

Stories of Healing

How God has worked in our Church Family

Week 11

90 Years of Following Jesus

Kermit and Isabelle Copeland's Story

Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

Isaiah 46.4

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ

Philippians 1.6

Imagine the sound of hoofbeats and the creaking of wagon wheels as they roll over a gravel road. Close to a hundred years ago, a small group of Christians gathered together at the edge of the creek to usher a young man into a new walk with God. That young man's name was Kermit Copeland. Kermit became a Christian when he was thirteen. He is now 103 years old. He has been faithfully serving Jesus for ninety years.

Kermit's wife Isabelle was baptized at the Kettering Church of Christ. They are long-time members of the church in Kettering, that is now known as Cornerstone. Together they helped many people in their walk of faith.

They both credit the Kettering church as a pillar to lean on as their faith grew. They credit their association with other believers and the teaching that was done at Kettering as benefits to them in their spiritual walk. All through their time there, they saw blessings and challenges. They saw people who fell away from the faith, but they also saw many others who stood out as Christian lights.

Now, as their time on earth grows shorter, Kermit and Isabelle look forward to the home that's been prepared for them by Jesus and the ultimate healing that waits for them. Though the fallen nature of the world has taken its toll and they have felt the pain that can come with old age, they trust that the day is coming when there will be no more pain. They are filled with the hope and expectation of a great reunion, and a face-to-face meeting with their Savior, Jesus.

Applications and Takeaways

- **Ninety years might be shorter than we think.** Our lives are vapors. Ninety years may seem like a very long time, but in the grand scheme of eternity, it is a twinkling. *What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes (James 4.14).*
- **Spiritual relationships are forever.** Our connections in Christ will be the ones that we carry with us into the next life, so we might as well invest in them now and get used to each other. *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep (1 Thessalonians 4.13-14).*
- **Heaven waits for the faithful.** The world offers us many challenges, and yet many glimpses of God’s glory that is to come in the Heavenly Home we’ve been promised. We should keep our minds now fixed on the eternal kind of life we’ve been promised in Heaven—forever with our Father. *In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you (John 14.2)?*
- **Jesus waits for the faithful.** Heaven wouldn’t be heaven without Jesus. Kermit, when asked what it might be like to see Jesus responded, “I can’t even imagine.” He’s right about that. We can hardly fathom the joy of seeing our Savior, but we can have rock-solid confidence that we will as we live our lives toward that goal. *And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb (Revelation 21.22).*
- **Ultimate healing waits for the faithful.** Another promise we can hope in is this—in Heaven, there will be no more suffering. This life offers plenty of trials, of which Kermit and Isabelle have seen many. The hope that they have, and the hope that we can have, is that healing will come. God will put an end to all the results of the Fall in The Garden of Eden, and set things right again in Heaven. *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21.4)*

1. What stands out about this story to you?

2. In view of Eternity, what should we invest in while we are here?

3. How can we 'suffer well' knowing eternity is around the corner in the grand scheme of things?

4. In view of Heaven, how should we live in our relationships now?