

He realized there was not a spiritually healthy one in the bunch.

They looked scrawny and sickly. Most of them had tiny necks on their bodies, and dried-up little sticks for limbs—like stick figures. They could hardly walk. And they all had great big heads that were about 3 feet in diameter. They were great big, grotesque-looking things.

It literally broke his heart. He said he wept. He couldn't shut it off. He wept and wept and wept crying, "Oh God, oh God, oh God!"

He would look at those people for a little while, and then close his eyes.

But every time he opened his eyes, there they were.

"LORD," he said, "what is this?"

He heard The LORD within him say, *You are looking at the emaciated spirit beings of My people. Their heads have been educated at the expense of their spirit. They are spiritually hungry and are weak. If the physical body were that weak, it would die of starvation. But, a spirit cannot cease to exist. It just keeps getting weaker and weaker and weaker.*

### Feed My People!

Then The LORD told Kenneth, *I have called you and have put something in you to fix this. I have called you to feed My people. They are out of balance. They are only physically and mentally developed. Some of them are so highly mentally*

ORU student Kenneth Copeland learning the ministry of healing and deliverance personally from Oral Roberts.





Kenneth's parents (left rear) watch as Oral Roberts and their son lay hands on the sick in 1967.

*developed that spiritually, they can hardly hold their heads up.*

He continued:

*I want you to take My WORD and let Me teach you. I will show you how to feed My people and build them up spiritually.*

You most likely have heard the rest of the story.

Brother Copeland applied to ORU and was accepted. He registered on Jan. 24, 1967—the date that his ministry was born. He was hired as Oral Roberts' co-pilot and accompanied him to all his meetings. He had the honor of being trained firsthand by Brother Roberts and Brother Bob DeWeese in the ministry of healing and deliverance.

What was The LORD doing?

He was preparing Brother Copeland to step out into full-time ministry much earlier than he had originally thought. Kenneth and Gloria were finally in the will of God. They thought they would remain at ORU for a long time. But in May 1967, it became clear that to remain in God's will, they must step out into full-time ministry of their own.

The Kenneth Copeland Evangelistic Association was born.

### **The Focus of KCM**

The focus of their ministry was clear:

*I will show you how to feed My people and build them up spiritually.*

The LORD gave them Hebrews 5:12-14, that says, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

They were to take believers from the *milk* of The WORD to the *strong meat*. They were to take them from religion to reality. They were to teach them how to take a word from God, stand on it, and walk it out to victory.

That is what Kenneth and Gloria Copeland have been faithfully doing for over 57 years. With all that said, let's answer the question: "What is Kenneth Copeland Ministries' greatest vision?"



**Kenneth Copeland Ministries' Greatest Vision Is...YOU!**

Our greatest vision is to see *YOU and others* learn how to develop faith in God's WORD in order to receive the desired results of God's best. Our greatest vision is to see *YOU and others* healed, delivered and set free. Our greatest vision is for *YOU and others* to have a clear understanding of what it means to know who you are in Christ, what you have in Christ, and what you can do in Christ. Our greatest vision is to teach *YOU and others* how to walk by faith and not by sight—to walk in love with one another.

The Copelands have spent a lifetime preaching and teaching others how to grow up, mature and become skillful in The WORD of righteousness.

**Faithful Partners Called Alongside**

The important thing to realize is they haven't done it alone.

We have had many faithful Partners join with us in helping others discover how to live a victorious life in Christ. And those Partners will receive equal eternal credit for every person who is saved, healed and delivered. You should read some of the amazing testimonies of how people's lives have been transformed.

**VICTORY Week on the VICTORY Channel**

As a matter of fact, you will have the ability to hear many of those testimonies beginning Monday, May 13 through Friday, May 17, on VICTORY Channel.

We are calling it VICTORY Week! Every night, for 90 minutes, we will show some of the great stories of how others' lives have been revolutionized through KCM and its many outreaches. From Eagle Mountain International Church to Kenneth Copeland Bible College; from our Relief Team, the prison ministry and the military ministry through retired Army Chaplain A.L. Downing to KCM meetings and events; to our vast catalog of ministry resources and VICTORY Channel; to our support for Israel and all through our global offices, the list goes on and on.

Why are we taking 90 minutes a day for five days to showcase these testimonies? Here are our top reasons for VICTORY Week:

1. It brings glory to God and points to His faithfulness, to His WORD.
2. It encourages many, even thousands of viewers, to see what faith in God's faithfulness will do for them. So many have never heard.
3. It reminds current Partners and Friends what their financial gifts are doing around the world.
4. It gives others the opportunity to join their faith and finances to this "Holy Ghost gang," as Brother Copeland calls it. We long to share the heavenly rewards that await those who, along with us, have brought hope, healing, restoration and spiritual growth to multiplied thousands.

**People's Lives ARE Being Changed!**

That is the vision that is very much alive today, and continues to expand around the world.

Yet, remember, the greatest visions of Kenneth Copeland Ministries is still a strong, overcoming...YOU! 🎯



After Kenneth and Gloria moved out of his dad's insurance office, this was the first home of Kenneth Copeland Evangelistic Association.



From the early days of the BVOV radio broadcast in 1976, to the now worldwide outreach of the VICTORY Channel.









by Melanie Henry



# Faith for a Family

Melinda Deckert examined the curtains she'd bought for the baby's nursery. She picked up the soft baby blankets, and sorted through the baby books, music CDs and videos, toys and stuffed animals. She thumbed through the book of prayers she and her husband, Ben, 

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prayed over the baby every day. 

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Melinda and Ben had met while attending Jerry Savelle's Bible college in Crowley, Texas. After graduation, Ben had proposed and in 2002 they were married.

Some of their earliest discussions had been about having children. Their plan was to wait at least five years before starting a family. Beyond having their own children, they had also entertained the thought of adding to the family through adoption.

Both worked at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Melinda's job took her all over the country, wherever Brother Copeland

preached. During those trips, she collected things for their children.

Now that it had been far more than five years, they'd gone in for testing to figure out why they hadn't conceived. Ben and Melinda felt shellshocked by the news. Her fertility levels were so low that she had less than a 1% chance of getting pregnant.

## **Taking a Stand**

"I was the oldest of four children, and no one in our family had struggled with fertility,"

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God loves you, we love you and Jesus is Lord

Melinda says. “Two different doctors agreed that it would be impossible for me to conceive without medical help.

“When it came to faith, Ben had an early start. He’d been raised in South Dakota in a Word of Faith church. I’d been raised in the Fort Worth area, but not in a Christian family. My parents were both born again at an older age. One of the members from a nearby Pentecostal church had gone door to door witnessing and inviting people to church. My parents attended, and we started going to church. I gave my life to the Lord at 9.”

Melinda had attended her first year of college at Southwestern Assemblies of God University in nearby Waxahachie. Home for the summer, she took a temporary job at KCM.

“I knew nothing about KCM or what they taught,” she recalls. “Back then, in the ‘90s, part of the hiring process was to give new employees a bag full of cassette teaching tapes. I still have those tapes today because they rocked my world. Even though I’d been born again at 9 years old, my entire belief system about God changed.

“Growing up in a denominational church, I didn’t know how to trust God’s character. Through listening to those teaching tapes, I discovered that God was good—that He wasn’t out to punish us but to bless us. That was the best news ever.”

Melinda also discovered something else about God.

“Psalm 84:11 says, ‘For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.’ In the *Amplified Bible*, that verse says the Lord ‘bestows present grace and favor and future glory.’ That verse has always been a source of great peace and comfort for me, but little did I know just how much it would mean to Ben and me in the years to come.”

After working at KCM for several years, Melinda resigned in 2008 to become a realtor. But what she had learned at the ministry never left her.

“By the time Ben and I realized that having children wasn’t going to be quick and easy, I’d learned what Ben already knew growing

up—that God would stand by His promises. My mind, and my faith, went straight to Psalm 84 and God’s promise to ‘bestow present grace and favor and future glory.’

“So, we took our stand on scripture.”

In addition to Psalm 84:11, Ben and Melinda stood in faith on two other scriptures. One was Psalm 113:9, which says “God’s grace provides for the barren ones a joyful home with children so that even childless couples find a family. He makes them happy parents surrounded by their pride and joy. That’s the God we praise, so give it all to him!” (*The Passion Translation*). The other scripture was Psalm 68:5-6: “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families” (*New International Version*).

“We shared our struggles with both sets of parents,” says Melinda. “They encouraged us and took a stand with us.”

## Medical Help

After a while, Melinda’s doctor suggested they try intrauterine insemination (IUI). To prepare her body for the procedure, she was given large doses of hormones to boost her fertility levels. The first IUI didn’t result in pregnancy. Neither did a second, nor a third. Doctors suggested and tried other procedures, but none proved successful.

“Those procedures took a lot out of Melinda physically, and they were very expensive,” Ben recalled. “At that point, we decided that we wouldn’t continue. We didn’t close any doors. We just decided to take a medical break, trusting God to show us our next steps.”

“Trusting God throughout this process wasn’t always easy. There were emotional ups and downs,” Ben said. At a point when their world seemed to have gone silent, Melinda spoke up: “I don’t know what’s in our future, but I know God has a good one for us.”

Ben put his arms around his wife and the two prayed—determined to continue to stand and trust God.

“We continued to pray over our children every day as though they were already here. We prayed over their spirits and their



personalities. We prayed over their health and education.

“Not only were we praying, but we had so much support from family and friends—even people who didn’t profess to be Christians,” said Melinda. “They just surrounded us with love and did everything they could to keep us encouraged.”

Meanwhile, Ben and Melinda began the process of adoption.

“Texas is such a pro-family state that it gives biological families many, many opportunities to regain custody of their children,” Ben explained. “But while that’s a good thing, the process is a very lengthy one.”

“We felt led to go through a state adoption rather than a private one,” says Ben. “One way to shorten the process was to become foster parents. We prayed about that, but neither of us were led that way, even though once you foster, it’s more likely that the state rules in your favor. We felt like God wanted us to stand and pray—to go about our lives preparing for our child. We literally put the situation into God’s hands.

“We were told that we would never get a young child unless we became foster parents,” Ben recalled. “We stood firm on our leading from God.” They also discovered that their age was another factor that could work against them.

“Because we were older, we didn’t fit some criteria,” Ben said. “Some people wouldn’t even call us back.”

Knowing that, Ben and Melinda decided to contact ACH Child and Family Services, a local adoption agency.

In 2020, Ben and Melinda were licensed to adopt.

### A New Journey

In August 2021, Pastor George Pearsons was preaching at Eagle Mountain International Church when Brother Copeland phoned in to share a prophetic word from God. Pastor George put him on speakerphone. The word, in part, said:

*I see the spirits of brand-new babies who will be born in peace, flowing into and going down into the earth and into the wombs of many*



**“One of the most important things we learned through KCM was this: No one can keep what God has said is yours!”**

*women. People who have not been able to have children will suddenly find themselves pregnant with peaceful babies. Little, peaceful babies. And no demon spirit will be able to abort these children. And they’re just popping up all over the world and they are all kinds.*

*The little babies are all different colors, and they can’t be aborted. They will be born. They have angels protecting them. Big angels. Their lives can’t be stopped in the earth. They’ll rise up in nations. They will become apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, legislators, lawyers, doctors, medical people. They will rise up in places and preach My WORD in the many languages of the earth.*

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BELIEVERS  
**HOW  
TO USE  
THEIR  
FAITH.**

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**READ  
THROUGH  
THE BIBLE**

**MAY**

		Old Testament	New Testament
Wed	1	Jdgs. 3:12-5:23	John 20
Thu	2	Jdgs. 5:24-7:14	John 21
Fri	3	Jdgs. 7:15-9:21	Acts 1
Sat	4	Jdgs. 9:22-11:11	
Sun	5	Ps. 56-59; Prov. 11:24-12:11	
Mon	6	Jdgs. 11:12-13:25	Acts 2
Tue	7	Jdgs. 14:1-16:22	Acts 3
Wed	8	Jdgs. 16:23-18:31	Acts 4
Thu	9	Jdgs. 19:1-20:35	Acts 5
Fri	10	Jdgs. 20:36-Ruth 1	Acts 6
Sat	11	Ruth 2-4	
Sun	12	Ps. 60-63; Prov. 12:12-28	
Mon	13	1 Sam. 1-2	Acts 7
Tue	14	1 Sam. 3:1-6:9	Acts 8
Wed	15	1 Sam. 6:10-9:10	Acts 9
Thu	16	1 Sam. 9:11-11:15	Acts 10
Fri	17	1 Sam. 12:1-14:23	Acts 11
Sat	18	1 Sam. 14:24-15:35	
Sun	19	Ps. 64-67; Prov. 13	
Mon	20	1 Sam. 16:1-17:37	Acts 12
Tue	21	1 Sam. 17:38-19:18	Acts 13
Wed	22	1 Sam. 19:19-21:15	Acts 14
Thu	23	1 Sam. 22:1-24:7	Acts 15
Fri	24	1 Sam. 24:8-26:4	Acts 16
Sat	25	1 Sam. 26:5-29:11	
Sun	26	Ps. 68; Prov. 14:1-14	
Mon	27	1 Sam. 30:1- 2 Sam. 1:16	Acts 17
Tue	28	2 Sam. 1:17-3:21	Acts 18
Wed	29	2 Sam. 3:22-6:11	Acts 19
Thu	30	2 Sam. 6:12-8:18	Acts 20
Fri	31	2 Sam. 9-11	Acts 21



That word strengthened Ben and Melinda’s faith to continue standing. They believed that their child was one of those about whom Brother Copeland prophesied.

As their 20th anniversary approached, the couple planned a 15-day trip to Europe to celebrate. Melinda let their adoption coordinator know the days, in May, that they’d be out of the country.

On April 21, 2022, their coordinator called with news. There was a 15-month-old girl who had been living with a foster family. Her mother had been a drug addict and was granted supervised care of the child at birth, but abandoned her at three months of age.

If the court severed her parental rights, the foster family would adopt her. However,

the foster family felt like adoption was not the right choice for them, and they made the difficult decision that the child would be better off with another family.

That family would be Ben and Melinda Deckert.

When she was placed in their home, it would be as a full adoption match and not a foster match, they were told.

“On May 5, we had just pulled up to the airport to depart for our trip when we got another call,” Ben remembers. “They wanted us to know that because her parental rights had already been terminated, the state had awarded her to us.

“We were beyond excited. Three different times we’d been close to adopting, but each time the child had gone to someone else. They told us that our daughter

would be placed in our home on May 26. In the state of Texas, the child has to be in your home for a minimum of six months before the adoption can be finalized. That meant our adoption would be final Nov. 29, 2022.

“As excited as we were about the trip, we were more excited about getting home to our new life as parents.”

**The Fullness of Joy**

On May 26, upon returning from their trip, Ben and Melinda drove to the foster home. The foster parents had packed all of the child’s clothes and toys. Melinda sat in the back seat with the child they named Olivia





## WORDS OF FAITH FOR YOUR CHILDREN

The world has much to say about your children these days—and most of it is bad. We're being told their economic futures are bleak, their ethics are waning and, for the most part, they're on a downward slide.

But if you've made Jesus Lord of your life, God has something very different to say about your children. He says they're headed for heaven, not hell. For a blessing, not a curse. So ignore the world and trust the Word. It has the power to turn your children's lives around! Here are some scriptures that will help you stay focused on God's promises regarding your children.

"Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and [your children] shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border."  
(Jer. 31:16-17)

"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children."  
(Isa. 54:13)

"...The seed of the righteous shall be delivered."  
(Prov. 11:21)

"Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed."  
(Ps. 112:1-2)

"...I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children."  
(Isa. 49:25)

"The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."  
(Ps. 145:9)

"...I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring."  
(Isa. 44:3)

"As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever."  
(Isa. 59:21)

**Bonus  
CONTENT**

Grace Deckert. She held Olivia's hand while the child cried for the only parents she'd ever known.

"I'm going to hold your hand through every triumph and every struggle," Melinda said. "We're here. We're not going to let you go."

They talked to her all the way home.

Walking inside their home, they were greeted by their three dogs: a little Maltipoo, a medium sized Wheaten terrier and a 168-pound Great Dane. As they sniffed her, Olivia tickled the Great Dane's neck.

"Tickle, tickle, tickle!" she said, laughing.

She never cried again. It was as if she knew she was home. Even the evaluators who came to do home surveys saw it.

"It's like she's always been here—like she's always been part of your family," they said. "It's amazing."

Ben and Melinda believe that's the work of the Holy Spirit. They'd spent years praying for Olivia's peace of mind, her emotional stability and her health.

"Olivia had a half-brother who was born addicted to methamphetamines," Melinda explains. "Yet, Olivia was born to the same addicted mother and was perfectly healthy. She was not addicted to drugs. She never suffered any damage from her birth mother's lifestyle. We have proof of that in her records. It's a miracle.

"We used everything we had collected for Olivia over the years, except the curtains. Olivia *loves* pink so those curtains wouldn't work. She is a ray of sunshine. She has a huge personality. When someone comes to the house, she walks up and introduces herself.

"She also loves her friends at the Child Learning Center, the day care facility at KCM. She is everything we hoped for—and more.

"Partnership with KCM means everything to us. I can't imagine going through the challenges we did without them. I would have thought that God was punishing us because we weren't worthy to be parents. Instead, we learned that we'd been adopted into the family of faith, with full benefits. One of the most important things we learned through KCM was this: No one can keep what God has said is yours!" 📌



# TESTIMONIES OF REAL-LIFE VICTORY

## Delight In the Word

Just want to say thank you for your teachings on so many subjects. I visit kcm.org every day and am so uplifted, encouraged and inspired in my walk with the Lord. I find all the articles from everyone very helpful. I also find myself wanting to learn more, grow more and look to please the Lord in everything I do and say. Thank you so much to all, and God's abounding blessings be upon KCM and all connected to you.

Jesus is Lord!

C.A. | New York

## Good Ground Yields Good Fruit

I have been watching VICTORY Channel for about two years and also receiving the monthly magazine; as well as other literature by request. I see a change in my spiritual life because of some of the things that I have learned by watching and listening to various teachings.

I.A. | South Carolina

**Freedom  
Is Available**  
*I called the prayer line to pray for freedom from depression and peace over my life, and the next day I felt peace and joy!*

P.G. | Nebraska

## He Brings Healing to His People

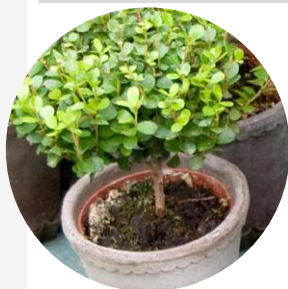
My son, whom Kenneth Copeland Ministries has been praying for, had stage 4 cancer for some time. He just got the clearance from his doctors that he is in remission! Praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank you, KCM, for your faithfulness to always be there for me whenever I needed prayer for my son, or whenever I needed prayer for anything!

E.W. | Indiana

## Owe No One

Pastor George prayed for debt freedom. I called in and let KCM know that the IRS said I owed money, but then later called to let me know that they made a mistake and I don't owe anything. R.C. | Ohio



**“When we were saved, God gave each of us a measure of His own faith freely as a gift. We, however, have the responsibility to develop it.”**

—Kenneth Copeland

## ‘Boldness Toward Godly Principles’

I wanted to thank you for encouraging us to participate in this move of fasting for our nation. It has encouraged me to participate at all levels that I have never done before. I look for strong leadership and I see it in *FlashPoint*, so thank you for being a light for Jesus. The information that you provide is much appreciated. The boldness toward godly principles is encouraging and thought-provoking! Thank you so much! T.F.

## He Is Present In Our Prayers

I called for prayer because I suffered with insomnia. I can now sleep eight hours. I am so glad the prayer partner and I could be in agreement. Praise the Lord! God is so good! K.D. | Iowa

## He Heals and Restores

About a year ago I called asking for prayer that my son's mind would be restored. Today, his mind is restored! Praise the Lord!

C.H. | Georgia

## A Dose of Thankfulness

I just wanted to reach out and say THANK YOU to KCM for their wonderful care of their Partners and the thoughtfulness, love and ministry shown to each of us. I recently had a birthday, and what do you know? A beautiful card and gift showed up in my mailbox from Kenneth and Gloria! Such love and such cherished, excellent attention to detail in everyday life situations. Kenneth and Gloria and all the wonderful people at KCM and EMIC demonstrate on a daily basis the love of God and His care for individuals!

Jesus is Lord!

C.M. | West Virginia

## Healed and Whole

As a Partner, I called for prayer because last year, I had a cancerous tumor removed from my upper left arm. This year, I had the second surgery, this time there are no residual cancerous cells. I am cancer free. Praise the Lord!

S.D. | Michigan

## Whatever You Ask, In Faith, Believe

Recently, I called the prayer line because I had so much pain in my back, I couldn't stand up straight, but after prayer, praise be to God, I'm walking and almost completely pain free. All glory to Jesus my Healer. Thank you for your prayers.

T.V. | Alabama



## 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*

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UK time: 9:30 - 16:20

### **The Lord Watches Over Us**

I contacted KCM and asked for prayer for my cousin, and her son who disappeared for four days. Within an hour I received a message that he was found and safely returned to his family! Thank you for your support. Praise the Lord!

R.H. | Texas

### **The Word + Faith = Results**

I recently requested prayer for an ear infection which also caused my hearing to be impaired. I wanted to share that all the fluid in my ear is gone and I can hear as well as I did before. I've been healed of this ear infection in the Name of Jesus!

Thank you for your prayers!

T.C. | Mississippi

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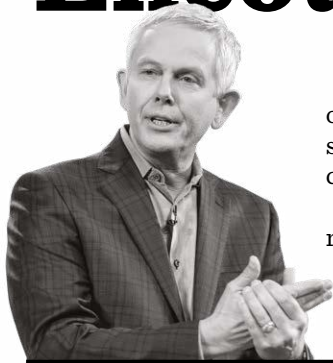


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# The Power of Encouragement



Some time ago, I had a friend named Paul on my mind. It had been a long time since I'd seen him, and I thought it would be nice to catch up, so I gave him a call.

The moment the phone started ringing, a random thought shot through my head: *Paul's radio broadcast is having a great impact in his city.*

I had no reason to think that. I knew Paul

had a radio broadcast, but to be completely transparent, it wasn't the first thing on my mind.

Paul answered, and we started to chitchat.

"How are you? Been a while. Yes, everyone's fine..."

Then I said, "Hey Paul, by the way, your radio broadcast is having a great impact in your city."

He dropped the phone. I heard it hit the floor. Then I heard...*dancing*. I could hear him shouting, "Oh, praise God! Oh, thank You, Jesus!" He was having a Holy Ghost revival, powerhouse party right there on the spot!

A moment later, he picked up the phone.





“Dennis!” he shouted. “I’ve been in prayer all morning asking God about things in my ministry. I had just finished saying, ‘Oh God, I don’t feel like this radio broadcast is having any impact in this city.’ And that’s when you called and said what you did!”

Now it may sound like I was living on a high spiritual plain, but truthfully, for me it was nothing special. Well...apparently it *was*. It was a word from the Lord—encouragement—that Paul needed to hear at that moment. What I considered a random thought was the sound of the Red Sea dividing for my friend.

### Mr. Encouragement

The Bible has a bit to say about the power of encouragement, and provides examples of believers who encouraged those around them with great results. One in particular was a bit of an unsung hero in the New Testament. His name was Joseph, and he appears in the book of Acts. In the early days of the Church, he was the first man who gave an offering of great magnitude. He had sold property and given all the money from the sale to the Church (Acts 4:36-37).

Based on what we know about Joseph, I imagine he was the kind of guy whose very presence lifted everyone. Do you know someone like that? He may not even have had to say or do anything for everyone around him to feel encouraged. How do I know that? Because the apostles didn’t call him Joseph. They called him *Barnabas*, which Acts 4:36 (*New King James Version*) says means “Son of Encouragement.” He had quite a reputation!

We all need a Mr. Encouragement in our lives. Or, maybe more importantly, as believers, we need to *be* Mr. or Ms. Encouragement in others’ lives.

Barnabas was so committed to encouraging others that when the Apostle Paul began preaching, he stayed right by his side. Though nearly everyone was terrified because of Paul’s history as a dangerous man, Barnabas helped Paul connect with the people and

places he needed to in order to share the Word. Think about that: As effective as Paul’s ministry was, God used an encourager to get it kick-started!

We all need to be like Barnabas, giving encouragement to those around us. Being an encourager is one of the most spiritual activities we can do. It’s an aspect of our lives that needs to be cultivated because the world gets so discouraged. Their narrative is so dark, so negative, so full of venom and anger. They *need* us to change that narrative.

Having the attitude of an encourager should be on our radar every time we enter a room. It’s not difficult, really. Many times, it doesn’t cost anything but a few seconds. Yet *everyone* wants encouragement. Everyone *needs* encouragement. People crave it.

Now, I’m not talking about an emotion or a feel-good moment. I’m talking about making something spiritual happen. Encouragement gives people the capacity to follow the plan God has for them to a greater degree.

That’s our assignment, isn’t it? To help people follow what God has put inside them.

### Corrected, but Connected

Of course, encouragement isn’t always easy. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 7:4, “I have the highest confidence in you, and I take great pride in you. You have greatly encouraged me and made me happy despite all our troubles” (*New Living Translation*).

To put that in context, remember that Paul and the Corinthians had a *lot* of trouble between them. Paul had spent much of his first letter to the Corinthians correcting them. It just goes to show that God can work a great ministry of encouragement, even with people we don’t get along with all the time. We need to remember that, and like Paul, we need to *stay connected*. All too often we allow ourselves to disconnect from people who frustrate, anger or disagree with us. But Paul didn’t write off the Corinthians.

What’s really shocking though is what Paul said in the next couple of verses.

“  
**Satan  
knows  
that if  
he can get  
us into a  
position  
of fear, he  
undermines  
our strength.**  
”



Dennis Burke and his wife, Vikki, are co-founders of Dennis Burke Ministries in Arlington, Texas. For information or ministry materials visit [dennisburkeministries.org](http://dennisburkeministries.org).

### Paul Received Encouragement

Verse 5 (*NLT*) says, “When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside.”

Paul essentially said, “The battles were on the outside, and they came at us to strike fear on the inside.” That’s what battle is; that’s the game. Every one of the enemy’s strategies that comes against us on the outside is trying to spark fear on the inside. In the same way that faith is the currency of heaven, fear is the currency of darkness. Satan knows that if he can get us into a position of fear, he undermines our strength.

When things come at us and tell us we don’t have what it takes, we need to remember that those fears cannot supersede our faith. If we stand, we will *not* go under! How do I know? Because of the very next verse...

“But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus” (verse 6, *NLT*). When Paul faced a battle and fear tried to get hold of him, God didn’t send an angel. He didn’t speak like thunder from heaven. He sent Titus.

Titus was a man who had been greatly impacted and mentored by Paul’s ministry. From what we read here, it appears that Titus didn’t even realize the significance of his visit. The Bible doesn’t indicate that he had the perfect words to say or a divine message to deliver. All we see is that Titus *showed up*. He had allowed himself to be available and obedient to God and to be used in a not-so-exciting way. But guess what? It was *exactly* the encouragement Paul needed.

Sometimes all it takes is showing up.

### When You’re Alone

Everyone needs a Barnabas and a Titus.

And everyone needs *to be* a Barnabas or a Titus.

You may say, “Dennis, I hear you, but what about when *I* get discouraged and there’s no Barnabas and Titus anywhere to be found?”

We all face times like that. That’s when we need to take our cue from David.

First Samuel records that the Amalekites had just raided David’s camp, captured the

women and children, and burned their tents to the ground. And if that disaster wasn’t enough, David’s people then turned on him and conspired to kill him. It’s no leap to see that David was discouraged. I’m sure he would have loved to hear from a fellow believer, but he felt completely alone.

In response, David did the one thing he knew to do best. He inquired of the Lord: “David was greatly distressed, for the men spoke of stoning him because the souls of them all were bitterly grieved, each man for his sons and daughters. But David encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord his God” (1 Samuel 30:6, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Just because Barnabas and Titus are nowhere to be found doesn’t mean we can have a pity party. We don’t need to depend upon anyone but the Lord for our success and our future. We can rest in knowing that we can draw on the strength of God inside us. We can allow the Holy Spirit to give us the courage we need through prayer and His Word so we don’t lose sight of the plan God has for us.

When we don’t allow ourselves to get depleted, we’ll be ready to be the encouragers He’s called us to be, so others can stay focused on God’s plan for their lives, too.

### The Power of Encouragement

These are days of strength and courage. For the sake of our fellow believers, these are the days when we need to be like Barnabas and Titus, courageously rising up to encourage one another in the Lord. Let’s lock arms together and help make sure no one is ever without encouragement when they need it most.

Hebrews 3:13 says we need to “encourage one another daily” (*New International Version*). Do you do that? When you walk into a room, are people delighted that you showed up?

Whose Barnabas or Titus can you be today?

Stir yourself up, step out and show up, because the words you say may be *exactly* the word from the Lord that someone else needs.

That’s the power of encouragement. 🙏



# Superkid,

# YOU Can Do Hard Things!

Commander Kellie's Corner



who did not know much about God. Paul talks about his purpose and passion in Chapter 3:1-2: “Beloved friends, because of my love for Jesus Christ, I am now his prisoner for the sake of all of you who are not Jews, so that you will hear the gospel that God has entrusted to me to share with you.”

Paul says that it was his LOVE for Jesus that tied him to his purpose. This is powerful because we know that Paul went through all kinds of hard things to bring the message of Jesus to the gentiles (non-Jews) in Ephesus. He goes so far as to say that he is Jesus’ prisoner. What did he mean by that? To see an example of Paul living his purpose out in hard times, look at another story from Paul’s ministry.

In Acts, we see that none of those hard situations, no amount of people making fun of him, treating him poorly, or injuring him could convince him to quit serving Jesus—to quit doing what he was called to do. Think about how hard it would be to keep preaching when Paul was struck with rocks over and over. Then, they dragged him out of town and left him there, thinking he was dead. Did he quit? NO! The Bible says in Acts 14:20: “When the believers encircled Paul’s body, he miraculously stood up! Paul stood and immediately went back into the city. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.”

GO, PAUL! Not only did he not quit, but Paul went right back into the city where he was stoned! Why would he do that? Because he was Jesus’ prisoner, for one thing! Flip over again to Ephesians 3:2, where we pick up with Paul expressing his true purpose: “so that you will hear the gospel that God has entrusted to me to share with you.”

Did you catch that? My dad used to tell us to “get your catchers out!” That meant, open your ears to listen and catch what is being said! Paul was a prisoner because of his love for Jesus to preach to the Ephesians (and us!) THE GOSPEL that God trusted him to share with them. This kept him going, even when things were hard! So hard that he had to be raised up by the Lord!

Do you think that bothered Paul? I think he got excited to see the miraculous happen; and I believe he EXPECTED his Master, Jesus Christ, to do miracles so that he could fulfill his purpose.

Did he fulfill his purpose? Acts 14: 21-22 says:

“After preaching the wonderful news of the gospel there and winning a large number of followers to Jesus, they retraced their steps and revisited Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. At each place they went, they strengthened the lives of the believers and encouraged them to go deeper in their faith. And they taught them, ‘It is necessary for us to enter into the realm of God’s kingdom, because that’s the only way we will endure our many trials and persecutions.’”

Not only did Paul fulfill his calling, but others around him did so as well.

Superkid, like Paul, you are called to carry the gospel of Jesus. Sometimes, it can feel hard. Probably not as hard as what Paul experienced, but still the enemy can make you want to quit. When that happens, I want you to say this out loud, knowing that Jesus is the One who makes it true: I CAN DO HARD THINGS! WITH JESUS ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

Don’t miss coming back next month. We are going to go deeper in faith just like they did in Acts. Deeper into the realm of God’s kingdom!

IN HIM,

Commander Kellie 



It’s Bible study time! So, grab your Bible (*The Passion Translation* if you have one).

It is so easy to see how God has made us to be His own when you read it for yourself.

I want you to follow along, reading YOUR Bible with me as we go. Write down the thoughts and questions that come to you as you read. This is not only the way we learn about God, but how we learn about ourselves!

As I began to study Ephesians 3 last week, preparing to write to you, I got excited about our journey! All week long, what I saw written so plainly in this book kept coming back to my mind—helping me to know my purpose, my identity and my place in the Lord.

Paul, the writer of Ephesians, knew his purpose! He was writing this letter to the church at Ephesus, a church full of people

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# Hearing from HEAVEN

**“The Holy Spirit—  
the One who knows everything!—  
has come to live in you to teach you  
HOW TO WALK WITH GOD  
in every situation of life and serve  
as your personal Counselor.”**

Every problem that we, as believers, face in life can be conquered if we do this one thing: Take time to hear from heaven.

I know that sounds simple, but it's the absolute truth.

If we do what's necessary to stay in communion with the Lord, we can walk every day in His BLESSING. We can enjoy supernatural victory even while we live in a natural body. We can triumph over trouble even while the world around us is in turmoil.

In other words, we can experience what believers experienced in the early days of the Church. As Acts 9:31 says: “[They had] rest...and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.”

That's a wonderful way to live and it's what God wants for all His children. He



wants every one of us—no matter what our circumstances or where we might live—to be built up, comforted, directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. He wants us to multiply in every way, while at the same time enjoying the rest that comes from the presence of the Lord.

Even though that's God's will for us, that kind of life doesn't fall on us automatically like an apple off a tree. We have to press in to Him and receive it. As Hebrews 4:11 says, we have to “labour therefore to enter into that rest.”

What exactly is involved in laboring to enter God's rest?

Clearly, it *doesn't* involve struggling to earn your way into it through your own human efforts. Jesus—through His life, death and resurrection—has already done all the earning there is to do. In Him



you've already been blessed with "all spiritual blessings in heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:3). So when it comes to laboring, Jesus has already done the hard part!

Your part of the labor is easy. It just involves putting some effort into your relationship with God. It involves spending time fellowshiping with Him in the Word and in prayer, learning to walk in the spirit and hear His voice.

Although it's sad to say, a lot of believers never get around to doing that. As a result, they have a hard time living the Christian life. They try to do it in the mental realm instead of the spiritual realm. They try to do it by using their own natural willpower to keep a set of religious rules.

That's not just difficult—it's impossible!

You can't live upright in this wicked world by just following a mental list of do's and don'ts. You can't overcome your selfish tendencies in the natural by just relying on the power of your flesh. When the whole world around you is operating with the mentality, *If I don't take care of me, who will?*, you can't successfully walk in love in your own human strength.

It doesn't work. You can't do it!

The only way you can live like God says in the Bible is by maintaining your union and communion with Him. You have to get into the spiritual realm and let Him energize you. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

"But Gloria," someone might say, "I don't know if even God can do very much with the mess I've made! I have problems so big I can't see any way out of them, and I don't know anything about operating in the spirit at all!"

None of us does when we first get started. In the beginning we're all like little children just learning to walk. But I can tell you from experience, from the first day you endeavor to hear and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit, your life will begin to improve. The darkness that has clouded your spiritual vision will fade away and you'll begin to see into the things of God.

Why do you need to see into the things of God?

Because you can't tell just by looking at things in the natural what's really going on. All you can perceive is what's happening in the earthly realm. As long as you're bound to this physical world in your thinking and in your actions, you can't tap into the supernatural provision God has made available to you. Even though it's there in abundance, you can't take advantage of it.

### More on Our Side Than Theirs

Think about what happened to Elisha and his servant in 2 Kings 6 and you'll see what I mean. They got up one morning and saw that overnight they'd been surrounded by the Syrian army. With enemy troops, horses and chariots all around them, ready to move in for the kill, Elisha's servant couldn't see in the natural that there was any way out of the situation. Panicked, he cried out, "Oh, sir, what will we do now?"



#### POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

**1**

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

**2**

Developing your fellowship with Him requires some effort on your part.  
(Heb. 4:11)

**3**

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

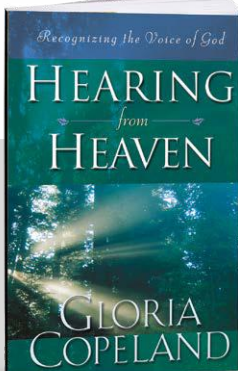
**4**

You're born again to walk and talk with God.  
(John 10:27)

**5**

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

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“Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” Then Elisha prayed, ‘O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!’ The Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire” (2 Kings 6:15-17, *New Living Translation*).

Notice that even though in the natural it looked like Elisha and his servant were alone, in reality an army of angels and chariots of fire had already been sent by God to do battle. They didn’t just appear when the eyes of Elisha’s servant were opened. They’d been there all along, in the realm of the spirit, waiting to wipe out that Syrian army or do whatever the man of God told them to do.

While that’s an Old Testament story, you as a New Testament believer are in much the same situation:

You have angels with you all the time (Hebrews 1:14)

You have healing continually available to you (1 Peter 2:24)

You have rich financial supplies ready and waiting for you (2 Corinthians 8:9).

If you don’t know about those things, however, they won’t be much help to you. If you aren’t hearing from God about them and seeing things from His perspective, you’ll continue to look to this natural world; and it doesn’t often have much to offer. It can’t provide solutions for every problem. It can’t bring you out of trouble and into victory. It will let you down time and again.

That’s why the devil works so hard to keep you mired down in the things of the natural. It’s the reason he’s happy when you let your life get so busy and cluttered with worldly stuff that when the Holy Spirit tries to talk to you, what He says goes right past you without you even hearing it.

Satan has to pull you away from your communication with the Lord to make any headway in your life. He has to keep you carnal and stop you from becoming spiritual because, as Romans 8:6 says, “To be carnally minded is

death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

Satan has no defense against life and peace! He can’t defeat believers who are spiritually minded because they won’t believe his lies and get off into sin doing things they shouldn’t do.

When you’re walking in the spirit, the devil can’t even manipulate you with natural circumstances. He can’t push you around with problems and pressures, because you’re hearing from the Lord through His written Word and by His inward voice. As a result, the spiritual realm is more powerful in you than the natural. The unseen realities of God are bigger to you than what your physical eyes can see so you’re able to walk by faith, which means you can overcome every natural challenge.

For, as 1 John 5:4 says, “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

### Someone’s Knocking

“But Gloria, what if I don’t have the capacity to walk in that kind of fellowship with God?”

You do! As a believer you’re born again to walk and talk with God. You have Jesus’ own word on it. He said plain as can be in the New Testament:

“The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

“It is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor...) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [into close fellowship with you].... When He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth” (John 16:7, 13, *AMPC*).

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).





Kenneth Copeland



André & Jenny Roebert



George Pearsons

Terri Copeland Pearsons

Talk about being equipped to hear from the Lord!

According to those verses, not only do you know and hear the voice of Jesus, He's knocking at the door of your spirit all the time, wanting to communicate with you. As if that's not enough, the Holy Spirit—the One who knows everything!—has come to live in you to teach you how to walk with God in every situation of life and serve as your personal Counselor.

I think one reason pastors these days often have such heavy counseling loads in their churches is because Christians aren't taking the time to fellowship with THE Counselor. They're not tuning in to His voice and following the prescription given in James 5:13. It says, "Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray..." (*New International Version*).

The Bible doesn't say anywhere that when we're in trouble we should go talk to 45 people about it. It doesn't tell us to go get a lot of human advice. It tells us that when we have problems, we should take them to God and find out what He has to say.

I remember many years ago on Christian television, I saw an interview with someone from a very large church. She said in their church, when members are having marital problems or whatever, the pastoral staff doesn't bring them in for a counseling appointment. Instead they tell the person to fast and pray for 36 hours. Then if they still want to see a pastor for counseling, they can.

Usually after people have spent that much time fellowshiping with the Lord, they don't need any pastoral counseling. They've heard from heaven and they not only know what to do, but they've been energized by God to do it. So, even though this particular church had over a million members, their counseling load remained relatively light!

Obviously, I'm not suggesting you have to fast and pray for 36 hours every time you want to hear from God. Not at all! Normally, if you just spend an hour or so a day with Him in the Word and in prayer, you'll be able to hear from Him all the time.

How will you hear from Him?

Not on the outside, but on the inside. Not with the ears on your head but with the ears

of your heart. As 1 Corinthians 3:16 (*New King James Version*) says, "You are the temple of God and...the Spirit of God dwells in you." He's constantly communicating with your born-again spirit—sometimes through words that seem to come from deep within you, and even more often through "promptings" (Romans 7:6, *AMPC*), impressions, or what Romans 8:16 calls the inward "witness" of the Holy Spirit.

I'll never forget when I first began learning to consciously tune in to the inward witness. I was just getting started in ministry. I had some services coming up and I wanted with all my heart to hear from the Lord and do in those services exactly what He wanted. So I prayed, "Lord, teach me how to walk in the spirit. Teach me how to be sensitive and responsive to You."

The very first night after I prayed that, I was sitting next to my brother Doug in a service where Ken was preaching when I thought of a particular verse of Scripture. The verse didn't really have anything to do with Ken's message, but for some reason I turned to it in my Bible and showed it to Doug.

"Why did you show me that?" he asked.

I didn't know why. I just wanted to do it. It just seemed very natural to me. As it turned out, only a moment earlier the Lord had spoken to Doug about getting up in the service and sharing a word with the congregation. He was reluctant because it wasn't like him to speak from the platform, so he'd asked the Lord for confirmation. Sure enough, the verse I showed him contained the exact confirmation he needed and he got up and gave the word.

I know that sounds simple, but God was teaching us that evening how to hear from Him—and He'll teach you too. He'll teach all of us if we just stick with His program. If we keep fellowshiping with Him day by day, He'll help us learn to walk in the supernatural as naturally as a fish swims in water or a bird flies in the air.

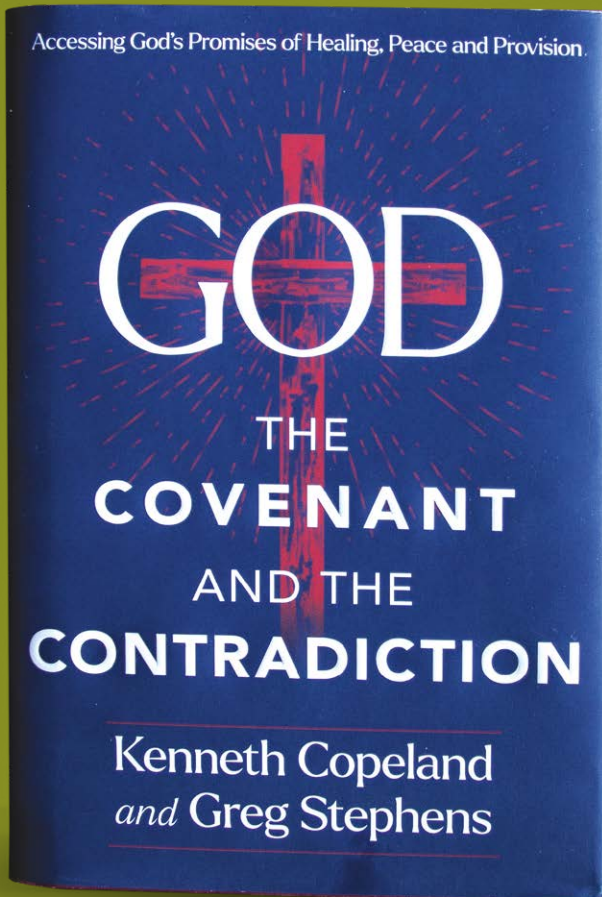
Then, no matter what kinds of problems we might face, we can conquer them with heaven's solutions. Like the Church in the book of Acts, we can walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and enjoy the rest that comes from the presence of God! 🙏

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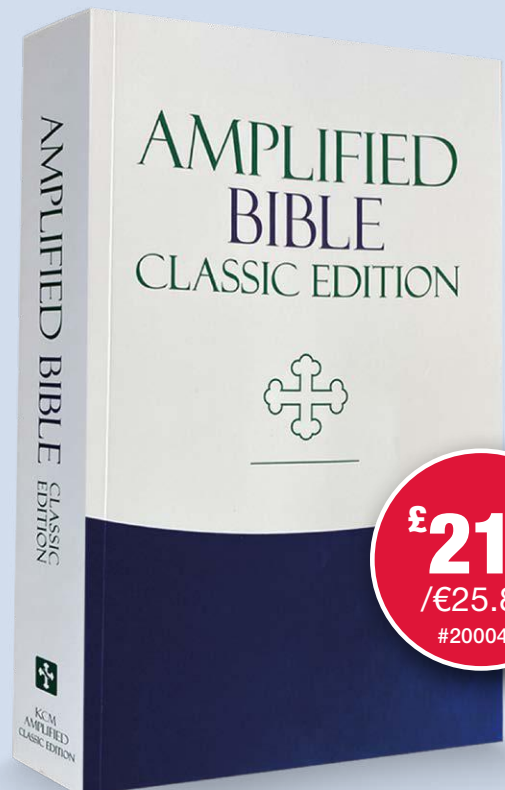
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