WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

A Guide To Salvation, Baptism In The Holy Spirit, And Healing



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God loves you and cares for you

...so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to be a sacrifice for you.

...so much that He sent His precious Holy Spirit into the earth to be your Comforter and your Teacher.

...so much that He has provided for you to live free from sickness and disease.

He desires the very best for you, and you can begin today to receive God's best in your own life.

God's Word says it's yours, so get ready to receive!

Kenneth Copeland

1

How to Become a Christian

Do you know where you stand with God?

If you have never made Jesus the Lord of your life, then you are separated from God by sin. You are the reason God sent Jesus to the cross. John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* God loved *you* so much that He gave His only begotten Son for *you.*

Second Corinthians 5:21 says that God made Jesus, Who knew no sin, to be sin for us.

Jesus was the spotless Son of God. He knew no sin, but God made Him to be sin for us.

Sin was the reason Jesus came to earth. He died on the Cross and went to hell for one reason: to pay the price for sin.

Once that price was paid, Jesus was raised from the dead, triumphant over Satan; and the sin problem was taken care of.

God does not hold your sin against you.

The only thing keeping you from becoming a child of God is failure to turn from your present world and your present god, which is Satan, and make Jesus the Lord over your life.

When Jesus paid the sin price for you, He was your substitute. Heaven has it recorded that you have been set free. It is as if you yourself died on that Cross 2,000 years ago.

But that doesn't mean you will automatically go to heaven. Even though God sent Jesus to pay for your sin—even though He holds nothing against you—you can still go straight to hell. Why? Because you have not made the choice to receive Jesus as your own personal Lord and Savior, to accept His sacrifice as yours. You have a free will. You have the right to choose your own destiny. God will not force you to receive salvation. The choice is yours. You can go straight to hell and God will not lift a finger to stop you. He did all He is going to do when He sent Jesus into the world.

Your choice is set before you.

If you do choose to make Jesus your Lord, God **will** receive you as His very own

child.

You **will** become a part of God's family. He **will** be your Father and you **will** be His child.

This is not just a theological idea; this is a fact.

It actually happens.

Jesus actually walked the earth as a man.

He actually went to the Cross, died there, was raised from the dead, and is alive today, seated at the right hand of God in heaven.

When you become a Christian—when you become *born again*— you take on the nature of God, your heavenly Father. The nature of sin and Satan is death; the nature of God is life. Jesus spoke to the people of His day and said, *"Ye are of your father the devil"* (John 8:44). To accept Jesus as your Lord causes you to turn your back on your father the devil, or on " *the god of this world*" as Satan is called (2 Corinthians 4:4). You take on a new Father, a heavenly Father; and you are *born again*—not physically, but spiritually. Your spirit is reborn in the likeness of God.

You see, you are a threefold being: You are a spirit, you have a soul (mind, will, emotions), and you live in a body. Jesus referred to this in a conversation with Nicodemus (John 3:3-7).

Jesus said to him, " *You must be born again.* "

Nicodemus replied, " *What do you mean?*

Do I have to go back again into my mother's womb? "

Jesus answered, " *No. What is born of the flesh is flesh. What is born of the Spirit is spirit.* "

Being born again is a spiritual rebirth.

You are born of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit was sent into the earth to carry out the new birth. When you make Jesus the Lord of your life, the Holy

Spirit comes to indwell you and causes your own spirit to be recreated.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, when you accept Jesus as your Lord, you become a new creature, or new creation; old things pass away and all things become new. As far as God is concerned, at that moment, you stand before Him as a brand new person. You are reborn from sin and death to righteousness and new life. That is a fact.

First John 5:1-4 says, " *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.* "

I want you to realize what happens the moment a person makes Jesus Christ the Lord of his life. In the eyes of God, he becomes a world overcomer. Sin no longer reigns over his life. Sin is no longer his lord. Jesus is his Lord and he can live above the satanic forces in the world.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He stood before His disciples and said, *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"* (Matthew 28:18). Then He delegated that power to His people. He said, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15). What is the gospel? The good news that God is no longer holding your sins and trespasses against you.

The Bible gives some specific instructions that you are to follow in order to become a Christian, or in order to be born again. Look at Romans 10:8-11:

...The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That 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. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Jesus said, *"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"* (John 6:37). **No matter what kind of sinner you are, no matter what you have done, you can go to Jesus, and He will accept you.** Once you go to Him, then He will cause you to be born again.

He will recreate you, and that sin which has been plaguing you will be a thing of the past.

It will be gone. **You will be accepted before God as if you had never sinned!**

To be born again, you use your mouth and you use your heart. First, you believe in your heart that God's Word is true; then you confess it with your mouth because you believe it.

I want you to realize one very important fact: You don't confess you are saved because you *feel* saved. Feelings have absolutely nothing to do with salvation. Let me give you an example:

Suppose someone says to you, "I went to the bank this morning and deposited $1,000 in your account." How do you know they actually did what they said? You don't believe they did it because you feel $1,000 richer, and you don't doubt them just because you don't feel any different. Your feelings really have nothing to do with it. If that person's word is good, you will believe him. If his word is bad, you won't.

When your salvation is involved, you are relying on God's Word—and God doesn't lie.

He means what He says. If He said it, then you can believe it. He has said that if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved.

You don't base your salvation on the way you feel. You base it on the pure, unadulterated Word of Almighty God.

God's Word is the only evidence you have that you are saved, but that is all the evidence you need!

Several days or weeks from now, you may not feel very saved. You may begin to wonder if you were ever really saved to start with. You will have doubts. Satan will see to that! But when those thoughts and feelings come, just go back to the Word of God. You will see that it still says the same thing. God never changes and His Word never changes. It is still just as true today as when it was first spoken. People may try to convince you that it didn't work. Temptations may come to convince you that it didn't work. Doubts will come to your mind. But all those things do not alter the fact that God's Word is true.

Jesus said, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more*

abundantly" (John 10:10). The moment you make Jesus the Lord of your life will be the moment you have a desire to live, instead of a desire to die. I can testify to that fact in my own life. Before I accepted Jesus as my Lord, I was headed straight for hell. Everything I liked to do was bad for me. The habits I had formed for 25 years were destructive to my body and my mind. But when I made Jesus the Lord of my life, all those desires were changed. I suddenly had a desire to get rid of my filthy habits. I had a desire to get rid of tobacco, alcohol, immoral thoughts and behavior, profanity, etc. My desires had been changed. Why?

Because I was changed. The real me, my spirit, was reborn. The change in my spirit brought changes to my mind and body.

These changes are available to you, too.

God is right there, ready to accept you, ready to change you. You don't have to live in sin any longer. You don't have to live a defeated life any longer. You don't have to be anything except God's child. You can walk the road of life victoriously with Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You won't have to take a back seat to Satan again. You can be the head and not the tail!

I want you to join me now in praying this prayer for salvation. Don't just read it; make a conscious effort to speak these words from the very depths of your being. When you finish this prayer, you will be born again: *Heavenly Father, in the Name of Jesus, I present myself to You.*

I pray and ask Jesus to be Lord over my life. I believe it in my heart, so I say it with my mouth: "Jesus has been raised from the dead." This moment, I make Him the Lord over my life.

Jesus, come into my heart. I believe this moment that I am saved. I say it now: "I am reborn. I am a Christian. I am a child of Almighty God."

Now, thank God for making you His child. Colossians 1:12 says, *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light."* You have just been made a partaker of an inheritance from God. **You have just inherited the kingdom of God!**

Speaking of God, the next verse says,

" *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.* "

You don't have to wait until you die to receive your inheritance, You are a child of God right this very moment, and you can receive all that belongs to you right now! First John 3:2 says, *"Beloved, **now** are we the sons of God."* You have been delivered from darkness into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said, " *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*" (Luke 12:32).

I welcome you into the family of God!

2

How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Before Jesus went to the cross, He taught His disciples about the Holy Spirit, or the Comforter. In John 14:16-17, He said: *I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

At salvation, you were reborn as the Holy Spirit recreated your spirit and came to live inside of you. But His job does not stop with imparting the nature of God into your spirit.

He wants you to let His energizing power explode in you to transform you into an effective witness and to put you in contact with the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 14:4,2:10).

As He ministered on earth, Jesus said, *"The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. . He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father"* (John 14:10,12). It is the Holy Spirit dwelling within you that will do these " *greater works.* " In Mark 16, Jesus commanded His disciples to go forth in power:

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature....And these

signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues....they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (see verses 15-18).

God intends that as you are a witness of Jesus and pray for people, the Holy Spirit through you will be free to do what is necessary to bring salvation, healing, deliverance or whatever the need might be.

This empowering for ministry is a result of receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. And it is for everyone in the Body of Christ because God gave His Spirit to the Church on the Day of Pentecost.

With the empowering of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to get the job done and deliver God's Word effectively. But just as you received salvation, you must personally receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. You receive it just as you received Jesus—by faith, by believing God's Word.

You don't have to beg God to give you this empowering of His Spirit. All any born-again believer has to do is invite the Holy Spirit to have complete access to his life. He will clean up the temple. He will help you get rid of habits. He will, move the unclean things out of your life. He is the power that gets these things done.

Although you don't have to beg to receive the Holy Spirit, you do have to ask. If you will ask, the Word of God promises that you shall receive:

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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 11:9-13).

Jesus is speaking about a *son* asking something of his *father.* You are a son of God.

You are His child and He is your Father. If you go to God and ask for the Holy Spirit, you won't get a devil. Don't be worried about getting the wrong thing.

God is poised and ready to baptize you in His Holy Spirit when you ask Him. The Holy Spirit came to earth on the Day of Pentecost and He is still here. He is there with you right now. The moment you ask the Father for the Holy Spirit, He will give Him to you. As eager as you are to receive Him, He is even more ready to empower you with the ability of God. The Holy Spirit is ever present, ready to move, because He wants you to be a vital and powerful witness for Jesus.

But God will not force the Holy Spirit into your life in any way that you are unwilling to receive Him. Your will is involved. Without your voluntary action, you will never receive anything from God.

Receiving the Holy Spirit requires that you humble yourself before God. You stand before God open and ready. You give Him your body, your mind and your spirit. You say, "Here I am, asking You to come live inside me. Because I am asking, I expect You to do it. Your Word says You will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask, so I am asking now. Baptize me in Your Holy Spirit."

Again, you are not to go by your feelings.

You receive the Holy Spirit by faith, not by feelings.

When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, an extraordinary thing happens: You are able to speak in another language. *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"* (Acts 2:4). The Holy Spirit gives the utterance, but you do the speaking.

Nowhere in the New Testament does it say that the Holy Spirit does the speaking. God will not force you to speak in tongues. The Holy Spirit will supply the words—words that are unknown to you—but you have to supply the sound.

When you pray in tongues, you are praying "in the spirit." Just as your language is the voice of your mind, praying in tongues is the voice of your spirit. It is your spirit speaking mysteries unto God (1 Corinthians 14:2) . The Apostle Paul said, *"If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful"* (l Corinthians 14:14). I want to pray with you now to receive the Holy Spirit:

My *heavenly Father, I am a believer. I am Your child and You are my Father. Jesus is my Lord. I believe with all my heart that Your Word is true.*

Your Word says that if I will ask I will receive the Holy Spirit, so in the Name of Jesus Christ, my Lord, I am asking You to fill me to overflowing with Your precious Holy Spirit.

Jesus, baptize me in the Holy Spirit. Because of Your Word, I believe that I now receive and I thank You for it. I believe that the Holy Spirit is within me and by faith I accept it.

Now, Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise my God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance.

Now, I want you to begin to thank God and praise Him for baptizing you in the Holy Spirit. As you do, there will rise up within your spirit certain words and syllables that are unknown to you, so by faith speak. Don't speak any more of your own language. You can't speak two languages at the same time.

Just begin to speak the syllables that are on your lips. You are like a baby and you will begin by speaking baby-sounding words.

(Remember, you have to use your own voice. God will not force you to speak.)

From this moment on, you are a Spirit-baptized believer. Jesus said in John 14:16, *"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever."* The Holy Spirit is your Comforter, which means Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby.

You can rely on Him to fulfill all these areas of ministry.

The Holy Spirit was sent to teach you all things, to lead and guide you into all truth (John 14:26, 16:12-13). **You are no longer alone. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter Who will abide with you forever!**

3

How to Pray for Healing

Healing belongs to you. Jesus purchased it by going to the cross. You have just as much right to be healed as you do to be saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

According to Matthew 8:17, Jesus *". .took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses"* He bore them in His own body so that you and I wouldn't have to. We are redeemed from sickness and disease.

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 everyone 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.

Jesus bore a. curse so that we could receive a blessing. What is " *the blessing of Abraham*"? Let's read Genesis 17: *And when Abram was ninety years*

old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect [or upright, sincere].

And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly....

Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee....

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee (see verses 1-7).

This covenant God made with Abraham

was sealed with the blood of Jesus. According to Galatians 3:29, when you belong to Jesus Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. **You are an heir to the blessing which God gave to Abraham.**

This blessing, found in Deuteronomy 28, covers every area of your existence: spirit, soul, body, financially and socially Read the first 14 verses of Deuteronomy 28 and you will realize all the blessings that belong to you as a child of God and joint heir with Jesus.

One of those blessings is physical healing.

You have the right to live free from sickness and disease. Peter said of Jesus,

"Who his own self bare, our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). The stripes laid on Jesus' back by the Roman soldiers stood for your healing. By those stripes, you *were* healed— *past* tense. You were healed 2,000 years ago, but you have to receive it by faith today. **Healing is part of your inheritance, part of the blessing of Abraham; but in order to live in your inheritance, you have to believe it for yourself and accept it as a reality in your own life.**

It is a very simple thing to pray for healing. You just say:

Father, I am Your child. I am filled with Your Spirit. I believe that Jesus bore my sickness and carried my diseases, and I believe that by His stripes I was healed 2,000 years ago.

Right now, I accept that fact by faith. I believe that I am healed now, in the Name of Jesus.

As a child of God, you have the right to command Satan to get out of your life. He has no right to lay sickness or disease on your body, because Jesus bore all sickness and disease on His own body. For Satan to put any of that on you would be a miscarriage of justice. You are God's property and Satan is a trespasser. He has no right to touch your spirit, your soul or your body.

4

You Can Live in Divine Health!

Receiving healing after you get sick is fine, but living in divine health continually is so much better. **Divine health is the ultimate privilege of every born-again, Spirit-filled believer.**

According to Proverbs 4:22, God's words are life unto those that find them and health (or medicine) to all their flesh.

God intends for every believer to live completely free from sickness and disease. It is up to you to decide whether or not you will.

One of the best ways to activate God's power in your life is to continually confess what His Word says about you. By confessing God's Word concerning health, you will build the image of divine health in your heart until you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that is God's will for you! *".. faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17).

Whenever you speak God's Word, you should remember Isaiah 55:11 that says, " *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.* "

Use the following prayer as your own confession of health and healing. As you do, remember Jeremiah 1:12 that says, " *God watches over His Word to perform it.* "

5

Prayer for Health and Healing

"Father, in the Name of Jesus, I confess Your Word concerning health and healing. As I do, I believe that Your Word will not return to You void, but it will accomplish what it says.

"In the Name of Jesus, I believe that I am healed according to 1 Peter 2:24. Your Word says that Jesus Himself took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses (Matthew 8:17). Therefore, with great boldness and confidence, I stand on the authority of Your Word and declare that I am redeemed from the curse of sickness. I refuse to tolerate its symptoms.

"Satan, I speak to you in Jesus' Name and I proclaim that your principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in heavenly places are bound from operating against me in any way. I am loosed from your assignment. I am the property of Almighty God and I give you no place in me. I dwell in the secret place of the Most High God and I abide under the shadow of the Almighty, whose power no foe can withstand.

"Now, Father, I believe Your Word that says,

'The angel of the Lord encamps round about me and delivers me from every evil work. No evil shall befall me, no plague or calamity shall come near my dwelling.'

"I confess that the Word abides in me and it is life and medicine to my flesh. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus operates in me, making me free from the law of sin and death.

"I hold fast to my confession of Your Word and I stand immovable, knowing that health and healing are mine NOW, in Jesus' Name."

6

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." 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 tongues as You give me utterance (Acts 2:4).

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.

Worship and praise Him in your heavenly language—in other tongues.

Continue with the blessing God has given you and pray in tongues each day.

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

Find a good Word of God preaching church, and become a part of a church family who will love and care for you as you love and care for them.

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

About the Author

Kenneth Copeland is co-founder and president of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, and best-selling author of books that include *Managing God's Mutual Funds, How to Discipline Your Flesh* and *Honor—Walking in Honesty, Truth and Integrity.*

Now in his 31st year as minister of the gospel of Christ and teacher of God's Word, Kenneth is the recording artist of such award-winning albums as his Grammy nominated *Only the Redeemed, In His Presence, He Is Jehovah* and his most recently released *What a God You Are*. He also co-stars as the character Wichita Slim in the children's adventure videos *The Gunslinger, Covenant Rider* and the movie *The Treasure of Eagle Mountain***,** and as Daniel Lyon in the Commander Kellie and the Superkids video sm *Armor of Light.*

With the help of offices and staff in the United States, Canada, England, Australia, South Africa and Ukraine, Kenneth is fulfilling his vision to boldly preach the uncompromised Word of God from the top of this world, to the bottom, and all the way around. His ministry reaches millions of people worldwide through daily and weekly TV broadcasts, magazines, teaching tapes and videos, conventions and campaigns, and the World Wide Web.

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

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