

WORKING
IN
THE SPIRIT

THE ART OF DEPENDENCE



Working in the Spirit and The Art of Dependence

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(Jesus:) The fact of the matter is that you're not going to become the greatest witnesses of all time through any amount of physical accomplishments. You're going to become that way through the opportunities I line up for you. You'll only be in the right place at the right time through miracles--miracles that will only come as you learn to work in the spirit and stay in tune with Me. You're going to become that way through the supernatural power I pour down upon you as a Family and as individuals, and you're not going to get that power through any other way but spending time with Me and learning to work in the spirit.

Those days aren't far off. The clock is ticking, and if you want to have time to do those miracles and really reach the world in the way that I've been preparing you to all these years, you're going to need to make the break.

This is a good topic to meditate on, reflect on, and pray about, because it's something that each of you, in your life and work style and decisions, need to recognize and understand clearly. These are very personal issues. How desperately do you pray? How much are you growing in using the weapon of praise? How well do you know your spirit helpers and work with them? These are things which no one really knows except you.

But they are the tools I've given you to do the job in these Last Days. They'll make the difference between success and failure. And while I've spent a lot of time helping you to root out compromise and establish a clear discipleship standard, this switch to working in the spirit is another pillar that must be in place in order for the Family to fulfill its destiny. It's as simple as that.

(Jesus:) Because working in the spirit is such a familiar principle, the danger is that it could be brushed aside as not so important, not new information, not super interesting, as something that doesn't sound "active" or world-changing. But the fact is that it's the most world-changing point there is right now. It's crucial for this time in your history.

Trust in Me, your Heavenly Work Partner

(Jesus:) These days are perfect training days in the art of dependence. There's too much for you to do, yes, but not too much for Me to do. You have to depend on Me more, rely on My strength more, and commit more to prayer. But taking that route doesn't mean that those things won't get done; it doesn't mean that in simply "trusting," those things will be okay if left unattended to.

It means that you actually believe that I'm going to do something about those things, or that with minimal effort on your part, I will maximize the results--instead of you putting a lot of effort and energy into those things and coming out with minimal results. It's a switch in who is putting in the effort, and if you allow Me to put in more effort, then you'll see better fruit from your projects. That's the key.

People often feel that "trusting Me" means resigning themselves to seeing things fall through the cracks, and that it's just one of those hard choices to "let something go." But when you work with Me as your partner on the job, you're working with the most multitalented, multitasking partner in the universe. And I truly can do anything and everything!

So you need to look at Me in a much more positive light--not only as a spiritual guide and counselor, but as someone who can actually get in there, roll up His sleeves, and help you do the work. Sure, I don't sit at a desk and send you e-mails, I don't change the baby's diaper or cook the rice for dinner, but I can save you hours and hours of work time by taking care of the behind-the-scenes side of things, by preparing people's hearts, by supplying your needs and helping things fall into place, by setting up the miracles, or even by taking care of situations before you have to get involved.

I can save you so much time when you receive My divine guidance in everything you do--even the more routine tasks. I can whisper instruction in your ear as you move along, so that you do a good and proper job from the start. I can lead you so you don't botch things up and have to go back and do it over or undo a mess. I can lead you of My Spirit so you do your work with excellence and not haphazardly. When you're working with Me, you reap fruit that remains.

Tell Me specifically what you want to see done, and leave it with Me. Don't worry or fret about it, and don't keep checking up on Me to see if I'm on the job. Of course I'm on the job! It's My work, and I'm interested in it! So have more faith, and your faith will bring out an entirely new dynamic in our working relationship. This is the key to your success. It will give us more time to spend

together in loving; and it will give you more time to spend with other people in fellowship and recreation, because in essence you're letting Me bear the weight and carry a good chunk of the load, which is exactly what I want to do.

So practice this. Commit things to Me in prayer. Depend on Me to do the "big work" in people's hearts, so that things can actually go more easily and smoothly, and some of these big rocks that look like they will be so difficult to move, will move easily--to your surprise--and will fall into place as they should. Give Me a chance to help you out, to do some of the work. (1)

Prayer is an Important Part of Working in the Spirit

(Jesus:) Praying is one of the most proactive things you can do--praying for the future, praying for people, praying for situations, praying for supply, praying that I will work in the hearts and minds and spirits of the Family, praying for laborers, praying for finances, praying for your co-workers, praying for the young people. And then there's targeted prayer--prayer for specific things, specific projects, specific people, specific events, specific needs. All of this is offensive warfare.

Prayer is one of the best offensive weapons you can use. It's like sending in a bombardment ahead of time, preparing the field, the ground, so that when you advance, your way is already prepared.

You can't change hearts or minds, but I can; you can't change spirits, but I can, and so prayer goes before you to do this work. Prayer begins the job, and sometimes even finishes the job, before you even have to expend any other energy. And if it doesn't finish the job, it does a great portion of the work so that when you finally step into the situation, so much is already done, the stage is set and the pieces all fall together, and that makes your work so much easier. (2)

(Dad speaking:) The Lord allows problems in life--difficult situations, spiritual battles--and one of the main reasons is to teach people to pray. He wants you to come to the end of your rope, to come to the end of all your ideas of what you can do to solve the situation, and realize that He's the One Who's going to do it and pray for His power to work.

He leaves a lot up to you, and if there's something you can do and something He shows you to do to help the situation, that's good and you need to do that. You need to talk with people, counsel with people, receive messages from the Lord, study the Word on the subject, encourage people to ask for united

prayer--you need to do all that you can. But in the end, the thing that will help more than anything, and without which all your labors are incomplete, is prayer. Pray for Him to work. Pray for Him to move and do the work in the spirit.

He's the only One Who can change hearts and minds, and He's the only One Who can bring people to the point where they're ready to make spiritual changes. The best thing you can do to help people and help situations is to pray for them. Really pray for them. You can't do the miracle, but the Lord can, and your prayers move His hand and make things happen in the spirit. It not only helps to set things up for the miracle to happen, but gives you peace of mind that you've done the best thing you could possibly do. When you commit things to the Lord in prayer, then you can just trust that whatever happens is in His hands and under His control.

People don't fully realize how important prayer is, and especially if they're very work-oriented people, accomplishment-oriented people, it's all the harder for them to just pray and not always be doing something in the physical. You have to understand that only God can work in the spirit to change things, to change people, change situations, and the best thing you can do to help God and help others is to pray for them. He expects you to pray, and if you're not praying, often He has to wait before He can do the big miracles, because He wants you to pray and keep on praying. (3)

True Spirituality

(Jesus:) What is spirituality? What does it mean to be "walking in the spirit"?

In the Family today, you can't afford to be walking in the carnal mind, because so much of My guidance and direction is spiritual and based on spiritual truths. If you're carnally minded, you won't get the up-to-date guidance and counsel I'm giving, because it can't be figured out in the carnal mind.

Just as My Word says, to be carnally minded is death (Rom.8:6)--death to your spiritual life, death to your channel, and death to your connection with Me, because the things of My Spirit cannot be carnally understood and don't make much sense to the carnal mind's logic base.

Take slowing down, for example. When there's so much to do, how could I possibly tell you to slow down, you often wonder. To the carnal mind, the correct thing would be to speed up, to work harder, faster, to put in more hours, to struggle to push the boulder up the hill.

What do I tell you to do? To stop, to get quiet, to meditate, to go slow, to pull back and to come to Me in prayer. You could say, "Lord, that's crazy! I mean, I know You're God and all, but if I stop pushing this boulder even for one second, it's going to roll back down and flatten me and all those who look to me to bear this responsibility."

To the carnal mind, My counsel makes no sense at all. That's why you've got to look at it spiritually and with heavenly vision. You have to let Me take you into the spirit to see My plan, and then you have to believe by faith that it'll work just because I said it will, even if it makes no sense to you, even if you don't fully understand it.

The main difference between spirituality and carnality is that you're not trying to figure it out on your own, in your own mind, tossing options back and forth and coming up with the best plan. Instead, you come to Me, you ask, you seek My guidance, you hear from Me, and you let Me guide you. (4)

(Jesus:) True spirituality is believing in the invisible, accepting and doing the unthinkable, and accomplishing the impossible on a regular basis through My Spirit and My power. It's relying on the spiritual weapons, on prayer, praise, and calling on the keys, more than on your own abilities. It's praying more for things to be done and for the answers that you need. It's living in the spirit more, believing in the things of the spirit, and rejecting the carnal-minded lies of the Enemy. It's obeying because I said to, even if you don't understand why. It's coming up against the "impossible" and laughing because you know I will come through for you, and that "impossible" is a lie of the Enemy.

To be spiritual means that you use the spiritual weapons on a regular basis and that you depend on them. You don't rattle off a prayer and then dig in and try to fix it yourself. Instead, you pray and then expect Me to do the work. You get desperate and ask Me to overcome the seeming impossibilities, and then you watch Me do the miracle.

It's letting go of the boulder and trusting that it won't roll back down and crush you. It's praying it up the hill, calling on the spirit helpers you need and asking them to put their backs to it and help you to push it uphill. It's overcoming the insurmountable through My Spirit on a daily basis. It's asking Me how to do things and depending on Me more.

Dwelling in the spirit isn't a work of the flesh; it's surrendering to Me and letting Me carry you through. It's working hard, but in the direction of getting desperate and asking Me for answers and for action on My part. It's depending

more on Me than on your own abilities.

It's working in the spirit and by the spirit. It's trusting that I will work things out, and believing so firmly that I will that you refuse to move unless I've told you to. It's throwing the ball into My court and asking Me to do something about it, and then not worrying about whether or not I can handle it.

It's being so firm in your convictions that I am in control that you can trust Me and believe that Romans 8:28 does work and is for real. You don't try to tackle things in your own strength, because the spirit tells you that I will work for you and work things out.

It's believing My Word and putting it into practice. It's trusting, obeying, believing, and loving Me intimately. It's depending on and embracing the New Wine and the new weapons I've given you. It's riding the keys to victory every step of the way. It's abandoning your own strength and grabbing ahold of My vision and My counsel. It's letting Me carry you.

You have to look to Me and take My word for it. When I say it, it's true, it's going to work, and you believe it. It's not looking at what man says. When man says, "You'll sink for sure. It can't be done!" you do it anyway, because I said to.

Being spiritual is making your spiritual life a priority and putting Me first. It's getting Word time because I said to--not because you have a break in your work or because the work has slowed down, so then you take that time. It's taking that time in the middle of the busiest times, because you know that in order to get everything done, you have to put Me first and I'll take care of the rest. By trusting in Me and seeking Me desperately for answers every step of the way, you're going against the pull of stress and frustration.

Many people ask Me for counsel but then don't come back and continue asking every step of the way. Then they wonder why it didn't work out as I said it would. They call Me up on the phone and say, "How do I get to such-and-such a place?" And I say, "Take a left..." and then they hang up and don't hear My next instruction.

It's asking Me about everything and placing more stock and faith in what I say than in what man says. It's dreaming the impossible dreams, believing that the things that man says are impossible are simply going to require more of My power to accomplish.

The bottom line is that it's believing all that I've said in the Word and putting it into practice in your work for Me. Otherwise, you might just as well be System executives or entrepreneurs. The difference comes down to living My Word and obeying what I tell you to do, accepting the counsel I give you and

acting on it no matter how it seems to your carnal mind. Got it?

Working in the spirit is simply choosing to take and to follow My viewpoint on issues or situations that arise. It's going My way. It's doing things My way. It's obedience to My voice. (5)

(Jesus:) For every action or decision, there's a carnal way to handle it and a spiritual way to handle it. Or to make it even more clear, there is a heavenly way to handle it and an earthly way to handle it. One way is how God would do it; the other way is how man would do it. When you tend toward the carnal, you're doing things man's way. When you tend toward the spiritual, you're doing things God's way. It's really not more complicated than that. (6)

(Jesus:) You have to remember the extent of My power; it is in no way limited by your earthly rules, circumstances or capabilities. I created the world and all of My marvelous, mind-boggling creation out of nothing--absolutely nothing! I started with nothing, and worked up from there. So when you look at yourself and your limitations, and even what seem to you to be very real factors--such as timing--you're forgetting that I don't need much to work with. If I'm going to use you, I need your yieldedness and desperation, yes. But after that, there's no limit to what I can do.

In other words, what I'm saying is that there are many factors outside your control, but they are all under My control. And when you're going by My timetable, working in the spirit, and letting Me lead, I am able to take care of those things for you, and only allow what will further My plan. If you go ahead in your own strength, thinking you have things under control, you may find out that things don't work as you had hoped and there are a lot of unexpected happenings. But if you're listening to Me and letting Me speak to you and give you your priorities, and operating accordingly, you'll be much better prepared for the things that I know are necessary to happen, and much more protected from those things that are not necessary and that would derail My plan. (7)

(Jesus:) Working in My Spirit each step of the way will effectively get you to where you want to go. Resting in Me will keep you plugged in to the only source of power and energy around. The Winning Offensive is a very, very large undertaking with an unlimited number of possibilities and opportunities, and whether or not it will be a success for you will depend on how you dance. If you dance with Me--working in My Spirit, using your spiritual weapons and the

strength of your spiritual helpers, spending quality time with Me--doors will open for you, miracles will happen, hearts will change, plans will work, prayers will be answered, ventures will be successful, finances will be evident, needs will be met. (8)

(Jesus:) Picture this: You're out on the ocean, paddling along on your surfboard, and a wave from a spiritual dimension is approaching and going to sweep right over you. You can sense it, you're ready for it. It's a huge surge that promises to carry you further and faster than you could ever swim, and give you the ride of your life if you're prepared and ready to ride it.

So you're out in the water, the wave is coming, you feel it and you're ready. You're psyched, you're loaded with anticipation! You fine-tune to be in just the right position to catch the wave--not too far out or you'll miss it, and not too late or it'll break on you. As you feel it surge underneath you, you start paddling for all you're worth. Then it picks you up, you feel the power, and you stand up on your board and ride it. What a rush! What a ride!

The wave is in the heavenly dimension; it's not necessarily something you see with your eyes, and when you feel it coming, it takes faith to jump in and ride it for all you're worth.

The success of the Offensive is going to depend on both spiritual and practical elements being in place. You're going to have to get organized physically and make a plan, and then you're going to have to actually carry out that plan. There's going to be hard work involved, and some of it will seem plain nitty-gritty and not very spiritual at all.

But the wave--the actual surge of power that's really going to get you somewhere--is My job. That's why it's supremely important that you're in touch with Me, that you're getting your directions from Me, and yes, even waiting on Me when I call for it--waiting for My cue, My perfect timing. You could start swimming as hard as you wanted, but it wouldn't give you a fraction of the progress that the wave of My Spirit will give you.

The progress, miracles, expansion, explosion, supply, change, and lasting fruit that I have promised will be a part of the Offensive will come to you supernaturally if you're in the right place at the right time. And the only way you'll be in the right place at the right time is if you're getting Me to work for you and do those things that only I can do. That doesn't mean you won't have to do some work too, but if you're putting time and effort into the spiritual labor that makes miracles possible, I'll be bringing the fruit to you.

So as you take in the overall concept of the Offensive, right up there with all the practical steps and keys to success is the all-important concept of the wave of My Spirit--and the vital importance of catching that wave. It's the all in all. It's the deal breaker, the "all-purpose survival tool," "rule number one."

All your efforts in the flesh can't come close to matching My miracles. You want My miracles. You need some big miracles!

Find where the Spirit is leading and follow Her. Work in the spirit; don't wear yourself out in the flesh. Stay full of My Word, your source of all power. Move with My Spirit. Wait for My Spirit when necessary. Spend time interceding in prayer, connecting with your spirit helpers, waiting for Me to line things up--knowing that the wave of My Spirit is really what you want more than anything. It's what's going to make you successful. It will make all the difference in the world. Catch the wave! (9)

(Jesus:) ...I want you to live in the spirit and walk in the spirit. You've heard that a lot, haven't you? Well, I really do mean it and it really is possible. Living and working and walking in the spirit doesn't mean only in the spirit--the body will be working too. But the difference is the focus, the balance. When you're working in the spirit, your body is moving, but it is being powered by your spirit, which is in sync with Me. When you're working in the spirit, your movements and actions in the flesh are energized and empowered by Me. Therefore, not only is your spirit kept revitalized and refreshed, but the toll on your body is minimized, and your body is refreshed as well. So it's really a win/win situation to focus more on the spirit and on the strength of the spirit and on fighting in spirit.

Fighting in spirit can strengthen the flesh. Tiring the flesh can tire the spirit. The spirit is the source of power. The flesh is the source of drain. Too much emphasis on the works of the flesh crowds out the spirit. Greater emphasis on the works of the spirit--and there can never be too much--empowers the works of the flesh. Spirit is greater than flesh. The Spirit is supreme. Am I making a point? Is it becoming clearer? If you are weary in flesh, rest. If you are weary in spirit, rest your spirit in Me. (10)

(Jesus:) I know how busy your lives for Me are, and I know how taxing it can be if you allow stress into your life. But, dear ones, you are only going to get busier, and working conditions aren't going to get easier as the Endtime comes into full swing. More and more you will need to look at events and challenges through the eyes of faith and not let stress get ahold of you; otherwise you will

short-circuit and begin blowing all kinds of fuses, and that will lead to burnout in the spirit, which will then lead to breakdowns or burnout in the physical.

If something has come up that has the potential to cause you stress, there's a very good chance I'm giving you an opportunity to rise above the pressure and the feelings of stress this would normally have given you, and instead, to look into My face and receive My plan and go about it in My Spirit--thereby living in the spirit and not in the flesh.

It all comes down to how you accomplish My will. You can rush out of My court and work so hard in your own spirit that you become drained; or you can work in My Spirit and stay fully charged and inspired. My will may still get done the first way, but it takes a toll on you and you will wear out.

My realm of the spirit is not stressful. We are busy and there are pressures which compel us to do what we have to do in the spirit, but stress doesn't enter our lives. We draw the line and realize that in the spirit, when things are done by My power, the job can get done, and it can be done right and not drain the life out of our spirits. (11)

(Jesus:) It's a true and faithful law of the spirit that when you cast your burdens on My shoulders, I carry them for you, and you feel lighter and you have greater strength. When you take time to commune with Me; when you make the sacrifice to stop all the important things that you're doing or could be doing, and give Me your attention; when you exercise spiritual discipline and don't let yourself worry or be stressed, but keep bringing your thoughts back to My promises and My perspective, you are wielding tremendous power. You are harnessing My power. You are taking hold of My Spirit and My strength, and letting it carry you. And that, My loves, is a very great and under-appreciated secret of surviving in My work for the long haul. You absolutely have to do it. (12)

(Jesus:) If I call you to responsibilities big or small, whatever I call you to do, it must be done in the spirit. I'm calling you to lean on Me, to let Me carry the weight, and to let Me shine through you. I want you to be led of Me in everything you do. The goal isn't necessarily to have less work. The goal is to do things more in the spirit, and when you do, you will have the time to do the things that are most important and that I want you to do.

In the days ahead, each Family member will need to take on even greater responsibilities in order to reap the great harvest of the Endtime, and you'll only be able to do so through resting more in Me; through letting Me help you to

carefully plan and organize your priorities and time; through claiming the power of the keys to help you to create better habits and work more closely with your spirit helpers. The goal is not to do less, but to work smarter in the spirit so that you can accomplish all that you need to do for Me. (13)

The Art of Dependence

(Jesus:) ...I am allowing the Family to pass through this time of intense battles and tests, as well as the increased workload, because I have to weed out those who work in the arm of the flesh from those who are operating under the power of My Spirit. I have to purify the Family until all that is left are those who are willing to do things My way.

This is a spiritual principle that I have tried to impress on the Family for years, and now I have to bring it into everyday life, into every Home, at every level of Family life. All of you will be tested beyond your capabilities, and only you who depend on the strength of My Spirit will make it.

You won't be able to do this work in your own strength. You won't be able to meet My requirements propelled by your own steam, by pushing and trying hard. It will not happen, My loves. You who try in the arm of the flesh will fail and will fall by the wayside. This is part of My plan to sift the Family, to weed out those who are unwilling to learn the art of spiritual warfare and how to fight the battles by availing themselves of My strength.

I tell you plainly, there is only one way you will survive the workload and the stress of the battlefield is by doing My work in the spirit, not in the arm of the flesh. This very important spiritual principle can no longer be book knowledge, but you must learn to apply it, to live it, and to avail yourself of the power that comes from operating in the spirit.

Now it's time to apply the Word like never before, to enact the spiritual principles I have taught you, to avail yourself of My full spiritual power. You will no longer be able to win the battle and victories needed in your own strength. In your days of preparation I allowed you to operate and to have some measure of success, even though you did not lean fully on My power. I allowed for trial and error and gave you some leeway when you were in the learning stage, as I was teaching and training you. Now I expect total commitment to My ways and to the weapons of the spirit.

Many of you are going through extreme battles now, heavy spiritual and physical battles, but there is a purpose in this, My loves. It is to force you to

depend on Me. I'm allowing this in your life to force you to come to the end of your strength and to fully embrace My ways.

You will not be able to face the days ahead and the battles that you must fight without learning to fight them in the power of the spirit-with My Spirit and with My weapons. The weapons of My Spirit have much more power than you realize, because you haven't fully put them to use. You haven't even experienced the magnitude of their power to deliver the victory in every battle, because most of you haven't used them to their full extent. Most of you have used the keys, praise, your spirit helpers, and prophecy a little, or maybe you feel you've even used them a lot. But now you will have to commit to using them all the time, because you will be surrounded by more than you can handle in the flesh.

There is no other way, My loves. You are not strong enough, brave enough, wise enough, or capable in the flesh. You have to use the weapons and lean on Me for every battle. *(End of message.)* (14)

(Jesus:) ...The requirements for remaining in My Endtime army are higher than they ever were in the past.

I have a purpose in this, My loves. You are being tested and tried. Much like an earthly army tests its recruits and officers with intense training, with months of rigorous military exercises along with academic and physical ability tests, so am I testing your ability. But there is an important difference between the armies of the world and you, My spiritual army. In the armies of the world, those who are pushed over their limit fail the test and flunk their training.

But that's not the case with you. When I push you to your limit and beyond, you can still pass the test and go on to further victories because you lean on Me. You make it and keep going not because you are that good or that expert at what I'm asking you to do, and not because you're so strong in yourself, or smarter than the next soldier, but rather because of your dependence on My strength and power.

I know you've heard this many times before, but now is the time for the real tests. You've heard this in Letter after Letter, practically since you were babes in the spirit, but now I am truly putting you through your spiritual boot camp, through mental and physical tests and every type of challenge possible. I am requiring more of you in every way, so much so, in fact, that some have already dropped out. And this is good, because I have to sift the ranks of those who are not able to learn to truly depend on Me for the strength and anointing they will need in the days ahead.

As My Word says, "If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses?" (Jer.12:5). You must now learn to truly lean on My strength in order to be able to handle the workload that you will face. You have to actively, practically, spiritually, and in every way, use the spiritual weapons I have given you. If you do not do this, and if you do not learn how to be a soldier in My Endtime army of today, you will probably have a nervous breakdown and quit.

These are the days you have been preparing for. These are the days when I am raising up My army of the End who will have to be strong in battle!-And that strength has to come from Me. You have to learn to work in the power and anointing of My strength, not in the arm of your flesh. Those who cannot learn to do this will find the work too much, the requirements way beyond their abilities, and they will collapse under the stress and pressure of soldiering. (15)

(Jesus:) Each of you, My brides, will come to understand the strength of weakness in a way you have never known or understood it before. You will live the reality of this spiritual principle because your own strength will fail. You will be forced to fall upon Me, your Rock, and in this falling you will find the strength that only I can give.

From this desperate clinging and dependence upon Me, I will form a new army-My Endtime army-an army that will be spiritually equipped to meet tomorrow and the coming closing years of this world's history. Only you who are stripped naked of yourselves and your own strength can meet the future.

The best followers and the best disciples are those who yield the most.-And that applies not only to disciples, but to soldiers and warriors as well. Being weak, reaching the end of yourself, and having more than you can possibly do in the natural makes you yielded. It humbles you, and it causes you to lean on Me and My strength. This year of strengthening will bring you down the path of weakness, because only there will you discover true strength and become a true warrior of the spirit. It's only through weakness that you humbly take up My strength and the weaponry of the spirit instead of your own.

You must come to My altar and lay those last vestiges of your own strength, pride, abilities and works to rest. It will be a death of sorts-a death to your own strength and a birth of My strength within you.

I promise you that from this death and this rebirth will spring forth a new strength within the heart of each child of David! And in discovering this strength, you will each inherit newfound power-My true power and anointing which will

see you through the coming end of days. I will work together with you to erase your natural instincts to lean to your own strength and understanding and ways of the past, as you cleave to Me and My new weapons as you never have before.

There will no longer be room for leaning on your own strength, experience, wisdom, knowledge, or natural abilities. Learn to lean and depend wholly on Me and the new weapons to see you through. You will discover that nothing else but Me and My full power will give you the anointing and strength you need.

So, My loves, if you want to keep moving forward, if you want to keep advancing as My Endtime warriors, you must pass through this test. It will burn off the dross and all that stands in the way of each of you becoming warriors of the spirit. You will feel in want in the natural; you will feel weak; you will feel dependent; you will feel humbled. But what will be left will be a warrior fashioned by My hand and not his own—a warrior worthy and ready and prepared to enter the days of battle before us.

Those of you who choose Me and who choose to embrace the new weapons will be helped. You will be strengthened inwardly, and you will meet the demands before you.—Not by natural means, but by supernatural means. Those who choose to operate the same way they have in the past will struggle and fall short. Each of you will have your commitment and dedication tested. To make it through these tests you will have to leave behind the old ways, attitudes, and mindsets that are not in line with My Word and My new weaponry of the spirit.

You are all being put to the test. How much do you really believe in My power to work through you, even when your own natural strength fails? How much do you really believe in the new weapons? How much do you really believe that they are your only hope, and your only salvation and means by which to defeat the Enemy? How much do you really believe My Words poured forth through David and Maria and Peter?

Only those who believe and truly live those Words will be left standing. You will each face your own inability to meet the demands before you. You will each face your own natural weakness. You will each feel more in need of Me than you ever have before. You will each feel more in need of My Word than you ever have before. You will each feel more in need of hearing My voice and specific personal instruction than you ever have before. You will each feel in desperate need of My strength to keep you.

So, My loves, trust Me that you each have too much to lose if I don't place these weights and demands and seemingly impossible challenges and tasks before you. So much has been invested in you, and My need for each of you is

great. I must prove who is worthy to be called part of My elite army, and who is worthy to be given the power and anointing promised to those who walk with Me into the end of days.

I continue this strengthening-to purge, purify, and cleanse all of you. I can't afford to turn down the heat. Some of you will feel as if you are being tried in the fire seven times seven, and still I put you back into the furnace. At times it will seem as though the end of that heat will never be in sight. But it will, My loves. It will.

I need you who are willing to allow Me to strap on the weights and demands, to not spare in delivering to you what you need to be strengthened. I need you who trust implicitly in My foresight and love in giving you what you need in order to be a soldier in My Endtime army. I need you who choose to lean on Me, for you know and trust that in that leaning you will find your strength.

I need you who are willing to crawl across the finish line on your hands and knees if necessary, because of your belief and faith in Me and in the calling and destiny I have promised you as part of David's band. Some of you will be moving ahead by naked faith alone, but in this nakedness you will win. In this nakedness and dependence you will possess My full power! *(End of message.)*

(Jesus:) When I give you a new challenge, I am in essence asking you to take on a new challenge together with Me. When I bring you to a new battlefield, I am holding your hand and asking you to fight alongside Me. When I bring you the gift of change, I am asking you to unwrap and experience this present with Me. And when I bring you a new yoke to bear, a new burden to lift, a new cross to carry, I am merely asking you to come and lift the load with Me, to come under the yoke with Me, to come lock arms with Me beneath the cross.

Yes, it will seem heavy at times, but it will never be more than you can bear as long as you are letting Me bear the brunt of the load. At times, when I know you can handle it, I will allow a little more pressure on your side of the burden-but never more weight than you can bear. Remember that I will never ask you to carry the heavier end of the yoke. The only time it will ever feel like too much to bear is when you try to lift the load without Me.

In order to truly reap the blessing of strengthening that I've promised you, you must learn to let Me carry the heavier load. This is called the art of dependence. You must learn to let your weak arm grasp hold of Mine so that My strength can carry what you cannot. You must learn to let the added pressure, the added heat of the battles, the added intensity in the spirit world cause you to "come learn of Me." You must learn the art of dependence.

It is through coming to Me when you feel heavy-laden and drawing from My strength and receiving My rest that you will truly receive the strengthening I have for you. You won't be strengthened through trying to carry the cross alone. You won't be strengthened through taking on the yoke without Me. You will only be strengthened through leaning heavily on Me. This is the type of strengthening I have promised you, that out of your weakness you can be made strong; that through your weakness, My strength can be made perfect.

Remember that the goal is that you become more like Me. The goal is that you allow Me to have full possession of you. In order to reach that goal, you must start with these steps of greater dependence on Me. You must learn to cast your cares on Me when you feel under pressure. You must learn to let My strength transform your weaknesses into greater strength. You must learn to let My Spirit work through you little by little each day, so that eventually this goal will be reached-that of My Spirit fully possessing yours.

What I'm asking of you right now is that you step out on the water and walk on to what I have for you. But this is an impossible feat for you to do in your human, fleshly form. Your physical body cannot walk on the water without sinking-just as you personally can't handle all that I'm asking of you during this time. But My Spirit can. When My Father called Me to walk on the water, He knew My physical body couldn't perform the task. But when His Spirit merged with My flesh, then the impossible was made possible, and we made history that day.

This is what I'm asking of you right now-that you allow My Spirit to merge more fully with your heart, mind, body, and spirit. Allow Me to possess you through your dependence on Me, and I will enable you to do the impossible and walk on the waters of this time.

Yes, I am asking you to do the impossible right now. I do this because it forces you to come to Me, to learn of Me, to discover My power, to reach out for My strength, to find My ability, and to take on My Spirit. I know that this is the only way you will reach My goals for you, and this is the only way you will live the destiny I have promised you-through My Spirit working in you.

So, My loves, won't you let Me back under this yoke with you? Some of you, with the press of all there is to do, have hastily taken the yoke off My shoulders and have tried to bear it completely by yourself. But now you're tired and weary, you're panting for a break and wondering why everything just seems so difficult and overwhelming. You're wondering if you really have the strength to carry this yoke.

To those of you who feel this way, I say yet again: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Yes, come to Me, and as you lie by My side to receive My strength, this yoke will automatically find its rightful Owner and link over My shoulders yet again. Then, together beneath this yoke of challenge and service, I will teach you all there is to know about bearing this yoke correctly. I will give you the qualities of My Spirit, that of meekness and lowliness, humility and patience, strength and perseverance, determination and faith.

As you receive of Me, you will find rest to your soul. You will feel your ruffled nerves soothed by My whispers. You will feel your sore muscles strengthened by My promises. As you once again allow Me the lion's share of the yoke, I will then be fully able to bring you victoriously. I will see to it that you are fully strengthened, as I have promised. (*End of message.*) (16)

(*Jesus:*) ...Today is the day when dependence on Me has become a requirement because of what is coming. You must learn to truly lean on My strength in order to be able to not only face the future, but face today--the present. Again I say that you need to actively, practically and spiritually use all the new weapons I've given you. That means wielding the keys and allowing them to become part of you. It means putting on My mind and allowing My Spirit to become one with your mind. It means working with your spirit helpers and allowing them to help and guide you and become an integral part of your life. And it means actively engaging and driving back the Enemy with praise warfare.

These are the days which will decide your future, My love, for I am raising up My army of the End. I have revealed to you your destiny. Will you grab hold of that destiny with My strength and power and not your own? In your own strength you won't make it, but I've shown you that by working in My strength and anointing you can and will! (17)

First Place

(*Jesus:*) No matter how much there is to do, it's unacceptable to put Me in second place. I can't and won't stand for that. I always deserve first place, no matter how many items you have on your to-do list, no matter how burdened you feel with all the work there is to do, no matter how important other things might seem to you. And if you don't keep Me in first place, you are the one who will feel

the loss.

When there's so much to do, you need My help and strength and anointing and power even more desperately than ever, not less than ever. When you have a myriad of details to take care of, and so many important work items on your plate, then you need My supernatural empowerment and discernment more than ever, not less than ever. Everything you need during busy and stressful times is found during your times with Me, and your times of reading and absorbing My Word. There is no other source.

If you're ever tempted to skip or skimp on your Word, don't do it! There's no benefit whatsoever in doing so. You're not going to get more done if you neglect Me. You're not going to accomplish more if you forget Me. You're not going to make more progress if you overlook Me and decide to forsake your time with Me and go on to other things. You'll get less done, you'll feel more drained, and you won't have My supernatural anointing and strength that you so desperately need.

So remind yourself of these three words when you're considering excusing yourself from your most important appointment of the day: "Don't do it!" I bless those who keep Me in first place, and who consider Me and their time with Me more important than anything else. (*End of message.*) (18)

- (1) Resting In The Lord, Part 1 #3621a:99-110
- (2) Resting In The Lord, Part 1 #3621a:127-129
- (3) Action Through Prayer Part 2 #3325:82-85
- (4) Resting In The Lord, Part 1 #3621a:158-164
- (5) Resting In The Lord, Part 1 #3621a:172-184
- (6) Resting In The Lord, Part 1 #3621a:151
- (7) Resting In The Lord, Part 1 #3621a:117,120
- (8) Baby Boom #3679:19
- (9) Baby Boom #3679:251,252,254-260
- (10) Shooting Straight, Part 16 #3542:16,17
- (11) Stress Not #3612:300-303
- (12) Resting In The Lord, Part 1 #3621a:135
- (13) Resting In The Lord, Part 2 #3621b:234,236
- (14) The Art of Dependence #3537:16-23
- (15) The Art of Dependence #3537:11-15
- (16) The Art of Dependence #3537:42,43,46-51,55-60,70-80
- (17) The Art Of Dependence, a spirit trip #3619:70,71
- (18) The Art of Dependence #3537:83-86