

A stylized graphic of flames. The top half features dark, flowing shapes in shades of purple, blue, and red. The bottom half features lighter, flowing shapes in shades of orange, yellow, and white. The overall effect is a sense of movement and heat.

# Coming Through the Fire

GLORIA COPELAND

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PUBLICATIONS

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### ***Coming Through the Fire***

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## Coming Through the Fire

Living the Christian life is not a piece of cake. Anyone who says it is isn't telling you the whole story.

Although as believers we have victory in Jesus, although we have the power in Him to triumph in every situation, sometimes things get tough. Sometimes we encounter troubles and trials that drag on...and on... and on (despite our desperate prayers for

relief) until we want to say what the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk said in the Bible: “O Lord, how long shall I cry for help and You will not hear? Or cry out to You of violence and You will not save?” (Habakkuk 1:2, *The Amplified Bible*).

Almost every Christian on earth has been tempted to ask such questions at one time or another. It might have been because they needed healing and prayed for it for weeks, months or even years without seeing any results. It might have been because they were struggling with family issues or financial challenges they couldn't seem to resolve.

In those kinds of situations, we can all make the mistake Habakkuk did. We can be tempted to give in to the pressure of the devil, point the finger of blame at God

and say, “Why is this taking so long? Why aren’t You helping me? Aren’t You listening to me?”

**But that is exactly the wrong thing to do.**

The trouble in our lives is never God’s fault. He is never behind it. When we can’t seem to get answers to our prayers, He is not the problem.

The problem is always on our end.

Habakkuk can confirm it. He learned that lesson well when God answered all his questions with one simple statement. “The just shall live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4). Or, as *The Amplified Bible* puts it: “The just and the [uncompromisingly] righteous man shall live by his faith and in his faithfulness.”

In a nutshell, that’s where Habakkuk missed it. He’d been complaining up a storm to

the Lord, pleading with Him to fix the mess around him, but he hadn't been operating by faith.

God works with faith and Habakkuk hadn't given Him anything to work with.

The same can sometimes be said of us. Whenever we aren't getting the results we want from God, it's not because God is failing to do His part. It's because we're missing it where our faith is concerned. We aren't doing our part to receive the victory He has already provided.

"But Gloria," you might say, "I've been walking by faith for years. I know how to do my part!"

That may be true, but no matter how much you know, you can let things slip if you don't stay on top of them. What's more, every one of us is still learning. No one has arrived

yet. So taking a faith refresher course is always a good idea. Especially when we're facing various tests and trials, we want to make sure we're handling them the way God expects—not like Habakkuk did, but like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

You remember those three, don't you? They went through a time of trouble the likes of which most of us will never experience. They were literally thrown into a raging inferno simply for refusing to worship a king's idol.

Talk about a fiery trial! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego really went through it. But they knew what to do. They lifted up their faith shield and quenched all the fiery darts of the devil (Ephesians 6:16). They not only survived the fire, they came out of it unharmed. "Not a hair on their heads was



singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!" (Daniel 3:27, *New Living Translation*).

All because they lived by faith.

# A Substance More Precious Than Gold

What, exactly, is faith?

It's believing what God says, regardless of what we might see, feel or hear in this natural world. It's believing His Word without compromise. It's being so confident God will fulfill His promises that no matter how much trouble the devil brings our way we can say like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did, "Our God whom we serve... will deliver us" (Daniel 3:17, *AMP*)!

According to the Bible, faith is:

- "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)
- "The victory that overcometh the world." (1 John 5:4)

- A force so powerful it will move the mountains in our lives. (Mark 11:23)
- So valuable, it is truly “more precious than gold.” (1 Peter 1:7)

But it doesn't become ours simply because we want it. You can't just decide, “I'm going to live by faith,” and let that be the end of it. You have to back up your decision with action. You have to open up your Bible and find out what God has to say, because “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Anyone who will spend enough time in the Word can be a faith person. I could give a Bible to a beggar on the street and if he would read it, meditate on it and act like what it says is true, he could prosper. By this time next year, his poverty trial could be over. He and his circumstances could be

so completely transformed that he wouldn't even seem like the same person.

Such transformations don't take place, however, just because someone reads an occasional scripture now and then. They don't happen to people who just have an easy-going, take-it-or-leave-it kind of attitude toward the Bible. They only happen in the lives of people who are seriously committed to knowing and doing what God says.

“For thus says the Lord...Seek Me [inquire for and of Me and require Me as you require food] and you shall live!” (Amos 5:4, *AMP*).

This is the first key to overcoming any trouble you'll ever face. It's the primary secret to overcoming faith: Make God and His Word as important to you as the physical food you eat.

Most likely, you rarely go very long without eating natural food. You're very diligent about it. I am too. So is Ken. Every evening at 5:30, we are at the dinner table. If I'm not there, Ken wants to know, "Where are you? It's time to eat!"

That's the way all of us, as born-again believers, should be about the Word of God. We should be as loyal to it as we are to the dinner table. After all, God's Word is spiritual food! It nourishes our spirit just as physical food nourishes our body.

You can't go far physically without food in the natural and you can't go far spiritually without spending time in the Word. You need to be feeding on it every day!

Actually, when you're going through a fiery test or a trial, you should feed on the Word as often as possible all day long. Instead

of wasting time watching secular television or doing some other silly thing, you should get into the Word and stay there. If you'll do that, you'll be well on your way to walking in victory, because when you require the Word the same way you require physical food, God says, "You shall live!"

## Don't Take the Road of Least Resistance

"But I *have* been spending time in the Word," you might say, "and nothing has changed yet!"

Well, just stick with it. Don't quit now! If you quit you won't have any hope at all. So keep giving God something to work with. Stay in faith—and while you're at it, make sure your behaving matches your believing.

That's what Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did. They not only believed God's Word in their hearts, they honored Him with their actions. They obeyed God's commands and became living illustrations of Isaiah 33:14-15: "Who among us can dwell with that devouring fire? Who among us can dwell with those everlasting burnings? He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly..." (*AMP*).

If you want to be a person who comes through the fire without getting burned, you must do the same. You must not only believe right on the inside, you must do right on the outside. You must be obedient to the Lord's commands.

"But I thought you said faith is what matters!"

It is—and obedience is inseparable from faith.

Think about it. If we believe what God says,

we're going to do what He tells us to do. We're going to walk uprightly and talk uprightly, even when we're faced with trying situations like sickness, poverty or persecution.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm not suggesting that as faith people we never stumble or miss it. I'm just saying that when we do, we are quick to repent. We don't try to hide from God or justify our disobedient actions. We just say, "Lord, I was wrong. Please forgive me. I plead the blood of Jesus and receive its cleansing power. I ask You to help me and give me grace so I'll never do that again."

Then we get right back on track. We go back to walking and talking in line with God's Word. As a result, when trials do come, we have the confidence we need to stand against the devil, who is the one behind them. We can shake our fingers in



his face and tell him to get his hands off our health, our finances and our families in the Name of Jesus!

“But Gloria, I’m not sure the devil will listen to me.”

Then you need to study what the New Testament says about the subject. It plainly teaches that as born-again believers we have authority over the devil, and when we resist him he flees from us (James 4:7). It also says that we’re the ones responsible to keep the devil out of our lives and give him no place (Ephesians 4:27).

Of course, even Christians who know these things sometimes get lazy and fail to act on them. I was reminded of this a few years ago when Ken and I were on the road preaching. We’d finished ministering in Detroit and had arrived in Milwaukee where

we were scheduled to minister again. When we got to the hotel on Saturday night, I was rather tired. So I got into my pajamas and climbed into bed. “I’m taking the road of least resistance!” I said.

As I spoke those words, I realized that’s what many Christians do when it comes to dealing with the devil. They take the road of least resistance. When sickness tries to come on them or they’re faced with some other kind of trial, they just put on their spiritual jammies, climb into the bed and let the devil run over them. They just hide under the covers and hope God will do something to help.

That’s a recipe for failure!

The devil is the thief. He comes into our lives “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” Jesus came that we might “have life, and that

[we] might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). If we want to enjoy the abundant life Jesus has provided, we must receive it by faith, stand up to the devil and resist him.

We must say, “No you don’t, thief! You’re not coming into my family. You’re not stealing from my bank account. You’re not destroying my health. I will not tolerate you in any part of my life. In Jesus’ Name, I cast you out! Now, GO!”

Do you know whose voice the devil hears when you say those things? He hears Jesus, because Jesus is the One who whipped him in the pit of hell. Jesus is the One who “having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15). Jesus is the One who stripped the devil of all his power and left him with

absolutely nothing, and gave us His Name to use!

All the devil has to use against us now is lies! He doesn't have any power that we don't give him. So don't give him anything to work with. Don't give him your words. Don't give him your actions. Don't yield to him even one iota of your faith.

Instead, give it all to Jesus. Give God everything to work with in your life and give no place to the devil!

I will warn you though, in spite of the fact that the devil is a major loser, he does have one thing going for him. He is a persistent cuss. He's not triumphant but he is tenacious. So you have to be aggressive with him.

Ken used to illustrate this by describing how his mother would have reacted if an old slop hog had ever gotten into her

living room. That was always easy for me to envision because Ken's mother was a bold woman and she had white living room furniture. If some filthy hog had ever dared to get near that furniture, she would have kicked it out of the house fast!

She wouldn't have talked softly to it. She wouldn't have gently asked it to leave. She would have gone after it tooth and nail. She not only would have shouted, she would have grabbed the broom and beaten the tar out of that hog.

We ought to be the same way. After all, spiritually speaking, we have a white living room, too. We've been washed clean by the blood of Jesus and made white as snow. Our lives have been put together by God and He wants us to live abundantly.

So let's do it! Let's live by faith, take authority

over the devil and triumph over every trouble. Let's come through every fiery trial like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—unharmmed and smelling like a rose!

## 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  
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# Materials to Help You Receive Your Healing by Gloria Copeland

## Books

- \* And Jesus Healed Them All
- \* God's Prescription for Divine Health
- \* God's Will for Your Healing
- \* Harvest of Health
- Words That Heal (gift book with CD enclosed)

## Audio Resources

Be Made Whole—Live Long, Live Healthy  
God Is a Good God  
God Wants You Well  
Healing Confessions (CD and minibook)  
Healing School

## DVD Resources

Be Made Whole—Live Long, Live Healthy  
Know Him As Healer

\* Available in Spanish

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.

Today, the *BVOV* magazine is mailed monthly, bringing encouragement and blessing to believers around the world. Many even use it as a ministry tool, passing it on to others who desire to know Jesus and grow in their faith!

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Jesus Is LORD!

*Kenneth & Gloria Copeland*

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