

# Living in Heaven's Blessings Now

GLORIA COPELAND



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PUBLICATIONS

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### *Living in Heaven's Blessings Now*

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## Living in Heaven's Blessings Now

Where do you live?

I realize that's a simple question, but I want you to stop and think about your answer for a moment. Your immediate response might be to name a country or a city. You probably think of the spot on this earth where you wake up each morning and go to bed each night—the place where you keep your natural belongings.

But if you're a believer, you need to think more deeply than that.

You need to become aware of the fact that although you are in this world, you do not belong to this natural world's order. You are a citizen of heaven. You are, even here and now, privileged to live in that kingdom.

That statement would startle many Christians. Religion has taught them that they won't reach God's kingdom until they die and go to

heaven. But the Bible says we've already made the transfer. It says, "[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" (Colossians 1:13, *The Amplified Bible*).

Because God dwells in us and among us, His kingdom is present with us right now. Jesus said it this way: "The kingdom of God does not come with signs to be observed or with visible display. Nor will people say, Look! Here [it is]! or, See, [it is] there! For behold, the kingdom of God is within you [in your hearts] and among you [surrounding you]" (Luke 17:20-21, *The Amplified Bible*).

Certainly we will go on to the place called heaven when our bodies die or when Jesus catches us away. And that's great, because heaven is a wonderful place! It's the headquarters of this great kingdom. But, thank God, since we're already citizens of the kingdom now, we can enjoy many of the benefits of heaven right here on earth.

We can live our lives in love, peace, joy, prosperity, health and victory. We can also bring those kingdom blessings to others who

are still under the dominion of darkness.

“If Christians can do that,” you may ask, “why don’t they?”

Mostly it’s because they haven’t been very aware of the kingdom of God. They have been so absorbed in the kingdom of this world—the world that they can see and touch—they haven’t given much thought to God’s kingdom. They’re so caught up in the busyness of this natural world and its demands, so familiar with its way of operating, that they’re practically strangers to the operations of the kingdom of God.

But we can change that, in the Name of Jesus! We can obey the instruction of the Apostle Paul who wrote: “Aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ [the Anointed One] is, seated at the right hand of God. And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth” (Colossians 3:1-2, *The Amplified Bible*).

By studying and meditating on what the Word has to say about the kingdom of God, we can become more and more kingdom-of-God minded. There is so much information in

the Word about the kingdom of God, I could talk about it for hours—and I have. Brother Jesse Duplantis says Ken and I are the only preachers he knows who can preach on the same sermon for a year. But we can't help it! That's how long it takes us to get through!

So all I can do in this book is get you started. I challenge you to take up this study on your own from here. Get out your concordance and look up all the references to the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven. I believe the New Testament uses them interchangeably. Let the reality of that kingdom get down in your heart so that you are aware of it every day.

## A Superior Kingdom

The first important truth the Word reveals about the kingdom of God is that it is sovereign, or superior, to all other kingdoms. It is chief, the greatest, the most supreme in power, rank and authority.

Actually, the very word *kingdom* comes from the joining of two other words: *king* and *dominion*. A kingdom is the place where the

king has dominion. Therefore, the kingdom of God is where God has dominion.

Since God owns everything in heaven and in earth, He could take dominion everywhere. But He has chosen to exercise that dominion through man. He gave Adam authority over the earth in the Garden of Eden. That's why Jesus had to come into the earth and become flesh. To exercise God's dominion over Satan in the earth, He had to do it as a man.

The second important truth the Word reveals about the kingdom of God is the one we've already mentioned. The kingdom of God is present here and now. It occupies the same space this natural world occupies. You may not be able to see it, but it is here and very real, nevertheless.

I think one of the best illustrations of that fact is found in 2 Kings 6, where the prophet Elisha and his servant were surrounded by a great army sent to take them captive:

Elisha's servant said to him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? [Elisha] answered, Fear not; for those with us are more than those with them. Then



Elisha prayed, Lord, I pray You, open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the young man's eyes, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha (verses 15-17, *The Amplified Bible*).

Those angelic horses and chariots were there to protect Elisha and his servant the whole time—even though most of that time they were not visible to the natural eye. The angels occupied the same space the enemy army occupied. Since the angels were from a superior kingdom, Elisha wasn't afraid. He knew God's kingdom would prevail.

If you'll just grasp that one fact, it will enable you to walk in great joy and peace in the midst of this messed-up world. If you'll just realize the kingdom of God has dominion and control over the natural realm, then you won't be afraid. You can rejoice knowing that because you belong to God's kingdom, you can take dominion over every natural circumstance the devil tries to use against you.

Glory to God! Isn't that thrilling?

## A Ministry of Heavenly Breakthroughs

Of course, Jesus is the One who made that possible for us. He opened the way. He established God's kingdom among us and showed us how to bring it into manifestation in this natural world.

"But Gloria," you may say, "I thought Jesus said His kingdom wasn't of this world."

He did, but that doesn't mean His kingdom didn't operate in this world. What it means is that its power didn't originate here. *The Amplified Bible* says it this way, "My kingdom is not from here (this world); [it has no such origin or source]" (John 18:36).

Jesus' whole ministry was one of preaching and demonstrating the kingdom of God. As Mark 1:14-15 says, His ministry began when He "came into Galilee, *preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God*, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Jesus was saying, "You don't have to wait anymore. The dominion of God, His kingdom, is here right now! You can come in. God's

power is here to break into this natural world to heal, deliver and set you free! So change your mind. Quit thinking like you used to think. Believe this good news!”

Luke 4 spells that message out even more clearly. It tells how Jesus stood in the synagogue and preached from Isaiah 61, saying:

The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me...to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity], to proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound].... Today this Scripture has been fulfilled while you are present and hearing (Luke 4:18-19, 21, *The Amplified Bible*).

Jesus said, "I am anointed." What is the anointing? It's the manifestation of God's presence that brings deliverance. The anointing is the kingdom of God bursting in upon this natural realm and bringing God's free favors profusely. Profusely means *lavishly, liberally, extravagantly, over and abounding*. Hallelujah!

Jesus didn't just preach about this divine kingdom. He demonstrated it. He operated in the dominion of God by taking authority over the evil spirits that had people bound, by laying hands on the sick and driving the sickness out of their bodies.

Read through the Gospels and see for yourself. Time after time, Jesus exercised the dominion of the kingdom of God. He came to Peter's house, found Peter's mother-in-law sick, laid His hands on her and healed her.

The leper came to Him for healing and Jesus said, "Be thou clean," and immediately the leprosy was cleansed. Jairus' daughter died, and Jesus raised her from the dead. He cast the demons out of the madman of Gadara. When there wasn't enough food to feed the thousands who were listening to Him preach in a remote place, He

multiplied a few loaves and fishes into more than enough food to feed the whole crowd!

Do you know what those instances were? They were times when the kingdom of God broke through into this natural realm by the anointing that was on Jesus. They were heavenly breakthroughs!

## Take Off the Limits

Jesus didn't intend for those breakthroughs to stop at the end of His earthly ministry, either. He commissioned His disciples to continue His ministry. He told us to go about healing the sick and bringing other heavenly breakthroughs, saying, "The kingdom of God has come close to you" (Luke 10:9, *The Amplified Bible*).

Jesus commanded us to:

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel [the good news that the kingdom of God is here] to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs [or heavenly breakthroughs] shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (Mark 16:15-18).

It's the responsibility of the Church to manifest the kingdom of God in this natural realm. It's our job to exercise the dominion of that kingdom, and demonstrate it so others can experience its reality and become citizens of God's kingdom themselves!

Until now, the Church hasn't been getting that job done nearly as well as it should. Why is that? Primarily, it's because most believers have become so busy with the natural affairs of life, they haven't had time to learn much about how to operate in the kingdom of God. They're so busy seeking the things of this world—food, clothes, houses, cars, money to pay their bills—they don't even give much thought to the things of God's kingdom.

Actually, that's not very smart. Why should we invest ourselves so much in this natural world? Its systems are limited. When we face impossible situations, this natural world has no answer for us. It can't help us with an incurable disease or an insoluble financial crisis.

But with God all things are possible! There are no limitations in the kingdom of God! It knows no impossibilities! So what we need to do is obey the instructions Jesus gave in Matthew 6:

Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.... (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (verses 25, 32-33).

*The Amplified Bible* clarifies that last verse even more. It says, "seek (aim at and

strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right).” In other words, if we want to operate in the dominion of God, we have to find out His way of doing things and then do things His way. We’ll have to change the way we think. We’ll have to start thinking and acting like He does instead of thinking and acting like the world.

We’ll have to seek Him and His principles, put our dependence first and foremost on Him, and then He’ll see to it that our natural needs are met.

You see, the principles of the kingdom of God always work. God has spoken and set them into motion by His Word. They will work for anyone who will put them to work.

For example, one of those principles, the primary one, is the law of sowing and reaping. Galatians 6:7-8 states that law very simply: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

Actually, the law of sowing and reaping



works in both the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world. If you sow into the kingdom of darkness, you reap the harvest of that kingdom—death in all its forms. If you invest your time and money in the concerns of the world, you'll end up on drugs, pornography and alcohol. You'll end up sick and unhappy.

On the other hand, if you sow to the kingdom of God, you'll reap the harvest of that kingdom—abundant life in all its forms. As Romans 8:6 says, “For to be carnally minded [to think like the world thinks] is death; but to be spiritually minded [to think like God thinks] is life and peace.”

## It's Up to You

Of course, if you want to sow into the kingdom of God you must first be born again. You do that simply by making Jesus the Lord of your life.

You can read the Bible all day, and it won't make sense to you if you haven't taken that first step. The great kingdom truths it contains will be hidden from you. Why? Because, as

Jesus said, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

A person who hasn't been born again simply cannot understand the way God thinks. The ways of His kingdom are beyond his grasp because he is in darkness.

A person who has been born again, however, is translated into God's kingdom. He immediately has the ability to know and walk in God's ways. How much he does from then on is up to him. The more he seeks after God and His way of doing and being right, the more of His power and dominion he'll enjoy. The more he renews his mind to God's Word—which is His way of thinking—and changes his life in obedience to that Word, the more he'll see the kingdom of heaven manifest in his life and the lives of those around him.

The wonderful thing about the kingdom of God is that you don't have to be rich or smart or talented to walk in it. Anyone can do it. All you have to do is find out what God says and act on it. When you do, blessings—heavenly breakthroughs—will begin to happen.

So I want to encourage you to start

today investing more of yourself—your time, thought and energy—into seeking the kingdom of God. Determine in your heart to change some areas in your life. Dig into the Word more deeply and find out what God says about those areas. Then start acting like He does instead of like the world.

Heighten your awareness of the kingdom of God. Become more and more kingdom-of-God minded. Then get ready for the blessings of heaven—the lavish, liberal-to-excess, extravagant and over-abounding favors of the kingdom of God—to break through on you!

## 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*, as well as numerous 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.

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by Gloria Copeland

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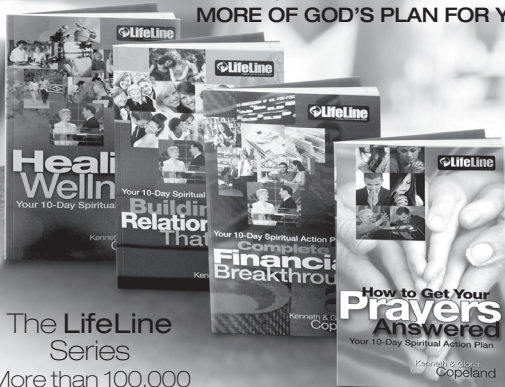
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