

MASTER'S ARTS

—Secrets for Succeeding and Surviving—

GOD PROMPTED LIVING

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—Power, protection, provision, guidance, and secrets for succeeding and surviving are given to prayerful, humble, yielded, attentive, obedient servants of God. Be that to get it.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

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It was about ten o'clock when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, "God ... if You still speak to people, speak to me. I will listen. I will do my best to obey." As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought, Stop and buy a gallon of milk. He could always use the milk. He stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started off toward home. As he passed Seventh Street, he again felt the urge, Turn down that street. "Okay, God, I will." He drove several blocks, when suddenly, he felt like he should stop. Again, he sensed something, Go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street. The young man looked at the house. It was dark and it looked like the people were either gone or already asleep. He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside.

A man's voice yelled out, "Who is it? What do you want?" The man was standing there in his jeans and t-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face and he didn't seem too happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. "What is it?"

The young man thrust out the gallon of milk, "Here, I brought this to you." The man took the milk and rushed down a hallway speaking loudly in Spanish. Then from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her, holding a baby. The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face. The man was half speaking and half crying: "We were just praying. We had some big bills this month, and we ran out of money. We didn't have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking God to show me how to get some milk."

His wife in the kitchen yelled out, "I ask Him to send an angel with some. ... Are you an angel?" The young man reached into his wallet and pulled out all the money he had with him, and put it in the man's hand. He turned and walked back toward his car, tears streaming down his face. He knew that God still answers prayer.

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LET'S KEEP THE CONNECTION STRONG WITH HIS WORD & HIS SPIRIT, His truth & His love, in humility & obedience.

You have to be "little people" first before you can become great!--
Because God only makes great people out of little people--to show His greatness!

THE GREATEST MEN WERE THE ONES WHO DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE GREAT, AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T FEEL GREAT. What makes you really great is the greatness God gives you--the spirit, the inspiration.

WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF PEOPLE WOULD DO WHAT JESUS SAID TO DO?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THE LORD'S PEOPLE WHEN YOU'RE NOT EVEN FOLLOWING HIM! Don't tell me you like His Words when you're not listening to His prophets!

It's pretty hard for the Lord to guide a man if he hasn't made up his mind which way he wants to go.--The path of obedience or disobedience.

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Luke 6:47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

Luke 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Luke 6:49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Psalms 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

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(South Africa) The Cricket World Cup 2003 opening ceremony was held in Cape Town, South Africa, with 14 nations participating in the international competition. Our tracting team did a monumental job of folding 12,000 tracts that we had on hand, but in order to be prepared to witness to those attending the matches all over South Africa, we would need about 150,000 tracts. The tracts the Lord showed us to print were titled: "Are You a Peacemaker?" and "Real Hope for the Future."

We needed a miracle, as the tracts had to be printed and shipped within a few days, to all who would be participating. As we called on the keys for the printing, the miracle unfolded before our eyes, and we were able to get the tracts we needed free of charge within the week.

Our family with visiting co-workers formed a tracting team of nine people. (Most were teenagers, the youngest Steven age 12.) When praying together for our outing, Marcus was the first one to get a prophecy of encouragement. We all prayed together and called on the keys for the Lord to help us reach the many people that would be attending with His message. We organized three three-man teams that would cover the three major gates at the stadium--two main gates and one VIP gate.

President Thabo Mbeki officially opened the first day, so there was top security around the stadium. One of the major obstacles was to find parking, as they had closed off the whole perimeter of the stadium and you could only park a few blocks away. So we asked the Lord to open the door for us, and He did. We loaded into our trusty white VW van and headed for the stadium.

As we approached the stadium to drop off the teams with the bags full of 22,000 tracts, there was a convoy of white vans transporting World Cup officials just ahead of us whose credentials were checked by the security before they were allowed to enter the grounds. So we were anticipating them stopping us there, but they didn't, they just waved us right on through the gate! We went in and the Lord did another miracle and gave us a parking space where only the participants of the World Cup could park! We piled out of the van with our bags of tracts and then had to go through another security checkpoint.

For one team when the security officers opened our bags full of tracts and saw them, they flatly said, "No, you cannot distribute leaflets, and we will not allow you through this checkpoint at all!" We were stunned, but when we walked away, we stopped and prayed. After praying, we got a strong check to go right back to the same checkpoint, but now there were some different security personnel. They opened the bags, saw the lit, but this time they said nothing at all about it, and waved us right through! We were flipped to see how miraculously the Lord opened the doors for us to witness in spite of the security being so tight.

The spot where we were witnessing at first didn't seem to be as busy as the other areas, but we found out later that that was the place where the Lord wanted us to be, because we soon learned that the cricket players from all the 14 competing countries would be passing through that way. There were police, military and special security forces cornering off an area for the cricketers to pass through. James got a check to send Steven (12) down to the end at the entrance to the cricket club where the cricketers would be entering. Then the teams began arriving. Steven was strategically located and miraculously able to give tracts to more than 50 percent of the players from every team.

There was a sweet policeman standing next to Steven, who mainly seemed to be keeping all the other security personnel from interfering with his handing out tracts. He even allowed Steven to go and get more

tracts when he ran out of tracts. Steven almost looked like the official greeter from the exclusive club that they were entering. Afterwards, we wanted to thank this sweet policeman for making it possible for Steven to get away with doing what he did, but, mysteriously, we couldn't find him! Who knows, maybe he was an angel!

We met one Muslim man who said our cause was a good one, and this message needs to be advertised. After reading our tract, "Are You a Peacemaker?" he started promoting our message right on the spot. He shouted to the crowd, "This is a message of peace. Take this message of peace. Whoever has war in their hearts, take this message!"

One man we gave a tract to after reading through it got super excited and came back to us to get a few more to give to his friends. Immediately afterwards we heard him say to his friends enthusiastically, "You've got to read this!"

On the second day the Lord did miracles for us, as when we got there it seemed that the hard ground had been watered with all of the Word we'd passed out the day before. The police and security had read our tracts and allowed us to continue our tracting. The security police who had read the "Peacemaker" tract themselves, said, "We are also peacemakers! That's our job!"

Some of the people who had taken the tracts the day before said they had read it and agreed with it. Some even professed that they were Christians and started praising the Lord when they saw us passing out the tracts. One lady asked for a stack of tracts to pass out herself. Some people said, "I read the tract yesterday and it was just what I needed to hear! It's really needed here!"

One of the security police told Steven, "You're doing a good job!"

The game on the third day was held in Paarl, a town about 45 minutes from Cape Town, and was a much smaller venue. At first we weren't sure what the security would be like there, so we started off slowly, but then saw it was absolutely no problem for us at all.

When one of the security guards was given a tract, he went and called some others for them to get tracts, too. Another of the security guards came over and asked what the tract was all about. He turned it over, read the prayer and said, "Yes, Jesus is the solution!"

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I count that hour lost in which I have done no good by my pen or tongue or deed.

Most people don't want to know the will of God in order to do it; they want to know it in order to consider it.

It has always been my ambition to have no plans as regards myself.

Inside the will of God there is no failure. Outside the will of God there is no success.

If you're on His channel in constant communication with Him & constantly receiving His vibes, you're constantly hearing from Him, & you're hearing His voice all the time in the inner ear of your spirit.

The Lord likes us to find out we can't always solve all our problems and that we need His help! If we could figure it all out and solve all our problems, we wouldn't need Him.

You ought to try a little prayer time early in the morning before your day's work every day. Asking the Lord for the solution to problems is the easiest way in the world to get them. Don't think, "It's hard to pray and I haven't got time to pray, it's a waste of time to pray, blah blah."--If you spent a little more time praying you'd spent a [whole] lot less time working a getting it done! It's just that simple.

All the answers are simple for the Lord and all the solutions are easy for Him!

Sometimes the Lord just lets us have a problem in order that He can give us the answer!

God does not ask about our ability or our inability, but our availability.

If you forget to pray, that's almost as bad as not wanting to pray because you're not willing to admit that you don't know the answers and that you have to ask for them.

The Lord loves to give you the answer. He knows exactly what to do and how to do it, so why don't you ask Him instead of going to all the trouble of trying to figure it out yourself?

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(India) While I was waiting at a coffee shop where we had an appointment to meet someone, I noticed an intellectual-looking young man a couple of tables away working on his laptop. I got a check to give him a tract and prayed for a good opening. Just then, he stepped outside to have a smoke. We took this as our "opening" and offered him the tract. After glancing at the tract, he then started expressing his views on spirituality and the different New Age religions. I told him that if he wanted to talk more in depth, we could meet him after our appointment. My phone rang, and the person we had been waiting for informed me he'd be 20 minutes later than expected. Of course, this was going to work together for good.

I turned back to talk more with this young man. "Can I tell you something?" he asked out of the blue. "I've got a brain tumor, and I don't know how much longer I will live." He told us that he was scared of dying, and especially of the pain of death. We witnessed more in depth to him and he prayed to get saved. He was extremely touched and had tears in his eyes by the end of our conversation. After we'd agreed to meet up again, the man we were originally waiting to meet walked in. The Lord has an excellent sense of timing!

The feeling I get when winning souls, being in the right place at the right time to meet that special person, is unequalled by the feeling I get from any other "accomplishment." When it comes down to it, no amount of money, no reached goal, nothing, compares to the satisfaction of having been used of the Lord to reach a soul that was in need and desperate for an answer!

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***(Jesus speaking:)* Yes, there are times when I appear to change My mind.** Sometimes the messages I give change, even radically, because of different factors: circumstances, your burdens and faith, the lessons I want to teach you or have taught you, or your receiving important details or "other sides" of the message that change the direction considerably.

You can't be stuck in a rut or dig your heels in regarding hearing from Me in prophecy, because if you do, it will only cause you to get confused. I want to teach you to flow, to be flexible, to be open-minded. I want you to see that I'm also flowing, flexible, and open-minded.

I reserve the right to supposedly change My mind if it's in the interest of My work, My will, and the lessons I want you to learn. But even if I do seem to change My mind, don't worry about it. Just accept it and be happy that you can follow Me whithersoever I go, knowing as you seek Me and follow closely, I'll keep you and provide for you. I will not lead you astray.

I've opened the door for you to ask questions, to come before Me time and again, to receive clarifications, to petition Me about things that you don't understand. I know what questions you're going to ask, how much faith you have, and how much each of you will come back to Me for the answers.

Sometimes I deliberately give you a message that is less clear or specific, in order to teach you to come back to Me. It's not that I'm unable to be clear; it's that I'm trying to teach you something through it, or exercise your faith in a certain area, or your muscles of prophecy and patience in coming back to Me time and again.

I know when you will leave off asking and when you will believe that the matter is settled, and thus I give you the needed information so that if you're seeking Me and pleasing Me and searching to do My will, you'll have all that you need and you will not go awry.

But you don't need to fear whether you've asked sufficient questions. Don't worry that you've forgotten one question and that perhaps My answer was just waiting to change. Don't fear that you'll do the wrong thing--that which I have told you to do, but which I was just waiting to change My mind about but didn't have a chance to, because you didn't ask the right question. I do not do this to you, My children.

I put the correct feelings within your heart when you're yielded and close to Me. I even put the questions within your heart so that you'll draw close to My side again and again and hear My voice. I put the wonder in your heart so that you'll ask Me, and understand, and become more a part of My divine nature.

Likewise, when I do not put the questions within your heart, but answer the question to your satisfaction and to the satisfaction of all concerned, then you don't need to fear whether you're missing more.

If there's more to be given and you're close to Me and in tune with Me, then you'll feel the definite need and longing to hear more from Me.

So to summarize what I've said to you: If I give an answer and another side of the picture comes up or there are more questions, then you can, in faith, come back to Me about these things, without feeling that you're an unbeliever or that you lack faith. Ask Me in faith and I will answer you in good faith. I will increase your faith, not weaken it, through these times of questions and answers. And in time, I will answer your questions.

Depending on how complex the situation is, it may take a few more times of coming back to Me and hearing My voice before you get every piece of the puzzle from Me. But be patient and do this, and in due time it will all be sorted out and you will understand. And even if you don't understand why it had to take such a long time or so many sessions with Me, you will realize in Heaven that these times spent in My presence have shaped your spirit and fine-tuned your channel, and this is priceless.

And when you come to Me with a question and I answer it, check to see if there is anything else I want to tell you through the burdens and leadings I've put on your heart, or through the circumstances that I allow to come up that make further clarifications necessary. You can even ask Me, "Jesus, is there anything else I need to come to You about concerning this matter?"

If I put a tug or pull on your heart or on the heart of someone else, or something happens or comes to light that makes you or others feel unsure about the answer you've received from Me, then you'll know that there's more that I wish to speak to you about. But if not, and if you and others have no more questions on that particular subject and it all seems clear in the light of My Words, then you may proceed prayerfully, in faith, knowing that I only wish to give good things to My children.

If you've asked for bread--the answer to one of your questions--then I will not give you a stone--a wrong or misleading answer. I'll give you good things, good answers and guidance. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

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(China) Together with a friend, who we have been witnessing to for awhile, I decided to bake cookies one Saturday afternoon. We had already put in most of the ingredients and we were having lots of fun, but we couldn't find the baking powder. We kept looking in the same place, because it seemed like the only possible place it would be. We looked and looked while I prayed quietly, but nothing happened. Then I got a check to pray with my friend. I suggested it to her, and she gladly bowed her head. She prayed a really simple, sweet prayer, then she started looking in the same place and right away she pulled out the baking powder. With a big smile on her face she looked Heavenward and said, "Thank You, Jesus! You answered our prayer."

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(Siberia) Last night a very funny thing happened. The Lord really has a sense of humor. My husband had a minor operation on his right leg. We cleaned his wound for few days afterwards, but one evening he really didn't want to put a bandage on anymore. I insisted he put it on because it could get infected, but he was convinced he didn't need it. After a while of trying to persuade him to put the bandage on his almost-healed wound, he gave up and went to bring me the stuff. When I looked he forgot to bring me the most important thing--the gauze--so I sent him back to look for it. Again he came back without it. I decided to go look myself as I knew where I had put it, but it wasn't there. I started looking in other places but there was no trace of it.

I was so concerned about his wound that I just sent up a short desperate prayer: "Lord, where is it?" I heard a voice, "Go to the kitchen." I was already by the door when I heard again, "Look up." I looked up and the only thing I could see was something white shining on top of the cupboard. (I don't see well from faraway.) Then I heard: "Go and touch that shiny thing." I thought: "O Lord, but that is so high, I need a chair to get there." But I looked and it was the gauze! I came in the room and when my husband saw it, he laughed.

"How did you find it?" he asked. "I hid it from you!" I told him the story.

Wow! If God is concerned to tell us in prophecy about such little things, how much more will He tell us in prophecy about bigger things?

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Deuteronomy 4:35-36 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him. Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee.

John 10:2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

John 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

John 10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Isaiah 28:23 Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.

Isaiah 28:26 For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him.

Isaiah 28:29 This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

Isaiah 32:9 Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech.

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(Iceland) I saw a girl sitting by the side of the road, apparently waiting to be picked up, and I got a check to give her a tract. For a second, I thought maybe I should ask someone else to do it, or to just brush it off seeing as how most of my "checks" went. But before I had a chance to disregard this check, I grabbed a tract and headed over to her.

As I said the usual, "Hi! This is for you," I realized that I recognized the face before me. She turned out to be someone I had met while going shop to shop a few days earlier. She had nearly prayed with me, that is before a customer required her attention.

I had been praying that I would be able to get back in touch with her--and here she was! I was so excited by how the Lord had answered my prayer, and rewarded my patience.

Of course, maybe sometimes the Lord will use a check to caution us to stay away from someone, but this was encouraging for me to see how my perseverance to obey the Lord's checks regardless of how they often turned out was rewarded.

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Matthew 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

Matthew 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

Matthew 11:15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Ezekiel 3:27 But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear.

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(USA) I was driving around uptown New Orleans, trying to find a place to park. A summer breeze blew through the moss hanging from the old live-oak trees. A half-empty streetcar rumbled by. I was edgy. As part of the executive training program at the Maison Blanche department store I had to take a series of night classes, and my final exam was coming up.

During the day I worked on the sales floor and helped out in the warehouse. It was a good job, and at the age of 23 I was having fun learning the ins and outs of the business. Life never stopped in New Orleans.

Unfortunately, though, my social life was at a standstill. My plan that night was to splurge at a health-food restaurant on Prytania Street, then go home and study for my final. I drove around the block several times. No one pulled out. I wanted to have a nice dinner, but where?

As I headed down St. Charles toward Carrollton, I remembered the Camellia Grill. It was a venerable New Orleans establishment. With only counter service, the coffee shop usually had a line that went out the door and down the block. It reminded me of an old-fashioned tearoom. Pink cloth napkins, and Harry the bald waiter to chaperone. *Mom would approve*, I said to myself, thinking of how she worried about me.

There's probably no place to park here either, I thought as I drove by. Then a spot opened up right in front of the Camellia Grill. There was just enough room for my '74 Chevy. I parked and went inside. It was a slow night, a Wednesday evening during the last week of July. The regular dinner crowd had come and gone. I sat and perused the menu.

"A glass of water," I told the waiter. (Harry wasn't working that night.) "And a bowl of vegetable soup."

Just as I sipped at the first spoonful, a tall, slim, handsome man strolled in. He had thick, dark hair and brown eyes, horn-rimmed glasses and seersucker suit. The spoon froze in front of my lips. *Stop staring!* I told myself. Flustered, I looked away, hoping he hadn't caught me gazing at him.

Out of the corner of my eye I noticed him hesitate for a moment. There was an attractive girl sitting across the restaurant and I figured he was going to sit by her. *Good*, I thought. *I shouldn't talk to strangers*. But the next thing I knew he was walking toward me. He sat on the stool one away from mine and ordered a cup of coffee. What was I to do?

I could hear my mother's warning: A young woman should never initiate a conversation with a strange man. Mother was absolutely right.

Then again, this was the Camellia Grill, about as wholesome a place as you could find in New Orleans. And somehow this stranger in his seersucker suit seemed every bit as upstanding as Atticus Finch.

Then an amazing thing happened. I heard a voice from somewhere deep inside of me--it wasn't from anyone in the restaurant--and it was as clear as day. I couldn't ignore it: *If you don't talk to this guy, you are going to miss out on something really good.*

So what am I supposed to say? I wondered. *If this is such a big deal, what am I supposed to do?* I tried to remember every article I'd ever read about "101 Ways to Start a Conversation." My mind raced. Ask him what time it was? Comment on the steamy weather? All the possibilities seemed incredibly corny. Sitting on that stool, I could do nothing but pray. *God, if this really is a good idea, give me something to say.*

I sneaked a peek at the stranger again, at his long fingers wrapped around the coffee cup. Then it came to me.

"Could I have a cup of coffee, please?" I asked the waiter. New Orleans coffee with chicory is strong enough to peel paint, and drinking it seemed to separate the natives from the hicks like me. I doctored mine with cream and sugar. I took a swig and winced. Setting the cup on its saucer, I said, as nonchalantly as possible, "Boy, this coffee is strong, isn't it?"

"Sure is," the stranger drawled in a Delta accent as distinctive as the coffee. He smiled and ordered a refill. "Where y'all from?"

"Not from around here," I said.

"Me neither."

A silence filled the pause--but something filled the silence: a warmth, a stilling of time, as if the stool and the space between us didn't exist. It was a feeling I will never forget.

Many months later I found out he'd been lonely too. That he had gotten on his knees two nights earlier and prayed to find someone to help him feel at home in New Orleans. But that evening what I learned was that he had recently moved from Vicksburg, Mississippi, to take a new job. His name was James and he was living by himself and hadn't made any friends since he'd arrived.

We talked so long that the waiter stopped refilling our cups and started cleaning the counter, but James and I were completely absorbed in each other and didn't get the hint. Finally I realized I still needed to study for my final, so we stood and paid our bills. Out in front of the restaurant on that warm summer evening we both lingered on the sidewalk, trying to keep the conversation from ending. I heard the horns of the boats on the river and the bell of the streetcar as it passed. I looked into James's eyes, shining in the light of a streetlamp. Finally he said, "I enjoyed this so much I'd like to talk to you again. May I call you?"

"Please do," I said.

All this happened more than 20 years ago, and I can confess to only a few other times in my life when I have felt so completely and surely guided to take a course of action. As you can probably guess, James became my husband, and although his hair is no longer as thick or as brown, he still looks every bit as handsome to me as on that night.

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(Jesus speaking:) Little children, you should come to Me about everything. Even the wisest among you is only a child in My sight. I don't mean to be condescending, but this is the way I've created you: I'm your Father, you're My children, and you need Me for everything.

Your first reaction, your natural reaction, should be to look to Me before anything and everything. How do you know what to do, what to discuss, or what direction to take unless you ask Me?

Man has become so independent that he thinks he should discuss first, then ask Me. Whereas it should be the other way around--he should ask Me first, then discuss. I'll tell you My point of view first. Once you have My mind on the matter, you can discuss further while drawing on the experience, wisdom, insight and the anointing of the other gifts I have given you; after which you can come to Me again to confirm what's been discussed and to get My stamp of approval and blessing on it.

You can never go wrong by asking Me first! Even the tiniest thing will be blessed if you ask Me first. Even if the answer is logical, even if it's common sense and obvious, if you ask Me first, then I'll add a blessing and anointing to it.

Man sometimes gets so confident that he thinks he can do things on his own, but I want to be part of everything! As I've said, "Without Me you can do nothing." That includes your times of discussion, when it's so easy to be led by your emotions, or to get into the habit of idle talking--leaning to your own understanding and your own ideas, pouring out your feelings and frustrations from your own spirit rather than seeking Me first so that I can direct your thoughts and words. Meetings are especially a time when you need to come to Me first and receive My ideas, My agenda, My feelings before your own, so that you can stay on track and hit the bull's-eye of the target.

You need My blessing before you even start. You need My agenda before you have a meeting, if you want the most successful meeting. It's vitally important to seek Me first if you want to know where you're going, or where I want you to go. It's better to have foresight than hindsight. You must do both--seek My advice first, and then ask Me for a confirmation afterwards. Both are needed and both are important.

I want to be first in everything, including your meetings. If I'm truly first in your heart and mind, then you'll seek Me first before you do anything. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

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(Singapore) We were checking into the purchase of a portable electronic drum set for another center. Our research and calls led us to a shop downtown. We talked to the owner and got the details, but we didn't have the peace to make the final purchase. So we stepped out to pray about what to do.

My son then spotted the same model displayed in another shop. We walked inside and were greeted by Daniel, the owner who was cordial and quoted us a price, which was surprisingly much lower than the previous shop that we had thought was the best deal available.

As we talked, Daniel poured out his business woes and I told him that all he needed was a new, good business Partner. "Let me introduce you to Jesus," I said. I told him of the Lord's love and care for him. However, when it came down to praying to receive that spiritual connection with Jesus, Daniel backed down and said that he wasn't sure or ready. I had to leave it at that, as he hastily tried to get back to business.

Daniel had to make a copy of the receipt for me, but the machine jammed. He opened it up, trying to fix it, but nothing was working. I offered to pray for him and the machine, but Daniel laughed and declined. Then I got a check that the Lord was engineering this for his sake! So I said:

"Okay, Daniel, whether you like it or not, we're going to pray, just to show you that God is in this and He's doing it for you!"

As my son and I put our hands on the machine, we prayed asking the Lord to fix the machine as a testimony of His power and presence, so that Daniel would believe. Just as we said, "Amen," the machine started humming to life and made the copy.

Daniel stood there, stunned.

"So, Daniel," I said, "do you want to pray now?"

Daniel returned to the counter and prayed that powerful prayer of salvation that guarantees to fix any broken and sinful heart! Jamie and I were thrilled with the miracle that we had witnessed, but more than that, it was amazing to see that there was nothing the Lord wouldn't do to reach a soul. Thank You, Jesus, for a love that has no limits!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) When you have a decision before you, turn the options you have into a prayer and say, "Lord, which of these options is Your highest will for me?" It doesn't have to be a big long prayer with your eyes closed or getting down on your knees begging to receive My answers. No, you can just shoot up a little prayer: "Jesus, should I go out for get-out now or after quiet time?" Or, another example, "Lord, today I've been invited to go on an outing with the team that's going. Should I go? I would really like to, but I want and need Your confirmation. Please tell me." I will give you My answer and I will give you a reason to help you understand. It could be, "Yes, go on the outing; it will be fun and inspiring and will strengthen your unity with these who have invited you." Or, "No, don't go. Stay home and spend extra time with Me and My Word, for I desire to be close to you all day. This is what will strengthen you and is what you need today." All of this could take just a minute of your time. Then you can go on in your day, knowing that I'm blessing you.

The Devil fights this because it will lead to your success in the dark days to come. In the Time of the End, you may be going down the street, and if you're well used to this practice, you'll say, "Which way now, Lord?" I will be able to show you in an instant and lead you out of harm's way, or into the path of some needy person or situation. You won't be able to do things like this then if you don't practice now. You won't remember to ask Me in prophecy if you don't make a habit of it now.

If you seek to hear My voice of prophecy in these seemingly insignificant decisions in your days, not only does it ensure that your days go smoother because you're making wise decisions with My help, but you're also making a rock-solid habit of hearing from Me in prophecy. This will serve you well in the dark days to come. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

* * * *

Have more of an attitude of prayer; turn every thought into a prayer.

Let's cultivate more of a spirit of prayer by turning our thoughts into prayers. Let's all try to learn to be more prayerful by developing even more of a habit to be in constant communication with the Lord, through many immediate short prayers, which are triggered by our thoughts.

* * * *

(Moldova) I always thought, "Oh, we need to do so much, so much! There's no time!" But I began to see that if we take the time for Him (Jesus), the Lord really will do it. - He will accomplish what needs to be done! When we were closing down our Home, I needed to help get transportation for someone to move their things to another city. I didn't have any idea how to go about it, but what was fresh in my mind was that I needed to spend time with the Lord, loving Him, praising Him, being in the Word and having fellowship with Him. So I tried to do it every day and emphasize that in my life, rather than just spending all my time running around to transport companies, knocking at their doors, and asking if they could take us. And as it turned out, the Lord did it!

It happened like this: I couldn't get around too much, the weather was very rainy, plus I didn't have the phone numbers of any transport companies to call. But one day I just stopped some taxi drivers and other people to ask if they knew of anything. Someone told me to go to a certain part of town, so I headed there. On my way, I saw a man approaching. I got a check about him, but I didn't really understand it, so I just continued on my way and forgot about him.

But along the way somebody asked me the time. I stopped to tell him and then asked him if he knew of any transport company around there. He said no. Just then I turned back and saw the same man who I'd gotten the check about before.

He was starting to get into his car, and that time I obeyed the Lord's check and started to talk with him. I told him what we were looking for -- a transport company that could take us to Bucharest. He replied, "You know, I go to Bucharest about twice a week. I can take your stuff there."

It was a miracle for me how the Lord did it! I'd had peace in my heart taking time at home with the Lord, in the Word and praying. I had had faith that the Lord would do it, and then I did go out looking. But it was really amazing for me to see this example of how the Lord can do miracles in any situation, and how He did bless my obeying the vision to spend more time with Him.

We were listening to [a new music tape of songs of love to Jesus] over and over. It was fresh in my mind that what counts the most is taking time with the Lord, and then we'll have the strength to be loving with others, and to listen to Him when He's leading us and giving us checks on how to go about things.

* * * *

Psalm 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Psalm 95:7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

Psalm 95:8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Psalm 95:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

Psalm 95:10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:

Psalm 95:11 Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Hebrews 3:8 Harden not your hearts

* * * *

Roy Hendricks bought a new K-oil heater in October 1984, satisfied that he'd be ready for winter. In fact, it worked well and kept his mobile home toasty as the weather turned cold. The temperature during the night of December 23 of that year was in the twenties, so Roy decided to keep the heater on all night, as he had many times since he bought it.

About 3:00 A.M., he was sleeping, face to the wall, when, as he tells it:

"I heard my name, Roy, called three times. I said: 'What do you want?' and rolled over. The first thing I saw was flames up to the ceiling--and what appeared to be an outline of a person between me and the fire."

He got up, grabbed the nearby fuel tank, and threw it clear of the fire, out into the yard. Then he ran outside and asked his neighbors to call the fire department. When he went back inside there was dense smoke, but no sign of fire. After things calmed down and the mobile home aired out, he was able to go back to bed.

Roy concludes by saying that the next morning there weren't even black spots on the ceiling, although he'd seen eight-foot flames with his own eyes. He tells people about the voice, the figure, and the flames, then he shows them what may seem an odd reminder of God's love: his K-oil heater, burned, warped, and blackened to a crisp.

* * * *

HE NEVER FAILS IN ONE OF ALL HIS GREAT PROMISES, IF WE KEEP THE CONDITIONS & OBEY & ARE FAITHFUL!

AS WE BEGIN TO OBEY & CONTINUE TO OBEY, GOD WILL SUPPLY ALL THE NECESSARY NEEDS--& more--& will bless us beyond measure for our faithfulness in fulfilling His Word!

Christianity is life under sealed orders.

Delayed obedience is the brother of disobedience.

NOW BLESS US AS WE GO TO SERVE THEE, TO OBEY, & TO DO THIS THY WILL.--Be not only hearers of Thy Word, praying or speaking, but doers also. Help us not to be guilty of the very things which we are ashamed of in others!

Anytime you step off your property, you should realize that you are on the Enemy's territory. You have nothing to fear, but you must be vigilant, and prayerful.

If you are in Christ, & Christ is in you, then the world should see nothing else but Him!

The Christian's task is to make the Lord Jesus visible, intelligible & desirable.

Without Christ, not one step; with Him, anywhere!

God does not want us to think less of ourselves. He wants us not to think of ourselves at all.

When you stop listening, it's time for God to stop talking!

Most people pray, "Hear Lord thy servant speaketh!"--instead of like dear little Samuel, the baby prophet, who at five years of age said, "Speak, Lord Thy servant heareth!"

We should live to listen!

(Jesus says) Be open to My whispers so that you can hear any checks, counsel, or instruction that I may have for you.

* * * *

(Mexico) While out we passed by a rather small ice cream shop. I got a check to talk to the man in the back, although he looked like one of the workers. When he saw us, he immediately stopped what he was doing and invited us to come in and talk to him. It turned out that he was the owner, and that his ice cream shop was in fact a very thriving business. When we explained to him that we were missionaries, he said, "The minute I saw you, I knew you were sent by God. I saw something different in you that I couldn't explain."

Then, without further ado, he said, "I want to help you!" and proceeded to buy everything we were holding in our hands. He offered us ice creams, and said that anytime we need ice cream, he'll come over and bring us whatever we need! Sometimes the Lord will even do in half an hour what would normally take all day to accomplish!

* * * *

He gets some of His greatest victories out of seeming defeats, victories of brokenness, humility, & more utter dependence on Him, which you must have to be a leader! My mother once asked the great evangelist, Paul Rader, "Why are the laborers always so few?" And he answered wisely, "I guess God can't break them fast enough." How true!

God only uses broken men & women--no others will do! Others are too self-confident in their own flesh! God has to break them, melt them, mold them in the hands of the Potter, to make them a better vessel, but He won't force it! The breaking depends upon you & your yieldedness & willingness to be made willing--total humility, which is synonymous with total love, so you're willing to go anywhere, anytime, & do anything, for anybody, & be nobody to please Him & help others! Are you ready?

* * * *

WHEN I STARTED OUT IN THIS WORK I WAS DESPERATE & A FAILURE & IT CAME TO THAT, THAT I HAD TO TRUST THE LORD! And you know what the Lord told me? He said, "If you're willing to give Me all the credit & just say 'The Lord hath sent me', there is no limit to what you're going to be able to do!"

* * * *

The Lord promises that if you're seeking Him and pleasing Him, if you're yielded and close to Him, then He'll make sure you have the information you need to make good decisions. You won't miss important factors from lack of asking, because you or others will either get checks from the Lord, such as feelings of uneasiness in your heart, or circumstances will come up that make it obvious that you need to confirm His will or get more details.

Of course, even when the question is answered to your satisfaction and to the satisfaction of everyone concerned, as a double check you can ask the Lord if there's anything else you need to ask Him about concerning the matter. If not, you can proceed as He has led, and know, in faith, that He has given you the information you need.

These are wonderful promises from the Lord, but it goes without saying that a key in this working is being open to the Lord's checks when He's trying to get through to you. If you feel something isn't quite right, or some change of circumstances comes up that causes you to wonder about the direction you're going, then you need to be faithful to check back in with the Lord. Also, please be open to the fact that others might be the ones receiving the checks, so you need to be humble and willing to consider others' opinions, especially if they're affected by the decision being made.

* * * *

In Kashmir state, India, a devout Muslim named Jalaluddin had a dream. A man in a white robe asked him, "Do you want real peace?"

"Oh yes," he replied, "but I've been unable to find it."

"Read the holy writings," said the man. "What are the holy writings? And where can I find them?" "The holy writings are the Holy Bible, and you can get one from the India Every Home Crusade, 3 Bishop Rockey Street, Faizabad Road in Lucknow."

A few days later, the EHC office received a letter, saying, in part, "I don't know who you people are or whether this address is correct, but I am writing exactly as told in a dream. If you receive this, would you please immediately send me something that is called a Holy Bible?"

Today Jalaluddin is a church member, happily testifying about the Christ who speaks to Muslims.

* * * *

***(Jesus speaking:)* If you feel uneasy about something or get a check from Me that there's more that I want to say, then take a few minutes to come back to Me.** I will make the need to hear further from Me known by giving you or others feelings or checks, or making the circumstances such that you know you need more counsel or details or further instruction or promises.

You should only proceed with the instruction I've given you in prophecy when you feel a peace about it, and when those you work with are in agreement with it. If there's any conflict, disagreement, or lack of unity, then you should definitely come back to Me for further word on the subject.

As I'm teaching you about asking Me about everything, you should become more and more frequent with your requests, so that you will not wonder whether you've asked Me enough about something.

Communing with Me will be so natural to you that any time you receive a check about something, or you come across something which is not clear, or you wonder why something came up, you'll ask Me about it--and thus we will have a constant line of open communication, and I'll be able to tell you when I have further instructions to give you, or a change of plans.

(End of message from Jesus.)

* * * *

(Thailand) While out on a walk with some children, I noticed that a tourist had had a motorcycle accident about a block from where we were.

Normally I would hurry the kids away from any possibly unpleasant sights, but I got a strong check to stay and make a learning experience out of it for them. We were far enough away that all we could see was a man lying on the ground next to a fallen motorbike (there was no blood or anything). We all immediately prayed desperately for the man's healing.

We watched as some passersby took him to the hospital, which was just up the street, and then watched as the police came and marked the place where the accident had occurred, etc. The whole time I was explaining things to the children, answering their questions and drawing a lot of lessons about safety, how the police help, etc.

Later, our journey home led us past the hospital where he had been taken (where we had also done programs), so we decided to try to visit him and see how he was and if we could help in any way. The head nurse told us that he had just left, and that the reason he had had the accident was because he had been drunk when he was driving. We prayed again for him, and one of the children prayed earnestly that he would learn his lesson and never drive again when drunk, and be really careful whenever he rode on a motorbike.

Two months later, while out personal witnessing I met a friendly tourist. While I was showing him some photos, he saw the ones of the nearby hospital and said that he had an unpleasant experience near that same hospital. He told me he had been in an accident. "I acted very foolishly," he said, "and I learned a very important lesson which I will never forget!"

Only then did I realize that this was the same man who we had prayed for! He told me that when they had first brought him to the hospital, he had no pulse or heartbeat, and they thought he was dead. Then he miraculously recovered! He had left that hospital a few hours later to go to a hospital in his home country that could take care of some serious internal injuries which had occurred. What a testimony for him, as well as for the children whose prayers had helped save his life!

* * * *

Jeremiah 16:11 Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law;

Jeremiah 16:12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:

Jeremiah 26:4 And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you,

Jeremiah 26:5 To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened;

Jeremiah 26:6 Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Deuteronomy 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Deuteronomy 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

* * * *

There was a man who had a truck, but he needed a different truck. He was driving an old piece of junk, really. Did you ever drive one of those? You've got to lay hands on it before it starts, and then you have to lay hands on it to make it stop!

This man gave an offering, and the Lord saw his heart. This man came back with one of the craziest stories I have ever heard in my life. He was driving that old wreck of a truck down the streets of Brooklyn, New York, and God spoke to him and said, "Stop the truck! Get out of the truck and lift up the hood." So he did. Then God said, "Look down by the carburetor."

So the man looked down under the carburetor. He said, "Am I losing my mind? I'm looking, but I don't see anything but a carburetor." So he shut the hood and got back in and started driving down the street again. But God said, "I told you to stop the truck and look down there by the carburetor."

So he stopped the truck and lifted the hood. He said, "Lord, I'm looking." God said, "Look with your hand."

Sometimes you can't see with your eyes--especially where the carburetor is. You've got to look with your hand. When he put his hand down by the carburetor he got ahold of something that didn't belong there. It was a roll all covered with grease.

He pulled it out--a whole wad of \$100 bills wrapped up in grease. Whoever owned that truck before probably had tried to hide his money there. It was such a good hiding place that when he died, nobody found it. God arranged for my friend to buy that wreck. Soon he had traded that thing in and bought a brand-new truck. God has a way of working things out!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) How many times in a day do you make decisions, big or small, without involving Me? There are some things that I know you think you're capable of deciding, and you ask, "Lord, do we really have to ask You about that? Shouldn't we be able to think for ourselves at all?"

Well, yes, you can and should be able to think, ponder, evaluate, and counsel about matters. Yet still, with every decision, both big and small, you should first of all pray and ask Me for guidance as you deliberate, and second, ask for My confirmation before proceeding.

Depending on the decision or plan, the amount of time that you spend receiving My counsel may vary. Of course, there are some decisions that you must make when you don't even have a clue of what to do! In these cases, you'll benefit most greatly from not only asking My confirmation on your plan, but from just stopping, getting quiet, pouring out your heart and question before Me, and letting Me make your plans!

I always have a good plan, a way out, around, over or through whatever seems to be clogging your way. This matter of praying and asking Me for counsel when you don't know what to do is something that you're more well versed in. So now I'll focus on the other aspect, that of hearing from Me about decisions that seem simple or obvious, or that don't seem like they would matter much.

For a few examples: When you're choosing your witnessing spot for the day; deciding what form of transport to take there; what person or office or shop to approach first, next, and last; where to stop for your lunch break; what time to go home, you can and should involve Me in each of these decisions. While you're out and about, you may not have time or opportunity to pull out your dictaphone or notepad and get a recorded answer about every one of these decisions, but you should seek My confirmation in prophecy nonetheless.

When you're on the go, on the move, I'll work according to the need by giving you short, concise, and to-the-point answers. When you're in need of more descriptive, detailed, or feeding messages from Me, I speak flowingly, abundantly, generously. When you need a quick answer, I speak generously and willingly, but also concisely.

* * * *

(Hungary) I wanted to do missionary work with a team that didn't have many children. My reasoning was, "If we are a smaller team we can accomplish more, move quicker, and it will be simpler." At the time I didn't realize how wrong and selfish my attitude was.

The Word began working on me and I realized it's not the Lord to think like that. So when my mate got a check to pray about inviting another couple and their 8 children to work with us, I agreed, and the Lord confirmed it was His will. It's been a month since then and I see so many blessings the Lord bestowed upon us.

For example: For the first time in years our mission team is operating within a budget (this couple was able to bring a fair amount of landing funds, which we were not aware of before they came), the children are proving to be a blessing and not a burden; they go out singing; our witness is more far-reaching; and our own children are getting more training.

We used to go out more often before, but it was harder to get [Christian materials] out; now they go out with effortless ease. On the average, though our days of "work" are fewer, we accomplish more. Being together has also been a blessing in our spiritual walk with the Lord. All these blessings are, I believe, the result of doing things by the Lord's Spirit, and not in our own flesh. It's very encouraging to see that when we decide to do things the Lord's way, to love and care for each other, then He is bound to bless us in every way.

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***(Jesus speaking:)* Let Me show you what happens in the spirit when you stop to take time to hear from Me.** When you do, you're not only opening the door for My blessings to flow down upon you in greater measure because of your obedience, but you also tap into a very important principle of the spirit--one of the immutable laws of the spirit, just as the law of gravity is an immutable law in the physical realm.

When you stop to hear My Words and My voice, I'm bound by My Word to go with you, to surround you, to control the situation. Unlike when you go in your own strength or with your own ideas--in which case I try to protect you, but am not able to fully surround you with My protection--when you listen to My voice and go forth to obey it, you're automatically fully covered under My insurance. That's not to say that nothing will ever happen to you--accidents or troubles of any kind--but when they do happen, you don't have to worry in the slightest, because I've gone before and am working out My perfect will.

That's the beauty of hearing from Me at every step. You not only save yourself a lot of time and trouble in missing the mark and having to go back and do things again, but you also automatically are fully insured with My Heavenly power and protection, and are assured that any loss would be fully covered. Even if something happens to you that you think is bad, you can know that I'll work it out for good--for the best.

Even when you don't stop at every step to hear from Me, I have the ability to always work things together for good to those who know and love Me. But that doesn't mean that there will be no loss to you. I can teach you a lesson through it, I can use it as a testimony or a witness, but at times there is a loss. Things could have worked out better if you'd not made the mistake, if you'd been more prayerful, and most importantly, if you'd checked in with Me.

But how different it is when you're asking Me about each move, each step! You can be assured that you'll suffer no loss--that anything that happens is what I've allowed to happen within the boundaries of My perfect will.

What seems to you as a loss is great gain in the Spirit. For in the Spirit no matter what tangible loss you experience--whether it is a lost battle, the loss of a loved one, even that which you would call a defeat--it is actually a victory and great gain in the Spirit. Though you may experience what you would consider actual loss, when you hear from Me and receive My Word and act on it, you can have full faith that whatever has taken place has been allowed by Me and been part of My will in your life. You could call it Godly loss--which is great gain. For the end result that I will bring about will be greater than any loss you have experienced. Though on Earth some of these things may have seemed a loss to you, when you join with Me in Heaven you will see that you did not lose but gained.

So, My children, enter into My full coverage by learning to check with Me about everything. In so doing you commit your ways to Me and allow Me perfect control over the situation. Why go into danger zones with minimum liability insurance when you can have full coverage? Once you make the switch, you'll see how great the dividends are in comparison to the small cost to you! *(End of message from Jesus.)*

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As Kenneth and Anita Steinke reared their six young children, it became obvious that Anita was the "spiritual" one in the family. "I had never been more than a Sunday Christian, with just a surface relationship with God," Kenneth says, and he saw no reason to change. But Anita prayed frequently that God would reveal Himself more deeply to her husband.

One afternoon Kenneth and Anita took the family to Wrigley Field, to watch the Chicago Cubs play the Cincinnati Reds. The Steinkes attended games often and considered themselves faithful "Bleacher Bums," part of the crowd that overlooks the outfield. Bleacher seats were cheap, and families could bring picnics, and there was always the chance a bleacher might catch a home-run ball.

Today the Steinkes sat in the right-field bleachers, with four-year-old Janet, the youngest, directly in front of Kenneth, "Janet was frail and small, but she enjoyed baseball," Kenneth says. Everyone was relaxed and upbeat.

Suddenly, in his mind, Kenneth heard the words: "Janet is going to be hit in her temple with a fly ball. If you don't take action, she'll be seriously injured or killed."

Kenneth sat absolutely still, astounded. The message was so firm, so compelling that he never thought to doubt the truth of it. "It sounds strange, but I was convinced it was going to happen," he says.

How could he prepare? He could take Janet away. But the voice hadn't told him when the ball would come. Did it make sense to confine himself and his daughter in the car or to walk her around for the next several hours? And the other kids would be inconsolable if he insisted they go home now, especially on such flimsy-sounding evidence. But to Kenneth the command was anything but light and frivolous.

What if he "rehearsed" for a fly ball? Slowly, Kenneth slid his forearm in front of Janet's head. Yes, his arm was big enough to shield her. But could he react fast enough? For the next several minutes, Kenneth drilled himself, shoving his arm quickly in front of Janet, then releasing it, then shoving it again. Nearby fans began to notice his movements. Several looked at him strangely. Janet was perplexed too. "What are you doing, Daddy?" she asked once. "I can't see!"

The crack of Pete Rose's bat was almost anti-climactic when it came just a few minutes later. The ball shot across the length of Wrigley Field like an arrow, picking up speed as it flew over the wall, right toward Janet's head. And in the split second, Kenneth knew just what to do. Throwing his left arm across his daughter's forehead, just as he'd practiced, he used his right hand to shield his own face. The ball struck his arm with a terrible force, bounced off Anita, then disappeared into a pile of people.

Kenneth looked at his left arm. It was already starting to swell. But Janet was safe, her little face still whole and perfect. Kenneth stayed up late that night. His arm throbbed, but it wasn't the pain that kept him awake. What had happened today? Had he really received a message from Janet's guardian angel, or his? Or had it been simply a father's intuition?

Then Kenneth had another episode, a few years ago. In a frightening dream, he had seen his toddler son, Kenny, sliding down a muddy embankment while he, Kenneth, grabbed the child with one hand, and held on to a tree with the other.

"Kenny is going to drown unless you save him," a voice told him in the dream. Kenneth had awakened in alarm, but later dismissed his fears.

The day after the dream, however, he had taken the five older children out for a ride. "We drove rather aimlessly, until we got to a nature area where I used to play as a child," he recalls. "We walked along a trail, and as we turned a corner, there was a river with a dam just ahead."

"Daddy, look!" Kenny ran toward the water, and Kenneth ran after him. Rivers were no place for impulsive tots. But Kenny began to slide down a muddy slope-right toward the whirling water of the dam. "Look out!" Kenneth shouted, leaning forward to grasp the little boy.

"I had him with one hand and was reaching for a tree to steady myself, when all of a sudden I realized that the scene was right out of my dream," Kenneth says. "I had been there just when I needed to be, to keep Kenny from falling and being pulled under the water." God *must* be calling him closer. What more proof did Kenneth need?

Today Kenneth's relationship with God is a priority. And he's glad he has had angels in his life-both the Heavenly and earthly variety--who never lost faith in him.

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Ezekiel 20:7 Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Ezekiel 20:8 But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

2 Chronicles 33:10 And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.

2 Chronicles 33:11 Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

2 Chronicles 33:12 And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

2 Chronicles 33:13 And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God.

Leviticus 26:13 I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

Leviticus 26:14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

Leviticus 26:28 Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

* * * *

It has been years since Opal Housley was a girl living on a farm near Inola, Oklahoma. One event from her teen years is still as clear as the day it happened. Opal's father had taken the wagon to town, leaving his wife and daughter to do the chores. Opal went to the barn to get some straw to make a nest for one of the chickens in the henhouse.

She was about to reach into the manger for a handful of straw when a voice said clearly, "Stop! There is a snake in the manger!" Opal looked around to see who had spoken. No one was there. She was the only person in the barn. She looked in the manger. It was full of straw. She could see nothing else, certainly not a snake.

Opal stepped closer and started to reach into the manger again. "Stop!" the voice commanded. "There is a snake in the manger!" The farm girl froze with her hand in mid-air. Her eyes searched the manger. There was no sign of a snake. She looked around the barn. It was empty. She was alone.

Opal did not know what to think of the voice, but she did know that she needed straw for the nest, and since she could not see a snake in the manger, she decided to get the straw. She reached out the third time. "Stop!" ordered the voice. "Don't touch it. There's a snake in the manger."

"No, there isn't," Opal said out loud, but she stood, looking into the manger. Slowly the straw began to move. First Opal saw the eyes, then the head of the snake.

She ran for the farmhouse and returned with her mother. The snake was still in the manger when they arrived. "It's a poisonous snake!" Opal's mother exclaimed. "It probably came up from the pond. What a close call you had." They thanked God for the warning that had saved Opal's life.

* * * *

In the Endtime it will be necessary for you to be in constant communication with Me about what to do and where to go.

By practicing obedience in heeding My checks now, you will be ready to face the days ahead.

When you go out, consider yourself as being on hostile ground where Satan has more influence, and is a predator (1 Peter 5:8).

Stay in touch with Me and be on guard at all times.

When you receive a check from Me, one of your spirit helpers, or a responsible member on your team, learn to obey that check without hesitation or question.

* * * *

(France) When the children in Lyon [who had been persecuted for their faith] were returned to their parents, they recounted more gruesome details of how cruelly they had been treated at the hands of the authorities. 18-year-old Magdalene had been taken to a juvenile hall in Lyon rather than being allowed to stay with the younger children. She had been treated quite badly, but released after 3 days, at which time they put her in a run-down apartment all by herself, lied to her by telling her that everybody was still in jail, as well as holding onto her passport. Thank the Lord she got a check to call the Home & found that they were all there, & they came & picked her up.

* * * *

When faithfulness is most difficult, it is most necessary.

There are no trivial assignments in the work of the Lord.

Your life is fragile!--Handle with prayer!

Please God in all you do and be pleased with all God does.

We are all dangerous folk without God's controlling hand.

Men who love much will work much.

If a care is too small for you to turn into a prayer, it is too small for you to turn into a burden.

If you're not willing to listen to God, then God's not going to listen to you!

Most of the greatest saints I knew were little people who just did what they thought should be done--without you hearing about it or even knowing they were around! But they were always around when you needed them. They were always there when you needed them. Always quick to jump. Always willing to see a need & respond.

HOW YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THE MASTER'S WILL WITHOUT THE MASTER'S PLAN, I DON'T KNOW! You can't get along without His will, you can't follow without listening. & you can't accomplish anything without obeying His Words, His Voice

* * * *

(Romania) We prayed together before visiting Mr. H., a successful but weary businessman. We had been praying for him to make progress in his spiritual life, as, though he had received the Lord, he kept harping on how bad he was and was often negative and discouraged.

He is a spiritually sensitive man, and a talented poet, and he told us that in his early years he had made a pact with the Devil so that he could be rich and successful. He got what he wanted, but along with it came darkness and emptiness.

When we met him, he was ripe and ready to receive the Lord and the answers in His Word. But overcoming the spirit of discouragement and despair has been difficult. So this time we claimed the keys for a real change in his spirit, and we went with the vision to encourage him to receive the Holy Spirit and to desire progress in his spiritual life.

As soon as we met up with him again, he right away started to once again voice his many woes to us. I got a check to lay it on the line with him right then and to challenge him to make progress.

So I asked him straightforwardly whether he was interested in progressing and receiving the "spiritual treasures" that we have in abundance to give to him, or if he just wanted to stay where he was and not progress in his growth and walk with the Lord.

It was amazing to see how excited he became about our "spiritual treasures!" He almost jumped up, begging us to give him the treasures, saying that he wanted to make progress and to have these treasures.

We explained that the first treasure was the Holy Spirit, and then showed him verses on the subject and led him in prayer to receive the Spirit of Love into his life. We also used the opportunity to pray a cleansing prayer over him from the attacks of the Enemy and any evil influences of his past.

We were amazed at the results. All the way to our car, instead of his usual lamenting, he talked about things he could now do, and has a burden to open an orphanage to help others! His Spirit causes change!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Pray without ceasing. If you will pray at every turn, at each step, and if you will stay sensitive and close to Me, then I can give you the checks and the direction you need. I can warn you if there's been a change of plans, or if circumstances and conditions have changed and you need to refigure.

If you're desperately seeking Me and I give My answer, but circumstances and conditions change later, then I can still get My directions to you. I can use others, I can give you a check, I can cause situations to come up which force you to pray again. There are all kinds of ways that I can work to lead and guide you to perform My will.

The key is to pray and ask without ceasing. The key is to be diligent to seek Me in all things and to only want to do My will and to follow My leading. If you'll do that, then I will do the rest.

So pray each step of the way. For the most part, when you seek Me for answers and I give My response, you should then continue to ask questions if there are things you don't understand. And usually when you come to the end of your questions and you're satisfied with the answers, then it's okay to follow through with the counsel I've given.

When things do come up or when things change and I need to give you new direction, I will intervene and guide you. But stay in prayer. Pray without ceasing and stay sensitive to the checks and the moving of My Spirit. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

* * * *

You and all those involved, as much as possible, should have a peace about it before you proceed with what the Lord has shown you in prophecy. If you or others have any checks that you might be missing something or that something isn't quite right, ask the Lord again.

If those you work with are not in agreement or there is any lack of unity regarding the direction the Lord shows in prophecy, then ask Him for more counsel. If some new factor comes up, something that might affect the situation that you either weren't aware of or didn't consider before, don't just say, "Oh well, we already prayed about it"; ask Him again!

The more we get in the habit of asking the Lord about everything, the easier it will be for us to be sure to get all the information we need from the Lord, because we'll be in constant communication with Him.

It's extremely important to go to the Lord about any questions that come up about the prophecies you receive. If you just ignore them, those unanswered questions can easily turn into doubts, which, with time, will weaken your foundation of faith. So even if you think it doesn't bother you when prophecies don't seem to be fulfilled as you expected, it's important to not just try to ignore it and forget it.

You should try to get the Lord's explanation, because that's how your faith will be strengthened; otherwise your faith in prophecy can slowly be weakened, because the lingering thought that remains in your heart, long after the specific details have been forgotten, is that prophecy doesn't always work; you can't really trust it, because sometimes it's "wrong." If you want to grow in the use of prophecy and your understanding of how the Lord works with prophecy, ask Him your questions!

A good motto to remember is that the Lord always has an explanation, and He wants to give it to you if you'll just ask!

* * *

In the mid-1960s my husband's sister Muriel became very ill. My husband and six-year-old daughter, Linda, and I travelled to Tulsa to be present while Muriel underwent surgery for a diseased kidney.

As we neared Tulsa, a thought flashed into my mind out of nowhere. *One red rose, a voice said. Take one red rose to Muriel.* My husband agreed to stop at a florist's shop. However, it was late and everything was closed.

The next morning my husband went to the hospital to wait during the operation. I stayed with Linda and my husband's elderly mother at her home. All I could think of was that red rose. I felt compelled to search out that rose. So Linda and I walked uptown, and I bought one red rose.

When my husband returned, he said that Muriel had come through the surgery, and it was now touch-and-go as to whether she'd recover. He also told me he'd ordered a big bouquet of gladiolas for Muriel's room.

"That's lovely, honey," I said. "But she's got to have this red rose, too." When we went to the hospital later, Muriel was still groggy and wasn't able to talk to us, but I put the rose, by itself, in a vase where she could see it. Because of work commitments we had to return home without ever talking to Muriel, but we did learn that she would recover.

Soon we got a letter, "Before I went to the hospital," Muriel wrote, "I prayed that if I was supposed to live, God would send me a sign I specifically asked for, something that meant God was with me and would give me the heart to go on. When I opened my eyes after the operation, there it was, the very thing I'd prayed for--a red rose."

* * *

Psalms 81:10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Psalms 81:11 But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.

Psalms 81:12 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

Psalms 81:13 Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!

Psalms 81:14 I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries.

Psalms 81:15 The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever.

Psalms 81:16 He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

Hosea 9:17 My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.

Isaiah 55:2 Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Isaiah 55:3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

Isaiah 55:11 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.

* * *

(Pakistan) In the summer of 1976, on a trip to Pakistan, we hitchhiked on a massive transport truck, & near the border we were to go through the Khyber Pass, a very deep gorge which is breathtaking but dangerous. My partner suggested that we sit on top of the truckload of goods so we could enjoy the fantastic view of the gorge & God's Creation. However, tempting as it was, in my heart a still small voice told me not to do this. The goods tied on top of the truck & covered with canvas seemed to be a little too much & the truck looked topheavy.

My partner continued trying to convince me, as he really wanted to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience. But very strongly that voice in my heart said, "Don't do it!" So I explained that I didn't have peace about doing that, & we should listen to the Lord & sit in the large cabin in the front of the truck, which we finally proceeded to do.

As we started up the mountain, the truck was moving slowly, & when we reached the first sharp curve it swerved sharply. As it did this, the Lord spoke to my heart & said, "The truck is going to turn over!" Wow! I just had time to ask the Lord to please have His way with us!

Sure enough, the truck was not able to make the turn with the overloaded top, & it turned over--boom!--right on its side. Everything that was on top of the truck slid down into the gorge, & the cabin of the truck landed right on the upper edge of the gorge.

As we climbed out of the truck, we praised the Lord for His marvellous protection in saving us from sure death! For me, it was a tremendous lesson that I will never forget, that because I did obey that check of His Spirit & His voice, the Lord mercifully saved us. If I had not listened to & obeyed the check, I would not be here today! It shows how important obeying His voice can be, as in this case it was a matter of life or death. But even in so-called "little" things, obeying the checks He gives is a big thing!

* * * *

The Lord doesn't always bang you over the head to tell you, "Look, if you don't do it, something major is going to happen or not happen!" But He waits for YOU. Because otherwise if it was so obvious & you KNEW, you'd do it. But He just sort of waits for an extra step of willingness, & a step of cooperation & being willing to do it. And THEN He shows you what He's going to do as a result. Like Dad says, big things are hinged on very small things, & small keys open big doors.

Even if you don't feel this huge urge to [do it] maybe just a little thing that you know you ought to, nevertheless it may be very important & the Lord may be waiting on you to show you or to do something major. He doesn't always want to tell you it's so major because then you'd go right ahead & do it because you know you need to, then. He wants to see if you'll just obey that LITTLE check, that still small voice.

* * *

If you want to know what you need to do to best prepare for the year ahead, this is one of the most important things you can do: Continue to hone your gifts of listening to the Lord, hearing from Him in prophecy and receiving His instruction. Learn to hear from Him in prophecy about everything! Make it a habit! Give it all you've got, as if everything depended upon it, because it does! The Lord is fine-tuning you in this area and showing you that you simply won't be able to live without it.

Hearing from the Lord in prophecy about everything will not only be the means of your survival, but it will also be the means of your shining glory! This is why it's so important for you all to hone your gifts of prophecy! Hearing from the Lord in prophecy before you make a move is the means by which He will be able to direct you and use you to perform greater works in these Last Days. Because the Lord can trust you to obey, to check in with Him on everything, then He knows you'll always be ready, waiting, and willing to be used to perform the great exploits needed to defy the works of evil in these Last Days. He knows He'll be able to trust you to get the job done, to stand up for the truth, and lead the world to victory in His Name. This is the victory that will overcome the world, your faith and your obedience to not make a move without getting His direction and hearing from Him in prophecy.

The Lord instructed you to discern the signs of the times. He's told you repeatedly in His Word to watch and pray, and there could hardly be a more vital time than now for you to heed this instruction. The Lord has told you to be prepared. He's warned you to not be caught unaware, to discern the signs of the times, and to watch and pray. How do you not get caught unaware? How do you discern the signs of the times? How are you not going to be deceived by the tricks of the Enemy and his treacherous devices? By watching and praying.

* * * *

(Poland) After our two-year-old daughter got over a recent flu shortly after moving into our new house, she started acting very naughty. She would say no to anything we said; she wouldn't answer or talk to us; she would ask for something and then start freaking out if we didn't give it to her. For us this was shocking behavior, and we didn't know how to handle it. Then my hubby got a check that we hadn't done the Jericho march through our Home yet [prayer for spiritual cleansing a property and dedicating it to the Lord, to be filled with His Spirit]. Somehow it slipped our minds, and after three weeks in our new place we still hadn't done it. The Lord also reminded us about this in prophecy. So finally we did it with all the kids and some adults. After that, our daughter completely changed!

* * * *

And how do you watch and pray? What's the best way you can watch and pray? The best way you can watch and pray is to continually be looking to the Lord, and not only look to Him, but listen to Him and receive your instructions from Him for your every move. There you go! It all goes back to this--you can't make a move without hearing from God!

I used to tell you if you went ahead without hearing from God, you'd fall flat on your face. Well, I think I'll have to revise that statement, because nowadays the ante has been upped, and in these days if you try to make a move without hearing from God, if you don't get down to business with the Lord and hear from Him in prophecy, if you proceed without His leading, it's apt to cost you a whole lot more than a little fall on your face!

As you enter this new era, it's no longer just a good idea to hear from the Lord before you make a move; you simply cannot afford not to hear from God before you make a move! You've now got to broaden your horizons when you hear "watch and pray," because when the Lord instructs you to watch and pray, He means you've got to watch, to look to Him, and to pray. But He doesn't expect you to pray a one-way prayer. He means you are to not only speak your peace, but He also wants you to listen to Him in prayer, to hear His voice and receive His encouragement, counsel, instruction and guidance in prophecy. This is watching and praying! When the Lord says "watch and pray" to you, His avant-garde Endtime army, He means you are to watch, pray, listen and receive!

Heaven is full of messages, just waiting to pour down your channel--full of counsel, full of guidance and full of inspiration. Tune in today! It's there for you.

* * * *

Beside me throughout my life, I have always felt a guiding presence. When I am walking in the wild, as I have done since childhood, this presence guides me. I have humorously referred to it as General Direction. I was raised in the outdoors. I spent ten years in scouting. I wandered the woods alone all my life, often preferring the company of animals to humans. I hunted and fished, paddled and back-packed, wherever I felt a need or desire to go. So it was not unusual one cold February morning for me to go for a walk outside. I bundled up in a down parka, boots, hat, and mittens and set out into the thin, sub-zero day.

As I left our low-rent student apartment, I mentioned I was off, and no one asked where. I walked down to the shore of a nearby lake, about a mile from home. This lake is nearly twenty-five miles in circumference, nine miles long, and about five miles wide. From where I stood overlooking the bumpy hillocks of ice and snow, I estimated it would take me four hours to reach the middle and return.

The lake had been frozen for two months, and the ice was quite thick. People skied, played and fished on it daily. Indeed, that day I could see colorful figures off in the distance. I created a line-of-sight target for myself and stomped off into the snow. It was tiring work, and not having been prepared for such a large undertaking, I didn't bring water with me. My thirst increased and I started to eat the snow.

As I reached the turning point, the sky began to cloud over. The cloud cover was unusually low and ominously dark; heavy storm clouds filled the air with large, beautiful, entrancing flakes. The temperature dropped, the wind picked up, and I could no longer see anyone on the ice.

Soon I found it difficult to see ahead, and I had to shield my eyes from the stinging snow. I could barely even see my hand in front of my face. I had to lean heavily into the wind. I have no idea how long I walked on this way. I began to feel cold and drew my hood down tight over my hat. I withdrew my arms from the sleeves up into the chest space. I knew the dangers of hypothermia well.

Stumbling on in the blizzard, I started to fall. At first I figured I needed my arms to balance. Then I realized I could see nothing but white; I had become snow-blind and was confused. When I fell, sometimes I could not stand again. I couldn't differentiate up and down. Better to stay down and crawl, I thought. Occasionally deep, thunderous groans rolled from beneath the surface of the ice. I began calling out for help, only to hear my voice fall dead in the storm before me.

What if I had been going in circles? I stretched out on the frozen lake, reaching forward, digging in my hands, pulling my knees up and arching my back, inching forward, wormlike. "Please, dear God, help me find my way." Depression began to take hold. I stopped prone in the snow, tears freezing on my cheeks.

Then loud and clear, as if directly before me, came the grand, sonorous foghorn of the rescue station only blocks from my house. "Be careful," said a voice, "the breakwater is open and deep." I moved on again, snail-like, across the bumpy whiteness. After a short while I heard the lapping of gentle waves, closer and closer. "Be careful, stay to the right, climb the concrete wall when you reach it." I heard these things and knew them at the same time; they were sensible, logical, and, most of all reassuring, like trusted counsel.

Soon the waves were very close, and I removed my glove to feel for wetness near the edge of the ice. My hands were numb, but not without sensation. I found the edge and began moving around to the right, still on my belly, toward the retaining wall. It was beginning to get dark, and, looking up, I faintly saw the light of the rescue station. I felt my way up through the deeply drifting snow to the door. The next thing I felt was being half pulled and half carried inside. A man with dark hair and a beard was there with hot coffee brewing.

After asking me what I was doing, he said he thought he had seen me or someone out on the lake coming in this direction. Thinking the foghorn might help, he set it off. "Good timing," I responded. When I asked him why he was there in the middle of winter, he said he was finishing some research. When I finished my coffee, I decided to go. We said goodbye, and I walked home.

At home I discovered I had been gone for over seven hours and everyone was worried about me. I told them the whole story. My roommate, Dana, said there was no way the rescue station would have been open. The taste of coffee was still in my mouth. They thought it was a good story, but given my appearance and physical condition they knew there was some truth in it.

The next day, after the storm, in the light of day, I walked back to the rescue building. It was locked up tight, and its concrete-bunker design looked imposing. The door was nearly buried in the drift, which showed no signs of anyone having traveled there. I dug through the drift to the door and read a sign: CLOSED FOR WINTER, with inclusive dates from fall to spring. I called the county sheriff's department and was told no one had access during the winter and no one had been there the day before.

I called the university and was surprised to hear the same story. To this day I have no earthly explanation for my rescue, but this experience cemented my belief in a Higher Power and the guardians that watch over us.

* * * *

Psalm 113:1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.

1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

2 Kings 18:11 And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes:

2 Kings 18:12 Because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear them, nor do them.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

2 Timothy 2:22-25 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.

Daniel 6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Daniel 6:21-22 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocence was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

* * *

Ever since fifth grade, Katie Lowell and Michelle Sanders had ridden horses together in the rural East Coast area where they both live. By the time Katie turned thirteen in 1980, she was the proud owner of Blaze, a beautiful chestnut colored horse with white markings on his face. Since Michelle lived on a huge farm with lots of barns and pastures, Katie explains, "I fed Blaze and turned him out on one of the pastures. Then Michelle and I walked down a long driveway to meet the school bus."

After school, the girls retraced their steps, walking from the bus stop back to the farm. "Sometimes I wouldn't see Blaze because of the rolling hills," Katie says. "But I'd call him, and he'd gallop in, full speed." The girls would brush their horses and saddle up so they could ride a bit before dark. Eventually Katie's father would arrive to take his daughter home. It was a perfect arrangement.

Usually Michelle went home before Katie's father arrived. Since the other horse boarders weren't around at that time, Katie was alone. "But I loved it," she says. "The farm was a peaceful place, and I was never afraid."

One pleasant afternoon in late October, Katie and Michelle jumped off the school bus and ran up the driveway to the pasture where their horses waited. The girls rode for a while, and eventually the shadows lengthened. "Have to help with dinner," Michelle sighed, slipping off her horse and turning him out to the pasture. Michelle always had kitchen chores to do.

Katie opened her mouth to say good-bye to her friend, then stopped. She felt odd. In fact, for no apparent reason, she was suddenly afraid. "Do you *have* to go?" she asked. Michelle looked perplexed. "Of course. And, anyway, it's getting dark and your dad will be here soon. See you tomorrow!" With a wave, she headed toward her house. Katie didn't wave back. By now she was extremely frightened. Yet everything seemed normal. Why this strange agitation? She would finish the barn chores quickly and wait outside for her father, she decided. Usually, it was hard to leave the farm, but tonight she longed to see his car.

Katie led Blaze into his stall and hurriedly brushed him down. Being inside the barn made her even more nervous, as if she were being watched. Yet, no one was there. Finally, she finished. But just before leaving, she realized that the horses were short of hay. She'd need to go up into the loft and throw some down. The barn's top three floors were used to store hay. The floor above the stalls was divided into four corners, one for each horse, so the boarders would know how much hay they were using and when they needed to buy more.

Katie climbed the hayloft ladder under her corner. With each step, her feeling of dread increased. Something was terribly wrong. She knew it, without knowing *how* she knew it. Instinct told her to run, that she was in danger, that something terrible was going to happen. But it was unthinkable that her beloved Blaze should be left without hay. At the top of the ladder, she put her hand on the door and started to push.

"Katie," a voice said over her left shoulder. "Katie, close the door. Do not go up there. Go out, sit quietly, and wait for your father."

The voice wasn't loud, nor was it either male or female, "but it felt masculine," Katie says. It was calm, firm, precise--and not at all frightening. But it commanded. Startled, Katie turned in the direction of the voice. But no one was behind her. There was no one at all in the barn.

She didn't hesitate. Quickly climbing down the ladder, Katie scooted out and waited in the usual place for her father. As soon as he came, she jumped into the car. "I didn't feel safe," she says, "until the barn was completely out of sight."

The next morning before school, Katie's father drove her to the farm. But as they reached the barn, they saw police cars surrounding it. Katie's father got out of the car. "What's going on?" he asked an officer. Katie followed him, worried. Was Blaze all right? What had happened?

"Everything's okay now," the police officer reassured them. "But yesterday, a violent inmate escaped from a mental hospital and wound up here."

"Here?" Kate's heart started to pound. "Yeah."

The policeman motioned to the side of the barn near Blaze's stall. "He was hiding up in the loft, on a bed of hay he'd made on this corner."

Her corner. Where her hay was kept. Where she had almost opened the loft door. Katie remembered the untamed terror that had surrounded her, the loving voice that had sent her out of the barn to safety.

* * *

Tips from Jesus:

Sometimes that check might mean a sudden change of plans, or maybe it will mean remaining more prayerful and on guard while out.

Be open to whatever I want to show you.

Even if you've prayed before leaving home that doesn't mean that you don't have to stay prayerful and check in with Me occasionally while you are out.

"Pray without ceasing" means to stay in touch with Me when you're on the go.

As you are faithful to listen to and obey My voice, I will be faithful to protect you and keep you safe.

* * *

God will not change your will against your will.

Every great person first learned how to obey, whom to obey, & when to obey.

True obedience neither procrastinates nor questions.

Obedience to God is the most infallible evidence of sincere & supreme love to Him.

Start the day off right, hear from the Lord. He'll solve a lot of the problems before the day even starts if you listen to what He has to say.

If your day is hemmed with prayer, it is less likely to unravel.

The quickest way to get back on your feet is to get down on your knees.

THEY ARE ALMOST A WITNESS AGAINST HIM BY THEIR LIVES, EVEN IF THEY CLAIM TO BELIEVE IN HIM. If they're not following His Word & obeying His Word, no matter how much they claim that they remember it, "Be ye not only hearers of the Word but doers also"! (Jam.1:22) They've got to not only read it & hear it & say amen, but they've got to obey it! They've got to do it to prove their allegiance & their loyalty & their faith in it & their belief in it & their fidelity to it. They have got to do it!

"BE YE NOT ONLY HEARERS OF THE WORD BUT DOERS ALSO," otherwise you're like the man who built his house on the sand, & when the tough times come it will be destroyed.

* * *

(Japan) Ever since we gave up our source of steady income four years ago, we have seen incredible miracles of the Lord's financial supply. The Lord has been trying to teach me that it isn't *who* the money comes from, but *the faith* that He will supply it that is important.

On one occasion, both our rent and electricity bills were due, and we didn't have enough to pay them. Added with our daily costs, we needed over 300,000 yen (about US\$2,750). At the time we had only 3,000 yen (about US\$27), so we got together, put our hands on the three bills, and asked the Lord to multiply them by one hundred.

The miracle occurred the next day. Through three different Bible classes, the Lord supplied over 400,000 yen (about US\$3,670) from the people who participated. Praise the Lord! I truly believe that if we faithfully witness and stretch to reach the top, the Lord will continue to supply our needs, even giving us the desires of our hearts.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Once I tell you something, don't rush off and say, "I heard it, and that's all I need to hear!" I admire your utter faith and belief, but it's unwise to drop all communication with Me just because I tell you one thing. You must stay in constant communication with Me to hear if I change plans or if I change the circumstances.

My precious ones, I do all things well. Even if you don't always understand it, or sometimes things work out differently than you think they will, or even differently than I allow you to think they will, still, if you've given Me your will and sought Me for My counsel and direction, you can trust that I have not led you astray, but that I will perform My perfect will through you. Don't let the Enemy discourage you from coming to Me in prophecy, but fight for that which is rightfully yours--the privilege of hearing My Words, My counsel, My direction for you at every opportunity. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

(Summary of answer:) The Lord makes it clear that we should not stop asking Him about everything in our lives, even the little details, just because sometimes things don't always turn out the way we thought they would, based on what He tells us. We can rest assured that He knows best, He has a plan, and He won't cause us to suffer harm or loss because we followed His instruction the best we could.

Some things are a mystery, and this is one of them: We can't understand all the reasons why the Lord doesn't tell us everything in advance, and sometimes He even lets it look like we got it "wrong." Ultimately we have to trust the Lord and not take it too hard or worry when the prophecies we receive don't always work out exactly as we thought. You just have to trust that the Lord knows what He's doing and not get down, feeling like you got a tainted prophecy or did something wrong.

* * *

The week had been full and busy for the doctor. As he drove into his driveway that Saturday afternoon, he looked forward to putting on his old clothes and relaxing the rest of the day. However, it wasn't long before the phone rang. There was an emergency at the hospital and he was needed immediately. He grabbed his bag and dashed out the door to his car in the driveway. He climbed in, turned the key, and was ready to go.

Suddenly he felt a strong Presence standing by his open window. It was so real that he felt he could reach out and touch it. He even paused long enough to turn his head and look. Although he didn't see anything, he heard a voice of warning, "Don't back out of the driveway. Get out and look behind you."

Even though the doctor was in a tremendous hurry, he felt he must obey the message. He got out of his car, walked around to the back, and there he saw the little two-year-old boy from next door. He was sitting in his new rocking chair, leaning up against the back bumper of the doctor's car, watching the lazy autumn clouds float by.

* * *

John 13:13-16 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Exodus 10:26 Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God; and we know not with what we must serve the LORD, until we come thither.

Exodus 23:25 And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

Joshua 24:24 And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

* * *

(Romania) We were househunting, and our prayer was to find an apartment quickly (because the weather was very cold) that had a telephone, furniture, storage space and good heating, for as cheap as possible. We took time to listen to the Lord, and this was what He said:

(Jesus speaking:) The easiest way to find the place that you are looking for, and that I have prepared for you, is to follow Me step by step. How do you do this in a practical way? Before you start the day, take a few minutes to listen to My voice in prophecy and to check with Me about your plans.

During the day take time to stop and praise Me and thank Me! (Don't forget your praise time!)

When you get the newspaper, before you start calling, stop for one minute to acknowledge Me and ask Me to show you who to call and the priorities in calling. Imagine that I'm there close by your side all the time, because I am there. Talk to Me and include Me in everything that you are doing--and even more, ask Me about everything that you want to do. This will save you time, energy and money, and will bring the results that you search for. *(End of message)*

In a couple of days we found the apartment we wanted, and rented it! It pays to stop, look, and listen every step of the way. He never fails!

* * *

2 Chronicles 34:33 And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Psalms 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Psalms 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

1 Samuel 12:20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

1 Samuel 12:21 And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.

Deuteronomy 10:12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

Deuteronomy 10:13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

Jeremiah 30:9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

* * * *

Admiral Sir Thomas Williams, a straightforward and excellent man, was in command of a ship crossing the Atlantic. His course brought him in sight of the island of Ascension, at that time uninhabited, and never visited except for the purpose of collecting turtles.

The island was barely visible on the horizon, but as Sir Thomas looked at it he was seized by an unaccountable desire to steer towards it. His desire became more and more urgent and distressing, and foreseeing that it would soon be more difficult to satisfy it, he told his lieutenant to prepare to "put about ship" and steer in that direction. The officer respectfully remonstrated that changing course would greatly delay them. This only increased the Admiral's anxiety, and the ship was steered towards the island.

All eyes were fixed upon it, and soon something was perceived on the shore. "It is white--it is a flag--it must be a signal!" When they neared the shore they discovered that sixteen men, wrecked on the coast many days before, and suffering hunger, had set up a signal, although almost without hope of relief. What made the Admiral steer his ship in the very opposite direction to what he and his crew wanted was but the superhuman Spirit of God.

* * * *

Spend as much time as possible in My Word. My Word is Me, and the more of it you have running through your mind and your thoughts, the more you will absorb My Spirit, and you will learn to recognize more clearly when something is or is not according to My Word.

When you recognize something that is not according to My Word, shun it immediately. Don't stop to analyze it on your own or decide whether or not it can fit in. Learn to trust the checks I give you, ask Me about them, and then obey instantly.

When I've given you a check and have spoken, act on what I tell you without hesitation or further analyzing. Analyzing kills this gift, because it is a gift of the spirit, not something that can be picked apart and explained. Analyzing and trying to figure things out yourself, without looking to Me, is of the carnal mind. This gift requires putting on the mind of the spirit. The carnal mind and the mind of the spirit cannot coexist.

Practice instant obedience in sticking to your convictions regarding what's right and wrong. Obey Me rather than your own personal desires when they differ from what I show you to do, whether through My checks, the things I tell you to do through prophecy, or through something I convict you about through My Word. Follow the guidelines I have given in My Word when it's necessary to seek further confirmation and the counsel of your teamwork and others. Once you have followed this process, do not hesitate to obey when I reveal My will to you.

Hear from Me frequently in prophecy. Practice "ask Me everything" at every opportunity, under every circumstance. Never wait for a more "ideal" time to hear from Me. Learn to hear from Me, to focus and tune your channel even under difficult conditions when there is noise and distraction. Of course, if it's noise or distraction that you can resolve, then by all means do so, or "enter into your closet" to escape it. But never put off hearing from Me just because the conditions are not ideal. Hearing from Me on the spot, under any conditions, is part of this gift. You must exercise it.

* * * *

My two daughters were reading novels. My eldest told someone she had nightmares, they got a check that it was the books that she was reading and they asked her to forsake them. Then I found out that my youngest was also having nightmares. I took her for a walk and talked to her about my past experiences with books, music, etc., and how I was also plagued with fear and unable to sleep at night, and about how her older sister had also had nightmares. I asked her to pray about forsaking her books and she readily agreed. [She was provided also with the right, faith feeding reading material.] She hasn't complained about nightmares since then.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Pray more. Ask Me more things, little things throughout the day. Check in with Me and obey what I tell you. Don't just go from one thing to the next because someone is asking for something or wants to talk about something; check with Me. Make sure you're hitting the mark, and all that will contribute to greater power and ease when you need to rise above. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

(Prayer:) What is a shepherd but a servant unto his flock? The farmer kneels by the cow & serves her, & the cow is like a queen with the farmer at her feet--a mere servant. A teacher is the servant of the class. A leader is servant of the follower! May we be servants of the flock, Lord, slaves of Thy Children.--"In honour preferring one another." You are our Servant, Lord, waiting upon us all--ministering rather than being ministered unto! You are the greatest sample of all!--The greatest of all samples of humility & mercy!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) If you love Me, keep My commandments, and one of My commandments is to listen to My voice, to hear from Me, to stop, look, and listen. I know it's always a trial and a temptation to worry that you don't have the time. That's just the Enemy trying to stop you from hearing those little jewels that I'd like to pour out to you in prophecy. You do have the time. It only takes a moment. It doesn't take long at all for you to release your hold on what you're doing and stop and hear from Me--and go on, if that's what I want you to do; or turn and make a change, if that's what I want you to do. But unless you take that moment, those few seconds, the time of looking to Me, you won't know which way to go--whether you should turn, or whether you should keep going ahead.

So stop and listen to Me. It'll make a difference in your work, in your life, in your love, in your time, in everything you do. You'll have faith and confidence that what I'm instructing you to do will work out. But when you get going on a certain road, and you head off full steam and you don't check with Me if you should take any turns in the road, then you're left to your own devices. And that may not always work out for the best. I may have another plan for you, another way, a slight change, a slight variation; or I may want to encourage you that you're going the right way, to give you more faith for what you are doing.

But I want to talk to you in prophecy; I want to be there with you, to accompany you. I want to be your Guide. I want to be your Mentor, your Counselor, the One Who helps you in each decision you make. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

* * *

I was sixteen years old and was working on a farm for a man and his family of nine children. This man was a very quiet, but deep thinking Christian, who enjoyed sitting around the warm living room fire at night with all of his children singing songs and telling stories together. My job was to take care of his 3,000 sheep and to help plant the crops. We grew 400 acres of oats and 200 acres of barley, and in addition to this, we raised chickens for their fresh eggs and had a few Jersey cows for milking. I also grew vegetables for our consumption, since we lived 100 miles from the closest town.

One day we had decided to clear the property of debris and unusable lumber and proceeded to pile up quite a large stack to burn. I was on the other side of the sheep pens, which was about 100 metres away from where the farmer was standing, when I noticed that he had poured a large can of liquid over the pile of debris. He then struck a match and the stack began to burn in an instant.

During the course of the day, I had been driving the tractor, pulling a large trailer behind it, loading up everything I had been assigned to put on the fire to burn. Late in the afternoon, the fire began to burn very slowly and I had yet another large pile to add. Remembering that the farmer poured a liquid on the fire to start it, I had the idea to go to the barn and look for what it was that he used to ignite the fire. All I could see was a large drum of gasoline which had a hand pump attached to it. I noticed that the same can that the farmer had used was sitting on top of the gasoline.

Unaware of the consequences of a flaming inferno that could explode within my hands, I filled the can to the brim with the gasoline, which was about one gallon, and started walking across the field towards the smouldering fire. Approaching the fire, I paused to get a firm grip on the can, ready to toss the liquid on the waning fire, when all of a sudden I heard the farmer calling out to me from a distance, in an alarming manner!

Because he was so far away I couldn't hear exactly what it was that he was saying, but his tone got my attention. I hurriedly put the can down and ran towards him until I could hear what he was saying.

"What have you got in that can?" he questioned.

When I told him it was gasoline he threw his head back and looked Heavenward and said he had just heard a voice telling him to stop me from pouring whatever it was on that fire! This remarkable voice from Heaven warned the farmer to stop me in my ignorance!

Earlier that day, when the farmer had initially ignited the fire, he had used a mixture of diesel fuel and a very small amount of gasoline. Unaware of this mixture, I had unwittingly assumed that the container was filled with gasoline. If I had poured straight gasoline directly onto the fire--which contains highly explosive gases and is extremely volatile--I might not be here today to tell this story!

* * * *

Job 33:33 ...hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom.

Proverbs 8:1-14

Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

* * *

(Hungary) Two ladies, L. and M., were returning home, when they stopped at a McDonalds to use the bathroom. Before they entered the building, they noticed a certain man behind them, who followed them as they went down the stairs to use the bathroom. L. waited upstairs for M. to come out.

As M. was using the bathroom, she was suddenly struck by the song that was playing over the radio loudspeakers in the building: *"Get out now, get out now, get out now!"*

She got a strong check that the Lord was using this song to tell her to get out of the bathroom, and although she was not yet done (she had still intended to wash her hands, brush her hair, etc.), she decided to leave the bathroom right away.

She moved to leave, and as she was about to step out of the bathroom, she saw one of the bathroom stall doors opening, and out stepped the man that was following them earlier!

M. quickly dashed out of the bathroom door, almost bumping into L., who had also gotten a check to come down to see if everything was okay. Thankful that they had obeyed God's never-failing check, they headed home. Thank You Jesus!

* * *

When you become nothing but a tool and a channel--nothing but a little diamond of dust, then God can really use you!

Jesus bought & paid for us, we're His property, we belong to Him now. He can do whatever He wants to with us.

Let go & let God!

When your will is in perfect harmony with God's Will, you have perfect peace & heavenly rest.

God doesn't expect you to do it. All He expects you to do is obey & He'll do it through you.

I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord,
O'er mountain or plain or sea;
I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord,
I'll be what You want me to be!

All you need to do is just yield & obey, & leave the consequences & results in the hands of the Lord.

The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender. It is not a question of who you are, or of what you are, but whether God controls you.

Not only does God require obedience, but an obedience which issues from, is animated by, & is an expression of Love.

To withhold one thing from God is theft, for everything is His.

“WHY CALL YE ME, 'LORD, LORD,' & DO NOT THE THINGS WHICH I SAY?”
(Lk.6:46) “And they said to Him, 'But Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? And in Thy Name have cast out devils? And in Thy Name done many wonderful works?’” (Mat.7:22) The whole idea was, “Yes, but you didn't obey Me!” They did all those things apparently in their own strength & their own will & their own way, but they didn't do what God wanted them to do.

IT'S JUST LIKE THE VOICE OF THE LORD: If you resist it & you refuse to listen to it & you turn a deaf ear to it, it begins to fade too, & you get a little more deaf all the time. The Lord just may refuse to shout at you if you don't pay any attention to what He's already tried to say, & He's not going to keep on yelling when it does no good & you don't receive it & you don't act on it! Because when God speaks, He expects you to listen & to receive it & remember it & to do it!

Prayer is like breathing, just breathing the Holy Spirit all the time. You're constantly in communication with the Lord and you're constantly thinking about the Lord, keeping your mind stayed on Him so He'll keep you in perfect peace.

We make enough mistakes that we can't help, without making a mistake that we can help! We cannot afford to make snap judgments on major issues that instead require real desperate prayer together to ask God what He wants done.

Most Christians are more concerned about having God hear what they have to say than they are about hearing what God has to say.

* * *

Recently, we had the opportunity to visit a friend whom we had not seen in four years. This dear friend had told us that the last few years had been very tough due to the economic crisis in Asia. He and his brother were trying their best to stay afloat by expanding their sales in other countries. We had told him about prayer and prophecy, and how the Lord leads us when we take the time to hear from Him.

We saw him again the next day and he seemed quite troubled; he had planned a trip to a nearby country but his agent had discouraged him from making the trip. However, some of his customers from abroad had still told him to come. He was confused and didn't know what to do. He asked us what he should do and we told him we didn't know but what about asking the Lord?

Right then and there we prayed and asked the Lord for His counsel. The Lord told our friend not to look at the waves (as in listening to his agent), but to step out by faith and believe and the miracle would happen. Our friend called us a few days ago to let us know that everything went according to the prophecies we had received for him!

For the first couple of days the Lord tested his faith, as nothing phenomenal happened. Then he pulled out the prophecies, reread them and started to follow them step by step, and that's when the miracle happened. It was the most incredible business trip he had ever had-he sold more than on any other trip!

He was thrilled, and thanked us over and over again on the phone. We had to keep telling him that it was only Jesus! We were inspired how the Lord answered so beautifully for this friend! At the time we gave him the prophecy we were a little nervous, as we weren't sure how things would pan out. Lord help us for our little faith, but we gave him the prophecy anyway, as we've learned it doesn't pay to withhold the Lord's Words.

* * *

There are good reasons why He sometimes deliberately leads us one way to begin with, even when He knows good and well that things won't actually work out that way in the end. Those reasons are:

Circumstances change. The Lord has to wait for people to make personal choices.

He wants you to start moving a certain direction, so He gives a message that He knows will prompt you to do so, even though He knows it doesn't necessarily jibe with how things will work out in the end. At times He does it this way because there are lessons for you to learn along the way, or people for you to meet, etc. Also, if He knows the "full truth" would be too much for you and you'd be overwhelmed, scared, or lacking in faith, then He makes it easier for you by giving you a message that you have the faith for and that will get you started in the right direction.

Sometimes He refrains from giving you certain "specifics" in His answer. If you haven't asked the right question, or you are lacking in faith to receive a full answer, He may not include certain details in His reply. In this way He's teaching you to keep coming back to Him. Often it is through this process you become more open, with time, to receive a full answer. He doesn't usually burst through with information until you are ready to receive it.

The prophecy was misinterpreted or the "if-then" clause or other requirements on your part were not fulfilled. This is why it's so important to pray for the gift of interpretation and knowledge. A key in interpreting prophecy properly is to keep asking Him about the situation and not narrowly latch on to one phrase or tenaciously hold on to one prophecy.

He's testing your faith and teaching you the importance of staying in tune with Him, even after you've heard His voice, as Joshua did.

Sometimes He chooses not to tell you. He is God, after all, and that's His prerogative. But if He does so, there's a good reason, such as those mentioned above.

Regardless of the various problems and difficulties that come up when following the Lord's counsel in prophecy, asking Him everything is certainly much better than trying to fumble along in your own wisdom without His counsel in prophecy. He promises, "If you've given Me your will and sought Me for My counsel and direction, you can trust that I have not led you astray, but that I will perform My perfect will through you."

It's extremely important that you don't let the little problems that come up keep you from using your gift of prophecy as often as you possibly can. The Enemy will try to discourage you from it, and will blow these little incidents way out of proportion. But don't listen to him. Just don't worry about it. Fight, like the Lord says, for that which is rightfully yours--the privilege of hearing His Words, counsel, and direction for you at every opportunity!

* * * *

I was working the three-to-eleven shift at Miners Hospital in Spangler, Pennsylvania, when a patient I was feeding asked, "Why don't you have a little pin on like the other nurses?"

"I do," I said, reaching to show him the golden, wreath-shaped pin on my collar. It had been given to me when I graduated from nursing school in Altoona, and it meant a lot to me--it stood for years of hard work and study. But now, when I looked down, the pin was gone.

I knew I had pinned it to my uniform just before I left the house. I looked everywhere for it. A colleague and I searched through all the linens and dusted under the beds. At home I turned the place upside down. No pin.

Of course, I could replace it, but a substitute would never mean as much. That night as I lay in bed, I prayed that the Lord would help me find it. Soon I was asleep. In the deep of night I had a dream. I dreamed that I got out of bed, put on my house coat and slippers, and ran downstairs and out the door to a puddle of water in front of the house. And in the puddle was my pin.

The next morning I awoke disappointed. "It was only a dream," I muttered to myself. "A worthless dream." But as my head cleared, I seemed to hear a voice saying, *No it's more than a dream. Go. See.*

I put on my house coat and slippers and walked out to the road in front of our house, and there found a puddle of water. I placed my hand into the brown water. In a moment I held in my hand an answered prayer.

* * *

Isaiah 30:20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

2 Chronicles 30:8 Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the Lord and enter into His sanctuary, which He hath sanctified forever: and serve the Lord your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you.

Psalms 143:10 Teach me to do Thy Will; for Thou art my God: Thy Spirit is good: lead me into the land of uprightness.

Isaiah 64:8 Now, O Lord, Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and Thou our potter; and we are all the work of Thy hand.

Matthew 6:10 Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven.

Matthew 26:39 And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy Word.

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Hebrews 6:3 And this will we do, if God permit.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

* * *

This is a true story about a teacher named Mary who taught in an Indian school. There was another teacher in the school that Mary did not like and one day Mary felt something inside her telling her that this bad feeling was wrong. Mary had learned to listen to this "inner voice" because she knew it came from God, so she decided to obey it. "But what can I do?" she wondered.

"Give her an egg," was the thought which came.--But that seemed like a foolish idea to Mary. Just one egg! The teacher might feel insulted at such a present! A dozen eggs, now that would be different, but just one egg! She put the thought out of her mind and went off to her day's teaching.

But when she came home in the evening, there on the chair in her room sat a hen. It cackled and flew down; and there was an egg. Mary remembered her thought about giving an egg to the other teacher.--And here God had even supplied the egg to give her! So, somewhat reluctantly, she picked it up and set off for the other teacher's house.

This other teacher was married and had several children, and one of them, a little boy, was outside the house when Mary reached it. She was glad to see him--it was easier to give the egg to him. "Will you give this egg to your mother, please?" she asked, "It is for her."

The next day the other teacher came to Mary. "What made you give me that egg?" she asked. "It was so nice and fresh!" So Mary told her about being sorry for her bad feelings and about the thought she had had of what to do about them, which she felt had come from God.

"Yes, that is just like God," said the other teacher. "He must have known that we had so little food in the house that when everyone had had some, there was none left for me. And then your egg came! I was so happy and satisfied when I had eaten it!"

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Yes, I want you to check with Me about every move you make. But sometimes it's not only the moves and changes that I want you to check with Me on. I want you to check with Me on whether you move or not, whether you turn or not, whether you don't make any changes, whether you keep going. I want you to check with Me on that, and hearing from Me in prophecy is simple. It won't usually take long at all. Sometimes more complicated things will take a little longer, but in the long run, the answers you receive from Me will always work out and will be well worth the time you took to receive them. I'll bless your yielding to listen to Me, your yielding to stop and ask Me to tell you in prophecy what's best instead of going on in your own wisdom and understanding, your yielding to My love, knowing that I have the master plan. Your yielding is what I will bless--your yielding to go the way that I want you to go.

If you ask Me for help, if you ask Me for guidance, if you ask Me to lead you, I will. Please, please, please give Me time to lead you. Set aside your plans. Set aside what you're doing for just a few moments to let Me lead you.

As always, love is the key. If you love Me, keep My commandments. Your loving Me, your wanting Me, your needing Me, is the key. Commit yourself to Me in the way the bride commits herself to her husband. Give yourself to Me. Let Me pour into you, pour through you, and lead you. Yield to Me moment by moment, step by step. Things will be far easier when you learn this special trick, this way of doing things: stopping and yielding and loving Me, praising Me, letting Me guide you and letting Me show you through prophecy.

"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest Name I know! Fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go." How can I do that? How can I keep you singing as you go if you don't stop to hear My voice, and let Me give you My directions, My counsel, My songs in your heart? Please look to Me. Please listen to Me. Please wait for the word, the counsel, the instruction that I have to give you.

My voice can speak to you in many ways. If you feel Me checking you about something, or you have a burden or leading, stop and ask Me to speak to you about it. It might be My voice trying to give you a signal that I have something to tell you in prophecy--something which will save you a lot of time and difficulty if you'll just stop and listen to Me. It doesn't have to take a long time; simply stop and check in with Me.

The secret is to stop and ask Me. Wait and get those words in prophecy from Me. Trust that I'm going to give you those words. Know that it's not in your strength that this work will be accomplished. Know that I am doing it. As you give your work over to Me, as you give your life over to Me, I'll lead and guide you. As you ask and listen to Me, I'll be there for you. Take a moment to hear My voice of prophecy, and again and again through the day as you reach a turn in the road, look to Me.

* * * *

Our 8-year-old was having a lot of difficulty with reading even though he could read at 4 years old. When praying we got a check to see if he was coordinating his eyes properly (as we knew that his eyesight was fine).

We found out that after an operation a few years ago, for a squint, his eyes had never learnt to focus. He is now doing special therapy to teach his eyes to work together. I was so convicted, as if I had heard from the Lord earlier it would have made things so much easier for him, and saved us all a lot of frustration.

* * * *

Prayer is something you should be doing ALL the time, no matter what else you're doing! You can't wait until you're through doing this or that, & THEN pray. It's like thinking on your feet!--Or like BREATHING!--Just breathing the Holy Spirit all the time, being in constant communication with the Lord!"

* * * *

Ask Me even about the slightest little thing, like hopping in the car and going to the store to buy some milk. It seems a pretty normal thing to do. You need milk for the kids, the car's right there, the store's right there, you just go and get it. Seems very normal, doesn't it? No problem. But please stop and ask Me, get My confirmation in prophecy that, "Yes, that's a good idea"--that I want you to go, that it's fine to go.

Lots of times you like to try to override this need for My counsel, for My confirmation, because you think, "Well, of course this is what we need to do. This is normal. This is what needs to happen next." But does it? Does it really need to happen that way? Will it work out best that way? Are there any other factors involved that you don't know about? There's so much that you don't know, but I know it all, and I will lead you and show you how it can affect you, what changes may need to be made. So just ask. There are lots of little things every day that you can just ask Me about, and I'll confirm or help you through prophecy.

There are lots of things during the day that you just do as a matter of course. Perhaps in the morning you get up and wake up the kids and others to be on time for breakfast. That seems pretty normal, doesn't it? That's a pretty standard thing you do. The kids need their breakfast. They need to get dressed. It's all pretty standard and looks pretty normal. But again, it will only take a moment for you to tune in and ask Me to help you and to show you anything you may need to know that will make a difference on how you wake up the kids. Stop and ask Me. Say, "Jesus, I'm going to get the kids up now. Is there anything You want to show me about how to go about this today? Please show me."

* * * *

Peter Marshall (Chaplain to the U.S. Senate for a number of years), in his youth, spent a Summer working in the English village of Bamburgh, sixteen miles southeast of the Scottish border.

One very dark night as he was walking back to Bamburgh from a nearby village, he decided to take a shortcut. He knew that there was a deep, deserted limestone quarry in the area, but he thought he could avoid the danger spot. So he struck out across the moors.

The night was starless & inky black, & the sound of the wind seemed to give it an eerie quality. Suddenly he heard someone call, "Peter!" The voice was urgent.

He stopped. "Yes, who is it? What do you want?" For a second he listened, but there was only the sound of the wind. Thinking he must have been mistaken, he walked on a few paces. Then he heard it again, even more urgent: "Peter!"

This time he stopped dead still & tried to peer into the impenetrable blackness, & suddenly he stumbled, falling to his knees. He put out his hand to catch himself, but there was nothing there. Cautiously he felt around in a semicircle & found that he was on the very brink of the abandoned stone quarry. Just one more step would have sent him plummeting to his death!

Peter Marshall never forgot that voice. And there was never any doubt in his mind about the source of it. He felt that God's intervention must mean that God had a special purpose for his life.

* * *

1 Kings 17:2-3 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

1 Kings 17:4 And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

1 Kings 17:5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

1 Kings 17:6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

1 Kings 17:7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

1 Kings 17:8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

1 Kings 17:9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

1 Kings 17:10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

1 Kings 17:11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

1 Kings 17:12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

1 Kings 17:13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

1 Kings 17:14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

1 Kings 17:15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

1 Kings 17:16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

* * * *

(Kenya) The Lord has miraculously protected us during our three and a half years in Africa--through riots, looting, droughts, floods and political instability, etc. Not a hair of our head has been harmed!

One incident did happen to Franz and I that was quite an ordeal. One hot and sticky Friday afternoon, we were on our way to an outreach spot. We were kind of sleepy due to the high temperatures and the time of day.

We had to pass through a rough part of town, and because we were hot, the window on the driver's side was half rolled down. Our outreach bag was sitting on the back seat with Christian material to sell, \$100 and an original of Franz's drivers license, plus our precious PR book.

We stopped at the next red light, and out of the blue a guy came along and started banging on my window like a maniac. It seemed like he would break it. Of course Franz's reaction was to lean over and try to get the guy off the window.

We were both absorbed with his craziness, when suddenly I got a check to turn the other direction, just a fraction of a second too late. What I saw was our back door open, and a second guy who was just taking off with our outreach bag. He had stuck his hand through the rolled-down window and unlocked the back door.

We were sitting there in shock. Franz started honking the horn, but to no avail; nobody cared enough to do anything on this busy and crowded road. Of course these guys had hoped that at least one of us would run after the thief, so they could steal the car too. We stayed put and watched our bag vanish. Later we found out that this tactic is much used here, where someone gets your attention on one side while on the other side another person steals something from you.

Lesson number one, we learned: We weren't on guard enough and were too taken by the heat. We should have kept our windows up, so nobody could reach into the window, especially when driving through dangerous parts of town or stopping at traffic lights. From now on, even though we're hot, we'd rather keep our window rolled up nearly to the top and only leave a small part open for air.

Lesson number two: Never carry any valuables in your bag. Have them on your body. We rarely carry originals of passports, only when absolutely necessary. Instead of an original drivers license, some of us carry a laminated copy, which so far has been acceptable, especially when you explain that your license has already been stolen once. It's best to keep your bag out of sight behind the seat instead of so obviously on the back seat.

Lesson number three: When someone does something crazy on your left side, automatically look to your right. Most of all, pray without ceasing!

* * * *

God only uses broken men & women--no others will do.

You quit having a battle when you surrender.

When He can get you out of the way, then He has a chance!

Our own spirits are still unrestrained & must be voluntarily under the Lord's control, or they can certainly lead us astray just as bad as an evil spirit! They become evil spirits in disobedience!

God is not as much concerned with your ability as with your availability.

Shoes are like people--the soft soul gives & gives, & the hard soul resists.

Ready to go, ready to stay, ready my place to fill;

Ready for service, lowly or great, ready to do Thy Will!

Before we can pray, "Thy Kingdom come," we must be willing to pray, "My kingdom go."

Obedience to God is the most infallible evidence of sincere & supreme love to Him.

The Lord wants to be recognized. He wants you to know that you need Him. That's why He wants you to pray.

You need to learn to talk to the Lord , and learn to listen most of all.

Prayer is something you can be doing all the time, no matter what else you're doing. It's like thinking on your feet!

SO HIS WORD IS VERY IMPORTANT, BELOVED, & YOU HAD BETTER NOT FORGET IT OR NEGLECT IT OR IN ANY WAY FAIL TO RECEIVE IT, BELIEVE IT, ACT ON IT & OBEY IT!--And record it, if necessary, & pass it on to others, whatever God's purpose is in having given it.

GIVING MORE CREDENCE & IMPORTANCE TO THE WORD OF GOD & BEING BETTER STEWARDS OF HIS WORD, more careful & prayerful with His Word & to guard it, preserve it, use it, obey it & pass it on!--Not just lightly thrust it aside & postpone it to where you might even forget it, much less do what the Lord wanted you to do or learn the lesson He wanted you to learn!

* * * *

(Brazil) A Christian friend of ours was driving downtown and asked the Lord to show him clearly if he should tithe [give part of his earnings to the Lord's work]. To his surprise, he saw a billboard right in front of him that said in very big letters: "TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR FAMILY!" He knew it was the Lord's answer, but still not satisfied, he asked for another confirmation. Immediately there was another billboard: "DO THE RIGHT THING!" Still not completely happy, he asked again, and the third answer was a little heavier: He saw a funeral parlor, with three huge signs reading: "PROMOTION! YOUR FUNERAL FOR R\$390.00!!" That was it! The Lord was saying: Look at what your money is worth! In other words, tomorrow you may die, and that's where your money will go.

Our friend shared this testimony with everyone to show how the Lord speaks to us. The funny thing is that he then decided to deposit some money in my bank account, for our work, but didn't say anything to me. I happened to be passing by the bank and needed the exact amount he had deposited, but didn't know where we were going to get it. When I checked my bank account, there it was: exactly what I needed! Only later that evening his wife told me he had deposited his tithe, to our work.

* * * *

(Jesus Speaking:) I give specifics to get you started on the path that I wish for you to travel. Take the ideas into consideration and work with them, but don't be bound by them if I show you something new and different.

The secret to success is to continue coming back to Me for My direction. This is how you'll know whether I intend for you to hold steadfast to the original course I've set, or whether I allow for your personal faith or opinions to change that course slightly, still winding up at the original destination that I have set out for you. Sometimes the course will change and sometimes it won't, but you can't know unless you ask Me.

This is but a small illustration of a great principle that you must learn as you practice with the weapon of prophecy. This is imperative, for without wisdom and without the faithfulness to come back to Me, you can be led off course or be confused or discouraged. But coming back to Me will always bring the peace and clarity you seek, and ensures My full blessing and power. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Why don't I tell you everything at the beginning? My mysteries are boxes which aren't opened all at once. Treasures are not handed out in the streets; they're buried deep in the mines. Similarly, you must dig deep and come out of the wings and into the quiet to receive My Words and thoughts and counsel.

I may seem to lead you awry, but it's not trickery. It's but a way I have of leading you closer to Me. And in so doing, I gain your ear more permanently. For once you see that plans can change and that even the counsel I would give you one day could be outdated the next, then you learn to ask and seek Me more. This is what pleases Me.

This is part of the process of hearing from Me. I must lead and guide you along the maze of My will, and as you learn and become more accustomed to asking Me continually, then I make My will more easily accessible, and I make the paths clearer and more plain, for I know you will continue to come to Me. Incidents that seem unclear to you or that raise questions in your minds cause you to ask and seek and knock, and stretch your channel to hear more from Me about what I would have you do. You hear from Me about the overall concept of My plan, and you learn more about how I operate and how I think and move and engineer things in the world of the spirit. I wish to give these good things to you, but if you don't ask, how can I speak? So I set up roadblocks and detours.

So fear not. Worry not. Let this not be a stumbling block to you. I will reward your faith and trust in My Words, and will give you this wisdom and understanding in your heart in My good time. *(End of message.)*

* * * *

One month last winter we all got sick, one after another, with a strong flu. We weren't able to go out the whole month, and we had no income. But it was those people we'd been telling about Jesus, and our friends who helped us. One by one they showed up, saying, "The Lord told me to come and give you this [a donation]," or "The Lord showed me to do shopping for you," and they brought a bag with chicken, fruits, and veggies, exactly what we needed for that day to make dinner. It was very touching, and we were able to pay all our bills and have enough food.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) If I told you everything the first time, you wouldn't have to come back to ask again. But I purposely leave some things unsaid--"you cannot bear them all now"--so that when you come across these new factors you will have to come to Me again.

I love it when you come before Me with these questions, so I make sure that I leave enough questions open for you so that you'll have to come again. Not to mention that you just wouldn't have the time or strength to get everything in one sitting. My power and My answers are limitless, but not your time nor your capacity to receive. So I'm leading you along step by step, always leaving you something more to ask Me about, so that you may come before Me again and get your next set of instructions.

This is so very important, and it will become increasingly important in the days to come, when perhaps I'll tell you to go and rescue your loved ones, so you rush off and dash into the house where they are, only to find it's a trap! In times like this I would have you come back to Me as you approach to see if I want you to enter the house, and if so, by the front gate, the back gate, or by the window. When you get that answer, ask, "Where do You want me to go next? Upstairs? Downstairs? Through the living room or through the kitchen?"

In every step you must acknowledge Me and seek My approval and direction. Because in the days to come, your very life and the lives of others will depend on your hearing clearly and constantly from Me. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

* * * *

The year is 1939. The place is an 80-acre dairy farm outside the small town of Chehalis, Washington, 16 miles from the nearest doctor or hospital. A little girl, an 18-month-old toddler dressed in overalls, slams the screen door as she ambles out onto the back porch to play in the sunshine. Her mother is inside the house, cleaning.

Outdoors on this warm Spring morning the world is full of delights to explore. The youngster runs through the dewy grass, picks dandelions and carries them back to the house.

On the porch an old enameled kettle sitting in the sun catches her eye. It is filled with peas soaking in an arsenic solution, something that will prevent them from rotting when planted. Back then, seeds weren't pretreated as most are today.

The little girl is fascinated with the liquid in the kettle. Taking a battered tin cup, she dips it in the pot, fills it with the liquid, then lifts it.

Just then her mother hears a voice calling her, "Ella, Ella, come quick!" She follows the voice through the house and out the back door where she spots the little girl, the cup at her lips. Frantic, she grabs the toddler and empties the cup. She wipes the little girl's lips, but no, the youngster hasn't had a drop of the poison. The mother arrived just in time.

I know this story well because I was the little girl, and the woman who rescued me was my mother. And as for the voice, Mother recognised it right away. It belonged to her mother, my grandmother. The mystery? My grandmother had died the year before, six months after I was born.

* * * *

1 Kings 19:11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

1 Kings 19:12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

1 Kings 19:13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

* * * *

(Bulgaria) There is a village in the south of Bulgaria where we have four friends we are teaching about Jesus. The Lord had told us in prophecy that we needed to visit them. They are four married women, aged 19, 20, 22 and 38. They are all Gypsies, and live on the outskirts of the village.

They don't have phones in their homes, so we had sent them a telegram telling them what day we'd be arriving.

We had to take a few buses and trains to get there, but then we missed our last bus. We were so disappointed, because we had to wait a whole hour at the station for the next bus. But we soon saw the reason why the Lord had let us miss that bus!

Finally arriving in the village, we started asking around to try to find our friend, but no one seemed to know them. So we got a check to ask a man and woman who were waiting at the bus stop, and guess what? They were the mother and father-in-law of one of the ladies we had telegraphed! The mother was on her way somewhere, and her bus pulled up one minute later. The father then took us to their house, which was way out of the village. Thank God for the big wheelbarrow he had to help us carry our heavy bags!

Had we taken our intended bus we would have never met them, and we probably wouldn't have been able to find their place.--We also would have missed the "fancy" luggage transportation (ha!), which saved our arms a lot of strain. Praise God!

* * *

(Jesus speaking:) Lift up your heart, your eyes, your mind, your hands to Me, and give Me a moment to show you, to speak to you in prophecy. If you forget to ask Me beforehand, you can even stop for a moment and seek My confirmation while you're doing it. Who knows? I may show you the smallest things that may make a big difference in one of the children's lives.

Maybe I'll say, "Be sure to get this one up last, because he's very tired." Or, "When you get this one up, be sure to give him an extra hug and kiss, because he's had a bad dream and he needs some encouragement and cuddles."

Maybe there's something I'll show you that will make life different for one of the kids, but you don't even think about it yourself, because you're into your standard operation of what you're going to do today and how you're going to do it. So in those little ways I can show you something. I can give you guidance if you take that moment to stop and ask Me.

Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together. If you give Me your time, I will give unto you. I will give you much. I'll give you the confidence, the encouragement, and the love that you need.

Another area you can improve in is hearing My specific guidance as you follow your daily schedule. Don't just take things for granted, but ask Me about everything because I may have further details to show you that will make things run more smoothly. You personally can still take a moment to stop and check in with Me before leaving, asking Me if I have anything else to show you before you go for the day. Is there anything special you need to know about when you go or your mission?

These thoughts and this guidance I give you in prophecy can change your whole day. These little things will change your day, and may change the days of many other people. Maybe you forgot to pack some tracts. But perhaps I know that while you're out today, you'll meet a whole crowd of people for some reason. You'll be there with a crowd, this will be your opportunity to pass something out to those people, and you'll have the tracts handy. Those little reminders only take a short while, so ask and then wait for them.

If you're going out to take care of business, you're getting in the car and preparing to go--stop, confirm, and wait for a moment for My guidance. "Stop, look, and listen" doesn't just apply to times of getting long prophecies of detailed counsel. Compare it to a train. Sometimes a train going by is very short. You stop, look and listen, and, zoom, the train goes by and you can cross. Or sometimes you stop, look, and listen and the train's approaching, and you sit and you wait and you wait and you wait for the train to go by.

Just stop, look, and listen at every corner, at every move. You'll be continually tuning in to Me, looking to Me, acknowledging Me, yielding to My way, and this pleases Me greatly. I delight, I joy, I'm thrilled when this is happening, because then I can truly work through you! Your work will be My work every step of the way. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

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(Japan) Our dog Chum got sick, and actually went blind! He'd bump into things and fall into a ditch, etc., in broad daylight. His eyes were all glazed over. It really broke our hearts, especially the kids. Previously the children had had a class on the gifts of the Spirit, and at the end of the class each child prayed for what gifts they wished to receive. After they heard of Chum's blindness, all the kids went together to lay hands on him and pray for his healing. Lo and behold, a few days later Chum's eyes were perfectly healed! It was a real testimony of the Lord's healing power. When some of us had first heard of Chum's blindness, we got a check that perhaps it happened for the children to be able to exercise their faith and use those gifts they had received, and to expect miracles.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) As you work on developing the habit of hearing from Me on everything, there will be times when you'll catch yourself already in full gear--having gone ahead with some activity without My confirmation. When this happens, the moment you catch yourself, stop right then and acknowledge Me. Ask Me right then and there for a confirmation and whether you should continue. If you do this, as time goes on, you will get more into the habit of checking in with Me and getting My confirmation before embarking on a new activity.

Sometimes it's hard to find the privacy or the opportunity to take the time to hear from Me in prophecy. Many times you're in the middle of a jumble, of a confusion, of lots of things happening. You're getting the kids ready to take them to the park. Or your team is getting ready to go out the door, and everybody's talking, getting their bags, and planning.

But if you don't have any other time to pray about these things, then take advantage of the natural times that I create: the times when you're in the bathroom for a few moments before you go out. That's a time to say, "Jesus, please show me. Please help me. Please confirm in prophecy that this is what I should be doing."

Take those few moments to seek Me, if you haven't already done so. That's a good time. It's a natural time. Or maybe you're going to go get a drink of water before you go out the door. As you're getting the drink of water, take those few moments to say, "Jesus, please confirm and speak to me about this project today."

Or say you're working in hot weather and you really need a drink. You want to keep going until you finish, but maybe I'm letting you need that drink so you'll stop, go to the water, fill your cup and drink. And in those moments, you can be drinking from My fountain, My well of inspiration, My Words, My counsel.

Or perhaps you feel very tired. Your natural instinct might be to push on and continue with whatever it is you're doing. But maybe I know that you need a few minutes in the temple with Me, hearing My voice as you lie down to rest. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

* * * *

Late one March evening in 1974, I was wakened by the sound of distant cries and shouts. At first I thought it was a domestic* quarrel, but an urgency in the voices caused me to think it might be something more serious. I got up and opened the window. The smell of smoke, heavy and pungent, drifted into the room. And the voices, shrill with panic, cut clearly through the cool night air. Help me! Help me! My little girl is in there!"

Alarmed, I pulled on my pants, grabbed a flashlight, and followed the cries to Medlin Street, a block and a half away. There the house of a family named Green, a one-story brick structure, was ablaze. Black smoke was pouring out of the windows. A small crowd had gathered, mostly neighbours and a few policemen. The fire department hadn't arrived yet.

In the flickering orange-black gloom, I watched in horror as a team of men worked to pull Mr. Green through a small window near the back of the house. Then I saw Mrs. Green and three of her children huddled together on the front lawn. Their faces mirrored fear and terror. Mrs. Green was hysterical.

"Theresa!" she screamed. "My Theresa is still in there!"

I've got to do something, I thought. I've got to help. But I stood there frozen, unable to move. Confusion and panic surrounded me, became a part of me. The whole atmosphere seemed to crackle with heat and tension. I was afraid. A great shower of fiery sparks lit the night sky as part of the house caved in, and I heard Mrs. Green scream again.

"Oh, Lord," I prayed, please help me!" Then I rushed to the house and pushed my way through the first available window. Once inside, I could hardly see. My heart was beating like a drum. Everything was black and smoking.

I groped my way forward until I got halfway across the room. Then, abruptly, I stopped. Something--some strong and strange sensation--told me that I was in the wrong room. This isn't right, it seemed to say. This isn't where you'll find her. The feeling was so powerful that I couldn't shake it. And then, I felt on my shoulder the sure, firm grasp of a hand pulling me back toward the window.

"Get out of here!" I yelled, fearing for the other person's safety. I turned to follow, but there was no one there. There was only myself, alone and trembling.

Gasping, I headed for the window, pulled myself through, and lowered myself to the ground. I looked up to see Mrs. Green's frantic eyes desperately searching my own for encouragement. Finding none, she gestured wildly toward another window.

"There," she whispered hoarsely. Go in there." The window was a few feet off the ground. Someone gave me a boost, and I pushed myself inside, dropping to the floor with a thud. This room, too, was dark and smouldering. My eyes were smarting. I could barely see an arm's length ahead.

"Oh, Lord," I prayed again, please help me!"

What happened next left me momentarily stunned. First, as if in answer to my prayer, I felt a surge of confidence that I was, indeed, in the right place, that I would find Theresa. And then, to my amazement, I felt the return of the same firm force on my shoulder that had pulled me from the other room. This time, however, it was even stronger and it seemed to push me to the floor. Though I didn't understand what was happening, I didn't fight it. Instinctively, I let it take over. Its Presence was both calming and reassuring. I knew it was good.

I relaxed, and let myself be pushed to the floor. I began to crawl, following the wall, arms outstretched, reaching, grabbing. I came to a bed and raised myself to search its rumpled surface.

“No!” a Voice seemed to warn. Stay low! I returned to my crawling position. I had found nothing on the bed. “Don't worry”, the Voice whispered. “You're almost there. Don't worry.”

At the foot of the bed lay a great pile of charred chairs, quilts, and blankets that seemed to have been thrown to the floor by someone in a panic. Reaching deep into the tangled maze, I found what I had been looking for--an arm, a leg, it was impossible to tell--but then I knew I had found Theresa. I pulled and pulled until she finally emerged, a limp little brown-haired bundle.

“Theresa?” I whispered.

A shuddering gasp, barely audible, confirmed that she was alive. I threw her over my shoulder and ran for the window.

The crowd outside stared in silence as I gently laid Theresa on the ground and began to administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Her small face, black with soot, was expressionless. Blue lights from police cars pulsed in the darkness. As I breathed into her tiny frame, I prayed for her survival.

Wailing sirens and flashing red lights announced the arrival of fire trucks. I kept on breathing and praying. I listened to the fire chief bellowing orders on his bullhorn, and then I heard the front door being kicked in. The fire, reignited by the fresh supply of oxygen, exploded with a scorching blast.

Theresa's eyelids fluttered. She was breathing on her own. I held her until the ambulance arrived. “Looks like you got her out just in time,” said the medic, as he took her from my arms. “She's burned, but she'll be all right.” I waited for the ambulance to pull away, and then returned home.

Shaken by the experience, plagued by the echoes of terrified screams, I couldn't sleep. More than anything else, I was completely unnerved by the mysterious Presence that had led me to the little girl. I had always had faith in God and in the power of prayer, but this kind of intervention seemed uncanny. The idea was too much to comprehend, but I couldn't dismiss it. It kept me up all night.

At 7:00 a.m., I put on a jacket and shoes and returned to the scene of the fire. The house, a charred hull of blackened brick, was still smouldering. Skeletal shells of smoking furniture were strewn around the front yard. The fire inspector was there with a few policemen. He asked me what I was doing there. I told him. He said the blaze had probably been caused by a cigarette left burning on the living room sofa.

I went around to the room where I had found Theresa. Like the rest of the house, it was badly charred and blackened from smoke. The walls were blistered from the intense heat. In one corner rested the remains of a melted tennis racket. Slowly I turned to gaze around the gutted room, when suddenly I stopped, transfixed, my eyes riveted on the wall.

There, directly above the spot where I had found Theresa, was a portrait, neatly hung and, strangely, the only thing in the room undamaged by the fire. The frame, to be sure, was black with soot, but the face--the calm, steady, reassuring face--was clear and untouched.

It was a picture of Jesus. To this day, I don't know how long I stood there, incredulously returning the portrait's gaze. But when I left, it was with newfound understanding & faith that I whispered to Him my profound thanks.

* * *

2 Kings 3:11 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

2 Kings 3:12 And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with him.

1 Kings 22:5 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

1 Kings 22:6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

1 Kings 22:7 And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?

1 Kings 22:8 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD.

2 Kings 22:18 But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard;

2 Kings 22:19 Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.

* * * *

(Russia) The Lord protected our team from a possible accident when they got a check to stop for a moment while driving on the highway. They did stop, and when they continued they came upon a big traffic accident which they could have been part of had they not stopped. Thank the Lord! God bless them for obeying such a check, even though it must have seemed strange at the time! This is a good example, showing the need to stay prayerful and tuned in to the Lord's leadings while driving.

* * * *

One night when Thad and Cherish were about to drive home after night singing, Thad got a check that they needed an extra portion of the Lord's protection as there could be drunken drivers on the road. So they prayed extra hard before setting off!

At an intersection where they had the green light, a van came speeding towards them, running the red light! All Thad could do was hold on, expecting to get hit. But, guess what? The other van driver suddenly slammed on the brakes and stopped just a few centimeters from our van! This was a miracle and answer to prayer! The driver of the other vehicle got out and was obviously shaken up. He had been drinking, so he didn't notice the red light until it was almost too late. Thank the Lord for His protection!

* * * *

The best ability is availability.

Many are called but few get up.

Truth resisted loses its power over the mind!

I don't mind being used if I'm being used by the right God and the right people.

The more you resist the Spirit of God, the more control the Enemy has.

I don't care how much of a genius you are!--If you don't stay close to the Lord, God can't use your genius! If you don't dedicate it to God and have it bathed in prayer & the Holy Spirit, God can't use your talent!

ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIS WORD, GOD COMMANDED MEN & MAN HAD TO DO SOMETHING FIRST BEFORE GOD MET HIM.--God told Moses to strike the rock & then He'd bring forth water. He could have said, "Well, Lord, I don't think there's any water in that rock, & this is kind of crazy! Besides that, Lord, I'd rather just see You do it!" But he went ahead by faith & took an old stick & hit the rock, expecting God to do the rest, & God did! (Ex.17:5-7)

THE MORE YOU HEAR THE WORD THE MORE HUMILITY YOU WILL HAVE, then the less pride you will have & you won't worry about what people think, & also then the more love you will have for others. You literally become more concerned about other people & about God & His will & pleasing God & trying to help & please people. When you become more concerned about this than yourself, less self-conscious, more God-conscious, this is a part of the cure! If you're on His channel in constant communication with Him & constantly receiving His vibes, you're constantly hearing from Him, and you're hearing His voice all the time in the mind's eye of your spirit. All day long & even at night in your sleep, you're in tune with Jesus!

Your most needed abilities are availability & adaptability!

Surrender isn't giving up what you don't want. It's giving up what you do want.

If you're too busy to get alone with God & pray, You're too busy.

Pray before you act.--Don't let your zeal run away with you!

Many people fervently pray, "Oh, God, guide me": then they grab the steering wheel.

* * * *

(Spirit helper speaking:) The Lord is even now moving each piece of the chessboard into the position where He wants it to be in order to perform His will and to perfect His plan and to bring about the promises which have been given ... to the lost who are crying out for their Lord and Savior. All must be in the right position, in the proper place.

The Lord is even now strategically placing, planning, and preparing. He looks down upon the world, upon each nation and each area. He sees the situation and the circumstances, and He is moving and working in the Spirit. *(End of message.)*

* * * *

No matter what else you're doing, you can always be praying!

You don't have to be down on your hands and knees to be praying. In fact, in everything you're doing you ought to be praying and looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith.

Prayer is like breathing, just breathing the Holy Spirit all the time. Stay in constant communication with the Lord, constantly thinking about Him, and you will be anointed and Spirit-led in everything you do! If you're praying about what you're doing and asking God for wisdom, He has promised to give it to you!

The Lord can save you a lot of work, a lot of trouble and a lot of time if you'll just pray first before you start a job. Pray about it and ask the Lord to help you and lead you, even if it's just a word--"Jesus, please help me!" You can pray in a split second and get the answer back quick, but if you lean on your own understanding and your own wisdom you're apt to make a sad mistake!

So "pray without ceasing!" (1Th.5:17). Ask the Lord about everything, every problem, every decision, and make sure you're doing what He wants you to do. "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths!" (Pro.3:6).

* * * *

In Reformation days, a Protestant named Johannes Brenz was taking refuge in the home of Duke Ulric at Stuttgart. But the emperor learned of his whereabouts and commissioned a colonel to produce him dead or alive. The duke, learning of this, sent Brenz away, saying, "If God is pleased with you, He will deliver you."

In the seclusion of his room Brenz fell on his knees and prayed for guidance. And he seemed to hear a voice saying: "Take a loaf of bread, and go up through the Birkenwald [the upper part of the city]; and where you find an open front door, go in and hide yourself under the roof."

He found all the doors closed in that part of the city until he came to the Landhouse (later the Reformed church). Here the door was open. He entered and hid himself behind a large pile of wood under the roof.

The next day soldiers arrived in Stuttgart and searched every house in the city. They came to the Landhouse and searched every room. They even thrust their spears through the woodpile behind which he lay, but they did not find him. Two weeks later they left Stuttgart.

How did Brenz manage during those two weeks? On the very first day of his concealment, along toward noon, a hen came and laid an egg behind the woodpile. This she did each day. The egg quenched his thirst, and the loaf of bread satisfied his hunger. The hen stopped coming on the day the soldiers left the city.

* * * *

2 Samuel 2:1 And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

2 Samuel 2:2 So David went up thither ...

2 Samuel 2:3 And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

2 Samuel 2:4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

2 Samuel 5:17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.

2 Samuel 5:18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

2 Samuel 5:19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

2 Samuel 5:23 And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

2 Samuel 5:24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

1 Chronicles 14:16 David therefore did as God commanded him.

* * * *

(Mozambique) It was Sunday morning and we were out of bread. Since it was a rest day I didn't want to bother anyone and ask for a partner to accompany me to the bread shop that is just a few minutes' walk from where we live. I said a quick prayer before leaving, grabbed some posters [used for telling people about Jesus] and out the door I went.

While in the bread shop I noticed a young man watching me while I pulled some money out to pay for the bread. I had a funny feeling and put the money back in my pocket. I got a check to give him a poster and start witnessing to him, which I would normally do. I brushed off the check and was watching the man behind the counter counting the bread.

The young man that was standing beside me disappeared when I suddenly heard right behind me: "Grab him!" A strong arm grabbed me by the throat and started choking me while three other guys in their early twenties were holding me and one was trying to get his hand into the front pockets of my jeans. I was gasping for breath and started to slump down so they couldn't get their hands into my pockets.

I wanted to tell them to take what they wanted and that it wasn't necessary to choke me like that but I couldn't speak or breathe. I had my wallet in my back pocket, which they took and only then let go of me. Everyone else in the shop froze and watched in silence. I almost passed out as during the whole time I couldn't breathe and just let out a faint cry: "Jesus!" and they let go of me.

While my assailants ran out of the shop I called after them to leave me my Mozambican ID which is expensive and hard to replace. Since they had already taken the money out of my wallet they threw it back to me, and it still had my ID. They jumped in a waiting van and sped off. They didn't take my watch or the other funds in my front pocket and got away with the equivalent of less than \$10. I thanked the Lord I didn't get hurt worse, though for a few days it was very painful to swallow. I witnessed to the people around and gave out posters.

I learned to first of all go out two by two, and not only to pray but to stop and listen before going out the door, obey His checks while on the way.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Can you think of other times during the day when you're doing things that are just pretty standard, and there's not a question of how or what you're doing? Perhaps you're nursing the baby. That's a perfect time to lift up your heart to Me with any burdens you may be carrying or questions you want to ask, and let Me speak to you. Or maybe you're with one of the kids, putting her down for a nap. You're sitting there, rubbing her back, waiting for her to go to sleep--a perfect time for you to ask Me if I have anything to tell you.

Perhaps you're cooking dinner, which sometimes requires a lot of thought and complicated planning and getting things ready. Your mind is usually pretty busy with actually getting it ready. But watch for times when you know there's a little break, to take a moment with Me. It's quiet, nothing's happening, and you can take a moment to ask Me to whisper in your ear and give you any counsel I might have for you. You never know what I'll remind you of. Or maybe I'll just thank you and love you for doing such a good job. Take a moment.

There are many times of the day when you're doing little things when you're on your own, or doing things that don't require a lot of thought and concentration about what to do--things that come naturally--and in the meantime you can be asking Me to speak to you about your next move. Take those moments during those things you do throughout the day, like going to the bathroom, taking out the trash, nursing the baby, getting a drink of water, straightening up the living room, walking, exercising or waiting for someone, to stop and hear from Me. It could be that I've even let that simple thing need to be done right then so that you would be alone for a moment and you could hear from Me in prophecy. You could look to Me and ask Me your questions. You could lift up your eyes and look on the hills and have that moment of peace with Me. Take advantage of those times with Me, even at night, as you lie upon your bed.

Take moments throughout the day, those moments when you yield to Me, when you give yourself to Me, when you admit that it's not your work, it's not your plan, and you must avail yourself of My wisdom in order to carry it out. Take those moments with Me, and I'll be happy and thrilled to see you through. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

* * * *

Santiago (74), writes: I want to thank the Lord for the good health that He has given me; being the age that I am, I am still in excellent health. However, in the past, whenever I had any small pain, instead of asking for prayer for healing, I would opt to take aspirins, or pills, which is something the Lord had to help me change in.

A little while ago I noticed a little bump on my right eyebrow and I went to the doctor for a checkup. The doctor told me that it was a tumor and I would have to get it analyzed and removed with an operation. I was a little shocked to hear I had a tumor, and without really praying about it, I agreed to the operation that was scheduled for early May. I was pretty convinced that this operation would remove the tumor and I would be healed. However, the Lord had another plan.

A month before my scheduled operation, we had a healing prayer meeting. There were a lot of people in attendance, and at first I was hesitant to ask for prayer. I was a little embarrassed (a.k.a. proud), as I didn't want to explain my affliction to everyone.

So I watched the other people go up, until finally at the end I just couldn't take it anymore.-I decided to set aside my pride and go up and ask for prayer. It was a fight, but I went up and asked the Lord for forgiveness, and accepted that by faith the tumor was healed. Nothing happened at that moment, I didn't see any lightning, nor did I hear voices, but I had inner peace since I had taken that step of faith.

I went back home and everyone was so sweet and encouraging, but there was one thing missing, something very important that was missing--that full step of faith to show the Lord that I really believed. I decided to cancel the operation. And since I canceled it, the bump on my eyebrow has started going down, and now it is hardly noticeable. I am so happy I made the choice to trust the Lord. I now believe in healing by faith!.

* * * *

(Message from Heaven:) Putting the whole future scenario aside, you need the Lord's instruction today. The success of your ministry, of your fruitfulness, of your happiness, and of your life for the Lord hinges on the decisions you make. All of life is made up of little decisions--many, many decisions, each and every day. If your life is to be what the Lord wants it to be, if you want to get things right, if you want to be in the center of His will, then you're going to have to put on your spiritual headset and tune in.

It's not enough to simply go by your instincts or your gut feelings. It's not even enough to go by how you did things before, or what you think is the logical way to do them. It's imperative, vitally important that you get things right, and the only way to do that is to ask the Lord. He's the only One Who has the answers. He's the only One Who knows all of the reasons for everything. He's the only One Who has a bird's-eye view of your life. He's the only One Who can see all the hidden factors in the equation.

The secret to hearing from the Lord in prophecy every step of the way, for every decision, for every little thing, is to make it a habit. You're going to have to will yourself to do it at first and really make a conscious effort. I'm not talking about stopping before everything you do for a big, long prophecy session. I'm talking about on-the-spot direction, quick instruction.

I'm talking about being so in tune with the Lord that you'll always be listening to what He has to say. Instead of just making a quick decision on your own, why not ask the Lord? Just stop for a minute and ask Him if He has anything to say. I guarantee He'll direct you and show you what to do, and He may even give you other interesting tips to help you in your day. (End of message excerpt.)

* * * *

It was the first of December in the 1930s. The Great Depression was in full swing and my husband and I were living in the mountains of Virginia. While there was plenty of good food--homegrown and home-preserved--on the table, there was no cash available. Now it is hard to believe that we had to take from the hens' nests when we needed a little coffee or sugar, then walk to the little country store to trade the eggs for those items. But that's the way it was.

Every Sunday afternoon I walked over a mile to a little wood-frame Methodist church up the valley, where a few of the older folks were trying to have Sunday school for the children and singing for the adults. There was no preacher, no literature, and the only study class was taught from the Bible alone.

Old Man John led the singing. Each Sunday he brought a few ragged songbooks along with his tuning fork. He would select an old hymn, give the fork a ringing blow on the back of a bench and then "raise the tune." I have never heard more enthusiastic singing in any church.

The first Sunday in December I was thinking of the coming Christmas season, which had always meant so much to me. At church, before the singing started, I asked the group who crowded around the one wood-burning stove for warmth, "Aren't we going to have a Christmas tree for the children and some kind of program?"

I got amazed stares from everyone. Finally John said, "You aimin' to bring a tree into the church house? We ain't never done that!"

To justify my proposal I began to tell of the trees we had in town churches and the programs where the children recited their pieces. I did a pretty good job, I guess, for the young folks started to back me up and beg for such a "doin's."

Then a mother asked, "What'd we put on a tree? And we ain't got no money for a treat for the kids."

A little boy piped up, "We're making things for our tree at school [a little one-room building in the valley] and teacher's gonna let us take 'em home after school, an' we could bring 'em here for this tree."

I said that I had some ornaments from my home to bring. Then another woman spoke up. "We got no treat and all the kids would come lookin' for one. Teacher always gives 'em a little poke of candy, but we got no money for candy."

My feathers really fell then, and I was ready to call it off when another mother spoke up. "We can have a treat! We all raised popcorn, and I used to make mighty good popcorn balls if I do say so myself. I could make 'em again if you'll all help me and fetch some popcorn and molasses."

There it was, we had a treat, and so our plans went forward. The men (there were only four who came to church) promised to cut the tree on Saturday before Christmas and we could decorate it then.

As the days passed, no problems arose. All went as planned, and Saturday afternoon we gathered to trim the tree. The children had even drawn names, which meant some little homemade gift would be under the tree for each one. We had no lights, for electricity had not as yet come to the mountains. But when we finished we all were proud of the way our tree looked and were full of Christmas anticipation.

Sunday came cloudy and cold with light snow flurries. I was so excited I could hardly wait to get started to church. This was my idea, my program. I was bringing the first Christmas tree to that little church. I was so busy patting myself on the back for such a noble deed, however, that I forgot the real meaning and purpose of Christmas.

The mountain folk gathered in early. Little crudely wrapped packages went under the tree and the children just stood around and admired it, pointing out the ornaments they had made from colored paper. The treat arrived in a wagon--two great boxes with brown paper covering the contents--and was carried up to the platform behind the tree. We had to keep shooing the children away to keep the treat a surprise.

At last the program got under way. I was almost bursting with pride (in myself, I'm afraid) as the children said their pieces and sang the carols they had learned. I stood near the tree to call out each child's name as his or her time came. It was in the middle of the program that Gus and Lem came stamping in.

I felt my heart lurch when I saw those two big mountain men, rough as grizzly bears. I knew they had a moonshine still back in the hills and that more often than not they were full of their own "white lightning." I knew, too, that they took a perverse delight in bursting into gatherings where they were neither invited nor wanted, and where they frightened and bullied people.

Just the day before, Old John had been talking about them. "You know them two fellers that got that moonshine still up in the holler, Gus and Lem? Don't you know they went plumb over to Black Lick last month when those folks tried to have an ice cream supper at the school, and they come in drunk, and they busted up the whole doin's!"

In they came now, stamping their feet, acting like the snow outside was a foot deep instead of just a couple of inches. They didn't take off their caps, but pushed across a group of young folks sitting on the back bench with much noise and nudging and laughing. My heart sank into my shoes and I saw Old John give me a frightened look.

I called on the next child and all was fairly quiet as she stumbled through her little verse. When she sat down, however, the noise in the back row started again, this time much louder, and the scuffling got rowdy with a few oaths audible to the congregation. I knew the men had been sampling their own moonshine and I was sick with fright at what might be coming next.

It was time for the treat to be passed out, but the disturbance was growing by leaps and bounds. The situation was almost out of hand and growing worse. For the first time that afternoon I forgot about myself and my smug self-satisfaction and turned to God for help. I felt like inside I was wringing my hands, and I began saying, "What am I going to do? Please, God, help me!"

Then I heard a Voice within me as clearly as if it had been spoken by the woman next to me. *Ask them to help you.*

Like Peter of old, I bucked God immediately. "Ask those drunks, Lord?" But again it came, *Ask them.* This time I did not hesitate, but walked back to the men, who were startled enough to stop their aggressive behavior.

"Fellows, we've got a treat for the kids, but the boxes are heavy and we want to make sure it goes around. Would you help me pass it out?"

They looked as if they doubted their ears, then stared at each other when I asked again. They were so taken aback they didn't know how to refuse, and meekly followed me up to the boxes of popcorn balls.

From that minute I never doubted that God had actually spoken to me, for although both men reeked of whiskey, they passed out those big candy balls, grinning from ear to ear as they went through the crowd, seeing that not only was no one slighted, but also that little grabbers were told in no uncertain terms they could only have one popcorn ball.

When they got back to me, I thanked them and insisted they have a candy ball themselves. They shuffled and squirmed, but finally took them and munched through the confection with as much gusto as the children. All was peaceful until the last morsel was eaten, and if molasses and popcorn make for sticky fingers and faces, they also made for much happiness.

When Old John led us in our closing prayer I had to peek, and to my delight, I saw the two men remove their caps and stand still, even if they didn't bow their heads.

As we all departed from the church, it was a humble person who walked home through the snowflakes, for I knew that this Christmas would long be remembered in the valley, and it was all God's doing. My words of thanksgiving came out in a whisper: "Happy birthday, dear Savior. Happy birthday."

* * * *

1 Samuel 23:1 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.

1 Samuel 23:2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

1 Samuel 23:3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?

1 Samuel 23:4 Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

1 Samuel 23:5 So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

1 Samuel 30:8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

1 Samuel 30:18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

1 Samuel 30:19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all.

* * *

We were in Bob's old brown Ford driving down the highway from Saskatoon to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, in Canada. Those roads are pretty straight and without much scenery-just flat prairie. Usually the drive was long and boring, but not this time. We were approaching a hill, and for some odd reason my boyfriend pulled into the oncoming traffic lane. Extremely crazy idea when you're approaching a hill at about 80 miles an hour!

I looked over at him, thinking he was just pulling a stupid stunt to scare me, or something. "What are you doing?" I asked.

He just looked back at me and didn't say anything. He just kept driving!

God, is he playing chicken? I thought, or what's going on here? But somehow, I knew everything was going to be okay.

Logical feeling, right? No! Honest, I sort of knew that as crazy as this was, somehow everything was going to work out okay.

You know those stories about how you can see the look on people's faces--the people in the other car--just as you're readying yourself for impact. Well, my eyes were glued on the hill in front of us and I was sort of bracing myself for a huge truck smashing into our windshield. Just as we got to the top of the hill, suddenly a car popped over the top of the hill, but on the *opposite side* of the road.

We just stared at each other in amazement.

“How did you know?” I asked Bob.

“I saw your face at the top of the hill and I just knew I was supposed to change lanes,” came his halting reply.

“What do you mean--you saw my face?”

He answered: “It was just floating in the air at the top of the hill.”

He was sort of a psychic guy! Mostly, I think our spirit helpers were praying desperately that he'd obey that very crazy check! Must be some amazing stuff going on in the spirit world!

* * * *

Don't be like the gardener who could do anything--but wouldn't!

Thank the Lord for softening our hearts, so often hardened by our own selfishness! It's only as we yield to His Love that we melt!

If you fight God too hard, God'll fight you!

There is no limit to what God can do with a man who is yielded & willing to do His Will!

God has to break you, melt you & mold you again in the hands of the Potter to make you a better vessel, so you're willing to go anywhere, anytime, and do anything for anybody, and be nobody to please Him and help everybody!

O God, let my eyes behold Thy glory and my heart receive Thy beauty and my body know Thy truth and my soul feel Thy Love forever and ever and ever!

If you're willing to be what God wants you to be, not what you are, but what God wants you to be, then He can mightily use you.

Don't throw God a bone of your love unless there's the meat of obedience on it.

All Heaven is waiting to help those who will discover the will of God & do it.

Do not have your concert first, then tune your instruments afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God & prayer, & get first of all in harmony with Him.

You must learn to make personal contact with the power of God to let Him do the work of bringing you joy, health and happiness.

How fast we grow & change will depend on how yielded we are. Even with a late start, I believe that you who are truly yielded will be able to catch up with & even possibly overtake others who have been benefiting from good training for years, especially those who are still refusing to change old habits & manifest a humble, sacrificial "little people" spirit.

We have found that the best people are the ones who are willing to do anything that needs to be done! If you're too good to wash dishes or sweep floors or pull weeds or anything that needs to be done when there's nobody else to do it, then you're too good for us!

* * *

(Pakistan) Our van had been off the road as we hadn't been able to pay the tax (a new law made the tax five times last year's amount), plus it was desperately in need of new tires.

Good commercial tires are very expensive (about \$400 for a set), so we didn't know how we were going to get our vehicle back on the road. When out meeting with some people, we suddenly got a strong check to go and visit one of our friends who occasionally helps with materials for the institutes we provide assistance to. He always says he won't give us cash, only materials, and up until this point he had only given for the institutions where we work--never anything for ourselves personally.

We arrived at his office and as we walked in he arrived right behind us with a group of business people. He was immediately very friendly toward us and started telling all his colleagues what a wonderful work we were doing. After some time he asked, "Well, is there anything I can do to help you?" I straight away said we needed five new tires for our van.

Without batting an eyelid, he said, "Done! Anything else?" Knowing how expensive they are and being a bit taken back by his instant generosity, I said "No."

Then gathering my courage said, "Well, to actually get the vehicle back on the road we also need to pay the tax," to which he also replied, "Done!" He proceeded to call in his personal secretary and instructed her to make the necessary payments.

* * * *

ALTHOUGH WE SHOULD SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE LORD EVERY DAY--time in prayer & reading His Word--Jesus also told us that we should always pray, that we should continually pray all the time, all day long, that in everything we do we ought to be "looking unto Jesus." (Heb.12:2)

"MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY & NOT TO FAINT!" (Luke 18:1) He also says, "Pray without ceasing!" (1Th.5:17) & "Watch & pray!" (Mat.26:41) He knows that we need to & it's one way the Lord has of keeping us close to Him & in His presence continually, constantly dependent upon Him & His protection.

PRAYER IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE DOING ALL THE TIME, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE YOU'RE DOING! You can't wait until you're through doing this or that, & then pray. It's like thinking on your feet!--Or like breathing!--Just breathing the Holy Spirit all the time, being in constant communication with the Lord.

HE SAYS, "TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART & LEAN NOT TO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING. In all thy ways acknowledge Him & He shall direct thy paths!" (Pro.3:5,6)--One of the most wonderful verses in the Bible to really hang on to, especially when making decisions. We don't have to know all the answers, we don't have to lean on our own ideas or wisdom, we just have to lean on the Lord & His leadings!

THE LORD CAN SAVE YOU A LOT OF WORK, A LOT OF TROUBLE & A LOT OF TIME IF YOU'LL JUST REMEMBER TO PRAY FIRST before you start a job! Whatever it is that you have to do, pray about it! The Lord is always right there with you.--He says, "I'll never leave thee nor forsake thee." (Heb.13:5) He's always there! So it's never God Who's not there, it's we who are sometimes not always there, when we run off someplace else & leave Him behind when we forget to pray.

AND WHEN WE DON'T PRAY FOR HIS HELP, it's usually either because we just plain forget--& that's very negligent to forget to pray--or we're not willing to admit that we don't know the answer & that we have to ask Him for it. And one or the other, either way, it's a mistake! Forgetting to pray is almost as bad as not wanting to pray! And when you don't really pray & you don't really get in tune & really ask the Lord to lead you & help you to do the right things, you can sure pull some boners & blow-its & really make a mess of things & can sure get off the track.

SOME OF THE BIGGEST MISTAKES THAT CHRISTIANS EVER MAKE ARE THROUGH FOLLOWING THEIR NATURAL REASONING & COMMON SENSE, when the Lord has something entirely different in mind which is contrary to natural expectation & can only be revealed by His Spirit! Many's the time in the Bible where men made decisions on their own by their own natural reasoning & it turned out to be exactly the wrong decision because they hadn't sought the Lord or been led of the Spirit.

SO YOU NEED TO REMEMBER THAT YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY SOLVE THE MULTITUDE OF PROBLEMS THAT YOU WILL ENCOUNTER IN YOUR OWN WISDOM, your own strength, your own mind, your own understanding, your own trying to put two & two together.--Jesus said, "Without Me, ye can do nothing!" (John 15:5)

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN OUR LIVES IS JESUS & TO STAY CLOSE TO HIM, to let Him lead & guide us. He's the One Who has got to lead us because only He can! Without Him we don't know where we are going or how to get there or anything! But He knows exactly where & how, & all we have to do is just sit in the back seat & let Him drive! He knows where to go & the best way to get there!

HE'S PROMISED THAT IF YOU ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATHS! He says, "You shall hear a voice behind you saying, This is the way, walk ye in it!" (Isa.30:21) So ask the Lord about everything before you do it.--Make sure it's what He wants you to do. Seek Him about everything--every problem, every decision--& He will never fail you or let you down!

* * * *

It is not only for our protection that Angels speak. Sometimes it is to counsel us or to encourage us in a course of action.

Jack Circle's father, known to his friends as C.F., was a very active and dedicated layman. He was employed for a time by a portrait studio as a sales representative. And whenever possible, in the homes of prospects, he would take the opportunity to witness for his Lord, sometimes leaving a piece of literature or enrolling them in a Bible course.

One day a lady phoned the office and complained about what he was doing, and his employer told him that he must stop. C.F. was troubled about this development and didn't know just what he should do.

Not long after that he was given the name of a person interested in photographs and called the address. On this particular morning he was very discouraged about not being able to do his witnessing. As he walked in from the street, he saw a woman at the window waving frantically, apparently at him. She was acting so strangely that he wondered if he should forget about going in. Then she threw the door open and said, "I don't know who you are or what you are doing, but a voice just spoke to me and said to tell you, `Don't stop what you are doing!'"

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Psalm 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Psalm 22:26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

Psalm 27:8 When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

Psalm 27:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

Psalm 34:10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:32 The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God.

Psalm 83:16 Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD.

Psalm 105:3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

Psalm 105:4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

2 Chronicles 12:13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself ...

2 Chronicles 12:14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.

2 Chronicles 12:15 ...And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.

2 Chronicles 15:12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

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(Japan) Instant witnessing is still the "in thing," but in certain situations I've thought it inappropriate to offer a tract. For example, in Japan you normally would not approach folks involved in a traffic accident, no matter how minimal the damage--interruptions are not welcome in such an event. In this day and age, however, as the keys lead you and Heavenly thought power controls you, anything is possible!

Recently, I was just starting on a short walk, when that little voice whispered in my ear: "Don't walk the way you usually go--turn right instead!"

As soon as I changed direction--*boom!*--there was an accident right in front of me! Two cars had bumped each other; they were both sitting in the middle of the narrow road, with the drivers standing talking.

"What now, Lord?" I asked.

"Tracts!" was the immediate reply.

"Are You sure?" I had almost passed the two men and felt awkward to turn back to approach them. Noticing the friendly face of the one nearest to me helped me do it. I handed each of them a tract. Wonder of wonders, they didn't shoo me away!

Not only did they gratefully receive the pamphlets, but the friendly faced guy was willing to accommodate my far-from-perfect Japanese and prayed to receive Jesus right there, on the spot, oblivious of the two cars still blocking the street! I explained that the Lord's love could solve any problem, and the other man, who had been about to walk away, held on to his tract, saying he wanted to learn about that love, too. Boy, was I ever glad to have obeyed!

* * * *

Anytime, anywhere, you can get an answer from the Lord. It only takes a minute, and He'll shoot back the answer you need that moment. You can ask the Lord about everything and He'll always give you important advice, tips, counsel, or fill you in on amazing details that will make your life so much easier!

It doesn't need to take a lot of time, just a second, but then you have the peace of knowing you have the Lord's word on it, that you're doing the right thing, what He wants you to do. And to top it off, you won't miss out on a lot of surprises the Lord may have in store for you! The Lord is able to show you so many important things, both big and small, if you'll ask Him.

For example, if you'll stop and ask Him which route to walk while you're in town, He'll speak to you and direct you so that you don't end up in danger zones that could cause you trouble. If you stop and check in with Him, He may direct you to a needy soul who will get saved, or to an interested person who will give you a big donation. He may tell you to avoid a certain part of town, telling you that crowds are gathered there in protest and it may be unsafe. He may steer you away from a robbery where a thief was waiting to steal your wallet. He might warn you to take a few extra minutes on your break so as to avoid getting caught in the rain.

He might give you a tip while you're preparing the food that will help you avoid food poisoning, or He might want to give you a fun idea for a special touch you can add to the meal that would inspire everyone at dinner! There are so many things the Lord can speak to you about that will make your day-to-day lives not only more safe, but fruitful, fun, and exciting!

There's nothing that's too small to ask the Lord about. If you're driving and there are two routes that you can take, instead of making the decision on your own, why not ask the Lord? He'll give you a sentence or two right on the spot. He'll give you quick direction and tell you which way is best. He may not always tell you the reasons why, but you can be sure that He knows best. Perhaps taking the other route would have made you arrive late to your appointment, or perhaps the traffic would have been worse, or maybe there would have been an accident.

* * * *

After Janina was born, my digestive system returned to normal and I could handle meat and veggies again. However, I didn't quite realize how much my body was working, with nursing, returning to normal, the bleeding after delivery, healing stitches, and getting adjusted to waking up a few times a night. So I just ate whatever was served, rather than eating more and better, as I should have been. I immediately lost a lot of weight, going from 59 kilos to 49 in one week. About five days after she was born I got a fever for three days, which wiped me out, but I was still basically eating only regular meals, rather than a postnatal diet. Then a few days later I again got a fever, and on my way to the toilet I fainted twice. This really shook me up, as I'd never fainted in my life!

Well, thank the Lord, someone got a strong check it was due to my diet, and that I was probably anemic (low in iron) and so needed a diet high in iron and protein. She spent the day preparing different foods for me--a pep-up drink with brewer's yeast, whole grain bread, health bars, liver, spinach, and all those yummy things--ha! Well, the result of eating those super high quality foods was the Lord raised me up very quickly and I have been gaining strength rapidly, plus I have had more than enough milk for my baby.

* * * *

(Message from Heaven:) You don't always have to know all of the reasons why, but you can be sure that if you're following the Lord's leading and you officially take the time to hear what He has to say, even if it's just a few words or a couple of sentences, you'll be doing the right thing. Sometimes the Lord has reasons for asking you to do things that you aren't aware of--often, in fact.

And what you've got to realize is that it doesn't take any longer to say a little prayer and ask the Lord than it does to take the time to reason it out in your mind, and it's a whole lot more reliable and dependable. It's that simple.

You've got to get in the habit of hearing from the Lord in prophecy about everything, and the first step in making it a habit is ridding yourself of the false notion that it takes so long to hear from the Lord.

The truth is that you can have quick, on-the-spot direction all throughout your day, and it needn't take hours of precious time. The Lord can give you His answers and solutions in a couple of sentences. You've just got to make the effort to tune in. You've just got to make the effort to ask Him instead of reasoning things out in your own mind.

Of course, there are times when it will be necessary to stop and ask the Lord for extensive, detailed instruction. There will be times when you'll have to set aside more time to let the Lord speak to you. When you're making a big decision you'll want to hear the Lord's full counsel, and this is good and necessary. But what I'm talking about here is following the Lord's leadings in every little decision that you make throughout the day. Most of you have gotten used to hearing from the Lord in prophecy on big matters, but it's imperative that we learn to follow the Lord's leading each step of the way, with every decision and every move that we make.

I could go on and on about how important hearing from the Lord in prophecy is, because it's a subject that's very close to my heart and which I'm directly involved in. But suffice it to say that you can't afford to live without taking the time to hear the Lord's instructions. Some folks think they can't afford to take the time, but I'm telling you that you can't afford not to! It's as simple as that!

It's a simple solution, but in order for it to be effective it has to be put into practice in your life; it has to be made a habit. Try it, and I'm sure you'll be thrilled with the results. Keep your hotline to Jesus active every day, every hour, every minute, every second, and you can't go wrong! (*End of message.*)

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(Germany) *Pull over at the next gas station!* the Lord said to me very clearly.

"But Lord," I argued, "I don't need gasoline! Besides, the gas is cheaper in Stuttgart!"

A sign announcing "TANKSTELLE (*gas station*) 3 KM" flashed by.

Again the Lord's voice spoke to my heart.

"But Lord, I'm tired and it's already 3 A.M. I've got to get back home. If I stop now, I'll lose another 15 minutes and ... "

TANKSTELLE 1 KM zoomed by.

Like a father speaking to an errant child, the Lord spoke more firmly:

You must stop!

I struggled to analyze and rationalize all of the reasons I was sure it was better to keep on driving. I had driven early the previous morning to Frankfurt to attend an important organizational and outreach meeting. The business had stretched late into the evening and it was almost midnight before I began the long drive back. I was pooped! Besides, my family at home needed me, the van was needed for a road trip, and yes, the gas in Stuttgart was cheaper than at the *Autobahn* (highway) *Tankstelle*. All these thoughts besieged my weary brain as the final exit sign neared: *Ausfahrt*.

Somehow the Lord managed to get through my confusion. I punched the blinker signal and checked the mirrors. I was already in the slow lane and was on the tail end of a line of Dutch holiday makers heading for the *Schwarzwald* (Black Forest).

Lightening my foot on the accelerator, I eased the VW off the highway and coasted up to the gas pumps. As I opened the van door, the chilly night air was suddenly pierced by the sound of screeching rubber punctuated by a loud crunch of metal!

Immediately a chorus of screaming tires arose as drivers desperately sought to avoid collision. In a moment, the remains of a dozen mangled vehicles were strewn across the roadway.

Red tongues of flames erupted somewhere in the wreckage, illuminating what now resembled a battlefield. Gas station personnel alerted the police and fire departments rushed to the scene with large extinguishers.

The wail of sirens and flashing lights announced the arrival of rescue teams. I stood mouth agape, my senses reeling under the impact of what had happened. As the numbness gradually subsided, I was jolted by a thought that sent shock waves through my system and physically caused me to jump.

"My God! If I had not stopped I would be right in the middle of that carnage!" Praying desperately, I asked the Lord's forgiveness for my stubborn and argumentative behavior. Then sitting quietly in my car, I read several chapters in my Bible to calm my shaken nerves.

As I slowly drove around the blackened, twisted metal, the words of the Psalmist were echoing in my ears. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me" (Psa. 23).

* * * *

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

1 Chronicles 22:18-19 Is not the LORD your God with you? and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people. Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God.

2 Chronicles 30:18b But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

2 Chronicles 30:19 That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.

2 Chronicles 30:20 And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

Isaiah 45:19 I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.

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(Sarajevo) Our brothers and sisters from Sarajevo are not able to write to you, but we can tell you some of the miracles of how God is protecting them in this time of war. One time we were able to hear from our sister, Maida, from Sarajevo. She had had a hard time hearing from God though she really wanted to, but we comforted her that God would talk to her and reveal Himself to her when she would need Him the most. Thank God, that's what happened!

She was in her flat with her mother and grandmother, and she was standing in front of the mirror trying on a dress. Suddenly she heard a voice telling her that she needed to get out; she needed to go to the cellar and stay there, and take her mom and grandmother with her also. The voice told her to do this as soon as possible.

She asked her mother and grandmother to go to the cellar with her, but her mom didn't see any reason why she should go and do that. Finally she went, even though Maida couldn't explain why--she couldn't say that God told her to go because they wouldn't have believed her. But they saw her conviction and the urgent need that she felt to get out of the flat.

They stayed down in the cellar for a while. When they came back up, they saw that their flat was completely shot through! There were bullets all over the place, and especially right where Maida had been standing when she had heard that voice telling her to get out.

Her grandmother had been lying on the bed, and there was a bullet directly through the place where her head had been. When they saw what had happened they could really see how the Lord had saved them!

Another time, two girls were talking to another girl from Sarajevo on the phone. Suddenly they heard some shouting on the other end. They were asking the girl, "Are you all right? What happened?" But there was no answer, so they put the phone down and started to pray for her.

After a while this girl phoned back and said she had been shot at, and the bullets had gone into the mirror that was right over her. All the glass had fallen on her head, but she wasn't hurt at all--not even one little scratch. Thank God! Thank You Jesus!

* * * *

The Lord always prefers volunteers.

The answer's always there if you're willing to receive it, but if you resist the answer He gives, He shuts up because you won't listen.

Jesus can use anything if it's yielded, obedient and willing to be filled with His Love!

God will use anything you've got if you'll let Him.

If the Lord can find the workers, He'll furnish the pay. If He can find the yielded hearts & minds & wills that are willing to obey & go & do it, He'll foot the bill!

Give yourself to God: He can do more with you than you can.

Obedience won't stop the decomposition of our physical lives but it will halt the decay of our spiritual lives.

In an effort to get the work of the Lord done, we often lose contact with the Lord of the work.

The worst thing in the World you can do is to keep on going when you don't know what to do.

You cannot do the Master's Work without the Master's Power!--And to get it, you must spend time with the Master!

AND IN ORDER TO HAVE SUCH GOOD ORGANIZATION, WE MUST HAVE GOOD COMMUNICATION first of all with our Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ, the Head of our Army. We must have this communication personally, each one individually, directly with Him to know that we are aware of His Word & pleasing & obeying Him & following His directions & His orders.

IT'S EITHER ALL OR NOTHING AT ALL WITH GOD! Either you are obedient or you are disobedient, & God will not tolerate any percentage of disobedience! It's all or nothing at all! God's Word says he that breaks even the least of these commandments & shall teach men so, shall be the least in the Kingdom! (Mat.5:19)

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(Jesus speaking:) Pray, pray, and pray again. I love it. I want it. I need it. I revel in it. I love to stay in close communication, so we can be one. All your prayers are important. Some have different purposes, but all are important, so pray. I want to be in constant communication, constant touch. Avail yourselves of every means, every way possible, and let Me shower you with My spiritual wealth. All that is Mine is yours for the asking, from a well that never runs dry. Why settle for the human when you can have the Divine? Receive My power! It's here. It's ready. It's waiting for you.

* * * *

Be desperate with the Lord for His wisdom and leading. There are plenty of evil spirits trying to distract, hinder, delay, and outright destroy your work. In order to stay one step ahead of them you'll need to stay in constant communication with the Lord, and be open to the leadings and checks of your co-workers as well. You won't be able to make a move without prayer and hearing from Him!

The Lord explains clearly in this next prophecy that the minute we think we have to accomplish everything that our job entails, we're overextending ourselves--because the job is and will always be too big for us! The mistake is in thinking that we have to do it. Of course, there are things we have to do, but the way to know what we have to do and what we should take to the Lord in prayer and leave at that, is to ask Him.

They obeyed the voice of the Lord immediately, and a life was saved:

A distinguished Indian evangelist named Sadhu Chellappa was on a mission trip to a village north of Madras, when in the middle of the night he suddenly sensed God speaking to him: "Leave this house quickly and run away!"

Not exactly a convenient thing to do. But Chellappa was used to accepting even strange instructions from the Lord without discussion, so he quickly dressed and ran into the darkness. After a while, he was in the open country. Then as he passed beneath a large tree, he felt God tell him, "Stay here and start to preach."

Now, this was puzzling--there was no one to be seen. Why did God want him to preach to an empty tree in the middle of the field in the middle of the night? But he stopped under the tree and began to preach the Gospel.

Finally he reached the point at which he called on his unseen listeners to give their lives to Jesus. He was surprised to hear a voice from the top of the tree and see a man climb down, crying. He tearfully gave his life to Jesus. When asked what he was doing out there at night in the middle of nowhere, the man said, "I was going to [end my life]."

They didn't obey the voice of the Lord immediately, and a life was lost:

One evening when Mr. Alexander and I (Dr. R. A. Torrey) were in Brighton, England, one of the workers went from the afternoon meeting to a restaurant for his evening meal. His attention was drawn toward the man who waited upon him, and there came to his heart a strong impression that he should speak to that waiter about his soul, but that seemed to him such an unusual thing to do that he kept putting it off.

When the meal was ended and the bill paid, he stepped out of the restaurant, but had such a feeling that he should speak to that waiter that he decided to wait outside until the waiter came out. In a little while the proprietor came out and asked him why he was waiting. He replied that he was waiting to speak with the man who had waited upon him at the table.

The proprietor replied, "You will never speak to that man again. After waiting upon you he went to his room and [ended his own life]." How tragic. Not only is it important to obey God, but to do it right away.

(Jesus speaking:) This has been the struggle from the very beginning: **flesh versus spirit**. This was the choice that Cain and Abel faced, the cause of the controversy between them, and this same struggle between flesh and spirit continues to this very day.

The reason the Enemy fights so hard is because he knows that this is a way that he can easily get in. It's already man's natural tendency to be strong and to lean on his own strength and logic, and seeing that you are in bodies of flesh, it's hard for many to differentiate between strength of flesh and strength of spirit.

I have blessed many of you with a strong mind and intellect, and when you're yielded to My Spirit, then I can use your natural strengths to help accomplish My will. I've given many of you gifts in the natural--organizational talents and abilities, as well as drive and initiative--and when coupled with My Spirit, you can be powerful and useful tools in My hand.

But you must let My Spirit have full sway. Pray without ceasing, always looking to Me and letting Me lead and guide you in everything you say and do. If not, if you go ahead and do things in your own strength and wisdom, then I can't fully bless you. You will have complications, difficulties, things will take much longer than you expected, and you'll find yourself becoming discouraged, tired, and lacking in My Spirit and strength.

I can't bless you and help you as much as I would like if you're running around and doing things in the arm of the flesh, outside of My protection and blessing. You have to spend time with Me. You have to be in constant communication with Me and let My Spirit empower and anoint you. Your job is too big and the responsibility is too great to even think that you can do things on your own, and if and when you try, you are automatically overextended. It all comes down to the wrong mindset of thinking you have to do it. You don't have to do it; I have to do it! But because there's so much work to be done, it's hard for some to realize when they're starting to cross over and do things in the arm of the flesh by overextending themselves, rather than relying on Me and My timetable, My direction, and My Spirit. (End of message.)

I was 38 when the Lord spoke to me and told me to do the strangest thing.

We had a little farm in the mountains of North Georgia then--me, my wife Nell and our six children. I'd never been to school a day in my life and I couldn't read a word, but I did know how to farm. I'd learned that from my father. The day I heard God speak was a beautiful one, the kind where the sun blazes down and warms your bones. I was bending over, picking some peas for supper, when out of the blue a Voice boomed:

"I WANT YOU TO GO PREACH!"

I jerked up and looked around. *Some rascals are playing a trick on me*, I thought. I ran to the big rock on top of the hill, where I could see for miles. But when I got there, not a soul was in sight--and not a sound could be heard except the birds chirping and the soft swish of the wind. I was sure then that God Himself had given me an order, and I began to shiver. Why would He want me, an ignorant farmer? "No, Lord!" I cried into the sky. "I can't preach. Not a man like me with no learning. Why, I can't read Your Word. Besides, I'm too new a Christian."

A couple of weeks before, Nell had taken me to a prayer meeting, and that night I'd accepted Jesus. But how could a brand-new Christian preach to others? "Don't ask me, God," I mumbled, looking down at my cracked, dusty old brogans. Then I started to run down the hill, away from that Voice.

As it turned out, I kept right on running for five years, because during that time I didn't go to church much. I didn't have time for it. A farmer leads a busy life, seven days a week. Or so I told myself.

Those were lean, hard years for our family. Everything seemed to go wrong. My crops failed; I was in a bad accident with my pickup truck, and--worst of all--my sweet little daughter Betty died. I walked around half-dazed most of the time, and that got me into more trouble.

Where I lived, getting ready for planting meant burning off the fields before ploughing. I knew perfectly well how to burn safely, but the spring that Betty died I wasn't giving the job my full attention.

I raked brush into a pile to start the fire, and when I bent down and struck the match, I didn't notice the wind had picked up. All at once the wind whooshed across the field and whipped my fire out of control. I *had* to keep it away from the sprouting fields my neighbour had recently planted! I panicked--raced into the fire and tried to beat it out. Instantly I was completely surrounded by flames. They roared higher than my head.

"Lord, save me!" I yelled. "I don't want to die. Save me, and I'll do what You want!" The last thing I remember is covering my eyes with my arm and dashing through a wall of fire. I was badly burned and spent a long time in the hospital, but God answered my prayer. Now I had a promise to keep--somehow. I had to find a way to do what He wanted.

Shortly after I was on my feet again I sold my farm and moved my family to what I hoped was a better one near Lyerly, Georgia. I went with my family to the Belmont Baptist church. I had a lot of catching up to do.

Several years passed and I did my best to honour the Lord and learn about His teachings. Just by listening hard, I memorized a good amount of Scripture. I wasn't preaching, but I was never shy about testifying about the Lord. Then one day the church deacons called me aside.

"Bob," they said, "we'd like you to teach the adult Sunday school class."

"I can't," I told them. "I don't know how to read."

But those people were a good bunch of friends. "That doesn't matter, Bob," they said. "You'll make a good teacher anyhow." They wouldn't let up urging and encouraging me.

I was still ashamed about my ignorance, but I remembered my promise to God. Maybe this is what God meant when He told me "go preach," I thought. Teaching is almost like preaching. Maybe this is what He had in mind all along. I accepted the job.

Before each class my wife, bless her, read the lessons to me. I couldn't have done the job without her. But Nell didn't have much formal schooling and there were many words she couldn't make out herself. After two years, I began to feel frustrated. I needed to learn to read for myself. Even with a lot of back-patting from the folks in my Sunday school class, I felt they deserved a lot more than they were getting from me.

If only I could get some schooling...but we were still poor. And even if I could afford to take time away from my farm work, how could an old codger in his 50's fit into a classroom with little kiddies? It seemed impossible! The blues began to gather around me like clouds around a mountaintop.

One day, fed up with the daily torment, I decided to will myself to read. I grabbed my Bible and stomped into the woods behind our house. I sank down under a pine tree and opened my Bible. The mass of black letters all seemed a jumble. None of those little marks printed on the page had any meaning to me.

I tried so hard to make them out that my head began to hurt and my stomach knotted up. Tears welled up in my eyes, and I slammed the Book shut and let the tears come. Inside there was a deep ache, and it came out in great moans.

"Lord," I sobbed, "You know my misery. You *know* I'm trying to serve You. I want to do what You want me to do, but I don't know how. I need to read Your Word, but I can't. Dear God, help me!"

For hours I sat there, crying and begging for help from Above. At last a peaceful feeling settled over me. I didn't know what it meant, but I felt better, as if Someone had put a hand on my shoulder and said, "You'll be all right now."

That night, I was listening as Nell read the Bible to me. She stumbled on a word, and without thinking I leaned over to look at the page. "That's `impooverished,'" I said.

She picked up reading where she'd left off until another word stopped her. Again I looked at the page. "That's `inhabitants.'" The third time it happened, Nell got a funny expression on her face. "You know this Book better than I do," she said. And all of a sudden it hit me. She was reading verses I hadn't memorized!

Almost fearfully, I took the Bible from her and ran my eyes over the page. "I can read, Nell," I cried. "I CAN READ!" I flipped page after page and every sentence made sense. I even picked up a magazine and read the words on the cover. "It's got to be God's work," I whispered. "Only God could do this for me."

How long had He been planting His Words in me so that now, this night, they had sprouted and bloomed? Without another word we joyfully gave thanks to Him. I stayed up late that night, searching the Scriptures with my own eyes.

What a joy to read for the first time the Words in, "There is a spirit in Man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." To me, those Words will always have a special meaning. They say that every one of His children has a secret Teacher Who lives within us. If you ask His Help--and trust in His wisdom--you'll be given whatever knowledge you need to have.

How else could an ignorant old farmer learn to read without ever setting foot in a schoolhouse? (*Note: Robert Meeler taught his Sunday school class for seven more years. Then he became the preacher for a church in Alabama.*)

* * * *

Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Amos 5:4 For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live.

Amos 5:6 Seek the LORD.

Zechariah 8:21 And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.

Proverbs 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

Deuteronomy 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Zephaniah 2:3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

Numbers 15:37 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Numbers 15:38 Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

Numbers 15:39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes...

Numbers 15:40-41 That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.

* * * *

(Uzbekistan) One day we prayed for the Lord to do something special and unusual that we would never forget! While in the park we saw an Uzbek girl, sitting on the bench reading a book. We both got a check to talk to her. When we gave her a poster and explained it was about Jesus, she exclaimed, "Oh, I also love Jesus and read some books about Him!" I was surprised at her reaction, as usually Muslims here react differently when we witness to them about Jesus.

Soon we knew the reason for that happy reaction. She told us that one time her entire family was bedridden for two months with a terrible flu. They thought they'd never recover. To add to their sorrow, her father had left them; they were without any support or hope. Just then, one of their neighbors came to them, a sincere Christian. She told them that Jesus could heal them if they would only believe. They said yes. Then she brought a cross and water (which she believed was holy) and sprinkled it on them. That night this young lady felt as if something warm had overwhelmed her whole body, and she slept peacefully for the first time in a long while.

The very next day her entire family was healed! They were amazed, leaping for joy and praising Jesus for such miracle! That event was a turning point for this family. They started believing in Jesus more than ordinary Muslims do, and reading the Bible!

After hearing this amazing story, we witnessed more deeply to her and she accepted Jesus in her heart! We ended up talking to her for two hours, and at the end she looked at us with shining eyes and said,

“I found something I was looking for my whole life, and the emptiness I always felt before is filled now. I am so happy!”

* * *

(Jesus Speaking) If you can learn the habit of coming to Me for My approvals, for My leadings, to hear My opinions about what you're about to do, I promise you that your life will be so much fuller, so much richer, so much happier, so much more abundant and complete, so much more fulfilled.

Obedience comes before the blessings, so you must take those first steps of obedient faith to come to My doctor office just because I've said that your trips will be beneficial. Check with Me about the smallest thing that you're going to do or say.

I can help you make the best out of your day if you'll only include Me in each decision. I can help you form this good habit; I really can. It's not as difficult as you think, and it really is a great habit to have. It will be so pleasurable for you once the habit is in place. You'll wonder how you ever got along without it!

It may take you a little time to become sharp in this habit, so don't be discouraged with yourself when you slip and fall. Don't listen to the Enemy when he tries to tell you that it's impossible and too tough. That would just be the ol' boy at work trying to get you to feel condemned and wanting you to give up the fight for greater victories than ever. If you fall, just get up and try again.

I don't ask that you make hearing from Me a complicated, involved procedure where you feel that before you do anything you must pull out a notebook or dictaphone or sit down at a computer and work long and hard to receive. All I ask of you is that you make it a habit to pause, even if just for a moment, to hear My Words in your heart before you proceed with things as usual, so that I may lead and guide you in every path that you should take, so that your steps will not slide but be more pleasant and within My highest will.

The more you make that effort to come to Me to hear My voice in prophecy for each and every thing you do throughout each and every day, the more I will bless you with a greater habit of doing this, and even a great desire to do so. I will never fail to give you checks to stop and listen to what I have to tell you, even if it's just to encourage you that I'm with you in what you're doing. It's vital that you learn to tune in to those whispers I'll give you.

I move in mysterious ways My wonders to perform. If you're not constantly checking in with Me to get My mind on what you're doing, there's so much that you will surely miss.

I understand that so often the reason you don't hear from Me in prophecy for every little thing is because you think what you're doing at the time is so insignificant, so unimportant, so routine. Or maybe you feel there would be no reason that I would want to show you anything different on the subject, for that's the way it's always been done and what seems to be My highest will anyway. But although something may have been the way I was leading in times past, because I am a moving God, because times are changing, because the End is drawing near, leaning on yesterday's Word is not always sufficient for today or tomorrow.

It's crucial that you learn to hear from Me direct, every day, for even the most minor details, for this is the way I'm now moving and leading. Oftentimes it's the very smallest details of things in life that you do and the most routine things that are the very things I wish to speak most to you about. On a daily basis, it is often the seemingly predictable and expected things that I want to teach you to revolutionize in your lives, even if it's just for Me to teach you simple ways to do things to bring about different fruits.

If there's one habit I plead with you to make, this is it: Learn to hear from Me in prophecy about every move you make, to include Me in all that you do. I long for better communication. I long to tell you so many things. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

* * *

When I stepped out of my house it was already getting dark. Seeing my bus waiting at the bus stop, I ran and hopped on, and soon was enjoying its warmth. The people we were passing on the icy streets outside were shivering, and looked half-frozen. I was very thankful for my ride; this was the only bus that went my way, and it didn't come around too often.

My workday was over, and I was heading for a club where my friends and I were going to play some music. Some of the others had guitars, and I played drums. When I arrived at the club, everyone was waiting for me.

"Hey man, you're awfully punctual--it's one minute to eight!"

We exchanged our special handshakes.

"Everyone's here--let's get rollin'!"

I moved over to my place, when all of a sudden I realized that I'd forgotten to bring my drumsticks! The thought was especially unpleasant because we didn't have much time to practice and I'd already managed to arrive last.

From the look on my face, the others guessed the problem right away. Someone said, "Well, you don't live that far away. We'll all wait a few minutes while you run back and get them."

Another small miracle.--The bus I had taken to get to the club was now just about to leave in the other direction, heading back towards my home.

I got home quick and grabbed the drumsticks, blaming myself all the way for being so absent--minded. I headed for the door.

"Wait a minute!" I could have sworn I heard a voice saying those words, but I had no idea where it came from. I was alone in my apartment.

Then I heard it again: "You have forgotten something."

I had a very strange feeling inside, as if there was something very important that I had to do before going out. I wondered what in the world it could be. I checked the gas, the electricity, the water, looked in the mirror and checked my stuff, but nothing seemed to be quite *it*. After looking around for about ten minutes, I gave up.

Oddly enough, that strange feeling was gone.

"Great!" I muttered aloud, kicking the ground as I stepped out of the house. "I've probably missed my bus looking for nothing..."

My thoughts were interrupted by the sight in front of me. A big truck loaded with concrete blocks was overturned in the street, directly on top of what *used* to be the bus stop. The pavement on both sides of the truck was covered in blood. People were coming from every direction to get a closer look. I joined the small crowd of shaken onlookers already at the scene. I, too, shuddered at what I saw.

"The police and ambulances haven't arrived yet," said an older woman, looking at me with wide, frightened eyes. "It happened just five minutes ago."

Strong chills went down my body. *Dear God!* I thought. *Thank You for Your everlasting mercy! If I'd left my apartment when I had started to, I'd be dead by now!*

When my friends heard the story, the club went silent for a few minutes. This was a more powerful proof of the Lord's presence in our lives than all my past attempts to witness to them. There *was* a God and He *did* care. That night, no one doubted it.

* * *

It is by listening to Jesus, hearing the voice of His Spirit, that we can overcome:

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Revelation 2:26-29 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:5-6 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:12-13 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:21-22 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

* * * *

(Japan) It was very cold & I noticed there wasn't any kerosene in the heater in one of the houses on the adjoining property of the School. I phoned someone who knew the situation and asked if there was anyone who could come & fill up the heater with kerosene. I was told that there was a container & pump in the back of the house & that I could ask one of the boys that were around to fill it. However, I then decided to get the kerosene & fill up the heater myself, rather than asking someone to help me. I went to the back of the house & saw a container with the pump on it, so I brought it inside & filled up the heater. Just as I was screwing the lid back on the heater, a man came up the stairs of the house & quickly pulled the heater's electrical cord out of the wall socket. He said that he had been passing by in the other main school building when he overheard the conversation that they were having with me on the phone, & he got a check to run up to the house to check on me.

Evidently there were two containers in the back of the house--the container with kerosene in it was behind the door, which I didn't see, but the container that I had picked up & filled the heater with contained gasoline, which could have exploded & caused a fire! I sure was shaken up at that point & thanked the Lord for sparing my life & the lives of the couple who were in the house, as well as the house. Thank the Lord the man had obeyed the Lord's check, as I was just one minute away from disaster.

It sure was a sobering experience & there were some lessons learned from it for myself & others as well. I learned to go slower & check things out before doing them, "praying without ceasing". I had gotten a check also when I saw the red coloured liquid that I was pouring into the heater, but then I just excused it, thinking that maybe this was a type of kerosene that they had in northern Japan. I sure know the difference now! The verse I got was, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning, great is Thy faithfulness." (Lam.3:22,23) I am so thankful that I am still here & now I have a greater understanding of what the "Lord's mercies" means.

* * *

***(Jesus speaking:)* You can be shooting up silent prayers to Me even when in the midst of a conversation, and I can give you quick answers to whatever questions you have.**

There are times when you need to come before Me and get quiet and listen to My instruction in full, but there are other times when you can pray as you go. Not just a "Lord bless and keep us as we do such-and-such," but "Lord, what do You want us to do?" "Is this what You want us to do?" I can give specific answers to you right there and then if you'll only turn on and tune in. The position of your body doesn't matter, but it's your heart. You can focus on Me and get My specific, direct answer in prophecy to whatever it is, right then and there.

It doesn't have to take a long time if you're in the habit of praying and constantly communing with Me in your thoughts. If you're on My wavelength, then you just have to listen for My signal. Talk to Me; I'm right here. All you have to do is focus and ask, and I can answer clearly and directly.

If you're not so full of your own thoughts and plans and ideas, then I have an easier time. But even if you are, if you're confused and frustrated and things just aren't going right, then simply stop a moment. Ask [the one you are with] if he or she wouldn't mind stopping for a moment, and then ask Me. State your frustrations and your problem and let Me give you My answers in prophecy.

If you're out on the street, then just find a bench or stand on the side. If you're traveling in the car, while on the road, acknowledge Me, stop your conversation and pray together. It doesn't matter where you are or what you're doing, the key is to stop and ask Me.

If you need immediate, on-the-spot direction, then tune in and ask Me, and watch Me punch through with what you need. In that case you might not have time to stop everything while you ask Me, but you can always focus your heart and mind on Me, even in the midst of what you're doing, and still ask and clearly receive My answer. When you're out witnessing and are faced with a tough question or aren't sure which way to lead the conversation or which approach would work best with the person, just shoot up a question to Me, and I will respond on the spot. It doesn't take long to receive an answer from Me, and even in the midst of things I'm able to speak to you clearly if you ask in faith and really desire to hear from Me. There are so many times and so many instances when you could save so much time and energy by just asking, listening, and getting My answers.

* * *

(Siberia) I am more often trying the thoughts I have. Are they positive? Are they negative and discouraging? Since I have the gift of prophecy I'm trying to ask the Lord about everything. I've realized that sometimes I hear a voice telling me about very unexpected things.

Yesterday evening I was home alone with the children. I just put them to sleep and went to finish cleaning the house before going to sleep. Our boys (and my husband) were gone to prepare the apartment for us to move in. They had a lot of work so were coming home late. While going to check on the children to see if they were okay, I got a picture of the boys having trouble with some man. At the same time I heard this voice telling me, "Maybe they shouldn't come Home so late any more."

There are a lot of thieves in our area, and it was about 10:30 P.M. I heard the bell. There were the boys, safely home. I didn't tell them anything because I thought that it was just me worrying; I hadn't brought that check to the Lord to see if it was from Him. But then my husband told me what happened on the way back home.

A man, possibly under the influence of drugs, suddenly assaulted him. My husband said that he got a strong check that he should bend a little, and as he did, the guy missed him every time he tried to hit him! Then they ran and escaped from him. Wow!

It was my turn to tell him how I'd seen this vision and heard the Lord's voice. We prayed then and decided they would come Home earlier next time. It's so interesting how the Lord warns all people involved and even the ones that are far away. But through this I learned to ask the Lord if the checks I get are from Him and pray that He will help the situation.

* * * *

YOU CAN BE AWARE OF PEOPLE'S PRESENCE WITHOUT SEEING THEM, even if you don't hear them. The wall's standing there not making a sound, but you feel its presence. Believe it or not, I've had this experience walking along in the dark. I've suddenly felt I was about to hit something and discovered I was just about to run into a branch or a pole or a wire or something.

OF COURSE, I'M SURE THAT THE LORD GOT THE MESSAGE TO ME BY HIS ANGELS, the spirits watching over us, but it seemed like I could **feel** it. I'll never forget when we were walking along in the dark that night at the Ranch when we came across that rattlesnake. I suddenly **sensed** its presence, then I heard that rattle! He was about seven feet long, the biggest one I ever saw there.

* * * *

You really can't be so stuck on your preplanned agenda if you want to follow where I lead and talk to whomever I wish. You have to leave yourself open to My checks which call you to bring a question before Me and receive My answers. Whenever you face a decision, a crossroads, that's the time to ask Me. Whenever you receive a check in your heart, that's the time to ask Me.

Whenever things start to go differently than you thought they would, that's the time to ask Me. Even when things are going just as planned, if you face a decision, ask Me!

Practice hearing from Me in prophecy throughout the day for little things as they come up, and then you'll be well-practiced and in the habit when I have to tell you something. That's one way you can be sure you're living every day to the full and really making it count. If you're following Me, then you know that you're doing just what I want you to and when. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

* * *

We need to be in CONSTANT communication with the Lord! Constantly praying for EVERYTHING; ALWAYS praying.

We have to WORK to overcome our bad habits & help each other cultivate good habits. We have to REMIND EACH OTHER to pray. If you forget to pray, then someone should sweetly say, "Should we pray?" & you shouldn't take offence at it. It's not something to be offended about, we need each other's help to make it a habit.

Sometimes I sit down with someone & we're just chatting, but before I realise it, we're into a business discussion, so then we have to CATCH OURSELVES & stop & pray. So it's best to pray first before even starting to talk with someone, even if you think it will just be a casual conversation of only a few minutes.

* * *

(Germany) In the '70s, when I was visiting my mom in the States, I borrowed her car to go visit a Christian family who had been friends and supporters of ours.

On the way home, I came to a point where I needed to change from one freeway to another. It was a very awkward place in which, for lack of space, there was no proper entrance ramp, but rather only a tiny loop. For anyone to cross over, the traffic needed to come to a full stop, and then, when there was a break in the oncoming traffic, cars would enter directly into the traffic lanes. In short, it was a very dangerous place, and normally required a fairly long wait to get through.

On this balmy summer day, things didn't look too bad. There were only two vehicles waiting in front of me -- a big tractor-trailer truck, and a yellow VW bug. The traffic cleared briefly, and the truck slowly started out onto the empty highway -- apparently not quickly enough for the driver of the VW however, who entered the highway at the same time, going into the left lane.

Now it was my turn. I began to push the gas pedal to enter the freeway myself, but as I did, I heard a voice. Just to my right, above my head, I heard something, *Wait! Don't go!*

Surprised, I took my foot off the gas pedal. In the next two or three seconds, I saw the reason for my mysterious and urgent instruction: A big wave of tightly-packed, fast-moving traffic, which hadn't been visible before, now appeared over the slight rise of the highway.

All the traffic had to brake desperately, trying to avoid the still slow-moving truck and car which had entered the highway. A big tanker truck couldn't stop fast enough. It hit and ran up onto the back of the first car, which was trying frantically to avoid hitting the danger ahead. The car's gas tank ruptured from the impact and the gas ignited from the sparks caused by the cars grinding against the guardrail.

Flames engulfed the car. Gasoline poured onto the highway all around the car, in streams of burning fire. I watched these events unfold before my eyes, almost as though in slow motion. I knew that if I had entered the highway when it was my turn, I would have been right in the middle of it.

I suddenly thought of the person in the burning car. Was there a chance that this person had survived? What should I do? First I moved my car off the road onto the grass, to get it out of the way. Then I began to cautiously approach the burning car. The fire was a formidable obstacle! But through the flames and burning heat which surrounded it, I could hear a woman's voice crying out, "Help me! Oh please, help me!"

By now, all the traffic from both directions had stopped, and many people stood by their cars, watching. But no one was making any move toward helping the lady in the burning car. A policeman even stood by, looking, but not moving.

Everyone was gripped by the same fear: "This burning car is gonna 'blow'!" At first I thought the same thing. Then it was suddenly clear to me: No, it *wasn't* going to blow up! The gas tank was *already split open*! It could only burn furiously, but not blow up.

Now I was determined to try to help that woman, even if no one else did. I continued toward the car. The windows were already turning brown, and the green paint of the doors was becoming a reddish-gold brown. Above the car was a column of fire, swirling like a little tornado and capped by a cloud of black smoke. I think it was the most horrible scene I had ever experienced in my life. The worst part was that everyone seemed to be held fast, gripped with fear.

I had no idea how, but I knew I *had* to get the woman out. I grasped the door handle of the car and pulled on it. My fingers were immediately burned white. But the door wouldn't open. It was bent and stuck. I started to panic. What could I do? My hand hurt badly and I *couldn't* save the woman! As I was forced to retreat, to my relief I saw that a truck driver and another man, encouraged by my example, went and successfully rescued the woman, alive. My own hand also completely healed up within a week.

I never heard a voice like that before or since, but I guess it wasn't necessary except for that time. It sure got my attention! It saved my life and someone else's too! "And ye shall hear a Voice beside thee saying, 'This is the way; walk ye in it!'"

* * * *

Spiritual resistance causes spiritual callousness! Every time we resist God's Spirit, our hearts grow harder, until He will strive with us no more & we are destroyed without remedy!

The yielding of the tongue is a very symbolic yielding, because anything that can conquer the tongue conquers the whole. Therefore the surrender of the tongue is like the surrender of the whole.

He can make something out of nothing--even you, if you'll listen, trust, and obey.

You can be whatever God wants you to be if you're willing.

We give all & obey all, and our lives overflow with joy, & our satisfaction knows no bounds & our happiness knows no equal.

God knows no hours! You never know when you are going to be needed.

The Lord wants volunteers, not draftees.

God's broadcasting all the time, You just have to learn how to tune in!

I don't know all the answers, but I know the answer Man!

YOU CAN'T TELL ME THE CHRISTIANS WHO CLAIM THEY'RE WORSHIPPING GOD & THEY DON'T OBEY HIM ARE WORSHIPPING GOD! How can they say they worship God when they don't do the things that He asked? Jesus Himself said, "How say ye unto Me, 'Lord, Lord' & do not the things that I ask? He that keepeth My commandments, he it is that loveth Me!" (Mat.7:21, Joh.14:21)

HOW CAN THEY LOVE GOD WHEN THEY DO NOT THE THINGS THAT HE ASKS? How can they say, "Lord, Lord" when they keep not His commandments? It's a lie! It's a farce!

SO OFTEN THE THINGS THAT SEEM LITTLE TO US ARE SO IMPORTANT TO THE LORD!--That's why it's so important to OBEY! The Lord doesn't always bang you over the head & tell you, "Look, if you don't do it, something major is going to happen or not happen!" But He usually waits for YOU. Because otherwise, if it was always so obvious & you KNEW, you'd DO it. But He just sort of waits for an extra step of WILLINGNESS, a step of cooperation, your being yielded & willing to do it. And THEN He usually shows you what He's going to do as a result.

OUR OBEDIENCE IN THE SMALL THINGS IS SO IMPORTANT! Often you may not feel a huge urge to do something, maybe just a little thought, you just know it's something you OUGHT to do. Nevertheless, it may be VERY important, & the Lord may be waiting on you to act on it before He shows you how important it is or does something MAJOR! He doesn't always want to tell you it's so important, so major, because then you'd go right ahead & do it because you know you NEED to. But He often wants to see if you'll just obey that LITTLE check, that "still small voice", & be willing to just obey & be "faithful in a few things" simply because they need to be done.

SO IT'S NOT ONLY THE LITTLE DISOBEDIENCES THAT ARE IMPORTANT, BUT JUST AS IMPORTANT--IF NOT MORE SO--ARE THE LITTLE OBEDIENCES, & they will result in BIG BLESSING & BENEFITS from the Lord! If God finds you will obey in the little things, & that you will wash the dishes or wash the clothes or vacuum the floor when you're told to, THEN He knows He can trust you to tell you what's next! But if you're not willing to keep busy just picking up papers in the yard or whatever else it might be, why should He tell you anything else?

* * * *

HOW WONDERFUL IT IS IF YOU HAVE FAITH AND YOU'RE THE LORD'S CHILD! You see the good and you feel good and you praise the Lord and are thankful. You're on His channel and you're getting His vibes all the time. If you're a child of God and you love Jesus, you have the Lord and His Holy Spirit in your heart and you're on His channel in constant communication with Him and constantly receiving His vibes. You're constantly hearing from Him and you're hearing His voice all the time in the mind's eye, your spirit. All day long and even at night in your sleep you're receiving the Lord's communication.

* * * *

(Indonesia) Over seven months ago I met a friendly wheeler-dealer-type man. He started sharing with me about this new housing complex. I thought nothing of it at the time. We were already set up and didn't need a house anyway. Plus, the place he talked about was way too expensive. The day came when we needed to move and prayed desperately for the Lord to provide a really good house in a better location. We got a check about contacting this man. Maybe he knew of other places that were cheaper than the ones he mentioned, we thought. But after contacting him he insisted we see these new houses again in this beautiful area. The houses he showed us were over twice our budget and very nice. We were then amazed when he brought us to one of the same kind of houses we just saw, but was only half the price! We were baffled, it just didn't make sense! We prayed about it, and met the owner who liked us and our work and even came down more on the rent and agreed to our terms! The Lord answered our prayers in a surprising fashion! We are still amazed and very thankful the Lord is doing it all!

* * * *

Jesus can have all there is of me

"God first! My interests must always come second to His, never first."

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God."

Dr. Graham Scroggie was one time speaking along these lines, and at the close of the service he was approached by a young woman a professing Christian, who had been greatly stirred.

"And why don't you yield?" inquired Dr. Scroggie.

"I'm afraid I should have to do two things if I did," responded the girl.

"What are they?" asked Dr. Scroggie.

"I play the piano in a concert hall, and I fear I would have to give it up," she replied.

"And the other?"

"I am afraid God would send me to China as a missionary."

Opening his Bible at Acts 10:14, Dr. Scroggie explained to the young woman the absurdity of Peter's answer. A slave never dictates. And to say, "Not so," and then use the word "Lord" was impossible.

"Now," said Dr. Scroggie, "I want you to cross out the two words, 'Not so' and leave the word 'Lord'; or else cross out 'Lord' and leave 'Not so'."

Handing here his pencil he quietly walked away. For two hours she struggled. Then he returned. Looking over her shoulder, he saw a tear-stained page, but the words "Not so" were crossed out.

With a glad light in her eyes she left and went home, repeating over the one word, "Lord". No longer would she dictate. She was now His disciple and He her Lord and Master. (Acts 10:14,36; Col.3:24; 1Pet.3:15)

* * * *

Love makes obedience a thing of joy!
To do the will of one we like to please
Is never hardship, though it tax our strength;
Each privilege of service love will seize!

Love makes us loyal, glad to do or go,
And eager to defend a name or cause;
Love takes the drudgery from common work,
And asks no rich reward or great applause.

Love gives us satisfaction in our task,
And wealth in learning lessons of the heart;
Love sheds a light of glory on our toil
And makes us humbly glad to have a part.

Love makes us choose to do the Will of God,
To run His errands and proclaim His truth;
It gives our hearts an eager, lilting song;
Our feet are shod with tireless wings of youth!

--Hazel Hartwell Simon

* * * *

“Unless I go about my business of saving the souls of men with an energy
& a zeal almost amounting to madness, nobody will take any notice of
me, much less believe what I say & make everlasting profit out of it.”

--William Booth

* * * *

"Dear Master for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing--
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou ledest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be--
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee."

* * * *

I will say "Yes" to Jesus, Oft it was "No" before,
As He knocked at my heart's proud entrance, and I firmly barred the door;
But I've made a complete surrender, And giv'n Him right of way,
And henceforth it is always "Yes", Whatever He may say.
I will say "Yes" to Jesus, Yes Lord, forever "Yes";
I'll welcome all Thy blessed will, And sweetly answer "Yes."

I will say "Yes" to Jesus, His promises I'll claim,
And on ev'ry check He endorses I'll dare to write my name;
I will put my "Amen" wherever my God has put His "Yea."
And ever boldly answer, "Yes," whatever He may say.

I will say "Yes" to Jesus, To all that He commands,
I will hasten to do His bidding With willing heart and hands;
I will listen to hear His whispers. And learn His Will each day,
And always gladly answer "Yes," Whatever he may say.

I will say "Yes" to Jesus, Whate'er His hands may bring;
And, tho' clouds hang over my pathway, My trusting heart will sing;
I will follow where'er He leadeth, My Shepherd knows the way,
And while I live I'll answer, "Yes," Whatever He may say.

--A.B. Simpson

* * * *

"God knows all about my health & need of a rest & need of many other things regarded as absolutely necessary...I gladly laugh at being without them, & rejoice in a living death with a marvellous joy in order to fill the place that others have left unoccupied whatever their reasons for so doing." --C.T.Studd

* * * *

Travelling in a railway train with some men who were playing a game of cards, a Christian was asked to have a hand. "I'm sorry," he said, "but I have not my hands with me." "What do you mean?" they asked, pointing to his hands. "These are not mine," he said, "they belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. When they were mine I used to play cards. But since I yielded them to Christ, they are never employed in that way, for He has filled them for His service." (Rom.6:13;12:1)

Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do;
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

O Jesus, Lord and Saviour, I give myself to Thee,
For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne,
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Living for Jesus who died in my place,
Bearing on Calv'ry my sin and disgrace;
Such love constrains me to answer His call,
Follow His leading and give Him my all.

Living for Jesus wherever I am,
Doing each duty in His holy name;
Willing to suffer affliction and loss,
Deeming each trial a part of my cross.

Living for Jesus through earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile;
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

--Thomas O. Chisholm

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.

Mould me and make me after Thy will,

While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Search me and try me Master, today!

Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,

As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Hold o'er my being, absolute sway!

Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see

Christ only, always, living in me!

--Adelaide A. Pollard

* * * *

Saved to serve, oh, list the wondrous story,

Saved to serve the royal King of glory;

Going forth His banner floating o'er me;

Saved to serve the King.

Saved to serve when days are bright and cheery,

Or when shadows make the pathway dreary;

Never in His service growing weary,

Saved to serve the King.

Saved to serve, allegiance gladly yielding,

Sin or wrong in any form ne'er shielding;

In His name the sword of truth e'er wielding,

Saved to serve the King.

--Lida Shivers Leech

Tell me not of earthly pleasures,
Tempt me not with sordid gain:
Mock me not with earth's illusions,
Vex me not with honours vain.
I am weaned from sinful idols;
I am henceforth not my own;
I have given my heart to Jesus,
I belong to Him alone.

Oh, the blessed rest it brings us
To belong to Christ alone;
We can draw on all His fulness
When we've nothing of our own.
Blessed Jesus, take me, own me,
Make me, keep me wholly Thine.
Deign to find in me Thy portion,
While I joy to call Thee mine.

Weary soul, give up the struggle,
Cease at length thyself to own;
Give yourself away to Jesus,
And belong to Him alone.
Once He gave His all to win thee,
Now He asks as much of thee;
All He has He fully gives thee;
Let thy love His portion be.

--A. B. Simpson

I choose Thee, blessed will of God!
In Thee alone, my heart can rest,
The current of Thy love, I know
Can only bear me to Thy breast.
I choose Thee blessed will of God!
In Thee alone my heart can rest.
I choose Thee, blessed will of God!
No longer shall this will of mine
In selfish blindness to Thy love,
Its hateful choice and strength combine.
I choose Thee, blessed will of God!
The sweetest thing my heart hath known
A chariot my God hath sent
To bear me upward to His throne.
I choose thee, blessed will of God!
For in the circling of Thine arms,
The gladdest Spring of Joy I find;
Outside Thee fears and strange alarms.

--May Agnew Stevens

* * *

Jesus, Master, whose I am,
Purchased Thine alone to be
By Thy blood, O spotless Lamb,
Shed so willingly for me,
Let my heart be all Thine own,
Let me live to Thee alone.

Other lords have long held sway,
Now Thy name alone to bear,
Thy dear voice alone obey,
Is my daily, hourly pray'r;
Whom have I in heav'n but Thee?
Nothing else my joy can be.
Jesus, Master, I am Thine;
Keep me faithful, keep me near;
Let Thy presence in me shine
All my homeward way to cheer.
Jesus, at Thy feet I fall,
Oh, be Thou my all in all.

--F. R. Havergal.

* * *

It is said of Henry of Bavaria that at one time, becoming weary of court life, he determined to enter a monastery. When he presented himself to Prior Richard, the faithful monk gave him the strict rules of the order. The king listened eagerly and enthusiastically expressed pleasure at the prospect of such complete consecration. Then the prior insisted that obedience, implicit and expressed was the first requisite of sainthood. The monarch promised to follow his will in every detail. "Then go back to your throne and do your duty in the station God assigned you," was the prior's word to him. The king took up his scepter again, and from then until he died, his people said of him, "King Henry has learned to govern by learning to obey."

* * *

"Father, where shall I work today?"
And my love flowed warm and free.
Then He pointed me toward a tiny spot
And said, "Tend that for Me."

I answered quickly. "Oh, no, not that!
Why, no one would ever see,
No matter how well my work was done,
In that little place for me."
And the word He spoke, it was not stern,
He answered me tenderly:
"Ah, little one, search that heart of thine,
Art thou working for them or Me?
Nazareth was a little place, and so was Galilee."

* * * *

God has a whole repertory of techniques He is using to get our attention. He finds us where we live and He is definitely multimedia.

Acts of nature.

In Biblical times, God often spoke through acts of nature. A rainbow was a sign of God's covenant, or promise, to Noah. A burning bush was a visible manifestation of God Himself to Moses. And God still speaks to us today through natural occurrences of all sorts. The wind, rainstorms, clouds, fire and rainbows can all carry divine messages.

Angel murmur.

An angel is a spiritual being superior to man who serves as a messenger from God. A murmur is a soft or gentle utterance. An angel murmur is God's way of making contact with us through a soft voice in our ear when we need special or urgent help or advice.

Example: Jonathan was driving to a meeting out of town when he distinctly heard a voice whisper, "Go home." The voice repeated the command three times in a short period of time. Jonathan turned the car around, and when he got home he found that his wife was sick and needed to go to the hospital.

Cautions.

A sudden or dramatic warning that may come as a gut feeling, an intuition, or as a physical obstacle is a caution. A caution may also come as a whisper in our ear or a thought impression in our head that feels unmistakably like an idea not our own.

Example: My friend Will was supposed to catch a six o'clock flight out of Dallas–Fort Worth airport. He felt a strong urge to catch the seven-thirty flight instead and changed his plan, though he was at risk of missing his meeting. The six o'clock flight crashed upon takeoff.

Coincidence.

When events seem to have some connection without an apparent plan or design, this is coincidence.

Example: Santiago had recently arrived in Miami and needed a place to live. Silvia wanted to rent a room in her house after her husband died. Santiago and Silvia sat at the counter next to each other in a restaurant and struck up a conversation. That day Santiago rented a room in Silvia's house.

Dreams.

A dream is a series of thoughts, images, or emotions occurring during sleep. God often speaks in our dreams. A dream can foretell the future or provide a pictorial sounding board for problems soon to be encountered.

Example: A friend of mine, Alexander, couldn't decide where to go on vacation. He was thinking about several possibilities as he fell asleep. He had a vivid dream about blue waters with blindingly white houses on a mountaintop.

The next morning he was leafing through travel brochures when he saw Mykonos, the jewel of the Greek isles, splashed across a photograph that was exactly as he had seen it in his dream. He booked his trip and had a fabulous time.

Foreshadowing.

When one event heralds another and prepares us for something, that is foreshadowing.

Example: Muriel, who lives in Chicago, was convinced that she had seen her sister, Margaret, three times on the same day. A short time later Margaret made an unexpected visit to Muriel's from Des Moines, delivering news that would affect Muriel's future.

God by proxy.

God speaks to us through other people, using them to get our attention and to get His message and guidance across.

Example: My friend Mike was worried about how his daughter was going to spend her year off from college. At a business lunch with six men whom he'd never met before, one happened to mention that his wife counseled students taking time off from college. Mike, who never knew such counselors existed, got her card and followed up.

Gut reaction.

A gut reaction is an intuitive response to a person or situation which involves arousing basic emotions. It is an immediate response without forethought.

Example: As soon as my friend's husband walked into his hotel room in Atlanta, he got a gut feeling to go out into the hall to check where the fire exit was. That night he was awakened by a fire alarm. The hotel kitchen had caught fire, and he was able to quickly make his way to safety.

Hunch.

A hunch is a strong intuitive feeling concerning a future event or result.

Example: Ethel had a hunch that her neighbor Hans was ready to sell the five acres that separated their houses. She waved him over to her yard and asked him if he wanted to sell the acreage. "Funny you should ask me today, because my accountant just called five minutes ago and said it was time to sell."

Synchronicity.

A synchronicity is a coincidence that always involves a crucial time element.

Example: Two old friends of mine shared this story with me: Two friends, Kate and Samantha, bumped into each other on the Via Veneto in Rome while they were both vacationing. They agreed to continue sightseeing together and unexpectedly stumbled upon an orphanage outside of Vatican City. Upon returning to the States, the friends nurtured a relationship with the Italian children from the orphanage and their caretakers. Five years later, Kate and Samantha underwrote a charity to help unwed Italian mothers get an education, obtain employment, and raise their babies rather than give them up for adoption.

Telepathy.

Telepathy is communication from one mind to another by extrasensory means. It's as if invisible phone lines send messages between two or more people.

Example: A friend told me this story about his brother-in-law. Dexter went to the store to buy groceries from his wife Charlotte's list. As he passed the laundry detergent section, the idea popped into his mind to buy all-purpose bleach. Putting away Dexter's purchases, Charlotte said, "Dexter, I can't believe you bought bleach. The minute I heard the car pull out of the drive, I wished I had put it on the shopping list."

Thought impression.

When a new idea or a thought that may not be your own pops into your mind, God may be speaking through thought impression.

Example: My friend Cindy had filled out an application in April to buy an extended health-care insurance policy for her husband Bill. On October 29 of the same year, a thought kept popping into her mind to send in the application with the check for the first premium. She did.

On November 4, Bill had a massive heart attack. They were saved from financial ruin because Cindy acted on a thought impression that wouldn't go away.

Vision.

A vision is a mystical experience of seeing as with the eyes of a supernatural being. The vision is usually a miraculous appearance that conveys a revelation.

Example: Nina and her friend Scott were standing at the window of her top-floor apartment in New York City about a quarter to nine one September morning. As Nina and Scott looked downtown at the World Trade Center, they saw an airplane plow into one of the towers. Moments later they saw a brilliant vortex and then a golden spiral staircase encircling the building with spirits ascending.

Wonders.

This is God's use of awe and spectacle to draw attention to His omnipotence. It is difficult to define because there is such a wide variety of manifestations.

Example: The director of the Summer Playhouse at the Hollywood Bowl woke up one Saturday morning to hear the weatherman forecast an 80 percent chance of rain. He was afraid the final sold-out performance of his play would be washed out. Throughout the night, lightning flashed and rain fell all around the Hollywood Bowl, but the downpour missed the people watching the performance.

Coincidence.

Coincidence: A sequence of events or experiences that appear accidental while also seeming planned, prearranged, or closely related.

Example: Chip had signed up to take a civil-service examination to see if he qualified for training to become a policeman. When he got to city hall, he found he had misread the date for the exam--the test for the police force was to be administered the next month.

Coincidentally, the test to see who qualified to become a firefighter had been switched to that day. Chip decided to take the civil-service exam to see if he met the requirements. He scored highest in the class. Today he travels all over the country putting out wildfires. Chip had one thing in mind, but God decided on something else.

Keep your eyes open and your ears to the ground, for the next significant coincidence may be a signal that God is calling you to a golden opportunity. Believe in coincidence, but keep a healthy perspective.

Signs and Wonders.

Rita was on a committee in Mexico City to select students academically eligible for college scholarships. One of the terms of renewal of the financial assistance was for the student to keep his or her grades up. Rita continued to support one student who went all the way through college and medical school on one of the Morris Foundation's scholarships even though his grades were not always up to standard.

Several years later, Rita went to her gynecologist for a pregnancy test, but the results were negative. Her doctor was convinced she had a tumor. Months later, Rita was hospitalized to have the tumor removed. The doctor performing the surgery discovered that Rita was pregnant and in fact was carrying a healthy full-term baby. He delivered the infant.

After the cesarean procedure, Rita looked up at the attending physician from her hospital bed and saw the name Jesus Garcia on his white coat. "Are you the same Jesus Garcia who went through college and medical school on a scholarship from the Morris Foundation?" asked Rita.

"Yes, I am," answered Dr. Garcia. "God bless you, Jesus Garcia. If I had discontinued your scholarship, I would not have my baby son today."

One of the most direct ways for possible success in getting a sign or wonder is through prayer. Sit and get quiet. Pray and then wait for the answer. If you are not given a sign immediately, keep at it. The next time the phone rings, it might be your answer.

God by Proxy.

God often uses the people in our life to get our attention and get His message and guidance across.

Roger wanted to make furniture, not sell pharmaceuticals. However, turning his hobby into a career was complicated--he was married with two children, and his wife was expecting another baby. Every time he talked to his minister about his personal aspiration, Roger was reminded that he had a family to support.

Flying home from an out-of-town business trip, Roger sat next to a man named Eddie, who manufactured furniture in North Carolina.

"I would love to design furniture," said Roger.

"What's stopping you?" Eddie asked.

Roger explained the drawbacks of his family situation.

"Do what you love and the money will follow," said Eddie.

They chatted a few more minutes, exchanged business cards, and Roger promised to send some photographs of his furniture.

Several weeks went by, and one day Roger got a phone call from Eddie.

"I got the photos of your furniture. You are talented, my friend, very talented!" Eddie said. "How would you like to design for Renaissance Interiors?"

"Wow, Eddie, I told you on the plane that I have lots of monthly expenses," Roger said.

"Do what you love and the money will follow," Eddie repeated. "I've got a designer job open and I'm offering it to you. It's a risk for both of us, but I own an empty house and I'll make it part of the package."

That night Roger and his wife dined at a Chinese restaurant. They were discussing what to do about the new job opportunity. "God has always shown us the way in the past," Roger's wife said. "Why can't we hear from Him about this?"

Opening a fortune cookie, Roger broke out in a big grin as he handed the slip to his wife. He read, "Do what you love and the money will follow." Roger is now a partner with Eddie in Renaissance Interiors.

Keep your eyes open and your ears tuned for evidence of God's will working on your behalf. In a moment of indecision, when you unexpectedly get a bit of advice that rings true, recognize that God may be speaking to you by proxy. If you are discerning, miracles can happen. Don't hesitate to consult a friend or counselor you can trust. A second opinion can go a long way toward strengthening your resolve.

Dreams.

God promises and God reveals, all in the language of dreams. That was true in the Old Testament as well as throughout the ancient world. "In ancient Israel, in Judaism, in the Greek world and in the ancient Near East generally, dreams were frequently regarded as vehicles of divine revelation, especially the dreams experienced by priests and kings," notes the *Oxford Companion to the Bible*. Elihu in the book of Job confirms that dreams convey God's messages, despite man's lack of appreciation:

"For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; then He openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, that He may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man. He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword" (Job 33:14–18).

Mort dreamed that he was digging for water on his newly purchased land, but all he managed to find were dry holes. He then began excavating near a flock of birds sitting on branches in a grove of trees. Mort took the birds in his dream to be an omen. "I noticed a clump of tree stumps on the edge of my property. I started to dig and found water."

Martha needed to find some financial papers for her accountant. Look though she may, she came up empty-handed. One night she dreamed that she and her deceased husband were cleaning out boxes and throwing out clutter. She sat down in a chair and leaned her head back and a voice whispered, "Green." When she woke, she went out to the garage and in the corner under a paint tarp was a file cabinet. Stenciled on it was the name Green. Martha opened the bottom drawer and found the papers she needed.

What would the world be like if each of us were in contact with the divine source? What if we were to get so quiet that the small, still voice could make itself heard inside of us? What if we were able to not only hear God's will for our lives but know how to accomplish it? I believe an extraordinary new era without limits could be ushered in. In this dawning age of miracles, we might witness remarkable changes as many of us got on God's frequency.

Seven Ways to Find God's Will

How should Christians go about making decisions? When we're faced with having to make a decision, what are we trying to find?-The will of God! So the real question is this: How do we find the will of God?

A good Scripture on the subject is found in Romans chapter 12, verses 1 and 2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

So what is the most important requirement in finding God's will?- Having no will of your own! Surrender your will, your body, and your mind to the Lord. Everybody has free will, of course, but as Christians we're supposed to have already chosen to surrender our will to Jesus Christ. We're supposed to let Him make the decisions. This is one of my favorite little poems on the subject:

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing His truth can dim!
He gives His very best to those
Who leave the choice with Him!

That may not be an actual Scripture, but it's scriptural. "He knows, He loves, He cares." Do you believe that? "Nothing His truth can dim." Is that true? "He gives His very best to those who leave the choice with Him!" If you're His child and you're letting Him do the choosing, what is He going to choose for you? He's going to choose that which is best for you, that which will make you happiest in the long run.

Some people say, "Yes, my will is surrendered to God. I have yielded my life to the Lord, I am trusting the Lord, but I still haven't been able to find His will. I'm still confused. I can't even understand the problem, much less the answer!" It's a dilemma most of us face at some time in our lives.

So how do you find the will of God? What does He require, according to the Scripture in Romans?-Utter abandonment! Utterly yield your mind, body, and will to God. Then you'll know! You'll soon find out, because then you're in a position for God to show you!

Here are seven basic elements to finding God's will:

1. The Word

The first place we look for the will of God is in the Word of God, the Bible. This is the known, sure, absolute, revealed will of God. There's no doubt about it. This is it! If God never tells you another thing than what He has already written, if you just operate according to the Bible, you'll get along great!

If you never have a revelation, if you never hear a heavenly voice, if you never receive a prophecy, if you never have the gifts of knowledge or wisdom or discernment or healing or of performing miracles, if you'll just operate according to the Word of God, you'll accomplish a whole lot- and eventually you'll probably receive many of these spiritual gifts as well!

Some people don't appreciate the Bible like they should. They've got to have it all spoon-fed to them. They don't know how to dig out the spiritual nourishment for themselves-the strong meat of the Word. Some things you've got to work for! "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

2. The Voice of the Word

The second way to find God's will is by the voice of His Word. God speaks not only through His Word, but He speaks through the voice of His Word. The Psalmist says, "Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His Word, heeding the voice of His Word."¹

Have you ever been reading a passage of Scripture when all of a sudden a verse or phrase or even a single word comes alive and hits you between the eyes? "That's for me! That's the answer!" Or perhaps you've been praying about a certain situation when the Lord reminded you of a verse or passage that was exactly the answer you needed.

It was so loud and clear that God couldn't have spoken any more emphatically if He'd yelled it out! That is the voice of His Word, speaking through His tried-and-proven written Word. It may have been originally given for somebody thousands of years ago, and yet, all of a sudden, it speaks to you personally.

So the first way to find God's will is through His Word, the Bible. Then there is the voice of the Word—a specific verse, phrase, or passage from the Bible, which speaks to you personally.

3. Direct Revelation

What do you think would be the third surest indication of the will of God?—A direct revelation: a prophecy, dream, vision, or voice.

For example, when God speaks to you in prophecy, it may come in the form of one or more Bible verses, or fresh, new words not found in the Bible. When I ask God for an answer to a problem, I have found that He usually gives me a Scripture—an answer that He's already given somewhere in the Bible. As the old song says:

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,

Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

What more can He say than to you He hath said,

You who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Be sure that any direct revelation you receive does not contradict the Word of God. You have to measure your revelation against the Word. "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."¹ Make sure it is according to His Word!

4. Godly Counsel

Fourth on the list is godly counselors. "In the multitude of counselors there is safety. ... Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established."² Godly counselors are people who not only believe the Bible, but who are practicing it the way they ought to. They are not only hearers of the Word, but doers also.

A godly counselor is someone who loves the Lord, and whose life shows the good fruit of living close to Him. If I wanted to learn how to play the piano, I wouldn't go to business college; I'd go to a pianist who knows how to play well. If I wanted to learn how to cook, I wouldn't go to a see a computer technician, but to somebody who knows how to cook, whose meals I've enjoyed. So godly counselors are people that you can trust because they bear good spiritual fruit.

God does not necessarily follow any particular order when revealing His will through these means. He may speak to you through a prophecy first, then you may confirm that prophecy by the Word. Or He may speak to you through the voice of His Word, and then you search other Scriptures and see what the Lord generally has to say about the subject. We can't put God in a box and say He's got to speak to us in this or that way, or in this or that order. But these are ways we know He works, not only from our own experience, but also from what He has said in His written Word.

5. Open and Closed Doors

The fifth way to determine the will of God is through "open and closed doors." These are generally a poor means of finding the will of God, but sometimes they are an indication.

For example, many years ago the board of my church decided that my family and I could not go to a certain country as missionaries, and they gave several reasons: The country that I wished to go to was closed to any new missionaries, there were severe food shortages there, and I had been unable to raise our fares. I looked at all those "closed doors" and agreed that that country wasn't the place for us to go. Then right about that time, the Lord opened the door to another place of service where there were millions of people who needed to hear the Gospel!

So which way does God seem to be leading? Where do you have open doors of service? Where have you got a possibility of a job? In which direction does it seem that God is providing the way and the means? That's one way to find out the will of God-the circumstances and conditions, the open and closed doors.

6. Burdens (the Witness of the Spirit)

Number six is the witness of the Spirit—a certain intuitive conviction that gives you faith. You just know that a certain course of action is the will of God! The Lord may not tell you in an audible voice or give you a visible sign, but you know from that still, small voice in your heart,¹ that inner conviction. Some people refer to this as “burdens.”

I don't like to go by feelings, because sometimes feelings can be wrong. They can be the wrong feelings from the wrong spirit! Nevertheless, some feelings are put there by the Lord, as one indication of His will for you. The Spirit of God speaks to your heart about a decision you face, and gives you an inner conviction about what God wants you to do.

Sometimes the witness of the Spirit may be a warning not to do a certain thing—that it's not God's will. Your heart or spirit hears a voice saying Stop, don't do that! Watch out! The Holy Spirit doesn't even have to use words, but you know what He means!

So that's the sixth way to find God's will: the witness of the Spirit.

7. Fleeces

And finally, what is the seventh way to know the will of God? Sometimes you can ask for a specific sign. This we call a “fleece,” a term taken from the story of Gideon in the Old Testament.¹ Gideon wanted to know the Lord's will about a matter, so he spread out a fleece of wool on the ground one evening and said, “Now, Lord, if tomorrow morning the fleece is wet from the dew and the ground all around it is dry, then I will know that You have been talking to me and I'm supposed to do such-and-such.” But even when the Lord met that condition, Gideon still wasn't sure, so he asked the Lord to do the reverse. “Now, Lord, tomorrow if the fleece is dry and the ground is wet, I'll believe that You want me to do such-and-such”—and the Lord did it! So if you resort to fleeces, check and double check.

I like to get a sign from the Lord, a confirmation that I'm on the right track, and that's one way. I'll ask for a sign, I'll “put out a fleece” by asking God to meet certain conditions.

So how do you find the will of God? Surrender your all to Him and “do not be conformed to this world [or worldly ways of doing things], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove [there will be no doubt] what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Sometimes we want to know what God’s will isn’t! If, after trying all these ways, you still can’t find the will of God, go ahead and do something. You will soon find out whether it is His will or not. Just pray for God to lead you, and start. A boat has to be in motion before the rudder can take effect.

You don’t find God’s will by just sitting around doing nothing. I once knew someone who did that. He said that he had been called by God to be a missionary, but he had since been sitting around, doing little or nothing, for many months. He said he was “waiting on the Lord.” Well, while this man was waiting on God to do something to get him started, God was waiting on him to get busy!

So may God help us all to not only find His will, but to do it! “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

Summary: Seven Ways to Find God’s Will

1. The Word
2. The Voice of the Word
3. Direct Revelation
4. Godly Counsel
5. Open and Closed Doors
6. Burdens (the Witness of the Spirit)
7. Fleeces

* * * *

My friend Wolfgang Simson is an intellectual German, but he recently found himself in a predicament that required him to lay down his intellect and trust God like a child.

He was scheduled to speak to a houseful of church leaders in Cairo at 5:45 PM. His contact put him in a cab at 5:00, showed the driver an address, put it back in his pocket, and said farewell.

Half an hour later, the cab pulled up--in the wrong place! And Wolfgang didn't even know what the right address was. Moreover, his Arabic was almost nonexistent. He knew how to count from one to ten, and he knew the words left and right and straight ahead, but that was about it. He said a brief prayer for help, and God immediately answered. "*Prophesy to the taxi driver!*"

"Lord, I-I'm a Lutheran," he stammered in his native German, "and I don't even know which direction it is."

"*PROPHECY!*" came the distinct voice of God again.

So with only 15 minutes left, Wolfgang obediently began barking orders at the driver. "Alatuh! (straight ahead) "El shemah!" (to the left)....."El Yameen!" (to the right). Every corner, every alley was a decision, and he strained to feel the Holy Spirit's promptings as the cab bounced through Cairo's chaotic streets in the Egyptian heat. He even took short cuts only a professional driver could have known.

It was a high speed proof test of Isaiah 30:21: "Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Exactly 15 minutes later the cab came to a stop right in front of the meeting house. The wide-eyed cabbie, keenly aware of the supernatural nature of this trip, refused to take any fare!

The moral of this story is that the world has changed, and God wants to speak to you directly, in practical ways, and you need to gear up for this, to learn to listen to Him.

* * * *

Stop! ... Look! ... Listen!

For a Christian, one of the main principles involved in reaching a decision is this: Don't start trying to reason it out, or talking it over with others-pray! God likes for us to give Him a little honor. Prayer is not just getting down on your knees and speaking your piece, but more importantly, letting God speak His. If you'll do that, He'll tell you what you're supposed to do.

I don't see how anyone can hear from the Lord unless they get quiet and really listen. I told some folks one time, "You remind me of the child prophet Samuel in reverse. When Samuel heard the Lord in the quiet of the night, he said, 'Speak, for Your servant hears.' But the way you pray is 'Hear, Lord, for Your servant speaks!'"

Many Christians today seem to be more concerned in having God hear what they have to say than they are in hearing what God has to say. They're trying to put their program across on God and get Him to sign His name to it. The question they should be asking themselves is not, "Can I present my program to God for His signature?" or even, "Am I willing to be presented with God's program for my signature?" but, "Am I willing to sign a blank sheet of paper and let God fill it in without my even knowing what His program is going to be?"

It doesn't matter how well you know the Bible or how many spiritual gifts you have, if you don't know how to pray or don't keep in touch with the Lord all the time, you're in trouble.

Christians who don't take time to listen to the Lord remind me of the story of the little girl who had a kitten. One day she heard it purring in its sleep and exclaimed, "Oh, Mama, the kitty's gone to sleep and left its engine running!" You may run around and appear to be busy, but still be asleep spiritually and not be getting anywhere, "as one who beats the air." Unless you get quiet and try to seek the Lord, how are you ever going to hear what the Lord has to say?

I love to be alone with the Lord because then I can hear Him so clearly. I'm convinced that I have heard more from Him when alone, quiet, and in a position to listen, than any other way.

He can talk to us when we're alone and we can give Him our full attention and the reverence due Him. The Lord speaks in a still, small, but very definite, very firm, very loving voice. But if we're too noisy, we're not going to hear it.

You can be your own worst distraction. Anybody can make a racket, but it takes real effort to be quiet. If you're praying so loud and making so much noise that you can't even hear God, if you're not getting quiet and listening, then there's really not much point in praying. God's not deaf. You have to wait awhile and see if He's going to speak to you in some way. Stop and be quiet, and wait for the answer.

The only way you can hear the Lord clearly is to get quiet yourself. If you really want to hear the Lord, He'll talk to you, but He doesn't usually scream. By the time God has to yell over your racket in order to be heard, you're probably headed for trouble. That's why God sometimes allows people to have an accident or suffer illness or bereavement: He wants them to stop long enough to listen to Him. A funeral is about the only time a lot of people ever stop their feverish daily activities long enough to think about and listen to the Lord.

Lord help us to get quiet before Him and listen! We all need quiet times with the Lord, to receive inspiration and instruction from Him. Personally, I find that I hear from the Lord most clearly alone in the quiet of the night, when everything is still and there are no distractions. If I wake up in the middle of the night and can't go back to sleep, I assume that it's because the Lord wants me to pray. As soon as I get prayed up, I go right back to sleep.

If you really want to hear the Lord, He will talk to you. But in order to hear, you're going to have to get quiet by yourself, somewhere, somehow, sometime. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God." How much have you learned about being quiet before the Lord? How many "quiet times" do you have? "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

Do you know what "confidence" means? Confidence is faith! The very fact that you keep quiet shows you have faith. It shows you're expecting God to do something and not trying to do it yourself.

If you don't know what to do, stop everything! Get quiet and wait for God to do something. The worst thing in the world you can do is to keep on going when you don't know what to do. That was King Saul's mistake. He kept right on going, even after he didn't know what to do; he figured he had to keep busy and keep going no matter what-and it lost him the kingdom.

Getting quiet before the Lord shows you have faith that God is going to handle the situation, that He's going to take care of things. It shows you trust the Lord. "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."¹ If you're not trusting, you're going to be in confusion all the time. As this little poem aptly puts it:

When we're trusting,
We're not heard to fret.
When we're fretting,
We're not trusting yet!

If you're confused, worrying, fretting, and fuming, then you're not trusting. You don't have the faith you ought to have. Trusting is a picture of complete rest and peace of mind, heart, and spirit. You may have to continue working, but your attitude and spirit are calm.

You don't always have to be down on your hands and knees praying frantically to be heard by God. Prayer should be something you're doing all the time, no matter what else you're doing. You can't always wait until you're through doing this or that, and then pray. Sometimes you can't get quiet. -You've got to pray as you go. It's like thinking on your feet.

We who help fight the Lord's battles are going to get most of our instructions ahead of time.

When you truly trust the Lord, you can have peace in the midst of storm and calm in the eye of the hurricane. It reminds me of an art contest that was held in which the artists were asked to illustrate peace. Most of the contestants handed in paintings of quiet, calm scenes of the countryside-absolute tranquility.

Well, that's a form of peace. But the hardest kind of peace to have was illustrated in the picture that won the award. It depicted the roaring, raging, foaming rapids of a storm-swollen waterfall, and on a little tree branch overhanging the torrent was a nest where a tiny bird sat peacefully singing in spite of the raging river. That's when your faith gets tested, in the midst of turmoil. Quietness is a sign of faith.

Moses had several million people sitting out in the middle of the desert, waiting for him and tearing their hair, wondering, "What are we going to eat? What are we going to drink? Where are we going? What are we going to do?" And what did Moses do? He climbed to the top of a mountain and stayed there alone with the Lord for 40 days!

What if he had been fretting all the time, "What if something happens? I have to get back. What if Aaron makes a golden calf?"-Which he did! And when Moses did get upset and broke the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments, he had to go back up the mountain and get quiet for another 40 days! What good did it do for him to get upset? He might as well have come down and taken it quietly and calmly. It would have saved him another 40 days on the mountain!

Jesus, on the eve of His ministry, went out and spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness, and it seemed like He spent much of the time with the Devil. He had to defeat the Devil first. If you don't get alone with the Lord and beat the Devil first, you never get far.

It took Noah 120 years to build the Ark. I wonder how much of that was spent in prayer? He must have taken some time with the Lord, or he never could have gotten all the precise instructions on how to build the vessel. God probably gave him the exact specifications for every part of that boat. And Noah just went calmly about his business, building the Ark.

He could have panicked and hastily slapped it together, thinking rain was coming any minute, but he didn't. He took 120 years to build the Ark. Many of us would probably think we were spending a lot of time preparing for something if we just spent 120 days on it. It sure showed that Noah had faith!

They say that farmers often make the best missionaries because they don't expect everything in one day. They live next to God's creation and are dependent on the Lord. Farmers have a lot of patience and faith in the long process of waiting for the plants to grow or the animals to produce. They just have to trust the Lord and not worry about it. God does the biggest part of the job: He sends the sun and rain and makes the crops grow, and He's the one who causes the animals to produce.

If there's any picture of a quiet type of personality, it's the farmer. City folks often make fun of farmers, but if the farmers didn't take it slow, they'd go crazy like many of the city people! The farmer's motto is "Go slow." The farmer is a perfect example of faith and patience. We should take a lesson from the farmer.

Why is it that so few people want to live on a farm these days?- Because it takes too much dependence on God. They have to leave so much up to the Lord. In many countries, people are moving off the farms in droves. God's too much in control. It's too quiet--"too dead, no action," they say. But if they took time to really look around and listen--to watch the animals, the trees and the storms, and to listen to the thunder--they'd see and hear a lot.

Some people have to be in motion all the time; they've got to be doing something! I think one reason for this is that they don't want to think! That's why they have so many "amusements." Do you know what that word means?-"Away from thinking!" People are terrified of the quiet and stillness because they know the voice of God might come through. So the Devil keeps their minds, eyes and ears filled with noise and violent sights and sounds.

That's one reason why large cities are such a curse--so much noise and confusion! They're largely man-made environments, with hardly a tree or a blade of grass. Many people live and work where they can't even see the sky, the sun, the moon, or the stars. The noise is continual: traffic, sirens, and screeching trains and subways. Children raised in large cities often develop hearing problems because they live in an atmosphere of constant noise, whereas children who live in the country usually have very keen hearing.

Just so, if you live in an atmosphere of spiritual and physical confusion, you'll eventually develop a hardness against the voice of God, because to hear Him you have to learn to block out all the noises around you. But if you live in a quiet, peaceful environment, your ears become more sensitive to the few sounds around you-very keen and sharp-and it's also easier to hear the Lord when He speaks to your heart or mind. Think of the years Abraham, "the father of faith," spent out in the fields watching flocks. No wonder he heard from the Lord. He had time to listen.

Lord forgive us, we get so busy! If you're too busy to pray, you're too busy! If you're too busy to get alone with God and pray, you're too busy! It's as if a servant told his king, "I'm sorry, I can't come and listen to your orders today, I'm too busy serving you!" The most important job you have is listening to the King-to stop, look, and listen. You need to learn to listen to the Lord most of all.

It's not up to the king to go chasing after his subjects, screaming and hollering at them to try to get them to follow his instructions. Rather, his subjects should come to the king with quietness and respect, present their petitions, and then wait silently for the king's answer.

You need to respect and reverence the Lord, and treat Him like the King He is. Sometimes Christians can get so familiar with the Lord and His Spirit that this familiarity breeds contempt. The Lord is so sweet and close to them that they don't respect Him like they should.

A lot of Christians start playing with the gifts of God or the gifts of the Spirit, and neglect God Himself. It's like parents coming home with gifts for their children, and the kids grab the presents, forget to greet and thank their parents, and start playing with the toys.

It also reminds me of the story of the little girl who wanted to make her father a present for his birthday. Each evening, instead of spending her usual time with her father, she worked on making him new bedroom slippers--and she nearly broke his heart!

God may appreciate the bedroom slippers you're making for Him, but He'd rather have you! And the truth is, you'll probably make an awful mess out of those slippers if you neglect your time with Him!

My mother used to tell about how she had gotten so busy with the Lord's work that she wasn't listening enough to Him, so He had to let her get so sick she had to give Him her full attention! When she was flat on her back, sick in bed, that was the only direction that she could look-straight up! She summed up that lesson in the following poem:

FIRST PLACE

I was longing to serve the Master,
But alas, I was laid aside
From the busy field of workers
In the harvest field so wide.
They were few, yes, few in number,
And I could not understand
Why I should be left inactive;
It was not as I had planned.

I was longing to serve the Master,
And the need indeed was great.
For me it was easy to labor,
But oh, it was hard to wait,
To lie quite still and be silent,
While the song was borne to my ear,
From the busy field of workers,
In the harvest field so dear!

I was longing to serve, just to serve the Master,
But He led to a desert place,
And there as we stopped and rested,
His eyes looked down in my face.

So full of tender reproaching,
They filled me with sad surprise!
Did He think I had begrudged my service,
Or counted it sacrifice?

“Oh, Master, I long to serve, just to serve Thee,
There are so few at the best!
Let me off to the fields,” I pleaded.
“I care not to stay and rest!”
I knelt at His feet imploring,
I gazed in His face above.
“My child,” He said, “don’t you know
Your service is nothing without your love?”

I was longing to serve, to serve my Master,
Oh, this was my one fond thought.
For this I was ever pleading,
As His footstool in prayer I sought.
But there in that lonely desert,
Apart from the busy scene,
It dawned on me slowly and clearly
Where my great mistake had been.

My mind was so full of service, just service,
I had drifted from Him apart.
And He longed for that sweet communion,
The union of heart with heart!
Well, I sought and I found forgiveness,

While my eyes with pain were dim.
And now, though His work is still precious,
The first place is kept for Him!

-Virginia Brandt Berg

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God will not take second place, even to His service! He says, "You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."1 That is probably the greatest mistake of sincere Christians: to make a god of God's service!

One day when Martin Luther and his co-worker Melanchthon had a particularly strenuous and busy day ahead, Melanchthon suggested that they cut their prayer time together at the beginning of the day in half. Luther refused vehemently, and insisted that instead of their regular two hours in prayer, they would have to spend four hours in the presence of the Lord that morning because they had so much to do!

Here's another of my favorite poems:

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME

I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day!
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask!"

I tried to come into God's presence;

I used all my keys at the lock.

God gently and lovingly chided,

"Why, child, you didn't knock!"

I wanted to see joy and beauty,

But the day toiled on, gray and bleak.

I wondered why God didn't show me.

He said, "But you didn't seek."

I woke up early this morning,

And paused before entering the day.

I had so much to accomplish

That I had to take time to pray!

-Grace L. Naessens

* * * *

When Moses was a smart young man, 40 years of age, he really thought he knew how to do the job-but he made a terrible mess out of it and had to run for his life! It took God 40 years to straighten Moses out and show him that he had to depend on Him.

Hurry is often a sign that you're afraid you're going to be late- which means you have fear, which means you haven't got enough faith. If you're late, take it easy! Trust the Lord! One reason we hurry when we're late is because it's probably our own fault and we don't want to suffer the consequences. Another reason we hurry is that we're not trusting the Lord. We're afraid that if we don't get to our destination, we're going to miss something. We can't trust God that He's able to hold up the whole world or stop the sun, like Joshua had Him do.

One time when I was rushing to catch a train, the Lord warned me that the strain I was putting myself under could kill me. So I put the matter in the Lord's hands, asked Him to delay the train, and relaxed and took my time. I made it to the station, boarded the train, and sat there for 40 minutes, wondering why the always punctual train had not yet left the station. I finally asked the Lord and He told me, "You asked Me to stop the train, but you didn't tell Me you wanted to leave yet!"

"The hurrier I go, the behinder I get!" Just relax, slow down, don't rush, don't be hasty, and the Lord will slow everything else down for you if necessary. Look at all the examples in the Bible of patience: Job, Moses, and David, to name a few. David spent 24 years working under that old blunderbuss, King Saul, and the Lord really taught him a lot from Saul's bad example. Saul often became impatient and tried to do things in his own strength, and he found he wasn't strong enough. David learned that he had to let God do everything, and wait for Him.

Some people remind me of King Saul. They ask the Lord something and if they don't get an answer right away, they just go ahead and do the best they can. Look what happened when Saul didn't wait for the Lord's blessing through the prophet Samuel. Saul went ahead with the dedication ceremony himself, instead of waiting for the Lord or His prophet, and Saul lost the whole kingdom as a result.

So slow down! Stop! ... Look! ... Listen! Wait for the Lord-especially if you don't know what to do and haven't heard from the Lord yet. Where did John the Baptist show up from-the big city of Jerusalem? Is that where he got his education, his anointing, his great power? No! He came out of the desert, out of the woods, out of the wilderness, where he had time to get away from the crowd and hear from the Lord. And when he finally came, he sure had something to say!

Jesus spent 30 years of His life in preparation and only a little over three years in His public ministry. We're in such a hurry! The apostle John wrote the Gospel of John, and it must have taken some time with the Lord to do it. However, John's greatest masterpiece was virtually written by the Lord, while John was in exile on an island--the book of Revelation. His biggest work was just letting God do all the directing, the speaking, the revealing-everything! Let's slow it down! Stop! ... Look! ... Listen!

The world is always in a hurry! That's the Devil's own plan: "Speed up the world! Anything to make everything move faster!" God created the earth 6,000 years ago, and it has hardly varied in its speed since then. God never got in a hurry. It's still revolving at the same rate every day. God hasn't speeded up the seasons or the years, but man is speeding things up-and the result is a world hell-bent for destruction!

So let's try to slow things down. Relax! But most of all, stop, look, listen ... and wait! Warning signs like this are posted at dangerous places, such as railroad crossings-places of crisis where there is an interruption of your routine, your way, your road, your highway-otherwise you might drive across the train tracks and get hit by a train.

"But," you say, "I don't have time to stop, look, and listen!" Well, if you don't, you may never make it. Better late than never! Which is easier, to try to beat the train, to try to plow through the train, to jump over the train-or to stop for a few minutes and watch it go by? It'll soon be gone, and you can go peacefully on your way.

Trying to force the situation and push your way through just won't work! It doesn't pay to rush around trying to get someplace or to do something when you're supposed to be waiting on the Lord to find out where He wants you to be and what He wants you to do.

The Lord wants to teach you to make decisions. The first step in making a decision is not to try to reason it out in your mind or discuss the situation with others. The first step is to ask the Lord. God likes for you to give Him a little honor. Prayer is not just speaking your piece, but most of all letting God speak His piece, and waiting in quietness and confidence until He does.

You've got to get not only in prayer, but you've got to get in the Spirit. You've got to put aside your own thoughts and partake of the Lord's Spirit, through communion with Him. If you'll do that, He'll tell you what you're supposed to do.

You've got to know that you can't do it and be desperate for God's answer, and then you've got to stop everything else and listen. Getting quiet before the Lord shows that you have faith that God is going to handle the situation, that He's going to take care of things.

Take time to hear from God, and He'll take time to straighten out the problem. Your feverish activity is nothing, your service is nothing, if you don't give the King your attention, your love, your time, your communion.

Remember that hurry is lack of faith and is of the Devil! If you're hurrying and rushing around, fretting and impatient, you'll never be able to focus your full attention--your eyes, ears, mind, and heart--on the Lord for the solutions to your problems, the answers to your questions, the best decisions for your situation! But when you have learned to stop, look, listen, and wait in communion with Him until you get His answers, you will have learned how to make decisions! You will have learned to pray and to truly follow God. He gives the very best to them who leave the choices up to Him!

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(India) On the last day of our road trip, we discovered that the briefcase where we keep the Christian material for giving out was locked, and none of us knew the combination! We were desperate as we were just about to go out and were being delayed. Alithia (15) suggested we pray and ask the Lord for the number, as we were wasting time and getting worried.

We stopped and asked the Lord to give us the number specifically, and sought His forgiveness. A few numbers kept flashing in my mind, but one stood out while others kept flashing on and off. It was the number 740. I decided to give it a try, and guess what? That was the number indeed! The briefcase opened and we thanked the Lord!--And went out to have a super-duper day!

* * *

(Romania) On a trip to a certain city, we were staying in a church guest room. As the room needed a little heating, we decided to leave the furnace flame on low overnight. (This was a gas furnace, and I had left it burning through the night when we had stayed in this church before, with no problems.) However, minutes after we settled down for the night, I had a feeling of danger. I asked the Lord again to protect us and especially to keep the furnace going right. But in spite of my prayers, my feeling of danger grew.

Then the Lord told me, *Get out of bed and turn off the furnace.*

Lord help me, I started arguing with Him. "It's too cold, Lord! And I'm so tired!" But He interrupted me with, *Are you ready to die and to come and face Me?* I became really scared as I knew that He was serious!

Seconds later there was a small explosion inside the furnace, and I could see the flame going up into the pipes. I jumped up and turned it off right away. Praise His Name for protecting us! The next day we called the workmen, and they were shocked that we were still alive!

The furnace pipes were leaking gas all over the place, and the flame was moving onward into the pipes. If I hadn't been alerted to turn off the furnace right away, the flame would have gone into the big pipes and the whole church would have caught on fire. The Lord's mercy is everlasting! It was a great lesson for me about immediate obedience!

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The Lord told me: "At the end of every day look at your heart, look at your day. What have you done according to My Word? What new thing have you done today? Please check your heart, examine yourself, think, pray about your day...." And also: "You need to keep checking in with Me, you need to let Me guide you and keep checking you, counseling you...." I'd read a message from the Lord, that someone else had received that said: "Taking time to hear from Me every day is one way to check in with the Master Gardener and to make sure that everything's okay." The Lord also told me about my need to listen to others more.

I received from the Lord the words: "Whatever I counsel you in My Word or in prophecy, if you try to put it into practice right away you won't forget it later." The Lord said the same thing to someone else that I read: "When you read the Word and you feel the conviction of My Spirit, stop right then to think and pray and meditate on what that instruction means for you personally. Don't delay taking the time to apply it to your life, because if you delay, the conviction will wane, you will forget, and the Word you read will be of none effect in your life." A great confirmation, proving His Own Word that He was indeed speaking to me! It makes me want to get on line with prophecy, to want to hear from Him more, knowing that He is right there waiting to give far-out answers!

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I got pickpocketed once when my wife and I were traveling through London. Thank the Lord, I'd prayed before I went out and the Lord told me to leave most of my money at home, so the thieves just got £1, some change, and my pocketknife! So, be sure to pray and hear from the Lord, and obey what He tells you to do. That's vital to your protection, too. And do your part to cooperate with the Lord by being in tune with Him while you're out.

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One of the main lessons the Lord has been laying on my heart is how I need to hear from Him in prophecy daily. The Lord has been telling me for the last few years that I need to make prophecy more of a daily habit, but I have not made it a part of my daily life as I should have. With the Lord's help, I have made a commitment to spend time loving and hearing from Him in prophecy every day. The Lord told me even if I have to wake up early every day, so be it, but my time hearing from Him is so vital that I need to do it daily without fail. By God's grace, from this day forward I will make that the most important part of my day. Lord help me to be humble and loving and totally dependent on the Lord and yielded to Him.

* * * *

(Spain) Some of us young adults and older teens are raising funds to go to the mission field. For a year we were happy just having fellowship amongst ourselves, but in the last weeks we thought we needed to go out to "have fun." Then a fair came to our town. So one Saturday night we decided to go there and we ended up dancing in one of the discos. We got so into it that we weren't praying or on guard at all. That's all the Devil was waiting for in order to attack us. He did it through a gang of guys who for no apparent reason started beating us up, resulting in one of us being knocked unconscious and taken away in an ambulance to the hospital, and the others getting quite bruised up. Thank God we are all fine, with nothing broken or permanently hurt, but we learned a good lesson that we cannot relax and let our guard down, not even for a second--especially when we're on the Enemy's territory. "Be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary the Devil walketh about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8,9a).

(USA) Halfway through a day of witnessing at a mall, I began getting hungry. I took a break at a McDonald's for a quick bite. There were only two free seats in the restaurant, one next to an attractive young girl and the other next to a little old lady staring out the window. I felt that the Lord wanted me to sit next to the elderly woman, so I did. Two bites into my hamburger the lady, who seemed to be well into her 80s, piped up, "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?"

"Yes, it sure is," I replied.

A minute later she again commented, "It's just so lovely how we have this sun today!" It had been raining the whole week.

"Yes, God is giving us some beautiful sun after the long rain!"

"Oh, you believe in God?" She sounded interested.

I proceeded to tell her I was a missionary and how I had just recently moved to the States from Brazil, and how I've spent most of my life in other countries. She was thrilled to hear me talk about the Lord and souls.

Then she told me about how her pastor tells her that she shouldn't wear certain dresses, and that she needs to be more careful about how much of her body is exposed if she wants to go to Heaven. This sounded like silly counsel to her and she was concerned about my feelings on the matter. I told her that I feel the Lord looks on the heart and not on the outward appearance, and that I thought her heart was beautiful, as she obviously appreciated the simple things of life, like good weather and God's beautiful creation.

She brightened up and smiled.

Then she did something that I will never forget. "You know," she began, "every month I tithe to my church. But as I went to turn in my tithe this month, the Lord told me not to give it to my church. Over the next week I went to three other churches, and the Lord told me the same thing each time, that I wasn't to give my tithe to them." She paused for a moment. "Can I give my tithe to you?"

I was a bit stunned. I managed to reply, "Okay, I will accept your tithe, and promise to spend it for the Lord's work." She reached in her purse and pulled out the widow's mite: US\$20.05. I nearly cried as I accepted it from her. I prayed for her before I left.

As I walked out of the McDonald's, I couldn't hold back the tears. I knew that the Lord was speaking to me. He had used this sweet elderly lady to impress upon me how we are His eyes, ears, and mouth to the world, and that they can see Him through us. Through this little incident, my life has been changed once again--and I pray the effect lasts a long time.

* * *

(Iceland) While on my return flight home from Spain, I noticed that the same air steward who had been on our flight to Valencia was also on our return flight. "Hi again!" I casually remarked. He looked surprised and asked where I'd met him before. I told him and we chatted about my time in Spain, as I explained that I'd been there attending a missionary-training seminar.

I gave him a tract, but he was quite against religion and didn't seem too interested. Then he had to get on with his work, but in between his work we were able to chat some more. At one point I told him that God is a very real presence in my life, and that because we're living in the Endtime, God has poured out His gift of prophecy on His children, and that I hear from Him every day. He was very surprised at this and looked skeptical.

When he went back to his work, the Lord told me to receive a prophecy for him, and told me that I should write it down and give it to him. It was a big stretch of faith for me as I had never done this before. But I got desperate and the Lord gave me a short message for him. On the paper I also wrote down our website address and my personal email for future contact.

When I gave it to him, he was both surprised and embarrassed. I didn't have another chance to talk with him on the plane after that; however, the Lord was not through just yet! While in the airport I went to buy some water from a store, and who did I bump into but this same man! He told me that he was waiting for a lady who wanted his full name so that she could file a complaint about his service on the airline.

As it turned out, this lady never showed up. The Lord had him waiting there at the perfect time so that I would be able to witness to him more in depth. While talking with him, he became teary eyed and said, "You're the first customer I've had who has ever treated me so nicely." He confessed that when I gave him my note, it nearly made him cry. "You don't how much this means to me."

I hugged him and told him I would be praying for him. I also told him that Jesus must have a special plan for his life, seeing how He went to so much trouble to cause us, out of all the hundreds of people in the airport, to run into each other once again. It's amazing to see how much the Lord will do, in order to have you meet one lost soul!

* * * *

This experience helped me to see how trusting the Lord fully and asking Him about everything really works. I had gotten a deep cut with a kitchen knife on the center of my left palm. The wound was deep but didn't seem like such a big deal on the outside. A few days later the skin closed over the wound and seemed to heal, but then the palm of my hand started to turn purple like a bruise.-It was obviously infected.

When I prayed about it the Lord said to get it checked, and when the doctor saw it he was a bit concerned. He said that the infection could climb rapidly up my left arm and hit my heart. He gave some strong antibiotics that I needed to take for about 15 days.

After leaving the doctor's office I felt led to go ahead and buy the pills, so I did. At home I prayed again to confirm if it was indeed the Lord's will for me to take them. I had spent quite a bit of money on the pills, but I still felt led to pray again for a confirmation.

Lo and behold, the Lord said that I shouldn't take them, but to trust in Him and He would heal me. At that moment I didn't feel I had full faith to do so; the infection was frightening and the pain in my hand was so strong that it was keeping me awake at night a bit. But finally I decided to go ahead and trust the Lord through prayer, knowing that He would take care of giving me the faith I needed. I asked the Home to pray for me at Communion, and the same day I got rid of the pills.

In prophecy, the Lord told me to look up some info in a health book about infections, and recommended natural helps. The main vitamins against infection were vitamin A, E, C, and garlic. So I went ahead and prayed about it again, getting a confirmation from the Lord about taking these vitamins, along with balanced meals and good daily rest.

Finally, after two weeks I didn't have any more sign of the infection. Thank You Lord! The Lord said that this was a longer process of healing, but a surer one. Here is the prophecy I got after my first doctor's visit:

(Jesus speaking:) According to your faith, be it unto you. I leave this decision in your court and will in both ways protect you and give you total healing. You can take the antibiotics, or you can trust for My healing without them.

The way of the antibiotics is the quickest way, and in a couple of days you will be over the infection. It will also prevent the infection from spreading more and you will stop having pain in about a day. You strip the body of the infection, but these pills also strip the body of other things you need right now. It affects other organs on the way to the so-called "healing." It takes away the natural protection I have put in your digestive system to absorb the vitamins from the food you eat. It also kills the white blood cells that are to protect you from other infections.

It does well for some things in your body, but on the overall it does more damage than good. It does things inside you that you can't see, but that will take your body more work in the long run to rebuild. There are other organs that suffer and lose valuable stuff that the body will have to replace over time. Meanwhile you are weakened through it and are more liable to come down with other sicknesses like colds and other similar things. It's really your choice, as it's your body and you must go according to your faith.

On the other hand, if you decide to trust in Me and in prayer then things will be different. The pain you feel now will continue for a few more days. My method is not a fast one, but it is sure, one that really heals and does what your body needs. You will need to research the natural health books on this and find out in detail what you can take that will kill this minor infection.

One thing you know that works is garlic and vitamin A. Take also vitamin E for inner healing of the tissues. This kind of healing is not a "quick healing" as it would be with the antibiotics, as I do all things well and take My time to do them. It will take more faith on your part to do this, as you won't see immediate results. But this will increase your faith in other areas of your life, as you will see how I work. Another thing this will bring about for you is that this time of waiting will teach you patience that again brings faith into your system.

So see, My child, it's your free will, but you must count the cost. Your heart has been hurting you these last days too, and those antibiotics will not be good for that either. Thanks for coming to Me again. This is what I teach you: to come to Me once, and to come to Me again. I don't reveal everything at once, but I lead My children to come to Me again and again, not only to find My will but to learn to depend on Me continuously. *(End of message.)*

* * *

(Russia) We prayed about the [birth of our baby] and the Lord showed us through three separate prophecies that we should have the delivery of the baby at home! He said He would bless me if I went to the hospital as well, and that I shouldn't feel condemned to do so, but that He wanted us to stretch our faith and have it at home.

I really wanted the Lord's highest will, but I had a hard time having the faith. Then I set out a fleece that I would have it at home if I could find a nice and experienced midwife to help me. So we went looking and right away found a sweet Christian midwife who agreed to come for the delivery. The Lord, and He gave a beautiful prophecy. Here is a part of it:

"I've already told you that for the purpose of stretching your faith, I would that you have your baby at home. I promise that as you give your all to Me in this way, as you put your trust in Me only--not in the skill of the doctor or the experience of the midwife or anybody else--I'll be your doctor and midwife and pediatrician and all that you need to have to be well taken care of during and after delivery. I promise you that as you put your trust in Me completely and let Me stretch your faith this way, you won't be disappointed. This will be the best delivery ever, the most wonderful experience of delivering your children.

"So don't put your trust in the experience of the doctors.--It fails. Don't put your trust in the experience of the midwife.--She may not be able to come. Rest completely on the promises I gave you. Prepare physically. Do what you can to have everything ready and waiting so you can be peaceful and relaxed when the time comes. Read about home delivery, fill yourself with the subject, but most importantly be sure to spend the time with Me so I (your Doctor) will be able to strengthen you spiritually, fill you with My Spirit, and give you the peace and faith that you need.

"Sweetheart, at the same time I want to let you know that if for some reason you choose to go to the hospital, I'll bless you anyway and I'll keep you and protect you. You won't need to feel condemned. I'll understand, okay? But just as I told you, I designed the situation this way so you have the choice."

In the prophecy Gabe received earlier, Jesus said: "Today is a new day. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. You are entering the new era, an era of faith, when you'll be asked to do many things that will seem contrary to the conditions and circumstances--sometimes even contrary to your advantages. I will ask you to leave the good to obtain the best. You are only entering this era and each step should be made in full faith. If in doubt, don't!"

It's amazing, but these prophecies and quotes washed all my doubts away! We started eagerly preparing for the delivery. We gathered all the needed stuff, studied, watched videos, etc. I listed the prayer requests for me and the baby, and we prayed for all these things together. I got excited about having my baby at home and even started to get a little impatient while waiting. The Lord told me to ask Him to make it happen when I was ready.

So on May 2, in the afternoon (after having some rest in the morning) I asked the Lord to start the labor! And can you imagine?--My water bag broke during midday quiet time with the Lord. We'd prepared the room, and while my labor started the kids went for get-out. (We told them Mommy would have the baby today, and they were praying for me and the baby, and couldn't wait to see it!)

Heavier contractions started around 7 PM. Gabe was with me all the time. He was a big help and encouragement. At 9 PM I was ready to push, and at 9:10 our baby was born, all nice and pink and so cute.

She was lying on my tummy and we called the kids to see her. They were already in their beds getting ready for the night, praying that they could see the baby before they fell asleep.

The next day the doctor from our children's clinic came to see the baby. The baby is all happy and healthy and growing. I must say that the Lord answered every prayer request on my list. I wrote this testimony not to encourage you to have a home delivery, but to follow the Lord in your situation. If we follow Him, everything goes just fine. He is faithful to keep all His promises. We pray that you will follow Him in perfect faith and peace in everything you do.

* * * *

(USA) My mother took me out to dinner as I was staying with her while my stepfather was in the hospital after he'd had a heart attack. A tired young girl came to clear our table as we were finishing. She smiled and asked if we'd enjoyed the meal. You could tell she was a hard worker and was trying to be kind. After she left, the Lord told me to give her a tract, along with a \$5 tip.

My funds are limited, but I know it always pays to obey. So I went looking for her. I gave her the money and wrapped it around the tract. I told her, "Jesus loves you. Thanks for doing a good job." About 10 minutes later, she came up to me at the table, put her hand on my shoulder and said, "I read your paper. I think you just changed my life. Thank you so much!"

* * * *

Following God definitely requires boldness and a spirit of adventure. Sometimes we don't realize how much we need boldness until our faith is put on the line. For example, suppose you begin expecting God to move through you in signs and wonders. As you're learning to hear His voice, the Holy Spirit nudges you and whispers, "I want you to talk to that guy over there. Here's a little fact you should know about him. He has terminal cancer."

Suppose you sauntered over to that fellow and said, "Uh, excuse me. The Lord just spoke to me about you. You may think I'm a nut, but the Lord told me that you have terminal cancer. I'd like to pray for you. Can I do that?"

The guy probably wouldn't reject you. He would accept the prayer; but he might think that God didn't tell you, someone else did. Who knows how he will respond? It doesn't really matter, though. You don't have to worry about his reaction. Just say a simple prayer, rebuke the cancer and bind it, loose the man from his disease, and say, "Be healed, in Jesus' name."

Let's say that after you prayed for his healing, you talked for a few minutes and then went your way. The guy might forget all about the encounter until he went for his next checkup and the cancer was gone. Do you think that guy would try to find you? I think he would. After he found you, how difficult would it be for you to lead him to Jesus?

Suppose you were praying one day, "God, is there anything special You want me to do today?" and God showed you a man at work who was bound by a spirit of fear. Fear of failure and fear of the future continually plagued him, but none of his co-workers knew about it. Could you say to him, "You know, during my prayer time the Lord showed me that you have a real problem with fear."

He may not admit it because he's been hiding it all of his life. He may not even be able to talk to you about it. But you could pray and rebuke the spirit, binding it, casting it down, and breaking its power over him. You don't even have to touch him. The Bible says, "The word of faith is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (Romans 10:8). Speak to the rulers, principalities, wickedness, and powers of this dark age. They all have to obey the name of Jesus.

How do you think your coworker will react when that spirit of fear leaves? He will know he is free. Do you think it will be hard to make him a disciple after that?

* * * *

(Russia) I have always had a problem with being carnally minded and not seeking the Lord enough in my work and life. I decided to start trying to do what He said to do. Because I was spending more time with the Lord, He started showing me things and speaking to me in ways that He never had before.

Before this I didn't have the gift of prophecy, mainly because when the Lord would give me something, I wouldn't give the first part that I got for fear that halfway through I would go blank. But when I gave it a try anyway, I was amazed at how much the Lord would give me!

One thing He told me recently was about marrying my girlfriend. At first, I was sure that I was just listening to my carnal mind. But I asked the Lord to tell me if this was really Him, because I had been going to go off with another team on a mission outreach trip, and all of a sudden the Lord told me to go back and marry my girlfriend. -- Of course, I wanted to, but I thought the Lord had other plans in my life.

But after praying, the Lord told me to believe what He said and just ask her. When I got home I told my girlfriend about this, and the Lord had given *her* six pages of prophecy telling her to marry me! Now we're engaged and very happy together, all due to the Lord and His wonderful Words!

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(England) While witnessing, we met a young man who told us he was an atheist, and as such did not seem to want to help in any way. We continued to witness to him, and during the conversation I received a strong check that his name was "James." Thinking that strange, I didn't say anything about it. Again the Lord told me that his name was James, but I still wouldn't believe.

Finally, I thought, *Well, Lord, if we're meant to be Your Endtime witnesses and channels and yet we can't even get something as simple as someone's name in prophecy, then what's the point?*

So I said, "You look like a James." The man turned bright red, and looked at his clothes to see if he had a nametag on.

"How did you know that?" He asked, obviously very shocked.

"God just told me," I replied. This was a very strong witness to him of the proof of God. He then gave a donation and accepted our witness, telling us that he would say the prayer later. Thank You, Jesus, for prophecy!

* * * *

(Africa) I was desperate for my ticket to Africa because the friend who was supposed to purchase it for me went on a pilgrimage to Mecca. I asked Jesus what He wanted me to do to get my ticket, and He told me to spend the day with Him, which I did.

Then, at about five that afternoon, I received a phone call from a man named Tanyi, who's originally from Cameroon but lives in London. I'd first met him while I was on the road in Germany with Amy about six months before; he'd given us a ride and taken us about two hours out of his way, during which time we witnessed to him. Since then, I had asked him a couple of times for financial help, but even though he is extremely wealthy, he always backed out of helping because he said that he was waiting for some different business deals to come through. I thought this was merely an excuse, but nevertheless prayed for these business deals to come through for him.

So when he called me that afternoon he told me that things were going well for him. We talked for a while and then Jesus told me to mention my need for £500 for my ticket to Africa. So I mentioned my need--and he didn't even hesitate. He said that of course he would send me the money. He did the same day, and I flew out two days later. Jesus is so cool! It was encouraging to me and also showed me even more the power of prayer. It is inspiring to see how the Word is really the main thing that draws people closer.

* * * *

(Ireland) We were headed to Africa, and we needed to buy our tickets. I told the Lord that I wanted to get the funds for my ticket in a very different way. I wanted something supernatural. Every day I prayed for that supernatural miracle. I'm generally the type of person who likes to see instant results after witnessing to someone. But the Lord told me that my ticket wouldn't come that way.

Across the road from the apartment where we were staying, there was a store owned by a Muslim family. I had a little prayer ministry with the family, where I'd pray with them each morning and each evening. One day, after praying with this family in the store, I stopped to talk with the guy behind the counter named Shaz. He poured out his heart about how he was experiencing a lot of difficulties. He felt God had forsaken him.

"Why would God allow this to happen?" he asked. I witnessed to him, answered his questions from the Word, and prayed with him.

Then he asked what I was doing, so I explained that I am a missionary and was on my way to Africa. He stated that it was impossible to live by faith, that I was never going to get there, that I might as well get a job so that I could be sure of receiving income toward my ticket. But I just said, "No, the Lord told me that He is going to do it. I am very sure of it. The Lord has never let me down before."

A couple of minutes later his friend, Raggy, walked in the store and asked Shaz what we were talking about. I explained the same thing to him. He seemed to think it was super cool, but as soon as I was done, he ran out of the store.

Shaz and I had no idea what he was up to, but Raggy soon came back and asked me, "How much do you need for your ticket?" I told him and he pulled out his checkbook, wrote down the exact amount and said, "If you need anything else, just tell me and I'll try to help."

Shaz could not believe it! I prayed with Raggy and he gave me his card and left. Shaz said, "For the last three years I didn't really believe that God was real and that He could do miracles, but today I saw a miracle right before my eyes. My friend has been trying to convert me, but you've converted me today!"

* * * *

I THINK I REALLY GOT OUT OF THE WILL OF THE LORD GOING BACK TO THE SAME JOB that He'd once delivered me from. The Lord spoke to me several times, definitely in prophecies & Scriptures & verses in the Bible & so on, that we had to go.--Get out, just go! That's when I finally got that verse. I said, "What am I going to do, Lord, I've got these two houses now, fully furnished, with renters & everything?" He said,

"SELL ALL THAT THOU HAST & GIVE TO THE POOR, & COME FOLLOW ME, & thou shalt have riches in Heaven." (Mt. 19:21.) So I finally took it literally. I was getting so sick & having so many heart attacks that I was afraid not to! I got so many direct prophecies, even from people in the pulpit, & more verses of Scripture etc.

WE HAD TROUBLE AFTER TROUBLE! Although we were better off financially with a good job, making good money, & had a nice house out in a nice area & all, I finally just got fed up & told the Lord, "Okay, I'll go!"

HE SAID, "SELL ALL THAT THOU HAST", SO THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DID!

My father got furious! He said, "Don't you dare quit another job unless you've found another one! Don't you shut one door till you've opened another one!" But I just went ahead by faith & I didn't even heed the voice of my loved one, my father. I said, "The Lord told me to go regardless, even if I don't know what I'm going to do. We'll just hit the road & go out & preach the Gospel & witness!"

SO I SOLD EVERYTHING, & I HAD JUST ENOUGH TO PAY ALL MY BILLS WITH \$30 LEFT OVER, & the old taxi cab & the trailer, & we started out across the country! Mother said, "I've got a meeting in Pennsylvania in October, next Fall. If you ever make it as far as Pennsylvania, I'll use you in my meeting & you can come there."

WELL, THE LONG & THE SHORT OF IT WAS THAT WE WORKED OUR WAY CLEAR ACROSS THE UNITED STATES just witnessing & singing & showing my slides in school buildings & on the side of the post office & all kinds of trailer camps. We worked our way all the way across to Pennsylvania, & finally were in the meeting with Mother.

THAT'S WHEN I HAD THAT VISION OR DREAM OF MY DEATH & meeting Dr. Koger. At the end of our meeting with Mother when we were praying about what to do, the Lord told me to go to Miami & establish this missionary school there. ... I was determined to stay no matter what & do what the Lord told me to do--I was scared not to!

* * *

DR. KOGER WAS A VERY PROMINENT MAN, A MIAMI PHYSICIAN, very wealthy as well. He had a gorgeous home in Coral Gables ... [My mother] won him to the Lord.

HE'S THE ONE I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT SO MANY TIMES HOW AFTER HE GOT SAVED HE VIRTUALLY ABANDONED MEDICINE, although he was a graduate M.D., and he went to naturopathy and more healthful diet, herbs and stuff like that. That's who I learned so much from along that line.

AFTER HE GOT SAVED, INSTEAD OF WRITING PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MEDICINES, HE WOULD WRITE SCRIPTURE VERSES on the prescription blanks. He knew good and well the medicines weren't going to do them any good anyway.

SO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH THREATENED TO FIRE HIM and take away his credentials. They said he was not practicing proper medicine. Some of his patients complained, can you imagine, because instead of giving them a prescription he gave them a Scripture verse!

HE SAID, "WELL, THE MEDICINE WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD and this verse will do you a lot more good!" So they had him up before the Health Board and were going to retire him. But when he came for the hearing, the foyer and the steps and the lobby of the courthouse were packed with thousands of people protesting his being fired!

THEY GAVE UP THE WHOLE CASE BECAUSE THE PEOPLE LOVED HIM SO MUCH. The people really loved him, especially the poor. He had his private practice amongst the rich in Miami Beach and the Islands and environs, but he devoted part of his time to practicing right down in coloured town with poor people, which he did for free.

HE WAS ABOUT AS NEAR TO BEING A SAINT AS ANY PERSON I THINK I EVER KNEW: What I'd call a real saint, a very good man, always unselfish, sacrificial, thinking of others, always witnessing, always winning souls.

HE'D HARDLY EVER COME TO SEE US ANY DAY THAT HE HADN'T ALREADY WITNESSED TO SOMEBODY or won a soul to the Lord, personal evangelism. He was a great man, a wonderful man, he just served others all the time and just burned himself out for love.

THE FUNNY THING ABOUT DR. KOGER, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE IN HEAVEN TO BE ALL DRESSED IN WHITE--HE ALWAYS WAS!--Everything! Never wore a hat, but he always wore a white Palm Beach suit, white stockings, white shoes, white shirt--the only colour he had was this flowery tropical tie, he always wore these beautiful ties. Immaculate dresser, handsome, black wavy hair and the most gorgeous black mustache, really a fine-looking fellow as well as a fine fellow, and I really loved him.

HE WAS PRACTICALLY A FATHER TO ME, and a good father. I was a young teenager, 9th grade, and he was very good in his handling of a difficult young teenager. I wasn't too difficult I guess.

ANYWAY, SOMETIMES HE DIDN'T THINK I TREATED MY MOTHER LIKE I SHOULD, because he was so respectful of her, and I would argue or disagree with her. And the worst thing he would do-- If I'd say something sharp to my mother or do something wrong, I'd look over at him and there would be the tears. He was so tenderhearted!

I WENT BACK TO COLLEGE, AND SOON GOT MY FIRST LITTLE MISSIONARY PASTORATE out in the middle of the Arizona desert and built that church from which they threw me out. Then I went to schoolteaching for about 3 years and finally we got into the Soul Clinic with Fred Jordan.

BY THIS TIME MY WIFE HAD GOTTEN THE KIDS ORGANISED AND SINGING and playing their little ukuleles and all. They were really performing and were quite a hit on the streets and in restaurants or wherever they went.

MY MOTHER WAS JUST ASTONISHED, ... she saw what an attraction they would be in some of her meetings. So she promptly invited us to join her for her next meeting in New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

AT THE END OF THE MEETING IN OCTOBER, 1953, I WAS PRAYING WHETHER WE SHOULD GO WITH MOTHER TO MIAMI. She said, "Come on, we'll take a month off, a vacation, and we'll have a meeting in December. We'll take a month off down there and renew old friends."

IT SOUNDED GOOD. I always loved Miami and the beach and swimming, and the kids were crazy about it and were raring and ready to go. But I always wanted to make sure I was in the Lord's will. So I had been praying for the Lord's will and went to sleep.

IT WAS THE CLOSING NIGHT OF THE MEETING AND NOW WE REALLY HAD TO MAKE OUR DECISION, whether we were going to go with my mother for another meeting in Florida or not. And going back to church for just this one meeting got me so sick of the churches that I really didn't feel like it!--And to go to Miami, that's one of the hardest fields in the whole world!

BUT THAT NIGHT, DURING THE NIGHT, I HAD THIS DREAM. I realise now that I apparently was getting revelations then but I didn't really understand it. But I had this dream and I knew it was from the Lord.

THE LORD SHOWED ME THAT WE SHOULD GO WITH MY MOTHER and hold the meeting, but then He wanted me to establish a Soul Clinic Missionary School there, to send missionaries to the Caribbean and the Latin American countries from there. It just all unfolded beautifully!

MIAMI WAS AN IDEAL PLACE FOR A MISSIONARY BASE FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA. It was the gateway to Latin America. The Lord showed me that it would be the ideal place to have a Soul Clinic School to train missionaries. It was a beautiful dream, just like a picture!

BUT THEN I WOKE UP AND GOT TO THINKING ABOUT IT. If you're really in tune with the Lord and you love the Lord and you're filled with the Spirit, and you're really seeking His will, usually your first reaction is the right one. God speaks first, then He lets the Devil talk to you to test your faith. And the minute I woke I got to thinking:

"LORD, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! SOMEBODY REALLY OUGHT TO DO THAT, BUT YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY! I don't know a thing about running a Soul Clinic School. I taught school but I never had the responsibility of promoting anything like that!

"IT TAKES MONEY, YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE BUILDINGS and you've got to have advertising. You've got to have a radio or TV show ... So I said:

"LORD, TO GET THAT JOB DONE YOU OUGHT TO GET SOME REAL FLASHY KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY. You need somebody like that to go down there and push it and promote it and maybe get the churches to support it!"--Which shows you how far behind the times I was then! When we finally went at it with nobody but God behind us and strictly by faith, the Lord never failed us. But I said,

"LORD, I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THAT, I'M NOT THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB! I'm too shy and timid and I don't think I could ever run anything that big. Lord, I'm living in this 18-foot trailer, a family of six with four kids, how in the world could I ever have a school?

"WHERE AM I GOING TO GET THAT MUCH FAITH for enough money to run a school that would cost probably several thousand dollars a month? I'm doing well now if I make \$100 a month or even get just my food!"

THE LORD TRIED TO ENCOURAGE ME, BUT I SAID, "NO, NO, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'LL DO LORD, I'LL WRITE FRED JORDAN to send his right hand man down there, he's just the man for the job. It's a great idea, I'll sell Fred on the idea, and I'll get them to do it. Fred can do it, he's got money, he can finance it, he can support it, and can promote it and he can advertise it and he can go down and rent the buildings and he can send the students and they can do the job.

"NOT ME, LORD, NOT ME! I KNOW MIAMI, I know what a tough town that is! I love it, it's a beautiful wonderful climate, my favourite place to live, I love the beaches and swimming... but I don't want to get involved in that kind of thing down there.

"NO LORD, YOU GET SOMEBODY ELSE, NOT ME! I don't mind going down with my Mother for a meeting but I'm not going to try any big project like that, I am not the man for the job!" It was like that old Negro poem:

"De Lawd had a job fo' me
But I had so much to do
I said, 'You get somebody else,
Or wait till I get through!'
I don' know how de Lawd come out,
But He seemed to get along
But I felt kinda sneakin' like
'Cause I knowed I'd done Him wrong.
One day I needed de Lawd,
And I needed Him right away!
But 'way down in my accusin' heart
I could hear Him say:
'I'm sorry, Boy, I's got too much to do!

You get somebody else
Or wait till I gets through!
Now when de Lawd has a job fo' me
Ah never tries to shirk,
Ah lays down what I has on hand
An' I does de good Lawd's work!"

SO I ROLLED OVER AFTER I SAID NO TO GOD AND WENT TO SLEEP. Now I really don't know whether I dreamed it or whether it actually happened, but it was just as real to me as you sitting right there right this minute! I think maybe it really happened!

THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS SITTING UP IN BED, BUT MY BODY WAS LYING IN THE BED behind me! I was sitting half in it and half out of it, and my first feeling was "Ah, this is great! I feel light as a feather, I never felt so good! I don't feel heavy anymore!" I felt like I could just give a little shove and I'd just float right off! At first I felt great, then all of a sudden I thought!:

"IF I'M DEAD, THAT MEANS NOW I'VE GOT TO GO FACE THE LORD, AND I JUST SAID NO TO THE LORD!" And I mean that really scared me, thinking about facing the Lord, having just refused to do what He told me to do!

THAT ROOM WAS ONLY ABOUT 8 FEET LONG and I was sleeping in the corner of the room on a couch that you folded down to make a bed at night.

AND JUST THAT MINUTE IN THE OTHER CORNER OF THE ROOM STOOD DR. KOGER!--Just as plain as day! He still had his white suit on, not a white robe, and he looked just like he always looked, exactly! He was standing there in the room just as plain as day, just as plain as I can see you right now!

DR. KOGER LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE HE DID WHEN HE WAS IN HIS PRIME in the early days in Miami when I was a kid, when he was his most magnificent. He looked in his 40s, in his prime, not as I knew him at the time of his death when he had grown old and was in his 70s.

AND HE WAS LOOKING AT ME WITH THAT LOOK, AND I JUST KNEW HE WAS GOING TO START TO CRY, like he was ashamed of me! He never had to say a word, he never said one word, but

I KNEW HAD COME TO GET ME! And he was taking me where I figured I was going to have to face the Lord and give an account of things! And right after saying no to the Lord I was really scared. He loved me, but I knew he was ashamed of me. He'd come for me to take me, but he was ashamed to!

AND I'LL TELL YOU, I THINK I NEVER FELT SO CHEAP IN MY WHOLE LIFE! I never felt so little and so mean and so horrible to think that I'd refused the Lord and now I had died and I had to go face the Lord!

IT WAS BAD ENOUGH TO FACE DR. KOGER, to me he was just like the next thing to God Himself, and to see him with that kind of reproachful sad expression on his face, like I'd really failed God. I never said words out loud but I was thinking,

"OH MY GOD, LORD, I'M SORRY! LORD, IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY I COULD GET BACK! If only I had another chance!"--Right away, just like that, I woke up instantly and I was lying in the bed just like I'd gone to sleep! I said, "Okay Lord, I'm on my way!"--And we left for Miami the next day!

AT FIRST I WAS SO SCARED, I thought, "Oh my God I'm dead and I've got to go face the Lord after telling Him no!"

I WAS SO ASHAMED! I understand now what that Scripture means: "And some shall awake to shame everlasting contempt!" (Dan.12:2.)

I'LL TELL YOU, I WOULD HAVE BEEN CERTAINLY ASHAMED AND FELT DESERVING CONTEMPT if I'd had to go ... to give an account of myself right after I'd just said a flat no to the Lord! "No, I will not do it, it's too hard a job, I don't think I could do it."

WE TOOK OFF FOR MIAMI THE NEXT DAY!--Just living and travelling by faith and trusting the Lord. I think I left with \$30 in my pocket, but by the time we got to Miami we had \$300!

AND WE HAD OUR SCHOOL, THANK YOU LORD! We built it up to where we had a staff of ten, and forty students. And we sent 38 missionaries to seven different countries and helped all kinds of other missionaries coming through there, some of whose works are still going! Everything the Lord had showed me in that dream that night came true, the whole thing!

* * * *

WE'VE GOT TO DO THE OBEYING. We've got to do what we know God has told us to do! We have to first of all do the forsaking, the dropping out, the dedicating to God, the utter dedication, the complete 100% commitment to God. We don't have to know what's going to happen tomorrow or what He's going to do in the future or what's going to happen as a result.

WE DON'T HAVE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TOMORROW! All we have to know is what God is going to do today. Obey God and do what He has told us now.--Right now! Do it now, you've got to do it now! You can't wait for tomorrow! Today is the day of salvation. You cannot do it tomorrow!

* * * *

God woke me out of a sound sleep and said, "Get up! There's somebody you've got to talk to!" "But Lord, I'm sleepy. Lord, I'm tired. I've been on the train all night, I can't get up." "Get up, there's somebody I want you to talk to! She's in the room right now. You can feel it. You can feel those vibes, you can feel the vibrations. There's somebody here that's important, somebody here that you've got to talk to!" "Okay, Lord! Alright!"

SO I SAT UP, AND BEHOLD, TO MY DUMBFOUNDED AMAZEMENT THERE WAS THIS GORGEOUS GAL sitting immediately opposite us who broke into wreaths of beautiful sunny smiles! She smiled right at us, so friendly and so sweet, and said, "Hello!" whatever else she said I don't remember, but it was in French. However, we finally discovered she could speak English.

SO WE BEGAN TO TALK TO HER about this and that and finally about the Lord, and she was so ready! So hungry and in tears. She had been looking, searching, longing, and this was it! This was what she'd been waiting for!

Finally when we stood up to go as the train arrived in Paris she said some very significant things: She said, "But what do I do now?"

BOOM, THE HOLY GHOST HIT ME AND I SUDDENLY SAID, "COME, FOLLOW ME!--And I will make you fishers of men!" I was so shocked at what God had put in my mouth, I thought, "Lord, what do you mean?--She's supposed to follow us now? She's supposed to go with us now, Lord? How do we do that?" But she got the point immediately and said:

"OH, YOU MEAN I'M SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW YOU RIGHT NOW?--Go with you?" Well, I kind of hemmed and hawed around, as I hardly knew what to say! So she said, "Well, you know, now I'm your baby. I'm your responsibility, and you've got to take care of me!" Imagine! This little lamb, this new born baby, had more sense than I had!

SHE UNDERSTOOD THE LORD'S CALL BETTER THAN I DID! But I was unwilling at that moment to say, "Yes, we'll take the responsibility right now. Take us home with you. Take us to your apartment. Let's go right now!--And we'll take care of you."

MAY GOD FORGIVE ME FOR FAILING GOD!--Because that was the inspiration I had--to go home with her right then, because she needed us and we also needed a place to stay. But instead of that, when she asked, "Well, what are we going to do now?" I said, "Well, I don't know. We're just going to look to God for the answer."

I'M ASHAMED TO CONFESS THAT GOD HAD ALREADY IN MY HEART GIVEN ME THE ANSWER, BUT I WASN'T WILLING TO OBEY HIM! The answer was to ask her to take us home with her, just like Jesus and the apostles did. He didn't hesitate to ask them to take Him home. When that little guy was up a tree, He just said, "Zaccheus, I want to go home to dinner with you. Take me home!" Zaccheus could have given all kinds of excuses, but he took Him home!

DON'T HESITATE TO HAVE FAITH TO OBEY GOD. WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE SAID WAS, "FIRST, YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF US! Take us home, feed us, and then we will take care of you!"

Instead of that we said, "Well, we don't know. We'll have to ask the Lord. We'll see." I had a definite feeling God wanted us to stay there in Paris for her sake and ours, but we didn't go about it right.

GOD HAS HIS TIMES! LET ME TELL YOU, FOLKS: YOU'D BETTER OBEY GOD IN THAT SPLIT SECOND OF THAT GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY! If you miss God's timetable, you're going to not only miss the train but you'll also miss the boat, and you'll get left behind and things will never be the same again!

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS WITH DEAR LITTLE ANAIK! She was so sweet and so receptive, so responsive, so tender! She, I guess, was in her late twenties, and God had already been working on her. She admitted that when she was 16 years of age she'd had the call of God to serve Him, but she had gone back on the Lord, and even her father had said that she was his little black sheep, for she had gone astray.

SHE HAD REALLY KNOWN GOD and talked to God and God had talked to her, and she'd really received the Lord, but she had gone astray from the Lord. And there the Lord put us right across from her on the train.--There was God's golden timing! She was ready! She was ripe fruit falling into our laps, but we were not willing to receive her at that moment.

MAY GOD FORGIVE US FOR FAILING THE LORD! I believe if we had gone home with Anaik that night, stayed with her, worked with her heart, and protected her from her family, we probably would have suffered persecution, but I believe our "Little Anna" would have gone on with the Lord.--But we missed the boat. We failed God. We didn't obey.

WHEN GOD SAYS, "NOW! RIGHT NOW!" LET ME TELL YOU, YOU HAD BETTER DO IT NOW, or you are going to miss the boat and suffer for it! I believe God's got His hand on her life and she's going to come sooner or later, but it's going to be a lot harder. It's going to be a lot harder on her, and it's already been a lot harder on us, because we have already been in countries where we were desperate for an interpreter. We needed somebody to talk, we needed somebody even to get information about trains and a lot of things, but we couldn't speak a word of the language and they couldn't speak a word of ours, and we were up a tree!--All because we had failed God and we didn't have Anaik.

BECAUSE WE FAILED GOD, ANAIK FAILED GOD! After going home and talking to her family and her brother and everybody else, they said she was crazy! So the day she was supposed to leave with us on the train, instead we got a little note in which she said, "I'm sorry, it's impossible.

Don't try to follow me any more." We quickly phoned her apartment but her brother told us she had already taken the plane! He was real sweet and talked to us for some time and said he was puzzled but it all. He said that at first she'd decided to go with us, then all of a sudden she changed her mind and decided to take the plane back to her job. (She makes big money translating and interpreting, and she was due for this big council in Geneva.)

WHAT IF THEY HAD SAID TO JESUS, "WELL NOW, JESUS, WE'RE NOT QUITE READY FOR LAZARUS' RESURRECTION! We haven't got his room ready yet, and we've got to get his clothes back from the people we gave them to, Lord. Wait 'till tomorrow and we'll roll away the stone. You come back tomorrow, Lord, and raise him from the dead." Jesus would probably have been far gone from there by that time, and it would have been too late!

GOD HELP US TO OBEY INSTANTLY WHEN GOD LAYS SOMETHING ON OUR HEART.--DO IT NOW! RIGHT NOW!

We had another almost identical experience happen, almost the same thing. I hate to tell you all the mistakes that I make, but may you profit by them so that you may not make the same mistakes! There was this other very beautiful Austrian girl, Maria Lousia.

AN AUSTRIAN DIPLOMAT'S DAUGHTER FROM VIENNA, and she also was a linguist and spoke fluent German, French and several other languages. We met her on a train coming from Vienna and wending its way through the Tyrolean Alps of Switzerland toward Paris--again on our way to Paris, believe it or not! She was so hungry, responsive and receptive.

WE TALKED FOR HOURS AND SHE HUNG ON EVERY WORD! But when we got up to get off the train, as it was our stop where we were supposed to get off and catch another train, she looked at us with tears in her eyes: "What am I going to do?" And I said, "Well, you just pray now and read your Bible."

BUT GOD HAD SPOKEN IN MY HEART AND SAID, "STAY ON THIS TRAIN AND GO ON WITH HER TO BASEL!--Take care of this little lamb! Take care of this little sheep, this new born babe!"

"BUT LORD! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WE'RE NOT GOING TO BASEL!--That's not the place we planned to go, and our pass is only going to last so long. We've got to cover so much territory. We've got to follow our itinerary. We've got to follow our plans, Lord. We haven't got time to follow Your plans!

"WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO GO YOUR WAY, GOD! We've got to go our way because of these certain practical conditions and circumstances, Lord. We've got to do our own thing in our own way and have it our way, Lord, because we don't understand Your way. We don't understand the way You're going.--We can't comprehend. We can't see any future in what You're going to do, Lord!

"SO HOW IN THE WORLD DO YOU EXPECT US TO DO A CRAZY THING LIKE THAT?--Just stay on this train and go some place we didn't expect to go, that we hadn't planned to go, when our pass is running out and our time's getting short, and we're not going to cover the territory we planned to cover!" Well, I want to tell you, the week that followed we didn't accomplish much because God had had other plans for us!

WHEN WE FOLLOWED OUR OWN PLANS INSTEAD OF GOD'S PLANS, EVERYTHING WENT ASTRAY! We just made a mess! Nothing went the way it should have and we really didn't accomplish anything for the Lord.--Not much at least. He'll still use you, and He'll still use you for a little witnessing, and He'll still use you somehow, but it won't be His highest and His best! It won't be the main thing He had planned for you.

IT WAS PITIFUL! THAT POOR LITTLE GIRL! SHE GOT OFF THE TRAIN LIKE A LITTLE LOST SHEEP, and my heart was broken! I wept about it afterwards, "Lord God, how could I fail so miserably?" How could we fail? How could we not obey? I'm just confessing to you folks how I have failed God on occasions when I didn't strike while the iron was hot, when I didn't obey at that instant, that split second, that golden moment of opportunity!-- And think of the loss that we suffered as a result, and the loss that others have suffered as a result!

WHEN YOU MISS GOD'S TIMETABLE YOU HAVE TO WAIT for the next train, and it's a long, hard wait sometimes! When you miss God's schedule, you've got to wait for the next boat, and let me tell you, things can get tough and rough! So may God forgive us for failing Him!

The point I am trying to make here is:

DO TODAY WHAT GOD TELLS YOU TO DO TODAY! DO IT NOW!--DON'T WAIT FOR TOMORROW! Do it now! Do it now! Do it now! ... May God forgive us for not having enough sense to obey and follow God, when we know who we're following and obeying.

LET'S OBEY GOD AND FOLLOW GOD! DO IT NOW! Obey God now!

FOR GOD'S SAKE, FOLLOW GOD NOW! For if you won't follow God obediently and willingly and promptly, He'll have to put the pressure on you to get you to follow Him!--Don't wait till then, as that can sometimes hurt! How much better to follow Him here and now before it's too late! "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus!--FOLLOW GOD NOW!--Tomorrow may be too late!

* * * *

In this world of hurry, and work, and sudden end,
If a thought comes quick of doing kindness to a friend,
Do it that very minute; don't put it off, don't wait;
What's the use of doing a kindness if you do it a day too late?

* * * *

A pilot was experiencing difficulty in landing his plane because of fog; & the airport decided to bring him in by radar. As he began to receive directions from the ground he suddenly remembered a tall pole in the flight path, & appealed in panic to the control tower about it. The reply came bluntly, "You obey instructions; we'll take care of obstructions". How many a Christian hesitates to obey God's Word because of problems & difficulties! If we only obey, He is capable of dealing with the problems & difficulties.

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(India) We recently went to a nearby town to follow up on some of the people we knew there. We had half-an-hour before our train left and we decided to try to meet the man in charge of a boys' hostel in town.

He turned out to be very kindhearted and we presented the [Christian materials] to him. We got a check to put all thirteen tapes on his table. It was almost time for our train to leave, so we politely asked him if he would like to take the audios and he said that he'd take them all, if he had the money with him. He emptied out his pockets and had the exact amount for them.

He then insisted we have a cup of tea and a snack with him. Although we were almost sure to miss our train, we got a check to stay longer with him. After tea, he sent his car to drop us off at the train station and guess what? The train was about 45 minutes late and just as we got our train tickets, the train pulled into the station! The Lord is so faithful to us, if we heed His checks

* * * *

I was watching the kids one afternoon and wondering where to take them to play. I got a check to go to this one park near our Home that I had never gone to before. At the time I wondered why, but went ahead anyway. A few moments after being at the park, I met a woman. She was so interested in everything I had to say. She was following me around the park and talking with me. I told her about our goal to win the world for Jesus and she flipped out. That was only the beginning of the great friendship Gloria and I were to have.

* * * *

Grandmother was a sweet old lady, and I thought a great deal of Grandfather, but going to visit them was still an ordeal I avoided whenever possible. They made me nervous. Grandmother always found an opportunity to talk about God.

"I'm doing fine," I'd say. "Don't worry about me." But she would insist: "You need to give your life to Jesus, Merlin." It bugged me more than I wanted to admit. I hated to hurt Grandmother's feelings, but I didn't have time for any of that religious stuff. I'd just begun to live!

One Sunday evening shortly after I'd come back from Germany, I went to see Grandmother and Grandfather. I quickly realized I'd made a mistake. They were getting ready to go to church.

"Come with us, Merlin," Grandmother said. "We haven't seen you for so long; we'd love to have you come."

I squirmed in my chair. How could I tactfully get out of this one?

It was getting close to church time, and I couldn't say to my grandparents: "I just don't want to go." At the zero hour I had no choice. Off we went together.

The church service was held in a barn, but everyone there seemed to be happy. The singing began and I picked up a hymn book to follow the words. At least I had to look as if I was with it.

Suddenly I heard a deep voice speak directly in my ear.

"What--what did you say?" I whirled around to find no one behind me.

There was the voice again: "Tonight you must make a decision for Me. If you don't, it will be too late."

I shook my head and said automatically: "Why?"

"It just will be!"

Was I losing my marbles? But the voice was real. It was God, and He knew me! In a flash I suddenly saw it. Why hadn't I seen it before? God was real; He was the answer. In Him was everything I had ever searched for.

"Yes, God," I heard myself mutter. "I'll do it; whatever You want."

The service went on, but I was in another world. This was crazy, but I knew God!

Grandfather was deep in thought beside me. I didn't know it then, but he told me about it later. He was carrying on his own battle with God. For years he'd been smoking and chewing tobacco. Forty years of addiction to the weed had him hooked. Many a time he'd tried to quit, but had been seized with violent headaches and soon was back to chewing and smoking heavier than before.

Now he was sitting next to me in the meeting making his own commitment. "God, if You'll change Merlin, I'll give up my chewing and smoking even if it kills me."

No wonder Grandfather nearly collapsed when I went forward at the end of the meeting to make public the decision I'd made during the singing!

Years later I was at his bedside when his time came to die. He looked up at me and smiled. "Merlin," he said, "I kept my promise to God."

That Sunday night I couldn't wait to get home and read the Bible. I wanted to know God, and I read hungrily page after page. I had a wonderful feeling of excitement inside. It was even better than jumping out of an airplane with a parachute.

That night God had reached down inside me, and I was changed into a new being. I felt as if I was standing on the threshold of exciting adventures the likes of which I couldn't even begin to imagine. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was still alive; the God who parted the Red Sea and spoke through a burning bush and sent His Son to die on a cross--He was my Father too!

I could suddenly understand what my earthly father had tried to tell me. When he was thirty-six years old he was confined to a bed for the first time in his life. Three days later his heart stopped. The doctor was there with an injection, and my father's heart began beating again.

He opened his eyes and said: "That won't be necessary, Doctor. I am going to leave now." He raised himself up in bed and looked around the room with a radiant glow on his face.

"Look!" he said. "They are here to take me!" With that he lay back and was gone. My father had known Jesus as his personal friend and Savior. He had been ready to go.

Now I felt ready too.

[Later in life]

But what was I going to do? My motives for becoming a lawyer had been questionable. It seemed clear that God did not want me in that profession. Soon the thought became very persistent. I was to become a minister! Me, in the pulpit? The thought seemed preposterous. "You know me, Lord," I argued. "I like excitement, adventure, even danger. I wouldn't make a very good preacher."

I couldn't sleep nights, and the longer I thought and prayed, the more exciting the whole idea became. If God could make a preacher out of an ex-jailbird, paratrooper, gambler, and black-marketeer, that would be a greater adventure into the unknown than anything I'd ever tried before.

I enrolled in Marion College, a church-related school in Marion, Indiana, and I must have been the most excited student on campus. I worked from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., studied until 12:00 p.m., slept until 4:00 a.m., and then studied until 8:00 a.m. when it was time to go to school.

One Sunday I got my first chance to preach in the local jail. I held onto the bars and begged the men to give their lives to Jesus. Every week prisoners knelt, holding on to the bars from the other side, and wept their way to faith in Jesus.

I went back to school floating on a cloud.

Saturday nights were free, and I got a group of students together to hold outdoor services on the courthouse steps in the center of Marion. To our delight, people came forward to accept Jesus. After the service we walked up and down the streets, urging anyone who would listen to let Jesus come into their lives.

I had never been so busy, yet I felt as if I couldn't work hard enough for Jesus. He had saved my life; the least I could do was give Him my time.

Young people accepted Jesus in growing numbers, and my flock accepted and loved me and put up with the blunders of a young minister.

[Later in life:]

One night a nurse called me to the hospital to see an Army Major. When he saw me he began to weep. He was covered with bandages, and for ten minutes I stood there while he tried to stop the flow of tears. I wondered what the problem was. Had he been told that his legs would have to be amputated? They were covered by heavy bandages and looked as if they were badly hurt.

Finally the Major gained control of himself and began to tell me an amazing story.

Just a few hours earlier he had been a passenger in a helicopter. They had been hit by ground fire and crashed into the thick jungle. Six men had been scattered over the side of a mountain.

When the Major came to, he realized he was injured too seriously to move. He could hear the cries of other men who were also unable to move. He tried to pray, but realized he didn't know how.

He had attended church all his life, but he had never really talked to God. But all at once he "felt" someone say: "Just ask and believe!"

With a burst of anguish, and in new faith he cried: "Oh, God, please help me!" He realized that for the first time in his life he had talked to God.

Miles away, another Army helicopter was flying north. The pilot later told this story: He felt a sudden, overpowering urge to turn and go east. *But why?* he reasoned. His destination was north.

Contrary to all military rules he made a ninety-degree turn and headed east. He then felt an even stronger urge to fly lower and slower. This was even less logical than his first urge and contrary to all rules of flying over hostile territory. He should be flying either high or low and fast. But the urge was so strong that he went down to treetop level, and somehow knew that he was looking for something. There it was! He suddenly spotted the remains of a helicopter scattered over the jungle.

He had no idea how long it had been there, but he felt compelled to check it out. The jungle was so dense that it was impossible to land. While he hovered over the treetops, a member of his crew lowered himself by means of a winch. When the crewman reached the ground he found the wounded men. One by one he secured them to the winch and raised them into the helicopter.

When the last man had been lifted to safety, he secured himself and was pulled up. The pilot saw what was happening, and as soon as the man was clear of the trees he moved the chopper up and out.

In a few minutes the wounded men were safe in the hospital.

When the Major had finished his story he grasped my hand and said: "Chaplain, I just wanted you to come and help me thank God for His goodness to me. I'm going to serve Him the rest of my life!"

* * * *

2 Chronicles 31:20 And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God.

2 Chronicles 31:21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

1 Chronicles 28:19 All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

1 Chronicles 28:20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

1 Chronicles 28:21 And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.

* * * *

The best way to know God's will is to say "I will" to God.

There's only one will of God, and that's His best! But sometimes He'll let you get away with something that's less if that's all He can persuade you to do.

My concern is not whether God is on my side; my great concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.

If anything hinders or delays God's work, then it's not God's will.

Be so sure of the will of God that you can't possibly be mistaken.

You can't find God's will by just sitting around doing nothing!

Nothing will ever satisfy or last if it's not the highest calling that God has called you to!

God's plan is not going to be defeated!

I'm only interested in one thing and that's God's will, obeying the Lord and doing the job He's given us to do.

God may still use you even if you miss the highest and best thing God wants you to do. He'll still use you for whatever He can use you for. It doesn't mean that everything you do is bad, but you just may have missed God's best.

Finding out what doesn't work is just as important as finding out what does work. You'll never find out what does work unless you find out what doesn't.

The Lord is able to make you want to do what He wants you to.
The desire of your heart isn't always necessarily good for you, and what you think you need isn't always necessarily what you really need!
Learn His will in order to let His light and power into the room of your life.
Without God's guidance, His gravitational pull on us in the spiritual world, we would get out of the well-planned orbit of His will.
The first place we look for the will of God is where?--The Word!
Move with God! Don't run ahead of Him--but don't lag behind Him!
If God is not in it, it just won't work!

Conditions and open and shut doors are not always the final criteria or answer to the will of God, because He's able to open other doors at the last minute that we didn't expect to be opened and He's able to change conditions or our conditions to suit His will!

When your ears stop listening to the Lord, your house collapses on top of them!

God always wins what He begins!

Sometimes you have to accept God's "No" in order to find His "Yes".

It's not a fleece unless you're willing to stick to your conditions!

You either keep your word and your vow when you make an offer and it's a fleece, or it's not a fleece! If you don't stick to it, then it's no fleece!

It's just as important for you to keep your part of the bargain and keep your word, as it is for God to keep His.

God's will is absolutely infallible and unchangeable in the overall context. He has this tunnel of His overall will to confine us and restrict us to a certain area of movement and possibility from which we can't get out of line at all. But regarding individuals and individual situations, He leaves a lot of the choice in the tunnel of His will up to us and how far we go this way or that way, to this side or that side.

Numbers 22:18b I cannot go beyond the Word of the Lord my God, to do less or more.

Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.