

KENNETH COPELAND

THE JOY AND POWER OF THE  
**TITHING**  
**COVENANT**



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PUBLICATIONS

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## ***The Joy and Power of the Tithing Covenant***

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## CHAPTER 1

THE BEST FINANCIAL PARTNER YOU COULD EVER HAVE	1
---------------------------------------------------	---

## CHAPTER 2

TRACKING THE TITHE THROUGH THE BIBLE	17
-----------------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER 3

FOLLOWING THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM	43
-----------------------------------	----

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TITHING	63
---------------------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER 1

# THE BEST FINANCIAL PARTNER YOU COULD EVER HAVE

## CHAPTER 1

# THE BEST FINANCIAL PARTNER YOU COULD EVER HAVE

**T**ithing is one of the greatest joys in the Christian life. It's also one of the only two things I learned about in church as a child. Pretty much all I remember hearing preached on Sundays when I was growing up was: 1. You need to get saved; and 2. You need to tithe. Until I got old enough to refuse to go to church anymore, I sat through an average of fifty sermons a year on the first subject and two sermons on the second. Yet, at the time, neither one of them made much sense to me. I certainly didn't have any Bible revelation of them.

I could, however, see their power at work in the lives of my parents.

People of unwavering integrity and commitment to The LORD, not only were A.W. and Vinita Copeland living proof of the reality of the new birth, but they were also faithful tithers, and had been, from the time they got married. My dad even

TITHING IS ONE  
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## THE BEST FINANCIAL PARTNER

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kept two bank accounts. Into one he deposited the first 10 percent of his income, which belonged to God. That was his tithe account. The other was his personal account. He always kept them separate and made sure to never mix them up.

Even through the 1930s during the Great Depression, my mother and dad tithed on every bit of their income. It didn't matter whether they knew where the next dollar was coming from or not, they put God first in their finances and He took care of them. While other people in this country were standing in unemployment lines, my dad never went twenty-four hours without a job. If one fell through, there was always another, better one, right behind it.

I remember he once told me that he found out at the end of a workday he'd been laid off. He and Mother prayed about it that evening and, very early the next morning, he felt impressed to go talk to the owner of the local cotton gin. When the owner asked why he was there, my dad replied, "Because you need to hire me."

As it turned out, the owner did indeed have a position open. He needed a bookkeeper. Although my dad had no experience keeping books, he was confident he could figure out how to do it. He took



the job and liked it so much he eventually enrolled in an accounting course at a local business college. When he finished the course, the college hired him to teach it! Over time, he kept getting promoted and getting raises. Eventually, he went into sales where he continued to increase.

It didn't matter what the economy did, my dad kept prospering financially throughout his life. Why? Because he was a tither. Although he didn't have all the revelation we do today about divine prosperity, he'd read the Bible enough to know what God said about it. In Malachi 3:10-12, for instance, He said:

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says The LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such BLESSING that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says The LORD of hosts; “and all nations will call you BLESSED, for

## THE BEST FINANCIAL PARTNER

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you will be a delightful land,” says The LORD of hosts (*New King James Version*).

Proverbs 3:9-10, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, says:

Honor The LORD with your capital and sufficiency [from righteous labors] and with the first fruits of all your income; so shall your storage places be filled with plenty, and your vats shall be overflowing with new wine.

And in Matthew 6:31-33, the Bible tells us:

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Where-withal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

In the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, that last verse says to seek “first of all His kingdom and His

righteousness (His way of doing and being right).” Tithing is one of God’s right financial ways! It’s a fundamental principle of godly prosperity that allows us to put God first in our financial lives, honor Him, and acknowledge Him as our Source of provision.

Tithing lays the foundation for the kind of financial success and abundance only God can provide. It connects us to heaven’s economy and is revealed throughout the Bible as a means by which we partner financially with God and He partners with us.

There’s no better financial partner you could ever have than your loving heavenly Father!

Why? Because He can do for you what no insurance company or investment firm ever could. He can prosper you no matter what’s going on in the world. He can protect you from economic destruction. And if you experience financial loss, He can more than restore you.

That’s why God established the tithe—so you wouldn’t have to depend on this world financially. You can partner with Him, tap in to His kingdom’s economic system, and continually receive the

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financial BLESSINGS He is pouring out on His people through the open windows of heaven. So, as Psalm 37:19 says, even in days of famine you can thrive economically and be satisfied!

### **GIVE GOD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROSPER YOU**

“But Brother Copeland,” you might say, “I can’t afford to tithe! My bills are already outpacing my income. If I give 10 percent to God, I won’t be able to get by.”

I understand how you feel. I’ve been there.

When Gloria and I first started tithing and giving, it looked like the very last thing we could afford to do. I was a thirty-year-old freshman at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, making only about \$100 a month. Plus, I had a family to take care of and had accumulated about \$24,000 worth of debt.

These days, that may not sound like a lot of debt. But back in 1967 it was the equivalent of about \$200,000 in today’s currency. What’s worse, it had dogged me for years. I’d done everything from

## THE BEST FINANCIAL PARTNER

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selling insurance to flying airplanes for a living, trying to pay off that debt, but no matter how hard I worked, I hadn't been able to put a dent in it. We just kept falling further and further behind.

What complicated our financial situation even more was that we'd answered God's call to go into the ministry. I didn't have a single preaching engagement on my calendar, and we'd committed to The LORD that we'd never ask anyone for a place to preach, never preach anywhere based on a financial arrangement, and never ask anyone to meet our needs. We had also seen in Romans 13:8 that it wasn't God's will for us to go into any more debt. So, on top of our other commitments, we'd promised The LORD we would never again borrow money.

At the time, we didn't know how we could ever have a worldwide ministry without borrowing money—especially with our income being so small. But by then, we had learned a little about living by faith. So we agreed together to not only tithe but to become partners with Oral Roberts' ministry for \$10 a month.

What gave us the boldness to do that? For one thing, I'd seen in Galatians 3:14 that THE BLESSING of Abraham had come on us in Christ. Since

that BLESSING made Abraham “extremely rich” (Genesis 13:2, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*), I knew it would do the same for us. In studying God’s WORD, I’d seen it confirmed time and again:

- THE BLESSING of The LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it (Proverbs 10:22, *New King James Version*).
- The LORD your God...it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant (Deuteronomy 8:18, *New King James Version*).
- He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).
- My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

## THE BEST FINANCIAL PARTNER

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In light of those scriptures, Gloria and I realized it didn't matter how impossible our financial situation appeared to be, God could *and would* provide for us. So we put Him first in our finances and by faith began to tithe and give. The result? God's WORD worked!

Financially, things began to happen *for us* instead of *to us*. In eleven months, we were free from debt and beginning to increase...and we've been increasing ever since. As I write this today, more than fifty-five years later, I can gratefully say God has prospered us exceedingly abundantly above what we ever could have asked or thought.

"Well, He did that for you because you're ministers."

No, He didn't. He'll do it for any of His children if they'll give Him the opportunity. His WORD works the same way for everyone.

One time, for example, a friend who was in the construction business came to Gloria and me asking us to pray for his company. Contracts had been in short supply, and he needed a financial breakthrough. As we were praying about the situation, The LORD showed me what to do. He



reminded me that my friend was a tither and told me we should stand by faith on Malachi 3:10-11. So we did. We declared those scriptures over him and claimed God's promise to pour out upon him so much BLESSING "that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (verse 10).

We also rebuked the devourer. We said, "Devil, this man is a tither, and you have no right to bind his business. In the Name of Jesus, we command you to get your hands off of it right now!" A few months later, when I talked to my friend again, he told me his business was flourishing and the finances were pouring in.

Can the same happen in your situation? Absolutely. When you stand on your covenant with God and exercise your rights as a tither, you can stop the devil from stealing from you just as we stopped him from stealing from our friend. The devil doesn't stand a chance against a tither. So, no matter what your current financial situation, go ahead and tithe. Even when it looks to you like you can't afford to, it's one of the wisest financial moves you can make.

If you don't yet have the faith to tithe, study and meditate on what God said about it in His WORD. Feed on His scriptural promises of provision and

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prosperity, and faith will come (Romans 10:17). When it does, put it into action by taking the first 10 percent of the money that comes into your hands and presenting it to God.

Then, the next time satan tries to pin your back against the wall financially, he won't have any leverage over you. You'll be able to rebuke him, thank God for BLESSING you with abundance, smile, and know that you have it made!

## CHAPTER 2

# TRACKING THE TITHE THROUGH THE BIBLE

## CHAPTER 2

# TRACKING THE TITHE THROUGH THE BIBLE

**“B**ut Brother Copeland,” you might say, “I thought tithing was an Old Covenant law that doesn’t apply to us as New Covenant believers. I thought it was just something the Jews had to do to keep the rules God gave them through Moses at Mount Sinai, and it’s not for us today.”

Then you need to think again because that’s a misconception.

Although tithing was certainly included in the Mosaic Law, that’s not where it originated. Tithing has always been part of God’s BLESSING plan. Track it through the Bible and you’ll find tender-hearted, covenant-minded men and women of God tithed long before the Law was given. Even Adam and Eve’s family did it. In fact, the first murder, ever, was committed by their son Cain, over the tithe!

The account of that incident in Genesis 4 reveals a lot about how much the tithe means to God. It

also sheds some light on how hard the devil fights it. If you've read the story, you'll remember that Cain was a farmer and his brother, Abel, kept sheep. According to the Scriptures:

In the course of time Cain brought to The LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground. And Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and of the fat portions. And The LORD had respect and regard for Abel and for his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no respect or regard. So Cain was exceedingly angry and indignant, and he looked sad and depressed (verses 3-5, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

I've heard it taught that The LORD didn't respect Cain's offering because he brought crops instead of a lamb, but that wasn't the issue. Cain was a farmer. Crops represented his increase, just as Abel's firstborn lambs represented his increase. The problem was that Cain didn't bring to God the *firstfruits* of his crops. The Hebrew word used to describe his offering indicates he brought God the last and worst of his harvest. He brought Him what the farmers in my family called "the nubbins," the tough, barely

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edible crops that grew at the very end of the season.

The LORD didn't respect Cain's offering because the offering itself was disrespectful. Rather than admitting it and repenting, Cain got mad:

And The LORD said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why do you look sad and depressed and dejected? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you, but you must master it. And Cain said to his brother, Let us go out to the field. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him (verses 6-8, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Notice, God told Cain that his offering indicated that sin was at his door. What sin was God referring to? Certainly, it didn't have anything to do with breaking the Mosaic Law. At the time, the Mosaic Law about tithing hadn't yet been given. It was still thousands of years in the future. The sin that had sneaked up on Cain stemmed from his lack of faith. For God, this wasn't a legal issue, it was a faith issue. For "without faith," Hebrews 11:6 says,



“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.”

It didn't take an ounce of faith for Cain to bring God those nubbins! He wasn't going to eat them anyway. And since they weren't worth much, he didn't have to believe he would be rewarded for them.

The scriptural definition of sin is to know to do good and to not do it (James 4:17). So, apparently, Cain knew his attitude and actions were wrong. He knew he was to honor God with his tithe by trusting Him enough to bring Him the firstfruits of his crops. How did he know that? There are only two possible answers: Either God had personally taught him, or he had learned about tithing from his parents who'd passed along to him what God had taught them.

\* \* \*

The next time tithing appears in the Bible is in Genesis 14. There we find Abraham doing it. Again, this begs the question: Where did Abraham learn to tithe? Probably not from his parents. They weren't like Cain's parents. They had not known God as

Adam and Eve had. They lived generations later and came from a city where people worshipped the moon.

Most likely, Abraham learned about tithing directly from God. We know God spoke to him. Genesis 12:1-3 records that when He made covenant with him, God said to him:

Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will BLESS thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a BLESSING: And I will BLESS them that BLESS thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be BLESSED.

Those verses sum up what's known as "THE BLESSING of Abraham." As I've already mentioned, one effect of that BLESSING is that it prospered him financially. He became extremely rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. The fact that he tithed on those riches is specifically noted in Genesis 14:20. It says that after winning a battle which greatly enriched him, God's high priest, Melchizedek,

BLESSED him, and Abraham “gave him tithes of all.” (We’ll look at this in more detail later.)

It seems that Abraham also taught his children and grandchildren about tithing. He must have because the Bible reveals that his grandson Jacob was a tither. According to Genesis 28:22, after God spoke to him through a dream and BLESSED him with THE BLESSING of Abraham, Jacob responded by saying to God, “Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”

Since all these people lived long before the Law of Moses was given, it’s clear that tithing is something God has always taught His people to do. So it’s no surprise that, while it predated the Law, tithing was also included in the Law. Why did it have to be encoded into law? Because God’s Old Covenant children weren’t born again. They didn’t have His ways imprinted in their hearts like we do. They needed a set of external legal requirements to teach them how to walk in His BLESSING. So, God turned His ways into commands and said to them through Moses:

- All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree,

is The LORD's: it is holy unto The LORD (Leviticus 27:30).

- Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year (Deuteronomy 14:22).
- Then there shall be a place which The LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto The LORD (Deuteronomy 12:11).
- And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which The LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possess-est it, and dwellest therein; that thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that The LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which The LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there. And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto

The LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which The LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us. And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of The LORD thy God (Deuteronomy 26:1–4).

Did the Israelites always keep those commands? No. They repeatedly strayed not just from the teachings in the Mosaic Law about tithing, but from God Himself. Time and again, they got caught up in idolatry and adopted the ways of the heathen nations around them. When they did, they suffered for it both spiritually and financially. Because they had stepped out from under THE BLESSING of The LORD, it ceased to operate in their lives, and they stopped prospering.

When they repented and returned to The LORD, however, the Israelites would find themselves living again under the protection of God's BLESSING. They'd start walking in His ways again and begin to flourish financially. We see an example of this in the account of what happened during the reign of King Hezekiah. He had become king at a time when the knowledge of God and His ways had all but disappeared from Israel.

Determined to restore the nation to faith in God, Hezekiah reintroduced the Israelites to God's WORD, including what it said about the tithe. He commanded the people to give to the priests and Levites what was due them, that they might be free to attend to their ministry, and the people responded wholeheartedly:

As soon as the command went abroad, the Israelites gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, vintage fruit, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. The people of Israel and Judah who lived in Judah's cities also brought the tithe of cattle and sheep and of the dedicated things which were consecrated to The LORD their God, and they laid them in heaps (2 Chronicles 31:5-6, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

When King Hezekiah saw the heaps, he BLESSED The LORD and His people, Israel. Then he asked the priests and Levites the questions you and I probably would have asked: Where did these heaps come from? How did the Israelites become so wealthy that they could give so lavishly to God?

The answer reveals not only what happened in that instance, but what always happens when God's people walk in His financial ways: "Since the people began to bring the offerings into The LORD's house," the priest said, "we have eaten and have plenty left, for The LORD has BLESSED His people, and what is left is this great store" (verse 10, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

"Well, even so," someone might say, "the fact remains that those people were required to tithe by Old Covenant Law, and Romans 6:14 says to us as New Testament believers, 'Ye are not under the law but under grace.'"

That's true. We aren't *under* the Law. We aren't trying to attain righteousness by keeping its demands. We were made righteous the instant we were born again by faith in Jesus. He perfectly fulfilled the Law for us and paid the price we owed for breaking it. Taking upon Himself our sin and the curse that, according to Deuteronomy 28, comes as a result of breaking God's Law, He "redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')" (Galatians 3:13, *New King James Version*).

The curse of the Law isn't the same thing as the

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Law itself. The curse is bad, the Law isn't. As the New Testament says, "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" (Romans 7:12). So the Law was not the problem. Our problem was our fallen, sin-corrupted spiritual nature. It kept us in bondage to the flesh, made it impossible for us to obey God, and left us subject to the curse. "For the mind set on the flesh is death...[and] is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so" (Romans 8:6-7, *New American Standard Bible*-1995).

That sin-deadened, flesh-dominated condition is what Jesus redeemed us from. He set us free from it and made us new creations in Him. Because of what He did for us through His life, death, and Resurrection, we're no longer just fallen flesh-creatures trapped in a cycle of sin and condemnation. We can live our lives by faith in Him and boldly declare, as the Apostle Paul did in Romans 8:

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law

of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh...that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (verses 1-4, *New King James Version*).

Notice, Paul referred there to the Law as “righteous.” He didn’t speak disparagingly of it. He didn’t say that, under the New Covenant, we’re to ignore or despise it. No, he said now that we’ve been made alive in the spirit and have a righteous nature, we can walk in the fulfillment of it. We can keep God’s laws and commands, not legalistically like His Old Covenant people tried to do, but simply by living in accordance with the Love of God that’s been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor;

therefore love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:9-10, *New King James Version*).

Will we miss it and stumble in our love walk sometimes? Yes. But when we do, we can simply repent and receive the forgiveness and cleansing Jesus provided for us through His blood. We can come boldly to the throne of grace, obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

This is why we don't have to get under condemnation when we see something in our lives that's contrary to the Law of God. Under the New Covenant, the Law doesn't condemn us, it helps us! It helps us learn to live in accordance with our new nature and the laws of God that have been inscribed on our hearts. It helps us understand God's ways so that we can walk in them and enjoy all the BLESSINGS He's provided for us as His born-again children.

"The law *is* good, if a man use it lawfully," the New Testament says in 1 Timothy 1:8. The Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Second Timothy 3:16-17 tells us, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” So, rather than dismiss the Old Testament scriptures about tithing, as New Testament believers, we ought to study them.

They show us how to get with God’s financial program of abundance. They teach us how to operate according to the economic principles of the spirit realm. They don’t put us back “under” Old Testament legalism, they give us the wisdom we need to cooperate with God’s laws of prosperity so we can freely enjoy all the financial BLESSING that belongs to us in Christ.

### TWO KINDS OF LAW

The spiritual laws of prosperity and the Mosaic Law are two different kinds of laws. The New Testament speaks of both, and they harmonize, but they’re distinct from one another. The laws God gave through Moses, such as the Ten Commandments, are governmental laws of conduct. Like the laws of a state or a nation, they define what behaviors are acceptable, legal or righteous, and what behaviors are not.

The laws of prosperity, on the other hand, are operational laws of the spirit realm. They reveal how that realm functions. The operational laws of the spirit are like the laws of physics in the natural. They're backed by very real forces that dictate what happens in the spirit world, just as the laws of physics are backed by forces that determine what happens in the physical world.

Think about the law of gravity, and you'll see what I mean. That law would be meaningless if gravity were not a real force. It's the force of gravity which makes the law of gravity work.

As powerful as the natural law of gravity is, however, the spiritual world and its laws are even more powerful. In fact, spiritual law gave birth to physical law. According to Hebrews 11:3, this physical world and the forces that govern it were created by the power of faith which God released with His words.

Faith is a spiritual force, a spiritual energy. It's the force of faith that makes the laws of the spirit world (including laws of prosperity such as tithing) function. When faith is put to work, the laws of the spirit operate exactly the way God says they will. You proved this when you got born again. You activated the spiritual "law of faith," referred to in

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Romans 3:27 by believing on Jesus and confessing Him as your LORD. When you did that, faith set in motion “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” (which is another operational law of the spirit realm). It made you free from the spiritual “law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2), and you instantly received THE BLESSING of salvation.

Anyone on earth can have that experience. Jesus made the new birth available to all, and The WORD says anyone who calls upon the Name of The LORD shall be saved (Joel 2:13; Romans 10:13). The higher spiritual law of life is here in the earth, but every day, people die and go to hell. Why? Because the law of salvation hasn't been put to work in their individual lives. It will work only when it's put to work.

The same principle applies when it comes to prosperity. There are certain spiritual laws which govern it. They are revealed in God's WORD—faith causes them to function, and they always work when they're put to work. Tithing is one of those laws. Like the natural law of seedtime and harvest which God said would never cease to function in the earth (Genesis 8:22), it's an enduring spiritual law of prosperity.

The laws of prosperity work the same as the laws of salvation, healing and so forth. They were put in motion by the same God and revealed to us by the same WORD. They work by the same force of faith and are designed to stop the same thieving devil who's been stealing God's BLESSINGS from His people since the Garden of Eden. They do not work automatically, however. To experience their benefits you must put them into operation—and whether or not you choose to do that is up to you.

God won't make the choice for you. Although He's given you “the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3), His written WORD and His Holy Spirit to help you choose wisely, you can ignore God's laws of prosperity if you want to. You can choose to not tithe and keep on doing things the world's way. When you eventually find yourself in financial trouble (and you will) then you can beg God to bail you out.

In His great mercy, He'll help you as much as He can in such situations, but that's not His plan for you. His plan is for you to prosper continually by walking in His financial ways. He desires that you activate His laws of prosperity by tithing and giving, not out of legalistic obligation but out of love for



Him and faith in His WORD.

This is what Jesus was trying to get across to the Pharisee in Luke 11. When the Pharisee, a legalist, invited Jesus to his house for dinner and was shocked that He didn't wash beforehand in accordance with the religious traditions of the day, Jesus said to him and his friends:

You Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you. Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone (verses 39-42, *New International Version*).

Notice Jesus didn't say that tithing wasn't important. He didn't tell the Pharisee, "Now that I'm here, tithing has been done away with." No, He told

the Pharisee that he'd missed the heart of it. He told him to keep tithing and giving but to do it out of love for others and for God.

Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). So He would say the same today. He hasn't changed His mind about tithing...but, praise God, He has changed *us*! Through the new birth, He's given us what the Pharisee needed—a new heart. “For this is the [new] covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith The LORD; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people” (Hebrews 8:10).

As believers, we don't tithe like the Pharisee did out of a legalistic sense of duty, as something we have to do. For us, tithing is something we *get* to do.

- We tithe to express our appreciation for how much God has done for us—to honor Him as the Source of our BLESSING and to demonstrate our faith in Him.
- We tithe, not to get God to BLESS us, but because He has already “BLESSED us with all spiritual BLESSINGS in heavenly

THE FORCE OF  
FAITH MAKES THE  
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FUNCTION.

places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

- We tithe, not to achieve righteousness, but because we’ve been made righteous by faith in Jesus.
- We tithe not because we’re afraid God will curse us if we don’t, but to activate His spiritual laws of prosperity and celebrate the fact that Christ has redeemed us from the curse, being made a curse for us, and THE BLESSING of Abraham has come on us through Him!

## CHAPTER 3

# FOLLOWING THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

## CHAPTER 3

# FOLLOWING THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

**N**ot only have we as believers inherited THE BLESSING of Abraham, the New Testament calls him “the father of all them that believe” and says we “walk in the steps” of his faith (Romans 4:11-12). This is yet another reason we can be confident that tithing is still for us as New Covenant believers today: Abraham was a tither! Therefore, following in his footsteps of faith means we’re to be tithers, too. We’re to bring our tithes to Jesus just as Abraham brought his to Melchizedek when he “met Abraham as he returned from the slaughter of the kings and BLESSED him, and Abraham gave to him a tenth portion of all [the spoil]” (Hebrews 7:1-2, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

That was an extremely powerful moment in Abraham’s life!

He’d just won a victory that he knew very well was nothing short of supernatural. With only 300 of

his servants fighting alongside him, he'd conquered the combined armies of five kings who'd been ransacking cities throughout the region. He'd gone after them because they'd captured his nephew Lot and his family, along with the other citizens and the wealth of Sodom, where Lot lived.

Defeating those kings should have been impossible. But with God, nothing is impossible. So, by faith in the covenant of BLESSING he had with God, Abraham fought the kings and won. He rescued his relatives and brought them back to Sodom. When they arrived, with all the other people of Sodom who'd been captured and all the riches in tow that the five kings had stolen, Sodom's king came out to meet Abraham. But passing right by him, Abraham headed straight for Melchizedek, God's priest.

Why? Because the first thing he wanted to do was honor God for everything He'd just done. Without God's backing there was no way Abraham and his little band of servants could have won such a massive victory. There was no way they could have gotten Lot, his family and all those other people back home safely and recovered all the spoil, on their own. So, before doing anything

else, Abraham wanted to worship The LORD and express his gratitude.

Melchizedek was there to help him do that.

As the high priest of God, he “brought forth bread and wine,” and BLESSED Abraham. “BLESSED be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth,” he said, “and BLESSED be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand” (Genesis 14:18-20).

Notice Melchizedek called Abraham *the possessor of heaven and earth*. Abraham had never heard himself called that before! He knew he was BLESSED. He knew God had promised to make him a great nation, that He'd BLESS those who BLESSED him and curse those who cursed him (Genesis 12:2-3). But Melchizedek's words took that revelation to an entirely new level. When he referred to God's covenant partner as *possessor of heaven and earth*, Abraham's mind must have been reeling. *Who, me? Is he actually referring to me?*

Abraham might have doubted it, except for one thing: Melchizedek had backed up his declaration with the covenant elements of bread and wine. That was serious business, and Abraham knew it. Those



elements signified the unbreakable oath of a blood covenant. They confirmed Melchizedek meant what He said—that Abraham was the most powerful man alive.

“But Brother Copeland,” someone might argue, “Melchizedek was saying there that *God* is possessor of heaven and earth.”

No, he wasn't. The phrase “Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth” is covenant talk for “What's mine is yours.” It's a Hebrew way of saying Abraham is in covenant with God, which makes him the possessor of everything God has. The New Testament verifies this. It says that Abraham is *heir of the world* (Romans 4:13), which is what Melchizedek was saying. He was declaring that God had given Abraham the entire planet!

When Abraham realized this, he could have just taken off like a rocket, jumping and celebrating and shouting the victory. (That's what most people today would do.) But he didn't, because an exchange was taking place and the transaction wasn't finished. How did Abraham finish it? He demonstrated his faith in THE BLESSING God had bestowed on him. He responded with a covenant action that's been practiced among God's people since time began.

## FOLLOWING THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

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He gave Melchizedek tithes of all.

As Abraham presented those tithes to Melchizedek, the words of THE BLESSING were thundering in his ears. The power in them was exploding in his consciousness like fireworks on Independence Day. He wasn't tithing out of religious obligation. He was tithing as a sign that he was in covenant with Almighty God, whose BLESSING had made him wealthy beyond his wildest dreams.

Talk about a powerful exchange! Abraham's experience with Melchizedek that day changed him forever, and he immediately proved it. When, right after he finished tithing, the king of Sodom offered to give Abraham all the city's wealth, he refused to accept it. "I have lift up mine hand unto The LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich," he said (Genesis 14:22-23).

Abraham flat turned down a fortune! What gave him the guts to do it? He'd just finished a covenant exchange with God Himself. The revelation of THE BLESSING was roaring through his spirit. He was thinking, *I'm richer now than I've ever been. The whole*

*earth is mine. Why would I get involved in some financial monkey business with a wicked king? I'm Abraham of God, possessor of heaven and earth!*

That's how we, as new covenant believers, are to think! We're to tithe with The WORD of God's BLESSING resounding in our hearts. We're to follow in Abraham's footsteps of faith and bring the tenth of our increase to God as a sign that we're in covenant with Him, who has made us wealthy beyond our wildest dreams. We're to honor God by saying no to the financial ways of the world like Abraham said no to the offer from the king of Sodom, and respond to THE BLESSING of our High Priest by giving Him tithes of all!

### JESUS RECEIVES YOUR TITHES

"But I'm not in the same situation Abraham was," you might say. "I don't have a high priest to bring my tithes to."

Yes, you do! In fact, yours is even mightier than Abraham's was. His experience with Melchizedek, though awesome, was just a type and shadow. You have the fulfillment.

TO DO AWAY WITH  
TITHING WOULD BE  
TO DO AWAY WITH  
HALF OF JESUS'  
HIGH-PRIESTLY  
MINISTRY.

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely BLESSING I will BLESS you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all disputes. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to [us as new covenant believers] the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:13-20, *New King James Version*).

As a born-again believer, your High Priest is The LORD Jesus Christ! Your soul isn't anchored

## FOLLOWING THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

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just in the Old Testament covenant elements of bread and wine. Your faith is anchored in the body Jesus laid down for you and the blood He shed for you when, through His crucifixion, He became your covenant sacrifice.

Acting as our High Priest, Jesus walked into the heavenly Holy of Holies and in the presence of Almighty God presented His own blood on our behalf. When He did, God accepted it! He called Jesus God, gave Him the Name that is above all names, and swore an oath making Him a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Philippians 2:9; Hebrews 7:21).

The book of Hebrews uses that phrase, *a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*, seven times in reference to Jesus. So, there's no mistake about it, He does for us what Melchizedek did for Abraham. What did Melchizedek do? The Bible only mentions two things: He administered THE BLESSING and received tithes.

This is one of the reasons I'm so big on the tithe. It's why I'm so confident that tithing wasn't just an Old Covenant law that's now been done away with. To do away with tithing would be to do away with half of Jesus' high-priestly ministry. It would mean

He's not really a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. But, as Hebrews declares seven times, He is!

Melchizedek was the Old Testament type and shadow; Jesus is the New Testament fulfillment of what he foreshadowed.

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God...first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.... [and] received tithes from Abraham and BLESSED him who had the promises. Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is BLESSED by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives (Hebrews 7:1-4, 6-8, *New King James Version*).

## FOLLOWING THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

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Look again at that last verse. It tells us that, while here on earth, we bring our tithes to mortal men by taking them to church or sending them to ministers and ministries that are doing God's work. There in heaven, Jesus is receiving them and ministering them to our heavenly Father. He's lifting them up as a worship to God.

To think that God would honor us by receiving our tithes is amazing! He doesn't need our money. He isn't so destitute that He needs our 10 percent so He can get by. He owns all the resources in existence. He could finance His work on earth without any help from us at all. But that's not what He's chosen to do. He's chosen instead to BLESS us with the "power to get wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:18), give us 90 percent of it, and receive from us the other tenth. Then He uses that tenth to advance His kingdom on earth and to provide ministry for us.

You can't out-give God! What you give to Him He ministers back to you through the fivefold gifts He's set in the Church. As Ephesians 4 says, "He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry,



WHEN WE BRING  
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## FOLLOWING THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

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for the edifying of the body of Christ” (verses 11-12). God reinvests into their work the 10 percent you bring Him so that you can be perfected, equipped and edified.

What’s more, tithing positions you to receive the same explosive revelation that Abraham received when he brought his tithes to Melchizedek: the revelation that you truly are in covenant partnership with Almighty God. That in union with Him, you are possessor of heaven and earth. That in Christ you have inherited the world, and you are BLESSED in every way beyond your wildest dreams!

“Well, I’ve been tithing for years,” someone might say, “and I’ve never gotten that revelation.”

That’s because you never learned how to do it the way the Bible teaches. You probably just wrote a check for 10 percent and put it in the offering bucket on Sunday morning. But that’s not all there is to tithing. You’re not meant to do it like you’re just paying a bill. When you bring your tithe to The LORD, you’re supposed to speak words of faith over it because Jesus is the “High Priest of our confession” (Hebrews 3:1, *New King James Version*). He’s Anointed to not only receive our tithes but to see to it that His WORD in our

mouths comes to pass in our lives. Even under the Old Covenant, the Israelites were instructed to say specific things when they brought their tithes to the priest. Moses told them:

It shall be, when you come into the land which The LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that The LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where The LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, "I declare today to The LORD your God that I have come to the country which The LORD swore to our fathers to give us." Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of The LORD your God. And you shall answer and say before The LORD your God: "My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. But

the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. Then we cried out to The LORD God of our fathers, and The LORD heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression. So The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, 'a land flowing with milk and honey;' and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O LORD, have given me." Then you shall set it before The LORD your God, and worship before The LORD your God. So you shall rejoice in every good thing which The LORD your God has given to you and your house... (Deuteronomy 26:1-11, *New King James Version*).

Many years ago, when The LORD first told me to begin teaching about tithing, He told me to study those verses. As I did, I realized how closely they mirror our experience as believers. Just as the Israelites were delivered out of the bondage of Egypt, we were delivered out of the bondage of sin. Just as they cried out to God and He heard their voice

and saved them, the same happened to us when we got born again. Just as God brought the Israelites into the Promised Land, and gave it to them as an inheritance, God has brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son and given it to us as our inheritance (Colossians 1:13).

So, when we bring our tithes to The LORD, we can say something very similar to what they said. We can tell God how much we appreciate all He's done for us. We can praise Him for making us the righteousness of God in Christ and BLESSING us in Him with every spiritual BLESSING in heavenly places (2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:3). We can partake of the Communion elements and say to Jesus our High Priest, "LORD, I bring You my tithe in love, joy and honor. Thank You for all You've done to deliver me, provide for me and minister to me. I receive by faith THE BLESSING of Abraham that is mine through You. I declare I am a joint heir with You, Jesus, and I receive Your BLESSING."

I call this "tithing the tithe." Not just an empty religious ritual, it's a living interaction that involves releasing your faith. It's your opportunity to bring to God what belongs to Him and receive from Him what belongs to you. And as you can readily see, it

“TITHING THE  
TITHE” IS  
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can't be done in the few seconds before the plate is passed in church.

Gloria and I prepare our tithes at home, so we have an opportunity to pray over them before we give. We hold them before God and worship Him with them. It takes some time, but we can tell you from experience it is worth every minute because that kind of interaction with God will change you.

It will anchor you firmly in the knowledge of THE BLESSING, and you will never be the same again!

**FREQUENTLY  
ASKED  
QUESTIONS  
ABOUT TITHING**



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TITHING

### **Q: WHERE SHOULD I BRING MY TITHE?**

**A:** Malachi 3:10 says we bring our tithes “into the storehouse.” In biblical times, the storehouse was where the food was kept. That means your tithe is to go where people are being spiritually fed by The WORD of God. Not all religious organizations are storehouses. Even some that are considered churches are just dead works that don’t provide anyone with any real spiritual food at all. Deuteronomy 26:14 says not to give any of the tithe to “the dead.” So personally, I would never consider putting God’s tithe into a church or organization that doesn’t preach God’s WORD.

**Q: UNDER THE NEW COVENANT, DOES GOD STILL CURSE BELIEVERS FINANCIALLY FOR NOT TITHING?**

**A:** God doesn't curse anyone. He never has. He's not the author of the curse. He's the author of THE BLESSING. The one behind the curse is satan. He introduced it into the earth through Adam and Eve's sin. When they bowed their knee to him, they opened the door to all his despicable works. Death came upon all mankind, and everything under man's authority (which included the entire earth and everything in it) came under the curse.

God didn't instigate any of that. He did, however, make a way of escape. Through the covenant of BLESSING He made with Abraham, God provided an umbrella of protection. As long as Abraham walked with The LORD by faith in that covenant and listened to His WORD, that umbrella of BLESSING shielded him from the curse. If, however, he stepped out from under THE BLESSING by disregarding God's WORD and doing things his own way, he would once again become vulnerable to the curse's effects.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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The same principle holds true for us as New Covenant believers. In Christ, we are Abraham's seed and have inherited his BLESSING. But since we live in a world where the curse is still operating, we become vulnerable to its effects if we disregard God's WORD and do things the world's way. The good news is that we don't have to do things the world's way anymore. Although we're *in* the world, we're not *of* it (John 17:14).

We're born of God, and He's given us everything it takes to walk in His ways. He's given us a new heart, His own righteousness, His written WORD, His grace and His Holy Spirit. Plus, He's assured us that if we do sin, we can go to Him and "he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

There is no reason at all for any of us, as believers, to put up with the effects of the curse in our lives. We've been redeemed from it. We just need to renew our minds to that fact and stay under our umbrella of BLESSING by walking according to God's WORD. For 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).

### **Q: WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE FAITH TO TITHE?**

**A:** Faith comes by hearing The WORD of God (Romans 10:17), so spend more time in The WORD. Go over the scriptures in this book. Put them in your heart and in your mouth, and faith will quickly rise up inside of you. As soon as it does, act on it.

Jesus taught that faith the size of a mustard seed will grow and produce great things if it's planted (Luke 17:5; Mark 4:31-32). So even if your faith seems small, take God up on the challenge He issued in Malachi 3:10 where He said in the *New Living Translation*: “Try it! Put me to the test!” The *King James Version* says, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...and prove me now herewith...if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a BLESSING, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

There was a book written in the 1940s about

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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a farmer named Perry Hayden<sup>1</sup> who accepted that challenge. After hearing his pastor preach on Malachi 3:10, he decided to tithe, record the results, and see just how much BLESSING tithing would produce. He started by sowing one cubic inch of wheat (or 360 kernels) on his farm, and committing to The LORD that for the next six years he would tithe 10 percent of the harvest and sow the remainder the following season.

The first year he planted the 360 kernels in a four-by-eight-foot plot of land. The second year, after tithing 10 percent of the harvest, he had to expand the plot to twenty-four by sixty feet to have room enough to plant the remainder of the seed. The third year, after tithing the 10 percent, he had to expand the plot to three quarters of an acre. The fourth year, it took fourteen acres to accommodate the seed. The fifth year it took 230 acres. Year six, he needed a plot of over 2600 acres to have room enough to plant the 5,000 bushels of seed he had to sow.

The experiment worked!

In six years, the original 360 kernels multiplied to

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<sup>1</sup> Raymond J. Jeffreys, *God Is My Landlord* (Tecumseh: Dynamic Kernels Foundation, 1967).

become fifty-five billion, and Perry Hayden made \$288,000 (that was a lot of money in 1940!), compared to the other farmers who made an average of \$21,000.

As Gloria says, “Tithing gets God in on your deal!” So test it out. Whatever your deal is—whether you’re a farmer, a teacher, a businessperson or something else—allow God to get involved in your finances. He will “increase you more and more, you and your children” (Psalm 115:14).

## 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 repent of sin. I renounce it. I renounce the devil and everything he stands for. Jesus is my Lord.*

*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* broadcast and VICTORY Channel™ and become a doer of the Word, who is blessed in his doing (James 1:22-25).



## About the Author

Kenneth Copeland is co-founder and president of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, and best-selling author of books that include *Honor—Walking in Honesty, Truth and Integrity*, and *THE BLESSING of The LORD Makes Rich and He Adds No Sorrow With It*.

Since 1967, Kenneth has been a minister of the gospel of Christ and teacher of God's Word. He is also the artist on award-winning albums such as his Grammy-nominated *Only the Redeemed*, *In His Presence*, *He Is Jehovah*, *Just a Closer Walk* and *Big Band Gospel*. He also co-stars as the character Wichita Slim in the children's adventure videos *The Gunslinger*, *Covenant Rider* and the movie *The Treasure of Eagle Mountain*, and as Daniel Lyon in the *Commander Kellie and the Superkids™* videos *Armor of Light* and *Judgment: The Trial of Commander Kellie*. Kenneth also co-stars as a Hispanic godfather in the 2009 and 2016 movies *The Rally* and *The Rally 2: Breaking the Curse*.

With the help of offices and staff in the United States, Canada, England, Australia, South Africa, Ukraine and Latin America, Kenneth is fulfilling his vision to boldly preach the uncompromised Word of God from the top of this world, to the bottom, and all the way around. His ministry reaches millions of people worldwide through daily and Sunday TV broadcasts, magazines, teaching audios and videos, conventions and campaigns, and the World Wide Web.

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



**When The LORD first spoke to  
Kenneth and Gloria Copeland about starting  
the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine...**

**He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription!***

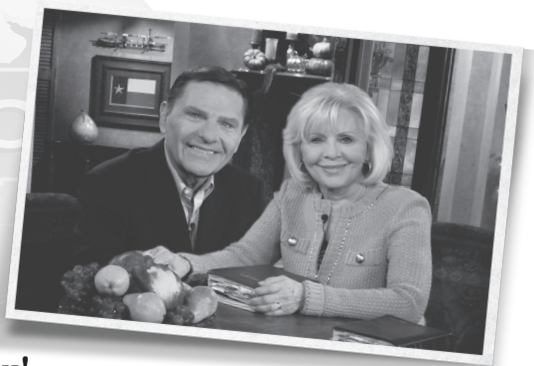
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The mission of Kenneth Copeland Ministries is about all of us growing and going together. Our prayer is that you will take full advantage of all the Lord has given us to share with you.

Wherever you are in the world, you can watch the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast on television (check your local listings), [kcm.org](http://kcm.org) and digital streaming devices like Roku®. You can also watch the broadcast as well as programs from dozens of ministers you can trust on our 24/7 faith network—Victory Channel™. Visit [govictory.com](http://govictory.com) for show listings and all the ways to watch.

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, Australia, Canada, Europe, Ukraine, Latin America 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, every day of the week!

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

Jesus Is LORD!

*Kenneth & Gloria Copeland*

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