



1--You Deserve the Best!

You're special and chosen, and I want you to keep yourself clean and separate from the dirty world that's infested with so many evils that you can hardly count them. Don't let the influences of the world pull on you, or you may soon find that you've been pulled right down into the dirty, slimy pit of the Enemy.

All it takes is one or two little compromises for you to become more and more vulnerable to the traps of the world. So be prayerful and stand strong in your convictions when you're out there, or the sights and sounds of the world will start to blind and deafen you.

I'm not saying that you need to live like a hermit in a cave, or that you can't relax and enjoy some of the recreation that comes from the world. As long as what you're doing is wholesome and according to My Word, I'm happy to see you happy, enjoying a movie or a game or an outing, or just having fun together with your friends.

Unless you're living in an igloo on the North Pole or in a hut on a desert island somewhere, you'll always be coming in contact with the world. But I want you to avoid being defiled by worldly ways of thinking and the wickedness of the world. Save yourself for Me! With My strength and grace, you can break away from the mold and be the unique person I've made you to be.

You are My princes and princesses who have been brought up in My court and in My presence. You deserve much more than what the foolish world has to offer.

2-- Bounce Back

Ever wonder how you can pull out of it when you're feeling lousy and you seem to be getting a lot of flack? Or when you've been misunderstood and corrected for something that wasn't your fault? Or maybe it was your fault, but the correction was rough to take, so you're feeling discouraged and on a bummer? What's the easiest way to not let it get you down?

Why not take a tip from basketball and bounce back? You can really enjoy those slam dunks. And if you're thrown for a loop, just fly with it. When you hit the ground ... that's right ... just bounce back!

If you get it for something you did, just keep bouncing. Don't go flat. Don't let the Devil knock the wind out of you so you have to be thrown out of the game like a deflated ball. Just bounce back for the rebound.

Keep flying high and stay in the game. Let `em see that you've got what it takes. Don't let the Enemy knock the wind out of you and make you lose your spring, so that you can't be dribbled and passed and used to make another score.

No matter what happens, just keep bouncing. The harder you're thrown, the higher you bounce! So don't let anything get under your skin, or let some correction deflate you. Stay in the game and bounce back--no matter how hard or how far you're thrown. Just bounce back again.

3-- Make Room for More Blessings

I've been pouring out tons of blessings on you--literally showering you with My love! In fact, I've been dumping so many blessings on you that you don't even have room enough to hold them all. And I'm going to keep doing it, too, as long as you keep making room for more.

How do you do that? Well, have you ever had a friend or a contact give you so much donated food that you didn't know what to do with it all? What did your Home end up doing with it? You probably loaded it all up into the biggest van available, and went out looking for people who really needed it and would appreciate having it.

But what would've happened with all that food if you had just let it sit there and didn't do anything with it? It would've gone stale or rotted, and ended up making a big mess of things. And what would the person think who had donated it to you in the first place? Do you think he would've wanted to keep on giving you more? Not on your life!

So, let Me ask you this: Have you been feeling a little stale lately? Do you feel like your life is just going to waste? Well, maybe it's because you haven't been sharing all of the love and the many blessings that I've been giving you, either by pouring out to others through witnessing, or just by being more loving and giving to those around you.

Please, when I give something to you--things like My Words, or new songs, or any of the other blessings which I've been pouring out by the bucketfuls--don't just sit around and let them go to waste. You need to make sure you're making room for more--by giving them out to others who really need them and will appreciate them--or I'm not going to feel like giving you any more.

4-- When It Seems like I'm Not Answering...

Not one prayer ever goes unanswered; they're *all* heard and answered the moment they're spoken. But sometimes you have to *wait* awhile to *see* the answer; and sometimes the answer isn't what you were expecting.

I answer right away, but if you're not quite ready, or if it's not the right time in your life, then the answer will wait until you *are* ready. But I *have* answered!

For example, say you've prayed for Me to give you a friend, someone your age that you can be close to and have fun with, and I set things in motion for just the right person to come to your Home. I might know that there are certain lessons in getting along with others that would be good for you to learn before that person arrives. So in order for your friendship to be a blessing to you, and for you to be a blessing to that person, I bring different lessons along the way, so you can grow in your relations with others first. Then, by the time your friend arrives, your friendship can be built on these lessons, so that you can have a sweet and lasting relationship.

You may think that I didn't answer your prayer, but actually I have *more* than answered, because I'm even preparing you for that friendship by helping you to learn lessons regarding friendship--sacrifice, communication, unselfishness and understanding--which are all important lessons to learn.

So next time you're wondering why I haven't answered you right away on something that you've asked Me for, please know that it's because I am working on it and even preparing you for the answer.

Even when it seems like I *don't* answer, it's *still* an answer, because I know that *not* giving you what you've asked for is what's best for you. So that's an answer in itself. If you're not sure what the answer is--yes, no or wait--ask Me about it and I'll tell you.

5-- You Can Tell Me About It

Do you need someone to understand you, someone who really knows what you're going through? Well, *I* know more about what you're going through than *you* do--honest! I know every bit of your heart and every thought that has ever come to your mind.

But even though I know your every thought, you still need to get it out. It'll help you feel better, and help you to see things more clearly. Go ahead and tell Me what's on your mind. I promise to understand you and give you counsel and loving words that'll really help.

I love to spend time with you. I enjoy it so much! I love to just sit next to you, with My arm around your shoulder, listening to what you have to say. You can tell Me anything you want.--Our conversation doesn't have to just be about your trials and tribulations. Why not tell Me about your hopes and dreams for the future? You're at a very exciting, passionate age, and I know there's a lot on your mind.

I'm your Friend, so let's spend some time together--talking, laughing, crying, or just being together. You're so special to Me. I promise I'll love you and be by your side forever.

6-- Stretch Yourself

Life is all about learning! I created the world and put you in it, not only so you can enjoy all the beauties of My creation and the wonders around you, but also so you can learn.

There are valuable lessons that I want to teach you as you grow up to be the person that I want you to be, and to fill the place that I created you for.

I could have created you perfect and already knowing all there is to know. But that would have been too easy, and it would have taken a lot of the fun out of life! It's fun to have challenges and to have to stretch yourself to reach for a goal! Without a vision, without something to shoot for, a goal to strive for, your life would be empty and meaningless.

So don't just exist from day to day, or try to do the minimum and just get by with what little you can possibly do. Put your all into it, no matter what it is--whether it's a hobby you're working on, schoolwork you're doing, or just something you're interested in. If you put your heart into it, I'll help you to reach those goals and to be the person that you and I want you to be. But you can't do it half-heartedly. Give it your best shot, and you'll be amazed at what happens.

7-- You Didn't Come from a Cookie Cutter

I know you want to be original, because I put that desire in you. You want to be unique, special, and smart. You want to think of things nobody else has thought of. You want to say things nobody else has said. You want to dress to suit your own special tastes. You want to make your mark on the world. I know, because I made you to feel that way.

But I know how frustrating it can be when you feel like those around you are trying to make you be just like everybody else, or when it seems like nobody is interested in your ideas and thoughts, or your feelings.

But you know what? I'm interested--really interested! I made you different from anyone else. When I created you, I didn't use a cookie cutter! There's never been anyone else like you. And I love to read your thoughts, `cause nobody's ever thought things just like you do. I think that's so neat!

And you know what else? When you get cool ideas, don't forget about them just because it doesn't seem like anybody's listening--write them down! That's Me speaking to you, and you should take My voice seriously.

The only way that I can get My ideas out is through people like you; I love it when you listen to Me. Some people live in such a loud world that they can't even hear Me. But I know you hear Me. And the more you practice listening to Me, the clearer My voice will become.

You can share every idea, every single thought, and every difficulty with Me. I love to hear everything! You can just get alone somewhere and talk out loud. Picture Me sitting in front of you just like a captive audience, `cause that's what I'll be doing.

8-- The Boldness of Peter and John

It doesn't matter whether you *feel* like you're a good witnesser or not. I know that you often feel like you don't know what to say, and that you don't have the answers to everyone's questions. Sometimes you're a little shy when it comes to talking to new people, and you wish you could be as bold as a lion, and that you could have more charisma, spunk, and knowledge, so that you could be a top witnesser.

It's okay.--Really! All you have to be is a vessel in My hands. Remember the story of Peter and John? They were ignorant and uneducated--just poor fishermen--and everyone knew it. But that didn't matter. When they got up to witness and preach, everyone marveled at their boldness. Everyone *knew* that they were My disciples and that they had known *Me*, even though they were uneducated in the eyes of the world.

I can give *you* that boldness, too. I can give you the power to speak My Word and to be a witness for Me. Sometimes I'll call you to speak to big crowds, and other times I'll ask you to witness to one lonely lost sheep. But either way, I'll always be with you to give you the words to speak and the answers to their questions. I just need you to be willing to go out and share My truth and My love with the world, and I'll do the rest. People will marvel and think it's awesome; they'll know that you've been with Me.

9-- Real Friends

I know that having friends makes you feel really special. When you have even one friend--someone who really cares about you--you feel like you're on top of the world. Sometimes, it can be so important to you that you may feel like you're willing to do almost anything to have friends. But you don't have to try to act really cool and be just like everybody else in order to fit in and to have real friends.

The best way to win friends is to *be* a good friend to those around you. Show people that you really care about them. Take an interest in them, and make an effort to find out what things they like, and what things bother them. Sympathize with them when they're sad, and laugh with them when they're happy.

If you want real friends, true friends, don't put on a big front; let them see the real you deep inside. Share your feelings with them from your heart, and don't be afraid to ask them to pray for you when you need it. Lift each other up.

Be loyal, too--loyal in the way that if someone is saying bad things about your friends when they're not around, you won't just go along with the crowd and laugh it off, but you'll bring out their good points and stick up for them. That's real friendship.

Love others and they'll love you. Be kind to others and they'll be kind to you. I know it sounds basic, but it works!

10-- No Matter How Steep

Persevering and not giving up as you reach for goals in life can be like climbing mountains. Some mountain climbers are willing to do almost anything, risk anything, and give up *everything* just to reach their goal of making it to the top of a mountain. It takes real commitment to climb mountains--lots of preparation and training. It can take weeks, even months, just to get ready to start climbing.

Mountain climbers have to determine in their hearts that they're going to reach their goal no matter what happens. They have to endure freezing temperatures and unexpected hazards; they have to forsake all the comforts of their homes. They get bumps and scratches and bruises. Many people even lose their lives.

They endure a lot, because they want to make it to the top of the mountain. They want to reach their goal, no matter how hard it gets. That's the kind of commitment you'll need in order to reach many of your goals in life. Things will often get tough along the way, but you can't let that stop you. If you determine in your heart that you're going to reach your goal, then you've got to keep persevering until you make it.

Once you get to the top of the mountain, once you reach your goal, you'll experience a thrill like no other, and you'll want to keep moving forward. You'll want to keep on climbing new mountains, reaching new goals, and experiencing the thrills of exploring new territories.

11-- Lock It Up and Throw Away the Key

People sometimes do unkind and unloving things. But I can completely wipe away the pain and the hurt that you feel. I can take sadness, bitterness, and anger, and all those bad feelings away. I can lock them up in a closet and help you throw away the key.

You might think that's not fair--that someone did something bad to you, and now you're just supposed to forget it? Well, I know you can't exactly forget it, but you can lock it up where it won't spill over into your heart and your mind, making you so miserable.

I want to make it all better; I want to lock it up. But *you'll* have to be the one to throw away the key. *You'll* have to be the one to decide that you want to move on, and that you want to get happy again. You'll have to trust Me to take care of anyone that blew it; you'll have to trust Me to work in their lives and teach them what they need to know. Can you do that? Okay, then, let's move on. Let's go forward! Things will change for you, and life will get better.

12-- You Don't Have to Be Perfect

It'll be much easier for you to go through life if you can accept the fact that you're not going to be perfect, and you learn how to handle the times when you don't measure up to your own expectations. I know you want to do your best, and to be a better person. So when you make mistakes, you get discouraged and under condemnation.

But remember, *I* don't condemn you. When you feel condemnation and discouragement, that isn't Me--it's the Enemy. *I'm* not the One Who is expecting you to be perfect. I just expect you to do the best you can. You don't have to be perfect to be greatly used of Me. As a matter of fact, the great men and women that I use the most are weak and imperfect vessels who depend completely on Me.

You might feel like you have such a long way to go that you're afraid to even start. But those who are willing to step out on the water are the ones who make it. Be like Peter. Just step out and prove Me, and see if I won't hold your hand and help you to do the impossible. I won't let you sink beneath the waves; I'll bless your faith to keep going and to keep fighting.

13-- You're Never Alone

Sometimes you may wonder, “Does anybody notice me? Does anybody even realize I'm alive?” I understand why you would think that way, because sometimes it can look like there's no one around who really knows what's happening with you.

But if you could only see everything that's going on in the spirit world, you'd feel a lot differently. I love you and really care about what happens to you, so I make sure that there's someone with you in the spirit all the time--all day and all night, every moment and every second--watching everything that takes place around you. You're not only being noticed, your every action is being watched, and even recorded! But it's not like someone is just spying on you or something, because they're not just watchers. I have specially selected them to be totally tuned in to your thoughts, your trials, your lessons, and your needs.

They're your guardians and your protectors who have been chosen with care to watch over your health and your growth, as well as your spiritual growth and training; they help you to learn the lessons that you need to learn.

You're surrounded--completely surrounded--by those helpers who are caring for you in the spirit, watching you, helping you, and praying for you. They're even whispering to you and talking to you, and reaching out to you, sometimes even begging you to listen, to pray, and to do the right thing. Believe it or not, you're so totally surrounded, that sometimes it even gets a little crowded! So don't ever feel that you're alone or that nobody notices you. You're never alone!

14-- Future Gotcha Puzzled?

I was a teenager, too, once. Do you ever think about that? I had growing pains; I was interested in girls; and I had friends. I had a lot of questions when I was young, too, although I already knew that My Father had a special destiny for Me to fulfill.

I also have a special destiny just for you, but sometimes it might be kind of hard for you to imagine what it is I could possibly have planned for you. I know that you sometimes feel worthless or awkward or untalented--even weird. I felt those kinds of things too, and I know just what it's like.

But I learned that you've just got to have patience--like when you're putting together the pieces to a puzzle. If you're patient, the picture will begin to take shape--piece by piece, little by little, until finally you're able to see the whole picture.

That's what I'm doing with you. I'm putting together the pieces to your puzzle. And don't worry, I know exactly where every piece belongs, and I'm not going to let any of them get lost. I designed this puzzle Myself, especially for you. And someday you're going to understand exactly what I had in mind all along.

15-- I'll Never Run Out

Since the beginning of time, the sun has been rising and setting each and every day. Can you imagine how many different sunrises and sunsets I've painted since the beginning of time? And yet, there have never ever been two sunsets exactly alike in all the world--and there never will be. I'll never run out of incredible color schemes and far-out patterns to use.

And just as I'll never run out of sunsets, neither will I ever run out of things to say to you either. As you learn to hear from Me, you'll discover that I have an endless stock of cool word pictures and visions to choose from; and I'll always have something left to show you. There'll never be a time when I won't have any new ideas to give you or interesting ways to explain things to you if you'll just ask Me to.

Because My Words are spirit and come from a world that has no end, they're like Me--eternal--like rivers that never run dry! They're magical, like sunsets. I'll always have more to give you--more awesome answers, more simple solutions, and all the Heavenly help you'll ever need. I'll never run out of love for you either. In fact, nothing about Me is ever going to run out or come to an end! So as you grow closer to Me and let Me become a bigger part of your life, it'll be like you're getting filled up with an ocean of love that'll never run dry.

16-- Checkmate

The Devil has challenged Me to a game of chess and is planning out his strategy. I'm moving My pieces forward, and he's moving his. It won't be long before you begin to see some really big moves being made as things start seriously heading towards the End.

The Devil thinks he's got the advantage, and he's waiting for his chance to be the master of the chessboard. Pretty soon things are going to get very intense! He's going to make a few swift moves, and will think that he's got the upper hand. But you don't have anything to worry about--I'm the Master chess player. If you stay close to Me and watch carefully, I'll show you what the Enemy's planning to do for his next move. After all, you're one of My favorite chess pieces, and you're an important part of the game.

Trust Me and let Me move you wherever and whenever I know is best. If you let Me move you at just the right time, you'll always be one jump ahead of him. When the final match is being played, you're going to have an even more important role to play. So stay alert and tuned in to Me so that I can easily pick you up and strategically place you where you will count the most. The game is on. The pieces are being moved into place. The End is near. And at the appointed time, checkmate will be Mine.

17-- Onward & Upward

Each year is a step forward, a step upward. Although each step is not always easy, every step leads to something bigger, something greater, something special, some goal or purpose.

If you want to cross the river, you have to row. If you want to scale a mountain, you have to climb. If you want to explore the bottom of the ocean, you have to dive. If you want to sing, you have to practice. If you want to walk, you have to put one foot out in front of the other--again and again and again.

That's what life is, a bunch of little steps, a bunch of little decisions to just keep walking, to keep putting the next foot forward. Sometimes it's involuntary--you do it almost without even thinking about it. But other times you have to put forth extra effort and almost force yourself to keep moving, growing, progressing and walking.

If you stop and just sit, you'll never get anywhere; you won't make any progress or move closer to the goals you're striving for. So it's important to keep moving and keep taking steps in the right direction, to keep sticking your foot out, even if you can't see the ground it's going to land on. Have no fear, it'll be there to hold you up. Keep going by faith, and I'll never let you fall.

18-- You're Perfectly Wonderful and Wonderfully Perfect!

Perfect and wonderful--that's the way I see you. You say, "Aw, come on now, I'm such a mess." Well, maybe you are, but you're a wonderful mess. And I love messes. They're so easy for Me to love, to work with, and to shape into just what I want them to be. If you were perfect, how boring that would be, and how difficult too.

You say, "Now You're contradicting Yourself! You said that You see me as perfect and wonderful." Yes, that's how I look at you, because I can see the end from the beginning. At the end of the road, you will be perfect and wonderful, through the many rounding outs, the breakings and the lessons learned.

Even though right now you feel like a mess and a failure, I can see all that you're going to be. But I still love you just the way you are right now, and I'm proud of you. Maybe you feel like you've blown it, but I can assure you that you've really grown. All the ups and downs you've had have really helped you to skyrocket. You may feel like a weed sometimes, but you're My sunflower, growing tall and beautiful, a giant of a flower that keeps pointing its lovely head towards Me all the time.

I think you're doing great. So don't worry about any mistakes or faults you think you may have, `cause you're beautiful to Me! And in the end, you're going to be wonderfully perfect for what I need you to be.

19-- Everything Money Can't Buy

There are some things that seem so important on the surface, and money is one of those things. Everyone wishes they had more of it. They think that if they did, they'd be so much happier and better off. You may be tempted to wish that your family had more money or even just a few more things. I'm not surprised that you would feel this way. Remember when I was in the wilderness for those forty days? The Enemy came and tempted Me by offering Me all the kingdoms of the world. I know what he tries to hit you with, because I was hit with the same thoughts and temptations, although maybe for different reasons.

You look at some of those guys out in the System, and you think they can have anything money can buy. But can they say that they're really happy? Moses knew that money didn't satisfy. He forsook being the prince of Egypt in order to fulfill his calling and live for the true riches of Heaven. I also rejected the temptations of power and grandeur, and gained instead the salvation of all of My children, and all the riches of Heaven as well.

Some people in the world may look like they have everything, but what do they really have? If you could see them on the inside the way I do, you'd know that they're crying out just to be accepted and loved for who they are--not what they have. Many of them are desperately looking for answers--the same answers that you've grown up with as a natural part of your heritage!

You've got an edge on your peers in the world. You've got so much more that will last--truth and happiness, as well as the inside scoop on the future and Heaven. Please don't envy them. Do your best to share with them the true riches that you've grown up with--the things that money can't buy.

20-- **Beyond Comparison?**

How do you measure people? Do you take a ruler or a tape measure and measure their size and compare them with each other? Who's taller? Who's shorter? Fatter? Skinnier? Or do you look for other differences? Who has brown eyes? Who has blue? Who's faster? Who's stronger? There are so many ways that people are different, and so many things about them that you could measure and compare.

Sometimes you try to measure yourself by comparing yourself with others. "Are they smarter than me?" "Are they better looking than I am?" "Do people like them better than they like me?" Comparing isn't a very good idea. It can really be a bummer and lead to all kinds of things--envy and feeling bad about yourself and the way I made you; or it can lead to a critical and self-righteous spirit.

I don't want you to measure yourself against others. I want you to measure yourself against what I can help you to become. That takes faith and trust in Me. I want to take you beyond yourself, beyond comparing and beyond the measurements of man.

I want you to be like Me, impossible to measure. I want you to be so full of Me that it will be impossible for anyone to measure you--your love, your spiritual depth, your understanding. I want you to be so full of Me that you become immeasurable--just like Me--totally free and beyond comparison!

21-- The Backwards, Inside-out, Negative World

You know what it's like to look at the negative of something, don't you?--Like the negative of a photo or a negative picture? Everything's reversed in the negative, and what you see is just the opposite of the way they really are. The things that are normally really dark come out looking white, and everything that's usually light looks very dark or black--just totally reversed.

That's very much the way things are for people who see things from a worldly viewpoint rather than through the eyes of My Spirit. Without My love and My Words in their hearts and minds, they often see things just the opposite of the way things really are. That's why they usually have things so mixed up and backwards. The things that are really yucky and gross and unloving and selfish and hurtful, they see them as really cool. But things that are super neat and really good and done with love, they think they're just not right. It's a backwards, inside-out, negative world they're living in, where the things that are good are looked on as bad, and the bad stuff is what they call good.

If you sometimes feel kind of strange, like you're different from a lot of other people your age, believe Me, you are different. I don't mean like a weird different or a creepy different; what I mean is, you've grown up being able to see a whole lot more than what most people get to see. So, please don't let the Enemy make you feel bad about being different. You can help them. Every person that you help to receive Me and My Spirit in their hearts will automatically begin to see things differently, just like you do. Rather than having to get by with just the negative of the picture, they'll finally be able to see and recognize all the beautiful colors and the love that is just waiting there to be seen. Please don't leave them in that sad, negative world. I'm depending on you to help them.

22-- **Mysteries and Hidden Treasures**

Are you the kind of person who loves excitement, intrigue, and mystery? Well, if you are, you've come to the right Person, because *I* love mysteries too! I love it when you search and seek for answers to the problems that you have. And I don't just mean *personal* problems and battles--it could be *anything* that you want the answers to.

For instance, if you read about an exciting and faraway place or if you see a documentary about a mysterious hidden treasure or some mystery from times past, you can ask Me to give you some clues and speak to you about it. Of course, sometimes the answer might not be so simple; and some things that I tell you, you'll have to take by faith. But if you really *want* the answers, you can have them!

I'm the One Who gave you a mind to want to know things and to discover and find the answers to things. So let's team up and go on adventures together. I can take you on some wild spirit trips and show you things that you never could've imagined. There are so many mysteries all around you!

Foolish man, with all his so-called scientific knowledge, thinks that he can uncover My secrets, but he can't. He can only truly discover what I *want* him to. And many times, when he thinks he's figured something out, he's actually reached the wrong conclusions, because he's looking for the answers in his own worldly wisdom.

I've got tons of super, wild, and exciting secrets for you! Though I'm saving some for when you get to Heaven, there are lots and lots that you can discover right now if you'll just ask. So have a go! You'll love it!

23-- I See Great Victories

Blow, blow, blow them all away! Sing, sing, sing them all away! Brush, brush, brush them all aside! When you call, I come and chase away the giants of discouragement. I have but to raise My little finger and poof, they're gone! The giants in the land, the dark clouds--I blow them *all* away.

Poof, poof, poof! Brush them away--these lying vanities of fears and feelings of failure. Poof, poof, poof! Away and be gone, for you have no place here! Poof! Be gone, you giants of despair! See them vanish? Poof, they're gone!

I've been watching you, and with each step, each test, I've been at your side.

I see far into the future: the promises, and the great things that I have in store for you. I see the great exploits that I wish to do *for* you and *through* you. I see many, many people that will be won because of you and your faithfulness to Me. I see the multitudes that I will be able to touch, to love, and to win because you're willing to follow Me at all costs.

I see prayers in great number--many, many, many prayers from your lips that I will be able to answer. I see great victories that I will gain through you because of your love and your refusal to give up, because of your earnest, fervent prayers, and because of your faithfulness to march on at all costs and defeat and conquer the giants that appear in the land.

24-- Let Patience Have Her Perfect Work

Patience is one of the greatest lessons that I've had to teach many of My servants through times past. It's a very difficult lesson to learn, so I give to you the same advice that was given to My children thousands of years ago: "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart."

Just as your parents tell you that your schooling is in preparation for the future, the *spiritual* schooling that I bring your way is also in preparation for the future. It may not *seem* to you that you're learning that much or accomplishing that much. It certainly didn't seem that way to Moses when he was in the wilderness tending sheep. But that was part of My plan. It was necessary, because I was able to teach him things that he would need in his service to Me in later years. I was able to instruct him, and speak to his heart in the quiet hours that he spent with Me. I was able to mold him and make him into the kind of vessel that I wanted him to be. Had he not had that time, he never would've been used as much as I wanted.

Anytime you need help or guidance or counsel, just come to Me, and I'll speak to you and show you great and mighty things that you know not of. I have a great plan in store for you, so hold on to Me through this time, and I'll bring you forth as fine gold, fit for My use.

25-- That Rotten Feeling

You know that rotten feeling you get when you say something you know you shouldn't have? I *allow* you to feel that way for a reason: it's an automatic subconscious reaction that I built right into your spirit. Just like you feel bad physically, and even sometimes get *sick* when you eat something you shouldn't have eaten, I've made your spirit to react the same way. Whenever you have something in your heart that doesn't belong there, or when you do or say something that's not good and loving, normally you should start realizing it right away.

Of course when someone *keeps* doing and saying things that they know they shouldn't, and they resist the little checks that I give them in the spirit, sooner or later, they'll become deaf, dumb, and blind to them, like some people in the world who are already *past* feeling and no longer have a conscience. But as long as you're really *trying* to do the right things and stay close to Me, then I'll be able to continue to convict you and give you those checks in the spirit.

I don't mean that I want you to get all down and condemned and depressed and feeling like there's no hope for you. But I *do* want you to feel bad enough that you won't keep doing and saying things like that, and so you'll be willing to go back and do whatever you can to undo the damage and make things right--even when you didn't mean for it to come out the way it did or when you feel that you weren't the only one to blame.

It's *easy* to make things right if you're willing to *humble* yourself. And if you want to feel better about yourself, that's what you're going to *have* to do. But if you try to defend and *excuse* yourself for being unloving, then things aren't going to get any better, and that yucky rotten feeling will just get worse. But if you swallow your pride and do the humble thing and apologize for what you said or did, then you'll immediately start feeling better. So don't let your pride get the best of you. Let others know you're sorry, and get instant relief.

26-- Want a Break?

I know you sometimes feel misunderstood. You don't like the way you are, and you feel like others are always teasing you and picking on you. You wonder why you can't just get a break! I know it's rough, and I'm sorry that you don't feel like you fit in. But please don't let it worry or upset you. You're very *special* to Me, and I like you the way you are. Things may not make much sense to you right now, but try not to let those cutting remarks get you down.

You may not realize it, but those people who are making those remarks are going through a pretty rough time themselves. They actually feel pretty insecure, and they're often just covering up by acting that way. But they'll learn! I'll help them to change and to become more mature; it just takes time. For your *own* sake, whenever someone says something that hurts you, please don't answer back. That'll only make you feel worse.

When something or someone really bothers you, just bring it to Me; talk to Me about it. It may be hard, because you probably really feel like getting back at them, but that won't work. But it *does* pay to pray.--That *really* works! You'll find that that's a better solution and will make *you* feel better than getting all uptight.

Meanwhile, I'll be working in their lives. It may take a little while, and you'll have to be patient. But if you *really* want a break, then why don't *you* be the one to break the cycle? Just pray, and ask Me to help you not to take things so personally or get hurt by things so easily. For your *own* sake, next time you start to feel hot under the collar about something--just pray, and let it pass.

27-- From One Friend to Another

I love you! You're cool, you're fun, you're wild, you're special, you're awesome, and you're amazing. I love being best friends with you, and I'm so happy that we're as close as we are. I know that we can be even closer, but friendship is built over time.

Life's a little tough sometimes, and growing up isn't all fun and games. There are a lot of battles: feeling bored, missing your friends, wanting to *be* something and *do* something special. I know about *all* of these feelings, because I was your age once too. I wanted to be able to do all of the things that My Father had prepared for Me, but I had to wait until it was the right time. I had to go through every stage of life--many years filled with different feelings, emotions, and battles. My Father had to teach Me many things before I was ready to tackle the job He had for Me.

So don't be discouraged. You'll soon go on to bigger and better things, and these days will have been your days of preparation. The best advice I could give you--from one friend to another--is to *hold on*. Keep getting in the Word, keep loving Me and taking the time to hear from Me--and hold on. This stage of your life won't last for too much longer, and when it's over, you'll be so glad that you didn't give up. You may wonder, "Where do I get the strength to hold on and stay positive and hopeful?" I love you very much; and I promise to give you all the strength that you need through the time that you spend with Me.

28-- I Know the Spot You're In

You feel so small and insignificant sometimes, and you ask how *I*, the great God, the Ruler of the universe and Creator of all things, could possibly understand *you* and the things you're going through. Well, that's exactly why I *can* understand you--I *made* you! I created every part of you--your whole body, even the tiniest brain cell. I understand every thought and every doubt, worry and fear that you have. I created your spirit and gave you life, and I *do* know what you're going through.

Maybe you think, "Well, if You know what I'm going through, why don't You *do* something about it? This is the pits! The depths of despair! Why in the world would You let something like *this* happen?" You wonder if there's any way that I could possibly understand how big of a deal it is to you and how you're feeling right now.

Well, I *know* the spot you're in; I *know* how big of a deal it is, and I *care*. But if you'll just be honest with yourself and listen to what I have to tell you, you'll soon understand that *I'm* not the One Who got you into this mess. The only reason I allowed it to happen in the first place was because I knew that if you'd make the right decisions, and if you'd just trust Me and yield to Me, I'd be able to turn this whole thing around and use it for good in your life.

I want you to be happy and victorious and a blessing to others around you, so it's really My greatest desire to help you through this. If you'll just ask Me and trust Me to work things out, I *will*, because I really *do* care.

29-- The Path

You have been walking on the path, but you've been way behind Me. Now, I'm happy to say, you're catching up and will soon be by My side again. If you reach out now and take My hand, I won't let you fall. But if you *don't* take Me by the hand, you could end up straying once again. And even just a little straying--to the right hand or to the left--could land you right back at the bottom, if you don't watch out.

I don't mean that every little thing you do to help you pass the time and have fun will put you on the spiritual scrap heap. What I mean is that when you start to make these things the source of your inspiration, that means that you've strayed way off of the path that I've set for you, and you don't want *that*. I don't want that either. I *need* you. If you'll just give your all to Me. I'll give you *more*, not less, of the *real* joys and pleasures in life.

You're afraid that your life will be boring, that you won't know what to do with your time, that you won't be challenged, and that you'll grow into a boring old nerd. Well, My promise to you is that none of that will happen. I promise that you'll have every desire of your heart fulfilled--those secret desires and yearnings of your heart and mind. And these fulfilled desires will minister to your *spirit*; they won't just be carnal pleasures that pass away. They'll be the pleasures of My Spirit that last forever.

30-- Where the Cool Breezes Blow

If you had a choice, would you rather live somewhere where the sun never shines, and where it's always cloudy and gray, where the people are grumbling and complaining and never seem to find anything to be happy about? Or would you rather live where it's nearly always nice and bright and sunny, where the cool breezes blow, and where the people are happy and smiling and full of life and song?

Believe it or not, the choice is up to *you*, because I've given you the option and the freedom to *choose* exactly what kind of world you want to live in. In fact, you *do* choose, all the time. Whenever you choose to look at things negatively or with a critical attitude, you're walking right into that dreary gray world of negativity, where the sun doesn't show its face from behind the clouds, and where everything always seems to go wrong. There's no happiness there--you'd hardly expect to find it in such a depressing place.

But whenever you choose to be *positive* and full of *faith* about things, it's as if you've decided to move to a totally *different* world, a place that's bright and happy, where, no matter what happens, everything is bound to work out okay. It's a wonderful place, a place where the clouds can't stop the sun from shining through; they seem to only make the blue skies even more beautiful. It's a place where even the few problems and battles that *do* arise are sure to bring you more blessings of love, maturity, and understanding.

Negativity is like a dark cloud that covers up the beautiful blue skies and blocks out the light and the warmth from the sun. It makes everything look sad and gray. So, let Me ask you again: What kind of a place *do* you want to live in?

31-- Temptations

The Enemy is such a snake!--He's so slimy! He's still tempting people in the very same way he did Adam and Eve way back in the Garden of Eden. And he's still asking the same kind of sneaky, trick questions and planting the same subversive doubts as always: "Why do things have to be like *this*? . . . Why can't you do whatever you *want* to do?--It's not gonna *hurt* you any."

He's really out to trip you up and make you fall, and he'll use *anything* he can to get at you--especially things like your pride or your emotions. That's why it's so important to bring your thoughts immediately into subjection and submission each time you're faced with a test of yieldedness or some kind of temptation. Don't play his game, and don't let yourself fall for his lies.

You've got to let the Devil know right away that *you're* the boss. Slam the door in his face as soon as he starts tempting you to do something you know you shouldn't, because all he wants to do is mess you up. If the Enemy sees that you're not going to give him any space and that you straightaway say *yes* to Me and close the door on any resistance to what I'm doing in your life, he'll soon get the point that you're one of the die-hards, and that you're not going to give in to his temptations.

That doesn't mean, though, that once you pass the test, everything's going to be easy, and it doesn't mean that the Enemy's going to just leave you alone. That's not what you're saying *yes* to. In fact, you're saying, "Yes, I *know* this could turn out to be super difficult in some ways. But I'm *still* going to say *yes*, period!" It's like unconditional surrender.

The quicker you shut the door on the Enemy's doubts and temptations, and the more wholeheartedly you yield to Me, the *easier* it's going to be for you. As long as Satan can detect that there's still a part of your heart holding out or resisting or murmuring or feeling sorry for yourself in some way, he's able to work on you and try to weaken you. But the more wholeheartedly you give your all to *My* side, the less severe and shorter the battle will be.

32-- Simple Truths

I know you might think that some of the things I give you sound a little too simple, too childlike. You wish that what I had to tell you was a little deeper, maybe a little fancier or smarter sounding--like if it's really *Me, God*, talking to you, then it ought to be *super* deep and full of such profound wisdom that it would be almost beyond comprehension. That's the way the wisdom of the *world* is--so deep and intellectual, it's often beyond comprehension.

But remember that the wisdom of the world is really just foolishness. They have to make things *sound* deep and profound in order to cover up how *empty* things really are. They try to drown you in a bunch of complex words and theories, so you won't notice how many holes there are in what they have to say. They want you to think that they're the experts, so you'll have to listen to *them* and take their word for things. But *I'm* the real expert, and I have all the answers. The thing is, I want to make Myself perfectly clear and easy to understand. So I make sure that what I tell you is very straightforward--sometimes even just a phrase or a verse.

When you come to Me for answers, I'll always fill you in on the things you need to know. But you can be sure that I'm not going to make it complicated, otherwise what purpose does it serve? I know that life itself can sometimes be pretty complicated, but it's really just made up of many simple little parts. So don't ever think that what I have to tell you sounds too simple or childlike. Just be thankful that My answers *are* simple. Be happy for simple truths.

33-- Rich beyond Your Wildest Dreams

You think you're poor? I want to let you in on a secret: You're rich beyond your wildest dreams. And those people who may *seem* to be rich are often some of the poorest people around. You may not have everything that you *want*, but you *do* have everything you *need*. And on top of that, you have *Me* and all of My promises.

I have a whole storehouse of wealth at your disposal in My Heavenly vaults, but the Devil tries to lie to you and tell you that there *aren't* any riches there, `cause he wants you to just *forsake* what I have in store for you and go after his own cheap trinkets instead. He wants you to lose faith in My promises that I will supply all your needs and that whatever you ask in My name I will do. And he doesn't *want* you to believe that I really *am* preparing a place for you and that I have a crown and Heavenly rewards stored up for you.

Hey, you're going to live in a city of gold! No one on Earth has *ever* lived in such comfort and luxury as *you're* going to live in. But you've got to believe it by faith. That's the golden thread that keeps us connected: your faith in My promises. I *promise* that you're going to be *so* rich compared to some of those wealthy people on Earth, that *their* riches are going to look like *ashes* next to yours!

So don't feel bad if you think you're missing out on some of the Devil's cheap, plastic fakes. His riches are temporal--only here today and gone tomorrow. But *My* riches are eternal--forever! You want to be rich? Stick around and see what I've got waiting for you!

34-- Luke 2:52

I understand your desire to be popular and to have friends-*everyone* wants to be liked. But it can be very difficult to know what the balance is sometimes. There's a verse, Luke 2:52, which really sums things up. It talks about how it was with *Me* when *I* was growing up on Earth. It says that I grew in stature, and in favor with both God and men.

Do you know what that verse means? It means that as I grew up and matured, I drew closer and closer to both God and My fellow men. First of all, I grew in favor with *God*, My Father, and *then* with those around me, My peers.

Even when I was young, My friends looked up to Me. They *knew* that the most important thing to Me was My relationship with My Heavenly Father, so they knew they could trust Me. Maybe there were others who seemed more popular, but people knew that *I* really cared about them and that I wasn't false or hypocritical. When they were having a hard time or going through difficult things, they knew they could come to Me and share their hearts with Me.

I was always honest with My friends and peers, and I didn't compromise when I knew something was wrong. Like the proverb says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend." People respected Me and they knew they could count on Me for a straight shot; they knew they'd get the truth from Me, in love.

So, if *you're* concerned about being respected by your peers, Luke 2:52 really sums things up: Put your relationship with *Me* first, grow in favor with Me first, and then all these other things will be added to you!

35-- Hey! They Got More!

Comparing! It can start with almost anything, because there are so many differences all around you. Everyone is unique, one of a kind, and *very* special. That's the way things are *supposed* to be, because that's the way I made them. But the Enemy tries to point out the differences in a way that stops you from seeing how good *you* have it. He just loves to poke you in the "I." "I don't have this." "I can't do that." "I ... I ... I!" Once you start listening to the Enemy, he'll hammer away, trying to tear down everything about you and your situation:

"Look! God didn't give you what you *need* in order to be happy! ... You'll *never* really be happy because of this ugly problem of yours. ... So God *does* make mistakes after all--you! ... Now why would God do that to you? Face it! He must not love you as much as He *says* He does. ... Oooh! Look what God gave *that* guy! He got more! How nice for him. How sad and too bad for you!"

The best solution to that kind of cruel attack is to fight back with a heart full of praise. Thank Me for the blessings you *do* have. Praise Me for everything you can think of that's good about you and your situation. Before you know it, you'll be able to see one good thing after another, and you'll realize that you don't have it so bad after all. And remember, there are a lot of things about the other person's situation that you probably don't fully understand. In the long run, things always have a way of balancing out.

So the next time Mr. D. tries to tell you that you should just crawl under a rock, instead, rock out! Jump up on THE Rock--Me! I love you, and I'll give you everything you need in order to be happy and fulfilled as you give your life to Me!

36-- I'll Be Waiting

I love being around you and with you and in you and by you. I look forward to our times together, when you stop everything and put all other thoughts aside to think about Me.

I know it takes a bit of effort to push other thoughts out of your mind and to spend time with Me--to hear My voice or just to talk with Me. But it makes Me *so* happy when you do, and it gives *you* a special boost for the day too.

If your day seems dreary, or things just aren't going the right way no matter *what* you do, it's probably because you forgot to spend time with Me. You don't have to feel *bad* if you forget once in a while; you're still building a habit of coming to Me. But when you forget and you feel the difference, that should encourage you to try to forget less and less, and remember more and more. Though at first it may seem like a sacrifice or a big effort, the things that I have to tell you will make any inconvenience on your part worth it all.

Thank you for loving Me and for taking the time to hear from Me. More precious than gold, silver, diamonds, jewels, gems and pearls are the Words that I give to you! I give My riches to anyone who comes to Me in faith. I'm not stingy; I give and give and give. Will you keep coming back for more? I'll be waiting!

37-- Made in Heaven

Did you know that we have a lot of inventors in Heaven? And they're working to help you! Where did you think all the inspiration for those neat ideas and discoveries that man makes there on Earth come from? Like it says in My Word, every good gift and every perfect gift comes from up Here--from Me, the Father of lights. I even invented light! How `bout that! So, all of those important inventions, and even the not-so-important ones, if it's something that's good and helpful, it was *first* invented up Here, in Heaven.

That's right! We've got a whole team of inventors Here. And it's their job to work with and inspire inventors on Earth, to help them come up with good ideas and things that will make life easier and better for you there.

Of course, up Here they can do a lot of things that could *never* be done on Earth, so the great challenge is trying to find ways to do things using only the physical elements that are found on Earth. Like when they had to find a way to help man discover electricity, or invent the light bulb, or the telephone--they had to find ways to make it work on Earth, and then inspire someone there to give it a try.

So if you really have a craving to come up with a new idea, something that will make things better or quicker or easier, just give Me a call, and ask Me to send you one of My Heavenly helpers to inspire you with some good ideas.

And when you get up Here, if you like, you can even join one of My inventor workshops and become a member of the team. Besides coming up with ideas of how to make life easier and better on Earth, I also inspire different ones with ideas and creations for up Here, in Heaven--inventions, gadgets and decorations that can only exist in the spiritual realm. Here, there's no limit to the kinds of new ideas or things that can be invented.

38-- The Wrong Road

“But! But! But!” Please don't walk around like an old goat, butting everyone, everything, and every suggestion that crosses your path! That road you're heading down, the road of stubbornness and being contrary, is definitely the wrong road to take. And when you find yourself going down *that* road, you'll soon find out that it's also a very *difficult* road to travel.

Call it being “in the dumps,” or “out of the spirit,” or whatever you like, when you start going down that road of rebellion, it's just like you're going the wrong way down a very narrow one-way street--you don't have to go very far before you find out that you've made a mistake. But once you've started, it's not always that easy to back up and get yourself out of the mess you're in, because unfortunately, as obvious as it may seem to everyone *else* around, it can be pretty hard on your pride to admit that *you're* the one who's in the wrong and going the wrong way. So now, you just keep “butting” at everyone who tries to help you and warn you that you're going the wrong direction.

If you don't stop soon and get back on the right road and go in the right direction, you're going to be running into a lot of trouble! So please, stop! No more “buts!” Just humble yourself and admit that you've been going the wrong way. I'm right here on the very next corner, just waiting for you to stop and ask for My help. I'll stop everything else for you and direct the traffic and help you to get turned around and going the right way once again.

39— The Mystery of Life

Don't you like mysteries--piecing together all the clues of what's already happened and trying to figure out what's going to happen next? It's challenging and it stirs you up and gets you thinking. Well, guess what? *Life* is a mystery. I guess I don't really have to tell *you* that, because I know you've got lots of questions about the future. "What's going to happen to me next?" "Am I going to be able to make it through the heavy things that are going to be happening in the future?" "How much time do we have left?" "Am I going to have any close friends when we go to our new field?" "Am I going to fall in love?" "Will they love me in return?" "What kind of opportunities am I going to have as I get older?" These are all things that make life exciting and challenging.

In some ways, life is a little bit like reading a book. You've got to take it one page at a time. When you're reading chapter 12, there's really no way of knowing what's going to happen in chapter 13, much less in chapter 20, unless in your curiosity you skip ahead to find out how things are going to turn out. But in *real* life, although you'd probably like to sometimes, you can't do that. I know that all of that uncertainty and mystery can sometimes make the future look a little scary. But although things might be a real mystery to *you*, they're not to *Me*. I'm the *Author* of the story, and I know what's coming up ahead, so stay close to *Me*.

Life can be lots of fun if you'll just look at each new day as a challenge--a mystery that's about to be discovered. No matter what happens (and this is the Author of the story speaking), there *is* going to be a happy ending. Everything *will* work out; all the pieces of your life will fit together; and the mystery will be solved. So don't ever worry about it. Just learn the lessons and overcome the hurdles one by one, and you'll enjoy each new page and each chapter as it comes.

40-- The Other Side

There's a door. Open it. What's on the other side? People. They want to be your friends, your companions--and there are lots of them. ...You can link up with *all* these people--*anyone* who has come Here to be with Me in Heaven. Like Joan of Arc! She's Here, and she wants to help you. There are so many others, too.

When many of these dear ones were there on Earth, the world didn't deserve or appreciate them, but they're the finest friends and companions that you could ever ask for, the most beautiful, loving people you could ever meet. They can be your spirit helpers. They can be there by your side and whisper sweet words of love and encouragement in your ears. At those times when you feel like you're totally surrounded by superficiality, or when people don't seem to understand you, just open the door and let Me come to talk to you or to send you these, your spirit helpers.

You think that's crazy, or that others will think *you're* crazy? Where do you think all the souls who have ever lived since the beginning of time are? They've all passed on through that door to the spirit world! Where do you think your great-grandparents and your great-great grandparents are? *Everyone* that has ever lived--entire generations, entire nations, everyone you ever read about from the 1800s, 1700s, 1600s, all the way back to Creation--have *all* passed on to the other side. And many of them are right Here with Me.

So who's crazy, huh? Just open the door, and you'll see that not only do I love you, but all of these wonderful, loving spirits in Heaven love you, too. It's not crazy! We're all here for you. You're not alone.

41-- In a League of Your Own

I know that witnessing can be pretty tough sometimes, and that some people are hard for you to approach--especially other young people. Sometimes it's humbling to be a witness and a missionary to your peers. It can really kill your pride. Although you may *want* to witness to them, and know that you should, it can be hard to even just get up the courage to walk up to them and offer them a tract or a poster.

Maybe it's just that you're shy, especially around big groups of people. I understand how you feel; crowds can sure make you feel uncomfortable sometimes. When people are in a group, they can tend to act so cool, proud, together and uninterested. If you let it, it can really make you feel out of place or like you're just not in their league.

Let Me tell you something, though. You're *not* in their league. You're in a league of your own! No matter how they might be acting, if they don't know *Me*, if they're not part of *My* group, they're not nearly as cool as *you* are! Remember that, and it'll take away some of that hesitation, and help you to step out by faith and go up to them.

You have something that they don't have--something they *need*. In no way are you inferior to them. When you face up to them with conviction and sincerity, if they're honest, they might very well admit that what they see in you is really cool, and that they'd like to have it too.

Just stand strong, and look them in the eyes. Even if they can tell that it must have been a little embarrassing for you to come up to them, but you did it anyway without flinching, they'll respect that, and it could make the difference in helping them to be willing to humble themselves a little bit too and accept what you have to give them.

42-- Getting Started

Hearing from Me is very simple. It's just like making a phone call. Do you remember some of the first times you did that? You were a little nervous and you weren't exactly sure how to go about making the call or what you should say to the person on the other end. But now you've done it plenty of times, and it's much easier. Sometimes, every now and then, you can still get a little nervous, wondering if you've said the right thing. But overall, you're more comfortable with it than you were at first, right?

It's the same with hearing from Me. At first, you might be nervous, wondering if you can really hear from Me or not, or if your channel is clear enough. I understand that sometimes it's hard for you. But it's not because you don't have a clear enough channel. It's the Devil trying to *stop* you and *hinder* you and make you feel nervous. When that happens, just pray, and ask Me to help you. Resist the Devil and he'll flee. Rebuke him, and call on Me to help you. Then just get quiet and don't let anything else distract you.

Some things may look too *big* to ask Me about, and if you really *don't* have the faith for it, then ask someone else to hear from Me *for* you. But if you ask Me to give you the faith, I will. Please don't worry. You may just be getting started, but that's okay. Everyone has to start sometime.

43-- The Difference Within

Wanna be *rad*? Wanna be *different*? Wanna make a unique footprint in the sands of life? Tired of being just like everyone else? Sick of trying to live up to someone else's expectations? Wanna be the "one and only"? That's just fine with Me! I *like* people that are different and things that are different. That's why I didn't make any two things exactly alike. There are no two snowflakes that are exactly alike, no two eyes in the world that are exactly alike, and there are no two fingerprints that are exactly alike. Everything I've created is different and unique, and that's because I *like* differences.

I've got to tell you, though, if you *really* want to be different--not just *kidding* yourself that you're being different when you're really just being like everybody else--you've got to be different in ways that *mean* something. The differences that count the most don't have anything to do with the clothes you wear or the way you cut your hair. *Anyone* can change their outward appearance; it's a cinch. But it takes a lot of courage to be willing to let Me change you *inside* and make you different in your heart and in your spirit.

Your appearance is just an outer shell; what's inside is the *real* you. One day that outer shell of your physical body will be no more, and you'll see that when all is said and done, the differences *within* are what really count and will keep you grooving for eternity.

44-- Misunderstandings

Arguments can be a real drag, can't they? It's like that saying about war: "Nobody wins!" When you find yourself caught in the middle of a misunderstanding, it's hard to go about things the right way and not blow it. I know it can be pretty rough, but next time it happens, why not try the following tips:

- * Be calm, and don't get upset. If you need to, that old saying about counting to ten before saying anything works pretty well.

- * Communicate. Talk it out, and express what you feel.

- * Be honest. Explain your side of the situation the best you can without freaking out.

- * Try really hard to listen to what others have to say, without cutting them off or interrupting them.

- * Put yourself in their shoes, and try to understand how they feel.

- * Once you've talked it out, put your feelings aside. Pray together and ask the Lord to help you. Give them a big hug, and then put the incident behind you.

- * Make sure you go out of your way to show them you're still friends.

Sound easier said than done? If you'll give it a try, I promise to help you. Next time you find yourself caught up in a disagreement or misunderstanding with your brother or sister, a friend, your parents, or anyone else, remember this list. Shoot up a word to Me, call on Me for help, then take a deep breath and follow these tips. If you ask Me for help, I won't let you down. I'll help you right through it, and you'll walk away feeling great.

45-- An Ocean of Emotion

Sometimes you might feel like you're experiencing more moods and emotions than you ever felt before! Well, I don't want to scare you, but things could get even worse! As you go through this period in life, you might often find yourself swimming in an ocean of emotion--if not almost drowning in one, spitting and sputtering, with water rising over your head.

You're going through a lot of changes, and things are happening to you and all around you that you've never experienced quite this way before. So don't be surprised if out of the blue, you suddenly get hit with a huge wave of emotion and you find yourself feeling angry or upset or discouraged about almost nothing. It's just part of the fiery trials of life, which all end up working together to teach you and temper you and make you strong.

But never fear--your Lifeguard is here! If you shout out My name and wave your hands high, I'll be right there in the water with you before you ever go under. Just like Isaiah 43:2 says: "When you pass through the waters, I'll be with you; they won't overflow you." Don't struggle or resist; just grab hold of Me and hang on tight. I'll help you and teach you how to stay afloat, and before you know it, you'll be swimming peacefully along through the waters of life.

And when a big unexpected surge of emotion hits, don't worry. I'll be right there at your side to teach you how to ride the waves! When you're being tossed about by so many unexpected feelings, the waves can look pretty scary, but once you learn how to stay on top and ride the crest, you'll find that this part of your life can be one of the greatest.

46-- Simple, Sincere, Spontaneous.

You appreciate it when people compliment you, don't you? It doesn't matter much who it is, if they say something about how nice you look, how well you did something, or how much they like you or a certain quality about you, doesn't it make you feel good?

Maybe you haven't thought much about it, but as nice as compliments are, they don't seem to flow out of *your* mouth very easily, do they? Although you know appreciation is a good thing, you kind of get stuck when it comes to saying nice things to others. You think it's going to sound corny or that your compliment won't be appreciated.

Think about the times when people have said something nice to you. How often have you felt that they were being corny? Didn't it make you feel good to know that they noticed you and that they liked something about you? Don't worry. It'll be the same for others when *you* compliment *them*. It'll make *them* feel good too.

You don't have to think up far-out or spectacular or poetic things to say. "Simple, sincere, and spontaneous," is a good motto to remember when giving compliments. *Spontaneous* means "on the spot." It means that if you notice something special about someone or something they did, go ahead and tell them--right then and there. "I saw what you did, and I think it was real nice of you." If someone looks particularly good that day, tell that person so. Don't wait. If you feel like telling your friend, or your dad or mom, or whoever, how much you enjoy being with them or how much fun they are, just go ahead and do it--right then! Try it; you'll like it! And so will they.

47-- Podunk Tech

I look down from Heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any that do understand and seek Me. But they have all gone aside; they have all together turned to their technology to save them. I look down from Heaven and see men drool over their 450-megahertz Pentium computers, their Internet and all of their fancy games and gadgets--and it makes Me laugh! I laugh and hold all of their so-called advances in derision, because compared to the technology of My spirit world, these are only primitive tools.

The world today is lost. They have chosen to worship *things* and the men who designed them. If only man had made the right choices from the beginning, the right decisions in worshipping Me and acknowledging Me, I would have unlocked for them the secrets of the whole universe. The Earth would be a wonderful place, and everyone in it. But because they've turned aside from Me, I can't show them the *real* secrets of these things--they would only use them *against* each other to hurt and kill and destroy.

When I come back and cleanse the Earth of unrighteousness, man's filthy cities of smog and pollution will all be gone, along with every one of his destructive inventions. In their place will be My technology, which will far surpass anything that primitive man can imagine. My Heavenly information centers will be many times more awesome than the most powerful computer. My transporters will be far better and more thrilling than any of man's transportation systems. In that day, nothing that pollutes and destroys will be left on Earth--only that which helps and heals and creates life.

48-- Who Are You Gonna Believe?

The Devil is the father of lies, and he's been at it for a long time, so he really knows how to twist things around.

For instance, I tell you that you're incredibly privileged and special, but he wants to make you think that you're inferior. I tell you that the fate of the whole world revolves around you and others like you, but the Evil One wants to convince you that what you're doing isn't important.

I say that you're making progress, growing and gaining victories; the Punk lies to you that you're not--that you'll never change, and that you're just not good enough. I promise you that with My help, you'll learn to use the new weapons of My Spirit, but your sworn Enemy accuses you of not being spiritual enough to learn to use them.

I tell you that I've ordained you from the beginning, but the Liar wants you to believe that your life is just a mistake. I tell you that I love you and that I'll do anything for you; the Enemy of your soul is determined to make you feel that you're too bad for Me to love and that I won't answer your prayers.

It's up to *you* to decide whom you're going to listen to. *Will you believe what I have to tell you, or will you believe the Enemy?* You might think that it's not all that easy to be able to recognize when it's the Enemy speaking to you and when it's not. But it's really very simple if you'll just remember this: *Anything that's full of love, faith and encouragement and makes you want to keep going and growing and doing good--that's Me talking to you.* But if there's anything that causes you to feel bad or discouraged or makes you feel like quitting and giving up--that's the Devil! *If you want to feel good about yourself and about the life I've given you, then don't listen to him. Listen to Me.*

49-- Home Run Hitter

Just like in baseball when you take a swing, and sometimes you hit the ball and other times you miss, it can be the same with the things you say. If you're not careful with the words you use, you can really miss the mark. Why not step back for a moment and review some of the things that have come out of your mouth recently. How many times have you just blurted out everything you were feeling, without even thinking about what you were saying or what the outcome was going to be?

When you lash out in anger or frustration, it's just like you're swinging away without even taking time to aim, and you end up either hitting a foul ball or even striking out completely. Although you're bound to miss the ball once in a while, when you do, you'll learn from it, and it'll help you by giving you more experience. But if you *don't* progress and learn how to swing that bat of yours the right way, you're bound to have some pretty big losses. The opposing team--the Enemy and his imps--are going to win that game and cause you and your teammates to be very discouraged.

With the words you say, you can either leave people feeling like dirt and like they might as well give up and quit, or you can lift them up and inspire them to want to keep playing and win. Please, don't throw the game away. Instead of just striking out, won't it feel good to be hitting home runs? Do your best to take careful aim before you swing, and before you know it, you'll be hitting the ball right out of the park and winning every game.

50-- **Brave Squire**

I've called you and chosen you from the beginning, and I see within you to the very depths of your soul. I know you might sometimes feel a little lost and discouraged when you think about yourself and the life that I've called you to live. The questions you have about your future and what lies ahead leave you feeling overwhelmed and confused. I know how you feel, and I pray for you that your faith will not fail. I ask you to let Me speak to you now and show you a glimpse of the glorious future I've prepared to give you, if you'll only believe.

I promise that as you yield yourself completely to Me as My squire, My knight in training, and as you prepare yourself by filling your heart and mind with My Words, you'll be given a new heart, a golden heart of faith and valor, a heart of courage and true strength. I give to you the fierce and mighty sword of My Word. Take it and keep it always ready for the day of battle. In the spirit, you will be as a mighty warrior, armored and girded--an awesome sight!

If you could only see yourself the way I have planned for you to be in the future: standing tall on the firm rock of truth; clothed with the robes of My righteousness and My humility; your feet ever ready to do My will, and sandaled with the firmness of your conviction to serve Me; strong legs that are prepared to march, to climb, to make war; and in your firm and faithful hand, the magnificent, unbeatable sword of My Spirit.

Stand strong, My faithful squire. Let Me make you brave; let Me make you valiant. Prepare yourself, My young knight, My mighty warrior. Do not hold back, but give your all to Me. Hold your head high and cling to these, My promises to you. Pledge your life to Me and I will swear by My oath to give you all the joy, grace, strength, and love that you will need to face the future. Give yourself to Me in love and in loyalty, and the light of My Word will brighten your way.

51-- I Can Help

When I was on Earth, I was tempted and tried in all points—just like you are. If you can, try to visualize Me as being the same age as you. The world around Me was different then, but man is the same. As a young person, I had the same longings and frustrations that you have; I had the same idealism and the same struggles. I went through many of the same tests, temptations and trials that you go through. Just like you, I was impatient for things to get moving in My life so that I could experience what I was born for and see the proof of My Father's anointing on Me.

I know that your heritage as one of God's children doesn't make the battles any easier for you, just as Mine didn't make it easier for Me. But you'll learn, as I did, that it's all a part of your Heavenly Father's plan. He's preparing you and growing you into the person He needs you to be. It's worth it all, too. I've realized that so many times over the centuries—every time that someone's life is touched and changed as a result of My having yielded to what My Father had planned for Me. *You'll* realize it too, when your life on Earth is finished and you're able to look back and see all the good that will have come out of it.

Because I went through the same things that you're going through, I understand how you feel and the questions you have. I have so much I want to share with you. I want to help you understand the things you're going through so that you'll be able to see, just as I did, that it's all worth it. As you spend time with Me, opening up your heart and listening to everything I have to say—just like you would with a close friend who you know really relates to you—you'll soon discover that I do understand. If you'll let me, I can help you a lot.

52-- The Gift of Helps

Did you know that you often have a wonderful effect on people? There are a lot of people who think you're super. Do you know why? You've got the gift of helps—and that's a great gift to have! You might not think that it's very glorious, but every time you do something for others, you're being a token of My love for them. I love to watch people's faces light up when you do something to help make things easier for them. It's so cool when you let Me use you to be an answer to someone's prayers by doing something for them—whether it's big or small.

Even though there are times when you probably help out just because you're asked to—while the truth is that there are plenty of other things you'd much rather be doing—it means a lot to people to know that they can count on you. Maybe you sometimes feel lazy or like you just can't be bothered. But that little extra effort you make to be helpful goes such a long way. Of course, the gift of helps isn't the *only* gift you have; you're a person with *many* gifts and talents, and you're getting a lot of experience under your belt that will be very useful to you later on.

For instance, when you're being a blessing by helping others even when you don't feel like it, you're developing some other very important gifts—the gifts of faithfulness and dependability. Those gifts need a lot of cultivating and a lot of practice, but you'll be very thankful to have them in the future, so keep at it. If you keep being faithful today, just a few tomorrows down the road you'll look back and thank Me for helping you to be such a blessing to others.

53-- Above the Norm

What kind of person do you want to be? Just a run-of-the-mill, ordinary Joe Blow? It takes someone very special to decide that they're not going to let themselves be pushed around by the whims of others, much less by the temptations and dictates of the Wicked One who's controlling much of today's world.

Most people, deep down inside, long to be able to rise above the norm and make their lives count for something. I know *you* do, too. But do you want it badly enough that you're willing to buck the tide of negative peer pressure and make your own decisions in life?

Allowing yourself to be pulled away from My Spirit by others and toward the ways of the world, is like letting yourself be carried away by a river of raw sewage. It's spiritual, so you don't necessarily see it or smell it or recognize it for what it really is, but try to picture it in your mind. It's not funny! Growing up in today's world—with all its evil attractions and pull—and trying to live a life that's unique and special, is very difficult. It's like trying to swim against the flow of a big, violent, stinky river of muck! It's a nasty, malicious river, and the worst thing about it is, it wants to carry *you* along with it and pull you away from your destiny and the purpose for which you were created. It would like nothing more than to swallow you up and drown you in all its filthy, stinking dung.

Many helpless souls are trapped, and being swept along by that awful current, but *you* don't have to be. I'm reaching out to you right now, asking you to grab My hand. If you just say yes to Me and reach out, I'll keep you out of that miry mess and set your feet on higher ground. I promise that it won't be that difficult; I'll do the hard part for you. All *you* have to do is recognize the pull of the world and negative peer pressure for what it is, and decide you want more out of life than that. Don't let yourself get carried away with the flow. Ask Me to make your life special, and I will.

54-- Setting Goals

Life is full of decisions, lessons, experiences, challenges and ups-and-downs, but that's what makes it so rewarding and fun! You love to learn and experience new things, and I'm pleased that you've set goals for yourself. But remember, there are many things to learn, and you can't learn them all at once. So don't get discouraged or set your goals so high that you can't reach them.

The best way to set goals is to break them down into small, attainable goals. Once you achieve one, then right away strive for more, and on and on. It takes many trials and errors and tests and battles to learn all the things you need to know. So don't get discouraged that it takes time. You have your whole life ahead of you—and eternity too!

Just because you have to struggle, it doesn't mean you're *not* progressing. In fact, that's how you learn and grow—by struggling and fighting on. Just keep fighting and keep your eyes on the goal, and you'll be going forward.

One thing that would help you reach your goals is to spend more time with Me. You can do that by reading My Word and by hearing My voice in prophecy, and then doing the things I ask you to do.

55-Be Like Samuel

I need you to be like Samuel, who lived and worked in the temple. He heard My voice and loved Me above all else. Even though things didn't always turn out the way that he expected, and he was faced with many battles, still I kept him and trained him and made him into the man that I needed him to be.

Because of his faithfulness to My Word, and because he faithfully sought Me, I was able to make his life a wonderful blessing to many through the words he passed on from Me and the things he did for Me. He was at the right place at the right time to anoint My chosen kings, and he helped to bring the people closer to Me. These things were possible because of dear Samuel's faithfulness to hear My whispers.

Be like Samuel. Follow My whispers and dedicate your heart to Me. You may not see everything clearly now, just as My men and women of the Bible didn't always know what I had for them up ahead. But they followed, and I did My part to keep them and bless them through each hardship and challenge.

Keep desiring to give your all to Me, and I *will* bless you. You won't be able to see all that I'm doing and working on from behind the scenes, but when you follow My voice and keep your heart right with Me, then I'm able to work out good things on your behalf. Even if things don't go as smoothly as you wish they would, and even if there are more battles and difficulties along the way, please remember that I'm right by your side. You just have to look up to Me, call out My name, and I'll help you with all that you need.

56--Light Up the World

I've given you a lot to be happy about, but that doesn't mean that you're necessarily going to *feel* happy all the time. Still, regardless of how you feel, there's already so much darkness and sadness in the world, won't you please let your light shine for Me by wearing a smile on your face?

When My children smile, it's very powerful in the spirit. It's a declaration of faith to all who see it. It's like waving a flag or lifting a banner. When you smile, you're fighting and praising; you're showing the Enemy who's boss. You're creating a channel through which I can pour down My blessings on you and through you. It's a witness of trust and confidence in Me—without you even having to say a word. A smile lights up the world that's so full of darkness. It has creative energy, and it's contagious.

Needless to say, if a smile is that powerful and can do so much good, a gloomy face can be just as powerful in the wrong way. A long face or an empty, sullen look is destructive. It not only causes you to be more dumpy and discouraged yourself, but it brings others down, as well.

You may not always *feel* like smiling, but if you decide that you're going to wear a smile no matter *how* you feel, I guarantee that you'll begin to feel better almost immediately—and so will those around you.

57-- Getting in Shape

It's very easy to get out of shape and lose the edge when you don't keep up with your training. Some people think that they'll have plenty of time to train later, and that right now they just want to take things easy. But like I've told you before, whether you're in shape or not, the big games are coming—the Endtime Olympics! *These* are the days of preparation and training!

If you're going to make it to the Olympics, you're going to need Me, your Coach and Trainer. You'll have to make sure that you keep up with your personalized exercise plan and training program, or you won't last very long. Make sure to stay in shape by following My instructions and doing the things I ask you to do, and keep your spirit flexible and agile by stretching your faith daily. If you're faithful with these, you'll find that your spiritual muscles will soon start to grow, and your spiritual flab will begin to melt away.

Come to Me each day for My instructions, and listen carefully. I'll show you the optimum muscle-building plan for your spirit: what foods to eat, what schedule to follow, what routines to begin with, and what to build up to. You'll be amazed at how good you feel as the impurities in your system begin to be purged away, and your spirit begins to reject the things that weigh it down and to thrive on that which it most desperately needs in order to grow and prosper.

Stay open to the things I show you about your spiritual condition. When I point out some of your weaknesses, I'm not picking on you. I want to help you. If you're willing and ready to make the commitment to get serious about your training, then I'll be right there with you to help you. It'll be tough going at times, but if you put your heart into it, I promise we'll have a lot of fun doing it.

58-- The Ride of Your Life

Step right up to the greatest theme park you've ever seen! That's right, it's the theme park of the spirit, where the *theme* is anything and everything you've ever wanted to know, and anything you've ever wanted to see or hear.

We've got rides and movies, music and dancing, time travel, space travel, water travel and thought travel—every kind of travel you can imagine. It's all right here, in the land of the spirit, and you don't even have to wait until you get your spirit body to experience it.

All you've got to do is open the eyes of your spirit, reach out with the hand of faith, and grab your ticket. Walk right in and enjoy this special park, which has been designed just for you—My dear children of the Spirit.

Dive into My Word—the messages, stories, testimonies and pictures that I give you—and before you know it, you'll be having the time of your life, taking spirit trips and bumping into heroes of faith from the past. It's the greatest! It's free! And it's here for you.

59--Have a Blast!

I love parties and dances. They can be real blasts! Maybe you wouldn't have thought that I feel that way, but I do. I think parties are great! If you go about them the right way, they can be lots of fun and bring everyone much closer together in My Spirit. But sometimes it doesn't work out that way, does it? Many parties and dances end up being a real bummer for a lot of people. The trouble is, when it comes to parties, people sometimes forget all about the basic rules of how to be happy and how to have a good time. The temptation is to get totally into yourself, worrying about all kinds of things—how you look, whether or not certain people are paying enough attention to you, comparing and watching to see who dances with whom, and how others are treating you. It can be a real drag if all you're thinking about is yourself and what *you're* getting out of it. If that's your attitude, you'll almost always come away from the party feeling slighted, embarrassed, frustrated or even depressed. Emotions play a big part, I know—especially when you're young. You can nearly go crazy with jealousy or fear or embarrassment—all kinds of things that the Enemy uses to try to keep you from having a good time. But you don't have to let him ruin *your* party. The secret, as always, is to think about others and how to make *them* feel good. Don't go into it looking for someone else to supply *your* emotional needs and wants. Forget about yourself and what *you* hope to get out of it; get out of yourself and into others. And don't just be into certain ones, either. Find people who really *need* some love and attention, and give it them. Don't just get hung up on one person or a certain group and let your happiness depend totally on how they treat you. Mingle. Tell yourself that you're going to have a good time, and that you're going to share that good time with everyone you can. If you'll remember the keys to happiness and apply them, and ask Me to give you My love and the freedom of My Spirit, I'll help you to really enjoy yourself and others and have a great time.

60-- From A to Z

I know you like riddles and brainteasers. You like to try to figure things out in your mind—mysteries and puzzles and things like that. But when it comes to *certain* things, like wanting to know what's going to happen in the future, it's a little different story, isn't it? Suddenly, you wish you knew everything all at once, without all the mystery and having to put the pieces together.

When you ask Me for the answer to a question, I *could* tell you the complete answer, from beginning to end, start to finish, A to Z—the whole answer. But if I did that, there'd be nothing left for you to find out. So sometimes I tell you only part of the answer, or I give you an answer that might be a little puzzling or that you can't quite figure out at first. That way, you'll have to keep coming back to Me and praying about it some more. Then, as you continue to ask Me for answers and follow My clues, somewhere down the line, something will happen, and you'll realize that that was exactly what I was talking about, and then the riddle will be solved.

When you come to Me for answers, I'll always give you exactly what you need, when you need it. If you *need* to know the whole answer, I'll give it to you. But many times, you don't really need to know everything right from the start. In fact, often it's better that you *don't* find out everything that's going to happen, because it could be a little hard to swallow. Remember when I told My disciples that I had many things to tell them, but they couldn't bear to hear them all at that time? Some things just need more time to develop, and some things you won't have the grace for till they actually happen.

But don't worry; I'm not going to leave you in the dark. My Words to you will be a lamp for your feet and a light for your path, as I fill you in step by step. I'll give you plenty of neat clues to go by, and it'll be like the most awesome treasure hunt. If you really need to know the *whole* answer right then and there, you can ask for that, too. I love to give you all the details—if that's what I know you need. Be specific; you can ask Me anything, and I'll tell you. But regardless of how much I choose to tell you at one time, you can trust that I've got all the answers up My sleeve. So ask, and you'll be sure to receive.

61—There is a Way

There *is* a way that you can stand up for the truth and what's right, and do the things you know you should be doing, and say the things you know you should saying, without being S.R. It's not really all that difficult to know how to go about it.

The secret is *love*. Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do or say, make sure you commit each thing to Me in prayer first, and do it with love in your heart—love for Me and love for your peers and those around you. If *love* is your motivation—instead of just wanting to be “good” and keeping all the rules, then you won't have to worry about coming across as being self-righteous. Love is *never* self-righteous. And love never fails. So whatever you do, just do it with love, and then don't worry about it.

62-- Don't Listen to That Creep!

I have a lot to say to you, but before we go any further, I want to get this one thing straight between us: I LOVE YOU! Can you believe that? You and your love mean the world to Me. And when I say that, I'm saying a lot! You know that My Father loved the world so much that He gave *Me*, His only Son, in exchange for it. And to Me, *you* are the world that both He and I thought was so worth giving My life for—and I still feel that way. You're worth the moon and the stars and the sun. You're worth every bit of that to Me.

So, who's the creep that's accusing you of not being worth much?! Where is he? Let him show his face and expose himself for who he really is! Why, there he is! It's the punk himself, the god of slime pits and the ruler of the darkness of this world. It's the liar, the great orator. Ha! He thinks he has quite a way with words. But let Me tell you, that's all his words are—useless, powerless, meaningless words that can do nothing and mean nothing, unless you listen to them and believe them.

Is *that* what you want to do, believe that creep and his stinking lies? Are you going to listen to *him* instead of to *Me*? I beg you, don't do it, because *he* doesn't love you. Please listen to *Me* and to what *I* have to say, not only now, through this message to you, but in the days to come too. Please come to Me and let Me talk to you. Let *Me* answer his ugly lies and accusations. Resist him and his lies, and he'll have to flee from you and leave you alone. Resist him and drink in My Words.

63-- Choices

Who you are, and who you'll become, is in many ways up to you. There are a lot of possibilities, but the realization of these possibilities is in *your* hands, according to the choices you make each day, day in and day out.

Your happiness and fulfillment and the gifts and talents you were given are like seeds, hidden deep below the surface. They come to life and become little green shoots, and then grow into strong young trees—according to your choices. If you make the *right* choices, they can grow into great, stately, tall, towering redwood trees that reach hundreds of feet in height.

Redwood trees are so tall, so strong and beautiful. They live for thousands and thousands of years, while civilizations rise and fall. Thus are the products of your choices. They stretch far beyond today and this world, and into the life to come. The great redwood trees—so big and massive—started out from tiny, tiny little seeds, just like the seeds of your life.

All you have to do is ask Me about everything and stay close to Me, and you'll have good success; your life will be prosperous and fruitful and happy. When you make good choices, the *right* choices, the choices you know I would *want* you to make, you're choosing life and happiness.

64-- A Bird's-eye View

When you feel like you're in a muddle, confused and weighed down with problems and cares, don't you wish that you could just rise above it all and fly away like a bird with wings? You *can*, you know. On the wings of prayer and prophecy and praise, you can soar way up high, above all the mess, the problems and the confusion. You can flap your wings in the spirit, and let them carry you far away—not necessarily to *escape* your problems, but sometimes it helps just to see things from a different point of view.

Do you know what it means to have “a bird's-eye view”? It's like when you're up in an airplane, and you can see everything that's down on the ground below you—the whole panorama. The higher you go, the smaller everything down on the ground becomes, and the less significant it seems. That's what flapping your wings in the spirit does for you; it carries you up above all the problems and helps you to see them from the proper perspective. The higher you go in the Spirit, the more clearly you can see things, and the smaller all your problems become.

When you fight to rise above your trials in this way, it helps you see not only the problem itself and what it is that's bothering you, but a lot of other things, too. You start to see the Romans 8:28 that you *couldn't* see down on the ground in the midst of all the confusion.

So the next time you're in a big mess, or you're feeling confused, or things just aren't working out right, don't let it frustrate you or drag you down. Flap your wings and take flight! Rise above it all, way up above the trouble and the turbulence—higher and higher—where everything is beautiful and quiet and peaceful.

65-- Turn Away

Just as I tried to always make it clear to My early disciples, if you stick with Me and follow My teachings, you'll be part of a small but very special group of people. For instance, in Matthew 7:14, I explained that "Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way that leads unto life, and few there be that find it."

It's always been a fight to stay on "the straight and narrow." As you're now finding out, even when you're committed and sincerely wanting to do what's right, the Enemy is still on the attack, doing whatever he can to sidetrack you. But I promise that if you do your best to stay in the Word and close to Me, I'll help you to resist Satan's pull.

One of the best ways to resist temptations is to simply avoid them by minimizing ungodly influences in your life. Of course, you can't just put blinders on and shut out the world and everything that's going on around you—and I don't *want* you to, because the world needs you! But if you're finding it hard to say no to some of the world's ungodly diversions and distractions, I'm sure you'll find that the advice given in Proverbs 4 will be just as vital for you today as it was when it was first given. "Let your eyes look ... straight before you. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left." What that means is, don't let yourself get pulled off course—avoid temptation. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away."

If you want to stand strong against the Enemy's temptations, ask Me to help you, and I will—every time. I'll light your way and help you to keep your eyes on the goal and not let you get sidetracked. Like it says in verse 18, "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day."

66-- Love Gifts

Every bit of your love is precious to Me. I treasure it and keep it close to My heart. You might think, “What love? I don’t give You very much love—not nearly as much as I should.” But you *do* give Me a lot of love. Every time you stop to think about Me or read My Word, it’s a beautiful love gift from you to Me. Every time you do your best to hold on to My promises, it’s a precious gift of your love, and I thank you for it.

Every time you yield to Me and decide to do My will above your own, those are great love gifts! The little things you do for others, and the work that you do with a cheerful heart—even when you find it *hard* to be cheerful—all those become love gifts to Me. Each time you show love to the children whom you help to care for, you’re showing love to Me. I see all these things that you do, and it’s all love that flows from your heart to Mine.

The gifts I’ve cherished the most from you were the ones that were the hardest for you to give, because those were the gifts which I knew cost you the most—and therefore showed the greatest love. When you give away something that’s easy to give, it doesn’t always mean a lot. But when you do something that’s hard for you to do, I know it really costs you something, and that’s a more rare and precious gift of love. Even the little things that you do for Me are treasured gifts in My eyes, and make Me very happy. Of course, the more love you show Me, the happier I become, and the happier I’ll be able to make you, too. Thank you for your love.

67-- Your Future Depends on It!

If you want to grow up to be someone who's especially close to Me and strong in the Spirit, you can't just put it off until some time in the future. It's not something that happens overnight. The person you will become when you grow up depends very much on what you're doing now, day by day, to become that person.

It's very similar to the physical. As people get older, they begin to see and feel the effects—both good and bad—of the way they've treated their bodies throughout their lives. If over the years they haven't been careful to eat the right kinds of foods and to get enough good, vigorous exercise, little by little they begin to suffer the consequences. For instance, their arteries become more and more hardened and clogged, until eventually, it's hard for the blood to flow freely to their vital organs. The blood is what carries oxygen and everything that your body needs to stay alive and healthy. So, the less blood that makes its way through your veins, the harder it is on your body and all of its parts.

The time to start forming the right health habits of getting lots of good exercise and eating the right kinds of food is when you're young. The sooner you begin, the bigger the head start you'll be giving yourself toward a happy, healthy life. In the same way, if your spirit isn't getting enough good nourishment and healthy exercise now, but instead is taking in lots of unhealthy pollutants, your channel will become more and more clogged, and you'll have a very hard time receiving all the good things that will feed and strengthen your spirit. As you grow older, you'll begin having problems with your spiritual health and strength, and you'll need to make difficult and major changes.

You might find it a little hard to believe that all of this is important now, when you're so young and feel so strong. But please take to heart what I'm telling you, because your future depends on it.

68-- Just Like the Prophets of Old

I know the battles that you have when you come to Me and ask Me to speak to you in prophecy. You feel that you're just not worthy, and that you're way too insignificant compared to "real" prophets—like Moses and Samuel and people like that. You have a hard time understanding how much I want to speak to *you*. But I do! You don't have to be some kind of sinless saint to be able to hear from Me. I'm always broadcasting—to anyone who will make the effort to tune in and listen.

When I was on the earth, I poured out My heart everywhere I went, through My deeds and My Words of love. The ones who benefited from the miracles I did and who had the blessing of hearing and understanding My Words, weren't perfect or super spiritual by any means. They were just people who were desperate enough and cared enough to stop what they were doing in order to come to Me for help and to hear what I had to say.

I'm still pouring out My heart today to anyone who will listen. Anyone who sincerely wants to hear and takes the time to ask Me to speak will hear from Me. That's My promise. You don't have to be a certain age. You don't have to be ultra-spiritual or good. All you have to do is believe and ask and receive. It's that simple. I'm just as willing and able to speak to you as I was to the prophets of old. Those who come to Me in faith, believing My promises, will receive.—And that includes you!

69-- The Spiky Jackfruit

When you wake up in the morning, sometimes you're like a spiky jackfruit. You may be soft and sweet on the inside, but that hard, prickly rind of yours is covered with spikes that stick out and poke everything around you and make others miserable. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Whenever you come to Me and spend time reading My Word and praying and listening to Me and soaking up My love and Spirit, I bathe you in a special magic coating. It's like a big, thick, silky bubble of softness and sweetness that covers you all over, shielding those spikes and causing them to not hurt others. The bubble works both ways, too. It not only helps you to be nice and soft to those you come in contact with, but if others happen to come along with *their* spikes sticking out, that same soft bubble of humility will protect you from their spikes, as well.

This magic bubble is so soft and smooth to the touch, but it's amazingly strong. Nothing can break it or puncture it! It's like that verse, (Psalms 119:165): "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."—Nothing!

Why go through the day making everyone unhappy and ruining things for yourself, too? Just take a little time with Me and let Me wrap you in My bubble of soft kindness and invincible protection before you start the day. It'll make a world of difference, and you'll be surprised at how easy it is to work with and get close to others without all those thorny spikes sticking up and getting in your way.

70-- Heaven Surrounds You!

My dear one, I know that you love My Spirit, and you love the things of Heaven, and so I *will* bless you with what you've desired. I'm more than able to do wonderful miracles and let you see the wonders from Heaven above. Just trust Me and take time with Me each day.

Even if you *can't* see the wild things of the Spirit or hear the music, even if you can't see My face, those moments that you spend in My arms, reading My Words and listening to Me are very real. They're like trips into the heavenlies.

Though you can't see everything that you *wish* you could see right now, believe Me that I have special things ahead for you—special times with Me and fun spiritual experiences. Wait and see! Trust in Me and love Me with all your heart, mind, and soul, and I *will* give you the desires of your heart.

In the meantime, all your Heavenly helpers are around you and with you. They're by your side now, saying, "You've chosen to say yes to Jesus. Good for you! We're with you and rooting for you!" Many angels surround you—more than you realize. If you could see them, you'd know that Heaven is there right now, in your own Home. Heaven surrounds you! You live and work with a great Heavenly host.

71--Don't Belittle Your Place

I've seen you grow and mature and establish yourself as a firm and strongly rooted tree. Your branches reach out and cover the ground so that the children can rest under your shade, or play and climb up in your branches. You're their playmate and a strength to them. Don't belittle your place or your calling, for I have called you and made you special.

Don't think that I've chosen someone else for better and loftier callings or jobs, leaving you with only the menial or less desired. I know exactly what will make your wood turn out best.

Do you often wonder, "Well, why is it that So-and-so got to do this? Why is it that I haven't been given all the things that my heart desires?"

In time you'll see so much more clearly how I've fashioned and made your life to be. According to how you live now, and what you give of yourself now, it will be given to you in return; I won't hold back anything good from you that you desire deep within.

I'm the Beginning and the End, the First and the Closing Words of your life's book. I know the whole spectrum, and will write it so beautifully! Keep walking the path I've set before you. I've put within you the gifts, the talents and all that you'll need to do the job. Press ahead and fulfill that calling—that special ministry which only you can do.

72-- What's True and Right?

You can ask Me for any of the gifts of My Spirit, and according to My will, I'll give them to you. Remember Solomon's prayer when he was first made king? He was desperate for My anointing of wisdom because he knew that he needed it. He was so sincere and wholehearted about it, I really poured it on, and as long as He stayed close to Me, he was one of the wisest men who had ever lived. Wisdom is a great gift to have, because it's the gift of understanding what's true and right.—And in today's mixed-up world, that can sometimes be hard to do. Modern man has gotten very good—or I should say, very bad—at taking things and turning them totally upside down with misinformation, presenting things in such a way that they sound like they're the truth, when in reality they couldn't be *further* from the truth. If you were to just go by what you read and hear in the media, in the movies or on the Internet, you'd be completely lost; you'd have no idea what the truth is and what's really happening around you. But with My gift of wisdom, you'll be able to see right through the System's lies and the Enemy's politically correct propaganda, and know exactly where things are really at.

Another gift that would be a big help to you is the gift of discernment. It's very similar to wisdom in that it helps you to have greater insight into people and situations, and be able to tell whether they're good or bad, right or wrong. The gifts of wisdom and discernment were both very helpful to *Me* during My ministry on Earth. With them, I was able to see right into men's hearts and know what they were really thinking and how to answer their questions. By discerning dangerous situations, I was also able to avoid a lot of trouble. Having these two gifts is a lot better than just being smart or well educated, and you can't find them in any classroom or textbook. You've got to ask *Me* for them. So if you want to be wise and have good discernment, just ask Me—sincerely and wholeheartedly, like Solomon did—and I'll give them to you.

73-- The Canister of Life

You're special! I knew you before the world was formed, and I've placed you there on Earth for a special calling and purpose. I love you like crazy! I want to be with you and give you joy and peace, and free you from the things that cloud your heart and life.

I want to refresh you, like a man climbing a mountain, who's parched and needs water, and then he finds a little trickle coming down between some rocks. He tastes the water and drinks all he can, and then fills up his canister to the brim for the next part of his journey. *That's* what I want our times together to be like.

When you take time to listen and to tell Me everything that's on your heart, when you read My Word with interest, and claim a verse for your day to help you combat everything the Enemy's planning on swinging at you, then I'm able to be that thirst-quenching water to your soul. The Word you take in and write on the tables of your heart will be like the canister, filled up to refresh you whenever you need it. So don't miss our appointment each day, to drink up and gain strength for the climb ahead.

If you make the effort to put Me above everything else, even if it seems like a trial at first, you'll see some awesome things—the ways I touch your life to let you know how very real I am, and the ways I make things happen for you that you couldn't have worked out yourself. There's so much I can do for you. If you'll just remember to make Me number one, then everything else will come together and fall into place far better than you could've ever dreamed.

74-- A Friend Indeed

Friendship is something that's very important, not only to you, but to Me, too. I value friendship very much! That's why I said in John 15 that I don't call you My servant, I call you My friend. I want to be your *Best Friend*. But that doesn't mean that I don't want you to have other friends and to be a friend to others, as well. You *need* friends—good friends! But sometimes it's easy to forget what a true friend really is.

Believe it or not, the best kind of friend you could possibly have is someone who sincerely loves Me more than anything or anyone else—even more than he or she loves you! If you have friends whose main goals are to follow Me closely, they'll generally be much more loving and caring and giving than those who are more into themselves and whose friendships are based mostly on personal likes and dislikes. If your friends are doing their best to let *Me* live and work through them, they'll probably be very unselfish, sacrificial and understanding, and they'll be even more concerned about *your* happiness than about their own. They'll always be there for you when you need them, and they won't abandon you when you're going through a rough time or when other friends let you down. You'll be able to count on them to give you whatever support you need—whether it's a hug, a prayer or a word of truth—even when it's not that easy to give.

If you have friends who really love Me and are developing habits of spending time with Me in the Word and listening to My voice, they'll be far less likely to be hypocritical or to turn their backs on you or gossip about you behind *yours*. They'll be true prayer warriors, fighting and praying for you in the spirit. That kind of person will most likely be your friend for life—a true soul mate—all the way into eternity. That's the best kind of friends to have, and that's the kind of friend I want *you* to be to others.

75-- **Ask Me Again.**

Put Me to the test. Prove My Words and the validity of them. Tell that old Punk that no more are you going to get tied up in his sickening slime-pit of doubt. Tell your own heart that whatever I speak to you is true and you will hold to it no matter what. Even when it looks like things changed, or plans were altered, and it looks like what I spoke to you at that time wasn't fulfilled as you thought or hoped, still know that it was My Word for you at that time. And if things change, ask Me again what's going on and how I feel about things.

76-- **Get That Bounce Back!**

Wouldn't you just love to have that bounce in your step and that joy in your heart, that sparkle in your eyes? Remember those times in your life when you were just so happy that it overflowed on everybody you saw? Remember the good times you had together with Me when we laughed and talked and cried and were like bosom buddies?

Let Me take you in My arms and whisper encouraging things to you that lift your spirit. Let Me take you to places you've only dreamed of and show you what it's really like. Let Me pour out My potion of strength and soothing balm that will cover you and flow into every part of you—your toes, your fingers, your eyes, your brain—and make everything it touches relaxed and full of faith. I can even give you a glimpse into the future to see what things will be like for you.

I can do all these things for you if you just put yourself in My hands. Don't look around or let things around you bother you so much—just look up and let Me refresh you and give you all the love, care, protection, understanding, fun, encouragement and friendship that you need. I'm ready and waiting to give all this and more to you—and I will, if you'll let Me.

77-- Looking Out for You.

I love to be with you, and I love watching you—your every move, your words, even your thoughts. I take such pleasure and such interest in you. My eyes are ever upon you and My heart is always tender toward you. I look out for you—not just for your protection, well-being and to provide your needs, but even more—to give you the little things, the extra blessings, the special experiences that I know touch and warm your heart and bring you joy.

78-- **Be Energized!**

You're an important one to Me and I'm counting on you to give the Devil a blow and knock him out good every time he comes around telling you that you're no good, that things are too hard, and that you might as well quit. He's going to be cowering in the shadows one day, while you are rewarded with many honors for the faithful job you're doing for Me.

I will anoint you day by day and bring you through each storm even stronger. Hold on to My hand and the words I'm pouring out to you through your king and queen and the messengers I send from Heaven to speak, and through each word from My mouth. These words will be as energizing strength and will invigorate you every time you feel weary.

Just keep on going and keep Satan running, until you run into My arms, where you'll know you are loved so very dearly. You are the most precious thing to Me. I'll always be right by your side, through every second you live, for eternity and beyond. I need you and won't ever loosen My grasp on you.

You'll shine, My love, like the stars in the Heavens, and I'll be so proud of you, just like I am today, for the ways you've fought and won and have chosen to keep serving Me with all your heart and mind and soul.

I'll make you a shining example to many who are searching and looking for truth, if you draw that light from My face, if you drink in daily of all that I have to share with you. These are the things that will make you shine.

79-- **Focus Your Mind!**

Even before you were sent to Earth, I destined that you would have a unique and exceptional upbringing—one that would allow you to have the most opportunity to grow and learn and become everything that I've ordained for you to be. But just because you were chosen doesn't mean that all of that is going to happen without a fight.

The most important battle—the one for which Satan reserves his most destructive weapons—is in your mind. He tries to get in whenever he can through your thoughts. When you daydream during Word or prayer time, for instance, the Enemy is successfully blocking you from being strengthened, cleansed, encouraged, and trained and established in the faith.

So instead of stepping into some dead-end fantasy zone, open your spiritual eyes and cut off the Devil's dreams by using those fantastic new weapons I've given you. You can fight better in the spirit than any fictional hero. You just have to focus your mind!

80-- Making it as a Man.

Here you are, sitting on the fence between boyhood and manhood, wondering when you're going to be fully out of one world and into the next. It's a tricky path to navigate. There seem to be so many contradictions in your life as you're making the adjustment. New ideas are popping into your brain, new hormones are rushing through your body, and maybe there are embarrassing manifestations of adolescence on your face!

Don't worry. You can make it. You can survive, and many of the embarrassments and awkward moments of this age can make you an even better man when you come out on the other end. Just keep looking to Me for how to be, and how to grow into the man I want you to be. You're a warrior in the making, so don't let what you see in the mirror discourage you if it's not all you'd hoped for.

And remember, your inner strength is more important than your outer strength. Much more. Brawn is often glorified in the world, but when the heat is on and you or your loved ones are in serious danger, it's that inner strength and that ability to look to Me for My power that's going to make you the hero.

81-- Make Your Aura Glow.

Thoughts propel your actions, either to do good or evil. The idleness of your mind is the Devil's workshop, because once you've allowed a negative thought to flourish, it can in turn affect other thoughts—and sooner or later your thoughts affect your actions.

Even if you think that you can restrain your tongue from saying what you think, you have to realize that your spirit is contagious. If you're thinking positively, your whole spirit will glow and your aura will be brighter. But if you're thinking negatively, either about yourself or about other people, it dims your aura and people can sense it. They can sense displeasure or negativity and this in turn affects their thoughts.

I'd like to use you more as a vessel of love; I'd like to brighten up your aura so that you can help lift others' loads instead of adding to them, but you have to help Me to do this by actively resisting negative thoughts.

As you bring yourself before Me every day in greater yieldedness and humility, I will work in your mind and purify your thoughts.

82-- I Don't Look At Your Age.

I know you want to please Me, and you have pleased Me. You've put your heart and energy into being faithful with the gift I've given you, to spread happiness to others. You've stuck by Me even in the rough times, and through the times when you felt dissatisfied and restless. Thank you for wanting to follow Me closely, and for wanting to do what's right and what will make Me happy.

You do make Me happy! You bring tears of happiness to My eyes, because even though you think that you're still young and maybe not so important in the eyes of others, I'm telling you now that your age doesn't matter to Me. You're very special and important to Me.

I don't look at your age, or the fact that you have so many older brothers and sisters whom you feel you have to live up to or compare with. To Me, it's like you're the oldest one in your family, because I'm not expecting you to be like anyone else. You have very special and unique gifts, talents, and a path that I've mapped out just for you. It's not like any other path, because you are special and there's only one of you. This path is yours to walk, and no one else's.

Thank you for wanting to serve Me, and for wanting to stay close to Me despite the temptations you often face. As you stay close to Me, I can continue to walk you down this special path I've mapped out for you.

83-- Powerful Spiritual Tools—Faith and Humility!

You want to be in touch with the realm of the spirit, and you long to see physical or visible manifestations of the spirit world. You want to have an experience that will help convince you of the reality of the spirit world. Or you want to be given a magical touch of Heaven’s creativity—whether through a picture, a song, a poem, or some other form of art.

These are good desires, but be sure that you call upon the right side, the Heavenly forces, to show you these things and give you these gifts. And when you receive something from My Heavenly agents, glorify Me and My Spirit through your praise and humility, so you can remain in tune.

Watch out about being tempted with pride, wanting to glorify yourself or your mind, or wanting the praise and admiration of others. Simple faith and humility are powerful spiritual tools, in that they enable you to activate and use the new weapons of the Spirit. Those new weapons will see you through in the final days, during the great climactic battle of good against evil.

84-- How to Make Us Both Happy.

Tell Me how good the food tastes, how nice the music sounds, how beautiful the scenery is, or how thankful you are for your health that allows you to dance, to travel, and to serve Me. Thank Me in your heart or with your lips, to let Me know that you recognize that all these gifts are coming from My hand. You know what that'll do? Two major things: It'll make you more happy, as you begin to realize just how big My heart is. And it'll also make Me happy, and as a result make Me feel like sending you even *more* gifts of love.

Don't be afraid to let Me or others know how blessed you feel. — It'll do you so much good. It'll brighten your days, and help you to come closer to Me and love Me more. It'll also give you the faith to come to Me when you need something—whether it's the answer to a question you have, or victory over discouragement, or something that'll help you serve Me better.

I want you to know how generous I am and how much I'm willing to give you. But it's a spiritual law that you have to thank Me for what I already give you each day before I can give you more. I may not always give you exactly what you want, but that's the wonderful mystery of it, because you can always be sure that it's not because I'm stingy. It's merely because I have something better for you—whether spiritual riches, or experiences that will make you more relatable and more able to witness to the people I'm going to send along your path.

85-- The Best Equipment.

Imagine that you're in the army. You've got the latest weaponry and the best equipment, you're training among the best, you're an elite trooper. Your division is communication; that's where your focus and energy goes. When you're out in the field, you're the one who makes sure messages are getting to and from your division. You're the one that has the information in your hands; the lives of your division can depend on whether communications are running well or not.

In that position you don't want to lose any time dealing with old or beat-up equipment—you want the best of the best. And so that's what is given to you—the best communication set-up available, low maintenance, portable, and with crystal-clear sound.

What are you going to do with it? Will you keep fine-tuning your radio to the right frequencies? Or are you going to hear all the cool talk about the top receptivity your radio has, but never learn how to use it?

You might think I'm speaking hypothetically, but I'm not, 'cause in the spiritual realm you are a communicator. It's your job to make sure that there's clear receptivity and that your communication equipment is running well. And that piece of equipment in the spirit is your gift of prophecy—your connection with Me. It's imperative that you learn how to use it to the full. You don't want any interference, you don't want to get on the wrong channel, 'cause it's then that you'll start receiving the wrong information and it could cause problems.

So make sure your spiritual army communication equipment is up and running, and use it frequently so you know it's reliable. That way when you're out in the middle of nowhere, you can be sure that once you push the power button, the reception will be clear, and you'll get the right information. Your life depends on it!

86-- Be a Great Crewmate.

Picture a big ship crossing the ocean. The ship has a destination to reach. That's its purpose: to go from one point to the next. When the Captain's orders are followed step by step, the crew and the entire ship make a successful journey and arrive at their journey's end.

But what if some members of the crew are not following the Captain's orders? The ship may go off course. It may not go fast enough. It may go too fast. It may turn in the wrong direction. A lot of things can happen if the crew is not working together in unity.

Help your fellow crewmates to pull up their socks, to go in the right direction. Try to encourage and help your mates to continue on in their tasks, in their chores, so that you'll reach your destination. Don't think, "Oh well, the ship's big enough. No one will notice if we don't do our jobs." Don't fail the Captain. He picked you especially as part of His personal, trusted crew. And even if no one else happens to be looking, you can be sure that He's watching you closely to see if you can be trusted with more down the line.

The Captain needs you. That's why He has you on the crew. He needs you to make the right choices to make the journey a success.

87-- Dying to Encourage Someone?

Ever been in a situation where you really wanted to encourage a friend, or one of your younger brothers or sisters, or even a parent or shepherd who you know is having a rough time, but you didn't know what to say? Sometimes you may feel sorry for someone and you want to cheer her up, but you feel like, "Well, who am I? How is my saying anything going to make her feel all that much better about herself or about what she's going through?"

Well, I've got news. Even *you* can make a world of difference to someone. Though your human words of encouragement are sometimes inadequate, My words are powerful and life-giving, and you can start learning to be a conduit of My Words to others. It's simple, really. Just ask Me what the person needs to hear, dictate it or write it down or type it, and then pass it on! It's the greatest gift you can give, the most precious type of encouragement.

A heart full of love and concern for others, plus a desire and desperation to help them, helps you become a clear and open channel. When you're doing something for the sake of someone else, I come through in a special way, because your love and concern is so beautiful to Me!

88-- See Me!

Picture Me in your mind's eye as you think of Me and praise Me. I want to be real to you. *See* My face when you speak to Me. Picture Me in your mind and heart when I speak to you.

I don't have to look the same each time. There are many pictures of Me you can use—or dream up your own version of Me! The important thing is to know that I am right here with you. Always. Picture Me in your mind so that you truly know Me, eye to eye and face to face. That will help you to draw closer, so that I can be a very real, very close soul-mate and Friend to you. I'm looking forward to you seeing Me with the eyes of the spirit.

—See you!

89-- Get the Most Out of It.

It's inevitable that you're going to catch a cold or flu or get sick sometimes, everybody does. The good news is, it won't last forever. The even better news is that there are so many things I can teach you during the time when you're having to rest and stay apart from others. I can speak to your heart about things you're going through, or I can reveal mysteries to you or take you on spirit trips.—And these things *will* last forever.

Even if you think you don't have the gift of prophecy, don't let that stop you from getting quiet and listening, because I can speak to you in more ways than you can imagine. Even the pictures I beam into your head, or the thoughts that I place on your heart, are My personalized Words to you. I promise that if you really want it, and ask Me with your whole heart, I'll answer you in ways I know you'll enjoy. In fact, the answers are already bubbling over, just waiting to be poured down on you.

So even though you might feel miserable when you're sick, and can't wait to be around others again, instead of pining away about it, ask Me to show you things that will help. I can turn that terrible, crummy feeling and boredom into an experience that's worthwhile. Don't waste away this special time of sickness. It's My gift to you, but it'll be over before you know it, so take advantage of the time. There are so many things you can get out of it, if you just ask.

90-- Enjoy those Shoes

I've got a plan for everyone and I've made you just the way that I want you. I've made you the age I want you to be, with the personality that I want you to have. Sure, we can all grow and learn and progress, and we all need to be moving forward every day, but you can't rush those things. When you are always wishing you were in someone else's shoes and getting to do what they get to do, or be what they are, you can't enjoy your own shoes!

91-- Journey into the Earth

Have you ever taken a moment to look at a tree? You should do it sometime. Just go outside and find a tree and look at it, because I have something to tell you. Are you ready? Do you see how tall and magnificent that tree is? Look at its branches reaching high into the sky. Check out the leaves—notice their color and scent? Feel the bark—the roughness of it, and the protection that it gives to the tree. There is so much of a tree that you don't see just by glancing at it.

But that tree wasn't always that strong and tall. It was once a little seed. It had to struggle to dig its roots firmly in the ground. It had to find its strength through finding its foundation. Only when it sent its roots on a journey deep into the earth was it able to grow into the magnificent tree I destined it to be.

If the tree hadn't sent its roots deep into the soil, it never would have grown into a strong tree. Its foundation wouldn't have been sure. It would be weak and unsteady. It may have borne some fruit, but that fruit wouldn't have been as big, or as juicy. All it would have taken is one storm whipping up a fury and the tree would have come crashing to the ground.

You are like a little tree shoot. I have planted you within the ground of My Word, and you must now send your roots into its depths in order to find your security and foundation. As your roots and the ground of My Word entwine and become one, you will find a strength and fortitude that will see you through the storms of life. You will become that tree of strength by finding your foundation in the ground of My Word.

92-- Little Boat, Big Waves

Sometimes you're feeling so low. Your little boat is tossing about on this big ocean, the sky is black, and the waves are so high. It takes a lot of faith to trust that I'm going to protect your little boat from getting ripped apart. Your sails get torn and you don't know what's going to happen now because you can't get anywhere without your sails.

But I knew that we'd go through big storms and rough seas. I took that all into consideration and I built your little boat to stand. Not only that, but I've been with you on each of your journeys. Even when the storms come, I'm still there with you, protecting you. I cover you and let you sleep even in the midst of the scariest squalls. I promise I'll do My part and I'll get you out of this storm too, if you do your part and trust Me.

93-- **Life's Game of Giving!**

When it comes right down to it, in the flesh, in the natural, who wants to be giving? It just doesn't seem like you'll get anything in return by giving something away—whether your time, your love, a possession, or a kindness. I know it can be difficult to give willingly to others—to lend a helping hand with the baby, to do the dishes for someone who had a rough and trying day, to clean the bathroom even though it's not your turn, and all those other things that come up. You feel like you're giving, giving, all the time—and it's not your preferred activity.

I'm sure you've seen this concept portrayed in a movie or story, where a dying man wills his entire estate to the person who has willingly chosen to care for an aged relative of his, or to the one who has done a certain kind deed without hope of recompense. In other words, the prize often goes to the unsuspecting good-doer. And all those who were just looking out for themselves, and who didn't want to get their hands dirty with a little work and sacrifice, end up with zilch!

My game of giving is closely related to that concept. It works like this: Those who give are blessed. Those who give, receive love and rewards here and in the life to come. Those who withhold and hang on tightly to their free time and their possessions, and aren't willing to share with others, lose out in Heaven.

There are big prizes at stake in life's game of giving, believe Me!—And if you knew what they were, you'd be mighty eager to give to others from morning till night. That's the one thing I won't tell you—so you get to choose whether or not you're going to believe by faith that the rewards are worth it. But take it from Me—they are!

94-- **Rejected!**

Have you ever tried to be real nice to someone you liked but had him or her reject you and act very unkind and unloving towards you, even in front of others? That is a deep hurt, isn't it? I want you to know that I understand completely. Even if others fail you, I will never fail you. I am the Friend Who stays with you always.

Please be My friend and bring all your hurts and deep wounds to Me to touch and heal right away. Don't let them become bitter places of hurt and hate within.

If someone rejects you, try not to get too down or discouraged. Be patient. Keep trying to show him or her love and kindness even when it is not easy to do. I see, and on "Rewards Day" I will repay you with more love and joy than you can contain.

95-- Teens Who Have Made the Grade.

Did you ever wonder why I allow people to live so long after their teen years? It's because there is a purpose and a job for those who have been through so many things in life! They have already traveled the road that you are now on. The road may look a little different than it did when they were your age, yet it is still the same road—the road to adulthood and becoming the full-fledged soldier I need you to be.

It's all in how you look at people who are older than you. If you see them as "old" or unable to understand things, this divides you and sets you apart from them. Yet if you look at them as friends and "former teens who have made the grade," then you can benefit from what they have learned. Put yourself in their shoes and think, *If I were in the same situation, trying to teach someone who was younger and less experienced, how would I want to be treated?*

When you get to know them better, you'll see that they really are young at heart, for it's My Spirit that keeps them this way. As you learn to partake of this same Spirit, then you too will learn the secret of "eternal youth."

Ask Me to give you the gift of understanding. As you do this I will bless you with greater unity and a closer connection with the others in your Home. You will find that there is life after 40! No matter what mindsets you have formed, I can change them if you will only give Me a chance.

96-- **Let Me Landscape Your Life!**

I'm like a Master Landscaper. I plan out a huge garden, with brooks, streams, waterfalls, flowerpots, and trees and plants of all shapes and sizes. I know exactly where each plant goes and how it should be planted. I am planting a large variety of flowers. Sometimes it's hard to trust that I know what I'm doing, but if you were to step back, by taking time in My temple and hearing from Me, you would see My overall plan and understand why I do certain things in your life.

Just remember that I am the Master Landscaper. I know where everything goes and which colors go together the best. I also know where there should be a stream and where there should be a pond. I know where to plant the mighty oaks and I know where to plant the tiniest flower. Everything has a planned purpose and a special place it's meant to be.

It's easy to worry that I might be forgetting to plan some great part of the garden of your life—but you don't have to worry about that! I love your garden, and I want to walk there with you in the quiet moments when you're alone. I want us to have close fellowship. I want to show your garden off to others, so they can see a great sample of what a life looks like when it has My presence constantly. Be sure to say yes to Me so that I can beautify the garden of your heart and life and make it look just how I want it to.

97-- **Celebrity Protection**

My guardian angels are like your bodyguards, and My spirit helpers are like your secret agents. I've surrounded you with a guardian angel—or guardian angels, in some cases—and it's their sworn duty to protect you from harm or danger, both physical and spiritual. Of course, a lot depends on your obedience to stay within My protective forcefield, and you're well aware that I sometimes allow things to happen, but it's not because of your spirit helpers' incompetence! Your heavenly bodyguards and secret agents are always ready to stand by your side as protectors, advisors and counselors.

These are highly trained professionals, not rookies. They are instructed in heavenly warfare and details particular to your life and situation. They're just what you need, and are at your beck and call, ready to be of service to you, to protect you and to advise you.

You're a celebrity in My books! You're royalty by Heaven's standards! You're My bride, so it shouldn't surprise you to know that you have enemies. The most wanted murderer and assassin and thief in the universe is after you—the Enemy of your soul. Apart from wanting to harm you physically, he's trying to murder your spirit, assassinate your love for Me, and steal away your joy and happiness. But for your protection, I've given you these strong, heavenly bodyguards and secret agents to protect you and keep you and give you all that you need.

Even though you can't see them, it doesn't mean they're not real. They're as real as the hair on your head and the fingers on your hands—even more real. Any earthly celebrity would pay hefty sums of money to have the kind of protection and support and advisors that you have in the spirit.

So treasure it! Be proud of it! Make use of all of the help from Heaven that I've given you. Communicate with them! Ask their advice! They are the force of Heaven at your side.

98-- **Doing an A+ Job**

Learning to be consistent and faithful is very important. These lessons shape your life. They help you to do a much better job and to be happier. When I was young, I had a host of little jobs I had to do every day. I know it can get boring—at times you wish you could just leave it all behind and do something more fun—but think what would have happened if I hadn't stuck to My training.

When the job of teaching the multitudes came along, I would have gotten tired of doing it and I probably would have quit. It was hard work, day after day. It went on and on, and there were times when I just wanted a break. But because I had learned as a boy how important it was to be faithful in My chores and the jobs I had to do, I knew I had to keep doing them even when I didn't feel like it.

If you're tempted to give in and to quit when it seems you have to keep being faithful at a job, remember that I've been there too. I understand and I can give you the strength you need to make it one more day.

Oh yes, and don't think about doing it forever—that'll just kill ya! Think about doing it just this one time more, and give it your all. Then when you have to do it again, don't think about the next time you'll have to do it. Just do it again like it was the only time you had to do it. That'll help you do an A+ job that you and those around you can be proud of.

99-- Life Looking Fuzzy?

If you have weak eyes and everything around you looks blurry and fuzzy, if you can't watch a movie without your eyes hurting, or if you try to read something and can't make out the letters on the page, what do you do? Do you ignore the problem and put up with headaches and eyestrain? No. You go to the optometrist to diagnose the problem. He or she will most likely give you a prescription for a pair of glasses to correct your eye problem and help you to see clearly again.

It's the same when your *spiritual* eyes are weak.

If the things of the spirit don't seem to make sense, everything is hazy and unclear, if you read the Word but don't understand it so clearly, if you're having a hard time accepting Family rules, or if you seem to be stumbling around, what do you do? Do you just ignore the problem, cross your fingers, and hope it'll go away? Do you just overlook the fact that you're having a hard time seeing things in the spirit, believing things, accepting things, and understanding things? No. You have to come to Me, your heavenly Optometrist and spiritual Eye Doctor. I'll diagnose the problem and give you a prescription for a pair of glasses that will help you to see things better in the spirit. I'll also give you spiritual eye care tips that will strengthen your weak eyes.

These glasses of the spirit are the glasses of faith! If you put them on, you'll be able to see things more clearly, understand things because of faith and trust, and be a whole lot happier as a result. With these glasses of faith you'll be able to get more out of the Word, accept things with childlike belief, find new freedom in the spirit, and discover new realities in the spirit world.

Help yourself by receiving My prescription and getting new glasses of faith. All it takes is the willingness to try and a prayer of acceptance. You may want to call on the help of others through united prayer, to make your glasses of faith extra powerful. Try it! You'll certainly see better, and everything will become clearer.

100-- **Highs and Lows**

Sometimes life might seem a little slower than usual, especially after a special event like a youth camp, a road trip, an exciting activity, a fun united fellowship, or a great game you played. When it's all over you can be hit with the hard reality that those emotional and physical highs aren't permanent, and this can be a rather painful experience.

When you're faced with this, it's easy to look for ways to make your life a little more exciting. However, something you'll realize with time is that when life isn't fast-paced and the inspiration level isn't so high, it doesn't mean something's wrong. You can still enjoy those special occasions immensely, which is good, but just realize that when it's all over you'll most probably be back to what you were doing before. There is always work to do. There are scholastics to do, meals to cook, lessons to learn and much more. But rather than getting bummed out by the "same ol' same ol,'" just thank Me for the time of fun and for the opportunity you had to step away from your day-to-day life and work.

Times of fun and enjoyment are a special gift from Me, and though there will always be more, it's better not to live your life for the next physical or emotional high, because eventually this will only disappoint. But if you keep your eyes on Me and hear from Me fresh every day, I can help add some variety and spice to your life. That doesn't mean you'll be jumping up and down and laughing till your stomach hurts every time you hear you're on dishes, but your life will keep changing for the better in little ways as I speak to you.

101-- **Forge Ahead Despite Your Limitations!**

My dear buddy, thanks for keeping your heart soft for Me. Thanks for trying out the new weapons, and for trying your best to practice with them. All those little efforts you make mean a lot to Me, and every time you obey the Word and take those little steps forward, I can bless you a little more.

I know it's tough. On the one hand I'm telling you to forge ahead, to learn the new weapons; I'm telling you that you're not too young to love Me with all your heart and to serve Me. Yet on the other hand, you still have limitations. You don't have the right of mobility yet, you're still living with your parents, and sometimes you just want to be free to go where I lead you and explore all the possibilities of service for Me.

Just remember what pleases Me most: sharing My love with others in whatever way you can. I want you to pray that I will guide you to places where you can serve Me as much as possible. Prayer can open doors that nothing else can open, so it's up to you to exercise that weapon too. I have opportunities, not just for you but for your parents too. Pray that they will hear My voice clearly as I show them where to go next. You're still going to be with them for a while, so pray that I will fill all your needs.

Your parents have needs too: They need to feel fulfilled in their service for Me, and they want to be used. They've served Me for a long time, and sometimes they wonder if their usefulness is running out. But it's not, and I promise that I have new places to take you all, places that will fill their needs and yet also fill your unique needs.

I don't just consider you "one of the kids," who doesn't matter much and whose needs aren't important. On the contrary, you are one of My disciples, and just as I am concerned about putting your parents in a pleasant and fruitful place where they will feel needed and fulfilled, so I am taking your needs into consideration. You're an important factor, and as you pray and strive to move forward, I can count you worthy and I can then provide more opportunities, exciting new fields, and even new ministries.

102-- **Include Me Moment by Moment**

Sometimes you wonder, "How can I have fun during sports and yet still avoid injuries?" First of all, don't worry about it. The main point is that whatever you're doing, you must include Me. Period. Otherwise, you'll run into trouble, because your own enthusiasm, your own desires and forward motion, is like a car moving along with no driver.—There's bound to be a problem and a crash.

So, what do you think the solution would be? It's pretty obvious, isn't it? You gotta bring Me along when you're having fun and when you're on get-out. You can't leave Me behind and forget about Me, otherwise you'll have to try to figure things out on your own, and decide on your own what's safe and what isn't, on a moment-by-moment basis too, because what's safe and okay one moment might not be the next. It's tricky. The problem applies to much more than just get-out and safe sports. The bottom line is, you need Me, and now you gotta include Me moment by moment in your activities. I'm your Friend. It'll be fun. Trust Me on this one.

103-- Faithful Wounds

The Bible says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend."* What? A friend would wound you? This is supposed to be good and faithful? Rather than bad and deceitful?

Yes. A true friend is someone who will hold you back when you are about to do something dangerous and harmful—even if to you it seems fun. A friend will counsel you and wake you up when you're under a cloud and not seeing things clearly.

"One can chase a thousand, but two can put ten thousand to flight."** A friend is someone who will tell you what you need to hear, what will help you and save you from yourself and a lot of trouble, even if it's a wrench for you to hear that something you were really hoping to do isn't the best. Yes, "faithful are the wounds of a friend."

*(Prov. 27:6) ** (Deut. 32:30)

104-- **Steps Toward Being a Hero**

If you've learned to put others first and sacrifice for them *now*, when the time comes and you have to make a really *big* sacrifice—like laying down your life for someone or something big like that—you'll be ready. But if you aren't taking steps towards doing that now, then when that time comes it's going to be more difficult, because you'll be tempted to react just like you did when you brushed off the little things.

Life is a steady process of building the right habits and the right reactions. These habits are built day by day, moment by moment. With each decision you make, you either strengthen your habit of doing the loving thing or you weaken it.

So next time you're faced with a decision and you don't know what to do, remember that the choices you make today are going to prepare you for bigger challenges in the future. So put others first and do the loving thing!

105-- A Knack with Computers

You're a smart guy, with a pretty bright mind. I made you that way, you know! You love delving into the world of computer programming—anything to do with computers. ...

I understand your love for learning, and I love it. But don't make the mistake of blocking Me out of your life, or of thinking that computers and I, or computer knowledge and I, don't go together. Where do you think mankind has gotten all his inventions from? Everything that Man has thought up has already been in use in Heaven for millenniums. I use computers daily in My work of governing the universe and tending to the needs of My children.

I've given you a gift. You have a knack for learning things fast when it comes to computers. I'm hoping that you'll be a wise man, and invest your gift wisely. Learn all you can, and most of all, seek Me for how you can apply the knowledge you gain. There are cool methods for disseminating My Word to the hungry masses that haven't even been thought up yet! If you're game, you can even be a part of the last electronic blitz of the Gospel that I'm planning.

Just keep learning, and stay close to Me. Keep your most powerful computer—your mind—operating in perfect synchronization with Mine. Stay tuned to My voice, and yielded to the whispers of My Spirit. Praise Me and love Me, and most of all, commit this gift to Me, and pray desperately that you will be able to use it for My glory. There're gonna be some cool opportunities to use your gifts in these last days, for the best cause in the world. So hang on!

106-- **Let Me Lift You Up**

Do you wish you were more complete as a person? Do you dream of being able to reach your full potential, without any hindrances? Guess what? I purposely made it so that Man didn't see absolute perfection when he looked in the mirror, and so that Man's wisdom and knowledge could not scale every alp of discovery. Man is always going to want to improve himself and learn more, because nobody ever attains perfection—of body or mind—in this life! I made it this way so that men would look to Me. Yet many of them haven't. Still worldly men strive to build a phony world of perfection, to blind their eyes to their sins and the ghastly price tagged on their many errors.

Nevertheless, the desire to climb ever upwards is a God-given instinct. I planted in you the desire to do more, and to be better. — Not so you could gain the worship and admiration of mankind, but so you can be a better tool in My hand, and so you can always be thinking of the weak and the helpless and the lonely, and how you can help them and show them My love.

I feel so sad when you allow your imperfections to make you depressed about yourself. Instead, I want you to turn your face up to Me. Cry out to Me and ask Me to lift you to where I want you to be. Ask Me to give you the power to become the person I destined you to be. Ask Me for the strength to stand despite the fierce tests that come your way. Ask Me to strengthen your character even when those around you are faltering and weak.

Then, as you look to Me in obedience and faith, by doing your best to live the Word, I will lift you up to where I want you to be. I will perfect your life, and it won't be because you have finally attained perfection, but because I have *always* been perfect. I will make you complete. Trust Me and you will see.

107—Circle to Include Others

You see, you don't lose any love by drawing a circle to include others. When your peers tend to just praise those who seem the most good looking or talented or popular, I want to give you a very special gift of highlighting the good qualities of less talented peers. Everybody has something to love and admire, but sometimes it's hidden and you have to dig deep to discover it.

Watch people out of the corner of your eye whenever you can, and when you catch them being smart, doing something good, or saying something you admire, be sure to tell them and others about it!

You can still have fun, laugh with the guys, and talk with your best friend, but I promise that your life will be so much happier if you accept and use this new gift to highlight others' good points. This is one way you can give back to Me, in gratitude for all that I've given to you. It's a very precious gift that you can give to others, too. So don't delay—be a vessel of My love today.

108—What You do Counts to Me

Thanks for being so reliable. I love you for it! I have special plans for you. I see those silent, unshed tears in your heart, when you see other, better looking girls, laughing and chattering away with their friends. You figure, *So what if I'm responsible, mature, reliable, and smart. None of it matters, because I'm not especially pretty!* I see how you often feel left out of the circle of young people who seem less mature, yet have more friends. It's frustrating for you, because it seems like the more you try to use the new weapons, be faithful in the tasks you're given, and sacrifice your freetime to help out with something, the less you have time to make friends.

I've given you valuable, priceless gifts. You're good at beautifying the house when things start looking drab. When the kids are bored, you always have some interesting new trick up your sleeve to entertain and teach them. Sometimes it's tough to use the gifts I've given you, because they're not showy, and they require responsibility and maturity. Therefore you think that what you do doesn't count for much in the eyes of other people.

Guess what? What you do counts to *Me*.—You're priceless to Me! If you were held hostage and an insane amount of money were required to free you, I'd bury your captors with *triple* the amount, just to make sure you were released safe and sound into My arms.

I don't care much for shallowness, frivolousness, worldliness, and immaturity. Sure, most people go through stages in their lives when they're like that, but I want you to know that it means the world to Me that you've forged ahead for the real treasures in life—My Word, My Spirit, inner beauty, and love for others. You know what that means? It means I don't have to waste time trying to get your attention, or praying that you'll learn the basics of serving Me. You've got the foundation, lady, and you're going places with Me!

109--**Make a Spirit Being's Day!**

There are so many spirit helpers, powerful beings who know your name, your age, your height, your favorite color, your biggest weakness, and what you most long for. But I know it's difficult to imagine these spirit helpers, or to talk to them, or to even remember to ask for their help, when you're not aware of their names. I want to give you their names! All you have to do is ask Me. Don't worry about your channel. If you miss a vowel in their names, they're not going to pout about it. Go even further, and ask Me what they look like, whether or not they are former earthlings, and what their personalities are like!

My spirit beings are cool beyond words, and they're available for you! You don't have to be a certain age, or possess a high IQ—all you need is that spark of faith that compels you to ask Me for one. You can either ask Me to tell you about one you already have, or you can be specific about the type of spirit helper that you want. You want it? I've got it! I have millions of powerful, wonderful spirit beings, just dying to help My children on Earth. Make a spirit being's day today, by asking for one of them!

Stay tuned to the spirit realm, and I promise you that sooner or later you'll come away with a spirit buddy or an invisible coworker who will turn your life right-side in, remind you what you're living for, and help you fight and win!

110-- Personality CLASH!

What do you do when you just can't seem to see eye to eye with someone who is older than you? You know that I want both generations to live and work together in unity, but it can be tough to figure out how to get along with a difficult or trying personality in your Home. It can be even tougher when, instead of trying to make things easier for you, it looks like that person is piling extra burdens on your shoulders.

The frustrations can overwhelm you at times, but instead of weeping in your closet or punching the air, bring your frustrations to Me so that I can soothe them away with practical solutions. Here are a few special insights for right now:

Inside every person's heart is a gem, the gem of the beautiful soul that I gave him or her. It can be hard to see the gem in some people. Others may find it hard to see the gem in your heart at times too! There are lots of things that can block each other's view. But when you're faced with a tough character, someone you just can't seem to get along with, remember that I can help you love *every* person in *some* way.

When you just aren't "flowing" with someone, come to Me for instructions. I'll show you what you've got to do to bring peace to your life. My instruction to you can work miracles in the most impossible-looking situations.

You don't have to feel alone in a sea of frustration and inner dissatisfaction. I know what you need in order to work well with each one in your Home. I can whisper these secrets to you. I have what you need in My hand now. Will you come and get it? Lend Me your ear, and the secrets will be yours.

111-- Wanna Work at a Computer?

I know about your gifts and talents. I know what you enjoy and what you want most. I know because I made you that way, and I have a plan for using your specific talents in the future. I've made you smart, and given you the potential to be computer savvy. Even though you have a lot to learn, you have great potential! I have plans for using your gifts—the ones you know you have, and even some you don't yet know you have—and one day, when I know the time is right, I'm going to open a door that you can walk through and find your dreams have come true—at least ministry-wise. I've given you other gifts too, like being good with kids and able to cook and clean, and help organize and manage things around the house. I know those aren't your favorite things to do.—In fact, sometimes they're downright frustrating and even a real drag. It's not that you dislike the work itself so much, and you do love your little brothers and sisters and the other kids around. It's just that you wish you could be exploring your potential in other areas. One day you will be doing just that. For now, you're right where I most need you to be. It's not only for My sake, or your mom and dad's sake, or your little brothers' and sisters' sake, that I'm asking you to put your big plans on hold for now—though as you know, they really do need you and couldn't manage without you. It's also for your sake, believe it or not, and it's going to make you a better secretary or office person.

There's a lot more to the job than brains and efficiency. It's a job for a person with a heart, a person with people skills. Have any idea where one of the best places to develop people-handling skills is? Yep, with those little tykes who try your patience to the very limit.

I'm helping you be a well-rounded person. There's more to a person than his or her work and ministry, or gifts and talents. A well-rounded person is one who's been through a few ups and downs, and has had to jump through a few of life's difficult hoops. One of those hoops is taking a situation you don't particularly care for, and putting all you've got into it for the sake of others. Some of the qualities I'm instilling in you now are faithfulness and initiative, a spirit of fight and faith, and a vision to make something out of nothing. Those are not only top-notch secretarial traits, but qualities that will help you to face all the things that are up ahead in your life, and to come through standing strong.

112-- How Not to Die in Deep Space

It's easy to wonder how you can possibly survive spiritually on this earth without being overwhelmed by the spirit of the world.— After all, the world is all around you, so isn't it just a matter of time before you weaken and become just another worldling?

Picture yourself as an astronaut, on a mission in deep space. You have your space shuttle, which is filled with oxygen, but your mission is fraught with danger.—Occupational hazards abound. There's only one space shuttle, but there are millions of miles of space all around you. When you have to go outside of your shuttle, in your space suit, it might seem like the odds of being swallowed up by that endless blackness are pretty great.

But guess what? You won't be swallowed up as long as you have that connection to your space shuttle, that cord that keeps you from floating away. That cord is your commitment to stay attached to My Word.

Then there's your astronaut suit—your protection against being suffocated. If you open your suit even one millimeter, that life-giving oxygen is going to start slowly seeping out. It's like your fellowship with the world—you can't let the world into your heart, your mind and your spirit. You can be in space, but when space starts to get into *you*, you're on the road to being done for.

You can be in the world, but when you let the world get into you—by collecting the books and the knowledge of the world, the icons of the world, and the ideals of the world conveyed through their magazines—it's the beginning of the end, and you're in danger of being another statistic in the "succumbed to occupational hazards" category.

So don't worry when your mission takes you into deep space—just don't let deep space get into you!

113-- The Washing Machine

Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial you are passing through; it is only the cleansing and purifying process that I put all My saints through. There are no exceptions—no one escapes! Everyone must go through the "washing machine," just like all your clothes have to be washed.

If you want to continue wearing things, especially your favorite articles of clothing, then you wash them faithfully. The more you wear a certain piece of clothing, the more often it gets dirty and the more frequently it has to be washed.

Have you ever looked in the washing machine when your clothes are being washed? What do you see? The machine jerks one direction and then the other, swishing the clothes one direction, then the other. But it's that very jerking back and forth that gets the clothes clean. Then the rinse, then the spin—around and around and around at high speed—till the clothes are flattened and smashed against the sides of the washer.

If your clothes are particularly dirty, you might even put them on a long cycle, running through the whole process a couple of times—jerk, swash, jerk, rinse, spin, jerk, swash, rinse, spin, tumble, spin. It certainly is an ordeal for the clothes and a real purging of the dirt. You may even sometimes add bleach to your laundry to get out stains and to make your whites extra white.

So think it not strange if you feel like you're tumbled about and being swished and swashed, going head over heels, being rinsed and spun and even flattened. You may even feel like you're going to drown and that the process has no end. If so, just know that you're one of My favorite pieces of clothing and I want to make you nice and clean and wearable. I'm adding some extra softener too—the kind that smells really nice, just like springtime—and though you might come out a little extra worn from the washing, you'll be soft and so nice to touch, and I will enjoy feeling you and wearing you and keeping you as one of My favorite garments.

I love you. Please know that no "washing" for the present seems joyous, but grievous, nevertheless after the washing you are nice and white and beautiful to wear!

114-- Freedom!

Where My Spirit is there is liberty—the freedom to love and live life to the full. There is another kind of liberty too, but that one is a *false* liberty that actually leads to bondage. It is the so-called freedom of the world that the Devil uses to entice people to taste of forbidden fruits. Then he locks them into the bondage of addiction to them. Beyond that first free choice that people make to do these things, there is no more freedom, because they become addicted to these things.

The liberty of My Spirit is a liberty that includes boundaries—boundaries that keep you free! They are not, as the Devil likes to paint them, "suffocating restrictions," but they are railings to keep you from falling over the edge of the cliff, or from getting sucked into the quicksand.

The Devil will try to bring you into bondage through offering you supposed freedom to partake of forbidden fruit. But think about this: What forbidden fruit is there that does not lead you into a bondage through an addiction for it? Look at those who say they want you to "be free" and see what freedom they have. The freedom that they offer you is nothing but a bondage to the world and the things of the world.

Be truly free with Me!

115-- That First Step!

Change isn't easy. It often comes at a time when you're so comfortable with the way you do things. I often bring changes to challenge you or to redirect you into a new way of doing things that will make your life easier in the end.

But that first step is always difficult isn't it? You're faced with making a decision:

1. *Do I choose to throw myself wholeheartedly into this new move?*
2. *Do I choose to just dip my toe in and not really go with it? Or, 3. Do I choose to resist this change because it seems like too much work?*

Those are choices everyone is faced with when a new idea is presented or when I bring a change into his or her life.

Here's a bit of advice: It's not the way you feel about it at *first* that counts, it's what you decide to *do* that matters most.

The choice that will make you the most happy is the first-place prize of wholeheartedly jumping in. Then, if it doesn't work out, at least you can look back and say you gave it your very best shot. You can look back with satisfaction, instead of remorse or sadness that you didn't do your best.

The priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant across the River Jordan were faced with taking that first step. They didn't know for sure that the waters were going to part in front of them, but they stepped into that water by faith. Even if it meant they were going to have to swim across with that heavy ark on their backs, they were going to do it because I told them to.

What happened? Did they stop and wait for Me to part the waters before they got down there? No! They walked right into the water, and the instant their feet touched the water it dried up, and they had a clear path to walk on.

When you take that first step you'll find that I do the miracle, but that decision is yours. Only *you* can decide to step into the water. But you'll never find out if I'm able to do it unless you take that first step. Go for it!

116-- The Embrace of Happiness.

Can you hear the soft cries and longings of the many lost hearts around you? They need someone who will give his life to help them. They have nothing. They are poor in body and in spirit, famished for the food of the Spirit that I have poured out to you in abundance. Won't you go and feed it to them, and save their hungry souls? I will be there to put within your heart a joy and a love for your labors. If only once in your life you are life and joy to someone, it's worth it.

I've watched you as a little tot, growing into a man. The days of youth are coming to a close, and the days of manhood are upon you. Take up the torch, the challenge, and don the garments of love, of unselfishness, of extending your hand to help those in need. Then you will be so surprised. How glad your heart will be, for happiness will then come to find you, and embrace you. Then you will know the true joy of serving Me to the full. No earthly happiness can ever take the place of that joy. Like that little song that you've sung since you were a boy, "The time to be happy is now, the place to be happy is here, and the way to be happy is to make others happy, and you'll have a little Heaven right here."

I've made you just the way I wanted you, and I made you that way for others. Reach out and put a little love in others' hearts today, and they will know that God has loved them that day—because you loved them. You can make that difference. Won't you give it a try? Anything can happen in that little margin of time when you do not give up, but keep on trusting and keep on giving.

117-- The Grooviest Place to Be

Come unto Me, all you who are weary, discouraged, unfulfilled or unchallenged, or in need of vision. Excitement, feelings of usefulness and happiness in Me--these things come from My hand. You can travel far and wide and search high and low, but the only place you will find real meaning and your personal purpose in life--the purpose which I've made you for--is by coming to Me and getting your joy from Me.

The coolest, grooviest place of service is in the center of My will. My will plus your whole heart equals the key to happiness. And boy, will you be happy once you're in the center of My will, wherever it may be!

Put your hand into My hand and I will be more to you than a lamp and better than a known way. I have made you and called you by your name.--You are Mine. I have a purpose for each life that I create, and you are no exception. You have a purpose, too, and you must seek Me to reveal that purpose to you. When you find that purpose, you will have found the joy of surrender, the joy of seeking Me to the full.

118-- **Your Two Companions**

By Mercy and Truth I am bringing you along. These are your two companions. They are walking by your side faithfully, day in and day out.

Mercy takes all the things that go wrong, all the mistakes, all the misses, all the failures and everything you wished would be different. She never lets you carry them very long. She takes them and replaces them with lessons learned, growth, and humility.

Truth is the Word that you know--the Scriptures, Letters, and input that you have been given. He is your guide, showing you where to turn and what to do. Truth can sometimes be quite direct, quite honest and blunt and not always so easy to get along with, but in your heart you know that he really knows the way. He has gone down the road before and will never let you down.

So trust in Me with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding, and I will direct your path. I love you and need you and desire you close by Me. I know your heart, that you are wondering, wandering, looking, and searching for your place--the plan, the path and the direction you should be going. But fear not, I will bring your dreams to pass. I will give you the desires of your heart, as you delight yourself in Me.

119-- The Key to Happiness

When you were a child you thought as a child, you understood as a child. A child needs to see things, feel things, and have tangible proof. But now that you are becoming a man you are learning that the key to happiness is not "where" or "who," or the situation or circumstances. The key is your closeness to Me, your connection to My Word. This is where your strength will come from. This is where you will find true happiness and the fulfillment you desire.

So let Me make you and mold you and use you--as I want, where I want, and when I want--and you will see that I will not fail in all My promises to you. You will find all that you seek. It will fall on you, overflow, and be streams that never run dry. Just as My Word has said, give and it shall be given unto you, pressed down, shaken together and running over (Luke 6:38).

120-- **Holey Pockets!**

When you feel selfish or are unwilling to give, or want to hoard your time and energies, you're putting what you think are treasures--your free time and the activities you love so much--into your own pockets. When you give to others and sacrifice, then you're putting those treasures into My big bag of treasures that has your name written on it.

The thing most people overlook is that their pockets are full of holes, and only the treasures you store in My bag have lasting value. Those are the only deeds you get credit for. So there's really no point in trying to tuck treasures away for yourself, because the fact is that most of your life is going to be spent in Heaven, not on Earth. If you think about that, you'll realize that the fun, happiness, and sense of satisfaction that you'll have in Heaven is a lot more important than the fleeting joys you'll have on Earth.

Giving to others and sacrificing of yourself does not mean that you'll lose out on the fun on Earth either! No way! I'll make it up to you for sure. So you won't miss out down there *or* up Here. You've got a sure win and can count on the prize to life's game of giving, if you'll do just that--give!

121-- When a Minute Takes a Lifetime

I see you there, feeling puny, like you just haven't got an ounce of gumption to keep at it. But look over there, look around you, look all around--from every angle, even upside down--there are angels, spirit beings, a host of helpers, just awaiting your call. Not only that, but they are working like mad to bring you through even this one minute that you feel is taking longer than a lifetime.

They've got oodles of skills, plenty of power, tons of life, robust energy, and full, concentrated focus on YOU! Tap in, buddy; they are there for one main purpose, and that is to help you out. Do you believe it?

And I've got news for you! You may have a hard time visualizing it, but get this: All around you right now I have placed My Own personal shield of faith, to ward off these blows your heart is being hit with. I sent you a special aura, a special forcefield that not only surrounds *you*, but also surrounds the fighting warriors there with you.

You are walled in by a great shield of defense. I've got you safe and sound. You are not alone--ever. Fight on, and you'll feel My powerful warriors, the angelic beings fighting right along with you. You make Satan tremble! Keep at it!--We're with you all the way!

122-- **Confusion Demolition Man**

Confusion is like a wall. It starts off with a few bricks stacked only so high, but as the questions flood your mind, the bricks slowly add up. You only add more bricks to the wall by analyzing your many questions and trying to solve them on your own.

What you need, to rid yourself of this wall of confusion, is to dial Me up with a prayer and say, "Jesus, please clear this confusion from my mind. Can You tear down this wall that's blocking out the sun?"

When I hear that, I respond quickly and efficiently. I swing My demolition ball at that wall and send the confusion bricks hurtling through the air, far from you. As the first swing of the wrecking ball hits the wall, the sunlight comes streaming in and you start seeing past the confusion and the confines of the wall that boxed you in.

You can give Me a call any time you need a wall of confusion brought to the ground. I'm your Confusion Demolition Man, and I'm on 24-hour duty.

123-- Millions of Questions

Sometimes you feel like one big question mark. You have questions about everything. *What is life all for, anyway? Why suffer? Why live? Why love? Why witness? Why marry? Why have children? Why, why, why?* The questions are endless, like the sands of the sea, running in a steady stream through your head. Frustration and anger can come into the big question mark that is your life, when there seem to be so few answers from those around you.

But guess what I am? I'm the period--and sometimes the exclamation mark! I can match every question mark you have with either a period or an "exclam." Sometimes you can be tempted to think that there are no other punctuation marks in the world--just millions of question marks, like the air molecules you breathe. But if you'll just slip into My dimension, you'll see other things floating around in the air--all My periods and exclams, to put your question marks to rest.

Of course, you know by now that I don't *immediately* put an end to all your question marks. It's *good* for you not to know the answers to everything right now.--If you thought you knew everything, you'd be much the same as a lightbearer I once had named Lucifer, or you'd be like the man everyone called the wisest on Earth at one point--Solomon. Both of them began to turn away from Me the minute they thought they knew all the answers.

I answer some questions, and others I don't answer--yet. But I promise you, I'm saving up your questions, and one day we're going to sit down together. We're going to have a good, long chat, and I'm going to pull out your question marks from the past. Then I'm going to match each of them up with one of My periods or exclams--the perfect answer for each question. I'll even take you certain places in Heaven that specialize in providing answers. They're answers I've had all along. So just trust Me on this one. If you've got a question, I have the answer.

124-- Like the quote says, "Defeat is giving up; victory is holding on." So to win the victory, just keep holding on. Holding on to what?--To My Word, to My love, and to My promise that you can *never* be too bad for Me. Hold on to your crown too, because I've given it to you. It's yours, and no matter what the Enemy tells you about not deserving it, I've given it to you because I want you to wear it.

And if the Enemy comes in again with his lies and discouragement and thoughts that are contrary to what I've been telling you in My Word, then call out to Me. I'll send an angel to lambast those thoughts and give that Devil such a beating that it'll be a good while before he tries to come back and tempt you with those negative thoughts again.

Together we can make it, you and I. Don't let that punk tell you anything different. You're doing a great work. Don't stop now, okay? I need you. And remember: You can do anything but quit!

125-- Collision Course!

The night is dark and completely quiet. Everything is still. You're hurtling through empty space--a planet without a course--traveling so fast that you know it's only a matter of time before you collide with something bigger. There are stars twinkling in the sky, but they have no words for you.--They're millions of miles away. The only company you have is the yawning blackness around you--dense, silent, and unfeeling.

Once upon a time you thought you were on a safe orbit--surrounded by fellow planets, charting a course, and supported by the pull of gravity. Your world was safe; your routine was sure. But now everything is out of control. There's too much fear and confusion for tears.--No one would see them anyway.

Have you ever felt like this? Maybe you feel like a planet hurtling out of control this very minute. Everything on the outside of you looks normal and fine, but inside your mind and your spirit you feel like you're going a million miles an hour, about to crash and explode any minute.

Help is on the way. See those lights in the distance? Maybe you thought they were stars, until you notice they have a specific formation. It looks like a glowing planet until you realize, as it gets closer, that it's an orb made up of white beings of light. The orb is headed straight for you, and you brace for impact. But no, you open your eyes and find the orb *surrounding* you. These beings are protecting you. They are sent by Me to make sure you don't crash, to help you gradually reduce your speed, and to guide you back to the orbit I've set for you.

On your way back you do collide with an asteroid that jumps into your path out of nowhere. There is a great explosion and a fireball, and pieces of rock fly everywhere--but they're not from your planet. It was the asteroid that exploded, as soon as it hit your protective orb of beings.

Remember, little planet, I'm always looking out for you. My protective orb is just a prayer away.

126-- **Hold Out for the Real Thing!**

Pounding, whispering, flowing, or searing into your ears and across the landscape of your mind--there's nothing like music to transport your body to another realm.

There's no greater transporter to surround your spirit and bring you into My realm--the true realm, the realm where the impossible becomes possible, where gravity vanishes, where lights play across the landscape in magical abandon, and where your dreams come true. When you're grooving to music that has been infused with My Spirit, your own spirit is set free to rise above the confines of your flesh and to touch the Holy Spirit, Who is wild and free in every sense.

I am the Lord of the dance, so come and dance with Me. Cut loose from the dark transporter, the one that takes you into the dank swamp of the Enemy's depression, selfishness, self-centeredness and pride, and come on a ride with Me to a place where you can do anything, be anyone, go anywhere, and enjoy music to the full.

I am the Creator of every great sound that exists.--I've patented them all! So don't fall for the imposter's lie that his pirated, polluted versions are the real thing, or the best thing around. Don't pay his price--your freedom in spirit for his sounds. Hold out for the real thing.--It's only going to get better!

127-- **The Ultimate Thirst-Quencher**

To those of you, My children, who are struggling and trying to make progress, My Words are as living waters of life. When you're desperately thirsty, you don't think about how you've drunk water so many times before and are bored of it. You just think about how much you cherish that glass of cool, sweet, refreshing water. That water gives you life. You would die without it, and so you cherish it, drink up every last drop, and yearn for more.

I am a tall, chilled glass of water, sitting on a lone table in the middle of the vast desert. I'm magical.--I don't evaporate, despite the searing heat that feels as though it's going to evaporate your very body. Drink Me in deeply. Let the droplets of life trickle on your tongue and then rush down your throat and soak into your body, filling every dry limb with renewed life.

You empty the glass in a gulp and put it back on the table, but take another look. See the glass? It's already full again. You can never empty Me. No matter how much you drink, I always have more for you. I never deprive you of the life found in My Words. It's always waiting there for you.

Sometimes you might be tempted to wander off, to chase some mirage. But when your lips are dry and chapped, and you've lost every drop of sweat there is to lose, think of Me--the glass of the water of life. I'll always be there, waiting for you.

The water might seem plain after you've put the glass to your lips a hundred times, but the fact is, you would die without it. So drink Me in and don't ever stop! Let Me fill every part of you.

128-- **Shondo!**

Two men look out from prison bars--one sees the mud, the other sees the stars.

You're feeling frustrated, so you whisper a four-letter-word under your breath. You've seen people in movies who use that word when they're frustrated with something. There are also other expletives* that in System lingo convey anger, disgust, and frustration. (*Expletive: an exclamation or oath, especially one that is profane, vulgar, or obscene.)

You might even wonder why as Christians you *shouldn't* use that kind of language--after all, it's not like you're taking in harmful substances, and you're not damning anyone to *Hell* with those words. You know that I love you, and that *you're* not going to go to Hell for using those words either. "So what's the big deal?" you say.

I'll tell you, then. You're confined to your physical body, and compared to My spirit world of freedom and love, the earth is a bit like a prison! You're "stuck" there in a sense, till it's your time to get out. There are all sorts of people on Earth, and they're all confined to their bodies as well. But even though the earth is far less than perfect, even though you have problems and frictions with others, and you experience aches and pains and limitations in your physical bodies, you have a choice to make. You have a choice to see the *mud* in life, or to look up and see My *stars*.

I've shown you so *many* stars!--There are so many far-out things in My Word to help you to look forward to Heaven, to know how to be happy in this life through loving and living for others, and even to know how to share that hope of Heaven with other people. But if you act like all you're seeing is *mud*--by using System swear words in your conversation--then the worldlings you witness to might have a hard time believing that you're any different from them.

After all, they might think, If Heaven is so wonderful and the King of Heaven can bring peace and happiness into people's lives even now, on Earth, how come you're talking just like we do? They're going to wonder why you're letting all those muddy words--words that convey anger, dissatisfaction, and disgust--come out of your mouth, if you have a different view of life than they do.

Do you get it now, why it's so important to keep your conversation pure? Also, using those words regularly leaves you very little room for praising Me in trying times. You can't be thinking or saying "[Expletive,] what a bummer that didn't work out!" at the same time as you're saying, "Oh well, praise the Lord, You know best, Jesus! We know that even though this fun idea didn't work out like we hoped, that You're in total control and are looking out for us!" I'll give you one guess which of those two attitudes makes Me happy and brings down My blessings.

Words are real things--they not only lift others up or knock them down, but they lift *you* up or knock *you* down too! So stop knocking yourself, and pray desperately to be delivered from this habit.

Ask your friends to safeguard you when you use muddy words. Ask Me for specific words you can say when you're tempted to go back to your old habit. Sound surprising? I have alternatives!-- Things that you can utter when things go wrong, to show others that you're still trusting Me. Why not start with "shondo" when you're tempted to say that other four-letter word beginning with "sh"?

129-- **Perfectly Balanced**

It's easy to compare with other people who seem to be living on a constant high, people for whom it seems like everything goes right. Of course, you're thankful for the good things I've done for you, for the blessings I've given you, but you can't help but notice that other people seem to have it so much easier.

Shall I let you in on a little secret? The key word there is *seem*. Things are nearly *always* different than they seem, and some people who seem to be living a perfect life have been through some pretty low times too, or maybe they're even going through a low time right then. Maybe for them it's not the circumstances around them that are so tough, but it's deep in their heart and they're fighting personal battles. Maybe they're even looking at you and thinking, *She has it so good*, but they don't know that you're weeping on your pillow every night.

I don't do anything that's unjust or unkind. Everybody's life is balanced--the happy and the sad, the good and the bad. Having said that, I'm not saying to just accept that you're having a difficult time and that there's nothing you can do but try to survive it. I am offering to give you peace and clarity and happiness.

130—Caterpillar?

Mind if I interrupt those thoughts for a moment? I have a question for you. Who do you think that is, telling you you're a worm? No, forget the caterpillar for a moment.—He's just a product of your imagination, and a make-believe character that I'm using to illustrate this important point for you. Where do you think that voice is coming from—the voice that's making you feel worthless, awful, unimportant, ordinary, and useless? Well, in case you're not yet wide awake this morning, I'll tell you. It's the Devil!

But, look at me, you think to yourself, I mean, it does seem like I'm just a nobody.

Now I'm talking as a friend—your *best* friend! I just have to expose that caterpillar-of-a-Devil. If you *really* were a nobody, what makes you think the Devil would waste his time telling you, all day long, how worthless you are? After all, he says you're a worm, right? If he's correct, you must be completely defenseless and no threat whatsoever to his dark kingdom.

You see, he's just shot himself in the foot—exposed himself. The reason he's paying so much attention to you, expending so much energy (and you can be sure he doesn't expend his energy for *anything* unless he thinks it might gain an advantage for his dark kingdom) is precisely because you are *not* a worm! If you were a harmless, useless, plain little nobody worm, he'd *ignore* you!

No, he sees that you are a warrior in the making, and he is *freaking out* inside! All his little imps are squeaking out questions:

"What are we gonna do? Look at his strength, and he's growing stronger every day. Boss, what do we *do*?!" They fearfully chatter until the Devil can't *stand* it any more, and he decides that this is a job that he himself has to do. He tries to saunter over, in his caterpillar disguise, looking as unconcerned as possible. But if caterpillars could sweat, you'd see that he was sweating *buckets*.

Have you got that, My warrior? The only way the Devil can defeat you is by making you believe in your mind that you're a worm—already defeated, already useless. So don't fall for that big fat caterpillar's corny little verbal attack! Pull out the Word that you had all along. He's defeated and you've won again!

131--Start a "Seeking the Good" Notebook

It's easy to criticize people in your mind when you think they're a little strange, or you don't understand them, or they don't act the way you do. But then, because your thoughts are the parents of your words, in an unguarded moment you can slip and say something not so nice to someone.

I know it can be tough to break the cycle once you've started it. Once in awhile you realize, "Hey, why is it that I don't like that person? He's not *that* bad!" But see, what you need to realize is that the Enemy caught you in an unguarded moment in the beginning, with your critical thoughts.

Want to know how to start thinking nice thoughts about that person again? Okay, I'll give you a few ideas. First of all, remember that this person is one of My children, and I see the secret tears he cries, his loneliness, and his desire to be accepted. He deserves to be accepted and loved by others just as much as you do.

For starters, I want you to keep a little log of that person. Start by making a list.—Whenever you catch him doing something good, saying something nice, or helping someone else, write it down in that notebook. Whenever you see him display good character, honesty, tenderness with children, or sympathy for those who are weak, make a note of that in your little book. You can call it your "seeking the good" notebook and you can keep a list on anybody you have had a hard time appreciating or liking. I promise you, this'll work wonders!

132-- New Concepts of Fun

I know that one of your frustrations is that you sometimes feel there aren't enough fun things to do around where you live, or you're not able to hang out as much as you'd like. And sometimes you don't know what to do with yourself—where to go or what to do to really have a rocking time.

That'll never be a problem in Heaven. You'll always have a long list of cool places to check out for the first time, and tons of great friends to hang out with. And even though there is lots of work and exploration to be done up Here, there's still a lot of time for fun and relaxation, too. That's one of the perks of there being "no time." So you've got a lot to look forward to. In fact, it's going to be ideal for you.

Right now you have certain things stuck in your mind as being "fun," but I'm going to overload your brain with new concepts of fun when you get up Here. There are tons of cool things that will make you speechless.

For example, there's that common verse: "I am the light of the world." Simple enough. But wait till you see My demonstration of it! When you get up Here, I will show you what light is all about—what it means, what it does, how it works—and all within My Own Body. That's right, the light is within Me and does things you'll never be able to imagine. I'll leave that to linger in your mind for a bit.

There are other very simple verses or truths that you think you understand now, but really you're just scratching the surface of them. There are deeper understandings to a lot of things, and you'll find out and learn about them once you get to Heaven.

133-- I Rule!

Where is God's power today? some people wonder. My power cannot be found in shopping malls filled with icons to the god Mammon. It cannot be found on man-made roads where man-made vehicles create noise, traffic jams, and pollution. My power cannot be found in most of television, which is full of mental trash designed to desensitize people to the godless path the world is heading down. My power cannot be found in the lives of the rich and famous, who parade themselves as little gods before the world. It cannot be found in the big industries of movies, music, fashion, or politics.

So where am I? Have I been muscled under? Has Satan won in the arm wrestle we're holding on the table of the world? It seems so, doesn't it? I have even allowed him to think he is winning, as he seemingly inches My arm down toward the table, gaining power and control over all that man is and does. You who are betting on Me can have your moments of doubt, wondering if you should just succumb to his worldly ways—as appealing and overwhelmingly present as they are right now.

Do you want to know how My power is physically manifested in the world? I'll tell you then. Go outside into your yard, or into a field, or onto a beach as a storm is approaching. Feel that wind blowing against your face and body? That's My power. When I show My face in the wind through a real storm, there is nothing man can do except batten down his home and business, and sit tight and wait out the storm.

Have you ever gone to a rocky beach and seen the waves pounding the jagged shore?—The spray splashes up sometimes ten or twenty feet.—That's My power. Ever seen a man surf on a large wave? His skill may be impressive, but just think who is behind that wave. That is My power being manifested yet again. Man loves to try to play with the manifestations of My power, and part of the reason is the danger factor.—The waves cannot be controlled, only ridden.

Have you ever watched a magnificent sunburst after a storm, as the sun shows its glory through the dark clouds? That is My power, once again. Man thinks he is so self-sufficient without Me, but just imagine for a moment what would happen if I removed the manifestations of My power. Imagine that I removed, just for a moment, the air, the sun, the water, the land, and everything that man depends on for life. There would be no question about who was in control, who ruled.

I rule! I am God!

That's not even to mention the way that My power is manifested in My children. You who worship Me, you who praise Me, you who pray to Me and put your trust in My manifold power, are living proofs of it! You are lights shining in the gross darkness that is falling upon the earth. As the days darken, so will your lights grow brighter, until you will be as conduits of My earthshaking power. I will perform miracles through you. I, creator of storms and of waves, ruler of the might of the ocean and the depth of the desert sands, will take you and will use you to demonstrate My Godhead.

See, man has grown numb to the power in My natural creation. He fights to control it, to prevent it, to overcome it, and pretty soon he forgets that it is I Who am behind it. So it is that the time will come when I will show new manifestations of My power—through you, My own precious children who have accepted to be known as My brides. Men will gasp at My power then, as though they had never seen it before, but this is just because they have closed their eyes and their ears to the reality of My creation that they see around them every day.

My power is present! My power is real! And more power is coming!

134-- History Lesson Number One

You woke up this morning, looked in the mirror and saw a “non-person.” Anxiously you scurried about, throwing on this article of clothing, attaching that gizmo to your clothes, snapping on that other bit of paraphernalia. Then you ran back to the mirror and sighed deeply. Ah, there’s the person I am! you thought happily.

Pause! Halt! Stop! Brake!

Who was it that lied to you that you’re a non-person without all those worldly trappings—those electronic gizmos, that makeup, that hair-do, those fancy shoes and designer-label clothes? When did you swallow that fib? Who told you that you were naked without all those outer worldly cover-ups?

Recall History Lesson Number One for the answer.—It was the snake himself, the same one who told Eve that she was “nobody” until she clothed herself in worldly knowledge.

Don’t listen to that old snake! Do you think that when you were born, you were a non-person, just because you weren’t wearing Nike tennis shoes when you came out of your momma’s belly? Do you think that just because you didn’t have double-pierced ears when you opened your eyes for the first time, that made you a nobody?

Of course not! You were—and ARE—a very unique, incredibly precious, indescribably wonderful creation, formed by My Own hands! I didn’t leave your creation to an underling. I did it Myself—painstakingly, and with all the pride I’ve ever felt about any of My creations.

Nobody can ever take away the wonderful creation that you are! Sometimes, though, you can cover up who you are by smearing yourself in a worldly mask, until nobody can see the real you—the one I created, the one I placed My Spirit within, the one who is free from the limitations of the world.

Let go of those worldly trappings and truly be yourself! You can be original—just as I created you—by burning those idols to the snake’s concept of self-image. Burn that image and glorify Me by being yourself. I love you as you are, and I love you as you look!

135-- **Feel Like a Stagnant Pond?**

Are you feeling out of sync with Me and with others? Nothing in particular is wrong, but there's something there that you can't quite put your finger on. It makes you snap at people for no reason, over nothing. It makes you scowl on a perfectly beautiful day. You think critical thoughts about the wonderful people around you, without wanting to.

I'll tell you what it is, then. When your spiritual water begins to get a little stagnant, when funny bits of algae start growing and bugs start breeding, it's a sign that My spiritual stream has stopped flowing into your little pool. Look around, see that? The cute little waterfall that only a short while ago fed your pond, keeping it fresh and clean and sparkling with beauty, is no longer there!

Don't worry, there's a simple solution. Just go and suck for those fresh waters of My Word again, and soon you will see the algae and the bugs of negativity disappear. In their place will grow the water lilies of praise and love for Me again.

The waterfall can stop flowing at any time, and you have to watch out for that. As soon as you see bugs and algae, it's a sure sign you need My fresh waters again. The good news is that it's very easy to begin receiving My refreshing waterfall again. All you have to do is open your mouth and receive it!

Thank you, My lovely little pool, for realizing that you need Me. I promise My fresh waters will never stop flowing into you, as long as you want them.

135-- **Dance Your Life Away**

My dancing fairy angel, you're beautiful to Me. How I love the way you move to glorify My name. How I wish I could move, in physical form, alongside you. I will one day, and it will be the thrill of your life—only the beginning of the thrills that I have for you. The joys I have in store are more than can be numbered or explained now. You'll be overwhelmed with happiness when you feel My love in person and see all that I have for you.

Dance throughout your days on Earth—in song, in praise, in prayer, in hard, earnest work, in sweet rest in My arms. You'll dance your way right up to the heavenlies, and the angels will play our very special song, the one that was written for you alone. They'll play it out more beautifully than ever, and our dance of reuniting will begin. It will be the most beautiful occasion ever experienced by the two of us at that point, though our love and fun times and joys in My Heavenly realm will only get better as we go along.

Dance into My arms, and let Me dance with you in spirit till we are joined fully once again. Hold on to Me and let Me lead you in the steps you are to take, as you journey now. It won't always be a tedious or difficult path, for when you are dancing your life away, held firmly in My arms, the beauties you know will lift you above the toils and strains that seek to get you down. Dancing with Me as you go throughout your life will set you ablaze. Our love will yet grow in fervor and splendor and know new heights and depths.

136-- **Mystery in My Treasure Chest**

One perfect day, I walked over to My treasure chest of sparkles. I looked in to behold the beauty of the splendors which I had created. I saw the world, perfect and pure, just as I had created it. I saw Adam and Eve frolicking about, just as I had intended for them to do. I saw the animals bounding about the lush gardens of the green land before My eyes.

Then the scene changed. I saw the inner heart of My City of Love. I saw the cherubim that lined the walkways, and the crystal roses which softly swayed amidst the greenery, dazzling even the angels with their incandescent brilliance. I saw the twinkling river, and the magical fruits, which were mirrored in its gentle ripples. I saw the happiness of the blessed caretakers and keepers of My City of Love, and I delighted in their laughter and smiles, and the radiance which they had absorbed from being in My presence.

Then My gaze shifted to My majestic army. This magnificent sight would astound any invading force. The loyalty and dedication of these, My fearless and impenetrable fighters, was clear. My royal guard and chief commanders stood at an attentive salute, while declaring their undying devotion and allegiance to My command.

Then appeared before My eyes the vast array of souls which My very Own hands had fashioned one at a time. The souls shone out a thankfulness heretofore unequalled. I paused to rest in the contentment of their tender love. They made Me smile.

Yet something was missing. There was a little void in My heart, a small longing, a desire. Then I looked harder into My treasure chest of sparkles, and I began to see the image forming—from My Own mind, from My Own heart.

I set to work immediately, fashioning so tenderly a lovely one, who was to stay close to My heart and My side, waiting for the very moment of destiny. When this destiny would be, I had not yet decided, but it would surely come at the most needy moment. The world would smile, and hearts would be gladdened by this, My perfect and lovely creation.

Shall I tell you the mystery of the image that formed before My eyes? ... That was the day that I created you.

137-- Divine Doodling

"But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not" (Jn.8:6).

Sometimes it's just not worth it, you know? Sometimes it's just better to ignore it. I did.—I knew when it was pointless to argue, to quarrel, and to get upset, so I just turned My back and wrote on the ground. You should have seen how angry that made them. Here they were, the rulers of the synagogue, thinking they really had Me this time. But there I was, "just a carpenter from Galilee," ignoring the proud Pharisees.

It'll happen to you too sometime if it hasn't already. When you're on outreach, or just out and around, someone sometime will undoubtedly hassle you, trying to get you into something, trying to get you upset, to get you to make a move either in actions or words, but you know what? You don't have to. Just look past him or her, or look up, smile, and wait.

Wait for what? Wait for the answer. Oh yes, there was a reason I was down there. I wasn't *just* doodling. Well, I was putting them in their place, but at the same time I was waiting. I was shooting up a prayer for help, for wisdom, and for just the right words. And then the words came, and that was when I stood up and said what I said, and it made history.

That's all you have to do. Just ignore, wait, and then answer when I show you what to say, and you too can make history. Of Myself I had nothing to say. I didn't know what the proper answer was, and if I had been too hasty, what I would have said—although perhaps it would have been somewhat wise—would not have had the impact to make My statement last throughout the ages, the way it has.

So don't let people rush you or push you around. Just stop, wait, and then when I give you the words to say, turn around and let 'em have it—in My Spirit, in My time, and in My way.

138-- **Waking Up from the Dream**

My lovely one, I love it when you take a few moments to worship Me. When you stop to focus on Me, our minds merge, and we are one for a few timeless moments. Time seems to stand still as we exchange thoughts of love for one another.

There is no one else in the whole world at that moment.— It's just you and Me and eternity. We're wrapped in a magical bubble of the music you're playing in honor of Me. Those magical, musical notes open your spirit up to Me, and as you close your eyes I know you can see Me. I'm smiling as I read your thoughts.

Your mind is soaring as you exit the physical plane of existence and enter that part of your consciousness that lives and breathes in the other realm—My spiritual realm. It's like you're waking up from the dream that your earthly existence is, into the reality of your life. You're not limited by space or time or gravity. You're not stuck inside your physical body.—Your spirit can take on any form and soar, spin, rise, and dip at incredible speeds.

All the while I'm watching with eternal joy. I love to see you remember who you are—My creation, designed to fly without restraints. It's like the joy I had when I freed those doves from their cages in the temple. As they soared up into the air, exulting at the power of their wings once again, it reminded Me of the wonderful miracle My Father was going to do with the souls of men. Through the miracle of My sacrifice, He was going to teach them how to soar in spirit again, free from the cage of the condemnation of sin.

Soar with Me every day.—Soon it won't be such a foreign experience, as the memories return of the ease with which you worshipped Me, and the delight you experienced when you soared as My free creation, before your Earth-life. You'll remember more and more, until soaring in the spirit—wherever your physical body is—will come as naturally to you as it did before you were born.

139-- **Real Moments with Me**

Even if you can't see wild things of the Spirit, even if you can't hear the Spirit's music and see My face in person, those moments that you do spend in My arms—reading My Words, listening to Me—are very real, and are like trips into the Heavens. Though you can't see everything that you wish you could right now, believe Me that I have some special things up ahead for you, some special times with Me and fun spiritual experiences. Wait and see! Trust in Me and love Me with all your heart, mind, and soul, and I will complete these desires of your heart.

As you spend time daily in My presence, I'll refresh your spirit, strengthen your heart, and give you joy and courage to keep running the race for Me. All your Heavenly helpers are around you and with you, and keep doing all that they can to encourage you in the race.

Many angels surround you—more than you realize! If you could see them, you'd know that Heaven is in your own Home. You don't have to go anywhere to know that My Heaven surrounds you, and you live and work right alongside a great Heavenly host.

140-- Phases of the Moon

You're like My moon. We're held together by an invisible gravitational pull—the pull of love. I know at times you sense it and feel it, even though you don't always see it.

Just as the moon has her cycles, so you and each one of My loves have your cycles—like the times when the moon reveals half her beauty and light to earth, when it seems the sun is playing hide-and-seek with her; the times when the light of her sun seems to have escaped her; and the other times when you see her face glow as she reflects the sun's brilliance, and her countenance bears witness to his light!

In your life, you can always have faith that the times of shadow do their work, and are part of a great purpose. You can have faith that the sun of My Love is nevertheless always there. My Love is hidden from you only for a time, that your rejoicing at gazing full in My face may in time be even more heightened.

So, My darling, turn the page and face this next chapter of your life with anticipation. Trust that the pull of My love is strong. Believe that the invisible cord of My presence will never falter for you, will never cease, and is as sure and unfailing as the gravitational pull on the moon. My love will always reflect fully from your face again, as you patiently wait out the shadows and look expectantly for it.

Cling to the knowledge of My great love for you, My faith in you, and My great need for you. Your value is of great measure! Look not in the mirror of man at your own weaknesses, seeming lacks, and imperfections, but rather look fully into the looking glass of My promises and My Words of love to you. For therein you will find hope and trust, and the glorious glisten and sparkle of tomorrow.

141-- **Hot Tips for My Missionary**

I want you to be a humble and meek vessel, to put aside your pride and your own will, to just follow Me as I lead you. I am teaching you patience in your life, and giving you the opportunity to overcome your battle of being impatient, for that is something that will be vital when you move to the mission field. You need to be willing to admit you're wrong sometimes and be able to take the blame.

Also fight for more fire and conviction in your soul—the undeniable power that tells you that you won't stop for anything if it's God's will. You'll keep going no matter what. That is what I require of you.

I want you to make the commitment of a 100-percent, sold-out, on-fire Christian for Me. You can't be wishy-washy in your convictions. You need to keep a clear-cut line and then don't cross it. Because if you don't have that line you let a lot of little things seep in. Then, sure enough later down the line, the big things you said you'd never do—you end up doing them.

So take a stand and do not waver in your convictions for Me. If you keep coming to Me I will keep you strong in faith.

142--Flow with the Changes

You're a little chess piece, and I will move you here or there as I see fit. But you, as the chess piece, should not try to move yourself, for in that lies the danger of removing yourself from the center of My will. Instead you must simply trust that I have placed you where you are now and I will move you as I please, as I will. In this is perfect happiness and peace—being in the center of My will.

There will be changes ahead—changes for you, changes for all—but I will strengthen you through them if you will flow with the moves of My Spirit. If you yield to My desires, if you go when I say to go and stay when I say to stay and change when I say to change, then you have nothing to fear and everything to look forward to. The prospects of the future are bright and wonderful for those who yield and submit to Me and My plan. So as long as you are moldable clay in My hands, you have nothing to fear.

Changes are coming upon the whole world. So it should not surprise you that changes are also happening in your life. It's nothing to worry about or fear, but something that you should be thankful for.

Changes help improve things. Changes are good for you. Changes keep you fearing Me and moving with My Spirit. Changes keep you from letting your roots grow too deep. Changes—when yielded to—bring about greater happiness and usefulness to Me.

Thank you for being one of My adaptable, yielded chess pieces.

143-- **Mindbenders to Infinity**

Do you enjoy a good puzzle? Do you love a riddle or a maze? Look around you at the greatest puzzle ever thought of, the greatest mind-bending creation ever designed—this world in all its intricacies. All the fine details of My creation are just far out!

The simplest forms of life and the simplest natural cycles of living cells have taken thousands of years for man to discover and grasp. Those scientists are always saying that they've discovered the key to this or that, and now have even figured out how to replicate human cells. But they've only scratched the surface. The most wonderful of My creations—you—man will never be able to fully figure out. They may be able to grow this or that in the lab, but they will never be able to breathe the breath of life into a human being—that breath that changes man from just a mass complex of cells, into a living soul!

My creation is a wonderful demonstration of My Own unending intellect. And what you see and experience all around you is only a small facet of My power and capabilities, for My creations are endless. There is no limit to what I am able to do!

How's that for a mind-boggler? There is no end to My creation, for My power and might is limitless. There will be no end of new worlds to discover and new mysteries of My Spirit to unveil. The ongoing maze of the universe will continue to thrill you for all eternity and beyond!

144-- Hot 'n' Cold

Your life is like an ongoing Hot 'n' Cold game. When you do unselfish deeds, serve others cheerfully, are a witness of My love, sacrifice some of your free time for someone in need, or obey My voice, I send the blessings of My Spirit down. That's like Me saying, "You're warm, very warm!" because I manifest My blessings in so many ways, by making you content and happy, by supplying a need you have, by protecting you or your loved ones from unseen danger, and so on.

Of course, you're just human, so sometimes you act selfishly, make plans that leave others out, try to hoard the blessings I've given you, or simply don't ask Me what My highest will is. At those times, I withdraw some of My blessings: You lack peace and full happiness, or something else is out of sync in your life, simply because you're missing the usual concentration of protection and power My Spirit can give you. That's like Me saying, "Whoops! You're getting cooler. ... Uh, now you're getting a bit cold."

Sometimes it's frustrating for you, because it seems like the times you really tried to be happy and have a great time, are the times I lifted My blessing. —Things didn't work out, you made some big mistake, or you lost some of the peace and joy you could've had. But you see, I've been gently teaching you, through this Hot 'n' Cold "game" that the times you try your best to please Me more than yourself are the times that I bless you the most.

It can be tough, I know, when you get a chance to have some time off, to take a short vacation, or to attend a great party. It seems like that would be the most natural time to just let your hair down, forget about the rest of the world's problems, and have a blast. But over time you've seen that those opportunities get you off guard. So then instead of having this "great time," something happens to make the time less than perfect. Maybe you forget something important, or you hurt someone that you love.

I do want you to have fun times, and it's not like I never want you to go to a party or have a vacation. But the lesson that I've been whispering to you over and over through the vibes of My Spirit, is that in order to be really happy, you simply need to make others happy. That includes asking Me everything—even about your free time—being sensitive to the needs of those who are lonely or weaker, looking for ways that you can make life enjoyable for others, and going out of your way to fill a need, even if you're technically "off duty."

I love you and I want you to have fun, but the reason I have faithfully told you when you were getting "cooler" or "cold" in our Hot 'n' Cold game, is because your destiny in life is to live for others, and in so doing, to live for Me. In the long run, this is the only thing that will give you true joy.

145-- No Limits!

Bungee jumping, freehand rock climbing, skydiving—all these extreme sports are *nothing* in comparison to the extreme sports that await you when you have your new body. Picture in your mind the most outrageously thrilling, dangerous-yet-exhilarating experience you could ever imagine yourself in, and that isn't even *close* to the kind of extremes you can experience Here in Heaven.

For now, on Earth, you have to be careful. Your body is not your own, it is My temple, and it is not immune to hurt and pain and suffering. But in Heaven when all that is no more, the saying "no limits" will never have held more truth. You'll be able to have a taste of it "Earth style" too, which means your new body can take on earthly characteristics—weight, fatigue, limited power—if you want, so as to fully get the kick of the experience.

Alright, you're wondering, but what other features will Heaven's extreme sports experiences have, that we can't find on Earth?

Here's your answer: On Earth, your adventures are limited by geographic conditions—mountain ranges, oceans, and deserts—and the limited equipment man has. But in My realm you can go and explore the center of a distant planet via underground caves and water channels; you can surf tsunamis; you can shrink in size and explore the inside of a tree, facing all the insects in an Earth environment; you can bungee jump a height unimaginable and physically impossible; you can go white-water rafting down rapids on more of a Niagara or Victoria-Falls scale. Just imagine the thrill!

To picture extreme sports in Heaven you can think of it as stepping into a virtual reality. The reality can be terminated any time. For example, if you have the "Earth-style" feature activated—you've made yourself subject to the pull of gravity while scaling a cliff—but you slip, you can have it pause before you hit the ground.—Kind of handy, huh?

The point is ... there is literally *no limit*. So if you're a little antsy right now, wishing you could get a go at some thrilling escapade, hold on and wait till Heaven comes 'round. There's no use going out and getting yourself seriously injured for a kick. And don't think you're missing out on any of the adventure, because when you get up Here, you can have your fill of no limits.

146--Scared of Aging?

Some things get easier as people get older, while other things get more difficult. For instance, people's physical health and energy levels often decrease. Other seemingly unpleasant things happen too, like gray hair, thin hair, no hair, weight gain or weight loss, and so on. And not just when people get *older* older. Sometimes these things even start in people's twenties or early thirties.

I know you've seen that happening to some of the people around you—your parents and aunts and uncles and maybe even some of your older brothers and sisters or their friends. It probably makes you feel sometimes that you don't want to get any older than you are. Or maybe sometimes you even think they're kind of faking it when it comes to their lack of energy and vigor, and that they're just being lazy. Well, most of the time that's not the case. You really do get a little more tired and worn as the years go by.

It happens slowly.—It's not like one day you're young and full of energy and the next day you have gray hair and lots of ailments. But little by little as you get older your body does slow down and weaken in this or that area. It happens to everyone, but in different ways and to different degrees. It's not something to worry about, though, because although getting a little more tired or having more physical weaknesses goes along with getting older, there are lots of good things that come along with it too—including wisdom, experience, and a contentment that comes with finding your place and learning to be happy with who you are. As you get older you also learn to enjoy different things, and find new kinds of pleasures and recreation. The great discovery of life continues, and your horizons broaden. It never ends.

One thing to keep in mind now, when you're young, is that your health follows the boomerang principle. The way you treat your body now affects how it's going to treat *you* as you get older. If you eat right, rest right, exercise right, and all that, chances are that your "aging symptoms" will be more mild or come later, than if you just figure "Who cares? It doesn't matter what I do. I'm young and strong." You are *now*, but you won't be that way forever. You can be that way for a much longer time, though, if you do the things that are good for you. Give your body what it needs and it'll serve you well for years and years and keep you looking and feeling good.

147--Everything That Makes Up You

Do you ever feel discouraged with yourself? Do you look in the mirror and think that you got the raw end of the deal? Don't despair, My precious one. It's something that happens to almost everyone at one time or another. The Devil is as a roaring lion that walks about, seeking for any open moment to discourage you—and for a lot of people, that moment is when they're standing in front of the mirror. So be on guard! Know that he loves to attack you in your soft spot, whatever that may be.

If you find yourself getting discouraged with your looks, remember that it's just the Enemy. He lies to you and then makes you believe the lies! You're a beautiful creation—and I'm not just talking about what people see on the surface, but your spirit, your mind, your aura, and everything that makes up *you*. I am the Master Painter and I made you perfectly the way I wanted you to be. You're as a beautiful rose with no blemishes in My eyes!

So, when you feel tempted to look down, rebuke the one who's behind those discouraging thoughts and cast them away. Praise Me for what a good job I did in making you, sing a song, and send the Devil running. There's so much power in just one tiny prayer!—Use that power and it'll keep you feeling happy and beautiful all day long. I love you.

148-- **Be Whisked to Heaven for a Personal Tour**

Don't let the Devil get you down. Don't let him belittle you or make you think that you're not needed or important to Me—because you are! I know it's hard to believe that I need you in particular—but it's true! I know it doesn't seem to make sense and you wonder, *How can I be so special when there are so many others?* That's a reasonable question which I'll try to answer here, but one thing you have to understand is that your mortal mind will not be able to fully comprehend the intricacy and the depth of My love. It'll never make complete sense to you till you're Here, so you'll have to take what I'm going to say somewhat by faith.

Though I have many friends, loves, and companions, you're the only you I have.—You're one of a kind. You see, I'm unique! I'm different than everyone else. You could say that I have special needs and desires, and I need each of you in a different and singular way. You fill a part of My heart that only you can fill. You're matchless and irreplaceable to Me.

The depth of My love is difficult, if not impossible, to explain in man's meager words so that you'll understand, and if it's difficult to explain, then I'm sure it's even more difficult for you to comprehend. So here's what we'll do: Whenever you're feeling a little low or discouraged, when the Enemy is trying to get in and make you think that you're unimportant to Me, pause right then and listen to Me.

Take a few moments to look to Me and you will be whisked to Heaven. I will meet you at its gate and take you on a little tour—just you and Me. In those moments I will show you things that can't be expressed in words. The love I will convey to you in those times together will melt away the questions and doubts, and you will come away from that time with a warm and contented feeling—fully assured of My personal love for you individually.

149--Does the Road Seem Rough?

The way of the transgressor is hard, but the way of the faithful follower is blessed. Those who have left their plows and have wandered far from My will may seem like they have more in the physical—more things, more fun, more freedom—but don't be deceived. The things they have are temporary, and when the novelty wears off and reality hits home, they will long to be back under the shelter of My will.

I have a special calling for the children of David, and those who follow closely and stay in the center of My will—although it might look like a life of sacrifice—are more blessed, protected, happy, fulfilled, and free, than those who leave the folds of David.

There is no comparison between the road of the backslider, and the way of the children of David. The children of David are blessed and anointed because they are in the center of My will, while those who choose to depart must go through the school of hard knocks, and this is not easy.

I am faithful to teach all of My children, but those who choose to leave the fold and the clear-cut training under the loving care of the Family, and wander afar off, have a more difficult road of training. They might think they're going to get away easy and have a much easier path in life, but they soon discover that they have chosen a difficult road.

So don't be deceived by the Enemy's temptations. His way is the hard way, but My way is the easy way.

150--Just Do the Right Thing

If you go through life giving your all, being the best little daisy you can be, doing your work with pride, and giving it your one hundred percent, and yet you get little credit or attention from those around you—do it anyway. Give your all, be a spunky daisy, and work like the world depends on you, because others are secretly admiring you.

If you get up every morning with a smile on your face and do your best to be your brother's keeper, if you pitch in when it's not your turn, and you let someone else receive the praise, and still don't hear a word of appreciation spoken for you—do it anyway! Smiling makes life go smoother. Helping others brings you satisfaction, and letting the next guy get the credit makes others respect you.

If you laugh when you feel like crying and still feel like you're none the better—laugh anyway. The truth is, you feel better when you're laughing; the world is a nicer place, and others love you for it.

If you think that no one really understands your heart or sees your needs, and that no matter how many times you go out of your way to supply others' needs, not much comes back to you—give anyway! The truth is, it all comes back to you one day.

My love, life is full of hurts and disappointments, but whenever you have a decision to make, just do the right thing—no matter how disappointing the results may seem—and trust that I will take care of giving out the rewards when the time is just right.