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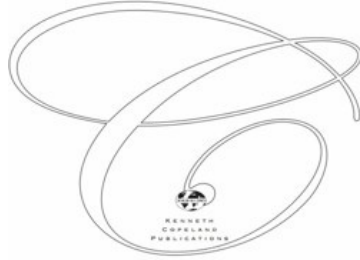
God's Will *is*
PROSPERITY

*A Roadmap to
Spiritual, Emotional,
& Financial Wholeness*

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COPELAND

A Roadmap to Spiritual, Emotional, & Financial Wholeness

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God's Will Is Prosperity

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A Message From Gloria

Have you ever written a book? Let me tell you what happens when you sit down to write the first word. This morning as I sat down to write *God's Will is Prosperity*, the first thing I did was look through a folder of notes—little bits and pieces of paper with different scriptures and nuggets from the Word of God—that I have been collecting for several years. One was so old it had turned yellow.

For several years I have known that I would write this book. In fact, I originally intended to include it as the last chapter in my first book, *God's Will for You*. When I finished the other chapters, I tried to write this one, but it seemed that something was missing. I just couldn't get it going. Now I know why. Although I knew some things about the laws of prosperity, I did not have a complete revelation of them. (Of course, you understand that we are still learning in all of these areas.) There were other things about prosperity that I needed to know and walk in before I could share them with you.

Years ago, God said He wanted me to write a book and share what Kenneth and I had learned about living by faith—actually being sustained by our faith in every area of life. He simply wanted me to share with you what He had taught us concerning His will in the new birth, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, healing, love, and prosperity—a handbook of Christian living. If you have not read *God's Will for You*, I suggest that you do so because it is really the foundation for this book. You could say this is the last chapter.

Faith begins when the will of God is known. Don't be disturbed if you have tried and failed in believing for prosperity. Through God's Word, you can become established and confident that it is indeed the will of God for you to prosper. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17). As you study, meditate, and receive the scriptures concerning God's will for your prosperity, faith will rise up within you. Just be open and accept God's Word at face value. God does not lie or deceive. He means exactly what He says. He does not will one thing and say another. God's Word is His will.

This book does not cover the same material as Kenneth's book *The Laws of Prosperity*. I am assuming, for instance, that you are already tithing

and operating the basic fundamentals of God's system of prosperity. If you have not studied *The Laws of Prosperity*, you need to do so because without revelation knowledge of tithing and how to worship God with His tithe, you do not have a solid foundation on which to receive the exceedingly great financial promises that God is offering. The very basic beginning of Bible prosperity is tithing.

Tradition teaches that poverty and Christianity are tied together with a very short rope: To be spiritual you should suffer want in the material world. The Word of God simply reveals that lack and poverty are not in line with God's will for the obedient. Read this book with an open mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to minister the truth to your spirit until you know beyond doubt that *God's Will is Prosperity*.

1. God's Will Is Prosperity

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.” Proverbs 10:22, KJV

In the beginning God placed everything that man could use and enjoy in the Garden. God saw to it that Adam lacked nothing. He lacked no good thing. He was created in the image of God Himself, leaving nothing to be desired.

God furnished Adam with companionship, ability, abundance, and a kingdom. He told Adam to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion over every living creature. Adam was the master of the Garden, and God was the master of Adam. God's man was free in every way! He knew no bondage until that fatal day when he committed high treason against the Lord God.

The Scriptures tell us that the woman was deceived but the man was not (1 Tim. 2:14). Adam knew that partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil meant separation from God. Being fully aware of the consequences, he committed high treason against God and made himself a servant to God's enemy, Satan.

God said, “In the day that you eat, you shall surely die.” When Adam partook of the deadly tree, he died, not physically but spiritually. Spiritual death—the nature of Satan—overtook his once righteous spirit, and he became one with Satan. Sin and death consumed him spiritually. He was born again from life into death. Oh, that horrible day when God's creation came under the bondage of corruption and united with Satan, the destroyer. Adam was separated from the Father who is the God of love. Thereafter, he lived under the dominion of Satan whose nature is spiritual death. By his own free will, Adam subjected himself and his kingdom to Satan. Instead of a lord, man became the subject of a merciless and cruel ruler. By natural birth Adam's children—all of mankind—would be born after his new nature of death instead of life, after the nature of Satan instead of God (Rom. 5:12, 17).

Every phase of Adam's life came under the curse of his new god, Satan. He was driven from the Garden; abundance was no longer his to enjoy. He had to toil and sweat in order to survive. His beautiful life was overrun by thorns and thistles both in the physical world and in the spiritual world. Sin

produced sickness and disease to plague him. Even his wife's nature changed from the nature of God to the nature of Satan. What a catastrophe!

God's will for Adam was abundance and plenty. There was no lack. The Lordship of God provided only good. Poverty and lack came only after Adam changed gods and began to operate under Satan's dominion. Satan is the author of poverty. God is the Author of abundance. When Adam served God, all he knew was abundance. He had the best of everything, the crown of life. God's will for Adam was abundance. He proved that when He created the Garden of Eden. Since His will does not change, God's will for His people today is abundance (James 1:17).

God's will concerning financial prosperity and abundance is clearly revealed in the Scriptures. From the beginning of time, He has provided financial prosperity for His people through obedience to His Word.

It is obvious that God desired Adam to live in abundance, but by Adam's own choice, the lordship of Satan engulfed man in a curse that resulted in poverty and lack. God's heart yearns for His people to be free, and through His infinite wisdom, He has continually provided deliverance for man and freedom from the curse of poverty.

The Blessing Of Abraham

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect [upright]. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt

keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations (Gen. 17:1-9).

Look again at verse seven. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. I WILL ESTABLISH. The dictionary's definition of establish is to "make steadfast, firm or stable; to settle on a firm or permanent basis; to set or fix unalterably." What does this say to you and me? God will make steadfast His covenant with the seed in their generation. God will set, or fix, this covenant with you and me in our day to such a degree that the promise cannot be altered. The promises of the covenant are guaranteed by God. No power can alter God's covenant with you. He will settle His covenant on a permanent basis in your life.

I will be their God. The blessing of God is a powerful force. It took care of Abraham physically and materially and had the promise of spiritual redemption. Abraham was extremely rich (Gen. 24:35, The Amplified Bible). The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it (Prov. 10:22). Genesis 24:1 says, And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. No enemy could successfully stand before him because he had a covenant with God. God established the covenant in Abraham's generation, and nothing could alter the promise of God because Abraham kept the covenant and walked uprightly before God.

God said He would also establish His covenant with Abraham's seed. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac (Gen. 17:21). God said that He would and He did! And the LORD appeared to him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will favor you with blessings and multiply your descendants for the sake of My servant Abraham (Gen. 26:24, The Amplified Bible). The Bible tells us that Isaac became great and gained more and more until he became very wealthy and distinguished... and the Philistines envied him (Gen. 26:13, 14, The Amplified Bible).

Next, God established Abraham's blessing in Jacob's life. Thus the man increased and became exceedingly rich, and had many sheep and goats and maidservants, menservants, camels, and donkeys (Gen. 30:43, The Amplified Bible). Jacob's father-in-law deceived and cheated him for years, but that

could not alter the covenant (Gen. 31:7-12). Though Jacob crossed over the Jordan with only a staff, he came back as two companies (Gen. 32:10, The Amplified Bible). He said,... for God has dealt graciously with me and I have everything... (Gen. 33:11, The Amplified Bible).

Joseph, Jacob's son, was sold into slavery by his brothers, but that did not stop God from establishing His covenant with Joseph in his generation. But the LORD was with Joseph, and he [though a slave] was a successful and prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to flourish and succeed in his hand (Gen. 39:2, 3, The Amplified Bible).

The blessing of the covenant cannot be stopped in the life of an heir of Abraham as long as he keeps the covenant—obeys God and believes that He is able to perform the covenant in his life. Slavery could not alter the blessing of the covenant. This would be equivalent to God making a slave in the Old South so prosperous that his owner wanted to partake of his success. What a covenant! It will work under the most adverse circumstances.

Later, the covenant prospered Joseph even in prison. God gave him favor, and the warden put him in charge of the prison. The Lord made whatever Joseph did to prosper (Gen. 39:21-23).

The blessing of the Lord was established in Joseph's life regardless of his circumstances. He came into Egypt as a slave only thirteen years before. He was promoted from prison to the office of governor. That was one giant step! God established His covenant with Abraham's seed in Joseph's generation. The Lord gave Joseph favor with Pharaoh, and he made Joseph the governor of Egypt, giving him full charge of the country. And Pharaoh took off his [signet] ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in [official] vestments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck; he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had, and [officials] cried before him, Bow the knee! And he set him over all the land of Egypt (Gen. 41:42, 43, The Amplified Bible).

Because of Abraham, the children of Israel were delivered. And God heard their sighing and groaning and [earnestly] remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob (Exod. 2:24, The Amplified Bible). God told Moses, And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand and power of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of

that land to a land good and large, a land flowing with milk and honey [a land of plenty] (Exod. 3:8, The Amplified Bible). God Himself came down to see about Abraham's descendants because of His covenant with Abraham.

God's dealings with Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses were the results of the promise He made to establish the covenant with Abraham's seed in their generation. Because of sin, the law of Moses was instituted to meet the needs of Abraham's seed physically and materially until the Messiah would come concerning whom the promise had been made. He would make good the promise of redemption for their spirits.

The blessing and the curse of the law were the results of God's covenant with Abraham. The blessing included everything having to do with the physical, material, and financial needs. Healing was included in the blessing. Success was included in the blessing. Prosperity was included in the blessing, exceeding financial blessing. If they were obedient to the covenant, they walked in the blessing of Abraham; if they were disobedient, they walked in the curse of the law.

Abraham's blessing was powerful and all-inclusive. God offered him all He had, including His own Son, to pay the penalty for man's treason (Rom. 8:32). He literally gave Abraham the resources of heaven and earth. *"For when God made [His] promise to Abraham, He swore by Himself, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, saying, Blessing I certainly will bless you and multiplying I will multiply you" (Heb. 6:13, 14, The Amplified Bible).*

Jesus came because of what God promised to Abraham. *"So now we are bringing you the good news (Gospel) that what God promised to our forefathers, this He has completely fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus (Acts 13:32, 33, The Amplified Bible). For, as we all know, He [Christ] did not take hold of angels [the fallen angels, to give them a helping and delivering hand], but He did take hold of [the fallen] descendants of Abraham [to reach out to them a helping and delivering hand]" (Heb. 2:16, The Amplified Bible).* After Jesus paid the price for the rebirth of man's spirit, He went to Abraham's bosom where Abraham and his seed who had died were still waiting for the spiritual fulfillment of the promise, "I will be a God to them" (Luke 16:19-31; Heb. 2:14-16, The Amplified Bible; Eph. 4:8-10).

The New Covenant, ratified in the blood of Jesus, was the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. It is a better covenant than came through Moses, and it rests upon better promises (Heb. 8:6). The Old Covenant was incomplete as far as man's needs were concerned. It could not change men's hearts; it could only bless them physically and materially (Gal. 3:21).

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us... That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith... For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus... And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:13, 14, 26, 29).

Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law. He paid the penalty for man's sin so that the blessing of Abraham might come on us through Jesus. We through faith receive the promise that God made to Abraham. Jesus made it possible for you and me to receive Abraham's blessing—God's promise to him. Through Jesus we have become children of God. We non-Jewish believers fulfill "for a father of many nations have I made thee." Through the sacrifice of Jesus, Abraham became the father of believers of every nationality. *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:12, 13).* Without Jesus we would have no promise, no blessing, no covenant, no redemption; but glory to God, we are not without Him!

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:29). We are heirs according to the promise—heirs just as surely as if we were Abraham's descendants by natural birth.

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee" (Gen. 17:7). I WILL ESTABLISH. We have seen what the blessing of Abraham produced in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. The seed of Abraham was as blessed as Abraham. These men were exceedingly

wealthy. Exceedingly is the biggest word we have, but it does not really express the extent of their wealth. They lived to be old and died satisfied (Gen. 25:8, 35:29). Whatever they did prospered. The covenant of promise could not be stopped in their lives as long as they were upright before God.

“If ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed and heirs...” “I will establish my covenant between me and thee, and thy seed after thee in their generation.” God promised Abraham to establish His covenant with you and me in our generation! We have God’s promise as surely as Isaac did. We are both seed and heirs. Because of His promise, God will multiply you exceedingly and make you exceedingly fruitful. God has obligated Himself to bless you as He blessed Abraham. The promise to you is that God will establish His covenant with you in this generation. He has given His Word to prosper you in the same way He prospered Abraham. We have never realized just how great an inheritance Jesus provided for us. It is almost overwhelming; but we are believers, and we can receive this promise by faith. Believe God to establish His covenant with you in your generation.

And beware lest you say in your [mind and] heart, My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. But you shall [earnestly] remember the LORD your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day (Deut. 8:17, 18, The Amplified Bible).

This scripture reveals some important facts:

1. God has given covenant men the power to get wealth.
2. Prosperity, even wealth, is necessary to establish the covenant.
3. In order for God to fulfill what He promised Abraham, He must be allowed to prosper Abraham’s descendants as at this day—as though today were the day He made the promise.

God’s covenant is a covenant of prosperity. His covenant causes prosperity to be manifested in the earth. Psalm 35:27 tells us that God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His men. He cannot establish His covenant in your life without prospering you. The man who holds to poverty rejects the establishment of

the covenant. The man who holds to the covenant rejects poverty. Faith in the covenant pleases God. Without faith, it is impossible to please Him.

God's will is to establish His covenant of prosperity in your life and to do it today. "As at this day" means as though He made the agreement with you on this day—today!

The covenant cannot be established in your life unless you believe God's Word concerning prosperity. Let there be no doubt about God's will. God's will is to establish His covenant in the earth. Prosperity is a major requirement in the establishment of God's will.

God said, I will establish my covenant. God does not will one thing and promise (say) another. He does not lie or deceive. God's will is to establish His covenant in the earth.

"These are the words of the covenant, which the LORD commanded Moses... Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do" (Deut. 29:1, 9). Even under the Old Covenant, physical deliverance and prosperity were no problem for God to bring to pass in the earth. He fully accomplished that part of the blessing under the Old Covenant before Jesus made the supreme sacrifice. Abraham's descendants who kept God's commandment were not just prosperous—they were exceedingly prosperous. It was no challenge to the power of God! Just think how much easier the laws of prosperity will work for us under the New Covenant. We have all the blessings of the Old plus the power of the New! We have been born again with the nature of God. We are one spirit with the Lord. The Greater One lives in us. Jesus has recovered the authority Adam lost because of treason. We are the seed of Abraham in this generation and already enjoy the promise of spiritual deliverance. Our enemy, Satan, has been defeated and put under our feet.

We have been living far below our covenant rights as heirs of the promise. I am an heir—an heir to the blessing of Abraham! The world thinks that to become an heir to the Rockefeller fortune would be sensational. Let me tell you, Rockefeller could not begin to buy Abraham!

To be heir to a large estate seems so wonderful—especially to those of us who know of no wealthy relatives! For unearned wealth and riches to simply be handed to you with no strings attached sounds like a dream come true. An heir does not have to work for an inheritance; he just receives it. Someone else

works to get it together, and the heir receives the reward of the other person's life.

“And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:29). You are an heir! Your inheritance is not a certain limited sum of money or real estate—your inheritance is God. You have inherited the resources of God's power and ability to back you and to establish your success in the earth. He has guaranteed to establish His blessing with you in this generation. The Scriptures prove that God will go to any length to establish His covenant with Abraham and his descendants. God spared not even His own Son to establish His covenant with Abraham and his seed (Rom. 8:32). God is still God. He has changed neither His covenant nor His integrity. His power has not been weakened. He is the covenant-keeping God in our generation. *“My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips”* (Ps. 89:34). You believe in Jesus Christ.

You are the seed of Abraham. Abraham's covenant is everlasting. God will establish His covenant with you now in this generation as surely as He did with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He has given you Jesus. You have already received the long-awaited redemption of your spirit, so now receive your full inheritance to have all your needs met by God's power—spirit, soul, body, financially, and socially. You are an heir!

Don't be like the little girl whose grandfather held out his hand to her with a nickel, a quarter, a half-dollar, and a dollar. She took the nickel. She could have taken the dollar. She could have taken it all! He was offering it to her.

The Body of Christ has taken the nickel when they could have had the whole handful! We have limited ourselves. When the Church received spiritual redemption, she let go of the rest of the blessing of Abraham. Prosperity and healing became a lost reality. The Church took spiritual blessing and left the prosperity and healing portions of the promise. It is true that spiritual redemption is a greater blessing than prosperity or healing, but God never asked you to choose. God held out His covenant—full of blessings—just as the grandfather held out his hand. He held out the new birth, prosperity, and healing. The Church took the new birth and disregarded prosperity and healing.

Praise God, He is still offering us the promise of Abraham—all of it! It has never been altered. All we have to do is take it!

How Abraham Received

“For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed (trusted in) God, and it was credited to his account as righteousness.... For the promise to Abraham or his posterity, that he should inherit the world, did not come through [observing the commands of] the Law but through the righteousness of faith.... Therefore, [inheriting] the promise is the outcome of faith and depends [entirely] on faith, in order that it might be given as an act of grace (unmerited favor), to make it stable and valid and guaranteed to all his descendants—not only to the devotees and adherents of the Law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, who is [thus] the father of us all.

“As it is written, I have made you the father of many nations. [He was appointed our father] in the sight of God in Whom he believed, Who gives life to the dead and speaks of the nonexistent things that [He has foretold and promised] as if they [already] existed. [For Abraham, human reason for] hope being gone, hoped in faith that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been promised, So [numberless] shall your descendants be. He did not weaken in faith when he considered the [utter] impotence of his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or [when he considered] the barrenness of Sarah’s [deadened] womb. No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised. That is why his faith was credited to him as righteousness (right standing with God). But [the words], It was credited to him, were written not for his sake alone, but [they were written] for our sakes too. [Righteousness, standing acceptable to God] will be granted and credited to us also who believe in (trust in, adhere to, and rely on) God, Who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, Who was betrayed and put to death because of our misdeeds and was raised to secure our justification” (Rom. 4:3, 13, 16-25, The Amplified Bible).

How did Abraham receive? BY BELIEVING WHAT GOD SAID. The promise did not come to Abraham because of what he did but because of the unmerited favor of God. We are told in this scripture that the promise to inherit the world was dependent entirely on faith—believing what God said. The promise belonged to Abraham, but he had to receive it by faith. He had to believe (trust) that God was able and mighty to keep His Word and do what He had promised. Abraham believed what God had said, even though it looked impossible. He did not consider his body or the deadness of Sarah's womb. He considered what God said to him more powerful than what he saw or felt. Abraham's faith allowed God to establish the promise in his life. Abraham's descendants who did not trust the covenant did not walk in the blessing of God's promise. The promise was sure, even while the children of Israel spent 400 years as slaves. They did not depend on the promise, so they did not enjoy the blessings. Man's faith is necessary in order for God to establish His Word in the earth. If the seed is to share the promise of Abraham, the seed must also share the faith of Abraham.

Your faith—believing God's Word instead of what you see—will allow God to establish the promise of Abraham in your life. No unbelief made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he was confident that God was willing and able to do what He had promised.

Abraham knew that it was God's will for him to inherit the world and for him to be multiplied exceedingly. Why? Because God said it. You are in the same position today. God is speaking to you in His Word about your prosperity. He is speaking to you in His Word about your inheritance. He is speaking to you in His Word about being a GOD to you in every area of life. God's will is to bless you exceedingly—beyond any supposed limit—spiritually, physically, mentally, financially, and socially.

God operates by promise. He gives His Word to bless a man, and that promise (the Word) has to be believed and trusted. We call this faith. I believe God's promise. I keep His covenant. I expect it to be in my life even as He promised to Abraham.

For God to establish His covenant (His will) in your life, you must believe what He says to you in His Word. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after

thee in their generations (Gen. 17:9).

GOD'S WILL IS PROSPERITY!

2. Priorities

“But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.” Matthew 6:33, AMP

“Do not gather and heap up and store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust and worm consume and destroy, and where thieves break through and steal. But gather and heap up and store for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust nor worm consume and destroy, and where thieves do not break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is sound, your entire body will be full of light. But if your eye is unsound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the very light in you [your conscience] is darkened, how dense is that darkness!

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions or what is trusted in).

Therefore I tell you, stop being perpetually uneasy (anxious and worried) about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; or about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life greater [in quality] than food, and the body [far above and more excellent] than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father keeps feeding them. Are you not worth much more than they?

And who of you by worrying and being anxious can add one unit of measure (cubit) to his stature or to the span of his life? And why should you be anxious about clothes? Consider the lilies of the field and learn

thoroughly how they grow; they neither toil nor spin. Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his magnificence (excellence, dignity, and grace) was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and green and tomorrow is tossed into the furnace, will He not much more surely clothe you, O you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or, What are we going to have to wear? For the Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you need them all.

But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides” (Matt. 6:19-33, The Amplified Bible).

In these scriptures Jesus is teaching His disciples. The subject is how to handle material things such as treasures, riches, possessions, food, drink, and clothes. This broad spectrum begins with the bare necessities and extends to the abundance of possessions. Let's study these scriptures and see what we can learn.

It is obvious throughout the Bible that God is not against a man having money. God's covenant men were the wealthiest men of their day. They were God's men and He was pleased with them. Their attitude toward God's Word allowed Him to establish His covenant with them in their generation. God is the One who gave them the power to get wealth. *“And beware lest you say in your [mind and] heart, My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. But you shall [earnestly] remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day” (Deut. 8:17, 18, The Amplified Bible).* No, God is not against a man having money. He is against money having the man. He is not opposed to His people being rich, but He is opposed to them being covetous.

Jesus says not to gather, heap up, and store for yourselves treasures on earth. *“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a*

man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). In Luke 12:21, He speaks about the man who continues to lay up, or hoard, possessions for himself and is not rich toward God. To hoard is not of God. Evidently, the man was not remembering that it was God who had given him the power to get wealth. (Your affection is not to be in your prosperity, business, goods, treasures, or holdings.) Jesus said this rich man had fertile land which yielded so plentifully that he had a problem. He was in a dilemma. All of his storehouses were full, and he did not have room to store another big harvest, so he decided to tear down his storehouses and build bigger ones. Then he said, "Now I have good things laid up for many years. I can just live the way I want to." (Where was his trust? In the things he had laid up, the things he had hoarded!)

But God said to him, You fool! This very night they [the messengers of God] will demand your soul of you; and all the things that you have prepared, whose will they be? So it is with the one who continues to lay up and hoard possessions for himself and is not rich [in his relation] to God [this is how he fares] (Luke 12:20, 21, The Amplified Bible). Trusting in riches will go only as far as the riches will go. Money can buy only so much, and it can leave your possession very fast! God's prosperity reaches into every area of a man's life.

Ken's definition of true prosperity is "the ability to use the power of God to meet the needs of mankind." If a man needs healing, money will not help him. If his body is well but he has no money to pay the rent, God's healing power will not cover his need. God is so generous with us that He desires His children to have the best in life on earth, just as you desire the best for your children. God's plan for us is to have all of our needs met according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. True prosperity is having every need met.

God's laws of prosperity carry with them a built-in protection. For His laws of prosperity to work in your life, you must be spiritually ready to prosper. Throughout the Bible, God's people prospered when they obeyed His Word; but when they were disobedient, His laws of prosperity did not work for them. They were still His people, but His powerful blessing was not manifested in their lives. Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do (Deut. 29:9). God does not change. The laws of prosperity will work in the life of any person who is obedient to His

Word.

You will not prosper by believing only the part of God's Word concerning material blessing. If your motive is to be prosperous without serving God, you had better read some other book. God's prosperity will work only in the life of the believer who is committed to the Word because he loves God—not for material gain.

YOUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TO PLEASE GOD. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. If your treasure is Jesus as Lord and the Word of God as the lamp unto your feet, then you are a candidate for the material blessings of God.

In the sixth chapter of Matthew, Jesus explains the saying, "The eye is the lamp of the body." Yes, He is still teaching about treasures, possessions, and material goods. You have to start with your priorities in the right place. Then, when you begin to enjoy material prosperity, you must be sure to keep your priorities in line.

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is sound, your body is sound. Look at Proverbs 4:20-22, The Amplified Bible, "*My son, attend to my words; consent and submit to my sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh.*" Solomon, the wisest and richest man of any day, gave these instructions again in Proverbs 7:2, "*Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.*" The apple, or pupil, is the center of your eye. The sound eye stays on the Word of God. This is how you keep sound though materially prosperous. You are to keep your eye on God's Word—not on money or possessions. Jesus explains why in Matthew 6:24: You cannot serve two masters. You cannot serve God and mammon. If you put your eye on, or give attention to, riches and material possessions, you will begin to serve them instead of them serving you. You are supposed to keep your eye (your attention) on God's Word and serve Him. You cannot keep your eye in both places. You cannot serve two masters; Jesus said so. You will be devoted to one and be against the other. So the line is drawn and there is no middle ground.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1, 2). We are instructed to seek those things which are above! We are to set our affections. You are to set your mind on

things above and refuse to allow money or possessions to control your thinking and actions. You set your affections to serve God, not riches.

Mark 4:18,19 reveals why it is imperative that we set our affections on the things of God instead of on the things of the earth. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

If your affection is set on wealth and riches instead of God, the Word becomes unfruitful in your life. Covetousness chokes the Word. The Word cannot bear fruit in a man who has his affections set on the things of the earth. The successful faith man sets his mind (affection) on the Word of God. You cannot serve God and mammon. You will serve one or the other. Jesus said to beware of covetousness. It is a tool of Satan to render God's Word powerless in your life. Refuse to allow your affection to be on your possessions, business, treasures, and holdings. Demand that your affections be set on God's Word. Make an irrevocable decision to serve God's Word and give it first place in your life. Set your affection on things that are above. Your spiritual life will be intact, and all other things will be yours to enjoy as well. The possessions that are added to you will serve you instead of you serving them.

The choice is yours as to which you serve. Either you will trust in mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions) or you will trust in God. If you trust in mammon, when you are instructed by God to give a large amount into His work, you will give a small amount instead, saying, "I would like to give more, but it is all tied up." You are serving the riches. That is where you have placed your faith.

But if your eye is single on God's Word and He instructs you to give, you will say, "*You know that my money is tied up, so at Your instruction, praise the Lord, I will untie it.*" The man whose eye is single on the Word knows that when he gives, it shall be given to him again—not just the amount he gave but good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over (Luke 6:38). He is not hoarding. He is ready to distribute as God tells him. He is not trusting in his riches. He has his confidence in God's ability to put him over. Money is his servant. He does not serve money. He serves God. This is a man who is rich toward God.

TRUST

In Matthew 6:25, Jesus tells us that we are to

have an attitude of trust and faith concerning material things. He says to STOP being anxious and worried over things (food, clothes, material possessions). Don't try to figure out how God is going to meet your needs. Be like the birds of the air and know that your heavenly Father is taking care of you. STOP being worried. Do not seek after these things like the ungodly do. Why? Because we have a Father. We have a covenant with God. Their father, Satan, does not look after them; but our Father knows what we have need of, and He delights in providing for us (Ps. 35:27). What a blessing!

Jesus not only tells us what not to seek, but He goes on to tell us what we are to seek. We are not to be idle. There is something we are to do: SEEK FIRST OF ALL HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. How do you do that? By the Word of God. Give the Word first place in your life. Commit yourself to obey whatever you see in the Word.

Kenneth and I made that very commitment years ago when we first began to find out how faith works. We agreed then that we would do whatever we saw in God's Word. Without even knowing it, we had placed ourselves in position to receive great financial blessings. Our desire was to please God. We were committed to His Word. We didn't know how to believe God for material things. We didn't even know that the instructions in God's Word will always work to our advantage—even in this life. But had we known that we would never increase financially, we would still have acted the very same way.

When we first learned that God would meet our needs, we were living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Kenneth was enrolled in Oral Roberts University. We desired to please God with all of our hearts, and we had moved out in what little faith we knew.

Financially, times were hard. I really think that we were supernaturally in debt! No matter how hard we tried, we couldn't get out of debt. We just seemed to get in deeper and deeper. Let's face it, borrowed money was our source. After we paid the bills, there was no money left for anything else. Old obligations were left unpaid, and there was threat of a lawsuit. I can remember standing in the check-out line at the grocery store, praying in the spirit, and believing God that I had enough money to pay for the groceries in my basket. Whatever I had in my purse at the time was all we had!

We didn't know then what we know now about operating in the laws of prosperity. We were just

beginning to learn about the integrity of the Word. You can depend on God's Word in the same way that you depend on the word of a doctor, a lawyer, or your very best friend. We knew that the Word of God never fails, and we had committed to do whatever we saw in the Word, no matter what it was.

Then we saw Romans 13:8, Owe no man any thing, but to love one another. Surely God didn't mean that! That scripture must mean something else. Another translation says, "KEEP OUT OF DEBT AND OWE NO MAN ANYTHING."

As Satan told Eve in the Garden, we thought, "Can it really be that God said, 'Owe no man anything'?" There must be some other explanation." We found out that there were indeed other explanations, but somehow they didn't ring true.

People who knew more than we did said things like, "Well, you don't owe anybody until the payment is due." Tell that to your banker the next time you apply for a loan. "I really don't owe that \$8,000 listed as a liability for my car because I have already made my payment this month."

We wanted to be convinced. It looked impossible to do anything without borrowing money. We had never considered paying cash for a car. We had never bought furniture. How would we ever have anything? The material possession I wanted most in the world was a home. Pay cash for a house? You must be kidding! Satan would say, "You will never get it." We actually did not know that we could receive all these things with our faith. As far as we knew then, we might never be able to have the finer things in life.

Yes, we had a choice, but not a good one as far as we could tell then. We had said, "We are taking God's Word literally, and whatever we see in it, that's what we will do." But when we made that commitment, we did not know it said, "KEEP OUT OF DEBT." The other choice was to continue operating in the manner we always had and explain away Romans 13:8. That verse must not mean what it says. To live well without borrowing money would be impossible. (Notice the word well. You know you could live, but it's the "living well" that hurts the flesh!)

Praise the Lord! We had already set our affections on the Word of God. Our commitment to obey God's Word won out over circumstances, people and Satan. We made the decision to take Romans 13:8 for just what it says. We stopped using our charge accounts and began to believe God to get

out of debt. As far as we knew at the time, we might never have anything more than we had right then (which, believe me, was not much). Everything we had ever bought was “buy now, pay later”—sometimes it was much later than they thought!

I don't think anybody could have started further down than we did, especially considering that we had no steady income; but we were determined to walk according to what we saw in the Word. Our affections were set. Things were slow in the beginning, but we knew that there must be a way, and we were determined to find that way and walk in it. Under some circumstances you can learn very fast, and we had left ourselves only one way to go—God's way. Things didn't come to us in one day. We had to build the Word of God into our spirits and walk in what we knew. We would get some of the Word in us and walk in it, get more Word in us and walk in that, and get more Word and walk in that.

We were involved with the Word almost every waking hour. Television was not interesting to us. We could not have told you what movies were showing. Even world events could not hold our attention. Literally night and day, we were devoted to God's Word. We did not make a decision to do away with television; we just had no time for it. We were so thrilled with the Word of God that there was nothing else as exciting. We were fulfilling Joshua 1:8, This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success (The Amplified Bible).

When we started believing God to get out of debt, we did it uncompromisingly. We were committed to the Word regardless and were not willing to borrow money. Yes, many times through the years we have been encouraged to borrow. Yes, we know most people think we are extreme, and no doubt we are, but the Word of God will produce just as far as you dare to commit to it. We have done everything God has instructed us to do to expand our ministry. We have always had the very best provided for us. We have been able to do whatever we wanted to do. The Word of God has been our source—not financial institutions. In the beginning we were faithful over little, but in the end God made us ruler over much (Luke 16:10). God has never loaned us anything. He has always given to us. We are convinced that this was the greatest decision we have ever made, other than making Jesus Christ the Lord

of our lives.

Yes! You could say that we are extreme. We are extremely free! (Remember, Abraham was extreme: he was extremely rich!) That decision opened the door of freedom for us. We committed to the Word, and the Word made us free.

Examine what we did in the light of the scriptures we are studying. Without knowing it, we were doing the right thing. We were putting first things first: keeping our eyes single on the Word of God. We did not allow possessions or the lack of them to get our attention. We did not try to serve two masters. We served only God's Word. We were not trusting in money, we were trusting in the Word. We were too thrilled with the Word of God to be worried or anxious about anything. In short, WE WERE SEEKING FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

We didn't know from experience that we could live a prosperous life, but we did know Romans 13:8. We were committed to get out of debt because we saw that particular thing in the Word. That was our only motive. We were not doing these things in order to become prosperous. Actually, we were operating scripturally.

We had taken the first step into God's prosperity by seeking first His kingdom according to Matthew 6:33. Then all the other things were added to us. If you could just pick out certain portions of the Word and live by them, it would be a dangerous situation. You cannot simply decide to take the promise of prosperity from God's Word and live by that, ignoring the part about living a dedicated life before God. You may try it, but it won't work for you if you are not seeking first the kingdom of God. The eye is not single. It is not on the Word but on material blessing.

Third John two says, Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. In other words, you will prosper to the degree that your soul prospers. Bible prosperity will not come any other way. The laws of prosperity are based on obedience to God's Word. That is the built-in protection of the laws of prosperity.

It was eleven months from the time that we first decided to believe God to get out of debt until that goal was achieved. During those eleven months, we stood fast on what we knew from God's Word. We began to learn the revelation knowledge that we

operate in now: how to live by faith, how to use faith, how faith comes, and how it works.

Your faith may not be developed to the place where you can “owe no man anything but to love him.” Being free from debt and obligation is God’s best for us, but most people have not developed enough to maintain the walk. It is not an easy thing in a world that operates on borrowed money.

Divine healing without any outside help—doctors or medicine—is God’s best, but many are not able to receive by faith alone. Until you are able to live in divine health, go to the doctor in faith. It is not a sin to take medicine or go to the doctor, although it is more blessed to have need of neither. The same is true of borrowing money. Living a life free of debt is possible and desirable, but your faith will have to be developed to enjoy that blessing.

Just begin to believe God where you are. You can only operate on the level of your own faith. But faith grows as you study God’s Word and apply it.

When people ask, “Should I have this operation or should I stand on the Word?” my answer is, “If you have to ask, you better see the doctor.”

Feed on the scriptures concerning prosperity and the generosity and goodness of God until your faith is alive and ready to believe God for any need you might have.

3. Divine Prosperity

“And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].” 2 Corinthians 9:8, The Amplified Bible

The first thing I began to believe God for was a home. But what about Romans 13:8? It says that we are to owe no man anything but to love him. How can you believe God for enough money to buy a home? This is one area most people think impossible. Many have made the statement, “Surely you don’t have to believe for a home without borrowing money!”

You certainly don’t have to, but I happen to know it works. Of course, Satan told me that there was no way I could have a home without borrowing money for it. That is the world’s way and what everyone is expected to do, but I refused to believe Satan. We had made an irrevocable commitment—we were not going to borrow money. Believing God was the only way I could have my home.

When Satan would come at me with doubt and unbelief, this is one verse I trusted in. I confessed it continually, and it gave me comfort and strength to stand in faith. Second Corinthians 9:8, The Amplified Bible, says, And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].

Satan would come at me with thoughts of doubt and say, “There is no way you are going to have your needs met. There is no way you can buy a house without going into debt. There is just no way!” I would answer him with, “No, Satan, my God is able!” I hung my faith on that scripture.

The Word says that He is able to get it to you. Don’t look to natural sources. Don’t look to your job. When you are believing God, you have to look to His Word. KEEP YOUR EYE SINGLE ON THE WORD. You have to realize and know that He can and will work in your behalf. God is a real operator!

He is ABLE to get things done!

So, we started believing God years ago for the home we have now. We could have borrowed the money years sooner, but we refused to compromise on our decision. Whenever there is a choice between the world's way and the Word's way, we always go with the Word. The world's system may seem to be the easier way, but we refuse to go the way of the world. In the long run, God's way is not only easier but far superior. He has certainly proven that to us.

We began believing God for the perfect home when we lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1968. At the same time, there was a lady in Forth Worth, Texas, who started building her home. She had the plans drawn and saw to the purchasing of materials personally. It was several years before I saw that home, but the floor plan was exactly what we needed to meet our needs as a family. In addition to the living space, there was a study in the back of the house—a place away from the living area where we could study the Word and write. It was perfect for us. She began to build it at the very time we began to believe for it!

God started to work immediately. There was no evidence of that for us to see, but we had learned to look to the Word for evidence and not to the circumstances.

When we first looked at the house, we were on our way to the airport to leave town. Really, at first I didn't know exactly what I had in mind. As I thought about the house over the next few days, the Lord started showing me things I could do to it. The house had stayed empty for months. It seemed that nobody could live there. The owners were just trying to get rid of it. They had given it away once but got it back. They couldn't even give it away! That was our home!

When I believe God for something, I don't waver. I have made a quality decision that the Word is true. I have built into myself a reliance on God's Word. I believe His Word more than I believe what I can see or feel. I know that God is able and He will get it to me. As I have heard Kenneth Hagin say, "If you are determined to stand forever, it won't take very long." That's the way I am when I am believing God for something. I could stand forever if necessary.

We leased the house for one year. We agreed to pay cash for it at the end of that year. Our needs had always been met abundantly. We lived well. We did what we wanted to do. But as far as having that much money in cash, we just didn't have it and never had. In the natural there was no reason to expect to have it,

but in the spirit we knew our God was able. When we moved in, the house was in need of repair. It needed to be completely remodeled, so I was faced with a decision. I had enough money to start the remodeling because I had saved some money to buy a home when I found one; but I thought, “This is not our home legally. It would really be unwise to put thousands of dollars into a house that doesn’t even belong to us.” What was I supposed to do? At that point, I had to act on my faith. I decided that it was my house—I had believed that I received it. I had put my foot on that place, and it was mine in the name of Jesus. As an act of faith, I went to work, calling in people to start remodeling. During that year Satan said, “Well, that sure is a lot of money for you to lose.”

But I would answer, “No, in the name of Jesus, this is my house and it will be paid for in July. We will pay cash for it. I believe we have the money in the Name of Jesus!”

Whenever God called us to do something in the ministry, we always had to believe Him for the money before we could start. Because we wouldn’t borrow money, we had to wait until we had the cash. When we went into television, we believed God for the money first before we actually started production. In the radio ministry, we did the same thing. We might have to believe God for six months before the money would come into our hands. That is how we had always operated. During that year, the ministry was growing and stretching out; the payroll was growing. We always had enough to meet the budget, but it was nip and tuck. There never was anything much left over.

Paying cash for a home is a challenge to faith. We had by faith stepped into a situation that certainly was beyond our natural ability or means. We were trusting the Word of God to perform and accomplish our goal, and the Word came to our rescue with further revelation! We were committed to God’s Word, and God was committed to us. We had taken the step of faith, and God saw to it that we had the revelation knowledge of His Word to put us over. I am convinced beyond doubt that our commitment years before to stay out of debt made the difference. If we had not committed to God’s Word then, we would not know what we know today about God’s system of finance. We would not be able to share these things with you, and today we would be living far below our privileges as believers.

A Divine Revelation

One day as I was standing in my house looking out the window and thinking about these things, God gave me what I would call a revelation of divine prosperity. I realized that we had been looking at finances and prosperity in a different way from other things, such as divine health. If a symptom of sickness came on my body, I would not stand for it. I would take authority over it immediately and not allow it to remain. By doing this, I walk in divine health. I am convinced that healing and divine health belong to me in the New Covenant.

Divine prosperity works exactly the same way, but we had not been using the Word to believe for divine prosperity as we had for divine health. We had been living in the laws of prosperity for years, but we had been acting on prosperity differently from other provisions of the Word in this way: We would allow symptoms of lack to come on us and stay there. We were willing to tolerate them. When the Lord began to deal with me on this, He made me realize that Jesus bore the curse of poverty at the same time He bore the curse of sickness. I already knew it, but I saw that I was not acting on it to the fullest. You can believe for divine prosperity just as you believe for divine health. Both blessings already belong to you. You should refuse lack just as quickly as you refuse sickness.

There was a time when we knew that praying for the sick was a valid thing. When we got sick, we would pray, and most of the time we would get healed. We knew that healing was for us. We knew it was real, so we believed God for healing when we got sick. But when we heard through Kenneth Hagin that Jesus bore our sicknesses and carried our diseases and by His stripes we were healed, the situation was changed in our lives concerning healing. We didn't wait until we got sick to believe God for healing. We decided to walk in divine health because we were healed 2,000 years ago when Jesus paid the price.

I remember the night we heard that we were healed by the stripes of Jesus. We realized then that we didn't have to be sick anymore. Getting healed when you are sick is great, but staying healed—walking in divine health—is much greater. To get healed is wonderful, but it is much better to realize that Jesus paid for our sicknesses and that we are free from them. He made us free from sickness, and Satan cannot put anything on us without our consent. It may be a consent of ignorance, but nevertheless, you are willing to let him do it. He can't affect you unless you let him.

Jesus paid the price for your sickness. It is not a promise. It is a fact. It has already been done. We need to see prosperity in the same light that we see healing and health. He bore the curse of poverty. We should always have enough. Jesus provided it for us. If you are in lack, if you don't have enough to get by, if you don't have anything extra to invest in the work of the gospel, then you are in an area of poverty—you are suffering symptoms of lack.

Isaiah 1:19 says, If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. The word willing has become a passive word in our thinking. Actually, in this scripture willing is an action word. It involves a decision. If I said, "I am willing to live in divine health," I wouldn't just mean, "Well, if somebody slaps it on me, I'll live in it." No. If I am willing, I have made up my mind to live that way. I have determined, "I will live in divine health. I'm not willing to be sick."

If you make up your mind—make a quality decision—that you are not willing to live in lack but that you are willing to live in divine prosperity and abundance, Satan cannot stop the flow of God's financial blessings. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land. Divine prosperity will come to pass in your life. You have exercised your faith in the covenant that you have with God. You have opened the door for Him to establish His covenant with you.

It takes the same kind of decision regarding divine prosperity that it takes for divine health. To walk in divine health, you begin with a decision to no longer allow Satan to put sickness on you; and Satan loses dominion over your body. Frankly, I am just not willing to be sick. I am willing to be well! Jesus paid the price for me, and I am taking advantage of it. In honor of His sacrifice, I will not accept anything less than divine health.

In the same way, I am not willing to live in lack. If I thought abundance was not in agreement with God's will, or if I thought that the Word of God did not provide abundance, I would simply leave it alone. But the Word does provide prosperity and abundance for me. I am an heir to the blessing of Abraham. Redemption from the curse of poverty is part of Jesus' substitutionary work at Calvary. He paid the price for my prosperity—a heavy price. I will not scorn any part of His work. I deeply appreciate every benefit that His sacrifice provided for me.

Once you make the decision to receive what Jesus has already provided for you and to walk in

Bible prosperity, Satan cannot stop you from being prosperous. When you made the decision to make Jesus the Lord of your life according to Romans 10:9,10, there was no devil in hell that could stop your salvation from coming to pass. Satan and all of his cohorts could not even slow it down. Salvation was being offered; and when you made the decision to receive it, salvation immediately became yours and you became a new creature in Christ Jesus. There was no struggle. Salvation was offered and you took it! So it is with Bible prosperity. You begin to walk in divine prosperity with a decision to no longer allow Satan to put symptoms of lack on you.

Make this quality decision concerning your prosperity: God's blessing of prosperity belongs to me. I WILL receive it. The symptoms of lack have no right to operate against me. Make this decision and you will begin to enjoy the financial blessing that has belonged to you since you became a believer in Jesus Christ.

Redeemed From The Curse

Deuteronomy 28 describes the curse of the law. You can see from these verses that poverty is included in this curse: *"And you shall grope at noonday as the blind grope in darkness. And you shall not prosper in your ways; and you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to save you... you shall build a house, but not live in it... A nation which you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your land and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually... He [the stranger] shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. All these curses shall come upon you and shall pursue you and overtake you"* (Deut. 28:29-30, 33, 44-45, The Amplified Bible).

From these verses we can plainly see that poverty and lack are a part of the curse of the law. Galatians 3:13-14 very simply says, Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ. The blessing of Abraham definitely included a financial blessing. The curse of the law definitely included financial reversal.

Galatians 3:13 is one of the verses that caused healing to be a reality in our lives. We knew beyond a doubt that sickness and disease were under the curse and that healing was a part of the blessing of Abraham. Now we can use the same scripture to

make divine prosperity a reality in our lives. Jesus redeemed us from the curse of poverty. He redeemed us from every curse of the law.

If we are willing and obedient, the blessing of Abraham will come on us and overtake us. God will multiply us exceedingly and make us exceedingly fruitful. Lack should be a thing of the past, and abundance—more than you can see any way to use—should be the order of the day.

Peace And Prosperity

Another scripture that has meant so much to us with regard to healing is Isaiah 53:5, The Amplified Bible: But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole. This says that Jesus bore the chastisement needful to obtain peace and well-being. Peace and well-being include whatever you need. You can't enjoy peace and well-being if you don't have your needs met. Isaiah 48:18, The Amplified Bible, ties the two together, Oh, that you had hearkened to My commandments! Then your peace and prosperity would have been like a flowing river. Peace and well-being include a prosperous life. God told Abram, Fear not, Abram, I am your Shield, your abundant compensation, and your reward shall be exceedingly great (Gen. 15:1, The Amplified Bible). Abundant compensation is far-reaching. Abundant compensation means everything. It enveloped Abraham in a blanket of well-being.

Peace and prosperity go hand in hand. Your prosperity has already been provided for you. I pray this will become a reality to you today. Prosperity is yours! It is not something you have to strive to work toward. YOU HAVE A TITLE DEED TO PROSPERITY. Jesus bought and paid for your prosperity just as He bought and paid for your healing and your salvation. He bore the curse of sin, of sickness, and of poverty. When He paid the price for sin, He also paid the price for the curse of poverty so that you can be free.

Once you realize that this prosperity already belongs to you, you will be in a different position. You will no longer be seeking to obtain it, hoping to get it, or working toward it. You won't have to work toward it because the Word says it is yours now. The Word is your source in prosperity just as it is in healing.

Treat any symptom of lack just as you would

treat a symptom of sickness. The very moment a symptom of lack shows up in your life, take authority over it. Command it to flee from you in the Name of Jesus and stand your ground. Say, "Lack, I resist you in the Name of Jesus. I command you to flee from me. I have been redeemed from the curse of poverty and lack. I WILL NOT TOLERATE YOU IN MY LIFE." Don't allow Satan to steal from you. He will attempt to put symptoms of lack on you, but if you stand on the Word of God, knowing that prosperity belongs to you, he cannot maintain an attack. The Word says that when you resist Satan, he has to flee from you. He has no choice! (James 4:7).

Dominion

Divine prosperity and abundance belong to you now. We, as born-again believers, have the same authority over the earth that Adam had in the Garden of Eden. Look at Genesis 1:27, 28, The Amplified Bible: So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth. God made the earth, and then He made man and gave man dominion and authority over the earth. It was man's earth (Ps. 115:16). God didn't say, "I will subdue it for you." He said, "You subdue it and have dominion over its vast resources."

While we were standing in faith for the money to pay for our first house, the Lord reminded me of this scripture and revealed to me that every material thing here came from the earth's vast resources. Every piece of lumber, brick, glass, concrete, mortar—there was nothing in the makeup of our house that had not come from the earth's resources. Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it with all its vast resources and have dominion. Anything that you can see with your eyes comes from the earth's resources. (I had not thought about that even though it is obvious that it does.) Every jet airplane is made from material that comes from the earth's resources. Cars, buildings, furniture, jewels, food, clothes, every greenback dollar bill, silver, and gold are products of the earth's vast resources. You cannot have a material need that the earth's resources cannot handle. The raw materials may change, but the substance that gives material things their form comes from the resources of the earth! Glory to God!

God told Adam to subdue the earth and its

resources. He gave Adam authority over it. Adam gave that authority to Satan. Then Jesus came to earth, paid the price, and recaptured that authority from Satan. Jesus, in turn, gave that authority to the believer. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matt. 28:18-20).

I began to see that I already had authority over that house and authority over the money I needed to purchase it. I said, "In the name of Jesus, I take authority over the money I need. (I called for the specific amount.) I command you to come to me. I take my place, and I take dominion over that which I need. I command it to come in Jesus' name. Ministering spirits, you go and cause it to come." (Speaking of angels, Hebrews 1:14 says, Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? You have angels assigned to minister for you. Psalm 103:20 says that the angels hearken to the voice of God's Word. When you become the voice of God in the earth by putting His Words in your mouth, you put your angels to work! They are highly trained, capable helpers. They know how to get the job done.)

I wasn't taking authority over something that belonged to someone else. That house was up for sale. The people had relinquished their authority when they put it on the market. I had the right to take authority over it and receive it as mine in the name of Jesus.

Stand your ground on the Word of God simply because it is yours. Believe it and the things you need will come into your life. Take authority over them and command them to come to you in the name of Jesus. Command the money you need to come to you. The authority is yours. Have dominion and subdue the earth and its vast resources.

Mark 10:29,30 tells us a hundredfold return is available to the giver, but it says that you will receive your return "with persecutions." Persecution simply means that Satan will try you. Persecution has no authority over you. It has no power, but Satan is allowed to test you in that area. He will lie to you and steal from you if he can. He will show you convincing symptoms of lack and tell you, "There is no way." Remember those four words there is no way

always come from Satan. God will never tell you there is no way. Jesus said, "I am the way." The only way to successfully combat Satan is with the Word of God and the name of Jesus.

It was six years from the time we started believing God for our first home until we moved into it. At the end of the year's lease, we paid cash for our "faith house." I am still not sure how, except by faith in God's Word. Had we borrowed the money, we would have still had 35 years to pay! When you think about that, six years does not seem so long. Remember that in 1968 we had hardly scratched the surface of revelation knowledge. We had just realized that faith works. We did not know how God's system of prosperity worked. Since then we have learned and are still learning. The next house we paid cash for some years later was many times more expensive and we had the cash in three weeks. Today, just our television bill is well over one million dollars every month. How could we borrow enough money each month to pay for that? Thank God, borrowed money is not our source—HE IS!

You cannot receive these things just because I tell you about them. You have to take the scriptures on prosperity and meditate on them until they become a reality in your heart, until you know prosperity belongs to you. Once you have a revelation of divine prosperity in your spirit, you won't allow Satan to take it from you. The Word of God is the source of your prosperity. The Word is the source of everything you need in life. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Don't look to people to meet your needs. Look to the Word. Satan will try to convince you that you can never walk in prosperity, but don't look at the circumstances around you. Look at the Word that says it is yours.

There are different areas of poverty just as there are different areas of sickness. A headache is one thing; terminal cancer is another. I wouldn't enjoy either of them. In the same way, you can have lack in some areas or you can have total lack: You can be without food to eat or without quite enough to make ends meet. Again, I wouldn't enjoy either one.

Why should I? Why should I settle for only a part of the blessing of Abraham? The Word says I am entitled to all the blessing of Abraham.

Don't just believe God to meet your needs. Believe Him for a surplus of prosperity so that you can help others. We here in America are a blessed people financially. We have been called to finance the gospel to the world. According to 2 Corinthians 9:8,

The Amplified Bible, we should be self sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]. Verse 11 says, Thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous.... Isn't that better than just barely getting by?

If you are furnished in abundance, then you will be able to reach out to others. You will live in a surplus of prosperity. You will walk in divine prosperity.

4. The Hundredfold Return

“And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred” Mark 4:20, KJV

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life (Mark 10:29, 30).

Some years ago a new awareness of the hundredfold return began to grow in my spirit and mind. The Lord began to speak to me about just how great the hundredfold return is. He wanted me to meditate on it and let it become a powerful reality in my spirit. Revelation knowledge of God's Word grows in you like the seed planted in Mark 4:26-29. A man scatters seed in the ground. He rises and sleeps night and day while the seed sprouts and grows and increases—he knows not how. When allowed to grow, there comes a day when the grain is ripe and the harvest is ready.

The Word of God works like that. The Word is the seed. If it is planted in the heart and watered and allowed to grow and increase, it will come to maturity and produce the harvest of results. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred (Mark 4:20).

The Word will produce according to how you hear it, how you receive it, and how you bring forth fruit. These returns are brought forth by believing and acting on God's Word and by the confession of your mouth. Some hearers will bring forth no fruit because they will allow other things to choke the Word (Mark 4:19). Some will bring forth fruit. Some will bring forth a thirtyfold return, some will bring forth a sixtyfold return, and some will bring forth one hundredfold.

As we study the hundredfold return, allow this Word to grow in you. Meditate in it and think about what the Word is saying to you. I will share it with

you just as the Lord shared it with me over a period of months.

The first thing the Lord led me to realize was just how great the hundredfold return really is. You give \$1.00 for the gospel's sake and the full hundredfold return would be \$100. Ten dollars would be \$1,000. A hundredfold return on \$1,000 would be \$100,000.

Webster's New 20th Century Dictionary says that hundredfold means one hundred times the bulk or measure of anything.

Mark 10:30 is a very good deal. Where in the natural world are you offered the return of one hundred times your investment? In the natural world if you double your money, you do well. If you receive ten times your investment, it is a marvelous deal, but who even talks in terms of one hundred times an investment.

After I let what the Word offers us in the hundredfold return become a reality to me, the Lord led me to continually give thanks for the hundredfold return. Whenever I thought about it, I would say, "Thank You, Father, for the hundredfold return offered in Your Word. It is such a generous return, and it belongs to me." I would say any faith words of praise that came into my spirit in regard to continually thanking God for the hundredfold return. This thanksgiving kept my faith active and operative to receive. Continually confessing the hundredfold return causes the seed of Mark 10:30 to grow.

For years Kenneth and I have acted on Mark 10:30 in our giving and believed for the hundredfold return. When we receive offerings into this ministry, we believe for the hundredfold return to come back to those who give. Many of you have received letters from us thanking you for your gift and believing with you for the hundredfold return. As we write the letter to be sent to those who stand with us in this ministry financially, we pray and believe for whatever we write in the letter. We expect it to come to pass. Mark 10:30 has been vital to us for a long time. But recently, it seems that not only has the seed sprouted, but the blade, the ear, and the full grain in the ear have ripened within our spirits. **AND WE HAVE BEEN HARVESTING A CROP!**

I am believing that what I am sharing with you will be as great a blessing to you as it has been to us. I want you to enjoy the harvest of the hundredfold return in a greater measure than ever before in your own life.

Months and months after the Lord instructed me to continually give thanks for the hundredfold return, Kenneth and I were in Hawaii for a convention. We had some days before the meeting to relax and enjoy ourselves. One day as we were discussing the Word, we got on the subject of the hundredfold return. Kenneth said, "Well, you know, we never have received the full hundredfold return on our giving."

I thought about it. No, the full hundredfold return had never been manifested in our lives, even though great returns have come back on us. Even then the hundredfold return on our giving, both personally and through our ministry, would be millions of dollars. Yet, if the Word said it, and it does, then we know that it belongs to us. These thoughts went through my mind, and I said, "Well, we aren't through yet," and he agreed. We could have stopped further revelation right then by saying, "I guess we have tenfold faith" or by giving in to what we could see. There is one thing about the Copelands that most of you have heard: We play till we win! One secret I will share with you about living by faith is KEEP PLAYING! THE GAME ISN'T OVER YET!

During the next few days that conversation stayed on my mind. I thought about it from time to time. You know, that is what meditation is: to dwell or fix your mind on something. During the convention just as a challenge to my faith—as though to declare that the Word is true and I will receive the full hundredfold return in Jesus' Name—I said, "All right, as a challenge to my faith, I am going to put \$10 into the offering and believe for an immediate return of \$1,000 to pay some of the expenses of our trip." Deliberately, I gave according to Mark 10:30 and believed for the full hundredfold return. I made the decision to receive— and to receive immediately.

The next day I spoke at the ladies' luncheon. A woman that I did not know came to the table. She said that she and her husband were at the hotel for a vacation and did not know that we were going to be there. She handed me a check and said that they were supporters of our ministry and gave on a regular basis, but this check was for Kenneth and me personally. IT WAS A CHECK FOR \$500. Nobody had ever handed me a check for \$500 at a ladies' luncheon before! There was 50 percent of my return by the next day (not 50 percent of my gift, but 50 percent of my return!). I was so thrilled because I knew it was a direct response to my believing for the hundredfold return on the \$10 I gave the previous afternoon. Praise the Lord!

Throughout the remainder of the meeting, I continued to meditate on the hundredfold return and continually thanked God for it. The last night of the convention during the offering, someone read Mark 10:29, 30. As he read that scripture aloud, the answer I had been looking for jumped out at me, BUT HE SHALL RECEIVE AN HUNDREDFOLD NOW IN THIS TIME. I heard it as “NOW IN THIS LIFE.” I checked and found that several translations say “in this life” or “in this present life.” W. E. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says, “In this lifetime.”

Jesus said whatever you release or give up for His sake and the gospel’s you will receive a hundred times as much now in this life. He did not say it would come in two weeks, but He said it would come in this life. Glory to God! Here was the answer. I had given ten dollars, believing for the hundredfold return. Fifty percent of that return came to me within twenty-four hours—that meant \$500 was still out there coming to me in this life. I realized that the hundredfold return is continually working, coming to me as long as I keep my faith active in its behalf.

None of the blessings of God work automatically, even though they belong to us. They become manifested in our lives as we exercise our faith to receive them. Healing belongs to every believer, but that great blessing is enjoyed only by those who exercise their faith to receive it. Tithing carries great benefits and rewards, but if you don’t tithe according to the Word and use your faith to receive those benefits, they are not manifested in your life as they should be. In the same way the hundredfold return is a powerful force in the believer’s financial blessing, but you have to release your faith to receive all that the Word offers you. The force of faith must be applied by the Word of God in your heart and by the confession of your mouth.

In this life was the answer to our conversation a few days before about the full hundredfold not being manifested. We knew we were abundantly blessed financially, that we had operated in divine prosperity, and that whatever we desired in the material realm we had asked for and received. We knew we had already received large returns on our giving. When God revealed to me that ALL of the hundredfold return of ALL that we had given was out there coming to us and that it would come to us in this life, I could see that if we would exercise our faith before we leave this life, ALL that return would come and had been continually coming to us all along.

UPDATE: Since 1977 when the book was written, our ministry income (for 1990) has increased 818 percent. Our hundredfold return is working!

In the past we had used our faith where Mark 10:29,30 was concerned; but now I can see that although we did not negate our confession for the hundredfold return, we did after a period of time allow the determination of faith to wane. By then, we would be believing for the hundredfold on more recent offerings. We would receive a partial return but fail to stand fast for the full return on our past giving, and after a while we would forget. It was still out there. It was still ours but without the pressure of our faith, it could stop.

I shared this from the Word with Jerry and Carolyn Savelle weeks later. Jerry told me that when they were first learning to give, he would stand for the hundredfold return until it came. He was in a position financially where he had to have the full return just to get by. Consequently, he believed it in. I shared with them that the full hundredfold return will come in if we keep our faith active and operating for it. They received the Word and began to expect. The next day a woman brought a \$500 check by the office for Carolyn. Carolyn had given and was believing God for the money to landscape their new home. Her faith activated the return to come to her.

The hundredfold return on all our giving already belonged to us, but lack of diligence (failure to continually confess the Word and release faith for the hundredfold return) permitted the return to lie fallow in Accounts Receivable. Accounts Receivable is money that belongs to a company, but sometimes collecting it is another matter. We have learned how to collect! What we have learned recently about the hundredfold return is the way to continually keep that hundredfold engaged and operating in our behalf. Now we can continually release our faith for all of the hundredfold return on all our giving. (Since this great return already belongs to you and is just waiting for you to apply faith pressure, you can receive the hundredfold on your past giving as well. The hundredfold is retroactive. Praise the Lord!)

Now think this through with me the way I did as I began to see into it. Kenneth and I had been living by faith for 20 years. We had been giving and believing for the return on our giving. In those 20 years we had been abundantly blessed. God has blessed us with whatever we have desired from Him. In 1968 when we first heard about how to walk in faith, our income was \$3,594.37, below poverty level,

and we were not on welfare! Since we have been living on the Word, we have increased and been blessed with every material blessing. The more we give, the more we receive. The more we receive, the more we give and the larger our hundredfold return becomes. What will it be like after we have lived this way another 20 years, and then another? Glory to God! Our second 20 years will be better than our first 20 years, and the first 20 years have been beyond what the natural mind could believe! Just think what it will be like by the time I am 100 years old and Kenneth is 105!

I can see how the Body of Christ is going to end up with all the money! No matter how much the amount of your giving increases, you are still offered the hundredfold return, and it is still guaranteed to come to you in this life!

That night in Hawaii as I began to see into these things, I got so excited. We were up late visiting with friends, and I did not have a chance to share with Ken what I had received about the hundredfold return. It was still coming together piece by piece.

God Is Faithful To Perform His Word

Now I want to share in detail a testimony of how God is faithful to perform His Word in our behalf. The convention was over and we planned to leave for the airport at 10:30 the next morning. Instead of waking up at 7:00.. as planned, I got up at 8:30.. Though I didn't expect to have time for breakfast, things worked out that way. I went downstairs ahead of the family to get a table. I decided to eat inside instead of on the terrace because of time. When it was my turn, a man stepped in front of me and got the table that should have been mine. The coffee shop was full, so I waited. Then I followed the hostess all the way to the back and around the corner (the room is L-shaped). You can't even see this area from most of the restaurant. There was an empty table for four. I do not recall seeing another empty table. I started to sit at one side of the table but decided to move to the other side so I could watch for Ken. I was not following the voice of the Lord. I was following my own spirit without really thinking about it, and I was just flowing with what came next.

In a few minutes a lady came to the table. I had met her only for a moment the day of the luncheon. She said as she took a ring from her finger, "God told me to give you this." I didn't look at the ring but only at the woman. She seemed upset, and I thought that she was doing something that she did not really want to do.

I said, “Why don’t you pray about it a little longer? I wouldn’t want you to regret it later.”

She said, “Oh no, It isn’t that. I have just never had anything like this happen to me before. I have been impressed for several days to give you this ring, but I didn’t know for sure that it was the Lord. Last night while Ken was speaking it got stronger, so I prayed, ‘Lord, if You want me to give Gloria Copeland this ring, have her sit next to me at breakfast in the morning.’”

We usually don’t even come down for breakfast! In that big, crowded coffee shop, I had been seated right next to her table. Even I got up and moved to the other side, sitting as close as I could possibly get without sitting at her table! I had no idea that God had a wonderful blessing waiting for me that morning at breakfast, but the hundredfold return was working for me in a beautiful way.

I picked up the ring and looked at it. It is one of the most unusual rings I have ever seen—two squares of emeralds and diamonds set in gold. The two squares rotate as my hand moves. It is a stunning piece of jewelry. I received this beautiful ring from the lady in faith, knowing that God would not have instructed her to give such a treasure unless He had something great in store for her. You have to give in faith, but it is also important to receive in faith.

Then I remembered the hundredfold return. The last time we were in Hawaii in the same hotel, I had been impressed to give a diamond ring to someone the morning we were getting ready to come home. I gave it, and she told me later that it was just like the one she had seen in a window years ago and was just what she wanted. When I gave it, I believed for the hundredfold return to come to me. The beautiful ring that I had just received was a direct return on the one I had given away. I had wanted a pinkie ring, and this is the most beautiful one I have ever seen. When I put it on, it fit perfectly. I was jumping up and down on the inside! I knew that what I had just received from the Word of God in the last few days had caused this blessing to come to me. The return was mine all along, but my faith had been energized to receive without delay! The hundredfold return was working for me. Thank God for the wonderful hundredfold return! Even though the ring I received was much finer than the one I gave, much of my hundredfold is still out there working— coming to me. How exciting.

I still had not shared with Ken the great and powerful revelation I had received—one that has

continued to grow and expand ever since. When we got on the airplane, the first thing I did was tell him what I had seen in the Word. He got excited too. As I reminded him of the ring I had given away, I looked down at the beautiful ring I was now enjoying. It moves constantly, the two squares going around. I said, "Look! That's my hundredfold return ring. I received it as a return, and just like my hundredfold return, it is continually moving— working. The hundredfold return is continually working in our behalf, coming to us in this life."

I give testimony to the glory of God just as any other believer would. We have continued to meditate on the hundredfold return. We have read the scriptures and thought about them. We continually thank God for our return and confess that the full hundredfold is working, coming to us. We confess that we are receiving the full hundredfold return of all we have given for Jesus' sake, or the gospel's. Kenneth and I are still saying these things with our mouths, and we are still receiving. We have kept our faith active. We become more and more thrilled as we share with others what we have learned. The seed of Mark 10:29, 30 has begun harvesting a greater crop than ever before in our lives. Glory to God! Harvest time is here.

Our hundredfold return is working and coming to us. One unusual thing that happened as a direct result of our faith came, totally unexpected, from an organization I had spoken for. When they invited me to speak, they said that they would not give me an honorarium. It was the only place I had ever been invited to speak that did not even offer gasoline money, but I had been told in advance, so I was not surprised. We had a great meeting, and I forgot about it. When I returned from Hawaii, there was a check for \$150 from this organization with a note saying they were terribly sorry to be so late in sending the honorarium. We had never received an honorarium a year late! The hundredfold return is working, coming to us—and from the most unexpected sources. God's hundredfold return is working miraculously in our lives.

What I have been sharing with you sounds like science fiction to some people, but there are thousands of believers who are believing God financially, who dare to stand on God's Word where prosperity is concerned. This will mean more to those of you who have already been believing God and using your faith in the financial area. Start believing God on the level where you can believe. Study Kenneth's book *The Laws of Prosperity* until you

know from God's Word that it is His will for you to prosper. You will soon find that when you are ready to believe you receive the hundredfold return. Dare to believe what the Word says. You are a believer. You can believe.

I shared these scriptures about the hundredfold return with a man on our staff. He had just given away a piece of equipment worth several thousand dollars and was believing for a tenfold return because he knew from past experiences that he could believe in tenfold, but a hundredfold return seemed a little shaky. I was so thrilled to share what the Lord had given me concerning the hundredfold return because I knew that once the Word had been revealed to him, he would be able to obtain his full hundredfold return. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. After he saw further into the hundredfold return and that it belonged to him, he no longer hesitated to step out and believe for it. It no longer seemed beyond his reach.

There are thousands of people who are partners with this ministry. I am believing that you can take what I have shared with you and plant the seed of Mark 10:29, 30. I am believing that you will meditate on this scripture and allow it to grow in you until you harvest the hundredfold return on all of your giving! *And He said to them, Is the lamp brought in to be put under a peck measure or under a bed, and not [to be put] on the lampstand? [Things are hidden temporarily only as a means to revelation.] For there is nothing hidden except to be revealed, nor is anything [temporarily] kept secret except in order that it may be made known. If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend. And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear. For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away [by force] (Mark 4:21-25, The Amplified Bible).*

The truth won't work for you just because it works for me. The Word will work for you when it becomes a reality in your heart. It is working in my life because I have meditated on it and allowed it to become a reality to me. I have received and acted accordingly. The Word says that the measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you. Jesus said, "Be careful how you hear." The more you think about the Word of God and

confess it with your mouth, the faster that seed will grow within you—first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. Then harvest time is here! The respect, reverence, and value you place on the Word you hear determines the power (virtue) that operates on your behalf.

Some of the things that stop the Word of God from producing its full capabilities are listed in Mark 4. These things steal from you not only in finances but in every area of life.

1. Satan comes to talk you out of it.
2. The Word doesn't root in your heart, and when trouble or persecution comes, you become offended and believe circumstances rather than what the Word says.
3. Cares and anxieties of the world.
4. Distractions of the age.
5. Pleasure and delight and false glamour.
6. Deceitfulness of riches.
7. Craving and passionate desire for other things creep in and choke and suffocate the Word. Then the Word becomes fruitless.

(These are taken from the The Amplified Bible.)

The ones who received are talked about in Mark 4:20, The Amplified Bible.

“And those sown on the good (well-adapted) soil are the ones who hear the Word and receive and accept and welcome it and bear fruit—some thirty times as much as was sown, some sixty times as much, and some [even] a hundred times as much.”

Some in Mark 4 didn't let the Word bear any fruit. Others let different things stop the Word from working faith in their heart. Some did receive thirty times as much as was sown. Which is, by the way, a great return. Others received sixtyfold. Some one hundredfold.

Sowing and reaping is not a doctrine. It is a spiritual law or principle. It works in anything, not just money or material things. You sow love, you receive back love. Sow hate and discord and that will be returned to you multiplied.

Some don't agree that there is a hundredfold

return or that this scripture in Mark 10:29, 30 applies to money. Because of the way the Lord gave it to me and because of other scriptures, I believe the hundredfold return is available. There are many things involved. I don't think most people will receive it because it is not automatic, but I believe it is available to every believer. I personally am believing God for His best.

What if you were to believe for the hundredfold return and only actually receive the thirtyfold return. Is that not better than receiving no return because you did not attempt to receive by faith?

If this is too hard for you now, then when you give, act on Luke 6:38.

“Give, and [gifts] will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will they pour into [the pouch formed by] the bosom [of your robe and used as a bag]. For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others], it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38, The Amplified Bible).

This says what you give will be pressed down, shaken together, and running over. That is definitely a great increase. Sounds like a hundredfold return!

Galatians 6:7 is in the context of talking about giving. The Word says, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”* Then in verse 9, *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

Remember, Mark 10:30 says, *“With persecutions.”* In the financial area return comes with persecution (or opposition). We must not faint but believe God. Refuse to allow the devil to steal the full hundredfold return that is available to you.

Today, the hundredfold return is not the reason we give. We give out of obedience to God. We give because we love God. We give because we love people. It is not to be our motive for giving. It is a benefit of giving—a principle of blessing from God our Father.

Prophecy

I believe that the following prophecy concerning finances and the hundredfold return will be a blessing to you. The Lord spoke these words through Charles Capps in Honolulu, Hawaii, February 1, 1978. (Note: Inversion means “a turning upside down or inside

out; reversal of position.”)

“Financial inversion shall increase in these days. For you see, it is My desire to move in the realm of your financial prosperity. But release Me, saith the Lord, release Me that I may come in your behalf and move on your behalf.

For yes, yes, yes, there shall be in this hour financial distress here and there. The economy shall go up and it will go down; but those that learn to walk in the Word, they shall see the PROSPERITY OF THE WORD come forth in this hour in a way that has not been seen by men in days past.

Yes, there’s coming a FINANCIAL INVERSION in the world’s system. It’s been held in reservoirs of wicked men for days on end. But the end is nigh. Those reservoirs shall be tapped and shall be drained into the gospel of Jesus Christ. It shall be done, saith the Lord. It shall be done IN THE TIME ALLOTTED and so shall it be that the Word of the Lord shall come to pass that the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Predominantly in two ways shall it be done in this hour. Those that have hoarded up and stored because of the inspiration of the evil one and held the money from the gospel shall be converted and drawn into the kingdom and then shall it release that reservoir into the kingdom. But many, many will not. They’ll not heed the voice of the Word of God. They’ll turn aside to this and they’ll turn to that and they’ll walk in their own ways, but their ways will not work in this hour. It’ll dwindle and it’ll slip away as though it were in bags with holes in them. It’ll go here and it’ll go there and they’ll wonder why it’s not working now. “It worked in days past,” they’ll say.

But it shall be, saith the Lord, that THE WORD OF THE LORD SHALL RISE WITHIN MEN—men of God of low esteem in the financial world—that shall claim the Word of God to be their very own and walk in the light of it as it has been set forth in the Word and give. They’ll begin to give small at first because that’s all they have, but then it will increase, and THROUGH THE HUNDREDFOLD RETURN, so shall it be that the reservoirs that have held the riches in days past, so shall it return to the hands of the giver. BECAUSE OF THE HUNDREDFOLD RETURN SHALL THE RESERVOIRS BE LOST FROM THE WICKED AND TURNED TO THE GOSPEL. For it shall be, it shall be in this hour that you will see things that you’ve never dreamed come to pass. Oh, it’ll be strong at first in ways, then it will grow greater and greater until men will be astounded

and the world will stand in awe because the ways of men have failed and the ways of God shall come forth.

As men walk in My Word, so shall they walk in the ways of the Lord. Oh yes, there will be some who say, "Yes, but God's ways are higher; surely higher than our ways, and we can't walk in those." It's true that the ways of God are higher. They are higher than your ways as the heavens are above the earth, but I'll teach you to walk in My ways. I never did say you couldn't walk in My ways. Now learn to walk in it. Learn to give. So shall the inversion of the financial system revert and so shall it be that the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached to all the world, and THERE SHALL BE NO LACK IN THE KINGDOM. Those that give shall walk in the ways of the supernatural! They shall be known abroad. MY WORD SHALL SPREAD AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD SHALL FILL ALL THE EARTH IN THE DAY AND THE HOUR IN WHICH YE STAND. Ye shall see it and know it, for it is of Me, and it shall come to pass, saith the Lord."

5. How To Receive From God

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7 KJV

God does not will one thing and say another. It would be dishonest and unjust for Him not to reveal His will to you and then hold you responsible for walking uprightly before Him.

Paul’s Spirit-directed prayer for the Church is that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Col. 1:9).

God’s Word is His will. His Word is supernatural and it is alive! The Holy Spirit is sent to reveal this supernatural Word to you. He makes the instruction of the Father a reality. Read the Bible with the knowledge that God had it written for your benefit—not for His. He is already quite successful!

The Word is God speaking to you, teaching you how to live an abundant and successful life.

Jesus said, *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you (John 15:7).*

God’s Word in you is the key to answered prayer. Your Father wants you to be victorious in this life and enjoy all the rights and privileges that Jesus purchased for you. He desires that you keep His Word because it will keep you whole—spirit, soul, and body.

The world should see a Christian as the Word sees him—a man able to control his circumstances with every physical, mental, and spiritual need met.

The Bible tells you who you are and what you can do in Christ. As a born-again believer, you are in Christ. You are a member of the Body of Christ.

The Bible is not a book to be admired and given a place of honor in the bookshelf. It is your Reference Book on living. Your very life depends on what you find in it. It is the “how to” of everyday life. Keep it with you.

The Bible is God’s wisdom made available to man and written in man’s words. Read it positively, not as a set of rules but as the open door to freedom. *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).*

The truth makes you free! It does not put you in bondage.

God's Formula For Success

"This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success"
(Josh. 1:8, *The Amplified Bible*).

God's success formula begins with keeping His Word in your mouth. **Talk God's Word.**

God gave Israel these instructions: *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up"* (Deut. 6:6, 7).

God told Israel to talk His Word when they sat down, when they walked, when they lay down, and when they rose up. That is all the time!

How could that be possible? Jesus said that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matt. 12:34). The words you put in yourself are the words that come out. What words do you see and listen to most of the time—television, radio, newspapers, novels—or God's Word? Listen to yourself talk and you will know what is in you in abundance. If you are talking doubt, fear, sickness, and lack, that is what is in you in abundance. Your source of information must be changed!

The stream of things in the world is negative. Unless you take action against the world order with the Word of God, your mouth will speak from experience, circumstance, and tradition.

Jesus said, *"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith"* (Mark 11:23).

You receive in this life just what you say with your mouth. The word in your mouth is your faith speaking.

The words you speak are what you believe.

Your words can be for you or against you. They

bring you health or sickness. Your words decide whether you live in abundance or lack. Your words give you victory or cause you to be defeated. Solomon, the wisest and richest man of the Old Testament, said, "You are snared by the words of your mouth." You are snared by your words, or you are set free by your words.

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. The mouth speaks according to what you put in your heart. "*A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things*" (Matt. 12:35). Put God's Word in your heart, and you will speak God's Word with your mouth. God's Word in your mouth will cause good things to happen in your life.

Meditate In God's Word

You put God's Word in your heart by meditation in His Word. You do not change believing in your heart by just wanting to change it. **You only change how you believe by the Word of God.**

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). The only way faith comes into the heart is by hearing the Word, and the only way faith can be developed is through the Word. There is no shortcut.

Meditation in God's Word is a necessity in God's success formula. Keep His Word before you and meditate. Dwell upon the Word in your thought life day and night. Meditation is more than just reading. Meditation is fixing your mind on the Word so that you do all that is written therein. You will gain revelation and insight into the Word that you never could gain by only reading.

In meditating in the Word, you are applying that Word to yourself personally. You are allowing the Holy Spirit to make God's Word a reality in your heart.

You are carefully pondering how this Word applies to your life. You are dwelling on how this Word from the Lord changes your situation, or perhaps you simply receive the quiet revelation of that means me! You are placing yourself in agreement with what God says about you. You are seeing yourself as He sees you!

As long as God's Word is just a Book—even a Holy Book—you will not act on it. Until the Bible becomes God dealing with you, it will not be active and powerful in your life.

Through meditation the integrity of God's Word

becomes a reality to you. As the truth is revealed in your spirit, you will begin to do all that is written in it. Doing God's Word is the end result of keeping God's words in your mouth and meditating on His Word. Only acting on God's Word guarantees success.

One of the greatest enemies of faith is mental assent. Mental assent agrees that the Word is true. Mental assent sounds good but enjoys no results because it only agrees that the Word is true—mental assent does not act on the Word.

Mental assent says, "I believe the Bible is true from Genesis to Revelation." But when it comes to apply that Word mental assent then says, "I know the Bible says that personally, by His stripes I am healed, but I feel sick, so I must be sick."

Mental assent does not act from faith in the Word but acts on what it sees and feels. People who just agree that the Word is true do not walk by faith but by sight.

Beware of the trap of mental assent. It is subtle because it sounds good. A good deal of time mental assent can be tagged by the words but and if. These two little words will rob you of your confession of faith. Replace confessions of doubt with the Word of God.

Acting On The Word

Jesus gives us an example of two men and the way they responded after hearing the Word. The wise man acted on the Word, and the foolish man mentally assented to the Word. You can be either man.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it (Matt. 7:24-27).

Knowing what the Word says is not enough. You must act on that knowledge to get results. Both men heard the Word and both houses experienced the storm, but the results were different!

Acting on the Word put a foundation under the wise man's house that could not be moved, and his

house suffered no loss.

The foolish man, who heard the Word but did not do it, had no foundation when the floods came. His house may have been easier to build, but it had no power to stand.

Because meditation makes God's Word a reality to you, it shuts the door to mental assent and opens the door wide to doing God's Word. It not only gets your thoughts but also your actions in line with God's will for you. As truths are revealed to you in the Word, apply them to your circumstances and do them. You be the wise man that acts on the Word. When the adversities of life come against your house, it will stand because the foundation of doing God's Word will make it stand. You will learn to act on the Word of God just as you would the word of your doctor, lawyer, or best friend.

To put this formula into action, find out what God says in the Word about the need in your life. In His Word, you will find God's answer to every problem common to man. For every evil Satan can throw at mankind, our Father has provided the Word to overcome that evil. Prosperity and good success are yours through God's Word. *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you"* (John 15:7).

To receive from God, you must make your thoughts, actions, and words be in agreement with what God says belongs to you. You are the determining factor in receiving from God. God's Word does not change. God's will does not change. If you want to receive from God, YOU must change your believing and saying to agree with Him.

We receive by faith. Well, what is faith? It is so simple, yet many make it seem complex or unattainable. Faith is believing what God says in His Word regardless of what you see with your eyes or hear with your ears or feel with your senses. Faith believes God's Word no matter what the circumstances say. The Amplified Bible in Hebrews 11:1 says that faith is perceiving as real fact what is not yet revealed to the senses.

Faith is trust. If I told you something but offered no proof to back my words, you would have to trust me in order to believe it. If you said, "You will have to show me before I will believe it," you put no confidence in my integrity. When you receive or reject what God says in His Word concerning you, you are dealing with His integrity.

God's Word is good. The Bible says that God is not a man that He should lie (Num. 23:19).

You may think, "I would never call God Almighty a liar," but that is exactly what you do every time you allow your words and actions to contradict what you know God says about you in His Word. You are acting in fear instead of in faith—fear that God will not perform His Word in your life. What an insult to the Father!

God's success formula has produced in our lives over and over and over again. It has never failed to produce. We have personally used this formula to receive healing, airplanes, houses, office buildings, equipment, clothes, cars, boats, wisdom, guidance, help with our children, and national radio and television coverage—to name a few. We have used the Word to receive in every area of our lives. The Bible tells us that the just shall live by faith. We have lived by faith and enjoyed tremendous blessings.

When you get ready to release your faith, use whatever scripture the Lord leads you to use. Don't go to God with the problem. Don't pray the problem—pray the answer. Present to God the Word that covers your need and say, "I believe it!"

You Can Have What You Say

Let's go through the faith process from start to finish and find out what it takes on your part to believe God for something you cannot see. Get ready to release your faith right now for whatever you need from God. Mark 11, verses 22-24, will work for any need. *"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

Whosoever shall say unto this mountain.

According to Jesus, in order to change things you are to speak to the mountain. The mountain is the obstacle or need in your life. Let's assume that your need is financial—you just simply need more money to live and to give. Say this: "Poverty, I speak to you in the name of Jesus, and I command you to be removed from my presence and my life. I will no longer tolerate you. I forbid you to operate against me in any way."

You do not talk to God about the problem. Talk

to Him about the answer—the Word of God. You speak to the mountain and tell it what to do. Jesus spoke to the wind and water and said, “Peace, be still!” He spoke to the fig tree and said, “No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever.” Guess what? Nobody did! Most people want God to talk to the mountain for them, but HE WILL NOT. He has given the believer that authority; and if you want results, do it His way. TALK TO THE MOUNTAIN!

When God delegates authority, He delegates authority! Adam proved that in the Garden when he committed high treason. God knew what was going on in the Garden when Adam was being tempted. Even though the consequences were so hideous, God would not repudiate the authority He had given Adam. “*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth*” (Gen. 1:26). “*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*” (Gen. 2:17). God’s Word was all Adam needed to make him successful. Satan as a serpent was a creature, and Adam had authority over all living creatures. He should have used his authority and commanded Satan to flee and never come back. God had given Adam instruction not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam had God’s Word and he had dominion. God would not override Adam’s authority.

There is another side to that story: God is not going to override your authority either. He has given you authority in the earth. He has given you instructions in His Word to put you over in every situation. He will let you die sick if you choose to do so. You would have to ignore every healing scripture in the Bible and all that Jesus bought for you when He bore your sicknesses and carried your diseases, but you have the authority to go ahead and die. God will not stop you. On the other hand, you have the authority to take His Word and command your body to be healed in the name of Jesus. “*So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7, The Amplified Bible).

Some religious men today, who advocate that believers should welcome suffering, teach that God is allowing the loss of your business, your health, or some other curse in order to teach you something. Therefore, if God is allowing it, you have no defense against it. You are just supposed to brace up and suffer “like a good little trooper.” If you believe this

teaching, you automatically put yourself in position for Satan to whip you and whip you badly. This is directly opposed to the operation of faith and your God-given authority. It is contrary to God's Word that says, "*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man... Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*" (James 1:13, 16, 17).

How can you resist if you think God is blessing you with cancer? That sounds so blasphemous that it is hard for me to say. Yet that is just what some would have you believe. **Satan and God have not changed places.** Satan is not making believers rich while God makes them sick. When you examine it with your religious head turned off, it is not hard to figure out where this error originated. Religious error trains you to enforce your own defeat. Every believer who embraces suffering certainly makes Satan's job to kill, steal, and destroy much easier. You are told in God's Word to believe that God is the rewarder, not the destroyer. "*For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]*" (Heb. 11:6, The Amplified Bible).

This error does, however, have an element of truth in it. GOD IS ALLOWING WHATEVER YOU ALLOW! He has given you authority, and according to His Word, you can have what you say. He will allow you to be sick, lost in sin, and bound in poverty. God will allow you to die before your time. It is not His will for you, but He remains true to His Word. "*If we are faithless... He remains true (faithful to His Word...), for He cannot deny Himself*" (2 Tim. 2:13, The Amplified Bible). If you take your God-given authority in the earth and use it against yourself, God will allow it. Adam proved that.

Don't feed on error. Don't feed on anything that robs you of your faith—that creates doubt, fear, defeat, discouragement, or distrust. If there is one false teaching in the Church that can defeat you permanently, it is that God is making you suffer in order to teach you. It will get you killed. Do you understand that? It will get you killed! And what an insult to God who has gone to such lengths to make you free! Isaiah, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says that Jesus bore your sicknesses and carried your diseases. For God to turn around and put them on you would be a miscarriage of justice. The sacrifice of

Jesus was not in vain. He suffered for you and for me, so we would not have to suffer. We are to enter into His suffering (Phil. 3:10). We are to receive what He bore for us and go free from sin, sickness, demons, and fear (Gal. 3:13).

And shall not doubt in his heart. At this point you should have already built the Word into your spirit and taken the time to meditate in God's Word until His Word carries more authority in your life than Satan, circumstances, and people. Doubt is eradicated from your heart by time spent hearing and meditating on God's Word. This is not doubt of the head but of the heart. Doubt in the heart (the spirit) is not so much an action taken now as the condition of the heart (the spirit). Doubts in the head are dealt with individually as they attack the mind.

You will have to fulfill the second step in God's success formula—meditating in the Word day and night—in order to successfully operate in faith. We will consider that you have done that and are daily continuing to meditate in the Word. (If this is new to you, get started immediately.) You must continually keep your spirit above all that you guard because out of it flow the forces of life (Prov. 4:23). If you want what you say to come to pass to your advantage, **KEEP YOUR HEART FULL OF THE WORD OF GOD.** God's Word is His part of our prayer life. We have His answer to our need right here in the written Word. There is no problem in the universe that can stand against God's Word. He tells us what to do in the spiritual world in order to change the physical world. God's Word is law in the spiritual world and in the physical world. The physical, material world is the servant of the more powerful world of the spirit.

Faith is released in both worlds by words. Words are the bridge between the physical world and the spiritual world. Jesus said, *The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.* Jesus spoke from a physical body, but His words were spirit. God's words are the bridge between God and man. Man's words are the bridge between man and God. Both worlds operate on words. Think about that. Anything you get ready to do, you say first. You don't even go to the store without saying it if there is anyone else around. It may surprise you, but neither do you get results in the spiritual world without speaking words. When God created the earth, He said. The Holy Spirit was moving (hovering) over the face of the deep. What was He doing? He was waiting—waiting on WORDS. The Holy Spirit did nothing until God spoke. God called His will into substance by speaking words of faith. His words

brought the material world into being. *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”*(Heb. 11:3).

Even in the natural world you have to speak the result you want. If I wanted to build a round building but told my builder that I wanted a square one, what do you think I would get? Even though the desire of my heart might be to have a perfectly round building, I WOULD GET WHAT I SAID. So it is in believing God: What you say with your mouth is what you are going to get—even though you might desire something else. If you speak the desired results in prayer but speak contrary to that the rest of the time, you will receive what you continue to say. You are a new creature with authority 24 hours a day. You are the voice of God in the earth. Your voice carries authority in both worlds. God has delegated authority here to you. Your words have authority to create every time you speak, not just when you pray. If you speak positive results in prayer and negative results the rest of the time, your negative words will prevail.

Charles Capps said that the Lord told him this: “I have told My people that they can have what they say, and they are saying what they have.” Saying what you have has no power to change things.

THE KEY TO RECEIVING THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART IS TO MAKE THE WORDS OF YOUR MOUTH AGREE WITH WHAT YOU WANT!

You not only can have what you say, but you do have what you say. The Lord spoke these words to me concerning Mark 11:23: **In consistency lies the power.** This verse says a man believes that those things which he saith shall come to pass. You are to believe that every word you speak will come to pass, not just the petition you are praying about. If you want your faith to work at the highest level, order your words aright. Make everything you say be in agreement with what God says. Be consistent in saying only faith words.

When we learned that we were receiving exactly what we said with our mouths, we got busy and made a quality decision to say only what we wanted to come to pass. That sounds simple and it is. The things of God are not difficult to understand, but they are peculiar to the way natural man operates. We had been trained all our lives to operate in man’s ways, but through the Word, we began to learn God’s higher ways. We were determined students. We made the commitment to speak only the words that we wanted

to come to pass. Negative talk had to go. Doubt, fear, lack, bondage, and sickness were not what we wanted to come to pass, so those words ceased to come out our mouths.

IN CONSISTENCY LIES THE POWER!

Make every word that you say work for you. You can change your very existence by making the words of your mouth speak what God says about you. Make a decision that those things which you say come to pass. **MY EVERY WORD IS COMING TO PASS.** You will have to watch what you say carefully for a while, but if you are diligent, it will become just as hard for you to speak negatively as it now is for you to constantly speak right words.

Husbands and wives, help each other to train your words. When your husband corrects you and says, "That's a bad confession," don't get aggravated.

Just say, "You are right. In the name of Jesus, I rebuke that bad confession, and I render it powerless to come to pass!" We have to help each other.

"He shall have whatsoever he saith." Believe your words are coming to pass—not just special words at prayer time, but every word that you speak. **Make a decision to speak faith-filled words.**

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." If you have already made the decision that every word you say is coming to pass, then you have already fulfilled this step. You spoke to the mountain and told it to be removed from your life. Believe that your words are coming to pass.

Speak whatever you desire to come to pass in the name of Jesus. Take authority over the money you need and command it to come to you. Whatever you say will come to pass. Believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them. (You do not have authority over the property of others unless they are offering it for sale. You do not have authority over the will of others.)

If you need healing, speak to your body. Command it to be healed in the name of Jesus. Command it to function properly. Speak the result you want.

Remember, the key to receiving the desires of your heart is to make the words of your mouth agree with what you want.

You have exercised your faith in God. You have spoken to the obstacle in your way and commanded it

to be removed. You have said what you want to come to pass. You believe in the words of your mouth and that what you say will come to pass. You believe that you have received the things you desired when you prayed. Do not waver your words, and YOU SHALL HAVE THEM.

These verses in Mark are the classic faith verses. You may use another scripture that will give you the results you need, but you will still have to make your words continually speak what you desire in order to get those results and you will have to believe that you have received what you prayed. These verses describe the operation of faith. Faith does not operate any other way. To receive from God, follow these instructions.

Nothing Wavering

Once you have prayed, acted on God's Word, and believed that you have received the answer, demand that your actions, thoughts, and words agree with what you have received. Act as though you have it. Satan knows that unless he can get you to change your confession of faith, his hold over you is broken. If Satan had any authority of his own, he would not have to depend on deception. Satan has to trick you into saying what he wants to come to pass. Did you know that Satan can only do what you say? Let me repeat that: All that Satan can do is what you say. We have a tendency to be on the defensive where Satan is concerned, but in reality, we are on the offensive. After we become new creatures in Christ Jesus, Satan has no authority over us except what we give him with the words of our mouth. With your words, you either resist or comply with Satan's demands. With your words, you either resist or comply with God's Word. You are in command. The decision is yours. Nobody makes it for you. Satan is an outlaw. He has to steal man's authority in order to operate.

When you begin applying your faith for something, Satan goes to work in order to convince you to stop the force of faith that says, I can have what I say according to Mark 11:23. I believe that I have received it. He has to stop your faith action, or what you have prayed will come to pass. Somehow he has to convince you that what you have believed is not coming to pass. He deceives you in order to make you think you did not receive.

Satan applies the necessary pressure within his limit. Most of the time, it doesn't take much pressure. A believer who is weak in God's Word will quickly say at the first symptom, "I guess I didn't get my healing. I still hurt." One believer may stand fast for a

few days, while another will hold out for a few weeks, but it is the same costly mistake whether you have been believing for five days or five years. When you “throw in the towel” in the arena of faith, you become faithless to God’s Word. You have just accepted your defeat.

If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13, The Amplified Bible).

Why does it take a long time to have one prayer answered while the next prayer gets quick results? The most prevalent reason is the lack of knowledge of God’s Word. The more revelation knowledge you have, the more accurate you are in believing God. When you are not acting in faith, the big WHY will slow you down and cause you to begin to operate in the natural.

When you begin to “wonder,” look out! Unbelief is at your door. I wonder why it is taking so long? I wonder why God hasn’t done something by now? I wonder where I missed it?

I learned from Norvel Hayes that wondering is a wavering. I had never really identified it before I heard him teach. Wondering is wavering. Think about that until you will never forget it, and you can avoid the “wonder trap.” Wondering is wavering. According to James 1:6, we are to ask in faith, nothing wavering. When you waver, Satan can push you around. The next verse says that if you waver, don’t even think you will receive anything of the Lord (James 1:6, 7). You can waver or you can receive. You cannot waver and receive at the same time.

Let’s be accurate about what we are saying. We are tempted to waver not when our prayer is answered, but when we are unable to see the result with our eyes and hear it with our ears and feel it with our body. You believed that you received your answer when you prayed. Your prayer was answered the moment you released your faith. The force of faith went to work to bring about the desire of your heart and mouth. That force of faith will continue to work until you can see the result in the physical or until you stop faith from operating with the words of your mouth. Your prayer is immediately taken care of in the world of the spirit. You have the answer if you do not become double-minded and waver. The world

you can see, hear, and touch will conform to the world of the spirit. Your prayer is answered when you pray, but you must exert the force of patience concerning your request until it is manifested—clearly visible to the eye or obvious to the understanding; appearing to the senses.

The moment you pray in faith, the angels go to work in the unseen realm of the spirit to bring your prayer to pass.

Let's look into this unseen world and see our angels at work!

6. Our Angels At Work!

“Put on God’s whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11 AMP

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Heb. 1:14). The angels of God have been sent to minister for the heirs. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us... That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.... And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:13, 14, 29).

The angels have been sent to minister for the heirs of the promise of Abraham (Gen. 17). The angels of God have been sent to perform whatever is necessary to establish God’s promise on the earth. **The angels are assigned to administer (enforce) the blessing of Abraham to his seed in the current generation.** Just as surely as God established His covenant with Isaac, He is obligated by His own Word to establish His covenant with you. *“If ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed!”* Glory to God! If you have made Jesus the Lord of your life, then you are the seed of Abraham and heir to his blessing.

The angels are to administer the New Covenant (which is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant) to the heirs of promise. In scripture from Genesis to Revelation, you see the angels administering God’s covenant to Abraham and his seed. Galatians 3:19 says that the law was ordained by angels. W. E. Vine states that this word is used in the sense of administered. The dictionary defines administer as to “have charge of as chief agent in managing.” It gives these synonyms of administer: manage, conduct, minister, furnish, supply, dispense, distribute, direct, control, execute, superintend. Through the Old and New Covenants, you can see the angels at work doing these very things.

Young’s Analytical Concordance shows the word angel to be “messenger or agent.” Angels are CIA—Covenant Inforcing Agents. (The spelling is not too good, but the message is great!) The angels are God’s agents to see that His Word, His Covenant, is fulfilled in the earth. Bless (affectionately,

gratefully praise) the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word. Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, all you His hosts, you His ministers who do His pleasure (Ps. 103:20,21, The Amplified Bible).

The angels are God's ministers to do His pleasure. Psalm 35:27, The Amplified Bible says, Let the Lord be magnified, Who takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant. Glory to God. The angels do God's pleasure and His pleasure is the prosperity of His covenant men! The angels are in the earth to prosper you.

Hebrews 1:14 tells us that these angels have been sent; they are here. Hebrews 12:22 tells us that their number is innumerable. The Amplified Bible says countless multitudes of angels. Revelation 5:11, speaking of angels, says, And they numbered ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands.

Hilton Sutton shared with us recently that as nearly as he can figure that would be one hundred trillion angels! A trillion is a million million millions. One hundred trillion (in numbers) is 100,000,000,000,000. Wow! I believe that is enough to establish God's covenant in the earth. There is no shortage of angel power. Brother Suttons said, "If there were five billion people on earth and they all got saved, we would still have 20,000 angels to minister to each of us. If half of the population of five billion were born again and the angels were distributed evenly, there would be 40,000 angels assigned to each heir." Brother Sutton's arithmetic helped me to realize just how many angels there are. To me, that is exciting!

The king of Syria sent horses, chariots, and a great army to seize the prophet Elisha. (One prophet was a threat to a nation!) When the servant of the man of God rose early and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was around the city. Elisha's servant said to him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? [Elisha] answered, Fear not; for those with us are more than those with them. Then Elisha prayed, Lord, I pray You, open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the young man's eyes, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha (2 Kings 6:15-17, The Amplified Bible). The mountain was full of angels! Elisha's angels were ready to enforce the covenant of God. He had enough angels to take care of a "great army." There is no shortage of angels.

For the most part, the heirs of the promise have not been using the angel power available to them. There are so many angels that you are certain to have more than enough to get the job done, no matter what you exercise faith for in the Word of God. God is able and mighty to perform the Word! You do the believing, God will do the performing. You believe—God will establish!

The angels of God have been assigned to you as an heir of the promise. Their assignment is to establish God's promise to Abraham in your circumstances and life. In short, they are to prosper you as they prospered Abraham.

See yourself in this situation. You have 20,000 to 100,000 men (just natural men) working to prosper you. If these men work only eight hours a day at no charge to you, how long do you think it would take them to make you wealthy? Of course, you would have to be willing to let them work and not hinder them from fulfilling their assignments. Well, if a multitude of men operating in the natural could make you prosperous, what can the angels of God do who operate in the supernatural wisdom of God? God has made provision for us that is beyond our comprehension. Ephesians 3:20 speaks of our God as him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. God has promised to multiply Abraham's seed exceedingly and to be a God to them. We have been delighted just to receive what we have asked for, but according to this, God has covenanted and is able to do much, much more than we can ask or think!

I believe in these last days that we are going to rely on our inheritance of Abraham's blessing and exceed our natural thinking. (Exceed: to be able to go beyond the given or supposed limit, measure, or quantity.) In the past we have limited God's ability and willingness to bless us by setting a "supposed limit." "Oh, that would be too much to receive." One believer's "supposed limit" may be considerably greater than another's, but what I am sharing with you from the Word of God is that THERE IS NO LIMIT! God's promise to Abraham has no limit. It is as limitless as God Himself. The Bible says that Abraham was extremely rich and that the Lord had blessed him in all things. That is just all the words we have to describe his condition of blessing. (Extreme: going to great lengths; very great or greatest; utmost in degree; of the best that can exist in reality or in imagination; excessive; immoderate.)

If you are the seed of Abraham, all that is required of you to enjoy the covenant provisions is obedience to God's Word. These provisions became yours through faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:22). Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations (Deut. 7:9).

Years ago we made the decision to be obedient to God's Word, and we have prospered; but today, I have decided to "go beyond any supposed limit" and allow God to multiply me exceedingly. I am an heir to His promise! You can continue to limit God if you want to, but I am willing to be blessed exceedingly beyond what I can ask or think (and I am very good at asking and thinking!).

I am believing God to establish His covenant with me in my generation. I have become willing to receive the blessing of Abraham in my time. I will not limit God to what I can ask or think. I release my faith to walk in the exceeding portion of the promise. I stagger not at the promise of God through unbelief. I am fully persuaded that what He has promised, He is also able to perform (Rom. 4:20, 21). This establishes my part of receiving.

Allow Your Angels To Work

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? (Heb. 1:14). The word salvation denotes "deliverance, preservation, and soundness." Your words put the angels to work on your behalf to bring to pass whatever you say. The angels have been sent to establish God's covenant in your life. When you confess the Word of God over a situation, you put your angels to work. Yes, you have angels assigned to you. The words of your mouth bind them or loose them to work for you. If you speak faith words enforced by God's Word, your angels are free to bring about what you want to come to pass. "*Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word*" (Ps. 103:20, The Amplified Bible). When you keep God's Word in your mouth, you keep your angels working to bring to pass whatever you say.

The angels are waiting on your words. The angels cannot work against our words. They will not work without words. Even in the Old Covenant, the angel told Daniel, *thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words* (Dan. 10:12).

Daniel's words put the angel to work for him. Of

course, our angels are freer to work now than in Daniel's day because Jesus defeated Satan. Satan does not have the authority he had before Jesus stripped him of all his power and authority. The angels have already been sent. They have been sent to minister for those who are heirs. They are here NOW! *"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"* (Gal. 3:29).

The words of your mouth bind Satan or loose him. The words of your mouth bind the angels or loose them. Your words control your destiny. Your life right now is the product of your words.

Remember, the key to receiving the desires of your heart is to make the words of your mouth agree with what you want. Do not speak words that are contrary to your will.

Charles Capps says, "God's Word is His will to man. Man's words should be his will toward God. The angels know this, so they listen to your words, then they move busily about to cause it to come to pass or allow it to come to pass. The Spirit of God spoke to me and said, 'If you speak sickness, disease, calamity, and bad things, the angels will surely not bring it to pass, nor cause it to come to pass. They will bow their heads, back off, and fold their hands, for you have bound them by the words of your mouth, and they cannot work for you. They will allow all the bad and evil to come to pass that you speak because your words are their warrant, and when you speak against their work, they cannot perform it.'" (The angels of God will never work to bring to pass words that support Satan's work.)

The moment you exercise faith in your covenant, the angels go to work to minister the result of your faith to you. The Bible says that they excel in strength. They are capable beings. They are spiritual beings. You cannot see them work. You cannot tell how much they have accomplished on your behalf, but you can believe God's Word and know that they are doing their job. Their job is to minister for you. They are not doing anything else. The angels work 24 hours a day. If you will speak God's Word and speak only the words you want to come to pass, the angels will work for you constantly.

There may be no evidence in the natural world that you are one step closer to receiving your answer one minute before it is manifested. Look at what took place with Kenneth and me when we released our faith for a home. There was no evidence that anything happened for years. The money was not in the bank.

From looking at the bank account, it looked as though it might be the millennium before we moved in. We knew better than to look at the bank account. We knew to look to God's Word and not to circumstances. The thing I could not see was that when we released our faith, a woman started building our home, one that just fit our needs. All the time I could see no evidence that our house was being built. We continued to stand in faith without wavering, and we lived in that home for many years. The point is that the angels were working from the moment we began to exercise faith by speaking with our mouths. They hearkened to the voice of God's Word on our lips.

Remember that you can only see the result of your faith after it is completed.

Your last words are the controlling factor. If you speak of things that are not as though they were for five years, two months, and three days, but on the fourth day of the fifth year in the second month, you allow your words to speak contrary to what you desire to come to pass, the last words you speak become the law in force and begin to create the situation. You have wavered. *"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways"* (James 1:6-8).

But I have good news! It works just as fast in your favor. You can change your words from negative to positive as quickly as you can from positive to negative. Immediately take authority over words that defeat your faith. If you have spoken those words of doubt and fear, you can quickly amend them. Render those words powerless to come to pass. Negate them in the name of Jesus and reinstate what you want to come to pass. Your last words either put the angels to work or force them to step back, bow their heads, and fold their hands. Your angels are waiting for you to give them words to bring to pass. They have been sent forth to minister for you. Turn the angels loose to work in your behalf by continually speaking what you want to come to pass in your life. Your words put into motion your circumstances, the affairs of your life, the condition of your body, your acceptance or rejection by other people.

God's Word is His will. If your words are not your will, you will be disappointed in life because your words will come to pass.

Remember, the key to receiving the desires of

**your heart is to make the words of your mouth
agree with what you want.**

7. Yes, You Can Stand!

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.” Proverbs 10:22 KJV

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.... Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand.... Stand therefore... (Eph. 6:10, 11, 13, 14, The Amplified Bible).

And having done all to stand. STAND! We are admonished to put on God's whole armor. According to this scripture, with His armor we can successfully stand against all the strategies and deceits of Satan. We are told to put on God's armor so that we can resist and stand our ground when Satan comes to attack. And having done all to stand. Stand therefore. Yes, you can do it. God's Word says that you can. You are strong in the Lord if you have God's Word in your heart. Lift up the shield of faith with which you can quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one (verse 16). This Word from the Lord tells you that you can quench every fiery dart that Satan sends your way. You! God has given you His armor. Your Bible is God speaking to you. Your shield of faith is the words of your mouth. This shield of faith is able to stop every fiery dart, every attack from Satan.

How long do you stand? How long does this verse say to stand? Three days? Three months? Three years? Three decades? Three centuries? Praise God, it does not say how long. The Bible just says, Having done all to stand. STAND THEREFORE.

Don't attempt to go after something in faith without first making a quality decision to be willing to keep faith applied until the result is completed. You cannot succeed by to receive by faith. Trying will not produce. Commit trying yourself and all that you are without reservation to the fact that God's

Word is true. Make this declaration: “His Word does not fail. God’s Word will come to pass in my life. I will not faint and lose courage. I will do all to stand, and therefore I will stand. I am like a tree planted by the water. I shall not be moved by circumstances, people, or Satan. I stand on God’s Word. I will succeed and not fail. I will win and not lose. I am far from the thought of oppression or destruction, for I shall not fear.”

When you fight the good fight of faith, be determined to win.

The Power Of Patience

After you have prayed the will of God, have said with your mouth what you desire, and have believed that you have received, be ready to exert the force of patience until your faith produces the answer in the seen world.

Patience undergirds faith and keeps faith applied until the result is manifested in the earth. When you learn to release the power of patience, you can receive anything from God that agrees with His Word. Frankly, this is where most people fail when attempting to walk by faith, but it doesn’t have to be so. Patience is the difference between trying and doing. Some people go fishing and others catch fish. Some attempt to walk by faith, others succeed.

Patience makes the difference.

Kenneth Copeland says, “The power of patience is a working force. When faith has a tendency to waver, it is patience that comes to faith’s aid to make it stand. The power of patience is necessary to undergird faith. Faith and patience are frequently mentioned together in the Bible. Faith and patience are the power twins. Together, they will produce every time. Patience without faith has no substance. On the other hand, many times faith without patience, after a while, will fail to stand firm on the evidence of God’s Word. Without the power of patience at work, we will allow sense knowledge—the things we see—to overwhelm our faith. We should base our faith on what the Word says rather than on what our natural eye can see. Patience undergirds faith and gives it endurance to persevere until the answer comes. Faith is a powerful force. It always works. It is not that our faith is weak and needs strength, but without the power of patience, we ourselves stop the force of faith with negative confession and action” (The Force of Faith).

Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward. For you have need of

steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised.... But the just shall live by faith [My righteous servant shall live by his conviction respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, and holy fervor born of faith and conjoined with it]; and if he draws back and shrinks in fear, My soul has no delight or pleasure in him. But our way is not that of those who draw back to eternal misery (perdition) and are utterly destroyed, but we are of those who believe [who cleave to and trust in and rely on God through Jesus Christ, the Messiah] and by faith preserve the soul. Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses] (Heb. 10:35-39; 11:1, The Amplified Bible).

You have need of steadfast patience and endurance. W. E. Vine says patience is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial: it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope. The dictionary defines despondency as “to be cast down; to lose courage, confidence, or hope.” Patience and despondency are opposite forces. Satan uses despondency against you to stop the power of patience as he uses fear to stop faith. Patience is a godly force that comes from your spirit; despondency is a satanic force that attacks your soul—your mind, will, and emotions.

Patience encourages fearless confidence in God's Word despite contrary evidence in the seen world. Fearless confidence that God's Word never fails when relied on in faith will produce great and glorious results. When Satan brings a test or trial against you, do not fling away your confidence in God's Word. This refusal to cast away your confidence in God's Word is the power of patience at work.

Blessed... is the man whom You discipline and instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law, that You may give him power to keep himself calm in the days of adversity, until the [inevitable] pit of corruption is dug for the wicked (Ps. 94:12, 13, The Amplified Bible). Patience is the power to hold yourself calm. According to this scripture, it is the result of being instructed by God's Word and being obedient to that Word—being a doer of the Word and not a hearer

only (James 1:22).

The power of patience is released to work for you in the face of adversity when you act on what you know the Word of God says about your situation. You are saying, "Adversity, you don't count. God's Word says that you are defeated and under my feet. God's Word is true, regardless of what I see with my natural eye. God's Word has great and glorious reward. I am holding fast to that Word, and I will not fling it away."

In the face of adversity when it looks like doom is inevitable, Satan puts strong pressure on you to faint and give up. At that moment, you want to succumb to the pressure and let go of God's Word. Don't do it! **YOU CANNOT SUCCUMB TO SATAN'S PRESSURE WITHOUT FLINGING AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORD.** To act on Satan's pressure, you have to quit acting on God's Word that says you have received the answer. There is no middle ground. When it comes to standing on God's Word in faith, you are either on or off.

Patience has the courage to refuse what Satan, circumstances, and people can prove true in the natural world. Patience says, "Let God be true and every man a liar! I will not succumb to pressure. I am moved by nothing except the Word of God." When Satan's pressure says that God's Word is not working, patience rejects it as a lie. Patience has no fear. Patience knows that God's Word has never failed in thousands of years. Patience knows that when faith is exercised to receive God's Word, success is inevitable. Patience knows that the pit of corruption is already dug for the wicked. (Satan is trying to get you to jump into the pit that has already been dug for him. The answer to that is simple: Don't do it!)

James 1:4 gives an insight into the great and glorious compensation of fearless confidence in God's Word and His ability. *"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."* Glory to God! That is great compensation—perfect and entire, wanting nothing. Kenneth and I can be witnesses to that. God has blessed us with every earthly and heavenly blessing that we have desired and more besides. We know from experience that fearless confidence in the Word of God causes you to be *perfectly and fully developed... lacking in nothing* (James 1:4, The Amplified Bible). Of course, the Word has only begun to produce in our lives what is available to us. We have just scratched the surface, but we intend to

diligently keep scratching. We are dedicated to the Word of God.

Looking back at the condition we were in when we found out that the Word is true and can be depended on to meet our needs, it is apparent that we have come a long way. Yet, we are so aware that we have not even made a dent in the great things God has for those who love Him and honor His Word. We started out with nothing—thousands of dollars in debt, no steady income, past-due bills with threat of a lawsuit, an old worn-out Oldsmobile, a rented two-bedroom house on the Arkansas River furnished in “early Goodwill.”

Someone said that you shouldn't jump out of the boat until you are ready to walk on the water. He was talking about using your faith where you are right now. When he said it, I thought, “That is good advice, but Kenneth and I were in the water, sinking fast, when we first heard the good news that God's Word would get us out.” The Word of God was our life preserver! We made the decision to do exactly what we saw in the Word of God. We made the decision to act on God's Word and started searching for some Word to act on. What a wonderful and blessed experience it has been!

Our life is no longer limited to what is common to man. We have learned to depend on the supernatural—our Father—instead of the beggarly elements of this world. The world's system is seriously deficient, but the heavenly system has the answer for every need. The Bible secret to operating on the heavenly system is to fearlessly act on God's Word.

“Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward. But the just shall live by faith... and if he draws back and shrinks in fear, My soul has no delight or pleasure in him.”

To live by faith is to have your very existence dependent on faith. The living of your life is to be done by faith—every aspect of living dependent on faith in God's Word.

If you draw back from the Word of God and shrink in the fear that God's Word is not working in your life, God will still love you, but He will have no pleasure in you. *“But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”* (Heb. 11:6). It is impossible to

please God without faith. If you are going to please God, you must operate in faith. Faith not only believes that God exists but that God rewards those that diligently seek Him. Why can God take no pleasure in you if you draw back in fear? Because God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His people. *“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”* (Luke 12:32). The instant you draw back in fear, you quit operating in faith—you quit pleasing God, you quit believing that God is the rewarder. When you stopped the operation of faith, you quit believing that God is the rewarder. When you stopped the operation of faith, you shut the door to God’s blessing. He takes pleasure in your prosperity, not your defeat. Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant (Ps. 35:27). These witnesses from the Word should establish in your thinking that God gets pleasure from prospering covenant men.

We are believers, not doubters. We are not of those who draw back and are destroyed; we are believers and by faith preserve the soul. By faith preserve the soul is not speaking of preserving the heart of man (the spirit), but of preserving the soul of man—his mind, will, and emotions. Faith, undergirded by the power of patience, defends and protects the soul from Satan’s attack and his pressure to draw back in fear. Faith is the assurance of the things that we believe we have received. Faith in God’s Word is our proof that we have received, even though we cannot yet see it with our natural eye. Your soul is where Satan rages against you with doubt, defeat, and discouragement. Faith with patience will preserve that stronghold and give Satan no place in your life. You have the power to hold yourself calm.

Satan attacks every believer who attempts to walk by faith. He uses the same tactics on all of us. He has no more right of authority over one than another. He has nothing more to use against you than he has to use against me. *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”* (1 Cor. 10:13). Tradition reads this verse as saying God will let you suffer (individually, in each trial) to your breaking point, and when He is sure that you can take no more, He will provide an answer that you can tolerate.

Jesus said that tradition makes the Word of no effect. We are not obligated to tradition. We are free to rightly divide the Word by the Spirit of God.

SATAN IS BOUND BY THE LAWS OF GOD.
He can bring no trial to you that you cannot overcome with God's Word. He has no weapon that is not subject to the Word of God. God has given Satan an ultimatum where tempting you is concerned. Satan is already bound by the laws of God. God will not allow (suffer) Satan to go beyond the limit he has in the earth to try your faith. Satan would not dare go beyond what God has decreed, nor does he have the power within his reach to do so. You are able to overcome and be victorious over every temptation and trial. In God's Word, you have already been given the authority to overcome every temptation and trial that Satan can bring against you (2 Pet. 1:4). God has already provided you that way of escape.

That ye may be able to bear it means that, with the steadfast patience admonished in Hebrews 10:36, you can bear (endure) Satan's pressure to yield to circumstances without surrendering to that pressure—performing and fully accomplishing the will of God, and thus receive and carry away what is promised. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation... he shall receive... (James 1:12).

Our Weapons Are Not Carnal

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

Our weapons are not carnal! Our weapons are not limited to what is common to man. Satan is limited and can bring no temptation or trial against you that is not common to man. The weapons of Satan's arsenal are limited, but we are not limited to what is common to man. The weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. We have God's power behind us. Whose strongholds are these that our weapons are so powerful in pulling down? Satan's! While Satan is limited in his attack against you, you are backed by the power of God; and all that Satan can do does not begin to tax God's ability and power.

The same Greek word *peirasmos* is translated

“temptations, tests, and trials.” When Satan tempts (pressures) you to back off God’s Word, he is trying your faith (James 1:3). Because of Satan, you have the opportunity to prove (also the same Greek word) that you believe God’s Word is true. Satan can challenge God’s Word, but God’s Word can pass the test!

James 1:14 says that *every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed*. When James said every man, he did not leave you out. You are tempted when you are drawn away from God’s Word. *Lust is desire inconsistent with the will of God, which is the Word of God; lust is of the mind* (W. E. Vine). Satan attempts to lure (entice) you away from what God’s Word says. For Satan to get anywhere with you in temptation, he has to first draw you away from God’s Word. *“Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering”* (James 1:6).

If you refuse to give place in your mind and in your words to that which is contrary to God’s Word, Satan’s temptations, tests, and trials cannot influence your affairs. Satan cannot work in your life apart from fear any more than God can work without faith. If you refuse to fear that God’s Word will not work, you give Satan nothing to work with. He has to have your cooperation, your consent. If you are faithful and steadfast in God’s Word, you can count it all joy when you fall into different temptations (James 1:2). They will not affect you.

We do not war after flesh. If the war is not in the flesh, then where is it? Where are the imaginations? Where are the thoughts? IN THE MIND. The mind is scripturally called “the soul.” The soul of man is his mind, his will, and his emotions. Satan’s warfare against us is in this soulish realm. Through the mind, the will, and the emotions, Satan attacks the other areas of life. The mind is where the door to Satan is opened or shut. It is like the entry hall of a house where admission to the rest of the house is granted or refused.

Man is a spirit. He has a soul. He lives in a body (1 Thess. 5:23). When you made Jesus the Lord of your life, you—the spirit—were recreated and made a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). Your soul and body remained the same. The spirit of man is made to have dominion over the mind and body. The Bible tells us that the mind is to be renewed by the Word of God and the body is to be brought under subjection to God’s Word. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your

reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Rom. 12:1, 2). This says brethren. It is written to believers. We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. We are not to be conformed to this world, but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Christians who do not know what God's Word says about them are unable to live and enjoy privileges that already belong to them. Their minds have never been renewed to walk in the spirit; therefore, they continue to walk after the dictates of their flesh, or body (Gal. 5:16, 17). But when the mind is renewed to God's Word, the outer life is transformed.

Satan attacks in the soulish realm: The mind that has not been renewed to the Word of God does not know it has a choice but to receive what Satan is offering it. The unrenewed mind does not know that there is an alternative. A believer has at his disposal all of the spiritual weapons in heaven's arsenal, but if his mind has never been renewed, he does not know that there is an arsenal—much less how to use the weapons. He is at Satan's mercy, and Satan has no mercy. What a pitiful position for a believer who has already been given all authority and power! "Why did that happen to Sister Smith? She was such a sweet Christian." The answer to Why? is always unbelief. The Bible tells us why God's people are sick, broke, tormented by fear, oppressed, and why they die young. *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* (Hos. 4:6).

Satan works on you the same way he worked on Eve. He tries to discredit God's Word in your mind. He has no authority. First Peter 5:8 says that Satan goes around as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He talks big, but bluff is all he has going for him. Notice, it says he walks about as a roaring lion. It doesn't say he is one. Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah! He is our Lord. Jesus called Satan a liar and said that there is no truth in him... *"because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it"* (John 8:44). Satan conceived lies and he is a master at it. Deception is all he has to use against the Body of Christ.

This is one place where the old phrase, "Where there's smoke, there's fire," does not apply. Satan is ALL smoke. Today we use the phrase "blowing smoke." That's what Satan is doing! He is "blowing

smoke” at you to make you believe that God’s Word is not true. He has to trick you into using your own authority against yourself.

SATAN WANTS YOUR WORDS. In order to be successful, he has to deceive you into speaking words that will stop your faith. He works on your mind, your will, and your emotions to achieve his desired result. Once you realize how Satan has been defeating you, there is no reason to continue allowing him to use the same bag of tricks again and again. He only has one bag. He uses the same tactics over and over. You must use the weapons of your warfare as persistently as Satan uses his.

Jesus tells us that when the Word is sown, Satan comes immediately to take away the Word that was sown in the heart. Satan will try your faith when you make a stand on the Word. He comes to influence you to say what he wants to come to pass. This is contrary to what you believe that you have received. When Satan comes to steal the Word out of your heart, don’t let him have it. Stand fast on the Word, and don’t be moved by pressure to give in. Satan can only do what you say. Satan is bound by the laws of God. He is bound by the law of God that says you can have whatsoever you say.

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Col. 2:15). Jesus stripped Satan of the authority and power Adam gave him. The Amplified Bible says, *“[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us. Moffatt’s Translation speaks of the dethroned powers who rule this world” (1 Cor. 2:6).* Satan is dethroned!

So how does he exercise control over men’s lives? Through ignorance. Most people don’t know that Satan has been dethroned. Once you recognize that he is a defeated foe and that you have been given authority over him in the name of Jesus, you realize that Satan can only do what you allow him to do. You have the power and authority to give him no place in your life.

Satan operates in the soulish realm. Your soul is composed of your mind, will, and emotions. When Satan brings pressure to bear on your mind, use the name of Jesus to cast him out. Dethroned, he has to adhere to that Name spoken in faith from the lips of a believer (another law of God to which Satan is bound). If Satan is attacking your mind with doubt, fear, or despondency, speak to it in the name of Jesus and command its operation against you to cease. “Fear, in the name of Jesus, I break your power to

operate against me, and I command you to leave my presence.”

In a typical attack from fear, Satan will pressure you to accept this: “You are not going to get your healing this time. You don’t have a headache like you thought; you have a tumor of the brain. You are going to die. Your time has come. Panic! Get help! Call the doctor! Tell him you believe that you have a brain tumor.”

Wow! Can you see how that rat works? God’s Word says Jesus bore your sicknesses and carried your diseases and by His stripes you were healed. Satan has replaced God’s Word with fear of sickness. If you fall for his tricks and say that you believe you have a brain tumor, you have allowed Satan to steal the Word of God from your heart.

You might think it would be obvious that Satan was only trying to deceive, but it is not nearly as obvious to a man unfamiliar with Satan’s mode of operation—neither does he think as rationally when his head is splitting with pain. Satan may have been working on that person for nine months to receive a tumor of the brain.

Obviously, Satan will try to sell you something that he thinks you will buy. He knows you. He has worked on you for years. He knows your case history. Maybe you would buy a heart attack. “Hey, pal, that’s not indigestion. You are getting ready to have a heart attack. Feel that pain in your arm? It’s a symptom of heart failure. You are overweight. You have been under pressure. (He ought to know that is where the pressure came from.) You have been worrying about your finances day and night. It has just been too much for your heart. You know that it is appointed to every man a time to die. Get your affairs in order. You don’t have long to live. You don’t want to leave your wife in a mess.”

Satan is a cruel, merciless being. He doesn’t care if you are three years old or sixty-three or ninety-three. His ambition is to kill, steal, and destroy. He will do it if you let him. Satan will pressure you into acting on fear and then condemn you for it. He will push you into a corner until you act on his demands and then turn to rend you. He will bring you under condemnation and use it against you as long as you let him.

You need to realize that one thing leads to another when you cooperate with Satan. He will try to get you in deeper and deeper. He doesn’t play fair. He doesn’t know “fair.” Satan is an utterly corrupt,

wicked, and sadistic being. There are no human words that can adequately describe him. Don't allow yourself to serve him. Refuse to act on fear. Don't cooperate with doubt. Don't cooperate with despondency. Refuse to act on Satan's demands.

SATAN IS AFTER YOUR WORDS. SATAN IS AFTER YOUR WORDS. SATAN IS AFTER YOUR WORDS. SATAN IS AFTER YOUR WORDS. SATAN IS AFTER YOUR WORDS. Did you get that? SATAN IS AFTER YOUR WORDS. He has to have them in order to operate against you.

8. Defeat Satan's Attacks

“So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 AMP

The first step in defeating Satan's attack against you is make the decision that you are not going to allow him to change your confession of faith that you believe you received when you prayed. DECISION! Decision is the exercise of your will. The dictionary defines will as “strong purpose, intention, or determination.” Isaiah said that if you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the fat of the land. Make an irrevocable decision of these things: God's Word is true. I will act only in faith. I will speak only in faith. I have believed I receive.

A fearless confession comes from a Word-ruled mind. Make the decision to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the Word of God. Make the decision to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. *“Neither give place to the devil”* (Eph. 4:27). Your mind is where you first have the choice of giving place to Satan or resisting him according to James 4:7, The Amplified Bible, *“So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.”*

We are to be subject to God and His Word. You cannot be subject to God and at the same time obey Satan's dictates. You are going to obey one or the other. You are going to act on God's Word and believe you have received, or you are going to act on the fear and doubt that Satan is pressuring you to receive in your mind.

The decision of your will—to stand and continue to stand, regardless of Satan's tactics and pressure—will enable you to accomplish the will of God and receive and carry away what is promised. Your decision will cause the power of patience to undergird your faith. Patience is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances. Patience operates at YOUR will. It does not operate for you at anyone else's will, not even God's. You determine your will in a situation.

Do not be willing to receive any imagination or high thing that Satan exalts against the knowledge of God's Word. If God's Word says you have the answer, don't let Satan take it from you. Will and

desire differ at this point: To desire is to want something; to will is to determine to receive something.

Jerry Savelle calls this decision of your will “a right mental attitude.” He says that a right mental attitude is vital when Satan is trying your faith. He gives Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as an example. Now those three men knew they had a covenant. They said, “King, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand. But we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image.” They believed that God was able to deliver them, and they refused to compromise their covenant with God by bowing their knee to another god. They would not bow and they did not burn. There was no compromise in them. They went into the fire fully intending to come out.

Oh, the fire was hot—so hot that the men who put them into the furnace were killed by the heat. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were covenant men! And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king’s counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them (Dan. 3:27). (Verse 28 is an example of angels enforcing the covenant.) Isn’t that thrilling?

When you encounter temptations, tests, and trials, be determined to come out without even the smell of defeat! This is a right mental attitude.

The second step in stopping Satan’s attack to defeat your faith is RESIST THE DEVIL. You resist him with the words of your mouth—the same way you submit to him. “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7). You have submitted yourself to the obedience of God’s Word; therefore, refuse to receive or give thought to anything that exalts itself against God’s Word that says you have the petition you desired of Him.

Do what my daughter did to me when she was about three years old. I said, “Kellie, pick up your toys.” She answered, as she walked away, “That’s not my thought.” That’s the way you have to do Satan. If it’s doubt, defeat, or discouragement, tell him: “THAT’S NOT MY THOUGHT!”

Give unbelief no place in your will, mind, or emotions. Thoughts that rob you are thoughts of doubt, defeat, discouragement, lack, sickness, and

fear. These are always from Satan. Refuse to entertain thoughts that attack your faith in God's Word. Jesus said, In my name shall they cast out devils (Mark 16:17). Philippians 2:9-11 says, Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Satan's knee must bow at the name of Jesus spoken in faith by a believer. The name of Jesus is a powerful weapon in heaven's arsenal—it paralyzes Satan.

Speak aloud and say whatever is necessary to stop Satan's mental attack. "Satan, in the name of Jesus, I resist you and I command you to stop your maneuvers against me and the Word of God. I will no longer tolerate doubt and unbelief. I bind you from operating against my mind. I will not receive anything contrary to the Word of God. Flee from my presence. I cast you out in the name of Jesus."

Or say this: "Pain, in Jesus' name, I command you to get out of my body. I will not allow anything in my mind or body that is contrary to God's Word. I resist sickness in the name of Jesus."

Say, "Lack, I speak to you in Jesus' name. I command you to get out of my life. I break your power over my affairs and forbid you to operate against me. Jesus came that I might have life and have it more abundantly. I am willing and obedient; so according to God's Word, I eat the fat of the land. I am not willing to live in lack. I am willing to live in abundance. I am an heir to the promise of Abraham. I am exceedingly blessed financially."

Whatever it takes to make you free, speak it out in the name of Jesus and command it to come to pass. Speak the result that you desire. **SATAN CAN ONLY DO WHAT YOU SAY.** If you say, "FLEE!" he goes. If you agree with him against the Word of God, he stays.

Don't give your thought life to Satan's temptation. Don't dwell on his threats, just rebuke them. Worry is meditating on the words of the devil. Don't tolerate that. Meditate on God's Word. Resist the devil and resist him quickly. Don't allow him to hang around, pressuring your mind. At the first symptom of unbelief, command Satan to flee. At the first symptom of sickness, act on God's Word and resist sickness in Jesus' name. At the first symptom

of lack, command it to go. Do not procrastinate in spiritual things. Act immediately at the first sign of temptation. NEITHER GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL.

The third step in defeating Satan's attack is GIVE YOUR ATTENTION TO GOD'S WORD. According to Proverbs 4:20-23, "*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*" The more attention you give God's Word, the easier the other steps will be in resisting Satan's attacks.

Give your attention to the Word of God. Make your ears listen to God's Word. Keep God's Word in front of your eyes and in the midst of your heart. Satan tries to divert your attention from the Word to circumstances. God's Word says that abundance belongs to you. Satan says, "It does not. Look and see." When you are believing by faith, your circumstances usually are in agreement with Satan—and so are your friends. Satan wants your attention placed on things that are in agreement with him. Remember, patience is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances. The way you keep from being moved by what you see and by the negative circumstances surrounding you in the fight of faith is to continually give your attention to the Word of God.

Satan constantly sends you messages that say, "You do not have the answer, and you are not going to get the answer." He may use someone to call you on the phone, knock on your door, write you a letter, say it over TV, or he may just speak doubt to your mind. He is continually peddling doubt, defeat, and unbelief. He is desperate. He has to make a sale or his commission is "0." HE WANTS YOUR ATTENTION OFF GOD'S WORD. If he can maneuver your attention from the Word, next you will begin to speak the words that will stop your faith. On the other hand, if you keep your attention on God's Word, he cannot find a foothold. You refuse to be drawn away from God's Word (James 1:14). You give Satan no place. You are continually meditating on what the Word says and are looking at it with your eyes and listening to it with your ears. He sends you "doubt bait" and you just say, "No, I resist that. It is contrary to the Word of God."

How does Satan sell his bad news to you?

Through your senses—what you can see, hear, and feel. Proverbs tells you to keep your ear listening

to the Word and to keep your eye looking at the Word. Oh, that makes you tough for Satan to handle!

Refuse to be moved by what you see—
be moved only by what God's Word says.

Refuse to be moved by what you hear—
be moved only by what God's Word says.

Refuse to be moved by circumstances—
be moved only by what God's Word says.

Refuse to be moved by what you feel— be
moved only by what God's Word says.

Let Satan's witnesses of defeat, doubt, and failure bounce off of you like a rubber ball on the sidewalk. Don't even give them your attention. Just keep your eye centered on the Word.

"For which cause we faint not... While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:16, 18). You will not faint if you look in the right place. This scripture says to look not at things you can see with those two things on each side of your nose and between your ears.

We are admonished to look at things which are not seen. How can you look at things which are not seen? Through the eye of your spirit—the eye of faith (Eph. 1:18). The eye of faith looks into the spirit world instead of the natural world. The eye of faith sees only the covenant. The Word of God is evidence to the eye of faith whereas the circumstances are evidence to the natural eye. The eye of faith sees that the angels are working and that Satan is bound. The eye of faith sees what God sees according to His Word.

Learning to govern your affairs according to the eye of faith will cause you to prosper in all that you do. That is what God was teaching Joshua. *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Josh. 1:8).* You make your way prosperous. The words of your

own mouth make your way prosperous.

Learn to look through that third eye—the eye of faith!

You can come to a place where you almost automatically depend on the eye of faith rather than what you see with your natural eye. It will become second nature to trust the eye of faith more than your natural eye. This is scriptural too. *“But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses and mental faculties are trained by practice to discriminate and distinguish between what is morally good and noble and what is evil and contrary either to divine or human law”* (Heb. 5:14, The Amplified Bible).

Yes, your senses can be trained on the Word of God. They are trained by practice—the practice of continually demanding them to act on God’s Word. At first, your natural eyes will argue and say, It isn’t so! It isn’t so! Look. Look. It isn’t so. But after a while, they will readjust and keep quiet, as much as to say, I don’t see it, but by experience I know it must be so if the Word says so.

As my son John said after church one night when he was just a little boy, “Thank goodness, Daddy, we’ve got three eyes. I’m so glad we’ve got three eyes.” He had just heard about the eye of faith—the eye that only looks at what God’s Word says!

You can reach the place where you never waver.

YOU ARE KEEPING THAT WORD IN THE CENTER OF YOUR HEART. It is alive and working. The fruit of the Spirit is continually emanating from your spirit— love, joy, peace, patience, faith, goodness, kindness... How can Satan find any place in that? These forces come forth from the human spirit. Proverbs 4:23 says that we are to keep our heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues (forces) of life. Be diligent about keeping your heart full of the Word of God.

When you are in a good meeting for three or four days hearing the Word taught daily, you can almost feel your spirit issuing those forces! You are so strong spiritually and the Word of God is working in you to such a degree that you do not even consider being defeated. Your heart is full of the Word of God. The reason you are so strong is that for several days you have been giving your attention day and night to God’s Word. Your spirit is rising up within you, bringing forth whatever you need.

“Guard above all things, guard your inner self,

for so you live and prosper; bar out all talk of evil, and banish wayward words” (Prov. 4:23, 24, Moffatt). Keeping your heart will get your body healed, make you prosper, cause you to walk in wisdom, and cause you to walk in faith.

Study the Word for yourself. Use tapes, meetings, newsletters, books, whatever, to feed your spirit with God’s Word. Be diligent about keeping your heart full of God’s Word. It is difficult for Satan to even get your attention when you are full of the Word of God. You don’t have time to pay attention to his bad news because you are thinking about God’s Word. You can’t think about two things at once!

The fourth step in overcoming Satan’s temptation to receive the defeat of your faith is REFUSE TO SPEAK WORDS CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE RECEIVED.

Continually speak the Word of God into the face of adversity. Satan is after your words so that he can use them against you. Refuse to let him influence your words. Speak words of faith. Speak the end result. Speak words of success. Speak words of abundance. Speak words of healing. You will have what you say. **Make your words agree with what you desire to come to pass.**

Satan’s strongest weapon against faith is fear. Let’s take the wraps off fear and see what there is to be afraid of. The dictionary defines fear as “that which is caused by intimidation of adversaries.” Intimidate means “to force or deter with threats of violence.”

How does Satan use fear? He comes to challenge what you have believed in God’s Word. **He pressures you with threats to make you afraid to rely on God’s Word.**

To intimidate is to make timid or to cow. He bombards your mind with unbelief until you begin to think, “What is going to happen to me if God’s Word does not work?” He endeavors to make the fear of consequences of failure so great and heavy on your mind that you will cow down to him and no longer have the will to stand in determined faith.

Learn to answer every doubt immediately with the Word of God. Learn to answer every fear with the Word of God. The Word will cause fear to fall at your feet. Learn to do combat with the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). The Sword of the Spirit is not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Just be like Jesus when He was being

tempted and say, It is written. Jesus was establishing His covenant as the seed of Abraham. Satan has no defense for the Word of God.

All Satan can do is try to convince you that the Word of God will not work for you. Refuse to act on fear. Fear is Satan's weapon. Don't cooperate with Satan. *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power; and of love, and of a sound mind"* (2 Tim. 1:7).

Refuse to allow Satan to intimidate you with threats. He can only do what you say. He has no authority over you unless you give it to him. As long as you give him no place, he cannot carry out the first threat. It is when you become timid and fearful with the words of your mouth that Satan gains the upper hand. Do not allow fear to make you compromise. What you compromise to keep, you will lose. If you do not compromise the Word of God, Satan is powerless to cause you harm. If you won't bow, you can't burn! Satan can no more hurt you apart from fear than God can bless you apart from faith. Satan is bound by your covenant with God when you trust that covenant to produce in your life.

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear" (Ps. 118:6).

Turn fear out with the Word of God. *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love"* (1 John 4:18). *"And what this love consists in is this: that we live and walk in accordance with and guided by His commandments (His orders, ordinances, precepts, teaching). This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you continue to walk in love [guided by it and following it]"* (2 John 6, The Amplified Bible). Perfect love casts out fear. Satan cannot move perfect love with the fear of failure: What is going to happen to me if God's Word doesn't work? Love is acting on God's Word. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments (2 John 6). Love has already made the decision to be obedient to the Father regardless of the circumstances. Love says, "I will not rebel against the Word of my Father." Love knows that God's Word will bring success, never failure.

Love has no fear. Love keeps the covenant. Love has no reason to fear because love knows that God will establish His covenant with the heirs of promise who believe. Love knows the covenant-keeping God

does not fail. There is no fear in love because there is no fear in faith. *“Fear not, Abram, I am your Shield, your abundant compensation, and your reward shall be exceedingly great”* (Gen. 15:1, The Amplified Bible).

If you allow fear to operate against you, you can expect despondency to come next. Despondency means “the loss of courage, confidence, or hope.” It is the opposite of patience. Oh, just give Satan an inch and he will take a mile. Invite him to dinner and he will bring his pajamas! Unless you plan to live a defeated life and be subject to Satan instead of God, you are going to have to resist Satan somewhere along the way. The sooner you resist temptation, the easier it will be. The longer you wait to exercise your authority, the more deeply Satan will become entrenched in your affairs. Entertain fear and Satan will bless you with despondency. Despondency moves in to convince you that there is no way out—a hopeless case. You might as well just give in. Don’t even try to resist. God’s Word will not work. Despondency says, “Why? Why did this happen to me? I have served God. I... I... I...”

The BIG I opens the door to self-pity. Self-pity says, “You have been so mistreated. Your loved ones don’t care about you.” If you believe that, then self-pity will say, “God doesn’t care about you either. If He did, He wouldn’t let you get in this shape.” He wouldn’t let you get in this shape? First John 5:18 says, But he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. My friend, if you are in bad shape, YOU let yourself get there. God has been doing everything He can to get you to simply take His Word for your deliverance and release your faith in the covenant. He is ready to establish His covenant with you in your generation. Walk in the faith of Abraham and you will walk in the blessing of Abraham (Rom. 4:16).

Don’t let Satan get this far in a temptation and trial. Stop him the first time he moves to challenge your faith. If you have foolishly allowed him to sell you doubt and unbelief, make yourself act on the Word whether you want to or not. Get it before your eyes; make your ears listen to God’s Word. Get the Word working in your spirit. If outside help is necessary, call a person of faith, but don’t continue to cow down in defeat under Satan’s dominion when Jesus paid the price for your freedom.

Count It All Joy!

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of

your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4).

Count it all joy. Why? Because this is one more opportunity for you to prove that the Word of God works. You have a covenant with God. You have authority over Satan. You have the name of Jesus and the gifts of the Spirit. He that is within you is greater than he that is in the world. Your weapons are mighty through God to the pulling down of Satan’s strongholds. This test and trial will be like the others in which God’s Word has brought you victory. You know that when you release your faith, Satan tries to deceive you into changing your words of faith from success to defeat, from health to sickness, and from abundance to poverty. You know who your enemy is, how he tempts you, and what to do about it.

Count it all joy because you know that the trying of your faith worketh (exerciseth) patience. Trials do not cause you to have patience; they cause you to use or work the patience that you have. You have made a decision of your will to stand in faith until the results are seen. The power of patience is at work in your life. Patience will have her perfect work that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. You will not be moved off the Word of God. Your patience will not yield to circumstances or succumb to trial. You should count it all joy! The results of your prayers are inevitable.

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12). When the Bible says blessed, it means blessed! Every man is not blessed. The blessed man is one who endures temptation without yielding to Satan’s pressure to faint and give up what belongs to him in God’s Word. The man is blessed who trusts in his covenant with God to provide whatever he needs.

When he is tried, he shall receive. This man has been tried and found faithful to God’s Word. Satan himself has proven the man’s faith. There is nothing left for that man but to receive what he has asked of God. He receives whatever he has trusted God’s Word to obtain. God will establish His covenant in his life. The crown of life is God’s very best—not only His best in heaven, but the very best life has to offer on earth. W. E. Vine says that crown is used in this instance as emblem of life, joy, reward, and glory. (Similar uses are found in Philippians 4:1 and 1 Thessalonians 2:19.) The crown of life is life perfected, completed, with finishing touches. We

would say “the icing on the cake.”

I never before this moment saw that Satan can only hurt his own cause by tempting the believer who refuses to doubt God’s Word. Satan’s temptation PROVES the steadfast believer’s faith. Every time Satan comes at you with temptation, test, and trial and you endure that temptation without yielding to his pressure, Satan proves that you believe God. When you passed the test—the trying of your faith—Satan sealed his own defeat in your life.

Satan calls attention to the fact that you believe God and that he could not make you compromise God’s Word. Heaven sees that you believe God. The earth sees that you believe God. The angels see that you believe God. The demons see that you believe God and that their leader can do nothing in the face of the Word of God.

When the believer does not yield to Satan’s demands, it makes Satan look bad! Satan takes a great risk when he attacks an uncompromising believer. That believer can either yield to Satan’s pressure or hold fast to his confession of faith in God’s Word. The believer who depends on his covenant leaves Satan nothing but defeat.

When you prove to Satan enough times that you will not compromise God’s Word, he will stay out of your way. He is a creature of pride. He does not enjoy defeat. He operates his regime on fear. Satan himself is ruled by fear. His defeat makes him look as weak as he really is. He loses face before the cohorts of hell and before the eyes of men. Satan’s defeat leaves the believer with the testimony of how he acted on God’s Word in the face of adversity and won. In my own opinion and experience, I am convinced that Satan does not bring temptation, test, and trial unless he thinks he can win. When you have successfully stood and won over every test he has sent your way for a long while, he is slow to risk the probability of defeat.

“Blessed... is the man whom You discipline and instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law, that You may give him power to keep himself calm in the days of adversity, until the [inevitable] pit of corruption is dug for the wicked... For justice will return to the... righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it “(Ps. 94:12, 13, 15, The Amplified Bible).

“THE BLESSED MAN Praise ye the LORD.

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.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

A good man sheweth favour; and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.”

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Blessed is the man. This man fears the Lord and delights in His Word. He is gracious and full of compassion and righteousness. He shows favor and lends.

He guides his affairs with discretion. He is not moved. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. This man trusts in the Word of his God. His heart is established in the covenant. He fears no evil.

He has freely distributed and has given to the poor. He has given and it shall be given to him—good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

The Word does not say that his seed possibly would be mighty upon the earth; it says that his seed shall be mighty. The Word does not say that wealth and riches might be in his house; it says wealth and

riches shall be in his house!

His righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with Righteousness, riches, and honor are his to enjoy, because he delights in the Word of his God.

Satan will see the blessing of God on this man and be grieved because he can do nothing to alter God's covenant. The desire of the wicked shall perish. Satan cannot stop the blessing of Abraham from being established in this man's life.

When you are obedient to the Word of God, nothing can stop wealth and riches from being in your house—except you. If you will not accept prosperity, God will not perform beyond what you are willing to receive. But if you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land!

Prayer For Salvation And Baptism In The Holy Spirit

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" (Acts 2:21). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9-10: "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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

I am now reborn! I am a Christian—a child of Almighty God! I am saved! You also said in Your Word, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). I'm also asking You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance (Acts 2:4). In Jesus' Name. Amen!

Begin to praise God for filling you with the Holy Spirit. Speak those words and syllables you receive—not in your own language, but the language given to you by the Holy Spirit. You have to use your own voice. God will not force you to speak. Don't be concerned with how it sounds. It is a heavenly language!

Continue with the blessing God has given you and pray in the spirit every day.

You are a born-again, Spirit-filled believer. You'll never be the same!

Find a good church that boldly preaches God's Word and obeys it. Become part of a church family who will love and care for you as you love and care for them.

We need to be connected to each other. It increases our strength in God. It's God's plan for us.

Make it a habit to watch the Believer's Voice of Victory television broadcast and become a doer of the Word, who is blessed in his doing (James 1:22-25).

About The Author

Gloria Copeland is a noted author and minister of the gospel whose teaching ministry is known throughout the world. Believers worldwide know her through Believers' Conventions, Victory Campaigns, magazine articles, teaching audios and videos, and the daily and Sunday Believer's Voice of Victory television broadcast, which she hosts with her husband, Kenneth Copeland. She is known for Healing School, which she began teaching and hosting in 1979 at KCM meetings. Gloria delivers the Word of God and the keys to victorious Christian living to millions of people every year.

Gloria is author of the New York Times best-seller, *God's Master Plan for Your Life and Live Long, Finish Strong*, as well as numerous other favorites, including *God's Will for You*, *Walk With God*, *God's Will Is Prosperity*, *Hidden Treasures and To Know Him*. She has also co-authored several books with her husband, including *Family Promises*, *Healing Promises* and the best-selling daily devotionals, *From Faith to Faith* and *Pursuit of His Presence*.

She holds an honorary doctorate from Oral Roberts University. In 1994, Gloria was voted Christian Woman of the Year, an honor conferred on women whose example demonstrates outstanding Christian leadership. Gloria is also the co-founder and vice president of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas.

Learn more about Kenneth Copeland Ministries by visiting our website at kcm.org Them All

We're Here for You!

Your growth in God's WORD and victory in Jesus are at the very center of our hearts. In every way God has equipped us, we will help you deal with the issues facing you, so you can be the victorious overcomer He has planned for you to be.

The mission of Kenneth Copeland Ministries is about all of us growing and going together. Our prayer is that you will take full advantage of all e LORD has given us to share with you.

Wherever you are in the world, you can watch the Believer's Voice of Victory broadcast on television (check your local listings), the Internet at kcm.org or on our digital Roku channel.

Our website, kcm.org, gives you access to every resource we've developed for your victory. And, you can find contact information for our international offices in Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, Ukraine and our headquarters in the United States.

Each office is staffed with devoted men and women, ready to serve and pray with you. You can contact the worldwide office nearest you for assistance, and you can call us for prayer at our U.S. number, +1-817-852-6000, 24 hours every day!

We encourage you to connect with us often and let us be part of your everyday walk of faith!

Jesus Is LORD!

Kenneth and Gloria Copeland