

A close-up photograph of a person's lower leg and foot wearing a blue and white athletic running shoe. The shoe is on a reddish-brown gravel path. The background is a blurred landscape of green bushes and hills under a bright, hazy sky. A large, faint green circular logo is visible behind the text.

IN IT TO
WIN IT

Gloria Copeland



KENNETH
COPELAND
PUBLICATIONS

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IN IT TO WIN IT

I was in a hotel room a few years ago, preparing to preach, when I looked out the window and saw something that caught my attention: A few stories below me in front of the hotel, a man with a little broom and a dustpan was sweeping the street. If he'd just been sweeping the sidewalk, or the hotel driveway, I might not have noticed him. But he'd taken on the entire street!

That's a big job, I thought.

Considering the amount of road that stretched into the distance on either side of him, I wondered how he was going to do it. So I watched him for a while. It soon became apparent his heart wasn't in his work. He stood and swept in the same little spot for at least 20 minutes.

I eventually turned my attention back to getting ready for the service. When I looked out the window again the man was gone...having left behind one very small patch of clean pavement.

Later that day I thought about the scene again, and how that man had inched his way around one little spot in the street with his broom and his dustpan, and suddenly the realization hit me: Faith would work for that man! It would work for him just as well

as it would work for the president of the United States.

If he had faith in God's Word and knew how to use it, he could be doing big things—things he could really get excited about. Instead of being a halfhearted street sweeper, he could be a mountain-mover in the kingdom of God. He could be one of the “whosoever” Jesus talked about in Mark 11:23 when He said: “For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

I know from personal experience what an amazing difference faith in God's Word can make in someone's life, so right there

in my hotel room, I prayed for that man. I asked God to send someone to tell him that Jesus loves him. “Lord,” I said, “send someone to tell him he can have faith!”

I knew it was a prayer God would answer because He has wonderful plans for that man’s life. He doesn’t want him to be stuck in a dead-end job he doesn’t enjoy. He doesn’t want him to be standing in one place, doing nothing and going nowhere.

God has a destiny for him to fulfill. He has a divinely ordained race for him to run. A race that will satisfy his heart’s deepest desires. A race that will bless him beyond anything he could ask or think, and make him a blessing to others in ways beyond his wildest dreams.

In It to Win It

Actually, because God loves us all, He's planned a great and satisfying race for each of us. That's why we all need to have faith. If we're going to successfully run our race we have to be able to do what Jesus said and speak the Word of God to the obstacles that try to hinder us. We have to be able to believe in our hearts that what we say will come to pass.

"But Gloria," you might say, "I just don't have that kind of faith."

Yes, you do!

You got it when you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior. His faith was born on the inside of you the moment you were born again. Hebrews 12:2 confirms it. It

says that Jesus Himself is the “author and the finisher” of your faith.

Jesus always does a good job at everything He does. So you can be sure that the faith He authored in you is of the very highest quality. You can also be sure that, as its finisher, He’s going to help you develop your faith until it’s so strong that when you cross the finish line of your life on earth you can say, like the Apostle Paul did: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me...” (2 Timothy 4:7-8, *New King James Version*).

Of course, if you really want to finish your faith race with that kind of triumph, you’ll have to put your whole heart into it. You

can't act like the street sweeper did that day and be content to just creep along at a snail's pace. You must run like you're in it to win it. You must be determined to go the distance and give the race everything you've got.

As the great Christian writer Andrew Murray once put it, you must “judge everything in your life by one standard: *‘Can it help me in the race?’*”

Personally, I think that's a marvelous question—one that all of us as believers should frequently ask. We can find the answer to it just by looking in the Bible. It's full of scriptures that tell us how we can best run our race. Take Hebrews 12:1-2, for instance. It says: “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every

weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith....”

Have you ever seen sprinters or marathon runners get ready to race? They don't load themselves down with heavy clothes, backpacks and shopping bags. They “lay aside every weight.” They get rid of anything that would slow them down.

As spiritual runners we should do the same. We should get rid of anything in our lives that would draw us off course and tempt us to sin.

We shouldn't load ourselves down with the world's trash. We shouldn't go to movies that glorify immorality, or watch TV shows filled with profanity, adultery, fornication and all kinds of other sin. We

shouldn't stand around the water cooler at the office gossiping or flirting with someone else's spouse.

"But Gloria," you might say, "everyone in the world does that stuff!"

So what? The world is crazy! They don't know God. They're following Satan and they can't tell right from wrong. They're living in darkness, so for them sin is normal.

But you're a Christian! You've been born of the Light. Sin isn't normal for you. You'll never be happy living the way the world does. You'll never be satisfied doing things that are contrary to God's Word. They might bring you pleasure for a season, but they always end in misery and death.

So stay away from those things! When you find yourself in the wrong place, talking to the wrong people, and you realize you're

headed for trouble, cut the conversation short and walk away. Go somewhere more wholesome and find someone to talk to who knows Jesus.

When you catch yourself watching some form of “entertainment” that promotes sin and makes it look attractive, turn it off. Open your Bible or tune in to the *Believer’s Voice of Victory* broadcast. Spend time looking at and listening to the Word.

Your eyes and ears are a gateway to your heart. If you fill them with the devil’s stuff, trouble comes. If you fill them with the Word, faith comes—and faith is what you want! When you have it you can run like the winner God created you to be. You can conquer anything the devil tries to throw at you. You can triumph over every problem. Because “this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4)!

Moving Everest May Take Time

Another vital instruction from Hebrews 12:1 that will go a long way toward helping you in your spiritual race is this: “Run with patience.”

Patience is a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23, *The Amplified Bible*). Along with love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, it was born into you when you were born again. Patience is a spiritual force that keeps you from succumbing to negative circumstances. Patience will prevent you from giving up or giving out when you're under pressure, and cause you to stay steady and strong.

Ken calls faith and patience “the power twins,” because patience undergirds faith

and keeps it going. It keeps our faith in force until what we're believing for comes to pass. That's important because, although faith always brings results, they aren't always instantly visible. If they were, everyone in the world would be living by faith.

But that's not how it is. Faith projects often take time.

Ken and I found this out back in the early days when we were just getting started in the faith life. One of the first things we believed God for was to get out of debt. Talk about moving a mountain! To us, that debt looked as big as Mount Everest!

Creditors were calling, threatening to sue us over unpaid bills. We were driving an old, broken-down car. We had children to feed and hardly any money to live on. It was a pressurized situation. But we took

our faith stand and stayed with it. We not only quit borrowing money, we faithfully declared the Word over the situation. We spoke to that mountain of debt and we called it paid, in Jesus' Name!

Months went by and it didn't look like much was happening. But we didn't give up and say, "This faith junk just isn't working. Let's go buy a new car on credit." Instead we let patience undergird our faith and, in a little less than a year all those bills were paid. We were debt free!

What's more, we've been free of debt ever since. We've bought houses and land, built ministry buildings, and spent millions of dollars preaching the uncompromised Word of God around the world, but we never could have done it if we hadn't learned to run our faith race with patience.

We also wouldn't have been able to do it if we hadn't put the Word of God first place in our lives. Time in the Word is what keeps faith and patience strong. That's another thing Ken and I discovered in the early days of our faith life. We found out God's Word is like food, you can eat the same thing over and over and it will still be good for you. It will always strengthen you and cause your faith to increase.

The year we started believing God to get out of debt, when we were living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, we went to hear Brother Kenneth E. Hagin preach the Word every chance we got. Sometimes we'd go every night for three weeks straight and in every meeting Brother Hagin would read Mark 11:22-24. Again and again, he would teach on how to believe God, how faith works and how faith talks.

When there weren't any meetings going on, Ken and I would listen to tape-recorded messages of Brother Hagin's sermons at home. I listened to some of them so many times and took so many notes on them I almost wrote down the entire message.

When we moved to Fort Worth, Texas, and started our ministry, we still traveled back to Tulsa to hear Brother Hagin preach about faith. We didn't do it because we necessarily thought he was going to tell us something new. We did it because we were facing obstacles and we needed to feed on the Word.

Most of the time—especially during our first years in ministry—we'd come dragging into those faith seminars needing a lift. We had impossibilities staring us in the face and we were feeling the pressure

of them. Although we knew the Word of God could overcome those impossibilities, the circumstances had worn us down and we needed our faith stirred up!

But then Brother Hagin would read Mark 11:23 to us again. As we listened for the umpteenth time to his wonderful, Word-filled messages, our faith would be refreshed. Our thinking would be straightened out.

The Word of God has awesome power to get you back on track and keep you there!

When the seminars were over, we'd go back home believing God stronger than ever and saying, "Yes! We can move the mountain! We can do it by faith. We just have to say what God says, do what He tells us to do, and refuse to quit until what we're believing for comes to pass!"

Ken and I are still that way, even after more than 45 years in ministry. We still love hearing people preach about faith. We get as much out of going to Believers' Conventions as everyone else does. There's just something special that happens to us when we get together with other believers to hear God's Word.

We don't just feed on the Word at believers' meetings though. We also read and meditate on it by ourselves at home. Both Ken and I spend time in the Word every day because "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

A DAILY DOSE OF GOD'S WORD IS THE KEY TO LIVING AN OVERCOMING LIFE!

So don't ever slack off on the Word. Stick with it. Keep feeding on it, speaking it

and acting on it. Lay aside everything that might hinder you, and put the power twins of faith and patience to work in your life.

God has big things for you to do. He has an exciting race prepared for you. It's a race that will satisfy your heart's deepest desires, bless you beyond anything you could ask or think, make all things possible, and make you a blessing to others in ways beyond your wildest dreams.

It's a race you were born to run.

Prayer for Salvation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your WORD says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of The LORD shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be LORD over my life according to Romans 10:9-10: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth The LORD Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." I do that now. I confess that Jesus is LORD, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

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

Speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance (Acts 2:4). In Jesus' Name. Amen!

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

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

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

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

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

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

About the Author

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

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

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

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

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Believer's Voice of



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!*

For more than 45 years, it has been the joy of Kenneth Copeland Ministries to bring the good news to believers. Readers enjoy teaching from ministers who write from lives of living contact with God, and testimonies from believers experiencing victory through God's Word in their everyday lives.

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JESUS IS LORD



We're Here for You!®

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

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

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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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