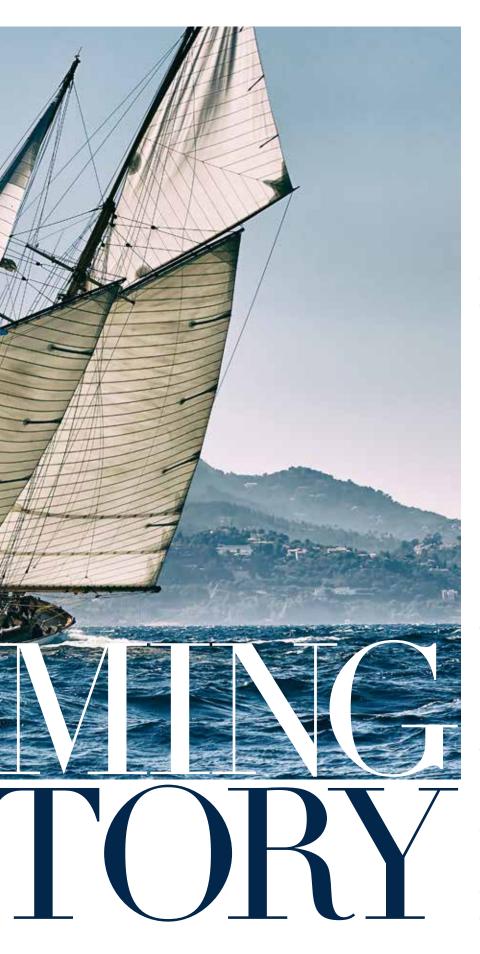


by Gloria Copeland Ken and I have been living by faith in God's Word for so many years now that I can't even conceive anymore of living without God's supernatural power. I can't imagine being limited to the natural, and just living like the world does. That would be the worst thing ever!



It would be hell on earth to go back to being bound by whatever torment the devil decided to bring our way. It would be miserable not to know any better than to just open the door whenever Satan comes knocking, so he can come in and steal, kill and destroy.

Ken and I have been there and done that, and we wouldn't go back for anything. As Galatians 3:23, *New English Translation*, says, "Before faith came we were held...prisoners...." We weren't literally behind bars, but we were prisoners of things like lack and debt. We were prisoners of whatever sickness happened to be going around or whatever negative circumstances happened to erupt in our lives.

We even lived that way after we were born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit. Because we didn't know much about God's Word, we had no clue He had provided healing, prosperity and BLESSING for us in Jesus. We had no idea there was a higher way for us to live. So, for about five years things in our lives stayed the same.

We kept thinking and talking and acting like the world and getting the same results the world gets. We remained captive to our circumstances and kept living like prisoners, even though spiritually God had set us free.

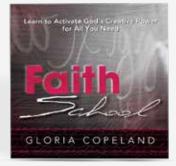
Then one happy day we began to hear this wonderful message we call the Word of Faith. We found out what the Bible says about the victory that belongs to us as believers. We learned to operate according to the simple principles of faith and, as a result, things began to change.

Our bank account, for instance. Within 11 months it went from being deep in the red to in the black. That was a miracle! We'd lived on borrowed money our entire married lives. We owed so much it didn't look, in the natural, like we could ever get out of debt. But once we began to believe God in that area, and do things His way, the impossible happened. All those bank notes got paid off and we began to prosper.

At the same time, we also began to walk in health. Instead of being prisoners to sickness, we learned to resist it by faith. When symptoms came knocking, we



You can create the world around vou by what you believe in your heart and what you say with your mouth!



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prayed, believed God's Word about the matter, and got healed.

Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). So, from those early days when we first began learning about faith until now, we've continued in God's Word. We've put it first place in our lives, believed it and obeyed it.

We enjoy being free, and God's written Word is our freedom Book. It tells us how to think, talk and act in such a way that God can be free to come into our lives and work supernaturally all the time. It tells us

how to walk by faith, and the more we do that the freer we get because faith opens prison doors!

Victors,

Not Victims

"Well," someone might say, "I don't think we can really be free from things like sickness and lack on this earth, because it's been corrupted by sin. Since Adam's Fall in the Garden of Eden the curse has been operating here."

Yes, it's operating here, all right, but we, as believers, don't have to live in bondage to it. We've been liberated from it by Jesus. As Galatians 3 says, He "redeemed us from the curse...being made a curse for us...that the blessing" might come on us (verses 13-14). He paid the penalty for sin so that we could be made righteous and victorious, be well and prosperous, and have every need met.

The Bible is clear about that. What's more it just makes spiritual sense. After all, we're God's children and He's a good Father. We can learn a lot from Him when it comes to being good parents. If we had 10 children, would we want five of them to be prosperous and five to be poor? Would we want eight of them to be sick and two of them to be healed? No! As good parents, we'd want all our children to be thriving in every way-and that's what God wants too. He doesn't want us to be dominated by the negative conditions in this world. He doesn't want us to be victims of the devil and the demonic corruption he's brought on this earth.

On the contrary, God created us to be victors. He said it plainly in 1 John 5:4: "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Faith has always made God's people overcomers!

We see it even in the Old Testament with the Israelites. Time and again, the amount of victory they experienced corresponded directly to their level of faith. When they came out of Egypt, for instance, they believed and acted on what God said and His power was

present to heal, prosper and deliver them from their enemies. "He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes" (Psalm 105:37).

When they got to the Promised Land, on the other hand, they got into unbelief and God couldn't do much for them. They doubted His Word, got out from under His BLESSING, and wound up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years.

We see the same principle at work in the New Testament in Jesus' ministry. When people didn't believe what He preached, He couldn't help them very much. When they did, He could work miracles for them. He could minister to them the healing, delivering, liberating power of God. He was free to prosper them exceedingly.

That's what happened with blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10. He was sitting outside Jericho begging one day when Jesus passed by. He'd heard that Jesus preached recovery of sight to the blind, and because he believed it, he started hollering, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me" (verse 47).

He made such a ruckus that the people around him told him to hush, but he refused to be silenced. He kept crying out more and more, "Thou son of David, have mercy on me," until eventually... "Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. ... And Jesus answered and said unto him. What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way" (verses 48-49, 51-52).

To the world, Bartimaeus was a nobody. He was just an old beggar, hopelessly imprisoned by blindness. But his faith got Jesus' attention. It stopped Jesus in His tracks and opened the door for Him to set Bartimaeus free.

Sadly, Jesus didn't find that kind of faith everywhere He went. In Nazareth, for instance, people didn't respond to what He preached like Bartimaeus did.

Although He said the same thing to them that He did in other places, they didn't put any faith in it, so the Anointing of God that was on Him didn't benefit them. "He could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief" (Mark 6:5-6).

First Priority and Final Authority

How can you make sure you have Bartimaeus-type faith and not Nazareth-type unbelief operating in your life? It's simple. Make God's Word your first priority and final authority. Continually spend time listening to and reading what God says in the Scriptures and change your mind to agree with it. Don't let what your natural senses tell you or what the world says cause you to doubt what God says. Don't read the Word and disqualify yourself for one reason or another. That's not faith. If you read 1 John 5:4, and think, *I could never be an overcomer*; that's unbelief.

"But Gloria," you might say, "I have more flaws and weaknesses than you know. I really don't have what it takes to be an overcomer!"

None of us do—in ourselves. That's why, when we were born again, God came to live on the inside of us. He moved into us so He can make us anything He wants us to be.

You could be tongue-tied (like Moses was) and God could make the greatest preacher out of you that the world has ever known. You could be a deaf-mute (like the man Jesus ministered to in Mark 7), and God could give you speech and hearing and send you out to be a walking demonstration of His power to everyone you meet.

God loves to do that kind of thing! He

VICTORIOUS LIVING

by Kenneth Copeland

One Step Outside of Love is Hate

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." 1 John 1:5-6

Oftentimes people associate forgiveness only with those major resentments they've been carrying against someone. But true forgiveness is also for all those "little" hurts and offenses that cause you to go out of your way to avoid someone. It's those memories that cause you to treat someone with less warmth and love because they have injured you in some way.

I'm talking about any attitude you have that falls short of the full light and love of God Himself.

Some people don't want to give up those kinds of things. They'll say, "I love God. Glory! Hallelujah! My fellowship with Him is fine. I'm just having a tough time fellowshipping with Sister Soand-So. But after what she did to me, I just can't help it."

According to the Bible, people who say things like that are lying. They're trying to walk in darkness and light at the same time, and 1 John tells us it can't be done. Notice he didn't stutter. He didn't say, "Well, bless your heart. Unforgiveness is a sin, but I know how hard these things can be sometimes."

No, he said bluntly: "If you walk in darkness and say you have partnership with God, you're lying about it."

The sad thing is, many Christians who are walking in unforgiveness don't know they're in darkness. They think that because they read their Bible and say "Amen" at church, they're in fellowship with God. But 1 John 2:11 says, "He that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." A man who does not forgive is hating his brother.

"I don't hate him," you may say. "I just don't like him very much!"

How far outside of love do you have to go before it can be called hate? As far as God is concerned, just one step outside of love is hate. To Him there are no shades of gray. In His eyes, anything less than love is sin.

So make the decision today to forgive...every little hurt. \P



God's Word is your freedom Book—the more you continue in it the freer you become. John 8:31-32 God created you to live as a victor over this world, not as a victim of it. 1 John 5:4 Even in the Old Testament, when Israel acted by faith on God's Word, He brought them out of Egypt as world-overcomers. Ps. 105:37

4 Your natural weaknesses don't disqualify you from being an overcomer, they give God an opportunity to show Himself strong through you. 1 Cor.1:27-29



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delights in showing the world through us that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." As 1 Corinthians 1 says: "For...not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence" (verses 26-29, New King James Version).

Think about the condition Kenneth E. Hagin was in, for example, when God called him. He was a 16-year-old boy lying paralyzed on his deathbed, suffering from a deformed heart and a medically incurable blood disease. He was so weak, and his condition was so hopeless, everyone around him had given up on him. The doctors, his family, even the ministers who came to visit him, all told him he had no choice but to die.

But then he read in Mark 11 that Jesus said, "Have faith in God. For...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" (verses 22-23).

There on his deathbed, young Hagin believed those verses and acted on them, and his faith opened the prison doors of disease and paralysis. He got up off that bed healed, and went on to preach the Word of Faith, and change the lives of people all over the world including Ken's and mine.

Oral Roberts had a similar story. As a little boy, he had a severe speech impediment. He stuttered so badly all the other kids made fun of him. As a teenager, he collapsed on the basketball court during a tournament and was later diagnosed with tuberculosis. Instead of playing basketball, he wound up lying at home, weak, spitting blood and about to die. His sister, Jewel, heard about a healing evangelist, so she put him in their old car and took him to the meeting. "Oral, God is going to heal you," she said. He believed it, and it happened. He was miraculously raised up and went on to preach the gospel to multitudes, minister healing to the sick, and build a great Christian university.

God sees things differently than we do! When He looked at those two sickly boys, He saw them as conduits for His power. He saw their weakness and everything they were lacking and thought, *This gives Me something to do.* He made Kenneth Hagin and Oral Roberts overcomers by filling them with His Spirit, and turned them into two world-changing, mighty men of God.

He wants to do the same thing with you. So, quit looking at yourself in the natural and look at yourself in Jesus. Believe that you're an overcomer simply because He says so. Put your faith in His Word and let Him empower you to do whatever He's called you to do.

It doesn't matter whether you're called to be a preacher, a homemaker, a bus driver or a brain surgeon, God has put His power in you to enable you not only to be supernaturally BLESSED, BUT TO BE A SUPERNATURAL BLESSING. He's called and equipped you to release into this world the kingdom of heaven that's within you, take dominion over your circumstances, and reach out to others and help them get free.

That's what we, as believers, are here on earth to do! We're the Body of Christ. We're His hands. We're His feet. We're His mouthpiece. We're the ones He's sent to minister His power, love and BLESSING to the lost people out there in the world.

So, for their sake as well as our own, let's rise up by faith and do it. Let's believe God's Word, live as the overcomers He created us to be, and "shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life" (Philippians 2:15-16). Let's use our faith to share the good news and show those who are still living as captives, that faith in Jesus can open prison doors and set them free! \checkmark



SHINE, SUPERKID!

This is my gift to You, Jesus. I give You ME! My life, my thoughts, 24/7, every beat of my heart, my skill, my talent, my good and my bad, my strengths and my weaknesses, I give to You now.

Our prayer is changing us, Superkid! "Jesus, I give You my talent." What does that mean? A talent is a natural ability that makes it easier to succeed in an area such as athletics, the arts or sciences. Your talent is a gift from the Father. Why should you give it back? Someone said, "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it, is your gift back to God."

Talent Is a Gift From God

Daniel 1 tells the story of four amazing young men of God, taken as prisoners from the royal and noble families of Judah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem. The king had them brought to the palace, where Daniel and his friends were given Babylonian names-Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They were chosen because they were strong, healthy, smart and educated, TALENTED and GIFTED with knowledge and good judgment. These young men stood out from the rest of the captives. Because they gave their lives and abilities to God, He increased their talent for understanding and wisdom. God also gave Daniel the ability to tell people the meaning of their dreams and visions! They were 10 times more capable than all the wise men in the kingdom!

Even though they were the king's slaves, Daniel and his friends knew they really belonged to God! When we acknowledge Him, He can cause us to stand out too. James 1:17-18 in *The Passion Translation* says, "Every gift God freely gives us is good and perfect, streaming down from the Father of lights, who shines from the heavens with no hidden shadow or darkness and is never subject to change. God was delighted to give us birth by the truth of his infallible Word so that we would fulfill his chosen destiny for us and become the favorite ones out of all his creation!"

God has gifted you with a talent for a purpose.

Talent With a Purpose

"Every gift God freely gives us...." We talked about the gifts, now let's talk about the whys. This says, "to give us birth by the truth of his infallible Word." God spoke the Word to create the universe, and to create you! You were not an accident, but a well-planned-out person with a destiny, "so that we would fulfill his chosen destiny for us and become the favorite ones out of all his creation!"

Connect that with the verses we looked at last month (Psalm 139:13-16, *New Living Translation)*. God wrote every moment of your life, *and then* He created you with all the right ingredients—talents, personality and gifts—to make those moments happen...to enable you to DO what He created you to DO!

"...and become the favorite ones out of all his creation." He wants you to be His favorite, and for others to see Him in you, and to know they can be His favorite too!

When we serve God with our talents, we can affect those around us like Daniel and his friends did. Throughout every story in Daniel, God showed the kings that He Himself is the great ruler. Every time those young men were challenged to give their loyalty to the king, they stayed faithful to serve God first. This allowed God to use their talents to help the king!

Don't Use Your Talent Selfishly

Daniel (Belteshazzar), Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego outlived several kings! Because these young men served only God with their gifts, God turned the hearts of the kings toward Him and blessed them, as long as they honored Him as Almighty God.

Daniel and his friends didn't become prideful but served God with their talents. When people become prideful, pointing to themselves and not to God, He cannot bless them.

Romans 12:1-3, NLT, says:

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us."

Verse 6 says, "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."

In *The Message* Bible, "...go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't."

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you" (Philippians 2:13-15, *NLT*).

Jesus is NOT criticizing you, He created you! He knows how to help you "live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people" (verse 15, *NLT*).

Shine, Superkid, Shine!

Lastly, realize you were MADE to SHINE! Matthew 5:14-15 (*NLT*), "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."

"So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven" (verse 16, *TPT*).

Daniel and his friends didn't hide their abilities, and neither should you! God made you with special care because He wants you to let Him shine. When you give your talent to Him, He uses it to open doors so you can bless others, and He opens doors for you! So, it blesses Jesus, others and you!

So, let that talent shine brightly for Jesus, Superkid!

Commander Kellie

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