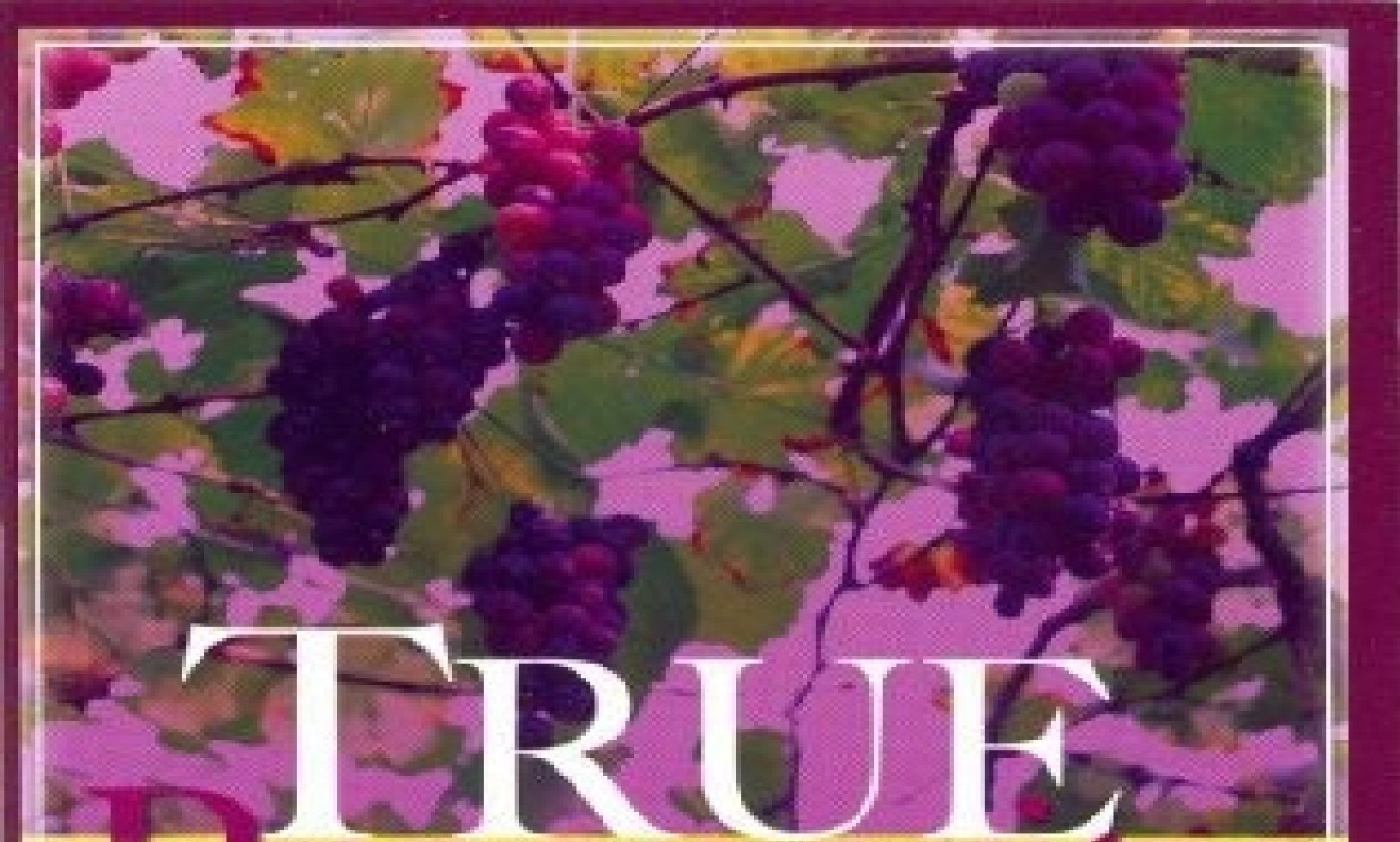
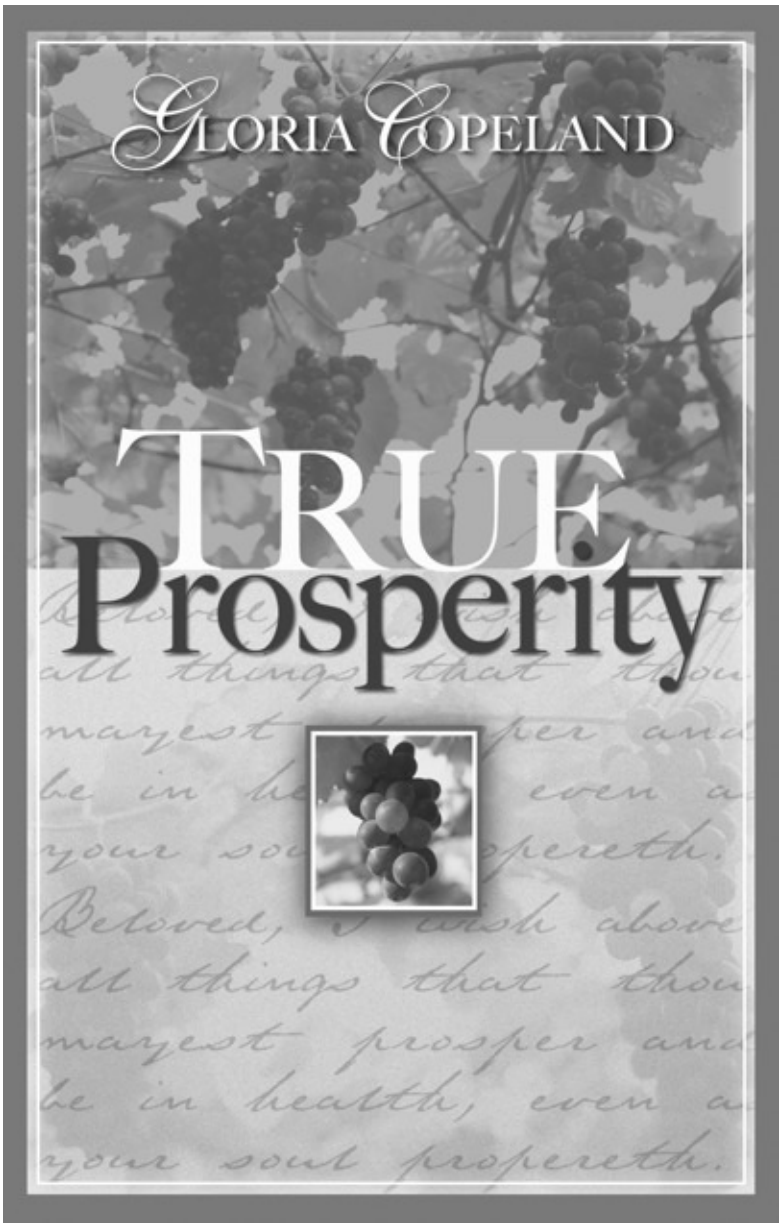


TRUE Prosperity



GLORIA COPELAND



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"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth"

(3 John 2).



TRUE Prosperity

The beginning of a prosperous life is a prosperous soul. But how do you get there?

My journey to the prosperous life began years ago when I read Matthew 6:33 in a Bible Ken's mother had given him: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." In *The Amplified Bible* it says to seek "His way of doing and being right." That's the foundation of God's prosperity. When I found this verse, I was ready to try God's way. I needed a lot of things and my way wasn't working.

I discovered that God's prosperity isn't just financial blessings. It also includes healing, protection, favor, wisdom, success, well-being and every good thing you could possibly need— all the good things Jesus paid for you to have.

He took our place and bore the curse of our sin so we could live in the blessing. "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…" (Galatians 3:13-14).

Isaiah 53:5 says, "The chastise-ment [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, 6

and with the stripes [that wounded]

Him we are healed and made whole”

(The Amplified Bible). The Hebrew word for peace in this scripture is *shalom.* It basically means “nothing missing, nothing broken,” or whole-ness in every area of life—spirit, soul and body.

That kind of prosperous life doesn’t just happen. And it doesn’t happen overnight. But the foundation for true prosperity begins with these seven steps:

1. Walking in truth

2. Faithfulness

3. Diligence

4. Tithing

5. Sowing

6. Believing

7. Saying

So let’s briefly take a look at each one of these key elements to walking in prosperity.

Walking in Truth

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth”

(3 John 4).

If I told you about heaven, I couldn’t give you any firsthand information because I haven’t been there. But when I teach on prosperity, it’s something I have experienced from minus zero to abundance. Kenneth and I have been walking by the laws of abundance for 39 years.

We weren’t exactly walking in prosperity when we married. I wore a $2

veil with the white cotton dress my mother made for the wedding. Ken’s friend married us at his home. His 8

wife baked a cake. We even borrowed $100 for our honeymoon. We had no money and no wisdom. You would be hard-pressed to find a couple more pitifully ignorant than we were at that time.

But then something happened that totally changed our lives. We began to hear the truth of the Word of God.

First we were born again. We were changed inside, but outwardly you couldn’t tell much difference. Once we were filled with the Holy Spirit, there was some outward change, but not much because we were still ignorant of the Word. The real changes in our outer lives came when we began walking by the Word and letting the wisdom of God become our way of life. Everything began to change!

We found that the first step to increase is *walking in truth.* This means 9

walking in the light of God’s Word, according to His ways, His wisdom and what He says is right. You can’t do that and not be blessed. Jesus said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

I’m not talking about just reading scriptures about prosperity. You prosper when you walk in all the words God says to you. That’s the wisdom of God.

Walking in truth is living a godly lifestyle—living in obedience to what God says is right. The blessings God outlined in Deuteronomy 28:1-14

manifest as a result of obedience. “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I 10

command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee…” (verses 1-2).

God has always blessed an obedient people. Isaiah 1:19 says, “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.” God can do something with a person who has a willing heart.

In fact Psalm 25:12-13 in *The Living Bible* promises that when you fear the Lord, “God will teach [you] how to choose the best. [You] shall live within God’s circle of blessing….”

One of the first things God taught us was to stay out of debt—and we obeyed Him! That was big to us in those days. We started where we were, which meant believing God to pay the overdue bills. But increase came as we were willing and obedient to walk in 11

the truth of the Word.

And increase can come to you, too.

God desires for you to live within His circle of blessing. It is His will for you to increase.

Faithfulness and Diligence

“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord”

(Matthew 25:21).

The force of faithfulness is part of the fruit of the spirit you received when you were born again. Webster’s dictionary defines *faithful* as “full of faith, believing, strong or firm in one’s faith, firmly adhering to duty, a true fidelity, loyal, true to allegiance, 12

constant in the performance of duties or services.”

A faithful person consistently does what is right, even if it looks like it could be to his disadvantage.

Psalm 106:3 says, “Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right” *(New International Version).* We can’t be godly without being faithful because faithfulness is God’s character:

It is because of the Lord’s

mercy and loving-kindness

that we are not consumed, because His [tender] compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great and abundant

is Your stability and faithfulness.

God is faithful (reliable, trust-worthy, and therefore ever true to His promise, and He can be 13

depended on); by Him you were called into companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:9,

The Amplified Bible).

Second Chronicles 16:9 says God is looking for faithfulness, “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him….” The Hebrew word for *perfect* there means “loyal, devoted, dedicated, faithful.”

Kenneth and I have had financial trouble, challenges with sickness and other things, but when we have stood on the Word and refused to give up, God has always answered our faith with His action!

Once you find a promise in the 14

Word, don’t disqualify yourself from receiving by saying, “God would never do that for me.” Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2). Let God’s Word change your thinking. You will prosper in any area as your soul [mind, will and emotions]

prospers in understanding about that area from the Word, and you act on it. Your inner man prospers when you believe the Word. Your circumstances prosper when you receive what He says and act on it.

Be faithful to keep meditating the promises in the Word until they overtake your life. Everything you receive from God starts with the Word in your heart. Proverbs 4:20-23 says, “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life 15

unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the is-sues of life.”

Faithfulness will energize you to be diligent even if you have never been that way in the natural.

The Word repeatedly says we are to *diligently* seek God, hearken to what He says and obey His commands. Why? Deuteronomy 28:1-2

says when you hearken diligently, blessings overtake you, because “…

he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Diligence increases you. As Proverbs 10:4 says, “The hand of the diligent

maketh rich."

Be diligent and faithful to God in your natural life as well. Make a decision to be faithful on your job, at your church, in your prayer life and in putting the 16

Word first place in your life.

Our souls prosper as we spend time in the Word, believe it and create a lifestyle of obeying God.

The result will be what 1 John 3:22 says: "And we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we [watchfully] obey His orders [observe His suggestions and injunc-tions, follow His plan for us] and [habitually] practice what is pleas-ing to Him" *(The Amplified Bible).*

The No. 1 law of receiving is *don't quit!* Stay with the Word. Stay with what God has told you to do.

Even if you make a mistake, repent and get back on track. That's faithfulness. It's part of the prosperous life because "a faithful man shall abound with blessings…" (Proverbs 28:20).

Tithing and Sowing

“Honor the Lord with your capi-tal and sufficiency…and with the firstfruits of all your income; so shall your storage places be filled with plenty, and your vats shall be overflowing with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10, *The Amplified Bible).*

Tithing is a covenant transaction that gets God involved in what you are doing. The first 10 percent of your income—the tithe—belongs to God.

The Bible calls it firstfruits. It’s devoted to God, and it goes to support ministries that feed you spiritually.

Tithing is how you honor God with your money. It makes a way for Him to bless you supernaturally.

Ken and I never had any financial growth until we became faithful in tithing. At first it looked impossible 18

to give that 10 percent. But when we did, the 90 percent we had left went further than the 100 percent we had before.

Notice Malachi 3:8-10 says we are to bring *all* the tithes to God. It also says by doing so God will open the windows of heaven and bless you “that there shall not be room enough to receive it”! You don’t want to keep anything that belongs to God. Leviti-cus 27:30 declares, “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord.”

Real tithing is done with the heart and with the mouth, in faith. God’s people were commanded to bring their firstfruits: “And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God, and worship before the Lord thy God: And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing 19

which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house…”

(Deuteronomy 26:10-11). They were to recount how God had delivered them out of bondage and then worship Him and rejoice for all the good He had given them.

Whatever we do must be in obedience and faith for God to be pleased with it.

Everything we do toward God

must come from our hearts. Otherwise it doesn't count. Jesus said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing…" (John 6:63). We are to give with a willing heart, as an honor to God, and worship Him with our tithes. Then He is in partnership with us.

After we tithe, we are to sow according to what the Lord lays on our hearts, with the right attitude. The Hebrew 20

word for *offering* comes from a root word that means to "draw nigh." We draw nigh to God with our offering.

Second Corinthians 9:6 says: "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

The Scripture plainly says you reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7). If you desire to be a receiver, you have to be a giver. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

Tithing is supernatural—don't miss out on the benefits. God has an inter-est in your finances. He desires to increase you and bless you because He loves you.

Believing and Saying

“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spo-ken; we also believe, and therefore speak” (2 Corinthians 4:13).

The Bible says several times, “The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

Abraham was blessed because he lived by faith. He believed God. We’re sup-posed to live the same way: “So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham” (Galatians 3:9).

Faith must be in two places—in your heart and in your mouth. “The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach” (Romans 10:8).

Believing in your heart and saying with 22

your mouth produce the operation of faith. Jesus 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” (Mark 11:23).

Kenneth and I began to take the Word literally as God speaking to us.

We learned that if we put it in our eyes, put it in our ears, and let it get down into our hearts in abundance, it would come out of our mouths in faith-filled words that would change our lives and circumstances.

We realized all that stood between us and walking in the dream God had for us was knowing what is in the Book and doing it. “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; 23

but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8).

The seven keys I've shared are how Ken and I laid a foundation for the prosperous life—and this is how we maintain it. I can tell you from experience, these are the first seven steps to increase, no matter what you need.

24

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'l 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

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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.

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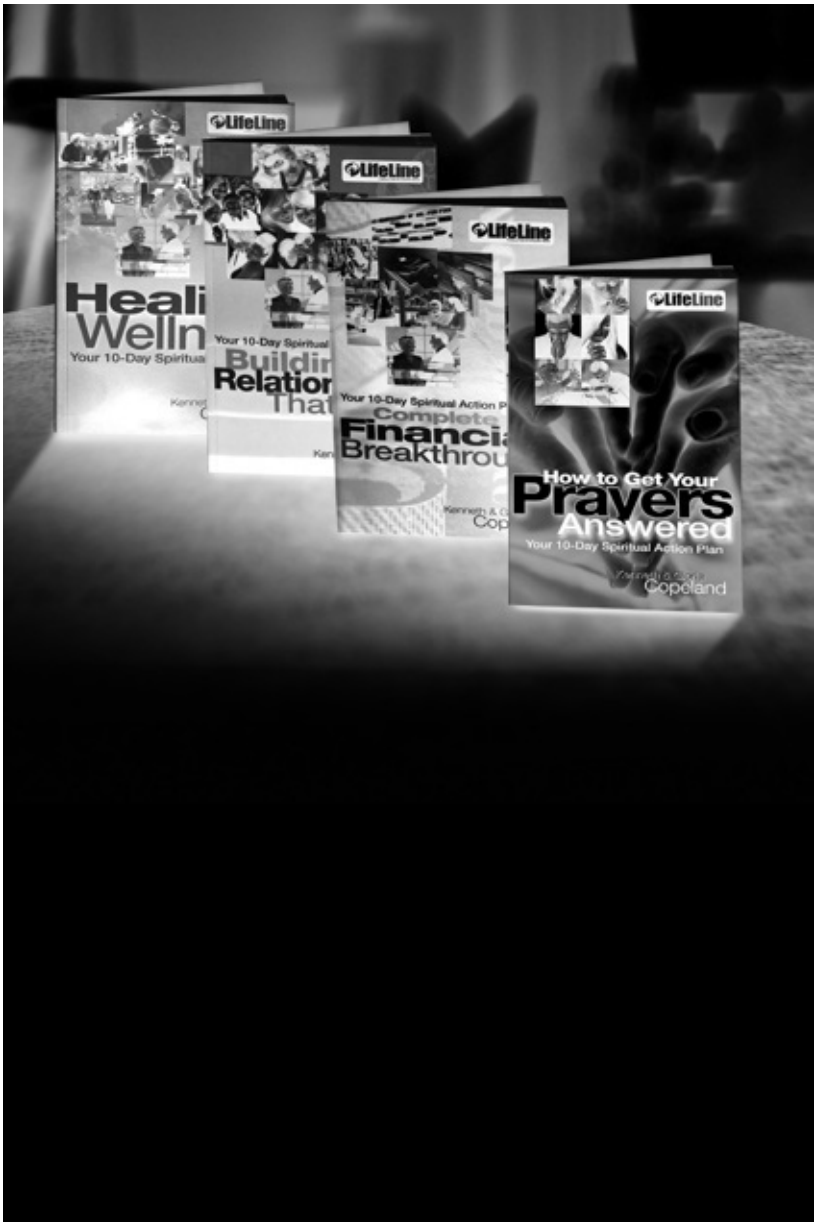
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