

GLORIA  
COPELAND

STUDY NOTES

PASTOR GEORGE  
PEARSONS

# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES



HOW TO  
THRIVE

NOT JUST  
SURVIVE



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## **Days 2, 10**

“Everything Is Going to Be ALL RIGHT” prophecy delivered by Kenneth Copeland on August 6, 2010, at the Southwest Believers’ Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. © 2010 Eagle Mountain International Church Inc. aka Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

## **Day 5**

Quote from Kenneth Copeland, *The Kenneth Copeland Personal Notes Edition New Testament*, Note on Luke 5:2, page 87, © 2013 Kenneth Copeland.

## **Day 8**

Outline content taken from George Pearsons, *50 Days of Prosperity Vol. 2* (Fort Worth, Kenneth Copeland Publications, 2012), Day #59.

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“THE BLESSING Is the Place to Be” prophecy delivered by Kenneth Copeland, October 19, 2008.

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“Victory Over Lack” article by Lester Holland, as posted online by Rhema Faith Life Church, [http://rhemaflc.co.za/pdf/sermons/2014/victory\\_over\\_lack/Victory\\_over\\_lack.pdf](http://rhemaflc.co.za/pdf/sermons/2014/victory_over_lack/Victory_over_lack.pdf) (accessed October 20, 2014).

# PROSPERING **in** TOUGH TIMES

HOW TO THRIVE NOT JUST SURVIVE



Gloria Copeland AND Pastor George Pearsons

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# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

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## A WORLD IN TROUBLE

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DAY 1

“When the going gets tough,  
the tough get going — that’s us!”

- Gloria Copeland

### A. 2 Timothy 3:1 — Perilous Times Are Here

1. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”
2. *Perilous* (GK) = Difficult, dark, dangerous, furious, fierce, hard to take, troublesome, savage, tough
3. NRSV: “You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come.”
4. AMP: “But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].”
5. We are now in those end times.
  - a. The world is in serious trouble.
  - b. John 17:16: “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

### B. Colossians 1:12-14 — Transferred From One Kingdom to Another

1. *Translated* (GK) = To transfer, to carry away, to remove from one place to another
2. We have to adjust our words, thoughts and actions to the Kingdom we’ve been translated to, or we’ll keep living in the dark.
3. Verse 13 (AMP): “[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”
4. Verses 13-14 (NLT): “For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.”

5. 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV-84): “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
  - a. Darkness is lack, poverty and shortage.
  - b. We have been redeemed from this curse.

### **C. Psalm 9:9-10—We Are Not Subject to the Times**

1. AMP: “The Lord also will be a refuge and a high tower for the oppressed, a refuge and a stronghold in times of trouble (high cost, destitution, and desperation). And they who know Your name [who have experience and acquaintance with Your mercy] will lean on and confidently put their trust in You, for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek (inquire of and for) You [on the authority of God’s Word and the right of their necessity].”
2. We are not subject to the times we live in.
3. We are not subject to nor do we live under the dominion, rule, control or influence of whichever way the economy and the world system is going at the moment.
4. The times are subject to the authority of the Word, to the Blood and to the Name of Jesus spoken and acted upon by the believer.
5. The times are subject to us.
6. We are governed by another economy and another system—the kingdom of God.
7. In that Kingdom system, we have victory over lack.
8. In troubled times, we are to thrive and flourish—not just survive and barely get by.
9. In times of trouble, when the cost of living is so high—times of desperation where people are losing their homes and assets, and are accumulating great debt, God has promised to be our Refuge and High Tower.
10. He will lift us up and over every economic downturn.
11. Look to Him—not to the banks, your employer or people.
12. God has a covenant determination to prosper us. All we must do is believe and receive.
13. How do we prosper in these times? THE BLESSING
14. We are not subject to the curse, we are subject to THE BLESSING.
15. Proverbs 10:22: “The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”



*“We must get our minds renewed to the reality of the kingdom of God  
and who we are in that kingdom.”*

—*Bill Winston,*

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*

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*“Don’t tell me what the kingdom can’t do. It can do it and can be used specifically to cut  
through anything and get you anything you want, independent of what is going on in the  
world’s system.”*

—*Bill Winston*

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*

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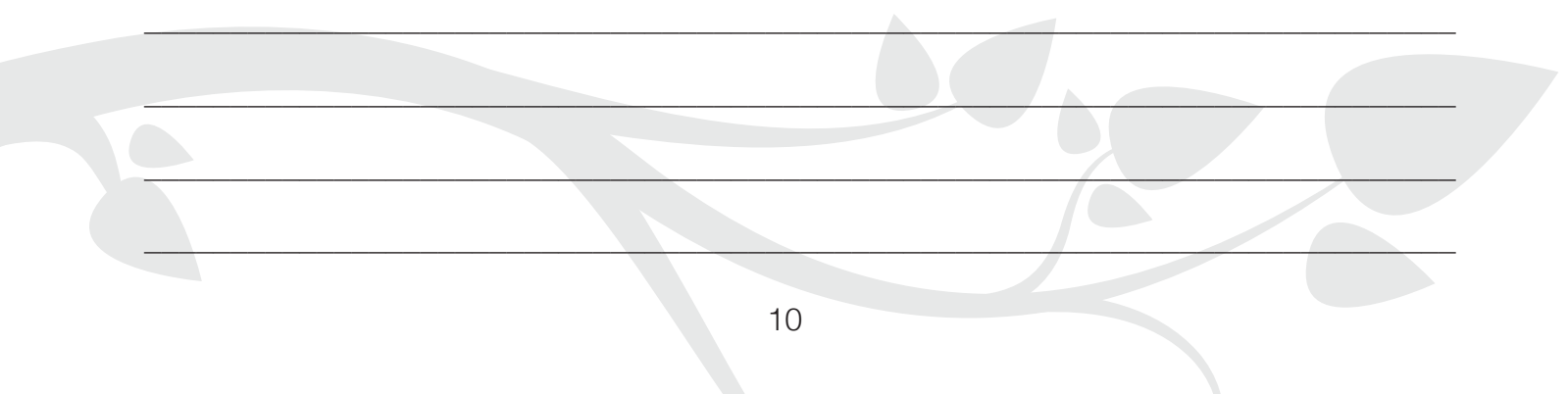
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# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

HOW TO  
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## THE SEPARATION EFFECT

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DAY 2

### A. Colossians 1:12-14—We Are Not Subject to the Times

1. We no longer live under the dominion, rule, control or influence of whatever direction the world system is going.
2. We are now subject to and governed by another economy and another system called the kingdom of God.
3. We have to learn how to operate in this new Kingdom. The responsibility is on us to find out what the Word says and do it.
4. The times are subject to us.
5. We are subject to the authority of God's Word, the blood of Jesus and the Name of Jesus.

### B. John 17:13-17—Jesus Separated Us From the World's Failing System

1. Verse 14—We are not of this world's system.
2. Verse 15—Keep them from this world's evil.
  - a. Matthew 6:13: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."
  - b. Galatians 1:4: "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."
  - c. 2 Peter 1:4 (AMP): "By means of these [precious promises] He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature."
  - d. John 5:18 (NKJV): "...the wicked one does not touch him."

3. Verse 16—We are as separated from this world's system as Jesus.
4. Verse 17—Sanctify (separate, cut away from) them from the world through the Word.
5. Malachi 3:11—Tithers and sowers have a covenant of protection from what's going on in the world. God will rebuke the devourer!

### **C. Everything Is Going to Be ALL RIGHT in the Household of Faith**

*Word from the Lord through Kenneth Copeland at the Southwest Believers' Convention, August 6, 2010*

1. "The world is in serious trouble. But for the household of faith and those that will cling to My WORD...everything is going to be ALL RIGHT.
2. "The world...is in serious trouble. Some very hard things are coming in different places around the world.... They're that way now but they'll not get better. They will continue to get worse and worse. It is on a downhill run that the world cannot stop. But for the household of faith everything's going to be ALL RIGHT.
3. "You'll have to make a stand. You'll have to fight the good fight of faith. But, when did you not have to do that? These are dangerous times. They're dangerous times financially. They're dangerous times in the earth because the earth is weighted under a gross weight of sin. There are things and places and situations underneath the earth, in the oceans, and in the heavens, things are being rattled and shaken. The earth is trying to break apart in different places.
4. "Stand on My WORD and it will not come nigh you. Praise and worship My Name. Don't feed and feed and feed fear and trouble into your life and into your mouth.... Quit living in that house. Get on back over here in the household of faith. Feed on My WORD; not on the bread of sorrow.... Look in My face.... Praise and worship and preach The WORD. Praise and worship and preach The WORD. Everything is going to be ALL RIGHT.
5. "...Your time has come. It is your time to excel. It is your time to do exceeding, extraordinary things in the financial world, in the medical world, in all of the areas where the world is in such dire trouble and so confused that they're confused beyond their ability to understand how confused they really are. And they're hurting because of it. They are crying out because of it...."
6. For those in the household of faith, everything is going to be ALL RIGHT!

*"The Babylonian world system of finances, health care and everything is a failure. The kingdom of God will work separately from the control of that Babylonian world system. We can function and affect the world without being controlled by the world."*

*—Kenneth Copeland*

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*

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# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

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## SAME CONDITIONS, DIFFERENT RESULTS

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DAY 3

**“Make up your mind  
that you will prosper at all times!”**

*- Pastor George Pearsons*

### A. Psalm 37:25-26—We Always Prosper Through Tough Times

1. NIV-84: “I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.”
2. Survival Reality Shows
  - a. Leave someone in a desolate remote location.
  - b. Supplies are limited.
  - c. Their diet consists of tree roots and bugs.
  - d. Conditions are barely tolerable and sleep is rare.
  - e. They are living in “survival mode.”
3. Many Christians are living this same way.
  - a. “I would be happy if I could just tread water and maintain.”
  - b. “Times are tough and we just need to hunker down and weather the storm.”
4. In tough economic times, we don’t just survive—we thrive.
5. In tough economic times, we refuse to fail—we flourish.

## **B. Jeremiah 17:5-6—This Man Was Barely Surviving**

1. This example took place during an economic downturn.
2. They were in the midst of a serious drought.
  - a. Exact same conditions
  - b. Entirely different results
3. The man was cursed because he did not trust God and he leaned on his own ability to meet his needs.
4. He became like the heath in the desert—a stunted shrub.
5. He was barely surviving—no fruit, no hope, no future.

## **C. Jeremiah 17:7-8, 10—This Man Was Gloriously Thriving**

1. This man was blessed because he stood on the Word and believed God for a full supply, in spite of the conditions.
2. He was like a deep-rooted tree, planted by the river.
3. He didn't even notice the adverse conditions—they didn't affect him.
4. In spite of the “year of drought,” he never stopped producing fruit—he was successfully thriving.
5. Verse 8 (MSG): “They're like trees replanted in Eden, putting down roots near the rivers—never a worry through the hottest of summers, never dropping a leaf, serene and calm through droughts, bearing fresh fruit every season.”
6. Verse 10—The Lord knows your heart. Even if you're saying the right things on the outside, He sees whether you're trusting in Him or in man.
7. In a test and trial, it's vital what you do. What you do comes from what you think—you must renew your mind.

*“Something may be coming in the economy. Whatever it may be, if a person is operating in kingdom principles, it will be just like they're in the ark at the time of the flood of Noah. The worse the conditions get, the higher Noah rose. The worse things get, the higher kingdom people will rise in prominence in the earth.”*

*—Bill Winston*

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*





# NOTES

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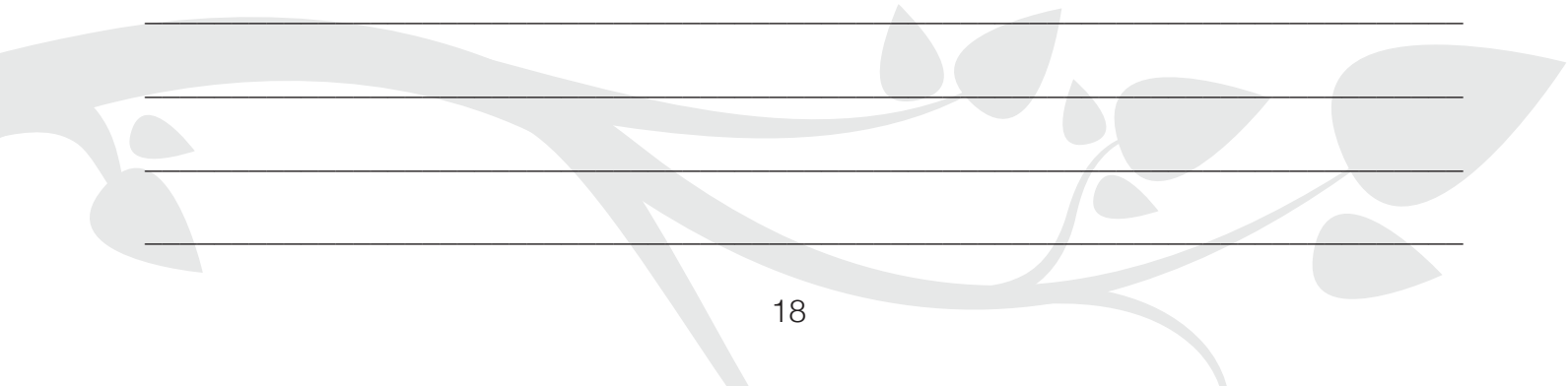
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# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

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## FLOURISHING IN TOUGH TIMES

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DAY 4

### A. Jeremiah 17:5-8—We Flourish in Spite of the Times

1. The cursed man
  - a. He trusts himself.
  - b. He has no heart for God.
2. The result
  - a. He is like a naked tree and a stunted shrub.
  - b. No fruit, no hope, no future
3. The blessed man
  - a. He trusts God.
  - b. He has a heart for God.
4. The result
  - a. He is like a thriving, productive, deep-rooted tree by the river.
  - b. He has no worry, fear or concern.
  - c. He constantly produces fruit, in spite of the economy.
  - d. Verse 8 (MSG): “They’re like trees replanted in Eden, putting down roots near the rivers—Never a worry through the hottest of summers, never dropping a leaf, serene and calm through droughts, bearing fresh fruit every season.”
5. Verse 8—Her leaf shall be green.
  - a. *Green* (HEB) = To flourish
  - b. We flourish during tough economic times.
  - c. *Flourish*—Prosper, grow luxuriant

- d. *Luxuriant* (The Free Dictionary)
  - i. Characterized by rich or profuse growth
  - ii. Producing or yielding in abundance
  - iii. Excessively florid or elaborate
  - iv. English Dictionary: Extremely productive or fertile

## B. Psalm 92:12-15—The Righteous Flourish

1. *Flourish* (HEB) = To flower, blossom, break forth, spread out
2. Enter into a state of prosperity
3. To increase in wealth, favor and honor
4. To grow vigorously and exuberantly, enlarge and expand
5. To become extremely successful

## C. Psalm 1:3—We Always Flourish and Produce Fruit

1. MSG: “You’re a tree replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month, never dropping a leaf, always in blossom.”
2. Psalm 52:8: “But I am like a green [HEB—*flourishing*] olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.”
3. Proverbs 11:28: “He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.”
  - a. NIV: “The righteous will thrive like a green leaf.”
4. Proverbs 14:11: “The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.”
  - a. Psalm 112:3 (NKJV): “Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.”
  - b. BBE: “A store of wealth will be in his house....”
  - c. MSG: “Their houses brim with wealth and a generosity that never runs dry.”
5. Jeremiah 17:8—For those who trust God in tough times:
  - a. Brenton: “He shall be as a thriving tree by the waters.”
  - b. BBE: “...he will have no fear when the heat comes, but his leaf will be green; in a dry year he will have no care, and will go on giving fruit.”
  - c. GW: “...It will not stop producing fruit.”
  - d. CEV: “...They bear fruit every year and are never worried by a lack of rain.”

**D. Declare This Out Loud by Faith:**

My life is flourishing.

My family is flourishing.

My health is flourishing.

My business is flourishing.

My finances are flourishing.

My church is flourishing.

I am increasing in wealth, favor and honor.

I am growing vigorously and exuberantly.

I am enlarging, expanding and am becoming extremely successful.

I flourish and prosper in tough times.

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# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

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## A SUPERNATURAL ECONOMIC TURNAROUND

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DAY 5

### A. Luke 5:1-3—Jesus Asked for the Use of Peter’s Boat

1. Verse 1—The people pressed upon Jesus to hear the Word of God.
  - a. NIV: “The people were crowding around him and listening....”
  - b. MSG: “The crowd was pushing in on him....”
  - c. These people were hungry for God’s Word.
2. Verse 2: The fishermen were washing their nets instead of pressing in to God.
  - a. They were like Martha (Luke 10:41)—under great pressure about many things.
  - b. They had another nonproductive, bad night with nothing to show for it.
  - c. The Galilee fishing industry was in a serious slump and the market was failing.
  - d. They were all facing bankruptcy.
3. The Answer to their problem was right in front of them—but they weren’t listening.
4. Verse 3—Jesus asked Simon’s permission to use his boat.
  - a. Simon was frustrated.
  - b. “Yeah, whatever.”
  - c. He taught the Word from Peter’s boat.
  - d. Luke 4:18-21: “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” and all debts were about to be released.

### B. Luke 5:4-7—Peter’s Harvest

1. Verse 4—Jesus heard from the Father when He said, “Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch.”
2. Verse 5: But they *toiled* all night with absolutely no results.
  - a. Worked hard
  - b. Fatigued
  - c. They were tired, weary and exhausted by burdens.

3. “Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”
  - a. Peter reconsidered the situation according to what Jesus said.
  - b. The Word changes things!
  - c. One broken net
  - d. Faith plans for more than enough.
  - e. If we expect the supernatural, we will get it.
4. Verse 6: “...they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.”
  - a. John 21:11—One net will hold 153 big fish.
  - b. This was Peter’s harvest from letting Jesus use his boat.
5. Like Jesus, we must act on heavenly revelation, not earthly information!
  - a. Revelation will give you ways to do things that no one has ever thought of!
  - b. Revelation says, “I receive it today!”

### **C. Luke 5:8-11—The Galilee Economy Restored**

1. Verse 8: “I am a sinful man.”
  - a. Peter recognized how foolish he was to not listen to Jesus.
2. Verse 9: The commercial fishermen and everyone else were *astonished* at the catch of fish—they had never seen anything like this before.
  - a. Dumbfounded
  - b. Stupefied by surprise
  - c. Amazed
  - d. Rendered immovable
3. Jesus was operating from THE BLESSING of Genesis 1:26-28.
  - a. He took dominion over the fish of the sea.
  - b. He changed the Galilee fishing industry by operating the kingdom of God principles.
  - c. This was a supernatural, economic turnaround.
4. Verse 10: Jesus called them into the ministry as disciples.
5. Verse 11: “This huge catch was in preparation for Peter, John and James to leave everything and follow Him.” —Kenneth Copeland
  - a. Jesus took care of their families.
  - b. Psalm 34:9-10 (NIV): “Those who fear him lack nothing. Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.”
  - c. Psalm 23:1 (NIV): “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”
  - d. Luke 22:35 (NIV): “Then Jesus asked them, ‘When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?’ ‘Nothing,’ they answered.”









# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

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## THRIVING IN FAMINE

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DAY 6

### A. Genesis 26:1 – There Was a Famine in the Land

1. Severe shortage
2. Extreme scarcity
3. Serious economic downturn
4. Times like these are very difficult for those who:
  - a. Don't know God.
  - b. Know God but don't know what His Word says.
5. Hosea 4:6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...."

### B. Job 5:20-22 – What God's Word Tells Us About Times of Famine

1. NLT: "He will save you from death in time of famine, from the power of the sword in time of war. You will be safe from slander and have no fear when destruction comes. You will laugh at destruction and famine; wild animals will not terrify you."
2. Psalm 33:18-19: "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy [NLT – who rely on his unfailing love]; to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine."
3. Psalm 37:18-19 (NKJV): "The Lord knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied."
  - a. Shame in lack is experienced by those who are harassed by bill collectors.
  - b. *Satisfied* (HEB) = To have enough, to be filled up, to have plenty of
4. NLT: "Even in famine they will have more than enough."
5. HEB: He will supply until no more is needed.

### C. Proverbs 10:22—We Don't Just Survive in Famine—WE THRIVE!

1. THE BLESSING of The Lord maketh rich and He adds no sorrow to it.
2. THE BLESSING works all the time—especially during tough times.
3. *Thrive*—prosper, flourish, succeed, advance, grow vigorously, to increase in goods, estate and stature
4. In spite of the severe famine, we are about to witness a man exercise his faith in his covenant with God.
5. We are about to see Isaac defy an economic downturn and become the richest man in the world.
  - a. The kingdom of God system will reverse the curse in anyone who will believe.
  - b. God will restore your life back to the garden of Eden.
  - c. Isaiah 51:3: “For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.”

*“If you have the kingdom of God operating,  
it operates above the system of the world and in spite of it.”*

*—Bill Winston*

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*

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# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

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## ISAAC'S SUPERNATURAL HARVEST

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DAY 7

“Prosperity is God’s idea!  
It is not a natural thing.”

- *Gloria Copeland*

### A. Genesis 26:1-6—The Key to Prospering in Tough Times Is Obedience

1. The Lord told Isaac to stay in Gerar and not go to Egypt.
2. “Don’t look to any other source except Me.”
3. “I will bless you right where you are—in spite of the famine.”
4. Obedience gives birth to THE BLESSING.
5. Isaiah 1:19: “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.”

### B. Genesis 26:12—Isaac’s Supernatural Harvest in Famine

1. Job 5:22 (NLT): “You will laugh at destruction and famine....”
  - a. *Isaac* (HEB) = He laughs
  - b. Isaac laughed at famine all the way to the bank.
2. The harvest was supernatural.
  - a. Even in the more fertile regions, the yield was no greater than twenty-fivefold to fiftyfold.
  - b. “The hundredfold return is working for me all the time.”
3. He reaped this in the “year of drought.”

4. Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV-84): “But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”
5. Psalm 65:11-13 (NLT): “You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the wilderness become a lush pasture, and the hillsides blossom with joy. The meadows are clothed with flocks of sheep, and the valleys are carpeted with grain. They all shout and sing for joy!”

### C. Genesis 26:13-14—Isaac Became the World’s Richest Man

1. Verse 13 (NLT): “He became a very rich man, and his wealth continued to grow.”
  - a. *He waxed great* (HEB) = He increased, advanced, was promoted, became large, exceeded and towered
  - b. *Very great* (HEB) = Speedily, quickly, rapidly
  - c. HEB: The man was great. He kept going on and was great, until he became exceeding great.
  - d. His house got bigger than Abimelech’s palace.
2. Proverbs 10:22: “THE BLESSING of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”
3. Deuteronomy 8:18: “But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”
4. Verses 15-24: Even though the Philistines filled in his wells, he refused to quit.
5. Verse 22 (NLT-96): “Abandoning that one, he dug another well, and the local people finally left him alone. So Isaac called it ‘Room Enough,’ for he said, ‘At last the Lord has made room for us, and we will be able to thrive.’”

“God does not want us to live on the level of ‘only human.’”

—*Bill Winston*

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*









# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

HOW TO  
THRIVE  
NOT JUST  
SURVIVE



## SYMBOLS OF THE BLESSING

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DAY 8

**“It doesn’t matter  
what’s happening in the world.  
It matters what’s happening  
on the inside of us with the Word.”**

*- Gloria Copeland*

### A. Genesis 26:26-29—Prosperity Can Be Seen

1. Verse 28 (NIV/NLT): We can clearly and plainly see that the Lord is with you.
2. Verse 28 (MSG): “We’ve realized that God is on your side.”
3. Verse 29 (GNB): “Now it is clear that the Lord has blessed you.”

### B. Zechariah 8:13—Symbols of Kingdom Prosperity

1. NLT-96: “Among the nations, Judah and Israel had become symbols of what it means to be cursed. But no longer! **Now, I will rescue you and make you both a symbol and a source of blessing!** So don’t be afraid or discouraged, but instead, get on with rebuilding the Temple!”
2. Zechariah 9:16-17: “And the Lord their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land. For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.”
  - a. *Lifted up* (HEB) = Conspicuous, sparkle
  - b. *Ensign* (HEB) = To gleam from afar, to be conspicuous as a signal, a flag fluttering in the wind, a sign, a banner, a token, an emblem

- c. NKJV: “The Lord their God will save them in that day, as the flock of His people. For they shall be like the jewels of a crown, lifted like a banner over His land.”
  - d. GW: “On that day the Lord their God will rescue them as the flock of his people. They will certainly sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.”
3. Psalm 67:7 (MSG): “God! Let people thank and enjoy you. Let all people thank and enjoy you. Earth, display your exuberance! You mark us with blessing, O God, our God. You mark us with blessing, O God.”
  4. Genesis 12:2-3 (AMP): “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors] and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others]...in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed [and by you they will bless themselves].”
  5. Deuteronomy 28:10-11 (AMP): “And all people of the earth shall see that you are called by the name [and in the presence of] the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. And the Lord shall make you have a surplus of prosperity.”
    - a. MSG: “All the peoples on Earth will see you living under the Name of God and hold you in respectful awe. God will lavish you with good things: children from your womb, offspring from your animals, and crops from your land, the land that God promised your ancestors that he would give you.”
    - b. Prosperity on us is a witness to the goodness of God to those around us.
  6. Jeremiah 33:9 (NLT): “Then this city will bring me joy, glory, and honor before all the nations of the earth! The people of the world will see all the good I do for my people, and they will tremble with awe at the peace and prosperity I provide for them.”
  7. Philippians 2:15-16 (AMP): “That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world, holding out [to it] and offering [to all men] the Word of Life, so that in the day of Christ I may have something of which exultantly to rejoice and glory in that I did not run my race in vain or spend my labor to no purpose.”
    - a. It doesn’t matter what country you’re in the midst of. It matters what you do and what you believe.
    - b. When things are bad around you, it’s even easier to see the witness of prosperity.

*“Whatever has been provided in heaven, He wants you to manifest it on earth. He wants people to see through you in order for them to see what heaven is like. He wants the kingdom of God to be represented through you in this earth so that people can see what God is really like. ‘Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’”*

—Bill Winston

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*







# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

HOW TO  
THRIVE  
NOT JUST  
SURVIVE



## HEAVEN IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE

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DAY 9

### A. Deuteronomy 11:18-21 — Days of Heaven on Earth

1. No matter what the times are like, we can have heaven on earth.
2. The times are subject to us.
3. God wants people to see through us what He and The BLESSING are like!

### B. My Kingdom Is Flourishing, and THE BLESSING Is the Place to Be

*Word from the Lord through Kenneth Copeland, October 19, 2008:*

Don't pay attention to or make any plans based on what the media says or what [politicians] say.

Stand on My WORD in John 16. Pay attention to Me. I [the Holy Spirit] will obey verses 13-15. I will show you things to come. **I will lead you through troubled times.**

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

I already have THE Plan for you, and it's very good. Follow it. **It will not only get you through, it will place you in a very high place—a rich place—a strong place of victory.**

You will have to discipline yourself and be diligent to listen to Me. All the other voices will have a plan, a word, an idea for your future and security. Don't listen to Babylon's system. It has fallen apart. My system is stronger than ever. **My kingdom is flourishing, and THE BLESSING is the place to be.**

Keep your eyes on My WORD. Listen to it. It will guide you and I will perform it.

Love Me. Love My people as I have loved you. Walk in it. Love never fails, and neither does My plan.

Be very cautious to stay completely clean from covetousness. First Timothy 6:10 must live in the forefront of your thinking.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**If you will do these things and continue therein, you will come into your wealthy place. A place lifted up. A place in Me already planned and prepared for you now. Here. Not heaven—not yet. But it will seem like heaven right in the midst of all the trouble, and you’ll be able to reach out to untold numbers of suffering people with the good news of the gospel.**

I’m coming very soon. Sooner than you think. Keep your eyes on Me and you’ll get the job done.

*“If you just follow God in this kingdom reality, He will lead you to success and victory and prosperity.”*

*—Bill Winston*

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*

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*“Whatever has been provided in heaven, He wants it to be manifest on earth.”*

*—Bill Winston*

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# NOTES

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# PROSPERING in TOUGH TIMES

HOW TO  
THRIVE  
NOT JUST  
SURVIVE



## END-TIME INSTRUCTIONS

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DAY 10

**“My inheritance does not fluctuate  
with the ups and downs of the market.”**

*- Pastor George Pearsons*

**A. Colossians 1:12-14—“Everything Is Going to Be ALL RIGHT in the Household of Faith”**

*Word from the Lord through Kenneth Copeland at the Southwest Believers' Convention,  
August 6, 2010*

1. “The world is in serious trouble. But for the household of faith and those that will **cling to My WORD**...everything is going to be ALL RIGHT.
2. “The world...is in serious trouble. Some very hard things are coming in different places around the world.... They're that way now and they'll not get better. They will continue to get worse and worse. It is on a downhill run that the world cannot stop. But for the household of faith everything's going to be ALL RIGHT.
3. **“You'll have to make a stand. You'll have to fight the good fight of faith.** But, when did you not have to do that? These are dangerous times. They're dangerous times financially. They're dangerous times in the earth because the earth is weighted under a gross weight of sin. There are things and places and situations underneath the earth, in the oceans, and in the heavens, things are being rattled and shaken. The earth is trying to break apart in different places.
4. **“Stand on My WORD** and it will not come nigh you. **Praise and worship My Name. Don't feed and feed and feed fear and trouble into your life and into your mouth.** ...Quit living in that house. Get on back over here in the household of faith. **Feed on My WORD**; not on the bread of sorrow. ...Look in My face. ... **Praise and worship and preach The WORD. Praise and worship and preach The WORD.** Everything is going to be ALL RIGHT.

5. "...Your time has come. It is your time to excel. It is your time to do exceeding, extraordinary things in the financial world, in the medical world, in all of the areas where the world is in such dire trouble and so confused that they're confused beyond their ability to understand how confused they really are. And they're hurting because of it. They are crying out because of it...."
6. For those in the household of faith, everything is going to be ALL RIGHT!

## **B. Five Things We Must Do to Prosper in Tough Times**

1. Cling to God's Word.
  - a. Proverbs 6:20-22 (NKJV): "My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you; and when you awake, they will speak with you." (NLT = Advise you)
2. Take your stand.
  - a. Ephesians 6:11, 13-14 (AMP): "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 [firmly in your place]. Stand therefore [hold your ground]...."
  - b. 1 Corinthians 16:13 (AMP): "Be alert and on your guard; stand firm in your faith...."
  - c. Psalm 91:9-10 (NKJV): "Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling."
3. Fight the good fight of faith.
  - a. 1 Timothy 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith...."
  - b. How? By words of faith.
  - c. 2 Corinthians 5:7: "For we walk by faith, not by sight."
4. Praise and worship and preach the Word.
  - a. Psalm 9:1-3 (NKJV): "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at Your presence."
5. Don't feed on fear and trouble.
  - a. 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."
  - b. Feed on the Word.

- c. John 14:1, 27-28: “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.... Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”

*“Whatever comes, God always has a place of safety and preservation for His people; but, for Him to do that in our lives, we’ve got to allow Him to come in and teach us.”*

—*Bill Winston*

*Kingdom Principles: Operating Above the System of the World*

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*“We learn how to do it, then we practice it. If you don’t practice what you learned, it’s not going to manifest; but we’re going to practice.  
We practice what we’ve learned. Glory to God!”*

—*Gloria Copeland*

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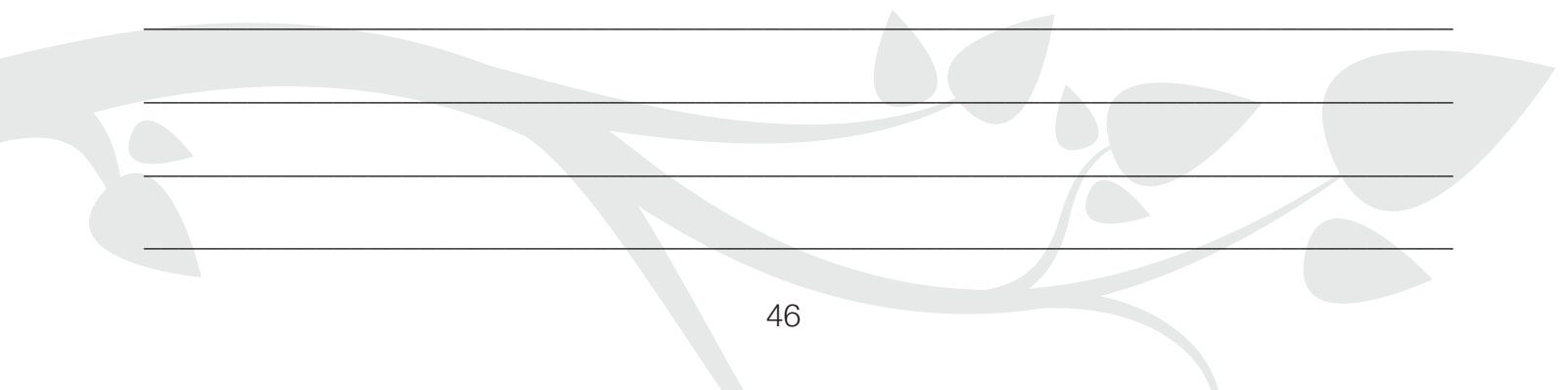
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# NOTES

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# WE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE TIMES



by PASTOR GEORGE PEARSONS

**W**e are not subject to the times.

This was a strong word from the Lord that came to me recently as I was preparing a series of teachings on prosperity for our church.

God was very emphatic in His words—the truth that we do not live under the dominion, rule, control or influence of whichever way the economy and the world’s system are going.

He went on to tell me the times are subject to us—the Church!

The times we are in are subject to the authority of God’s Word, the blood and the Name of Jesus that we activate through our faith. Why? Because we are subject to and governed by another economy and another system—the kingdom of God.

You and I live in the secret place spoken of in Psalm 91:1: “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

Psalm 27:5 tells us, “In the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion....” And in Psalm 32:7, the psalmist declares God is a “hiding place.”

We must believe and stand firmly upon Psalm 31:15 which says, “My times are in thy hand....”

## Separated From the World’s Failing System

**W**e are to thrive and not just survive.

To survive means to barely get along and merely exist. That is not us!

## THRIVE MEANS

“to flourish, succeed, advance and prosper no matter what the times are like.”

*Thrive* means “to flourish, succeed, advance and prosper no matter what the times are like.”

John 17 establishes the fact that we may be *in* this world, but we certainly are not *of* this world. We are separated from the world’s failing system. In verse 14, Jesus prayed to His Father, saying: “I have given them thy word;

The times we are in are subject to the authority of **GOD’S WORD**, the blood and the Name of Jesus that **we activate through our faith.**

and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” This truth is so important it’s repeated again in verse 16.

In verse 15, Jesus prayed that the Father would separate us from the evil that is in the world. Evil in the world includes fear, poverty and disease. Look at these scriptures:

Matthew 6:13 says, “...deliver us from evil.”

Galatians 1:4 says, “...deliver us from this present evil world.”

First John 5:18 tells us, “...that wicked one toucheth him not.”

God actually built a  
**“WALL OF REDEMPTION”**  
between the Egyptians  
and the children of Israel.

Jesus then asks the Father in John 17:17 to “sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” The word *sanctify* means “to separate or cut out away from.” Through this prayer, we have been cut out away from the world’s failing economic system. “The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free [has separated us] from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2).

We are not subject to the economy. We thrive and flourish in spite of what is happening around us.

### **The Wall of Redemption**

**T**he Old Testament is a type and shadow of the New Testament. In Exodus, for instance, we find a picture of how we are to live today.

God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him, “Let my people go.” If Pharaoh refused, there were serious consequences. We find them described in Exodus 8:21-22:

If thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are. And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth.

Take special note of what God said in verse 23: “And I will put a division between my people and thy people: tomorrow shall this sign be.”

The word *division* in the Hebrew is the same as the word *redemption*. God actually built a “wall of redemption” between the Egyptians and the children of Israel. And as a result, the



plagues that came against Egypt did not touch God's children. Their cattle did not die, hail didn't touch them, and there was light in the land of Goshen when it was pitch black among the Egyptians.

How does this apply to us now?

Look at Galatians 3:13-14: "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; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

We have been redeemed, separated and cut out away from the curse of fear, sickness, lack and debt! Jesus paid *in full* for you and me to live above whatever is happening in the world's system.

Jesus paid *in full* for you and me to live above **whatever is happening** in the world's system.

Because of Him, we prosper!

Because of Him, we are separated from the evil in this world!

Because of Him, we are not subject to the times!

### Same Conditions—Different Results

**W**e just found in Exodus, there is a principle that resonates throughout Scripture. Even though the children of Israel were living in the same vicinity as the Egyptians, the wall of redemption separated them from the plagues. I call it, "Same conditions—different results."

Jeremiah 17:5-8, *New Living Translation*, is a great example from the Old Testament. It says, "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord. They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land."

Now, here comes the wall of redemption: "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit."

Do you see that? Same conditions, different results.

In the *King James Version* of verse 8, this was a time called, "the year of drought." The person who "maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord" did not produce anything. The person who trusted in the Lord did not "cease from yielding fruit." When it says his leaf was *green*, that word in Hebrew means, "to enter into a state of prosperity and

become extremely successful.” One man failed, the other succeeded. Again, the conditions were the same but the results were different.

Luke 6:47-48 is a great example from the New Testament: “Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock” (*New King James Version*).

Once again, here comes the wall of redemption in verse 49: “But the one who hears [the Word] and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great” (*English Standard Version*).

It was the same storm. The storm was in the same neighborhood, yet the results were quite different.

### **Everything Is Going to Be ALL Right!**

**T**he Lord gave a very powerful word through Brother Kenneth Copeland during the Homecoming 2010 Convention. In part, He said, *The world is in serious trouble. Some very hard things are coming in different places around the world. They are that way now, but they will not get better. They will continue to get worse and worse and worse. It is on a downhill run that the world cannot stop. But, for the household of faith, everything is going to be all right. Everything is going to be all right.*

He told us how we are to separate ourselves from these times: *Cling to the Word, take your stand, fight the good fight of faith, don't feed on fear and trouble but feed on the Word.* Then, the Lord said repeatedly:

*Praise and worship and preach the Word. For as I have said, and will continue to say until it becomes solid and strong in your spirit—your time has come. It is your time to excel. It is your time to do exceeding, extraordinary things in the financial world, in the medical world, in all of the areas where the world is in such dire trouble and so confused that they are confused beyond their ability to understand how confused they*

**...FOR THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, EVERYTHING  
IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.**

*really are. And they are hurting because of it. They are crying out because of it. But, for the household of faith, everything is going to be all right.*

Stand on this word, and stand on THE Word.

You and I are not subject to the times. We are separated from the world's system and live in the prosperity of God's kingdom of heaven right here on earth.

The ultimate purpose of our prosperity is to reach out to others. We are protected in the household of faith in order to help those who want to come over and join us. We need to be ready to receive them and assist them in building their new lives in Christ.

We must let them know that they are not subject to the times.

We can teach them how to come up to a new level of walking in God's supernatural prosperity and provision. We can give them the good news that in Christ, "Everything is going to be ALL right in the household of faith!"





# DON'T JUST SURVIVE—THRIVE!

by PASTOR GEORGE PEARSONS



**H**ave you ever watched one of those survival reality shows?

You know the ones I am writing about. They take a fellow and drop him off in some desolate, remote location. His supplies are limited. He must survive in the wild until he reaches civilization. For days on end his diet might consist of tree roots or bugs. Conditions are barely tolerable and decent sleep is rare. What is he doing? He is surviving—just getting by to the best of his ability.

It would be very easy to fall into a similar “survival mode” during these economic times. There is a temptation to think, *I would be happy if I could just maintain. Times are tough and we are all going to be affected by this economy.*

That is a “survival mentality.”

Get a grip on yourself! Don't ever forget that we are covenant believers in Christ—blood bought and redeemed from the curse of poverty and lack. We are the head and not the tail. We are above and not beneath. All of THE BLESSING should be coming on us and overtaking us. Deuteronomy 28:8 says the Lord shall command THE BLESSING upon us in our storehouses and in all that we set our hands unto. Verse 11 in *The Amplified Bible* tells us the Lord shall make us to have a surplus of prosperity.

That doesn't sound like survival to me. Does it to you? Absolutely *not!*

A few months ago, the Lord spoke a clear and distinct word to me about how we are to conduct ourselves in this economy. He said, *This is our time to thrive—not just survive.*

You may be wondering just how we can thrive during times like these. I have good news for you. Bible precedent has already been set. A covenant man in the Old Testament has already proven that a believer can live in tough times *and* prosper.

Let's take a look at the life of Isaac.

Genesis 26 begins, “And there was a famine in the land.” The word *famine* means “a severe shortage” or “extreme scarcity.” It might as well mean “a serious economic downturn.” Sound familiar? The times we're living in are very dark and serious for unbelievers. It is just as bad for Christians who don't know their covenant with God. They are in the middle of a famine and don't know how to stand in faith. That's why it's important to know what the Word tells us about famine—especially what to do when the world is experiencing one.

## Thriving in a Time of Famine

**P**salm 33:18-19 says, “The eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.”

As believers we must realize we have been delivered from death in times of famine. That doesn't only apply to a physical death. It can mean a death in our businesses, a death in our attitudes, a death in our finances or even a death in our investments. We are redeemed from destruction. Job 5:22 even says we will laugh at famine—for it holds no power over us!

Psalm 37:18-19 reveals that “The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.” The *New Living Translation* says, “Even in famine they will have more than enough.” The Hebrew literally says, “He will supply until no more is needed.”

Regardless of the news reports, we must not allow ourselves to slip into a survival mentality. We must see ourselves as God sees us—thriving in every realm of our lives. We don't just *survive* and barely get by during times of famine. We *thrive!* That's what we do. That's who we are. When we hear economic pundits say, “We *might* make it through this year,” we must say, “No! We will not have it that way. This will be the *best* year we've ever had!”

Regardless of the  
news reports  
**WE MUST GET RID OF**  
a survival mentality.

From the Genesis 26 account, I have discovered five major keys to thriving and not just surviving during times of famine. Isaac is our standard and a shining example of a covenant man who experienced prosperity in the midst of a depression. In the midst of famine, we must keep doing what Isaac did.

### Key No. 1—We Must Keep Obeying God

**A**nd there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father; and I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. And Isaac dwelt in Gerar (Genesis 26:1-6).

Obedience is a key principle in time of famine. Note that Isaac immediately obeyed God's instructions. God needed Isaac to stay right where he was. He needs us to stay right where we are. We are here for a purpose—and that purpose is to be a symbol of the goodness of God. God's economy is thriving. So keep listening to the Holy Spirit. Keep obeying Him. The Holy Spirit will always lead us in the direction of abundance and prosperity, and to our wealthy place. Isaiah 1:8 says, "If you will be willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land."

### **Key No. 2—We Must Keep Sowing**

**L**ook at verse 12: "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him."

Isaac didn't live in a fertile area. There were other locations better suited to agricultural endeavors. On top of that, it seemed like a crazy idea to sow during the middle of a famine. Yet his sowing produced a hundredfold return that year.

Verses 13-14 say, "And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great. For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants...." This phrase *wax great* means "to increase," "to advance" and "to tower." Isaac was, at that time, the richest man in the world. He became "very great." In the Hebrew that means he prospered very quickly. Even though there was a famine going on around Isaac, he wasn't subject to it. You and I are not subject to the famine around us either. We are operating in a different system, unfamiliar to this world—living and reigning as kings and priests!

During times of famine, people have a tendency to pull back from their giving—or even quit entirely. Now is not the time to quit. Now is the time to keep sowing seed. Ecclesiastes 11:4 (*AMP*), says, "He who observes the wind [and waits for all conditions to be favorable] will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap." It may appear as though this isn't a good time to sow. On the contrary. It's a *great* time to sow. If we want to thrive, we must be obedient to God whenever He tells us to sow.

### **Key No. 3—We Must Keep Tithing**

**A**nother reason Isaac thrived in famine was because he tithed. How do we know Isaac tithed? Because his father tithed. Genesis 14:20 says, "And he [Abram] gave him tithes of all." In Genesis 18:19 it says, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord...."

It may *seem* like this isn't a good time to sow.  
On the contrary. **It's a *great* time to sow.**

Isaac grew up in a household where his dad, Abraham, tithed. Abraham taught Isaac to tithe. Isaac knew the first 10 percent belonged to God. He knew what he had to do in order to stay in THE BLESSING. He knew that he stood under the open windows of heaven as long as he tithed. The next time you tithe, look up and shout, “When I am tithing—I’m thriving!”

#### **Key No. 4—We Must Keep Walking by Faith**

**T**his is not the time to give up. This isn’t the time to back up or lay down the Word of God. If you want to thrive, you must keep walking by faith.

Let’s go back to Genesis 26. Isaac dug many water wells for his flocks. These wells were vital. But each time he dug one, the Philistines filled them back up. Finally, in verse 22 it says, “And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”

Isaac didn’t stop digging wells. Instead, he continued to walk by faith. He continued to do what he needed to do until he received his breakthrough. Hebrews 10:35 (AMP) says, “Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward.” Don’t throw away your faith at a time like this. Keep standing. Keep believing. Keep walking by faith and not by sight.

#### **Key No. 5—We Must Keep Attending Church**

**I** am not just writing this key because I am a pastor! We thrive when we stay connected to the word of our pastor. We thrive when we stay connected to other believers. “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God” (Psalm 92:12-13). That word *flourish* means “to increase in wealth, favor and honor.” It means “to thrive.”

Get rooted and grounded in the house of the Lord. Stay in church! Stay in an atmosphere that is rich with God’s Word. Stay connected to strong believers.

Are you ready to take a bold step of faith?

Are you ready to determine that you are going to thrive and not just survive?

If so, then stand up and say this out loud: “In Jesus’ Name, I settle this issue today: I am not just surviving! I am thriving! I’m not moved by what I see. I’m not moved by what I hear. I will keep obeying God. I will keep sowing seed. I will keep tithing. I will keep walking by faith. I will keep going to church. In times of famine, my family and I prosper. We flourish. We excel. We succeed. This is our time, and THE BLESSING of the Lord maketh rich, and He adds no sorrow to it!” (See Proverbs 10:22.)





# BLESSED IN THE TIME OF FAMINE



by KENNETH COPELAND

**A**nd there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father.... Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him (Genesis 26:1-3, 12).

Experts and laymen alike are straining their eyes, searching the financial landscape for signs of economic recovery. The slightest uptick in the stock market ignites their hope. The slightest downturn extinguishes it again. Yet they keep searching for evidence the economy is turning around and things are going to be all right.

But, they are looking in the wrong place.

The recovery they so fervently long for is not going to come from the godless economic system of this world. That system is like a runaway train. Just as a runaway train can't be fixed by disconnecting the brakes, the problem of overwhelming debt can't be fixed by borrowing more money. But that's what the people trying to fix this economy are doing because they're walking in darkness and don't have any other answers.

I'm not saying the situation is hopeless, that we should give up and start saying things like, "They've gotten us into such debt we can never repay it! There isn't enough money in the world to get this financial burden off our backs!"

That's an easy perspective to slip into these days. I slipped into it myself not long ago. But, the Lord corrected me. He said:

*People can't pay off a multi-trillion-dollar debt, but I can. Trillions are nothing to Me. I'll rid you of this debt. I'll pay it, and when I do the United States of America will be stronger than ever. Her light will shine once again. Many, many souls—more than ever before—will come to Me to*

*make covenant with Me and you will lead them out of darkness into the marvelous light. Then you'll shout, "Remember! It is Jesus who has given you the power to get wealth!" And those around you will preach the gospel of the Kingdom to more than you ever dreamed you would.*

How will God do it?

He will do it through the Church! The money is going to come because we believed for it; and it's going to come through our hands because we are BLESSED—and "THE BLESSING of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22).

The Church's economy isn't in financial trouble. What's falling apart is the Babylonian system created by man's desire to meet his own needs without God, and we're not bound to that system. We're in God's Eden-Covenant system, and Jesus—our High Priest, the Melchizedek of that system—is here to minister THE BLESSING to us right in the middle of this mess.

That's why we're here! This current economic crisis didn't surprise God. He knew it was coming, and He spent the entire 20th century preparing His people for this day and hour. He has been teaching us year after year how to walk in THE BLESSING of Abraham so He would have a body of believers He could call on and say, *I'm putting this nation in your hands. What are you going to do with it?*

### **"I'll Bless You Right Here"**

**R**ight now the Body of Christ is in the same position Isaac was when famine hit the land of Canaan. Famine is a time of lack. It's associated with failure and hunger. Famine includes everything the curse can produce to destroy people in a wide region.

People who don't know how to live in THE BLESSING are tempted to cut and run when famine hits. They start looking for a place to escape from it. That's what Isaac's father, Abraham, did when he first ran into famine. In the early days of his walk with God, before he knew what God wanted to do for him through THE BLESSING, he packed up and went to Egypt when times got tough.

Isaac started to pull up stakes when he found himself in that situation. However, he knew more than his father knew and he'd seen what the covenant of God could do. So when the Lord said to him, "Don't go to Egypt. Stay put and I'll BLESS you right here," he believed it and obeyed. He sowed seed in the midst of that famine-ridden land. "And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him" (Genesis 26:13-14).

The phrase *waxed great* doesn't mean Isaac became famous. It means Isaac's life, his ministry, his family and his finances grew. The Hebrew text says he became very wealthy. These days people would say he was *independently wealthy*. But in reality, he was *dependently wealthy*. He depended totally on the word of God. He depended completely upon THE BLESSING to prosper him. He had such confidence in it that when everyone else was hoarding their seed, waiting for the drought to end and conditions to be right for farming, Isaac sowed and reaped a hundredfold harvest.

While everyone else was in trouble and losing financially, he was increasing. He amassed more wealth in that year of famine than he had all of his life up to that time, and he was already wealthy.

The Lord spoke to me about that in prayer not long ago. He said those of us who go forward and keep obeying His Word during the tough times we're in right now will experience the same thing Isaac did. We'll become very great in times of need—not to put more money in the bank to protect ourselves, but to minister bread to the eater and seed to the sower. We'll be BLESSED so richly we'll be able to bring more souls into the kingdom of God than ever before.

For us this isn't a bad time—it's a time of great opportunity!

There will, however, be persecution. There always is. Isaac found that out and so will we. He was minding his own business when the Philistines started harassing him. They envied his prosperity, so they stopped up the wells his father had dug and filled them with dirt (verse 15).

What kind of sense did that make?

To stop up water wells in the desert during a drought because you're jealous of someone is stupid. But the Philistines did it—and they didn't stop there. After plugging up Isaac's wells, King Abimelech said to him, "Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we" (verse 16).

If there's anything dumber than stopping up wells during famine, it's running off the one guy who is contributing to the economy. But Abimelech was too mad to consider that. According to Hebrew commentaries, all he could think about was how humiliating it was that in the middle of the famine, Isaac had prospered so much his estate had gotten bigger than Abimelech's palace.

### **Just Dig Another Well**

Isaac wasn't looking for a fight. So he did what the king asked him to do.

And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them. And Isaac's servants

digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him. And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah. And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land (verses 17-22).

Bless Isaac's heart! Those people wouldn't leave him alone. He'd dig a well, they'd come fuss with him and he'd give it to them. He'd move on, dig another well, and the same thing would happen again. Notice, he didn't argue or get in strife. He just went someplace else and every time he dug, he hit water. The Lord directed him just across the valley and he hit an underground river—a gusher of water.

Although Isaac got to keep only one of the wells he had dug, his wells had BLESSED the whole land!

But the Philistines weren't grateful. In fact, once the water started flowing and the fruit trees started blossoming, they decided to get rid of Isaac. *We've got the wells*, they thought. *The famine is over. We're fat and happy now. We'll just kick that Jew out of here.*

Big mistake.

Jewish historians tell us that when Isaac left, the wells dried up and the trees started dying again. The famine came back with a vengeance. It hadn't run its course; it had just been stopped by THE BLESSING of Abraham.

When they saw everything withering up, the Philistines suddenly had a change of heart and said, "THE BLESSING of God is on him. He has a covenant with God that causes wells to spring up and trees to bear fruit. Bring him back and give him whatever he wants before we all starve to death!"

Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phichol the chief captain of his army. And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you? And they said, We saw certainly that the Lord was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us, even betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee...thou art now the blessed of the Lord. And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came,

and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water (verses 26-29, 32).

Do you see what happened? The Philistines entered into covenant with Isaac, promised not to do him any harm and to honor his God, and the next thing you know Isaac's foreman came rushing in saying, "Boss, we've hit water again!"

Abimelech and his general who was standing there with him must have been thinking, *What's going on? What is on this man that stops famines and causes water to flow? Whatever it is—we need him and we need his God!*

### **Re-Dig the Old Wells, Then Dig New Ones**

**R**ecently, Gloria and I were sitting in our living room talking about these things and the power of God flooded the room. We got so excited we could hardly contain ourselves. The Lord showed us He is setting up the Body of Christ right now just like He set up Isaac. He is setting us up to bring THE BLESSING when and where it is desperately needed. He is opening the door for us to demonstrate the power of the covenant we have through the blood of Jesus right in the middle of the worst economic famine anyone in our lifetime has ever seen.

As I turned around to say something to Gloria about it, the word of the Lord came out of my mouth. He gave us some instructions to help prepare us for the time ahead. He said:

*Dig in the old wells! Go back to the things I told you in the past when times got rough and you had to believe your way out of them. Get out your old tapes and listen to them again. Go back and meditate on the words I gave you. If there's anything in the past I instructed you to do that you haven't been doing, pick it up again. Go back and re-study those scriptures. Dig in the old wells, then dig new wells. Spend time praying in the spirit. Set aside a time to tithe and spend time doing it.*

Notice, the Lord said we should spend time tithing. If you want to walk in the fullness of THE BLESSING, it's not enough just to write a check and throw it in the offering bucket. Gloria and I learned that to truly honor God with our tithe, we must set aside a specific time each month to bring it to Him. Although we give all the time, and on occasion the Lord will tell us to tithe immediately on money that comes in, we have a certain time when we go together before the Lord to fellowship with Him over it. Often the Lord will say to us, *Take Communion together this morning. I have some things I want to share with you.*

I love those times because that's THE BLESSING time. That's when we receive revelations that take us to new levels of increase—spirit, soul and body. So, especially in this season, make sure you don't miss out on it. Take extra time and seek the Lord over your tithe. Get together with your spouse and your children (if they're pulling together with you in the faith) and step out of the rat race long enough to hear what God has to say to you.

If you haven't been tithing—now is the time to start because if you're not tithing, you won't be part of the coming financial recovery. You'll be in the same position Adam was. He cut himself off from THE BLESSING by eating the fruit that belonged to God. He robbed God, blamed it on his wife, never repented for it and ended up under the curse.

“But Brother Copeland, I have to wait until I get some money before I can tithe.”

No, you don't. Tithe something now. Bring whatever you have—shirt buttons, shoelaces, *something!*—get on your knees and honor God with it. Commit yourself to Him and say, “Father, from now on, I'll honor You by giving You the first 10 percent of everything that comes through my hands.”

My mother and dad made that commitment to the Lord the day they got married. They actually included tithing in their wedding vows. They didn't know nearly as much as we do about THE BLESSING. They didn't have the revelation we have, but even so, all through the Great Depression, when people all around him were unemployed, my father had good jobs. If he got laid off one job, he always had another one within 24 hours.

He was BLESSED and, to the degree he knew how, he blessed others. He was always the man in the church who took care of the preacher and the evangelists. He went all the way through the Depression without experiencing the hurt and shame of it. He and mother never suffered the agony of the bad times that so many others did. He lived in another world—the world of the tither, the world of THE BLESSED of God.

That world is available to you and me all the time, only in far greater measure than it was then because so much has been revealed, particularly in the last 50 years, preparing us for this very hour. In my father's day, when the world's economic system hit the skids, the Church didn't even believe she was supposed to have any money, much less be the answer for the rest of the world.

But it's not that way now!

God has laid a foundation of revelation in this generation of believers. If we'll stand on it by faith and stay on God's side—on the giving side—THE BLESSING will do for us right in the

**THE BLESSING WILL DO FOR US RIGHT IN THE MIDST  
OF THIS FINANCIAL FAMINE WHAT IT DID FOR ISAAC!**

midst of this financial famine what it did for Isaac! It will enable us to dig wells that will water this land both spiritually and naturally. No doubt, some folks will want to argue us out of them. They will try to get us in a fuss. But, like Isaac, we'll just love them, move on and dig another well.

I've already seen in the spirit what's coming. Because of THE BLESSING that's flowing through us, the famine will stop momentarily and for a while people will go back to their old ways. Then the famine will return. That's when they'll realize what has happened. That's when they'll come looking for us. They'll understand that THE BLESSING of Jesus on us is the source of our prosperity and they'll cry out, "Come back!"

*And I'll confirm it, says the Lord. I'll appear to many and the famine will be broken.* You will wax great, the great end-time harvest of souls will be reaped, and there will be great rejoicing in the kingdom of God.







# VICTORY OVER LACK



by LESTER HOLLAND

***As much as I want My people healed, I want them to prosper financially and provisionally. I want My people to thrive and flourish in these times. I want them to experience My supernatural provision. Lack and poverty are under the curse. Tell them that they are redeemed from the curse and that they are to walk in the fullness of THE BLESSING. My people are not subject to the times, no matter what is happening around them. Totally immerse them in the Word of prosperity. By doing this, the Word will build their faith and enlarge their capacity to believe and receive. (Ps. George Pearsons)***

So that is what we want to do. Immerse ourselves totally in the Word of Prosperity. It will build our Faith and enlarge our capacity to believe and receive. We are not subject to the times that we live in. In other words, we are not subject to, and we do not live under the dominion, rule, control or influence of whichever way the economy and world system is going at the moment. The times are subject to the authority of the Word, to the blood and the Name of Jesus spoken and acted upon by the believer. The times are subject to us. We are subject to and governed by another economy and another system—the kingdom of God. ***Our God supplies all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus*** (Philippians 4:19).

We will experience victory over lack in these times. ***We are to thrive and not just survive. Survive—barely get by, merely exist. (That is not God’s will for our lives). Thrive—flourish, succeed, advance, prosper. (This is God’s will for our lives).*** As children of God, we prosper in tough times. Life may be tough, but I got a God that is tougher.

**The Lord also will be a refuge and a high tower for the oppressed, a refuge and a stronghold in times of trouble (high cost, destitution, and desperation) (Psalm 9:9, 10, AMP).**

In these times of trouble, in these times where the cost of living is so high, times of desperation where people are losing their homes and assets, people are getting into huge debt, God has promised to be our refuge and high tower. He will lift us up above these

situations. We can experience Victory over lack. But we need to look to Him. We need to turn to Him. We need to trust in Him. Don't turn to the banks. Don't turn to your Employer. Don't turn to your ex-husband. Don't turn to people. Turn to Him. Look to Him.

**And they who know Your name [who have experience and acquaintance with Your mercy] will lean on and confidently put their trust in You, for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek (inquire of and for) You [on the authority of God's Word and the right of their necessity] (v. 10).**

If you have a need, go to God with the authority of His Word and present that Word to Him. Bring the Word alongside your need and declare that you have the right to have that need met. God has a covenant determination to prosper us. Our responsibility is to believe it and receive it.

**What prospers us? How will we prosper in these tough times?** We will prosper by The Blessing. The Blessing will prosper us in these tough times.

**The blessing of the Lord, *it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it* (Proverbs 10:22).**

It is the Blessing of The Lord that makes you rich, not your education, or your degree or even your lack of education. Not your connections and who you know. It is the Blessing of The Lord that makes you successful. So the key is to have faith in the Blessing. ***Did you know that the Blessing prospered Joseph? But it started by prospering his soul.*** Joseph had nothing. No money, no job, no family, they stripped him of his coat of many colours. All he had was God. But when you have God, you have everything. They can strip your coat but they can't strip your blessing. You have the blessing.

**Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian (Genesis 39:1-5, NKJV).**

Say, "I am a prosperous man/woman now because the Lord is with me." See yourself prosperous first. It's all about expanding our limited thinking. We must get our thinking up to a higher level—to think like God.

**(Dr. Bill Winston:)** *The problem in the church is that we have subconsciously tried to bring God down to our level, thereby limiting ourselves to our own human abilities instead of meditating on the Word of God and what Jesus has done for us, and allowing Him to bring us back up to His level, where we were originally created to live on.*

**And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand (v. 3). So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority (v. 4).** Joseph found favour with Potiphar.

*Say this after me, “**The favour of God goes before me into this day, this week, this month and this year, creating Divine appointments, Divine Connections and Divine relationships for me.**”*

**So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field (v. 5).** What did Potiphar see? He saw the blessing. He saw that Joseph had the blessing and because of his association with Joseph, he prospered. So who you associate yourself with is vitally important. God prospered Joseph’s soul and as a result he ended up running the entire land of Egypt.

**I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world (John 17:14, NKJV).**

We are not of the world. We are not of this world’s system. We are not part of this world’s failing system. Jesus separated us from the world. And we stay separated from the world through the Word. There is a wall of redemption that separates us from the effects of the curse that is in the world. Egypt in the O.T. is a type of the world. God separated His people from the curse of plagues that came upon Egypt. Likewise, God will separate us from the effects of the curse that is in the world. **Exodus 8:23—“I will make a difference between My people and your people....”** My people are not subject to the effects of the curse that is in the world. We are subject to the Blessing.

Lester Holland is pastor of Rhema Bible Church North in Gauteng, South Africa. Together with his wife, Lorna, they work to bring hope, healing and restoration to God’s people, helping them to grow and become all that God has planned for them to be. You can learn more about their ministry at [rhemaflc.co.za](http://rhemaflc.co.za).

