



PROPHECIES FOR THE CHILDREN OF DAVID

BOOK 9

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WE ALL NEED SHEPHERDING

We All Need Shepherding

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(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated)

Even the System Uses Shepherding

There is a quiet motivation deep in your heart to seek out that "someone" who is there when you need them. You need Me, but you also need someone "with skin on," someone in your realm who you can confide in if necessary, someone you can share worries or trepidations with, someone you can count on to give you wise counsel.

Needing help and input from others is a human necessity, as evidenced by the role of the rabbi or priest of old who was sought out for his godly counsel based on the Scriptures. The wisdom of the older sought out by the younger was a beautiful way of learning and growing in many societies where they lived together as large families under one roof.

Before the rise of the Internet there were columns in almost every paper where the readers could ask Ann Landers and others for advice on personal questions and problems. And now, with the Internet, there are many more sources of advice. Look at the support groups for almost anything under the sun, from AA to weight-loss programs to parent support groups for new parents, homeschooling parents, bereaved parents, and so many more help groups for all sorts of issues.

Look at the many books available, offering everything from advice on a sport all the way to the self-help books that give advice on how to train yourself to work better, work smarter, live healthily, communicate more deeply, sleep better, and more.

Why? It's a human necessity to get help and advice from others, and it's smart to learn from others' experience. Those who have experience in a certain area often also have a natural God-given desire to share that experience for the benefit of others. Many athletes become coaches, because they know what the one who's participating in that particular sport will need in order to succeed. They have learned themselves and can teach what to watch out for, how to best train, what to avoid, etc.

Bottom line: I created people to need support and input from others. Humans need other humans. You need the help of others in order to fully mature and grow and progress spiritually, just as sheep need shepherds in order to thrive.

As you grow in the ways of godliness, it's wise to seek out that friend who can help you on this journey, someone who's gone before you on that path of godliness, or who I've simply anointed to be your "coach" and help you. It's not only a shortcut to learning, but it will enrich your life, for "two are better than one"! (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). ⁽¹⁾

(Dad speaking:) Even in the world today they promote shepherding, because it's the inborn nature of man to need this help. In the world, because so many fail to fill this role, such as parents and teachers, they're finding a need to put in place their own type of "shepherds."

They call them guidance counselors, marriage counselors, psychoanalysts, psychiatrists, doctors of this and that.

These are all shepherds in their own right--worldly shepherds--and sad to say, more often than not, misguided ones, blind leaders of the blind, because they've gotten off the one true Center--Jesus! So many of these worldly shepherds are leading the masses astray. Nevertheless, the need for shepherding is there, because God created man to need a shepherd. When it comes to relationships, the System's got oodles of marriage counselors, guidance counselors, how-to books and manuals and whatnot!

But we in the Family have the true shepherds, those who care for your souls! And most of all, those who have the wisdom of God, who will unite with you to help you and love you, so that together you can find God's solutions.

Where else will you find such loving shepherds and parents in the Lord who are willing to love you, to understand you and your needs, who are willing to listen and to communicate, and who are humble enough to share their own experiences and mistakes so you can learn from them? They're willing to share their own discoveries, their own lessons, and their own tips and secrets for success--all to help you move toward a happy, fruitful relationship!

Together you can find answers and pull down new treasures and tips and jewels from the Heavens! There's nothing like the true counsel of the Lord, made available to you not only in the privacy of your bedchamber where you're able to receive His intimate, personal Words as He whispers in your ear, but also through the multitude of wise counsel--all that He's made available to you through your shepherds.

Take it from me, folks, you can't survive without it, because it's God's plan--and His plan always works best. Jesus Himself is the Good Shepherd, but He's given us all lots of good earthly shepherds to help lighten our load. If you want to grow and prosper in your relationship, take every advantage of this opportunity! It's there for you--so use it! ⁽²⁾

Did I not set up one shepherd over you, even My servant David? And when I brought David Home to Heaven, did I not set up your own beloved Queen Maria and King Peter to shepherd and to lead My flocks of the house of David? And from the top on down, so have I also ordained shepherds of My flocks, pastors of My folds, that you might find guidance, counsel and prayer power in your time of need. Such is the nature of man, for I have created man with this need--the need for each other, the need to communicate, the need to pour out, the need to get help. And to fulfill this need, I set up shepherds.

As My Father sent Me into the world to be your Shepherd, so likewise, now that I am with My Father, I raise up earthly shepherds over you that they might care for your souls. I set up shepherds over you to care for you, for you are Mine. Your soul belongs to Me; your heart, your mind, and your body are Mine. I love you and I care for My Own, and one way I care for you is through the shepherds which I set up over you to care for your souls.

I am the Good Shepherd and I care for My sheep--and I care for you in a very personal way. When no other earthly shepherd is available, I am able to guide you directly by My hand. Yet I know the frame of man, and I know that in your flesh you were created to need others. I have made you with an inborn need to communicate, to counsel, to pour out, to seek the help

of others, to seek prayer with others--mothers and fathers, shepherds in Me. For it is through this structure that I have set in place--this system of pouring out, of opening your heart in all honesty and sincerity, of seeking and receiving counsel and guidance--that I lead you, guide you, and teach you priceless, valuable lessons.

This basic human need for shepherding that each person has is ordained from My hand to teach the individual many, many, many lessons--lessons on faith, trust, sharing, caring, honesty, openness, yieldedness, listening, humility, pride, obedience. For the one who goes to his shepherd, who seeks the direction and counsel and advice of his shepherd, and who follows the instruction and counsel of his shepherd, is exercised in all these matters. It takes faith, it takes humility, it takes yieldedness, it takes listening, it takes being open, it takes sharing, and it takes following in obedience.

A wise man will learn on his own, but a wiser yet will follow closely by his shepherd's side. In this new day I am leading and guiding each one of My children more directly, in a more personal and intimate way. I'm able to guide each one personally, not only through My written Word and through the New Wine that I pour out to My servants the prophets, but also daily in the personal whispers that I speak to each one. Yet you must know, My children, that this does not fully replace the need for shepherding, the need to counsel and pour out and seek the advice and help of your earthly shepherds. Do not neglect this latter part. For this is the nature of man--I have set it in the heart of man to need others.

A wise man, a prosperous man, will seek the counsel of his earthly shepherds, for in this counsel is safety. By wise counsel purposes are established, and in the multitude of counselors there is safety. Seek, therefore, the counsel of your earthly shepherds, of parents, and those who keep watch over your souls, for this is the plan I have ordained. ⁽³⁾

A Shortcut to Progress!

The apostle Paul revealed a great and deep truth when he said, "Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12). You are able to communicate in many wonderful ways with Me, and with others in the realm of the spirit, but due to the differences of dimension, it's only when you get to Heaven and are able to see Me face to face that everything will be crystal clear.

The path that you travel spiritually while on Earth is not only foggy and dark, but dangerous, and full of pitfalls and obstructions. You have the light of My Word which helps you see in the dark and shows you where to go--and it's your lifesaver. My Word is your light, and the earthly shepherds I provide for you are like your guides, your companions, your helpers, your counselors.

If you were walking a foggy, dangerous, unknown path, you'd want all the help you could get. Even if you did have a light (My Word), you'd want to travel with others as much as possible, and find safety in their counsel and companionship. Spiritually it's much the same. I have set it up so that you need each other, so that through counsel, prayer, and teamwork, you are able to stay on the straight and narrow path of My will, and progress more quickly and

easily than you could on your own.

It's not that your shepherd is above you spiritually, or so much greater and wiser. It's simply a matter of all of My children needing each other for safety, support, strength, and counsel. As you work together with your shepherds and fellow laborers, listen to their counsel, pray, and seek Me together, you guarantee your spiritual safety and forward progress.

All of My children need to both receive and give shepherding. In receiving from those I have anointed to shepherd you, you are strengthened, humbled, and empowered to turn around and share what you have learned and are learning with those I have anointed you to shepherd and counsel.

I have set things up so that everyone needs an outside perspective and the help of others, because you gain unity and all the blessings and benefits that come with it. You also gain humility and spiritual strength. If you are wise you will look at your shepherds as a help, safeguard, and shortcut to progress, and open your heart and life to them. You will see them as your friends, counselors, those who love you and who make it easier for you to reach your spiritual goals. ⁽⁴⁾

Seek Out Shepherding

Receiving shepherding won't always be easy. It's hard to open up your life and to let another person get involved with what seems to be your business, but everyone needs outside help and also someone to be accountable to. When you open your life to shepherding, then you can have that safeguard that keeps you doing those things that you need to, that checks you when you are wrong and reminds you when you start slipping in an area.

An athlete who wants to become better in the sport that he has chosen must get a trainer. In like manner, if you want to be a better disciple you need shepherds, and you need to seek out their help and advice. The advice of a coach or trainer is not always easy to welcome; it usually means hard work, cutting things from your diet that are harmful, long and strenuous hours of training, and having to constantly repeat an action until you get it right. But the trainer and the athlete both know that it is for the end goal of being the best, of winning a prize, and so the athlete welcomes the trainer's drills and criticism, and is open to changing things which hold them back. So you should be with your shepherds. You should see them as helping you to recognize and overcome the problem areas that hold you back, or compromises that weaken you, pushing you to make progress, and helping you to avoid backsliding and losing ground spiritually.

Being a part of this Family brings with it many challenges. There will always be obstacles and areas you'll have to work on to improve; and if you are seeking the help of your shepherds and aren't afraid to let them into your life, and are getting regular checkups and coaching, then you'll be so much more productive. It's easier to receive shepherding if your attitude is one of desiring shepherding and looking for it. When you have an attitude of knowing you need help and wanting the help, it's much easier to welcome it instead of resisting or resenting it.

So if you want to receive shepherding more easily, if you want to grow more, seek help, accept help, and open your life to the help that can be yours through those that I have anointed and called to be shepherds. Remember too that I might be calling you to lead and shepherd others, and by the mercy that has been shown to you and the help you have received, you can likewise give unto others. I'm always looking for those who are willing to be shepherds--willing to have Me make and break and yet make and break them again, so that they are useful, moldable tools in My hands. And oh, they are so much more beautiful and useful than they were before!

Don't be afraid of showing yourself weak and in need of help. Everyone needs shepherding, including shepherds! Nobody's perfect, and everybody knows that, so needing help is nothing to hide or be ashamed of. It's not a sign of failure to need some correction or counsel. It's hiding your faults or trying to ignore them that is wrong.

Don't be afraid to seek out counsel or shepherding, rather than just waiting for it to come to you. Sometimes you've got to go look for it, ask for it, and not be afraid to let your shepherds know that you want and need help. This might seem contrary to your feelings. *What? I'm not sure if I like the idea of someone getting involved and asking questions about my personal life. I don't know if I want correction.* But search your heart, My love. Ask yourself, *Do I want to grow and progress in every area of my life? Do I want to be the most on-fire and militant disciple I can be? Do I want to keep up with all the new moves of the Spirit that the Lord has been revealing?* If your answer is yes to those questions, then deep down, whether you realize it or not, you want shepherding. You know you need it.

If left to its own devices without challenge or interference, it's human nature to let lethargy and compromise begin to creep in and take over. It's not part of your human nature to push yourself to excel in spirit, to continually choose the humble path, to do the loving thing, and make sure you're staying on the attack against your problem areas. It's a death to your flesh. That's why having a check and balance in place by way of shepherding is so crucial.

If you don't seem to be getting a lot of counsel, and you feel you may be starting to slow in spirit rather than progress, speak up! You're doing yourself a big favor when you share with others what I've been showing you, and let them help check you or prod you to keep growing. If you've been faithful to hear from Me, I won't let you slack off. I'll give you the counsel straight. But sharing what I've been showing you--including the various steps I've asked you to take in different areas of your life--will help to safeguard you and ensure that you're actually doing the things I've told you to do.

For example, perhaps you have a problem with thinking negatively about yourself. You've heard from Me, and I've told you over and over how much I love you, and I've given you the solution of praise. I've told you that the solution is to praise Me every time a negative thought comes to mind--thanking Me for something you like about yourself, or for your blessings in general. You then share this counsel from Me with one of your shepherds.

One evening, after a particularly long and stressful day, you're feeling discouraged and want to "vent" to this shepherd--spouting your frustrations as well as your feelings of failure and negativity about yourself. After listening for a while, and offering a hug and some

encouragement, your shepherd might then remind you of My promises of victory through praising, and offer to have some praise time and loving Jesus time together with you. It totally brings you out of the "dumps" and you end up having a wonderful evening.

In this case, any kind of an encouraging word and some counsel from your shepherd probably would've helped, but because they knew about My specific counsel to you and helped you to implement it, it helped you to get a better and more lasting victory!

My loves, the caretaking of your spirit, your heart, your life, is of utmost importance to Me. I want you to be happy. I want you to be fruitful. I want to make it as easy as possible for you to get and stay close to Me. That's why I've put this shepherding framework in place between you, Me, and your shepherds. If you make use of this framework correctly and consistently, you'll find that you're building a spiritual temple of your heart and mind that cannot collapse or even be shaken (1 Corinthians 3:16). Your spirit will be a strong vessel that I can pour My love through to this needy world.

So accept shepherding, and look for it, rather than only waiting for it to come to you. It's the wise thing to do, and the easiest. ⁽⁵⁾

Not a Defect But a Feature!

You can liken your growth as a Christian, as My disciple, as one of My brides, to your growth in the physical from an infant to an adult. When you are a baby, your parents take care of you and do everything for you. They love you, they feed you, they talk to you and teach you to talk, they keep you clean, they help you to learn about the world around you, they provide for you in every way. There is very little you can do for yourself at first.

As you grow, you learn to walk, to talk, to feed yourself, and you can get around at least a little bit without as much help as before. Then you start school, and you have teachers who teach you how to read and write, do simple math, and other basic skills that will help you on your way to further, greater, and more rapid growth in learning all that you need so that you can make further steps toward maturity and a measure of independence. You also keep learning from your parents, and from peers and other individuals you come in contact with.

As you progress through each grade, through childhood, then puberty, at each stage you become less dependent upon your teachers as you put to use your skills of reading, writing, and study to expand your horizons and educate yourself through your own initiatives. As you grow and progress through the different grades in school, you mature and become more capable of doing things yourself, so that you are able to do more homework, projects, and research on your own. In short, you grow into adulthood.

So it is in the spiritual. First you are born again into My Kingdom as a newborn babe. Your first shepherds, perhaps those who led you to Me, are like your parents. They pray with you and for you, keeping you clean and encouraged. They lead you to My Words and spoon-feed them to you at first, teaching you of their importance. They love you and encourage you, and show you how to love others. They answer your questions as they point you to Me and My Words. They show you how to hear from Me as you watch them do so by their example.

They get you started in your new life with Me.

Then, as you learn to read My Words on your own and get fed from them, as you learn to come to Me in prayer for your needs and My help, as you learn to hear from Me step by step, you grow in your spiritual life and walk with Me. And throughout this growth, you receive and benefit from the help and guidance of others, who are like teachers or coaches or facilitators--who care for your soul and who I have ordained to help you to continue to progress in your spiritual life.

They lead you to Me through their counsel and guidance, praying for you and fighting by your side in the spirit when you encounter obstacles and go through battles and difficulties, showing you how to go to My Word to find the answers that you need to specific situations and problems, helping you to apply the Word that you read, and helping you to grow in learning to hear from Me. As you continue to grow and progress spiritually, these teachers, your shepherds, aid you in becoming more dependent upon Me and My Words and your link with Me, to where you become more able to receive My help and instruction and direction on your own.

As you grow into a more mature Christian, you become better able to receive My help, answers, and shepherding directly via your channel to Me and through My Word and your implementation of it. But you will continue to need a measure of input, help and counsel from others--shepherds--for the remainder of your earthly life, because I have ordained it to be so. No one person can become totally sufficient in themselves and be all that I want and need them to be without the help of others.

It's not that I am not capable of giving all the help that you need, but I have set things up this way for your benefit, so that you would be humbled through your need not only for Me, but for others and their help, prayer, counsel and support.

You receive a very great benefit through being open to the help and support of others, and also giving and supporting others, because you become more closely bonded and united with other disciples and followers of Me, and thus you are much stronger through your unity than you could be on your own. I know that to have a strong weapon in My hands to defeat the Enemy, and a solid tool to reach those who do not yet know Me, and in order to spread My message far and wide, I need those who are not only strong in their connection with Me and My Words and My Spirit, but also strong in their love and dependence upon one another, their need for one another. You, My Family, can only be complete and what I want and need for the job at hand by being strongly linked together, united in love and in need for one another.

I built this need into mankind--that each person would need Me most of all and above all, but that he would never be sufficient on his own, even with Me, because of his need for others. I have built into each person certain weaknesses that cause them to need others, to not be able to make it on their own. These "flaws" or "weaknesses" bind My children together in love and humility, and united, they become a strong force against the Enemy and a powerful tool in My hands, fitting My overall plan.

So do not feel bad because you have weaknesses and need others. That's the way I made you. It's not a defect, it's a feature! I did it so that you would not only reach out to Me

and depend on Me and cling to Me, but so you would also need others and hopefully reach out to them too.

You'll never be completely sufficient without your brothers and sisters, your fellow brides. It's all a part of My wise divine plan; and needing and receiving shepherding from earthly shepherds is a key piece of the puzzle in this plan. Shepherds not only help you to stay connected with Me and My Word and to implement it in your life, but as you stay open to the counsel and input of others, it helps you to be more closely connected with your mates and fellow laborers. As you all give to one another, it keeps the connections between each of you strong and clean and clear of static and obstacles of the Enemy, so that you can be that strong weapon and powerful tool that I need you to be in My hands. ⁽⁶⁾

Just as all have sinned and fallen short of My glory, so have all disobeyed at one time or another and needed shepherding, both human and divine. Even David of old, both king and prophet, a man after Mine Own heart who obeyed in many big and little ways, required this shepherding. I took a personal hand in shepherding him, it is true, but at times I also enlisted the help of the prophet Nathan to bear messages to him, in the situation with Bathsheba and at other times. Nathan was not only My voice to him but also at times his shepherd, as he counseled David and helped make My will clear to him.

So you can obey in many ways and in most things and do great works for Me, My dear ones. You benefit greatly from hearing My voice and are blessed as you follow My instructions, My heavenly guidance and shepherding. But until you reach Heaven, you will require earthly shepherding as well, for it is in the multitude of counselors that purposes are established and shepherding is given. ⁽⁷⁾

Shepherding Doesn't Take the Place of Personal Choice

Shepherding will never take the place of personal choice. Receiving shepherding is like going to a counselor and listening to good advice. You hear the counsel, and then it's up to you to decide if and how you are going to make that counsel a part of your life and habits, and whether you are going to change things in your life because of it.

I have given you shepherds to give you godly counsel and point you to My Word and to My ways. I have not given you shepherds so that you can relinquish your responsibility to make choices that affect you and your family personally. I leave that responsibility with you. Your shepherds are there to point you to Me and to My Word, to give you counsel, to help bring things to your attention and to be a strength to you, but you must still come to Me and get desperate with Me. Their job is to assist you in your personal desire and quest to have a closer walk with Me and to grow in the life of service to Me that you have chosen, but not to take the wheel and start steering your life for you.

You must determine in your heart where your faith lies when it comes to personal decisions. I can see your heart and I know where your faith lies, and I choose to work within the realm of your faith. So when it comes to making the personal decisions that you face, it's

good to seek godly counsel and to heed it, but you must also come to Me and let Me speak to your heart and show you what My will is within the realm of your faith. There are seven ways to know My will, and godly counsel is one of the seven, but it is not the only way to know My will. You must also go to My Word, hear My personal counsel to you, and find out where your faith lies.

I have given you shepherds to be a help to you, so that you have someone to counsel with, to pray with, to love you, to be there for you during the tough times, someone you can talk with who will understand and point you to Me, someone who can help you to see things from a different perspective or point things out to you that are not right. I have not given you shepherds to tell you what to do or to take the decision-making responsibility out of your hands. You are wise to listen to your shepherds' counsel, but then you must take that counsel to Me and make the final decision on personal matters yourself. You are the one who needs to make these decisions, since you are the one who will reap the consequences of the decisions you make.

It's human nature in many cases to go to others for help, for answers, for instruction, for guidance, or for direction when things aren't going so well in your life or when there is a decision to be made. It's also often human nature to lean on others' opinions, ideas, and ways of doing things. When different situations come into your life and you need answers, often your first thought is to call on someone for help, to find someone who will tell you what to do.

It's good to counsel with others, to receive godly counsel, to get prayer, to get a listening ear, to get some words of comfort, encouragement, and advice, but remember that the final decision needs to be made by you--in counsel with Me. It's a lot easier to ask someone for the answers rather than doing the hard work of seeking Me for yourself. But you can't go the route of just asking others and neglecting to seek Me yourself.

It's very important that you, or you and whoever else is ultimately involved, have the faith for the action, for the solution. You should not rely only on what others think or feel should be done. While you may take their advice and seriously consider it and pray about it, in the end it has to be your faith and your decision.

Shepherds are there to listen, pray for, and give godly counsel to others who find themselves in difficult circumstances and have questions such as: Should I change jobs? Should I quit my job? Should we get married? Should I move to another city? Should I take the doctor's advice to have an operation? Should I take my child out of public school and homeschool him instead? It's good to go to shepherds for counsel, and in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs 11:14), but I want to reinforce that the final decision of what you do is according to your faith.

If you are a parent and your child is sick and you wonder if you should take him or her to the doctor, it's good to counsel with your shepherd and have others pray with you and for you, and perhaps hear from Me for you in addition to what you receive from Me yourself. There may be things that I want to show you through them that you haven't seen that will be good to take into account when making the final decision. But still, the final decision is in your court. That's a decision that is your responsibility to make.

It is important that you do not act solely on the advice of your shepherd, as you could

end up acting on false faith. False faith is when you follow through on counsel that is given, but you don't have the conviction and certainty in your heart which that faith gives. It's when you don't have faith that you are doing the right thing, but you think that because the shepherd suggested it, it's probably the right thing to do, since it came from the shepherd.

The right thing to do is what I show you to do and what you personally have the faith for, not what your shepherd, or whoever you talked with, has the faith for. The final decision is for you and any others involved to decide.

There are many reasons why you should not simply make a decision based on someone else's faith. One of the most important reasons is that decision-making gives you experience, teaches you lessons, and helps you to grow and mature. Your life is yours to live, and yours to learn from too. Learning to listen to advice, but to ultimately find your own faith, to find My recommendation for you, and to make a prayerful decision for yourself is how you progress in spirit. Life is full of decisions, and they are a constant shaping and directing force on your life and your character. Letting someone else decide for you, or blindly following another's advice, is not the way to growth and wisdom. It's a shortcut that bypasses the lessons and progress I have for you.

Also, if you were to listen to your shepherd or your friend and act on the advice they've given you, without having full faith yourself that this is the right course of action, and then something went wrong, it could cause damage to your relationship with that person, because the natural reaction is to blame the person who suggested that you consider doing such and such. Of course, a mature person will realize that what they do in life is their own choice, and the consequences fall on them too. But this is one reason why it's important that you are the one making the decision and that you act according to what you believe is the right thing to do.

The best one to talk to when making a final decision is Me. I will give you the direction to take. It's good and helpful to ask your shepherd for counsel, and especially to ask him or her to pray for you to hear from Me clearly so you can make a wise decision. I will show you the best possible route to take. I will be your sound counselor in these difficult decisions.

But, whatever you do, don't act on the counsel of others without having a personal conviction and the faith for it. It's not that you shouldn't ever take someone else's advice. Godly counsel is one of the ways of discovering My will, and I may well show you that so-and-so's advice is My will for you, and encourage you to follow it. But the difference is that you sought Me and you have the faith for it, and you made the final decision.

I am always there to help you, to give you advice and direction, so pray and ask Me. I will not lead you astray if you'll commit your ways to Me. Seek Me and I will shine a light on the path you must take, the decision you must make. Together we are an unbeatable team, and I will give you the faith you'll need to act on the decision we make. I love you and I want us to be a team in the decisions you must make in your life.

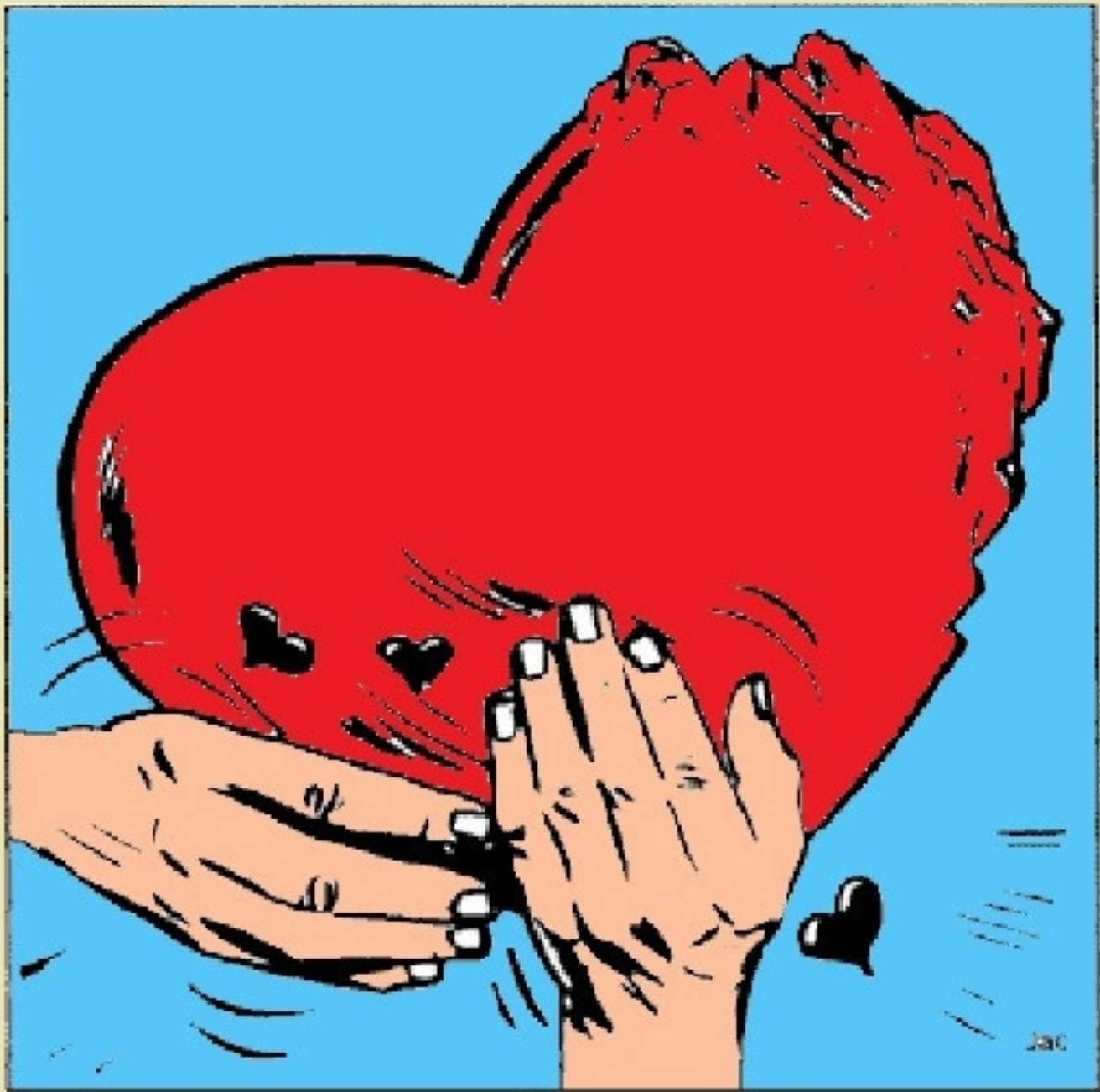
You don't want to get overly dependent on others for all of your answers and counsel. There is a balance, in that while it is good to seek the counsel and prayer of others for questions or situations that come up in your life, you don't want to defer the responsibility of making your decisions to others, instead of coming to Me and seeking Me about what's on your heart.

The idea is to use shepherding as a tool, but not to rely on it like a crutch. There will be plenty of times in life when you'll face decisions that only you can make, or when you will need to do something that only you can do, and you need to have your faith built up and ready to trust Me for the answers and direction that I give you in those times, and have the faith and peace of mind to follow through on them. This is another reason why it's important to build up and strengthen your faith; you never know when you'll need those muscles strong and ready for use.

Be open to shepherding and to using this tool that I have given you, and also learn when it is time to stand on your own feet and put your trust and faith in Me, taking a stand of faith and personal responsibility. Are you allowing shepherding to enhance your faith and connection with Me, and bring you closer to Me? Or is it something that you rely on so that you don't have to come to Me and seek Me for My counsel and answers? Shepherding and godly counsel can help you learn how to make wise decisions, but they don't make the decisions for you.

The days are coming when you will have to make some choices and decisions by yourself for yourself which could have dire consequences. Will you have the faith and a solid enough connection with Me to stand on your own two feet and follow what I give you? Or will you be looking around for someone else to rely on, someone else's faith and channel who you could follow instead of your own? ⁽⁸⁾

1. Why Shepherding, Part 1 #3640:9-15
2. Communication in Marriage and Other Relationships! #3196:121-126
3. Loving Interaction! #3234:101-106
4. Why Shepherding, Part 1 #3640:28-33
5. Why Shepherding, Part 1 #3640:70-82
6. Why Shepherding, Part 1 #3640:16-27
7. Get Up and Get Over It, Part 1 #3497a:51, 52
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STAYING OPEN FOR SHEPHERDING

Staying Open to Shepherding

Book 9, Compilation #02 of TCOB pubs on the subject, by theaudiokey.com team - March 2021
(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated)

You need the godly counsel of others. That's the principle of shepherding. As you know, I didn't make you self-sufficient in every area.

If everyone is figuring out their own personal standard, there is a danger that you can gradually expect less and less of yourself, unless you're very vigilant. Gradually compromising can eventually lead to your channel not being all that clear. If you get in the habit of brushing off My checks and making excuses, then My warnings might not get through.

My safeguard in your life is to seek out and receive shepherding, and the counsel and checks of those who care about you and want to see you succeed in your discipleship. If you get input of this kind from someone, be wise and use it. Remember that the goal is maintaining your spiritual health and integrity. If a check from a friend or loved one will contribute to that, then be very glad for it.

If you can get past your pride, you'll see that any shepherding or friendly advice you get is beneficial and a good safeguard in your life. You have the best of intentions to not slip or allow anything that is unwholesome in your life, but you won't always be able to stay on top of everything. So if someone who loves you notices something that might be a problem and gives you some advice, be glad about it. Your goal is to be as fruitful as possible for Me, and a strong spiritual life is going to help you achieve that.

You are ultimately responsible for your spiritual health and strength; yet at the same time, if you are blessed with shepherding or counsel, be thankful for it and benefit from it. ⁽¹⁾

Without some form of correction, My people perish. They become old bottles--stale, stagnant, and lackadaisical in spirit, unable to keep pace with the movements of My Spirit. They become overly sensitive to any form of correction because they're not used to receiving it; they've closed their spirits to it. They become less sensitive to My Spirit and the compliment and benefits of correction in their lives.

But those who remain open to correction, who want it, listen for it, think about it, pray about it, and act upon it, stay alive in spirit, moving with My Spirit, revolutionary and up-to-date with the new moves of My Spirit! They stay warm, loving, moldable, flexible, humble, and in tune with Me. And because these want the correction and instruction of My Spirit, I can continue to pour it out regularly and continue to help them to grow and to prosper in spirit and use them more mightily.

Correction is My personal loving care and compliment for you. Yet is difficult for My children to receive for various reasons. Many have a misconception about Godly correction and instruction, thinking that it indicates some kind of backsliding or failure on their part. Others have a fear of correction and instruction, perhaps because they've experienced unloving correction in the past. For some it is difficult because of their pride. They are being

told they are wrong or did something the wrong way, and that is almost always hard to receive. For others it is difficult because of the way correction was delivered in the past, with stern looks, with shouting, with names and labels that hurt, and with forgiveness granted in word but not in deed.

When I speak of correction being My personal loving compliment to you, I speak of correction which is given in such a way as to help, not to hurt. When I or others correct you in a loving way and you have difficulty receiving it because of your pride, it is nevertheless My touch of love for you. Whom I love, I chasten and correct and instruct. If you go without these things, you stray, My children. I only instruct you because I wish to see you do better in the future, not as a punishment, and I always correct in perfect love.

Others may correct you with less than perfect love at times, because they are human and less than perfect themselves. Nevertheless, I would that they use as much love as possible, following My example in the Word and these messages from Heaven, My queen and king's example in the Letters, and other Godly examples in your publications. Correction should not be given in anger, nor with yelling and the calling of names, nor with intent to hurt rather than help. It is by mercy and truth that any iniquity is corrected and purged.

Still, even when given in a less than perfect manner by others, correction can be My compliment and blessing to you if you focus on the instruction and the change needed rather than the way in which the message was delivered. Let it make you better rather than bitter or resentful at its tone. In the multitude of words there lacketh not sin, and all My children have sinned in this way at one time or another.

It's a compliment, not a punishment! It's love, not revenge. It's Godly and is being given with love because I want to use you more mightily. I see your potential. I see the good work that you're already doing. I see your capability to do even better in My service, and I desire to instruct and teach you how to do even better because I delight to use you more fully.

This is a compliment from Me to you that I have faith in you. I trust you to do even more, to be even more, to fulfill My will even more fully in your life and the lives of those you touch. I invest My love, My time, My attention, My correction and instruction in those who I believe will bring forth more fruit, who will grow in spirit and become even more useful vessels in My Kingdom.

So you who are given some form of correction and instruction should feel honored and thankful that I'm selecting you for further training. It's not a negative thing to be instructed; it's a good and positive thing! It means that you're learning, growing, and maturing in spirit, and will be an even better disciple, shepherd, or leader.

Those who receive more correction are in a perfect situation for more growth. Those who are not touchy, sensitive, or easily offended by instruction, but want it and listen to it, are the ones who are moving forward with My Spirit and are way up in front. But if you're quick to take offense at correction and instruction from Me, your shepherds, or your peers, you're hurting yourself, because it blocks the flow of instruction. It blocks the flow of My spirit of instruction in your life, which will give you the truth, which will give you the power to progress and change.

The more open you are to correction from Me and others, the more you desire it and

look for it and ask for it, the easier it becomes to receive, and the less touchy and sensitive you'll find yourself being toward correction. Therefore the more you will change when needed, the more you will grow in spirit, the more you will progress and gain in wisdom, love, understanding, and spiritual maturity; the more on track you'll be with the moves of My Spirit, and the closer you'll be able to follow Me.

The less sensitive you are to the correction in a negative way--such as feeling hurt, resentful, closed, or hardened in heart--the more in tune with My Spirit you will be, and the more easily you'll be able to discern the need to change in the areas being pointed out to you, and the easier it will be for you to change. It won't be such a big deal to hear correction if you're used to hearing it, because you're used to being open to it and inviting it into your life. It's only when people are not used to it and they're overly sensitive to instruction that it becomes a bigger deal, harder to receive, and harder for others to give to them.

Those who are being given instruction in some way should understand that it's a great blessing in their lives. It's a wonderful tool to help them to grow, to change, and to stay alive in spirit--soft and moldable, humble and loving, and all the things of My Spirit that are needed in their life.

They should be thankful, happy, excited and uplifted to know that I'm reaching out to them personally and taking the time with them to tune in to their spiritual needs. They should consider it a great compliment that I, the great God of the Universe, not only hear their prayers, but I work in their lives to answer those prayers and do something about their spiritual needs.

I love My children, and the ones that I love and want to continue to use mightily, I want to instruct and correct and guide in love. It's a touch of My love in your life when you're instructed. It's a wonderful opportunity for you to grow by leaps and bounds if you will open up to it and receive it in faith and love.

I will not give you that which is not good and true and needed. I don't give My children bad things, wrong things, lies, or things that they don't need in some way. Especially when it comes to instruction and correction, I'm very careful to give you just exactly what I want you to have, what I know you really need at the time.

I love you so much and I prove My love to you in many ways. I shower you with My blessings and gifts of the Spirit through faith, through healing, through My supply, through love in your life, through protection, through encouragement. And correction is another form of My love. It's another blessing to you. It's another touch of My love in your life, for without it you wouldn't grow, you wouldn't be able to change, and I wouldn't be able to work in your life to bring about that growth and change.

So fear not to receive correction and instruction, but open your life to it! Open your heart to it, and let My Spirit of love flood in and bring about the wonderful fruits of growth in your life that will bring you even more happiness, and make it possible for Me to use you even more mightily. ⁽²⁾

(Dad speaking:) Sometimes shepherds just have to meddle. They don't always like it, but you need it! If you have the mindset that there are untouchable things in your life that you

can't take shepherding in, those are probably the things that you need the most shepherding in.

The Lord knows just how and where you are sinning or falling short in your life, and He usually tries to give you the conviction in your heart long before a shepherd comes to ask you about it. He leads shepherds to those areas of your life because He knows what you need. If you close yourself off in these areas, you're going to be missing out big time.

It's dangerous to close off an aspect of your life and think you're doing all right without any outside help or counsel. It's then very easy for the Enemy to pull the wool over your eyes and do some serious damage to your spiritual life in that area, because he knows you're not going to accept help from others, so if he can keep you from seeing the problems (which isn't that hard--because everyone has a hard time clearly seeing their own problems), he's able to work freely.

And, yes, I know that it's easier to feel that you'd be open to the Lord and His personal shepherding, and you'd prefer that to letting earthly shepherds get in there and meddle with what you consider very personal matters. But look at it the way that I've always said. It's a whole lot easier to take correction and instruction from earthly shepherds, who can present it nicely and pray with you, and love you up afterward, than to let it get to the point where the Lord has to intervene by force and wake you up to the errors of your ways.

Of course, the Lord will be loving too, if you're going to Him and getting your shepherding from Him, but if you wait too long and close yourself off to the shepherding He tries to give you through others, He's usually got to do something a little more extreme to get your attention, to wake you up and show you how you've gotten off track.

And the reality of the situation is that if you're not open to earthly shepherds, you're not humble and open enough before the Lord either, so you're missing out on both fronts.

The Lord is in the business of making shepherds out of all of you. As He brings people into various positions of leadership and you find yourself with new shepherds, either in your Home or area, it might be difficult to look at those people in a new way. You're thinking, *This guy was just a normal person last month, and now he's on the teamwork and thinks he can ask me about my kids or marriage.*

Well, that's how it works, folks. The Lord raises up those who He knows are right for the job, and He gives them the anointing for it, as they're yielded to His training. Of course, it's a bit difficult and takes time to adjust to having someone get involved in your personal life, but look at it as coming from the Lord's hand. He's the One with the master plan, and He's got it all figured out.

You know, you'll find out a lot of times that the part of your life that you're most closed off to receiving help in is often the part that is key for you to really make spiritual progress in. Once you overcome in that area, it's like you've opened up to the Lord and yielded your all to Him, and everything else falls into place. Think about that.

It might be the most painful thing to discuss, and you feel that it's your own little life, they're your kids, it's your marriage, it's your sex life, it's your faith. Well, it's true that it does involve you primarily, but in our Homes, everything affects others. What goes on in your life

definitely does affect others for good or bad. You might think you're hiding it or containing it pretty well, but if something's not right, it's affecting at least you, and you affect your Home. Not only that, but if you're harboring sin or compromise in one area of your life, it will bleed over into other areas in your spiritual life. If you resist shepherding in one area, eventually you'll be closed off to shepherding more and more, till it takes you right out of the Family.

Another way to look at it is that when you chose to be a disciple, you were giving your life to the Lord. So whatever way He chooses to work in your life is His business. And He often chooses to work through earthly shepherds--your mates, co-workers, Home teamworkers, etc.

It's easy to say, "I'm yielded and open to the Lord's shepherding." It's not as easy to say, "I'm yielded and open to so-and-so's shepherding." But that's how the Lord works. He uses physical shepherds to care for His sheep. It also works to keep everyone humble, because it's humbling to give correction, and it's humbling to receive correction and have someone else tell you that you might be wrong, or give you some pointers, or at least ask you to pray about a certain area of your personal life. But it's good for you. It's part of your growth. It's imperative that all Family disciples become open to shepherding, because we have to make some progress as a Family, and shepherding is one of the main avenues the Lord is going to use to help each person do that.

So, hear these words and take note. The sooner you are able to open yourself to shepherding in every area of your life, the easier it will be in the long run. It will bear so much good fruit in your life because you will gain humility, you'll grow in your weak areas, it will promote unity in your Homes, and each time you open up in honesty and show that you need help, you receive the Lord's strength and power. When you are weak, then is He strong in you.
(3)

Continue to humble yourself under My hand and I'll continue to prosper you and lead you in My ways. It pleases Me when you come not only to Me with your faults and shortcomings, but before others so that they may pray for you and uphold you before My throne of grace--that you may obtain the victories, and that you may receive the anointing and the strength to overcome your sins, shortcomings and bad habits.

So I ask that you be more open about your faults--that you humbly confess your sins and shortcomings and make them known to your shepherds and to your co-workers, so that they can help you through their prayers and their counsel, and so that they can bring these things before Me. For in the multitude of prayer warriors there is strength. As I have said, there is great power in united prayer and in confessing your faults one before another, that you may be healed and strengthened.

To be fully used of Me, to fully avail yourself of My peace, My power, and the ability to [help you overcome your weakness], you must continue to obey what I show you; and most of all, you must ask for prayer. Humble yourself before others, before your co-workers and your shepherds, and ask for prayer. Acknowledge that you have fallen in this area and that you need My help, that you need their prayers, their counsel. This will be the first step in having a complete victory in your life in this area.

Beware of the fear of man. Beware of covering up things in your personal life for fear of what others may think. Get everything out in the open. Even if you have a change, even though you change from night to day, continue to confess your faults. For I say that now even as you are praying and seeking Me, I have given you the victory over these things and you have taken the challenge to grow.

A lot of times when My children make mistakes and fall short and sin, but then make some progress and start changing, they feel there is no need to confess their faults, there is no need to bring things to the light of My truth and to their shepherds. They feel that they are already changing and that they don't need help anymore. But I like the humble way, the way of confession, the way of openly bringing out your faults so that others may benefit from the comfort and the training that I give you. So remember that "fact" next time you do something that you know is not of Me, that you know is a manifestation of a shortcoming and of one of your besetting sins, and not the sample of My Word. Remember it's healthy to confess it even if the next day you do wonderfully. Confess it nevertheless and ask for prayer.

I want you to learn that you have nothing to fear--that I am not going to run around with a hammer to bang you over the head when you make a mistake. Neither should your shepherds and co-workers, for that is not the way I work. I want you to understand that there is no need to fear or worry. If you learn the importance of confessing every fault, then you will have learned wisely and you will be a wiser man. For he that is weak in himself is wise and strong in Me.

Keep going, keep progressing, keep fighting and keep obeying, and great will be your reward in every way. I will empower you and I will use you with the might and fullness of My Spirit as you do these things. ⁽⁴⁾

I know that shepherding can be difficult to receive at times. You have your heart set on doing something, and then someone comes along and asks if you've heard from Me or checked with Me via any of the several ways to know My will. Your pride flares up that someone could question your choice, and stubbornness kicks in, an unwillingness to even consider changing your ways.

Yes, you do have free will and choice, My love, and these kinds of "checks" aren't about making you conform. Your shepherds and brethren are your safeguards, and I work through them to help you uphold your bigger and long-term decisions when some of the smaller, everyday choices could potentially lead you away from your primary choices in life, which are to follow Me and do My will. If something is not My will, would you want to do it anyway? Isn't it better that your shepherd or brother asks you about these matters in love, so that you remain within the center of My will and a recipient of all My blessings? Shepherds are safeguards, and shepherding is safeguarding another. Where no counsel is, the people fall (Proverbs 11:14). Your purposes are established by counsel, by shepherding, and in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

For these reasons, it's important to be on guard against sensitivity, and to actively resist it whenever you feel it creeping in. Sensitivity blocks the free flow of counsel, and it can breed stubbornness and unyieldedness (being unwilling to yield to the Lord or others). When you're

going your own way rather than Mine, you move out of the safe zone of My will and into the danger zone.

Think of shepherding as instruction in righteousness, as good advice and counsel in how to do better. Fight against letting pride or unyieldedness cause you to reject it, or letting your sensitivity hinder others from giving it or yourself from receiving it. If you react to advice and shepherding with discouragement or negativity, or prickly anger, then others will be less likely to try and help you when they see you straying. They don't want to see you discouraged, angry, or negative. They love you and are trying to help you, not hurt you or upset you.

A mature Christian remembers that nobody is perfect, and doesn't expect his shepherds to use perfect presentation or perfect examples when pointing something out. A mature Christian has faith and trust that I can speak through others just as I speak through him or her. A mature Christian understands that sensitivity blocks open communication, and fights to be as open and receptive as possible. A mature Christian understands that an outside perspective is extremely helpful in seeing things more clearly and in a more well-rounded way. A mature Christian sees constructive criticism, tips, instruction, and correction as a blessing.

Fear is not of Me. I give peace, faith, a sound mind, a calm spirit, and a good outcome when you follow Me, because all things work together for good to those who love Me, who are called according to My purposes (Romans 8:28). Set aside your fears, worries, and cares, so that you can calmly and prayerfully consider the counsel or advice, and take action as I show you to.

Determine that you want My will most of all, and that it's worth sacrificing your pride and your independence in order to get the help and the counsel that will enable you to grow and mature spiritually, and to stay on the straight and narrow path I have shown you to follow. Try to go My way rather than your own, even if it's difficult at first, and you'll find it gets easier and becomes more rewarding. You can do it! I love you! ⁽⁵⁾

Receiving shepherding won't always be easy. It's hard to open up your life and to let another person get involved with what seems to be your business, but everyone needs outside help and also someone to be accountable to. When you open your life to shepherding, then you can have that safeguard that keeps you doing those things that you need to, that checks you when you are wrong and reminds you when you start slipping in an area.

An athlete who wants to become better in the sport that he has chosen must get a trainer. In like manner, if you want to be a better disciple you need shepherds, and you need to seek out their help and advice. The advice of a coach or trainer is not always easy to welcome; it usually means hard work, cutting things from your diet that are harmful, long and strenuous hours of training, and having to constantly repeat an action until you get it right. But the trainer and the athlete both know that it is for the end goal of being the best, of winning a prize, and so the athlete welcomes the trainer's drills and criticism, and is open to changing things which hold them back. So you should be with your shepherds. You should see them as helping you to recognize and overcome the problem areas that hold you back, or compromises that weaken you, pushing you to make progress, and helping you to avoid backsliding and losing ground spiritually.

Being a part of this Family brings with it many challenges. There will always be obstacles and areas you'll have to work on to improve; and if you are seeking the help of your shepherds and aren't afraid to let them into your life, and are getting regular checkups and coaching, then you'll be so much more productive. It's easier to receive shepherding if your attitude is one of desiring shepherding and looking for it. When you have an attitude of knowing you need help and wanting the help, it's much easier to welcome it instead of resisting or resenting it.

So if you want to receive shepherding more easily, if you want to grow more, seek help, accept help, and open your life to the help that can be yours through those that I have anointed and called to be shepherds. Remember too that I might be calling you to lead and shepherd others, and by the mercy that has been shown to you and the help you have received, you can likewise give unto others. I'm always looking for those who are willing to be shepherds--willing to have Me make and break and yet make and break them again, so that they are useful, moldable tools in My hands. And oh, they are so much more beautiful and useful than they were before! ⁽⁶⁾

When you seek counsel from Me, you know that I understand your heartcry; I understand even the things that you can't verbalize, and then I answer them in My counsel to you. But with earthly shepherds, My shepherds that I have placed on the Earth for you, it may take them a while to understand exactly what your trial is, and therefore a little while for them to know what to say, what Word to point you to, or what is the best solution for the problem you are facing.

Many times it just helps to have a listening ear and prayer. This is a great help, for all the reasons I have given. But you young people will be disappointed if you expect your shepherds' counsel to be perfect and to be straight as an arrow every time. They will fail, just as any humans fail. Yet I tell you that even in spite of your shepherds' imperfections and in spite of how you may feel they don't measure up sometimes, it is still better to counsel with them than to work things out on your own. That is why I give you shepherds, a third party who is wise and strong in Me, who can be a help.

Your shepherds love you greatly, and it is a great help just to have someone on your side who is loving you, supporting you, praying for you, and holding you when you are emotionally spent and in need of comfort.

It is a help because I bless counsel; I bless your opening your heart and sharing it with someone else. Because you do this, because you make this sacrifice to communicate, My treasures are opened up and My blessings flow. I have said, "If any two of you agree on Earth as touching anything, it will be done of My Father which is in Heaven" (Mat.18:19). So if you and your counselor together agree to ask that I give a solution to a certain problem, I will do it! It is simply more effective than praying and working things out on your own. ⁽⁷⁾

Hindrances to Receiving Shepherding

(Dad speaking:) The Enemy often attempts to get you to try to avoid shepherding for any number of reasons, because he knows how much it's going to help you to grow. This can be a great hindrance to your spiritual growth, because you need guidance and help from the Lord and others to keep making progress spiritually.

If you get hit with worry or fear or reservations about receiving shepherding, fight your fears with praise and by reminding yourself of the good and positive mindset the Lord has toward shepherding. He's only trying to help us better our game, only pointing out some improvements that can be made because He wants us to be able to do our very best. His perfect and intimate love is also a strong weapon against these fears. When you've been in His bed of love and listened to His voice as a lover, your spirit is much stronger to reject and ignore the Enemy's fear-mongering.

Shepherding is also a humbling process. If you have to learn or be told something, it means that you didn't already know it, you weren't already right, and that's humbling. The student has to humbly admit that he needs the help of his teacher in order to benefit from the teacher's superior knowledge and experience. This is something that happens in every walk of life, and it's no different when it comes to spiritual shepherding or learning.

You simply have to condition yourself to look at it in that light, that it is a learning and educational experience. You need to learn something that you don't know, or don't know how to do well, or need a reminder or refresher course in, and you need help. Rather than fearing that you will be "exposed" for what you don't know, you need to look at it as you would any other type of education.

Learning to be open and desirous of shepherding is a challenge you want to take up so that you can be a better Christian, a better disciple, a better follower of the Lord and closer to Him. You don't want to follow afar off. You should be no more ashamed of being shepherded than anyone is ashamed of going to college to learn in a certain area and to better themselves.

I'll admit that it is different than earthly education, since it goes much deeper and deals with the very fiber of your being, your character and spirit, and opening up your personal life and inner being is taking a risk--the risk of being hurt deeply. It is much like needing help for a medical ailment where you have to put yourself into the hands of a physician in order to be helped. You have to trust the doctor and be confident that what he does for you will be in your best interests and will help you or cure you.

Jesus is the best Soul Doctor in the universe, so in much the same way you have to put yourself into His very capable hands and know that what He wants to do to help you will be the best thing that can happen to you. Trusting in Jesus is the key to allowing yourself to be shepherded, and knowing that it is something He is asking of you will give you the motivation to put your whole heart into it so that you can gain the most you possibly can from it.

Jesus said that He must increase and that you must decrease (John 3:30). What He is saying is that what you want for yourself in your life, or your own will, must decrease, so that what He wants in your life can increase. Receiving shepherding, which can guide you in how

you can decrease so that Jesus can increase, is what all His true children need and want. It requires that decision of putting the Lord first, putting the Lord's wants before your own.

It's not always an easy decision to make--to put the Lord's will before our own--as our flesh can have such a strong influence on our decisions. Shepherding is one of the things that is required in order for the flesh to decrease and for the spirit to increase. Are you willing to make that choice?

You can't stay close to the Lord on your own. You've got to have the Lord's help to stay close to Him. And the Lord most often brings the help that you need in the form of a human shepherd who can help coach you in the spiritual matters you need to learn and grow in. Launching out into that spiritual realm takes faith--faith that the Lord is in control and that the guidance He's sending your way through others is what you need in order to be a more useful instrument for Him.

In order to receive this fully, you have to let go of any fleshly hindrances such as embarrassment, sensitivity, or any of the other manifestations of pride, and leave the consequences and results in the caring and knowing hands of the Lord. Surrendering to the Lord and His control is one of the greatest steps you can take if you are serious about making progress in the spirit, and submitting to shepherding is part of that.

The Lord wants you to withhold nothing. He wants you to lay everything bare before Him, so that there are no secrets or dark places for anything that is not of Him to hide. Then He will be able to keep you squeaky clean so that He can shine brightly and beautifully through you. And remember that only when you fully yield to the Lord can you be fully used of Him, and it's when you are in His highest will that He can reward you with His greatest satisfaction and joy. So it's a matter of personal happiness too. ⁽⁸⁾

You all know that sensitivity is born of pride, and one way to fight pride is by daily seeking to do the humble thing. And in this case, doing the humble thing is admitting to yourself and to others how much you need their help, correction, instruction, and guidance. Maybe you know more than so-and-so about this or that aspect of your responsibilities, or even their responsibilities; but taking the humble seat and doing the humble thing in this case is realizing that sometimes the way I speak to you is through others and their connection with Me.

You could be praying and hearing from Me frequently, faithfully, even at every turn, but sometimes I like to use others to speak to you--sometimes just to keep you humble. So not only do I use My channel with you to give you guidance and instruction, but I also use others' channels with Me to speak to you--thus keeping you humble and close to Me.

I know that sometimes it's hard to see Me in others when their faults are staring you in the face. You feel like they aren't the ones to point out such-and-such to you, because, well, they're just as guilty. Yes! That's precisely the point! I like to use men and women who are full of faults, because then My power is more clearly seen in them.

Overcoming sensitivity and being willing to shepherd each other all boils down to love. How much love do you have for your fellow men? Do you love them enough to have the humility to point out something that they're doing that could need some adjustment? Do you

have enough love to receive it when they point out something to you? It's a two-way street, My loves, and I want to see it get some traffic!

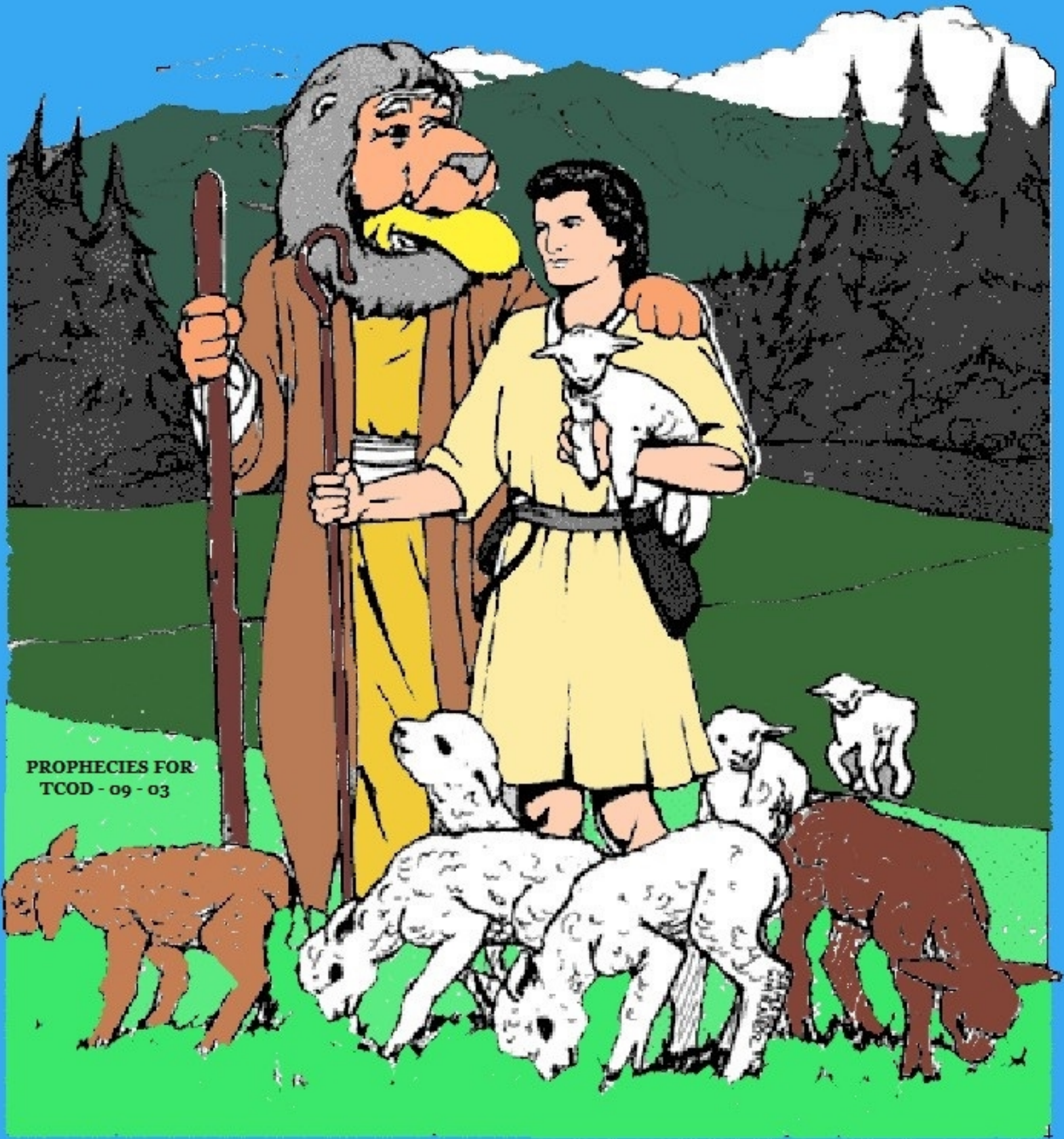
I know that giving and taking and doing both in love is not easy. It takes a hard swallow for some of you to hold your tongue and to speak evil of no man, even in your heart, when they're correcting you. The Enemy will use anything he can to keep you from receiving it: by pointing out to you that the way they corrected you was not in love, or was done out of pride or self-righteousness; or he will be quick to list all their faults and failings to you and thus make you feel justified in not receiving the points that they had for you. But all of that doesn't change the fact that I have lessons for you to learn from what they're saying.

Are you willing to do whatever it takes to keep this Family afloat and to make sure that your teamwork and working relations with others are handled in love and humility?--Even if that means taking correction, no matter how it's delivered and by whom?

When someone comes to you with something to point out, of course the Enemy is going to be right there trying to keep you from receiving it. It's up to you to realize that the reason you're being fought is not because something bad is happening, but because something good is happening and the Enemy of your soul wants to see it thwarted! So fight it with the keys, fight it with the Word, fight it with your knowledge of the Enemy's dastardly tactics.

It feels so "right" to be sensitive; it's just what your emotions and human weakness is pulling you to do; and it takes great faith, determination, and fight to pull your feelings in the right direction at that time. But that's what you are--you're fighters and warriors who are not taken in by the Devil's lies and lying vanities! So fight on and you will win! ⁽⁹⁾

1. Devotional: Your Input, Your Choice, Your Spirit #3801:113-116, 119
2. Turning Weakness Into Strength! #3247:45-62
3. Shooting Straight, Part 3 #3501:45-57
4. You Can Make It! #3277:108-114
5. Why Shepherding, Part 2 #3649:60-66
6. Why Shepherding, Part 1 #3640:70-73
7. Communication in Marriage and Other Relationships! #3196:129-132
8. Why Shepherding, Part 2 #3649:48-59
9. Get Up and Get Over It, Part 3 #3497c:421-428



PROPHECIES FOR
TCOD - 09 - 03

**WHAT MAKES
A GOOD LEADER?**

What Makes a Good Leader?

Book 9, Compilation #03 of TCOB pubs on the subject, by theaudiokey.com team - March 2021

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated)

(Dad's writings in the Letters are prefixed by "Dad wrote:")

Prophecies received from Dad from heaven are prefixed by "Dad speaking:")

The Letters Train Leaders for the Endtime

I wish for all of My children to be shepherds and leaders, for great will be the flock that will look to you for guidance in the Last Days. So prepare now and begin imbibing My Word, and all the training that is contained therein. ⁽¹⁾

I want to see faithful students feasting on My Word! I love to see the diligent soul made fat and prosperous and wise through faithful study of My Words (Pro.13:48; 2Tim. 2:15). This is how I raise up strong leaders for the Endtime, faithful workmen who are eager to labor in My Word and doctrine. I bless and empower those who feed diligently on My Words. ⁽²⁾

(Dad speaking:) The best training you have is the Letters. They are the Word of God, which never fails. It is always faithful, always a good sample. You couldn't ask for better training than all the thousands upon thousands of Words I have written, and other pubs on subjects from handyman to childcare. There is no better training since the beginning of time than the Words that have been written for you. It's all there. The Letters are the leaders, as I said many years ago--the best leaders, the most loving leaders, the most faithful, unchanging, always dependable. It's all there for you. You've got the best training you could ever get--me, the Lord, and the Letters. Praise God! ⁽³⁾

In time, all of you will be called upon to shepherd others. You will be faced with their problems, questions, battles, doubts, and fears. You will need to be prepared to answer them. So you must prepare now to become shepherds. Start in your own life. Make the commitments needed to be a shepherd. Decide that you will follow close, not afar off. Embrace My Word. Apply it to your life now, so that you will be able to help others apply it in their lives in the days to come by seeing your good sample of following closely. Become your brother's keeper. Learn to shepherd one another in love. Help one another in the spirit. Uphold one another in prayer. ⁽⁴⁾

Your special role as a Family continues to be preparation to be a unique testimony of full-time obedience and discipleship, as well as trained and capable leaders of other Christians and brand-new babes.

At this time you, the Family, are doing your best toward the salvation of the world, but your role as leaders of the End hasn't been fully realized yet. You're in training, you're living

My Word the best you can, but I haven't yet exalted you by giving you the role you'll play in the future. This will come in My time. ⁽⁵⁾

I have saved the deep things for you--the miracles, the revelations, the power, the healings, the understanding, the intimacy, great faith, great boldness, hearing clearly My voice in prophecy, the anointing of being My Endtime leaders of the world. This is reserved for you. The task before you, My Family, is reserved as your specific chosen calling. You will fulfill the verse, "Greater things than these shall ye do." This is what I will call you to do. The Endtime passages that you've read about those who do miracles and exploits, this is for you--you upon whom the ends of the Earth have come. ⁽⁶⁾

As things start to happen, the power, anointing, and miracles will be there. I promised I would not leave you comfortless. Do you think that during the darkest days on Earth I would leave you, My leaders of the people, the standard-bearers, the Endtime warriors, the examples, the voices crying in the wilderness, the fighters until the End, the shepherds, the martyrs, the exposers of evil, the champions, the righters of wrong, the heroes of faith, the soul winners, the captive-freers, the reapers, the protectors, the gatherers of the lost, the freedom fighters, My brides, without all that you need? Do you think I would leave you without the protection and provision that you need to do the job? ⁽⁷⁾

Don't worry, My children, for I will protect and keep you. Though you feel weak in yourselves, I will make you leaders of My people. Many will flock to you, for they will see your strength, power and faith. They will know that your connection with Me is strong, that you know My Word and My ways, and that you hear My voice. So fear not for the evil you see and the danger which shall surround you. You have nothing to fear, for I will keep you in the hollow of My hand. Many will come to you to be enriched and strengthened, to draw from the truth of the treasures of My Word that you have loved and valued all your lives. It shall become known that you, My little ones, the children of David, are the leaders of the Endtime, the avant-garde, the officers, the commanders. You shall lead My people in times of trouble, and you shall bring them through to great victory, because of your great faith and your deep knowledge of Me and your intimate relationship with Me. ⁽⁸⁾

Why do you think you're going to be the leaders? Why do you think others will come running to you and know that you are the ones that I've chosen to lead My children in these Last Days? It will be because the spirit and power will be so strong in you that nothing will stop you. You'll be able to face any difficulty, any odds, and be able to call on My power and help. This will prove to others that you are great in My eyes. ⁽⁹⁾

My vision is to have thousands and thousands of little Jesuses spread throughout this world, living as I lived, doing the work I began of loving and teaching all men, wreaking havoc on the Devil and his plans, and ushering in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Each Family member is being trained toward this end. It's with this vision in mind that I prepare the Family,

because with this preparation, you'll be able to live, work and survive through any world conditions, both the present ones of relative tolerance as well as any future persecutions, and even the Great Tribulation. ⁽¹⁰⁾

My prayer for the children of David is that not only will they be open and willing to be shepherds and leaders when I call them to be, but that they will realize that this is the reason I have brought them into the world at this time, and have invested years of training in them; it's for this very purpose. You will lead the armies of Christians in rebellion and final victory over the Devil's leadership of the wicked of this world. That is what I have called you to, and there is no greater calling or prize than to be at the forefront of this battle. ⁽¹¹⁾

A Leader Should Have a Shepherd's Heart

I've been teaching you to be a wise leader, but I'm also teaching you to be a loving shepherd. And this takes time, for it's easier to lead than to shepherd. To be a good and wise leader takes a good connection with Me; it takes My wisdom and the gifts and anointing that I have given you. To be a good and loving shepherd takes a broken heart--a heart that overflows with love, that takes time with others, that lays down its life, and that allows itself to be eaten that others may gain strength. ⁽¹²⁾

It's not the day of grand evangelism; it's the day of loving shepherds. To be able to know My sheep and what they need and what they're feeling is a special gift. ⁽¹³⁾

Going out to feed My sheep can be difficult. Sometimes you're tired and you don't feel like getting out of your nice comfortable bed to go out into the muddy pasture among the sheep, facing the elements. Sometimes it's wet or cold outside, or the sheep are far away on the other side of the field or meadow, or they've managed to get themselves in some sort of trouble with brambles or predators. But still you go out to feed My sheep and minister to them, and it is your faithfulness to do so that proves your love for them. It is your perseverance in feeding them that makes you a good shepherd, one who loves them and has a heart for them.

You don't have to be inspired to feed My sheep, or have a vision for their future, or have a deep love for them. It can help if you do, of course, but feeding them doesn't depend on any of these things, just on your obedience and faithfulness to do it day after day after day, to provide what My sheep need and to take it to them, no matter what the cost. This is how you show your love for them, and as you do, all these other things are added unto you--the inspiration, the vision, the love. If you don't feel these things now, just do it anyway. Continue to feed My sheep. Lovest thou Me? Feed My sheep. ⁽¹⁴⁾

True shepherds go beyond the call of duty and what is required of them. Their ears are attuned to the call of love, the call that beckons them to go a step further, to show initiative, to seek out and actively pursue ways in which they can help lighten and relieve the load of

others. This is a true shepherd. This goes way beyond the titles of leadership, the positions, opinions, and appearances of man. ⁽¹⁵⁾

Can you shepherd My sheep? No, only I can shepherd them. You can shepherd them only if you let Me shepherd them through you. ⁽¹⁶⁾

How can you know the needs of your sheep unless you ask Me?--Because sometimes they won't even tell you! You can't be a good shepherd unless you ask Me about the needs of the flock. ⁽¹⁷⁾

My people are sheep, they follow, and what they really follow is what you do more than what you say. If they see you walking up the mountain, and you call to them to get their attention, they'll follow the shepherd! But if they hear you call out, "Go up the mountain, sheep," they'll simply lift their heads, look at you, see you're not doing anything, and then go back to grazing! You have to call out to them and then start up the mountain yourself. As you start climbing, they'll see you're serious, they'll try to get that last bit of grass in their mouths, and then they'll take off after you before they get left behind. ⁽¹⁸⁾

We are all on the trip together, and I keep you a little ahead of the flock so that you can lead them and guide them. But I would that you would have them close behind you, as a good shepherd does not venture out too far ahead of the sheep, lest they worry and be concerned. But I would have you just at the head, showing them the way step by step by step by step. I am just ahead of you showing you the path, and showing you the waters, and showing you the green fields, because we are all in it together. ⁽¹⁹⁾

(Dad wrote:) Are we giving our sheep, especially the little young new lambs, the tender loving care, food, and training they need? Some of our shepherds have become careless, selfish, indifferent, and unobservant of the needs of their flock and allowed some of them to sicken from neglect, perish with malnutrition, or wander away to the wolves!

So it is not the fault of the sheep, but the shepherds! Our greatest need this year will be good leaders who are concerned for their flocks!--Good shepherds who will lay down their lives for their sheep! Are you one of these?--Or are you one of the hirelings who will flee when trouble comes? ⁽²⁰⁾

(Dad wrote:) We need people first of all with love! If they haven't got love to begin with, they're nothing and they can do nothing!--No matter how smart they are or anything. If they don't love our people and love souls and love the field, then they're nothing!--Anybody that's cold and hard and dictatorial and Chain-like and hasn't got real compassion and real love and isn't really concerned for those people in the field certainly doesn't belong in leadership writing letters to the sheep!

I don't want anybody in our leadership anywhere in the family that's not working for that one reason, trying to save souls, the lost to begin with, and trying to help the soul-savers!-

-Really, sincerely, honestly concerned about them, not just doing some kind of formal, mechanical job, going through the motions without the power thereof. (2Tim.3:5) What's the power?--Love! Love! And if they haven't got that power, they haven't got anything! You might as well kick them out, forget them!

If we're training people to run the world, we've got to have people who really love God and who love the sheep.

That's the story, brother, if it's not love, it's nothing! If it's not in love, it's nothing! ⁽²¹⁾

My children have now seen that that which is at the extreme is not the most beneficial. They have had extreme shepherding, where they were so boxed in and were not able to do anything without permission; and now they have felt the opposite extreme, of being able to do everything with no one to watch over them, no one to shepherd them, no one to care for them, and they find that this is not satisfying. There needs to be a fine balance, there needs to be the hand of a shepherd leading and guiding and caring for the sheep.

What does a shepherd do? He cares for the sheep. He gently leads them, but he lets them graze and find their own grass and meander over the hills. There are times when he calls them together and when he protects them, but there are times when he lets them roam within the pasture. My children must learn to shepherd properly. Shepherding does not mean keeping all the sheep penned up tightly, crowded together. But neither is it letting them roam everywhere, all the time, with no protection and care.

My sheep do not want to be penned up. They do not want to be regimented. They do not want to be bound. They want to be free to serve Me, free to follow Me. But they have need of proper shepherding--shepherding that helps them maintain their health. For does not the shepherd shear the sheep? Does he not trim their hooves and bob their tails? Does he not make sure they are eating properly and that they are brought into good pasture? Does not the shepherd protect them from the attacks of the wild beasts? Do not My children need that kind of shepherding?

They have rebelled against the harsh shepherds, the shepherds that kept them penned in tightly and would not let them move. In their rebellion, they have pushed off all shepherding, but I say they need proper shepherding. They need shepherding of the Spirit, shepherding of love, shepherding of care, shepherding of loving discipline. When one sheep begins to lead the other sheep astray, the shepherd must discipline that sheep, lest there be great damage and harm in their being led astray.

Sheep need shepherds. Have I not called you the sheep of My pasture? Am I not the Chief Shepherd? Have I not appointed unto you shepherds to care for you? Have I not said they must watch for your souls? Have I not said to you shepherds that you are not to act as lords over God's heritage?

Sheep, love your shepherds. Shepherds, love your sheep. Work together in harmony. Have I not said that when one is overtaken with a fault, that you who are spiritual should care for them in a spirit of meekness? Have I not laid down My rules of discipline? Have I not said that if one is overtaken with a fault, you should speak with him?

You must shepherd in the Spirit and not in the flesh. You must shepherd their souls. You must show them those areas in which they are falling away. You must show them through love and through My Word and through example. For I wish My flock to be shepherded by loving shepherds, wise shepherds, shepherds who shepherd in the Spirit. If your shepherding is shepherding in the flesh, without love and without care, if you only push and shove, if you only demand, your sheep will not follow. But if you will lovingly shepherd, if you will shepherd in the Spirit, if you will shepherd by love so that all that you do is in love, they will follow.

But you sheep must remember that love takes on many forms. Love can be gentle, love can be loving, love can be caressing. Love can be correcting, love can be disciplining, but even so, it will be loving. Even so must it be done with love and with patience, with long-suffering, with meekness and with gentleness.

But the sheep who will not receive the love and the gentleness must receive the discipline, the correction. For the wayward sheep, who after much cajoling continues to lead others astray in waywardness, must be disciplined, must be corrected, and must be brought back into the fold. If it will not, this is the sheep that the shepherd will sell and will be rid of, so that it will not lead others astray.

How are you shepherded? You are shepherded through My Word, for I have given you an abundance of guidance and direction so that you shall know what is right and what is wrong, what is allowable and what is not, what is of the Spirit and what is not, what is of God and what is not. I have given you the Charter that has set the boundaries, so that all will know and all will be judged fairly by the same standard. By this you shall know that which is right and that which is unacceptable, that which will keep you, the sheep of My pasture, and that which will not.

I shepherd you through My voice and through conviction and through speaking to your heart, through the experiences you have, the problems you face. These are all the shepherding of My hand. I also shepherd you through your shepherds, those who are there, who see you day by day, who pray for you, who weep for you, who are concerned about you and who wish to give you counsel and guidance and help to keep you moving forward in the right path.

Do not reject any of this shepherding, whether it be from My Word, whether it be from the Charter, whether it be from My voice, or whether it be from the shepherds who are there with you. All of them are needed, all of them are necessary, and none of them can be neglected. For he that neglects shepherding, he that will not receive shepherding, is he that will be led astray.

But you shepherds must shepherd in the Spirit with great love, for your sheep will not follow you because of your hardness and because of your demanding. They will follow you because of your love and your care for them. So love and care. If you care as one cares for his child, you will show love, you will give instruction, you will correct in love, you will help supply their needs, and you will help them to grow in the proper way. You will feed them with the Words of God, you will feed them with the Words of David, and you will uphold these Words in your own life as an ensample unto them. For the good shepherd goes before his sheep. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The good shepherd loves his sheep.

Be not as an hireling, one who cares not for the sheep but cares only for yourself, only for your power, only for your control. That is not shepherding, that is fleecing!--Fleecing in the flesh, fleecing in the spirit.

Love your sheep. Love those that I have put in your care. Care for them and love them. Listen to them. Live with them. Be one with them. Have compassion upon them and care for them, as I care for you. For that is true shepherding, that is shepherding in the Spirit.

Are you a true shepherd? Then love My sheep. Are you a true sheep? Then love your shepherds. Lovest thou Me? Feed My sheep. Lovest thou Me? Follow your shepherds. Lovest thou Me? Together follow Me, your Chief Shepherd, and I will lead you to green pastures, to pure, still waters, that you may benefit, that you may grow and that you may be strengthened.
(22)

(Dad speaking:) There was one thing I could never stand, and that was the shepherds taking advantage of the sheep, not really loving and caring for them, but using them for their own ends.

That's why I called for the RNR, because the sheep were being hurt by the shepherds. So I set everyone free! But that had its problems too. You can see that now as well with the Charter. You can see that total control has its problems and that total freedom has its problems. They're just different problems.

It's like I said about the Spirit: Some people are afraid of wildfire, so they have no fire. Some people try to so completely control the fire that it's quenched, and things become cold and lifeless. But the wildfire that has no control also does damage. So you must find the balance in the center, so that there is fire, but it is controlled enough that it does not burn down the house and burn down the fields.

This is how it is with shepherding. You cannot shepherd so tightly that everyone is bound and no one is free and no one can follow the Lord. But if you have no shepherding, if you allow only wildfire, it will hurt and it will destroy. It will burn others. You have to find the proper balance, folks!

There has to be some shepherding, but it has to be the right kind of shepherding. You shepherds must have conviction to do that which is right. You must uphold the standard, the Word--not a false standard, but the standard of the Word, the standard laid out in the Charter, the standard of love, based on the Word of God. People will respect you if you stand for the Word and if you show them love.

These are the pillars of shepherding: keeping the standard of the Word of God, and showing love. Both of these must be there for the proper balance, to uphold the Family, to uphold your Home, for one without the other is not enough. If the pillar of love is not standing, and only the pillar of the standard of the Word is, then people become self-righteous and critical and follow the letter of the law. But if only the pillar of love is standing, then the conviction to follow the Word is weakened and no one wants to stand strong, for they fear that they will be seen to be unloving.

Without the pillar of the standard of the Word of God, the love will have no backbone. The love will ooze out, but it will be weak and will not be able to uphold the Home, for there is

no standard and it is not standing in conjunction with the Word. The pillar of the Word alone becomes too strong and hard, but the pillar of love alone becomes too weak, too soft. But together, they are a perfect balance.

So it is with good shepherding; it needs both. There has to be the strength of the Word, the strength of the strong pillar, but it must be tempered with the love and the tenderness of the pillar of love. Like a father and a mother--the father having the strength and the stamina, and the mother having the love and the compassion--together they make good parents who raise good children. So is it with shepherding. It needs both, and one cannot do without the other, for they balance it together.

You have swung from the one side, from the pillar of the standard of the Word, way to the other side, to just the pillar of love. But you need to come back to the middle where both pillars will work together, and together will be the perfect balance.

So have conviction, folks! I always had conviction. I always stood up for what was right, but I also had love. I had them together.--And you must have them together. This doesn't only go for you shepherds, but also for you sheep. You too must have the conviction of the Word, and you must use the power of love. You must have them both. You must not demand of your shepherds that they only ooze out love all over you, but that they also stand strong with the conviction of the Word. You know in your heart that you need both! You know in your heart that you crave both! But you need the proper balance, and you shepherds must supply the proper balance.

The Charter is there to protect from the extremes, but you must use that which is given to you, the pillar of the standard of God's Word, the strength of that pillar, as well as the pillar of love, the pillar of warmth and fire. These two must be blended together.

Each one of you, each member, each disciple, each lover of God, must have a proper balance in your life, the balance of love and of the standard of the Word, together as one, if you wish to find real happiness, real strength in spirit. For this will give you the proper balance. In this proper balance you will find peace and contentment, you will find faith, you will find the happiness and the freedom and the warmth and the fire, all that you need, without the extremes. ⁽²³⁾

(Dad wrote:) We thank you, Lord, for those who were good shepherds and faithful and cared for the sheep and laid down their lives daily for the sheep, Lord. Bless them and keep them and continue to make them a blessing, Lord. We know that You will raise up shepherds after Your own heart to care for Your sheep, Lord, wherever they may be, and a man's talents shall make room for him, and if they're worthy of being a good shepherd, Lord, then they will be and You'll make them so, and the sheep will follow them because they know Your voice.

Help us to be the same, all of us, Lord, good shepherds of Your sheep, good stewards of Your Kingdom, Lord, whom You can trust with the task of feeding them most of all and caring for them, Lord, as well, guarding them from the wolves and the Devil who goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, and who stands day and night accusing Thy saints and trying to divide, trying to subvert and propagandizing and lying and causing doubts and fears. ⁽²⁴⁾

The Breakings Give You Love and Compassion

(Dad speaking:) There isn't one single leader in the Family today that the Lord is greatly using and who has His special anointing, that hasn't been through the fire. They've all been tested. They've all had to go through personal battles, trials, and make great personal sacrifices. They've all had to surrender and yield their lives, their personal desires and plans, their pride, and many times their loved ones on the altar of sacrifice and give them all up to the Lord. That's why they're such beautiful, yielded vessels which the Lord can use. It takes real humbling and breaking and remaking by the Lord's Spirit for you to become the leader He needs and wants you to be.

The Lord knows what's best for each one of us, and all you have to do is yield to the lessons He's teaching you. Be desperate to learn them and yield to them. Cry out to Him for His help, for His anointing, and for the grace to stick to it until you've learned it. Don't give up! Don't walk out the door, throw in the towel, or give up in discouragement. The test may be hard, but that's the case with all true leaders. ⁽²⁵⁾

(Dad wrote:) Even your mistakes were part of your training, and he gets some of his greatest victories out of seeming defeats, victories of brokenness, humility, and more utter dependence on him, which you must have to be a leader! My Mother once asked the great evangelist, Paul Rader, "Why are the labourers always so few?" And he answered wisely, "I guess God can't break them fast enough." How true! God only uses broken men and women--no others will do! Others are too self-confident in their own flesh! God has to break them, melt them, and mold them again in the hands of the Potter, to make them a better vessel, but He won't force it! The breaking depends upon you and your yieldedness, and willingness to be made willing, total humility, which is synonymous with total love, so you're willing to go anywhere, anytime, and do anything, for anybody, and be nobody, to please him, and help others! ⁽²⁶⁾

(Dad speaking:) I'm sorry that you've had to go through some heartbreak and suffering, that your sons have broken your heart. I'm sorry. I know what it's like, Honey. It's tough, it's really tough.

Like me, the heartbreak has given you deeper compassion and love. That's something that you really need to be a good leader. Don't despise your broken heart and the sorrow that you've felt. The Lord has required great sacrifices of many throughout history, which they were willing to give to Him. They too gave with heartbreak, but they gave nonetheless. The Lord doesn't say that you have to be happy about it, but just that you have to trust Him. ⁽²⁷⁾

Anyone can be a shepherd if they are willing and have My anointing, but I've had time to break you and remake you, to teach you through experience, to let you go through things that make you more understanding of others and better able to relate to them, to raise your

children and a family, and see the results of your investment--for better or for worse--and this has given you beautiful qualities that are useful in shepherding.

You've learned some balance, wisdom, and discernment, learned that you're not always right, learned to listen, learned to give, learned patience, learned how to take people and situations where they're at and work with them. You've learned these and many other things that make a shepherd able to do their job and do it well.

You are one of My best comforters, counselors, and shepherds. There's something about knowing that the person you're sharing your heart with has been through many things, forsaken all many times, and is still going for Me, that makes them easy to talk to and their advice easier to accept, and people find that in you.

You've been comforted by Me through many troubles, and thus I have made you, and will continue to make you, a comforter of others. ⁽²⁸⁾

Jesus' Quiet Time Testimony!

Rising a great while before day, I went out into a solitary place, and there prayed. I needed that time alone. I needed that time between Me and My Father--for refreshing, for clarity of thought, heart and spirit, for those were busy days. I was surrounded by My team, who needed so much care, love and training. There was always so much to teach them.

They were fun, I enjoyed them! They were wonderful folks. Each one was special, each one was different. Some were simple, some were quite bright and clever, others were talented--special people, I'd say, just like the special people that surround you. Each one had his own mind, his own will, his own heritage and background that made him unique, special and different.

Learning to shepherd and care for them and lead them was a challenge for Me--wooing them, winning them, understanding them, convincing them, cajoling them, staying a step ahead and leading them, encouraging them to follow, even though most of the time I realized that they didn't understand where we were going.

It was a great learning experience for Me, as well as a time of My biggest ministry while on Earth in the flesh. But in order to endure and to perform the role that I was called to play during that time, it was imperative that I had those little times away, those little breaks where I could get strengthened, where I could look down the road. I needed times when I could step back from the face-to-face, hands-on care of those around Me and the immediate situations that I had to deal with continually throughout the day while in action with My team, traveling around witnessing, laying the groundwork for all that was to come in the future.

So must you take time, that I may also inspire, lead, and strengthen you; that you may behold My face; that you may be a better minister; that you may reflect more of My light and My peace with real vision and clarity of heart and mind during these busy times, during this ministry that I have called you to. And as you do, you will continue to grow step by step, day by day, just as I did.

You may not see down the road as much as you would like, but the important thing is that you stay with Me, that you keep your face turned toward Me. Having done that, as you look back you'll see how I led step by step. You'll see the continuity, the progress, and the way that I led through the walk of My will and My perfect plan and all that was accomplished because you looked to Me step by step, and because you took time with Me so that you could see clearly to know where I was leading at each turn of the road. ⁽²⁹⁾

The "Morning Prayer" vision

(Dad wrote:) A beautiful vision of a shepherd on the hillside with his sheep. The shepherd seems to be upset about something. The sheep are bunching up and running around nervously, excitedly, and somewhat fearfully, and they're running back and forth in confusion, as though they're wondering what made the shepherd angry. It's a funny thing how animals partake of your own spirit. If you're frightened, they're frightened. If you're cross and nervous, they get nervous--horses, dogs, sheep or goats, etc., react this way to your own emotions, especially if you're very close to them!-- Chickens, too!

When the shepherd gets upset, it upsets the sheep. The shepherd must feed of the elements of the earth to be satisfied, and to satisfy his flock. He too, must sit upon the hillside and pipe sweet music unto His Creator in praises, to bring peace to his own soul. So the shepherd sits down on a rock on the hillside overlooking the pasture and the sheep grazing, and begins playing on his wooden pipe--there is another shepherd with him, who sits quietly listening. And when he just quit trying to run everything else in his own spirit, and sat down and relaxed and got in communication with his own Creator,--when he shut his eyes and began to play such sweet music on his pipe--the sheep knew everything was alright, and they just calmed down and went quietly about their business. That quietness of spirit was passed on to them. So the shepherd himself has to be fed with the hand of his Creator, and the hand of his Shepherd, if he's going to feed the sheep and bring them the same peace. That sweet music of praise relaxed the sheep and they began to graze again and spread out over the hillside.

Occasionally it is necessary for the shepherd to feed a sheep with the rod and with the bread of affliction (Mic 7:14; IKgs 22:27). So instead of bawling everybody out, he just takes a staff and strikes the one sheep that's disorderly, not making a big fuss about it, so it doesn't upset all the sheep. But that one gets the point!

The main job of a shepherd is to keep in touch with the Lord--to begin the day with sweet music--praise and fellowship. We have to learn how to first of all, rest at the Lord's feet. The secret of that calm and peace and rest and patience and faith and love is that resting in the Lord!--Getting calm before the Lord and praising the Lord and seeking the Lord first. And then you just impart this to the sheep--it's a spirit--you impart that very atmosphere.

This is why you cannot even make a move until you first have found that place of rest and calm and sweet peace in the Lord, and have set down and played your pipe to the Lord. It's all a spiritual thing. If you try to do it in the flesh, you might as well quit. Your own flesh will get you down. That sweet rest is a sign of real faith, which brings patience. As your harp begins to play sweet music, it communicates to the sheep. Our music has communicated more to

these sheep than anything else. We comfort others with the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted. ⁽³⁰⁾

Others Partake of Your Spirit and Sample!

(Dad speaking:) Our folks need to review what I said in that simple little Letter about morning prayer. The sheep partake of the shepherd's spirit, folks. Everyone in our Family is shepherding someone, and if you're a bad sample, you're passing that same bad sample right on down the line--whether it be to the children, our young people, the folks you're witnessing to and training to be disciples, or even your brothers and sisters, all of whom look to you and observe your sample. It might not seem obvious all the time, but they do.

And it's not only those times when the shepherd gets angry and impatient and out of sorts that the sheep partake of. In spirit, if you're not filling up on the Word on a daily basis, reading and tanking up, this is going to be reflected in all you say and do. It's not always so outwardly obvious or something that meets the eye, but the spirit bears witness, and sooner or later you'll reap the results.

Whereas if you're pouring out and ministering from a full heart because you came down from the mountain that morning refreshed, clean, and emanating the Spirit of God--then this is going to have a good, positive effect on those with whom you come in contact! All those around you partake of your spirit, and when your spirit is full of the Word of God, this is going to have positive results! But, sad to say, if your spirit is full of worries, cares and burdens, this too is going to flow out and affect all those you come in contact with. And that's what your spirit will impart, even though you smile on the outside.

You might say and do a lot of the right things, and you might be kind and even be able to spread a little love, but because you're not able to get fresh daily vision, because you're heavy-hearted and pressed with burdens, because you didn't take a nice invigorating shower and get all cleaned up--even though somehow you're able to keep up good appearances, nevertheless, that busy, somewhat heavy, burdensome spirit is still there in the atmosphere around you.

You simply cannot serve and minister to others from an empty shell! And if you're operating "business as usual" with little fresh inspiration from On High, so will those around you. It's in the atmosphere around you. Something is a little stiff, a little dry, because you didn't have that time for the Lord and the Word; you didn't stop to get refreshed from On High. You can be preaching all the right sermons, you can be saying all the right words, but if your life and your actions are not sparked with that fresh input and inspiration from Heaven every day, it's all a bunch of hot air!

Sure, I know you have to take care of the Home, the children, the outreach and the many affairs of the Lord's business. But there's a marked difference between starting off your day in that sweet communion with the Lord and allowing Him to carry you through the business of His Kingdom, and going day after day and only catching the Lord for a hallway hit-up here and there! If that's all you're getting, you'll be missing out on that spark, that pep, and zest that enables you to zip through your work and perform your ministry with effortless ease

and really connect with others and inspire them along the way! You're simply not going to be able to be a good representative of the Boss if you're not sitting in the conference room with Him every day. ⁽³¹⁾

(Dad wrote:) We cannot nourish others unless we ourselves are refreshed and nourished and can minister unto our babes of the strength which you supply. So help us to remember that we need rest and we need nourishment and we need refreshing and we need inspiration. We cannot feed them from empty shells, Lord, from an empty cupboard, an overburdened heart, a strained body that has not even enough for itself much less for others.

Help us to drink in to overflowing so that we can overflow upon others, not to have to try to squeeze out the last drop of our blood and our strength and our time and our spirit to nourish someone else when we haven't enough even ourselves. Help us Lord to be filled to overflowing by Your Spirit, so that we may have not only enough for ourselves but enough for many others as well.

Help us never to forget that the first place is for You, Lord. The first place is for You and we must drink of You and Your Spirit if we're going to have enough not only for ourselves but to overflow upon others. So help us to take good care of ourselves, Lord, both physically and spiritually.

Help us to let you take good care of us, Lord, and to give You all the cooperation we can by getting proper rest, Lord, and proper exercise and diet. Help us most of all to get the rest, exercise and diet of Your Word and Your Spirit and Your Service, that we may be physically whole and well and strong and well able to serve You, and spiritually whole, strong and happy in Your service, Lord.

Help us Lord not to be so pressured that we put off our time with You. Help us, even as we went out this morning to bask in Your sunshine for a little while and breathe deeply the refreshment of Your wonderful fresh air, to put You first each day, spiritually to bask in Your sunshine, rest in Your arms, drink deeply of Your Word and inhale your Spirit! Hallelujah!

(Tongues) "hear ye the words of thy father and hear ye the wise counsel I have given unto David." Thank You Lord! Thank You Jesus for Abraham! ⁽³²⁾

It Has to Be Done In the Spirit

Your work for Me, the Family's work for Me, is a spiritual matter. Your efforts and works must be founded primarily upon the spiritual. As you well know, you wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Greater am I that am in you than he that is in the world.

No matter how much training, expertise, wisdom or initiative you or your co-workers have, that alone will never be enough. Never! Even your best efforts, your hardest work, your greatest teamworking and pumping people power will never be enough. Only I can make up the difference.

You must have My miracle-working power, otherwise everything you do will fall short. This is the crux of the matter. If you can just understand this point, then I believe you'll never stray down that path of Martha again.

What that means is, no matter how hard you work, no matter how many messages you write or how many meetings you host, it will never be enough, because it's the dynamics of the spirit world that My work must be done first and foremost in the spirit--through spending time with Me in the Word and prayer. I know you know this in principle; you've read it hundreds of times. But the full truth of this has failed to sink deep within your heart. The reality of My power and your need for it has not taken hold in your mind to the point that it governs your priorities, decisions, and mindset.

Let Me work for you!

Be honest with yourselves. If you truly understood this concept and accepted it fully in your heart, do you think you'd be missing your Word time, skipping your prayer vigils, and regularly postponing or cutting short your conference days? Step back and examine yourselves. Look at the way you operate. What do you see?

I'll tell you what I see. There are multitudes who need to be reached with My message. There are countless disciples to be won. There's a hungry and bleating flock already within the folds. There are ravenous wolves attacking and trying to maim and kill the lambs. There are harvesting tools to be made and implemented. And there you stand with your little tools in hand, ready to go to work. You're determined and dedicated, and you're looking around seeing which direction to move first. Of course, it's overwhelming, as each and every need would be a full-time job. So you dash around, a little here and a little there. Your tools are very tiny and outdated, so you get your hands all scratched up and your clothes torn. By the end of the day you're exhausted, dirty, and sad. The next day it begins again.

All the while I'm standing right behind you--Me with My team of angelic helpers and spirit beings who tower above you like giants--and we're trying to get your attention. We're waving and shouting and whistling! We have huge modern technology in our hands, tools that you've never seen. If you'd just ask, we're ready to operate our tools on your behalf, which would make your work much easier. But alas, you keep running around here and there, saying, "I'll be right with You. Just a minute. I just have to take care of this one thing, and then this other, and then this other. Ahhh ... just one second. Really, I'm almost done."

Every once in a while you collapse, and then you call on Me and My team, and we're so happy! Finally we're able to step in and do the work for you. But then, as soon as you feel you've recouped a tiny bit of strength, you're up and at it again. "Oh, excuse me," you say, as you push your way to the front. "Uhhh, I need to get to work. Could You move over a little? Let me see, now where was I?" And there you go again. Same story, over and over.

If you could see it from My point of view, you'd see that it's really ridiculous! You are merely weak men and women. I am the God of the Universe. All power is given to Me. I rule! I keep My promises. I am a faithful, doting Husband, and yet there's so little room for Me in

your lives.

You know what that is? It's self-righteousness. It's thinking too highly of yourselves. It's the epitome of the arm of the flesh. Anything and everything that you could ever do is minute, weak and pathetic compared to what I can do. I can do anything! I can do everything! When you really think about it, what can you do?

This is My work, My Family, My flock, My harvest field, My tools, and I am the Boss! This is something I want to get straightened out once and for all. If you want to work for Me, if you want to be an example to the flock, if you want to be in leadership, there are rules, and the first one on the list is to let Me work! The way you do that is by letting Me into your lives fully. Instead of thinking the world will fall apart if you don't rush into the day answering your mail messages, instead of working late into the night trying to finish up that last file, instead of all those long, draining meetings, instead of rushing around here and there to tie up every loose end in sight--call on Me. Let Me work for you! Let Me do it! Because don't you get it?--Only I can!

I want to see your priorities change. I want that time with you in My Word every single day. I want to speak to you in prophecy every single day! I want to give you answers as you meditate in prayer every single day. I want you to lay hold of My miracle-working power through intercessory prayer every single day. You either do that or you're fired!

Sorry, but we need to be clear here. I'm the Boss. It's My company. Those are the rules. It has to be that way, and the reason it has to be that way is because otherwise you'll fail, and the Family will fail. It's as simple as that. There's too much for you as a human to do. The load is and will always be too big. The battle is waged in the spirit, not in the physical world. You must have My miracle-working power. ⁽³³⁾

This has been the struggle from the very beginning: flesh versus spirit. This was the choice that Cain and Abel faced, the cause of the controversy between them, and this same struggle between flesh and spirit continues to this very day.

The reason the Enemy fights so hard is because he knows that this is a way that he can easily get in. It's already man's natural tendency to be strong and to lean on his own strength and logic, and seeing that you are in bodies of flesh, it's hard for many to differentiate between strength of flesh and strength of spirit.

I have blessed many of you with a strong mind and intellect, and when you're yielded to My Spirit, then I can use your natural strengths to help accomplish My will. I've given many of you gifts in the natural--organizational talents and abilities, as well as drive and initiative--and when coupled with My Spirit, you can be powerful and useful tools in My hand.

But you must let My Spirit have full sway. Pray without ceasing, always looking to Me and letting Me lead and guide you in everything you say and do. If not, if you go ahead and do things in your own strength and wisdom, then I can't fully bless you. You will have complications, difficulties, things will take much longer than you expected, and you'll find yourself becoming discouraged, tired, and lacking in My Spirit and strength.

I can't bless you and help you as much as I would like if you're running around and doing things in the arm of the flesh, outside of My protection and blessing. You have to spend time

with Me. You have to be in constant communication with Me and let My Spirit empower and anoint you. Your job is too big and the responsibility is too great to even think that you can do things on your own, and if and when you try, you are automatically overextended. It all comes down to the wrong mindset of thinking you have to do it. You don't have to do it; I have to do it! But because there's so much work to be done, it's hard for some to realize when they're starting to cross over and do things in the arm of the flesh by overextending themselves, rather than relying on Me and My timetable, My direction, and My Spirit.

How many times have I shown you and told you that by spending time with Me, I will help your work to progress even more quickly, and give you the solutions and answers? When you're taking your time with Me faithfully, I'm able to help you keep things in perspective, and you're not as easily pressured and tempted to overextend yourself. I'm also able to bring the solutions through prayer, much quicker than you could ever bring them about, if you could bring them about at all. I will do the work for you if you'll let Me. So if you really want to accomplish a lot and make a lot of progress and avoid the pit of overextending yourself, the secret is to take the necessary time with Me. The dynamics of the spirit are such that you can accomplish much, much more if you spend time with Me. ⁽³⁴⁾

No longer will I allow you to operate in the arm of the flesh. In days past I winked at these things, for there were many other lessons to learn, there was much other growth needed. But these days are now the days of the voice of the Lord, the voice of My whispers, the strength of quietness and the power of weakness. No more will I allow the strength of the strong or the wisdom of the wise or the power of the mighty to rule, for those are the ways of defeat. But now the strength and power of My Word and the strength and the power of your weakness rules, and the strength and the power of My voice instructs, and the strength and the power of My Love empowers. These are the things that must rule in these days.

Would you have this power? Would you have this wisdom, and would you have this understanding, and would you have this empowerment, and would you have this strength? Then come unto Me! Enter into My rest, for in quietness and confidence shall be your strength. You must stand back and see Me fight! Stand back and see My strength! Stand back in prayer, stand back in praise, stand back in quietness, stand back in communion with Me. Stand back as receivers, listening, tuning in to My voice. Then you shall see the power and might of God in a way that you have not seen it in any of the days past.

As I have brought weakness unto your shepherds, so do I bring weakness upon you, for I will not let you operate any longer in the arm of your own might. Instead you must operate in the power of My might, in the power of prayer, in the power of quietness and in the power of communion with Me.

And what must you do to accomplish this? You must take time in quietness, listening unto Me. You must take time in feeding, feeding of My Words. You must take time in asking, asking for My help. You must take time in seeking, seeking My direction. And you must take time in listening unto My voice.

You must continue to do the works that I have sent for you and the work that I will show you that you must do. But you can no longer do this work without the power of My Spirit, and the power of My Spirit can only be received in communion with Me.

Do not fight it, do not resist it, just yield. Just yield to Me. Yield by stopping, yield by looking, yield by listening, yield by putting up your antennas and carefully tuning in to My Spirit in faith, in quietness and in confidence, knowing that as you tune in to Me, you shall receive that which I have for you. And that which I have for you will work and will strengthen you and empower you, and it will push you and move you and guide you. And by this, you shall surely know that it is the power and might of God that leads you and that brings forth victory.

It will cause you to praise Me even more, it will cause you to seek Me even more, and it will be a continual cycle of you seeking, Me answering, and you praising. The more you see these victories and the answers to your prayers and the empowerment of My Spirit, the more you will praise Me and the more you will ask of Me and the more I will do for you; and the more you will seek Me and the more you will praise Me and the more I will do for you! And it will continue rolling and rolling and rolling, ever gaining momentum and gaining praise and gaining victories and gaining miracles.

So shall your strength grow, and your faith grow, and your in-tuneness grow, and so shall My power and might within you grow, and so shall you be the children of David, empowered by the Spirit and the might of God! So shall you have faith to do the exploits and the mighty things that I will call upon you to do in the Last Days.

For this is the beginning, and you must learn these things now. You must yield unto My power and My might now. You must learn to tune in to Me and receive of Me now. You must learn to seek Me now, to praise Me now, to worship Me now, to be empowered by Me now. The cycle must begin now, so that in the time that you have remaining, you will grow in power, grow in might, grow in praise, grow in thanksgiving, grow in faith--that you may be strong in the power and might of God in the days ahead!

So fear not, worry not; you will grow if you will but take the little steps now. Just begin tuning in now. Commune more with Me now. Speak more to Me now. Listen more to Me now. Love Me more now. Follow closer now. Obey My Word now. Yield to Me now in the little things, day by day, step by step. Make the effort and pay the price. Take the humbling and take the step of faith, and do it now, that you may begin the cycle of the empowerment of God! ⁽³⁵⁾

It is your love for My Words and for the spirit of David that has made you what you are this day--a good shepherd and one who loves the sheep. It is your humility, your willingness to be open unto those that you shepherd, to confess your faults, to seek prayer and to seek the help of others, that has made you what you are today. Remember these things, for these are the things that keep you--My Word, My Spirit, your humility and your love for Me. So seek My Word and My Spirit. Seek to be lowly and open, humble and loving, that you may bring forth fruit. For without these things, your natural tendencies come to the fore and are an offense.

But My Word, My Spirit, My Love and your humility cover this, and I shine through you, and this is what your sheep, your flocks, need to see. They need to see Me shining through you,

and they need to see your humility and openness. They need those who are touched with the feelings of their infirmities, even as I came forth as one of the people. I now understand the tests and the trials, the hardships, and I have compassion. So must My generals understand and have compassion upon My sheep.

Knowing that your sheep love you and look unto you is a heavy burden to bear, for they follow you because they love you, and they imitate you because they love you. Thus you must be desperate to stay very close to Me and to My Words and to My Love, and in humility and in lovingkindness one to another, that they will emulate this, and that they will not see you in your own strength, in your own ways, lest they imitate that. So seek to stay very close to Me and filled with My Spirit, following closely day by day, that your sheep may see Me shining through you. ⁽³⁶⁾

Stop... Look... and Listen

(Dad wrote:) The Lord is trying to teach you to make decisions. Don't start talking amongst yourselves--the first step is to ask the lord! God likes you to give Him a little honor. Prayer is not just getting down and speaking your piece, but most of all letting God speak His piece, and waiting in quietness and confidence until He answers! You've got to know you can't do it, and be desperate for God's answer, and stop everything else, and listen! Getting quiet before the Lord shows you have faith that God is going to handle the situation. He's going to take care of things. Take time to hear from God, and He'll take the time to straighten out the problem. Your feverish activity is nothing--your service is nothing, if you don't give the King your attention, your love, your time, your communion. Remember that hurry is lack of faith, and is of the Devil! If you're hurrying and rushing around, fretting, and impatient, you'll never be able to focus your full attention--your eyes, your ears, your mind, your heart on the Lord for the solution to the problem, the answer to the question, the best decision for the situation! But if you Stop, Look, and Listen, and Wait in communion with Him--when you have learned to do this, and to get His answer, you will have learned how to make decisions! You will have learned to pray, and will have become truly one of God's leaders. "He gives the very best to them, who leave the choices up to Him!" ⁽³⁷⁾

(Dad wrote:) You cannot look to your own wisdom, you cannot rest in your own understanding, you must look for the supernatural, miraculous and powerful leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It's impossible to solve these problems on your own. Lean not to your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.

So remember that you cannot possibly solve these problems in your own wisdom, your own strength, your own mind, your own understanding, your own trying to put two and two together. But you're going to have to ask the Lord by the supernatural, miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, to give you downright, outright, upright revelations, Heaven right, straight from Him, to show you exactly what to do.

Now this is what we've always been dependent upon: he's the one we've always had to look to for leadership in all the former decisions and in the laying of plans and programmers. Some of you know me well enough, you've lived with me long enough, you've watched me in operating long enough to know that I never make a decision on my own if I can possibly help it.

I never ever make a snap judgment or usually even a quick decision. Some people get very impatient with me because they think I'm so slow, because I can't give an immediate answer. This is because they're giving too much credit where credit is not due, and that's to me--that I am the one that ought to know, and I'm the one that is making the decision. But you know me well enough by this time, and you know by our history for years now, that this is not so.

Most of the time I don't know what to do. We always have to ask God and look to Him for His direct revelation, or His impression, or His leading, or His burden, or His guidance, with it being confirmed by the mouth of two or three witnesses, or by His Word, or by some fleece, or by some revelation, or by some leading. God has always worked with us that way.

We've tried never to depend upon our own wisdom, our own understanding, or what we think is the thing to do, but to look directly to Him and expect His direct revelatory, revolutionary, immediate guidance.

So quit trying to figure it out yourself and to reason it out and to do it in your own understanding. Get down on your prayer bones and get desperate in prayer before God! Get your leaders together and fast and pray and cry out to God as Moses and his disciples did, and as I'm sure Noah and his family did, and as David and his family did. You can read their prayers and outcries in the Bible as the prophets of God and their little groups of disciples cried out to God.

You don't always have to know all the answers. Someone recently asked: "Well what shall we say when they ask this? What shall we say when they ask us that?" Well, one of the best answers is, as Dr. Irwin Moon said: "I can answer any question you ask me, only most of my answers are going to be: 'I don't know; I don't know!'" So, why don't you get smart and just say I don't know?

Only God knows! People ask you, "Well what are we going to do now?" Just be honest and say, "I don't know; let's ask God." "Well what are we going to do next?" "I don't know, let's ask the Lord." The quicker you learn that you don't know, the better off you're going to be because only God has the answers!

Only God knows what to do, and only God knows what He wants done, and only God can do it. Do you get the point?--Now don't forget it! God has His own plan. God has His own way. God knows what He's doing. So for God's sake let Him do it and just look to Him to find out what He's doing, and what He wants you to do, and which way He's going!

All we have to do is follow God. Don't you understand? Don't you get the point? Don't you understand? Amen. Praise the Lord? God is the One who's leading. God is the One who's doing. God is the One who's planning. God is the One whose program it is. God is the One whose business it is.

So for God's sake, follow God!--Not yourself, not your own ideas, not your own plans and programs, but for God's sake follow God! If I was going to entitle this little talk anything I guess that would have to be the title: "For God's Sake, Follow God!"

For God's sake follow God! For God's work's sake, follow God! For your own sake, follow God! For God's people's sake, follow God! For God's plan's sake, follow God! For God's world's sake, follow God! For God's future sake, follow God! Don't try to figure it out yourself.

Don't try to reason around with your own understanding, but get down in prayer and cry out to God with strong crying and tears and desperation, and look to Him alone for the answers. God alone has the answers and God alone can do it. It's His business, His program, and His plan. We're His people, it's His world, it's His idea, and it's got to be His whole leading, His decision. It's got to be His protection. It's got to be His provision. ⁽³⁸⁾

It's important for the shepherds and generals of My flock to spend time alone with Me because of the many responsibilities, the many facets, and the many details they need My instruction on. They must spend more time with Me than some in other ministries, because to them much has been given in duties and responsibility, therefore much shall be required of them--which requires them to spend much time with Me, not only to get My leading and instruction, but personal feeding from Me, inspiration, time talking with Me, and listening.

It's similar to Noah and the construction of the ark. Noah, as the engineer, was required to spend more time with Me than his sons who helped to do the manual work. For Noah to get the instructions, he had to spend time away from the wings and the work to hear My voice. He had to come back daily, day after day, to get further instruction, to seek Me for the complicated and intricate design which had to be perfectly balanced and constructed and the measurements exact. This required him spending more time with Me than did his sons, who helped to saw and to build.

Although his sons also had a relationship with Me and had to take quiet time and personal time, they did not have to receive such detailed, explicit instructions. They did not have to spend as much time with Me, because the nature of their work did not require it. But My shepherds and engineers and those who administrate and oversee the work and the flocks--because of the nature of their work, the involvement, the intricacies, the amount of work that they have to do, the complications--they have to spend that time alone with Me, more time than the workers, to get My instructions, as Noah did.

This does not mean that the workers are not important and do not also need time with Me. As I have said before, all the children of David are shepherds. Some shepherd the members of their Home, others shepherd the children, many shepherd those whom they meet and minister to while outside the Home. Even the children shepherd their younger brothers and sisters. So all need this time with Me to hear from Me and get their instructions.

It takes time. It takes seeking. It's part of the job. Without spending this time and getting My specific and detailed instructions, your boat will not float. There will be leaks. The workers will not construct properly because of a lack of detailed instructions and missing figures--like the song, "For the want of a nail, the kingdom was lost."

This is the ministry of My shepherds--to spend this time daily to get My instructions on how to build the boat that you're working on, down to the smallest measurement, to the last nail. I will provide the workers to do the manual labor and the time to build if you are faithful to get the measurements.

Time spent sharpening the scythe is not time wasted. Time spent praying, researching, analyzing, studying, surveying the possibilities, calculating the costs, conferring, weighing up the pros and the cons, taking account of the possibilities and the direction, is not time wasted.

As I've instructed you through your father and founder many times, somebody needs to be thinking, praying and planning all the time. Someone needs to be analyzing, looking at things, and coming to Me with specific questions, being concerned about specific details, so that they can get the specifications and the details that form the direction that I am leading.

Even Noah took time with Me. Not only did he have the general vision of the impending disaster that I was about to bring through the Flood and the desire to save his family, but he also needed very detailed instructions on how to do the work that I had called him to do, and this took time.

He had to research materials. He had to take into account what type of materials should be used that would weather the conditions, and I gave him specific instructions because he asked. He had to take into account the way the material would be fitted together, the type of fastenings to use, the type of covering, the type of material to use to waterproof it. All these were details that he had to ask Me about, and I answered him and told him why and where to get them, and in some cases even how to get them--and this took time.

He had to get the exact specifications, the length of the ark itself, and then break it down into the individual increments of the specific measurements for each piece of wood. Each plank had to be cut and fitted in the right place. He had to have a big picture, a big scheme of how it was all going to fit together.

He couldn't just chop down a tree and start hammering it up against another piece of wood without any scheme or overall plan. The boat never would have been waterproof. It never would have been strong enough to weather the huge tidal waves that resulted from the Flood. It never would have been able to house all of the creatures in the different compartments that needed to be fashioned specifically to meet their needs.

All this took time and prayer. It took listening and then meticulously recording things that I gave him, so that he wouldn't forget. So follow his good example, as I have referred to it in My Word. "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man."

For there are many things coming your way--many changes, many adjustments, and new frontiers to enter into--and in order to meet those demands, you need to prepare yourselves and your household. It takes a team of prayerful, diligent, skillful, faithful servants who not only have the ability to work skillfully, but also have listening ears, and who understand the importance of taking time with Me to get the specifications for their particular work.

So don't minimize the importance of taking time with Me to pull down from Heaven the resources that I have to offer you--the world of helpers, those who are knowledgeable, those

who are intelligent, those who are under My authority to serve you. You must ask, repeatedly and specifically, and you will receive. ⁽³⁹⁾

The Anointing Must Be Nourished

While you feel the anointing, and while in many ways the anointing can carry you a little way, the anointing is something that needs to be fed, nourished, nurtured. It alone cannot carry you for long before you begin to hit bottom and run on empty. And that's when your actions aren't as oiled with My Spirit, and you don't have as much of My anointing and that close link with Me as you could have.

You must not make the mistake of leaning to your own arm, trusting that the anointing will carry you through until you get time to replenish, stock up, recharge and get rejuvenated in My Spirit. Next time the rejuvenation won't come as quickly, and the anointing won't last as long, as the days are getting darker, and times and seasons are changing, and the Enemy is fighting harder. You can't afford even one day following your own impulses and your own wisdom, thinking that you don't need to be in complete touch with Me every minute of the day.

So from this day forth make the commitment that you will get time with Me first and foremost, and watch Me take care of the rest.

My anointing is with you at all times, but you must seek to feed that anointing. That is how you will stay safeguarded; that is how you will be a consistently loving and wise shepherd. It's by consistently getting that time with Me. That is the secret. ⁽⁴⁰⁾

(Dad speaking:) If you would realize how delicate and fragile your anointing is, you wouldn't allow yourself to rely on it as greatly as you have in the past. Before, relying on the anointing was in many ways what carried you through. In the days before we used prophecy so much, you trusted the Lord's anointing on your leadership; that's what you had faith in--not the leader but the anointing. Today you still need to have faith in the leader's anointing, but what you have more faith in now is the fact that you know your leadership is going to the Lord about everything. But how can you give that same peaceful reassurance to the flock if they don't see you going to the Lord for everything?

Remember that your anointing is not as durable as you think. It's not like it used to be in days past when you very much depended on the verse, "The gifts and calling of God are without repentance." Now your anointing is not as necessary to the overall running of the Kingdom because you have the much more powerful gift of prophecy, and through that gift and through your spending time with the Lord, you nurture your anointing.

The Lord has also made it very clear that if you do not nurture that anointing, it doesn't stick around as long or as firmly as it used to. It flees away, much more like a dove that has to be wooed to stay with you. And you do that through your daily feeding from the Word, your inspiration and praise time with the Lord, your loving Him through your words of love, your spending time in prophecy hearing His voice.

All these things strengthen your anointing and your relationship with the Lord. But things that tear it down are working in your own strength, going ahead with your work without spending that solid time in the Word, prayer and prophecy, hearing from Him and loving Him. That's why these times in the Word and prayer are so vitally important. You need to get those two hours of quality time with the Lord in the Word, prayer and prophecy every day, and not delay, procrastinate, put it off, or get slack. ⁽⁴¹⁾

It's the Day of the Weak

(Dad speaking:) You've got to realize that this is a new day. It's the day of women, the day of the weak, the day of each disciple following the Lord according to their own faith. It's the day of teamworking. It's the day of confessing your faults one to another, and praying one for another that you may be healed. It's the day of being a woman in the spirit, of letting the Lord be your Husband, letting Him be the macho man, the big general, the strong leader, the faultless role model.

You're not expected to be any of these things to either the sheep or to your co-workers. In fact, you need to desperately pray and ask the Lord to help you to be weak, to help you to be meek, to help you to trust the Lord, to help you give the reins to others. You need to jump for joy when the Lord shows up your faults to others, and strive to show yourself just as you are--a weak man who doesn't know anything.

The battle plans have changed drastically, and unless you get on board, you're going to keep sending mixed signals to the troops that it's not really the day of new weapons and of looking to the Lord and trusting Him for everything, but that it's still a day of personal strength and toeing the line to big cheese leaders and the bureaucracy of shepherd after shepherd after shepherd having to approve something. ⁽⁴²⁾

(Dad speaking:) I know that you think you're not anything special--not very smart, not very gifted, not very talented--and oftentimes you wonder what you're even doing being a shepherd. But this is a case where the Lord took the handmaiden of low degree and has raised her up, honored her, and anointed her. You're an example that the Lord can take weak things and make them strong; that He can take little girls and make them beautiful, powerful women of God, leaders, shepherdesses, and prophetesses for His Kingdom.

One of your strengths is the very fact that you feel so weak and you don't know what to do. You don't feel strong in yourself, so you look to the Lord, and you pray and you counsel with those around you. Because you don't feel self-confident and you don't feel like you know what to do, it makes you more desperate in the spirit. That makes you a more yielded vessel, and it makes you a better leader and shepherdess. It makes you a good sample to those around you--to your fellow leaders and to your flock. Then, of course, because you're looking so much to the Lord, and praying and seeking His face and His will, this gives all the glory to the Lord.

Don't worry, Honey, if you feel weak, or you don't feel as talented or as good a leader as others, or as strong as others, or as charismatic, or as gifted in some ways. Don't worry one bit, because the Lord made you exactly as you need to be, with gifts of sensitivity and humility, and the desire to call out to Him and look to Him. ⁽⁴³⁾

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth. Do not think that your meekness is weakness, or that your submissiveness and your yieldedness are signs of weakness, or that esteeming others greater than yourself is a sign that you are weaker. These are the true strengths of a shepherdess, and the reason that I have exalted you to a position of shepherdess to care for My wonderful children!--To show them the true riches, the true joys, the true happiness, as well as the way that I see things; to guide them and lead them and to help them find My wisdom, My understanding, My Love.

So continue to let Me lead you through meekness, through submission, through yieldedness, and through loving and caring for others. Do not listen to the lies of the Enemy when he tells you that you do not have enough gifts to be a leader in My Family. For I tell you, it is a lie. You have the gifts that are needed and the strength that is needed, for you are dependent upon My Word. As long as you continue to be dependent upon Me and My Word, and yielded to the way I am working in your life and the way I want to use you, I will continue to use you mightily--and even more mightily in battles to come! I will give you strength that you know not of, and will use you to lead and guide your people to victory! ⁽⁴⁴⁾

The Lord's Definition of a Pillar

A pillar is something that holds something else up. So obviously an important prerequisite for being a pillar is that you're helping to bear an important part of a load. Whether that load is a physical one or a spiritual one, a pillar will play a key role.

A pillar needs to look good, and by that I mean that they must be a sample of Me and a sample of obedience to the Word. Nobody wants to see a pillar that looks cracked, worn, and crumbling, or they won't trust it to bear the weight. This doesn't mean putting on a show, but it does mean reflecting Me in your life and actions and words as much as you're able.

A pillar needs to be strong and sturdy. This means that you have to have faith and be strong in Me and in your beliefs and convictions. You can't be blown about by every attack of the Enemy or you're more like a straw than a pillar.

A pillar needs to be dependable. Along with being strong, people also want to have the assurance and security that the pillar is going to stay in its place and do what it's supposed to do. Others want to know that they can count on you to do your job well and faithfully without needing lots of outside intervention to make you do what you must. You also have to be stable, not doing well just when you feel like it, but consistently, because you know it's My task for you, and thus you put your heart into it day in, day out.

A pillar takes initiative. A pillar doesn't wait to be told to help with something. They see the need, seek Me, counsel about it if necessary, and respond.

A pillar has vision, and a direct connection with Me. Pillars don't need a go-between between Me and them. They look to Me directly for My input on how to live and how to improve in bearing the load I've called them to bear. They feel personally responsible for getting My viewpoints on how they can do their job better.

A pillar knows its place, and it appreciates and celebrates the chance to serve Me in the way I've called it to. It doesn't try to be something it's not, but does the best it can for Me in the place where I've put it.

A good pillar works to make others stronger. A good pillar for Me doesn't just do its own job and bear its own load, but it helps to pull others up to a higher level as well, and through their sample and through their interactions and effects on others, they help others to be more for Me as well.

A pillar works with others and isn't a one-man show. There are very few buildings made of only one pillar, and it's in the teamwork of all the pillars together that buildings are made strong. Strength and dependability are traits I look for in a pillar, but that doesn't mean that My pillars don't need others.

Pillars are content. They are happy to be a pillar for Me, and My joy becomes their strength.

Being a pillar is a lifestyle choice. It's not something that happens at some point and then your status as a pillar is forever confirmed. It's the faithful performance of your tasks for Me at a high level of consistency and excellence that determines your status as a pillar in My house.

Take up the torch, My loves, take up the torch! Pass through this period of transition and know that the roles you play from this time forth will increase in importance and responsibility, and that it will require you to live the life of the disciple, to live the life of a pillar, to live the life of a leader. Take up the torch and hold it high through the power of My Spirit. Take up the calling and carry it through to the end. ⁽⁴⁵⁾

1. Getting Stronger, Part 4 #3544:88
2. The Endtime Series, Part 2 #3279:83
3. Prophecies on Leadership! #3052:138, 140
4. The Family's Future and Expansion Program! #3308:103
5. The Ride of Your Life! #3686:47-48
6. More on the Keys! What the Future Holds, Part 2 #3351:74
7. More on the Keys! What the Future Holds, Part 4 #3357:54
8. Seekman and the Treasures! #3131:67
9. The Era of Action! Part 1 #3288:187
10. A Fantastic Future! #3624:9
11. Shooting Straight, Part 5 #3503:82
12. New Year's Prayers and Goals #3177:137
13. Victory Over Comparing, Part 1 #3327:33
14. Love for the Lost #3680:104, 105
15. Gems and Jewels, Part 1 #3416:103
16. Prophecies on Yieldedness! #3044:22
17. Getting God's Answers! #3014:92
18. Offerings! #3463:93, 94
19. Loving Jesus! Part 2 #3025:23
20. A Wonderful Wave of Worldwide Witnessing! #0154:10, 11
21. Without Love It's Nothing! #1819:24, 25, 32, 35
22. The Two Pillars of Shepherding! #3067:21-36
23. The Two Pillars of Shepherding! #3067:37-48
24. Prayer of a Good Shepherd! #0813:22, 23
25. Hold on to Your Crown! #3168:294, 293
26. Second Epistle to Pastors #0048:41
27. The Silver Lining! #3166:254, 255
28. Tried and True! #3665:72-75
29. Quiet Time--Your Lifesaver! #3183:74-79
30. Morning Prayer #0098:1-5
31. The Spiritual Health Revolution #3184:84-89
32. Lashes of Love! #0606:3-8
33. Leadership Lessons, Part 1 #3347:37-49
34. Leadership Lessons, Part 2 #3385:95-100
35. Getting God's Answers! #3014:42-51
36. Prophecies on Pride and Humility! #3043:76-78
37. Stop! ... Look! ... Listen! #0074:52
38. For God's Sake, Follow God! #0004:4-9, 26, 39-45
39. Quiet Time--Your Lifesaver! #3183:82-87, 89-97
40. What Is Jesus Worth to You? #3433: 359, 365, 366, 369
41. What Is Jesus Worth to You? #3433:378-381
42. The Weakness Revolution Part 2 #3218B:270, 271, 273
43. Jewels on Comparing #3326:79-81
44. Prophecies on Yieldedness! #3044:132, 134
45. Carry The Flame Of Revolution!--Will You? #3663:115-125, 171



Leading through Prophecy and Physical Shepherding

Leading through Prophecy and Physical Shepherding

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(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

Two are better than one, for if one falls, the other can lift him up (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). That's what shepherding is all about. It's about lifting up your brother, it's about seeing a need in someone's life and helping to encourage, inspire, and challenge them, giving them what they need to be strengthened and stay on the straight and narrow road of the Christian discipleship life. Life is full of learning experiences, and learning can be so much easier when someone is helping you learn and make progress.

I am ready and willing to give shepherding to each individual through the voice of prophecy, and I help to lead and direct you as you come to Me in prayer, seeking My counsel. But the heavenly shepherding I give you personally is not meant to stand on its own. It's supposed to go hand in hand with the physical shepherding of someone who can help you follow My Words, apply them, and live them, someone who can pray for you and encourage you.

Some of you might wonder why that's necessary. Why is physical shepherding needed when you can get shepherding from Me? I'm the greatest shepherd in the universe, so shouldn't getting My instruction be enough? Well, if you are looking at things that way, you are only seeing one side of the picture when it comes to shepherding. Shepherding isn't just getting instruction and guidance. There is another side to it.

Shepherding is support. Shepherding is encouragement. Shepherding is prayer. Shepherding is having someone fight beside you against the Enemy to help you overcome. Shepherding is having the help that you need to be able to put all the instruction that I'm giving you into daily use. If getting instruction were the only aspect of shepherding, then yes, just hearing from Me would be sufficient and you wouldn't need shepherds in the physical. But good shepherding is so much more, and you need physical shepherds to provide all the physical aspects of shepherding.

Particularly in these last days, when the Enemy is out in full force fighting the children of David with all his might, shepherding is needed more than ever, because it's a law of My Spirit that while one can chase 1,000, two can put 10,000 to flight (Deuteronomy 32:30). You need the support of shepherds to help you stand up to the Enemy and resist his attacks and fight and overcome. Why go at it on your own when you can get the help of those who love you and are concerned about you and will be by your side during your time of need?

I do give a lot of instruction to you individually when you hear from Me in prophecy, and that is very important. But it doesn't replace the need for an earthly shepherd. A good shepherd will lead you to Me and help you get the instruction you need for your life from Me. But they won't just leave it at that. They'll help you apply that instruction in your life. They'll pray for you and give you tips and counsel and encouragement to keep moving forward. And

sometimes they'll give you a little admonishing when you are getting off track and not obeying what I have been telling you. No one is perfect, and you all need someone else to help you.

Trying to go at it alone, just between you and Me, when there are others who can help and shepherd you, is pride and self-righteousness. It's feeling that you are good enough to just get your instruction from Me and that's enough, you'll take it from there, no one need bother to help you. Well, that just doesn't work, and it's not an attitude that I can bless. I bless those who are humble, who are open, who seek My help and the help of others.

I've made you in the Family to be a team, with the goal of being more like Me, so that you can be My face to the world and reach this lost generation. But in order to be the team that I want you to be, you must have that closeness and bond that comes from everyone walking in love and humility. And being open to shepherding is part of that walk.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1). And unity comes in great part through all being open to shepherding--My shepherding and instruction and also the help of those shepherds that I have anointed to be your support and the glue that helps keep your team together.

Shepherding is a wonderful blessing. Having someone you can depend on for godly counsel, for prayer, who is willing to be a safeguard to you, is something you should be so thankful for. It far outweighs the little sacrifices that you have to make to take advantage of that blessing. Good shepherding will bear abundant fruit in your life and help propel you forward to greater heights in your walk with Me. ⁽¹⁾

(Dad speaking:) You're going to save yourself a lot of problems and wondering about things if you just ask the Lord what you should do, and you're going to save your shepherds a lot of time. Of course, you still need your shepherds and you need each other, your mate and your friends. It's not like you can do without the help, counsel and prayers of your co-workers and family--but most of all, you need to hear from the Lord.

I'll grant you, there may be times when you're having a big battle and you feel like you're in such a muddle you can hardly make it, and your immediate reaction will be to run to your shepherd or a mate or a co-worker and ask for prayer right away. There may be times when the Devil is hitting you full force and you feel like you need an initial prayer to be able to make it through--and if that's the case, you'd better get it. You might shoot up a prayer and ask the Lord for a confirmation whether you should get prayer on the spot, and He'll tell you to go quick and get prayer so that you can get a grip on things.

In this case, the initial prayer you have with your shepherd will bring sweet relief and calm to your spirit, and can help to clear away the clouds so that you can then continue to pray and seek the Lord for His instruction.

But this scenario I've just painted for you is only one small facet of the big picture, folks. Most of the time, when you need prayer, counsel, instruction or direction, instead of running to your mate or shepherd first and asking them what you should do, ask the Lord and get His counsel. Some things you probably don't even need to ask your shepherds about, and they probably wish you'd just pray and ask the Lord yourself. That's what they have to do with your questions--they have to go to the Lord and ask Him.

You're probably wondering how you're supposed to know when to go to your shepherds for help and when not to. How are you supposed to know what things to counsel with others about and what things you're supposed to ask the Lord about yourself? Well, you can always go to your shepherds for counsel and help; that's what they're there for, to guide and support and help you do the Lord's will. But before you go to your shepherds you should be asking the Lord what you're going to talk about, how you're going to present it, when to go to them, and for any other direction He might want to give you.

That's an important key--asking the Lord and hearing from Him before you go to someone for counsel, prayer, instruction or direction. For example, say you're having a battle about something and you're wondering if you should go and ask someone to pray for you. First of all, it's difficult and humbling to ask someone to pray for you when you're in the midst of a battle, but you know you need the help, and the Lord has told you that there's power in praying together with others. So it's not so much a question of whether you should ask someone to pray for you--you know you should when you need it. But if you stop and hear from the Lord, He'll show you who to go to, when to go to them, and what to say.

What the Lord tells you will be very helpful and encouraging not only to you, but to the person who you go to for prayer, because the Lord will show you what to say. He'll clarify things in your mind enough so that you can present your prayer request. He'll give you the encouragement you need to ask for prayer and help to dispel the Enemy's lies and doubts.

You can give your shepherd the message the Lord gave you about the battle you're having, and it'll make it so much easier for your shepherd to understand what you're going through, how the Lord sees it at the moment, and what counsel the Lord gave you. It will help your shepherd to know how to pray for you, how to seek the Lord for you, how to encourage you and guide you. Even if you don't know what you need, even if you're in such a muddle that you don't know what's wrong or where to begin, if you hear from the Lord about it, He'll tell you something, even if it's simply encouraging you in the first step of going and asking for prayer.

Sometimes you can't put your finger on what's wrong, but you can ask the Lord about it and He'll tell you. He'll lead you step by step. He might not tell you everything all at once. He might just give you the first step, and then expect you to come back to Him for the next step. It will help so much to relieve your battles if you go to the Lord and ask Him about things. Of course, you can go to your shepherds and you need to do that; you need their help, encouragement and prayers. But you also need to know how the Lord sees things and what He has to say. That's what will give you real strength and faith to go through the battle and come out finer gold.

It's really a teamwork--the Lord, you, and your shepherds. You need to be hearing from the Lord together about battles and trials. You can't expect your shepherds to have all the answers, and you also can't make it on your own without their help and support. You all need the Lord's help, and if you seek Him, He'll speak to you and give you clear counsel and direction.

When you're having a battle, you need to seek the Lord for yourself and ask Him your questions and hear directly from Him for yourself--but you also need to seek the help and

counsel of your shepherds or others who are spiritually strong. The Lord will speak to you and to your shepherds, sometimes showing different sides to the question, different angles of the situation, and when you put it all together, you'll have good, well-rounded counsel which will be a great strength and help to you. ⁽²⁾

When an Outside Perspective Is Needed

Why is there a need for shepherding? You know that you need it and that I want you to have it because I've said so in My Word. Most of you even know that to be true from experience, to varying degrees. But it's always good to review matters. Why don't we get a little more detailed about it? The more aspects or angles of something you understand or can relate to, the easier it is to receive it more wholeheartedly, see the need for it, and embrace it.

For example, maybe you've seen or been in a situation where there's an idea or project to do, or a problem that needs to be resolved, and you come to a roadblock, a point that you're having a hard time getting past. Normally this makes you focus even more on whatever that obstacle is, so much so that you become very close to its details, and every angle and aspect you can think of. However, someone not so closely involved--in fact, maybe not involved at all--comes and sees it in a completely different light and from a different perspective. And that fresh perspective is often the key to coming up with the missing piece of the puzzle. Then the impasse is overcome and you're well on your way to progress again.

The same principle is at work with you, My brides, in the spiritual realm, in your relationship with your shepherds. You face many situations, circumstances, and battles where you can benefit from the help of your shepherds--those I have specifically called, prepared, worked in and through, and anointed for this task. It is not of themselves; it is a calling that I have given them.

I call shepherds to be receptacles of My love, wisdom, guidance, counsel, and to help point you to My Word and to the answers I have given and can give. I do this for you, My brides who I love and adore. One of the ways that I meet your needs for support and answers is through shepherds that I have called and anointed. They are those who can come to your aid with that fresh perspective, coming in from outside the situation, whether it's a problem, battle, blockage, lack of understanding, relationship, friendship, work situation, project, health matter, or matter of the heart. Whatever it is, I have the answer, and I often--in fact, usually--use others to help you along the path to victory, progress, and solutions.

Shepherds can be a fresh and objective source of counsel. You have your maps and the instruction manual of the Word, but sometimes you run into bad weather or get a little sidetracked or off the main path, or encounter obstacles that you aren't sure how to get around or overcome, and it's easy to be so "into it" that it's hard to back off and get a bigger picture. Your shepherds are like guides all along the way who you can call on for help in those times. They may simply refer you to the map or manual and point out where you missed part of the directions or instruction. Or they may help you to get your communication device with headquarters more finely tuned so that you can have better communication with HQ; or they

may use their own communication device of prophecy to hear from HQ for you.

They may share some of their own experiences about when something similar happened when they were climbing a similar trail. Or they may bring you needed supplies or sustenance to help you through that portion of your journey, and simply be an encouragement and a support. They may journey with you, staying close by your side to help you as you navigate that particular portion of the trail that is more difficult or has more obstacles. They are there to help you, either personally or by calling on headquarters to send what is needed.

Of course, I am your ultimate Guide and you are personally connected to Me. But sometimes storms or static or other interference breaks up your reception and you need outside help.

What are some of the things that you sometimes need outside help with, or that extra perspective or well-rounded way of viewing things for? With most emotional matters, it can be a great relief and blessing to have help from someone who is not as involved as you are. Emotions cloud your logic and often distract you and create static, which the Enemy will try to take advantage of to get in and jam your channel to Me. He'll try to fill you with his perspective and "take" on things.

He uses your carnal human nature, emotions, and mind against you. Whether it's a crisis in a friendship, marital problems, jealousy, a heartbreak, a breakdown in communications with one of your loved ones, difficulties with one or more of your children, or a family problem, having a fresh outside perspective--one that is bathed in prayer, desperation, humility, and hearing from Me--can be a great comfort, relief and blessing when the road gets rough and rocky and you need a helping hand.

You can always come to Me, and of course I love it when you come directly to Me first of all and hear from Me. But sometimes I choose to give part of My message or instruction through others because I know that it will be more comforting, or more clear, or easier for you to receive, or maybe because you're just not open enough to hearing it straight from Me at that time. There are all kinds of reasons why I sometimes choose to work through your shepherds rather than solely through our connection via prophecy and the Word.

Your shepherds are there to be a help and a safeguard to you. They are extensions of Me and My love for you in human form, My aides. ⁽³⁾

If you find that you don't want to ask Me about something because you're afraid I'll say no, or if you find that you always receive a yes and never a caution or a no, then you probably need some outside help in praying about your decisions. But if you're willing to hear from Me with an open channel, willing to accept whatever I want to tell you, even if it's a no, then you'll find that through My Words I'm able to keep you on track for the most part, and you'll make your shepherds' job--and My job--a lot easier.

It will be easier on you, too, because you'll be open and yielded and used to hearing from Me and even receiving correction from Me. So when the times come up that you need to receive it from your shepherds, you'll be used to it, and it will be easier to receive. And that is an important point: even if you think you're being open in your times of hearing from Me, you'll still need to be open to the counsel of your shepherds, and willing to let others pray and

ask Me about things if a question comes up.

So keep that in mind as you pray and ask Me about things. It's crucial that you're willing to receive a no, if that's what I want to tell you. Otherwise, you're just going through the motions, you're not really protected, and the Enemy will see you as an open target to get you off track and harm your spiritual health and fruitfulness. He'll use the little things--little things that I could protect you from easily--if he knows that you're not really willing to receive My full counsel, and thus are somewhat "on your own" in trying to stay on track spiritually. So pray for openness.

And if you feel that you may be going through a time when you're not as open to My counsel, go on the attack and ask for prayer. When a question comes up, ask others to pray for you or with you about whatever issues you're struggling with, and get a well-rounded answer. If you do that, I am able to protect you fully. ⁽⁴⁾

Down through the ages I've used the analogy of shepherds and their flocks. It's a spiritual principle that no matter who you are, and wherever you are at in your relationship with Me, it's always helpful to have someone to turn to, to counsel with.--Someone who can give you My godly counsel, sometimes in the form of his or her own experience, and other times through sharing My Word with you, or expressing a concern that I have laid on their heart to share with you.

Can't everyone get shepherding directly from Me? Well, yes. I am your closest shepherd. I want you to have that direct link with Me, so that no matter what, and no matter where, you always have My counsel just a prayer away. When you are accustomed to communicating with Me, asking Me your questions, and also at times letting Me speak to your heart on anything I may have to give you, it's a wonderful blessing and boost to your spiritual strength.

Everybody not only can, but should, get shepherding directly from Me. However, you also need someone you can talk to face to face, develop bonds with, laugh and cry with, etc. You need both. I've made it so that there's a balance of shepherding--a teamworking--between you, Me, and your earthly shepherds and guides who are hearing from Me, and who also love you and care about your well-being, as I do.

There's also the factor of humility that enters in when you have others watching out for you. If you never had to answer to anyone on Earth for your actions or your spiritual state, but you only communicated with Me about it, that wouldn't give you opportunities to grow in the area of humility, would it?

Sharing your heart, receiving the counsel of others, and admitting weaknesses or mistakes to your brothers and sisters helps your spirit to grow by leaps and bounds. It's a spiritual principle--like asking for united prayer--that works because I make it work. You're humbling yourself and putting Me on the spot by faith, and consequently, you're putting yourself in a position where I can really do the most for you, and give you full, miraculous answers! ⁽⁵⁾

(Dad speaking:) Everyone is being shepherded by the Lord in this new day through the Word and through direct personal prophecy. Your shepherds are being shepherded by the

Lord, and the Lord expects everyone to learn to receive His shepherding much more in their personal lives by tuning in to His voice of prophecy.

But there's also a balance in hearing from the Lord all the time for yourself and your own shepherding, and using your earthly shepherds to help you stay on track. The Lord still works through your earthly shepherds. He uses your earthly shepherds to help you until you become spiritually strong enough to be able to be shepherded mainly by the Lord Himself. The Lord will use your earthly shepherds to teach you how to receive your shepherding from Him step by step.

You should share any significant personal prophecies with your shepherds. You might have to ask them to receive confirmations about things, to pray further about things. You might have to counsel with them and ask for their help in showing you if you're on the right track, if you're doing everything the Lord is showing you, if you're interpreting prophecy correctly and applying it correctly.

Receiving the messages in prophecy is the first step, but it takes time to learn to interpret them, study them, understand them, and then implement them and do the things the Lord is saying.

Some people can get off track if they depend solely on the personal messages they receive from the Lord for their shepherding and never discuss them with their earthly shepherds. Not because the Lord can't shepherd them like He promises, or tell them what they need to know, but because pride, independence, laziness, lack of faith, the cares of this life, and all those human weaknesses can tend to enter the picture when it comes to interpreting the messages. So it really pays to seek counsel and confirmations and further prayer from your shepherds, to make sure you're staying on the right track.

The Lord can tell you what you need and give you the right counsel for your personal situation, but humans tend to be a bit cafeteria-style and extreme in what they choose to obey. If you tend to only implement the things you like and you ignore other important parts of the message, you can get a little off track. That's where your shepherds can gently help you and keep you on track.

Sometimes if you have no one else around to counsel with, no shepherd, no other spiritually strong person who you feel you can confide in, then the Lord will keep you on track and shepherd you personally for as long as needed, if you stay desperate. It's not that people can't be shepherded by the Lord alone; sometimes there will be situations where you will have to be shepherded by Him alone. But generally speaking it's wiser and safer, considering human weaknesses, to counsel with others about your personal prophecies and the personal shepherding you're receiving from Jesus.

Jesus won't make mistakes in your shepherding. He won't give you the wrong counsel, but you might need help understanding it, interpreting it, and applying it correctly. So it's generally a good idea to share your personal prophecies with your shepherds and ask for their counsel and insight. The time will come when you won't have that opportunity and blessing to counsel with others so easily, and you'll have to depend much more on your personal connection with Jesus, so use these days now to learn how to be shepherded by Him. ⁽⁶⁾

We Need Both the Lord and Shepherds

(Question:) Why do we still need shepherding from physical shepherds when we have a personal channel with the Lord and are able to hear from Him directly through the Word and through the gift of prophecy?

(Jesus:) Here's a list of some of the advantages of having physical shepherds, in addition to hearing from Me personally. If you ask Me what other advantages there are for you personally, I'll give you further examples of how shepherds can benefit you in your life and situation.

* It helps you to stay open. When you are receiving input from other people, in order to accept what I'm saying through them, you've got to put your own opinions and mindset aside. Being open to others helps you to stay soft and receptive to what I want to tell you, whether I tell you personally through prophecy or tell you through the counsel of others.

* It keeps you humble. It's humbling to open your life to others. Letting someone else see inside your heart, including the trials and problems and battles and weaknesses, is humbling. It's so much easier to act like you've got it all together and don't need help. But this humbling is spiritually strengthening.

* It stretches your faith. Often it's harder to receive things from others than it is to receive those things directly from Me. It takes faith to believe that your shepherd is hearing from Me and is following the direction I want him to follow. It takes faith for you to accept things that others point out to you, especially when they're different or in opposition to the way you see things, but that's good because it forces you to grow.

* It keeps you desperate. Sometimes it's easy to feel that you can just be accountable to Me and things will only be between Me and you. But when others are involved too, it is a safeguard. It helps you to be more desperate to stay on the straight and narrow. It's human nature to not want to fail others, so when you give others the opportunity to be aware of your spiritual life and how you're doing, it can help to keep you on track because you know that there are others who are aware as well.

* It gives you support. Two are better than one. If you're going through a time of trials and difficulty, having someone else who knows about your situation can be a big help. They can help to safeguard you in areas that you need it. They can be a strength and support if you're going through a particular trial. They can be a staff that you can lean on, and their encouragement can help you make it through. They can pray for you.

* It gives you perspective. For example, some people have a tendency to shoot too high and set unreasonable goals for themselves or others. When this happens, it's often helpful to get a bit of outside perspective from a shepherd. On the other extreme, some people might tend to not put enough emphasis or priority on things that I tell them to do. In such cases, having a shepherd who can remind you of My personal counsel and help you to follow through on it can be very helpful, even necessary.

Even when you're hearing from Me, sometimes you need help in interpreting that counsel and finding a balance in how to apply the things that I'm telling you. I don't want you

to set your goals so high that they're unreasonable or unrealistic, nor should you be laid back about them. You have to move at the pace I've shown to be right for you, and that I know will work best in your life. Being able to counsel with your shepherd about how to implement what I'm asking of you can often be key to applying My counsel correctly and finding a good balance in your goals and efforts.

* It gives you prayer power. If someone is aware of your personal situation, they can pray for you and give you spiritual "backup." The power of prayer is real, and the more prayer power and support you can get, the better off you are!

* It builds bonds of closeness with your brethren. When you open your heart to someone else and give of yourself in this regard, there's often a bond of closeness that's formed between you and them. The unity that results is a powerful defense and even a weapon against the Enemy's attacks on you and on others.

* It's a safeguard. Let's face it, everyone makes mistakes, and no one's channel with Me is 100% clean and reliable all of the time. Earthly shepherds are a safeguard, an additional means I can use to get through to you when necessary. Or, if your hearing from Me was influenced by your own opinions and strong feelings on a matter, then I can use your earthly shepherds to help point this out to you. It's not easy to receive that kind of input, but it is necessary and it's good for you to have this safety net.

* It's good for you, and sometimes it's the easier way. Everyone needs counsel and even correction from time to time, and sometimes I have a hard time getting through to you on certain points in prophecy, so I often use earthly shepherds and co-laborers to point something out to you. If you never receive anything from others and insist on getting everything directly from Me in prophecy, I will probably eventually be able to make My point clear, but sometimes that might require My allowing you to have to learn some things the hard way, which isn't always pleasant. It's so much easier for you if you can take things from others and get things pointed out to you in that way.

* Counsel makes for more well-rounded decisions. Personal decisions are yours and yours alone to make. But getting counsel from earthly shepherds can be a big help in helping you prepare to make those decisions. It's still your job to hear from Me and make the final decision, but very often getting counsel and input from someone can help point you in the right direction. ⁽⁷⁾

Different Avenues of Shepherding

To maintain a life that is truly connected to Me, following closely and remaining in My perfect will, one needs to be open to many sources of shepherding--shepherding from Me personally through My voice in prophecy and the checks of the Spirit that I give, shepherding through the voice of the Word, studying My Word and applying it and letting it convict and change you, as well as shepherding from those who are right there by your side in flesh and blood--your brothers and sisters, friends, mate, spiritual shepherds, and even those who are younger than you. I use many different means to give shepherding, and those who are open to

receiving shepherding in many different forms are those who are the wisest and who will remain on track and fulfill My highest will.

If you choose to rely only on receiving shepherding and help from your overseers or those who are your official "shepherds," you'll be as a child whose growth and maturity is stunted, who has become so dependent on their parent that unless the parent is around and watching their every move and telling them what to do, they have a hard time knowing what is good and right.

As you mature spiritually, I expect you to take more spiritual responsibility. Your shepherds don't have the time or the ability to keep up with every aspect of your life, to remind you of every duty that you need to perform, or advise you about every attitude that isn't quite in line with My Word. And waiting to pay attention to a weak area in your life until someone points something out to you is dangerous, not to mention that, chances are by the time that happens, it's gone pretty far and the situation is far more serious than if you had been open to the checks of My Spirit and heeded them.

But while I do expect you to help shepherd yourself via your link with Me, feeling like you can only receive shepherding directly from Me means that you will miss out on the equally important avenue of shepherding from your brothers, sisters, friends, and loved ones, as well as your "official" shepherds. Just as I give you My love in many different ways, through different methods and forms, so I wish to use many different avenues to give you My instruction, counsel, and input. Shutting yourself off to input and shepherding from others dams up an important avenue of shepherding--the guidance that I want to give you through others.

The key to receiving all of the help and shepherding that you need is to be open to it coming from many different sources and in many different ways. One day I may choose to give you a personal check about something in your life that needs some tweaking or that you need to pull up your socks in, and that will be sufficient to get your attention and to give you the incentive to change. Some days I may choose your earthly shepherds to point out something that you wouldn't have been able to see otherwise. Sometimes I might use a friend or a co-worker to mention something to you or to check you about something so that you will bring that aspect of your life to Me for My input and counsel.

The more forms of shepherding you are open to, then the more channels I have available to get through to you. Depending on only one form of shepherding, or even limiting it to a couple of forms, is sort of like trying to do a task with only one hand rather than using both hands. You should try tying your shoe with just one hand. Go ahead, give it a shot. It's pretty tough, isn't it? While you might be able to do it, not only will it take you longer, but it probably won't be as good a job as if you did it with both hands. Try cooking a meal using only one hand: chopping the vegetables, spicing the meat, mixing or sifting the ingredients, etc. You'll find that it's suddenly extremely difficult to accomplish these fairly simple tasks with only one hand.

Well, trying to maintain a high standard in your spiritual life while only accepting one certain avenue of shepherding is sort of like trying to do such physical tasks with just one hand--it's a lot more difficult, if not impossible. If you do manage to do it, the quality of the job

leaves something to be desired.

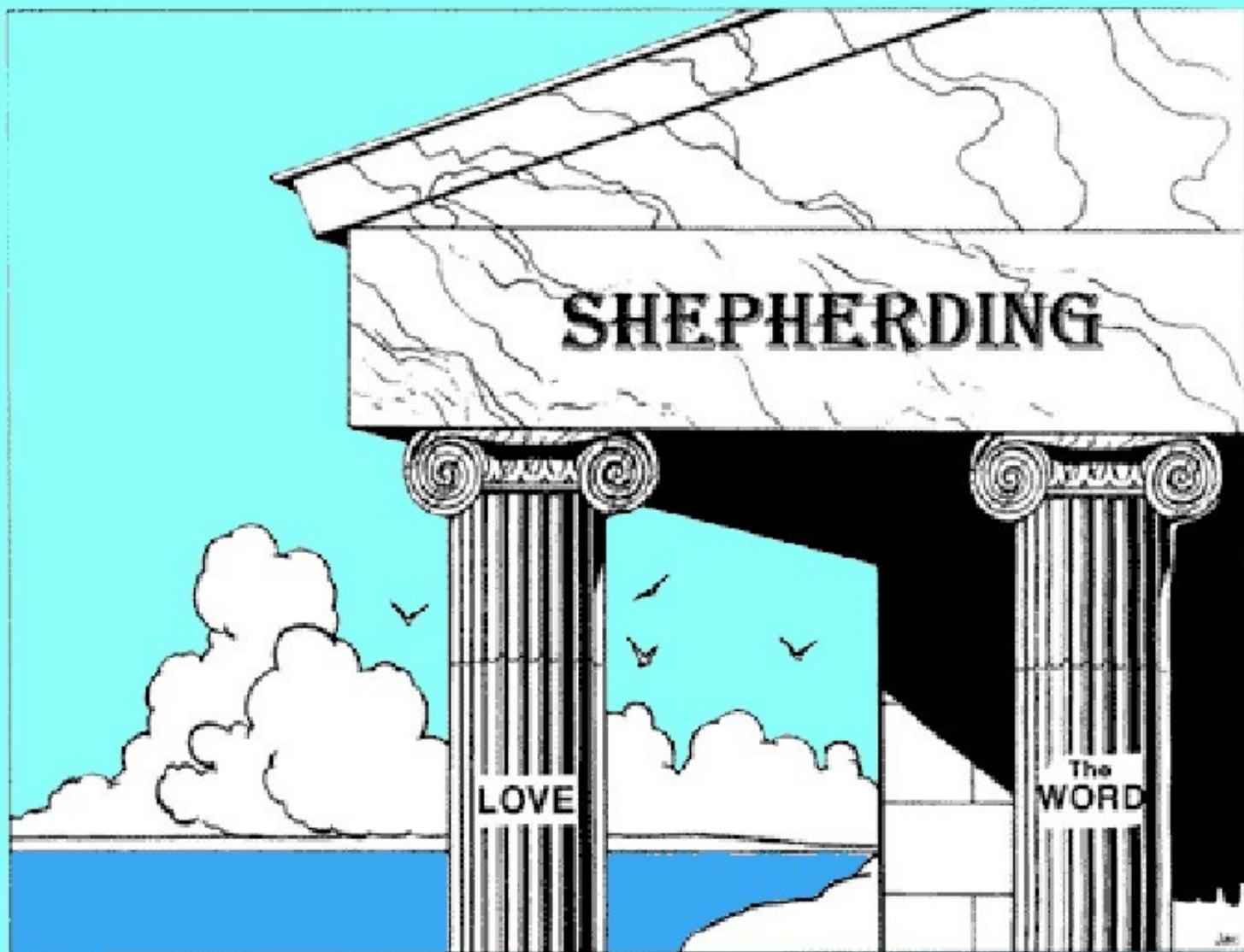
You'll find that it's much easier to maintain your spiritual life if you avail yourself of the many different avenues of shepherding I have set up for you: hearing from Me in prophecy, receiving the checks of My Spirit when I speak to your heart, gleaning counsel and wisdom from the Word, as well as being open to counsel, instruction, input, suggestions, and even correction from others--whether they're your shepherd, your mate, a brother or sister, or even one that you consider "younger in the Lord" than you are. Granted, it might be easier to receive input from one avenue than another, but if you truly want to reach your full potential as a disciple, then you should actively work on being open to all the ways in which I shepherd and assist you spiritually.

Just as a top athlete or sports star may have a number of coaches or trainers who pay attention to different aspects of his training and performance, because he knows that it's the way he'll really achieve his very best, so you can reach your best, and grow and learn and advance much better and more quickly in spirit if you're open to any channel that I might use to get a message through to you.

If you look at it objectively, you'll agree with Me that it's the message, not the messenger, that's most important in this case. In other words, it doesn't matter what avenue the shepherding comes from, because shepherding in all forms is important to your spiritual life and growth and progress. So pay attention to My messages, take them seriously, and bring them back to Me for confirmation and My advice on how to apply them. Stay hungry in spirit, desirous of any and all tips and counsel that I send you through various avenues.

It's human nature to want to be self-sufficient, to not be open to help and advice. But if you really want it, you'll benefit so much from the little hints and tips and input that I can give you through many avenues, and you'll probably save yourself a lot of grief down the road because I'll be able to get your attention when there are small things in your life that need improvement, and so you'll avoid a lot of bigger problems. ⁽⁸⁾

1. Why Shepherding, Part 1 #3640:55-64
2. Ask Me Everything, Part 3! #3272:44-54
3. Why Shepherding, Part 2 #3649:37-47
4. Issues, Part 14 #3442:38-41
5. Why Shepherding, Part 1 #3640:65-69
6. Understanding Prophecy, Part 4! #3343:164-171
7. Why Shepherding, Part 1 #3640:41-54
8. Why Shepherding, Part 2 #3649:6-16



DAVID'S TIPS FOR LEADERS

PROPHECIES FOR TCOB - 09 - 05

Tips for Leaders

Taken from Dad's Writings in the Letters

Book 9, Compilation #05 of TCOB pubs on the subject, by theaudiokey.com team - July 2021

1. If you want to know exactly what a shepherd is supposed to do, he's of course supposed to be shepherding and taking care of his flock or flocks and seeing that they are properly enfolded, fed, protected, etc.
2. Every good leader is a slave to his people. Every good public servant is a real servant of the people. Those who are not is the thing we're trying to cure in our own ranks now. Some leaders instead of being public servants and realizing they are to be the slaves of the people have gotten the idea that the sheep exist for their benefit to serve them!
3. A leader will keep on course and try to keep others on course in the direction he's going and pull them his way. But if you have a tendency to be pulled other ways by followers, then you're not much of a leader, if you can't buck the tide!
4. So that's the secret--the Word!--the secret of power and victory and overcoming and fruitfulness and fire and life and warmth and light and leadership, everything, is the Word!--And the lack of it is the secret of backsliding and failure and coldness and darkness and weakness and dying spiritually without the Word.
5. Only God can synchronize us into anything at all effective, and unless the leadership meets together every day for desperate prayer, they'll fall on their faces, because they're not getting God's instructions! They're not listening to the Lord, or their Leader, or even to each other! They're bound to fail!
6. We're looking now for real shepherds: I want to know, where are the folks who are concerned about the sheep? Where are those who are willing to lay down their lives for the sheep, as Jesus said? "The hireling fleeth but the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (Jn.10:11-13.)
I want to know, where are those who have been laying down their lives for the sheep? I don't want any more of these I've heard about who insist that the sheep lay down their lives for their tyrants' comfort!
7. You cannot look to your own wisdom, you cannot rest in your own understanding, you must look for the supernatural, miraculous and powerful leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It's impossible to solve these problems on your own. Lean not to your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.

So remember that you cannot possibly solve these problems in your own wisdom, your own strength, your own mind, your own understanding, your own trying to put two and two together. But you're going to have to ask the Lord by the supernatural, miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, to give you downright, outright, upright revelations, Heaven right, straight from Him, to show you exactly what to do.

So quit trying to figure it out yourself and to reason it out and to do it in your own understanding. Get down on your prayer bones and get desperate in prayer before God! Get your leaders together and fast and pray and cry out to God as Moses and his disciples did, and as I'm sure Noah and his family did, and as David and his family did. You can read their prayers and outcries in the Bible as the prophets of God and their little groups of disciples cried out to God.

8. It really takes faith for leadership just like anything else.--Just like giving tongues or prophecy.
9. The lives and example and behavior of our any of our leaders, should be the model for which the others should be striving. They should be such an example and such a model.
10. The shepherds shouldn't be following the sheep. The shepherds ought to be going and pioneering and getting ready for the sheep to follow.
11. The quicker you leaders learn to confess your mistakes, the more others will trust and love you--and the more the Lord will use you!
12. So often we are tempted to try to cover for ourselves or cover our mistakes, Lord, because we think that our followers must think that we're perfect and we dare not make a mistake. Yet, Lord, we have found that even our mistakes have been a blessing. When we admit and confess our mistakes, and explain how we made them and why we made them and warn others how not to make the same mistakes, Lord, it has then been a lesson and a blessing not only to us but we have also shared it with others that it might help them too.
13. Let me tell you, beloved, as leaders, whatever you do, don't trust just the one person's side of the story--you'd better be sure you get the other guy's side too!
14. You don't always have to give people an answer on the spot, or make an immediate decision! If you don't know what to do, be honest and humble, and admit it, and say, "I'm sorry, but I don't know"!
15. You are no exception! Nobody here's an exception! I'm not an exception! I don't dare get away with anything, or the Lord will slap me down like He did this past month!

16. Any employer, any general of an army, any political leader, any spiritual leader should always be looking around for talent and preparing it and using it all he can use it, always!
17. We're like the shepherds going ahead of the sheep to see what is on the road ahead on a dangerous path or mountain pass, and testing it and checking it to see if it is safe for the sheep, finding the pitfalls and noting the danger spots, etc., to warn them and to make sure we can lead the sheep through safely.
18. We're inclined to sort of not want to offend people, and not want to poke and be too nosy. But I want to tell you something right now, I am a doctor, believe it or not, and when there's trouble, it is my business to get nosy and to poke and probe and question and find out what the problem is! And you as leaders ought to learn this lesson--don't just take people's word for it!
19. Good leaders are those who never do anything they can get someone else to do for them!--Only do the things which you alone can do and must be done by you only!
20. I saw a sign on the grocery store wall one day: "Work your eight hours a day and don't worry--maybe someday you'll be boss, work 16 hours a day and have all the worry!" So don't want to be the boss, don't want to be the leader, it's a tough job, as you can see.
21. Some of you folks need to pray for the gift of the discerning of spirits, especially if you're going to be spiritual leaders. If you can't sense and see and be aware of the Devil's devices, you are ignorant and going to be totally unprepared and unarmed for his dirty work.
22. Every good leader must be aware of the practical as well as concerned about the spiritual.
23. Woe to the children of David that hear not the words of their Shepherd and care not for the sheep!
24. You've got to give credit where credit is due! Even though people go astray, you shouldn't forget all of the past and the good things they did do. Some people, the minute somebody makes a mistake, they want to forget all the past and all the good they ever did and all the good job they've done. A leader catches a guy in one thing and he forgets all his past loyalty and his past faithfulness and rakes him over the coals or tosses him out or something instead of being a little patient and more forgiving.
25. A tyrannical spirit makes a leader like the Devil, the first would-be dictator, who didn't want to listen to either God or the other angelic forces! Obviously the majority of them were opposed to his rebellion, for when he leaves Heaven at the start of the Tribulation

he'll only take one-third of them with him! So he and his demons are in the minority, thank God!

26. We certainly have found out in the Family and in the Lord's Work that teamwork is so much more important than individual leadership.
27. Your new young Colony must learn to operate under its own leadership according to its own faith and by the ways and means that it feels led are best for its particular habitat and surroundings. It must learn to let God lead and "For God's sake, follow God!" under His personal guidance by His Word alone!--Hallelujah?
28. If you ever need to learn a leadership lesson, it's this: Don't ever be late! You're a dandy bad example when you're late, and your people will do just as you do, as all their people did!--Always late, never on time, and always rushing around at the last minute, driving like mad, and risking their lives to try to get there--late! They couldn't be on time, they were never early, just always late! That's a terrible way to manage your time.
29. I don't think you can ever really be a good leader, a wise humble leader, until you've pulled some awful boners and made some terrible mistakes and committed a few sins and really blown it a few times yourself. For one thing, you'll never be humble enough unless you do.
As long as you're pretty perfect and you haven't made many mistakes you're going to think you're really something and you're doing pretty good. And then you're much more unmerciful on those who do make mistakes. But don't your mistakes make you a lot more merciful on those who make mistakes?
You'll be much more merciful to those who follow you if you yourself realise how much you need mercy! I tell you, when you need a lot of forgiveness and you need a lot of mercy it sure helps you to extend it to others, amen?
30. Most of the decisions--great decisions--that I have made in my life as a leader have been lonely decisions where only I and God stood together, and the whole world stood against us!--Sometimes even my family--sometimes even those I loved the most! They have been mountain peaks of decision, with nothing but thin air between me and the next peak, and I had to take that step alone, and trust God for the consequences, with no guarantee but God, no warranty but His Word--all other conditions being against it--all natural circumstances being opposed to it--the waves and the winds fighting against it--and all I had was the Hand of God!
But he never let me down, even if he had to pick me up by that hand and lift me across to that next mountain peak, without any visible, natural, normal, logical, reasonable means of help!

31. You cannot look to your own wisdom, you cannot rest in your own understanding, you must look for the supernatural, miraculous and powerful leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It's impossible to solve these problems on your own. Lean not to your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. So remember that you cannot possibly solve these problems in your own wisdom, your own strength, your own mind, your own understanding, your own trying to put two and two together. But you're going to have to ask the Lord by the supernatural, miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, to give you downright, outright, upright revelations, Heaven right, straight from Him, to show you exactly what to do.

Now this is what we've always been dependent upon: he's the one we've always had to look to for leadership in all the former decisions and in the laying of plans and programmers. Some of you know me well enough, you've lived with me long enough, you've watched me in operating long enough to know that I never make a decision on my own if I can possibly help it.

I never ever make a snap judgment or usually even a quick decision. Some people get very impatient with me because they think I'm so slow, because I can't give an immediate answer. This is because they're giving too much credit where credit is not due, and that's to me--that I am the one that ought to know, and I'm the one that is making the decision. But you know me well enough by this time, and you know by our history for years now, that this is not so.

Most of the time I don't know what to do. We always have to ask God and look to Him for His direct revelation, or His impression, or His leading, or His burden, or His guidance, with it being confirmed by the mouth of two or three witnesses, or by His Word, or by some fleece, or by some revelation, or by some leading. God has always worked with us that way.

We've tried never to depend upon our own wisdom, our own understanding, or what we think is the thing to do, but to look directly to Him and expect His direct revelatory, revolutionary, immediate guidance.

32. The leader above all, must be a man in tune with God, in close communication with headquarters, God's Headquarters, and all he should have to do is pass this word on to his officers, and see to it that they see to it, that it's carried out. Praise the Lord? Amen. His job is not tending tables, but listening to God, and giving God's orders, tending diligently to the ministry of the Word and prayer. Of course this doesn't mean just sitting around on his fanny in perpetual meditation doing nothing, but it requires a lot of hard work, prayer, study, teaching, and action in direction to see that it's done, which includes a lot of direct supervision, correction, demonstration, counseling, conferring, deciding, ordering, planning, surveying, investigating, choosing, analyzing, calculating, counting the cost, seeking God for the answer, etc.

His is a night and day, 24-hour-a-day job. Everybody else does their job, takes their time off, goes to sleep at night, and doesn't worry; but the Leader has to be thinking, praying,

planning, and deciding all the time, at least one jump ahead of the rest, so he'll know what to tell them to do next.

33. I'm not so smart! I don't know anything but what God shows me, and I just pass it on to you. Everything God shows you always works out! Praise the Lord? Thank you Jesus for Thy temple, the temple of Thy Spirit, where we can have truth and rest unto our souls! Isn't He wonderful? Then why don't you spend more time with Him--alone with Him? If you love Him so much, why don't you act like it?
Well, you say, I've been busy herding sheep, But how do you know how to herd them, or where to herd them, or anything about them unless you learn from the Chief Shepherd? How do you know where He's leading unless you follow Him? He knows where the green pastures are, and where the mountain passes are, and where the cool waters flow! He knows where the falls are, where you'll be safe and secure. He also knows the woods in which the wolves hide, and He knows the danger spots, and you'd better stay close to Him, for I'm telling you, you don't know much at all! You're going to be in trouble! All we have to do is follow--stick up your little antenna and get the signals and follow! Amen?
34. Most of the gifts of the Spirit are not showy gifts, they are the gifts of wisdom and knowledge and faith and discernment and things which are not so showy, not so obviously supernatural, but things which are the most needed and the best of all the gifts if you're going to work for the Lord! If you're really going to do things for God and be led of His Spirit, they are the things that you have to have in order to be a real leader for the Lord!
35. Good business management and organization is the life's blood by which this outfit operates, as well as the Spirit! Of course, without the Spirit, we're nothing! Without the Lord we're nothing! No matter how good our business management and ability and leadership and organization might be, without the Lord it would be an empty shell, a bunch of dead machinery just running like some of these churches! Like the little girl said about the kitten when she heard it purring: "It's gone to sleep and left its engine running!" Well, God help us never to do that!
36. It's only a novice, a new baby or junior executive who wants to be the boss and order everybody around! When a baby is born, let me tell you, he is the boss! He tells everybody what to do, and if they don't do it he screams his head off, and they have to do it or else! At first he really pretty much gets his way, so he has to be taught to listen to others: He has to learn to obey! He has to learn to cooperate and to work together. So it is only the baby, the brand-new not-yet-dry-behind-the-ears executive, who tries to run everything and boss everything and push everybody around and tell everybody what to do!

37. "He that would be greatest among you, let him be servant of all!" (Mt.20:27) A leader must always be willing to do whatever needs to be done. If there is nobody else to do it or nobody else wants to do it or is willing to do it or can do it, he must always be willing to do anything he is asked to do or that he sees needs to be done that nobody else is doing! To me, that is the greatest sign of really great leadership. I've found that great leaders are usually the humblest of all people, willing to do anything, and really don't even feel worthy of their great responsibilities at all. They feel much more worthy of cleaning toilets and things like that than the big job that God has trusted them with because they were faithful cleaning toilets. "He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in that which is much", and the inference is, he that is unfaithful in that which is least, will also be unfaithful in that which is much. (Lk.16:10.) If you can't trust somebody to take care of the baby or to do the cooking or clean the toilet when it needs to be done and there's nobody else to do it, then you can't trust them to be World leaders either!
38. If God finds you will obey in the little things, and that you will wash the dishes or wash the clothes or vacuum the floor when you're told to, then He knows He can trust you to tell you what's next! But if you're not willing to keep busy just picking up papers in the yard or whatever else it might be, why should He tell you anything else? Most of the greatest saints I've known were little people who just did what they thought should be done--without anyone hearing about it or even knowing they were around. But they were always there when you needed them, always quick to jump and always willing to see a need and respond. And to me, that is the greatest sign of really great leadership: Being willing to do whatever needs to be done! If there is nobody else to do it or nobody else wants to do it or is willing to do it or can do it, we should always be willing to do anything we are asked to do or that we see needs to be done that nobody else is doing!
39. You need to apply to yourself what Jesus said to the self-righteous hypocrites, "you need to learn what it means: 'I will have mercy and not sacrifice!'" You need to learn what that means. We've forgiven some of you leaders for a whole lot more than what you've condemned some of these babes for, and some of the people I was ready to throw out, you in mercy loved back in, so, for God's sake, let's remember that only Jesus can do it, and quit trying to legislate righteousness. It's a gift of God! Let God do it!-- Love never fails! Jesus never fails!
40. The Devil had to have leaders to help bring the world to the brink to work out God's purpose to show that the best of them couldn't do anything but make a mess without Him, and that's true of our leaders and that's true of our workers. I don't care how good they are, the best of them can't make it without the Lord and without obeying Him and His leadership!

41. I expect my leaders to be idea people and think of things on your own--you're closer to the details. You're closer to the trees than I am. I have a general view of the whole forest and I can see where there are general needs or if there's a forest fire coming or what we ought to do with sickly areas of the forest, if there's a blight or things like that. But you've got your nose up against local areas of the forest and local trees and you should be able to know what the local need is, the immediate need of your particular areas of responsibility. Therefore you should come up with time-saving, money-saving, personnel-saving and labor-saving ideas on those details!
42. Spiritual leaders are not tending tables, spiritual leaders are ministering the Word of God! They're supposed to be able to tell the people what to do, what the Word says to do, and to guide them spiritually. But then they have to make their own decision, they can't expect the leaders to make all their decisions for them and solve all their problems!
43. Are you going to be good shepherds or are you not?--Are you going to be obedient to your Chief Shepherd, or are you not?--Are you just hirelings, who are there just for the hire not because you love or care for the sheep? Are you hirelings who couldn't care less for the sheep, who are just there for the pay, because you like the work, but the sheep are falling over the edge, or starving, or cold, or getting ripped off by the wolves? Jesus said the hireling careth not for the sheep--just for himself! He's making sure he's warmed and fed and clothed and protected, but couldn't care less for the sheep!
44. Any truly good leader welcomes questions, suggestions, and even contrary ideas to his own! He knows he needs to see all sides, and to weigh them in the balance of his judgement, prayerfully before the Lord, and try to agree together on a unanimous decision if possible! "And it seemed good to all of them"! Hallelujah! Most of you top leaders who have worked with me for years know that when it came to making any major decision, I have nearly always called you in, tried to present all sides of the situation, described the conditions, possible alternatives, probable results of each, and asked for your suggestions and comments, and what you thought we ought to do about it. Even though the Lord has usually already revealed to me the answer, I like to have the confirmation of two or three or more witnesses and your agreement! This encourages my own faith, and helps me to know that it's the Lord!
45. One of the greatest dangers of leadership is man worship! One of the greatest temptations of leaders is to accept the praise of man, against which God's Word warns us, because it can destroy you and your leadership. Don't praise me,--praise God! I'm not wonderful!--Jesus is wonderful, and without Him I can do nothing, and am nothing, and the quicker you get your eyes on God, the better off you'll be, because no matter what happens to me, if your eyes are on the Lord, you'll keep on going for Him, because it's Jesus you're following.

46. Every great man and woman of God I ever knew had to get away from the mob most of the time in order to get alone with God, be inspired, receive the revelation of his plans, and be both spiritually and physically refreshed.

47. You'll never be a truly great leader--you'll never be a truly great pastor until you learn to have compassion on the sheep--until you learn to have great love and great mercy. Sometimes we feel we can't stand it or we'll weep. We feel we can't be so tender-hearted, so we feel we have to harden our hearts in order to bear it! But that's not the solution! But rather, cast thy burden on the Lord and He shall sustain thee! Getting hard and tyrannical is a fleshly compensation. It's not the Lord's solution. Prayer: Jesus, Jesus! We need you, Jesus! Gentle loving Jesus who wept for the multitude, who was so weary, and yet He came forth and looked upon the multitude and had compassion on them and healed them; as exhausted as He was, He didn't harden His heart!

You didn't harden your heart, Lord, but you had compassion upon the multitude. You stayed tender, quiet and humble. You wept over them time and again. You wept over the hardness of their hearts. What grieved You more than anything else was their hard hearts--even those whom You would have gathered unto You. You didn't want to see them suffer and You wept for them. Help us not to get hard. We're so used to seeing problems and difficulties. Because we're in a hurry, the quick way is to harden our heart. We don't take time to soften and melt and love and care for them. We want to break them right away quick, instead of gentling them. We want to lay them flat instead of dealing with them and probing and gently trying to heal. We want to delve in and slice and cut and enjoy the bleeding, instead of being like the osteopath, who tries to find natural means to cure the disease, and tries to find the root of the problem. We slice away at the symptom and cut away the cancer and quickly try to chop off the arm or the leg without trying to find a way to heal the wound. We just cauterize with the sword heated in the fire, and we burn and injure even more sometimes. Help us, O God, not to get hard!

Help us not to judge them with harshness, Lord. I'm so guilty, I don't want to be judged harshly, so it's not hard for me to have mercy! You're so good to me, Lord, when I've been so wicked and such a failure, so I understand how You can help me to be merciful and patient and long-suffering and kind. All these things take time! Chopping off an arm in a sudden operation--that doesn't take time, and it sometimes kills the patient! But natural ways take time: A change of diet, a change of scenery, the encouragement to exercise, trying to coordinate. Such gentle leading of the blind, such tender understanding of the feeble-minded--these things take such time! You could slap them in a padded cell and put them in a strait-jacket and let them go mad through such harsh treatment, or we could put our arms around them and encourage and inspire and show we have faith in them.

This takes time! We're in too big a hurry sometimes. It's like getting angry at a little tiny baby. How many years it takes to grow up and for parents to teach and to train them to

feed themselves and go to the bathroom--years of love and patience; yet the parents don't give up and get angry and throw them out just because the children can't do everything themselves! Help us to have patience, help us to have love. Help us to be easier on the spiritually and physically handicapped! It takes time to change the diet, establish the exercise, to realize they have to have more rest than normal people--that we can't push them so hard. It takes time--on our most uncomely parts we do bestow the greater care! Comfort the feeble-minded. Harden not your hearts! Help us to be willing to take time! This being in a hurry is a lack of faith--that it's got to be done right now, or it won't be done. We're trying to do it in our own strength!

The only way we can be patient with others is to know what a hopeless case we are ourselves! You've been so gentle with us--not rewarding us according to our iniquities. You've been so patient and loving!

If there's anything we show these kids, help us to show them tenderness and gentleness--that they are so dear to our hearts--that You've gone so far out of Your way--Your hands are torn by the rocks and thistles in rescuing these little lost lambs. Help us to take them in our arms and hold them close to our bosoms and nurse them back to strength and health and wholeness! Help us, O Jesus!

Thank you, Lord! O, thank you, Jesus! Lord, if you're anything, as we see you there, you're the picture of patience, calmness, love, and gentleness, long-suffering--the picture of tenderness, gently wooing like the dove, cooing like a dove--easily frightened away if met with hardness and resistance. You don't try to force anybody, Lord. Your Holy Spirit gently descends, and can be easily shooed away. It doesn't land where it's not wanted.

Help us not to be like the eagle who pounces upon its prey and sinks its talons in it, and devours its prey. Help us to be like the gentle dove of Thy Spirit!

Lord, you're pictured as a little lamb--you're a gentle, tender lamb--a little, tiny lamb--not a beast of prey, not a ravenous, merciless, cruel monster, but a gentle, harmless lamb, who allows itself to be eaten to bring life and strength--who allows itself to be devoured to bring life and nourishment to others--who lays itself on the altar of sacrifice, and who allows itself to die that others may live! Help us to be like Thee, O gentle Lamb of God! Give us Thy Wisdom, Thy Patience, Thy Mercy!

48. As some of you who have worked so closely with me know, when it came to organising a new team or staff for some new project, mission, or colony, it was always my policy to call together the leaders involved first, discuss the personnel possibilities with them and the Lord, including the pros and cons, assets and liabilities, needs and lacks, strengths and weaknesses of both the individuals involved, the jobs they would be leaving, and the new job they'd have to fill, how much the vacancy would hurt, who could possibly fill it, how suited they were for the new job, and how happy they would be in it. We leaders would then draw up a prospective list of candidates for the new project, and then go around to the individuals involved, and try to sell them on the idea, and persuade them to volunteer, show them the need, why they were best suited for it, how

they could be spared from their present job, consult with them on who could fill it for them, and their own qualifications for the new job.

49. Why do you wait to pray, Beloved? Instead of having to wait for someone to pray, you ought to be stumbling all over each other! You ought to all feel like praying at once! I hang back because we as leaders have to try to teach you to take the lead and try to help you to learn to pray out and help to lead. We can always do it for you, but that'll never teach you anything. That's just like parents, it's always easier to do it for the child than it is to teach the child to do it for themselves. I don't know why you so hesitate to pray when I ask somebody to pray!
50. There are certain secrets in Heaven, there's a certain amount of security in Heaven, there are certain things that they don't tell everybody, not even other Angels, not even the good spirits of the departed! God has His Own security system. We have very similar security in our own Family. I've often told leaders, "Don't tell anybody anything that they don't have to know!" That's the safest method of security.
51. Shepherds, when you have a problem to handle or a decision to make, don't be afraid to call your leaders together for prayer, discussion, and unanimous agreement! This is the way the Early Church was run, and the way any wise leader will operate! Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ! (Ga.6:2) I even ask my little secretary what she thinks about this or that, and she always has some good ideas! Of course, I don't always agree with her, but that's life; but then, sometimes she's right! Try it! Since you're the leader, and will be held accountable by God and man, you must finally decide!
52. We are all spiritual leaders really, particularly if we have children. If you are not leading anybody else but leading about a sister with a child or children, you have become a spiritual leader, whether you like it or not and whether you know it or not, and you must learn how to govern your own family or you will never learn how to govern the Family of God, as the Apostle says. (1Tim.3:5.)
You certainly cannot be trusted to rule over the kingdom of God if you have not learned how to rule your own family in love, in patience, in faith, in meekness, in gentleness and quietness, praise God?
53. I have cautioned leaders time and again, "Don't you ever give them orders to do so-and-so, make a certain move or do such-and-such a thing!" Those of you who know me, my policy has always been, "How would you like to do so-and-so? Would you like to do so-and-so?"--To present the invitation! It's not an order but an invitation, a privilege to do this job or that job or live in this room or that room or whatever little thing it might be, or the schedule or your job or whatever. I even ask you, "What do you think is the best time for you to have Class?" I don't order the Class at a certain time. We agree

together, we counsel together, we make decisions together. Decisions which affect the whole Body, the whole Home, we should get together and counsel about. You do in your own meetings. That's why I let you have your own meetings completely without our presence every week so that you can make your own decisions of the things that affect you personally and your schedule and your housing and all the rest!

54. We know there are some leaders who are not obeying, which means they are not receiving and believing the Letters, which means they don't believe in me, and if they don't believe in me, they ought not to be in this outfit!
They certainly ought not to be in positions of leadership if they themselves are not shining examples of obedience and faith in the Word! We are discovering some leadership that is obviously like that, and their whole structure is crumbling.
55. If God says "Go!" and it's His Will, you'd better go, no matter what, and He'll take care of you! Don't look at the waves! Keep your eyes on Jesus! Obey Him!
But to do this, you have to keep in touch with him, keep your spiritual radio on, and follow His directions! He's not limited by many or by few! He doesn't have to have anything to begin on! He made the world out of nothing--Pretty good old world, isn't it? He hung it on nothing--Hangs pretty good, doesn't it? And he can make something out of nothing--even you, if you'll listen, trust, and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey! Are you doing both? The one cannot go without the other! You can't obey without trusting, and you can't trust without obeying! It's two way street! And you've got to listen to do both!
56. Your officers will continually run to you for as long as you're handy when they should be learning to seek the lord about some of these things themselves, and learn some of the responsibility for which god is trying to train them to take your place--or their own, as the leader in some other field!
Usually the only way you can do this is to become completely and totally unavailable, at least some of the time, if not a good deal of it, to force them to make decisions, find solutions, seek god and handle situations without you, so that you will be freed for the things they cannot do, and so that they will be trained to someday be free to do the same!
As long as you are there within reach, they won't do a thing without you!
57. You, the leader, are the soul doctor and you must find out what the real trouble is, whether curable or incurable. If incurable, like the leper with an incurable case of leprosy which might also infect and destroy others if you don't act quickly, you must get them gently but firmly out of the camp as soon as possible before their critical, negative and half-hearted rebellious attitude spreads to others who are weak. You may do more damage to the whole body by trying to keep the gangrenous member, than if you cut off the hopeless case!

Some complaining devils don't even want to leave your midst, because then they couldn't cause you as much trouble. They just want to stay and be a problem child and take hours and hours of leadership time wasted on them, while they're only trying to get attention and cause you trouble. Others who really want to go, you waste hours trying to dissuade, and then, when all is said and done, they still go, so all your high-powered persuasion was in vain!

For God's sake, if they want to go home, let them go! Don't try to hang on to them, or you'll be sorry! We don't want that kind of disciple.

58. It is normal for women leaders in the family to have special followers, certain people, who love them dearly and are willing to do anything they say, will lay down their lives for them and follow them around constantly in faithful service. They need this kind of helpers!
59. I do not believe that leaders with broken marriages and broken homes and broken families of young children are good examples to the flock when fathers and mothers are separated and children must also be divided at a young age. If you cannot keep your own marriage and family together, how can you expect to unite the Family of God?

1. The New Leadership Revolution! #0329C:42
2. Where Are the Shepherds? #0662:50, 51
3. On Guard! #1377:39
4. The Word #1089:63
5. Looking Unto Jesus! #0126:23
6. Where Are the Shepherds? #0662:72, 73
7. For God's Sake, Follow God! #0004:4, 5, 26
8. Prophecies! How They Come! #1742:4
9. Good Shepherds! #1002:1
10. Shove Off! #0953_3:154
11. Letters III #0053:3
12. Lashes of Love! #0606:14
13. The Chinese Demon #1436:9
14. Second Epistle to Pastors #0048:25
15. You Must Obey the Least of These Commandments!
#1827:69
16. Abide in Your Calling! #0960:74
17. Beauty and the Beasts #0309:9
18. The Rebellious Woman! #1438:23
19. The Birds and the Seeds! #0316A:31
20. The Message of Jeremiah! #1337:31
21. God's Answer to Gen's Problem! #1459:62
22. Pointers for Leaders #0026:15
23. The Baby #0213:7
24. The Rebellious Woman! #1438:61
25. The Wise and Unwise Leader #0263:69
26. World Currents! No.38 #2455:17
27. Indigenous! #0315C:11
28. Honor the King! #2383:21
29. Lashes of Love! #0606:23-25
30. Faith and Healing #000M:25, 26
31. For God's Sake, Follow God! #0004:4-9
32. New Teams #0062:4-6
33. Temple Time #0191:25, 26
34. What's in It for Me? #2232:18
35. Let's Reap Radio! #1589:39
36. The Wise and Unwise Leader, #0263:19, 20
37. Little Things! #1372:1, 6, 9
38. Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice! #2418:35, 36
39. Love Never Fails #0025:13
40. Delinquent Parents! #1708:108
41. God's Way! #1659:110
42. Good Shepherds! #1002:109
43. The Baby #0213:18, 19
44. New Colonies #0059:56, 57
45. A Wonderful Wave of Worldwide Witnessing!
#0154:59
46. Second Epistle to Pastors #0048:19
47. Prayer for Love and Mercy! #0075:1-7, 11-15
48. Personal Answers II #0067:20
49. Dad's Jewels! #1361:330
50. Raiser of Taxes and Rise of the Antichrist! #2189:17
51. New Colonies #0059:58
52. The Meekness Dream! #1250:31, 32
53. Called, Chosen & Faithful! #2234:12
54. Grace vs. Law #0635:139, 140
55. Looking Unto Jesus! #0126:26, 27
56. Second Epistle to Pastors #0048:21-23
57. Backsliders #0140:40-42
58. Married to Jesus! #1953:2
59. New Appointments! #0377:11, 12

Be Enthusiastic
About the Word

Give
Them
Responsibility

Fight
Boredom



Outside Activities

SHEPHERDING TEENS

Shepherding Teens

Book 9, Compilation #06 of TCOB pubs on the subject, by theaudiokey.com team - July 2021

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

Caring for teens takes time. It's not an easy task to inspire them, train them, shepherd them, and relate to them. You have to always be one step ahead of them and be there for them. A lot of folks don't want to take this time. The parents are busy and need them to help out in the Home, and many times people feel they don't have time to give them all they need and they just let them do whatever they want. But you have to make the time! It's not optional! If you want your teens to turn out well, you must invest the necessary time. There's no way around it. Being left to themselves continually is one of the worst things for teens, because idleness is the Devil's workshop.

If you want to relate to teens, take time for them, do things with them, think about them, teach them, train them, pray for them, hear from Me about them and for them and with them, love them, have fun with them, and be a sample of My joy of living to them! Pick them up when they fall, forgive them when they stumble, show faith that they can overcome, help them do so, and they will!

The more you can win their confidence, the more they will open up; and the more they open up, the easier it will become to understand and relate to them. You must make the first move. You must become first a friend to them, then a confidant, and finally a shepherd or mentor. ⁽¹⁾

Teens Need Challenge, Fun, Shepherding, Responsibility, And Friends!

(Dad speaking:) Teens tend to see everything as black and white. They're often very carnal minded and see things more in the flesh than in the spirit. Thus it's hard for them to fully grasp the Lord's love for them if they aren't able to see that love in human form through someone who's letting His love flow through them.

Teens are not going to just up and decide for themselves that they're going to serve the Lord with all of their hearts. They won't just automatically believe that the Lord loves them unconditionally and wants them to love Him in return. Even if they've been brought up all of their lives in the Family, they'll still reach a point in their lives where they'll begin to question their beliefs, the Lord's love for them, their parents and shepherds' love for them, as well as their place and their future life for the Lord.

The Lord has made it this way so that teens will reach a point of decision and choose to love and serve Him for themselves, of their own accord. But they usually won't be able to make this decision without a little bit of help--and sometimes a lot of help--from those around them. It's like they have to be witnessed to all over again. Their pure and simple childlike faith no longer sustains them. The Enemy attacks them with his doubts. It's a time of decision. So

they need the love, help, and support of others.

Most teens need frequent and obvious manifestations of the Lord's love in the form of time, attention, help and shepherding. It's not enough to just shepherd them spiritually. They also need to have fun, to enjoy life, to be challenged. The main things they need are challenge, fun, shepherding, responsibility, and friends.

Teens need those who are going to reach out to them, those who are going to reach into their world and help them to make it. To feel the Lord's love, they need to feel it from others. They need to feel love, which is most often manifested in time. They need to do fun things. They need to feel like someone appreciates them. They need to be challenged with a ministry or job. They need to look at life as a joy and pleasure. They need to know that serving the Lord is not just boring and dull, but fun and enjoyable. They need to see a balance. They need shepherding and clear guidelines, yes, but they also need times to relax and let their hair down. They need challenge and enjoyment or they'll get bored.

When teens are bored, it's a vicious cycle. Once they reach a state of boredom, almost everything in their daily life is then boring. If a teen is bored with life in general, then everything in their life is boring. The Word becomes boring, prayer becomes boring, anything spiritual becomes boring, school becomes boring, and they start looking elsewhere for excitement, and they often end up looking in the wrong places. The Enemy starts showing them his so-called excitement, and they jump for it and want to take a peek and see what it's all about. When a teen is rebellious and bored at the same time, that's a recipe for disaster, as these two things combined cause them to look for fun in the clutches of the Enemy.

Teens need excitement in their lives, and if they don't get it from good and wholesome sources, they'll look for it elsewhere. If you can give them excitement in a good and healthy environment, if you can break the boredom cycle, then everything in their life starts to become more of a joy. They start enjoying their Word time, prayer time, and the spiritual things in their life. Sometimes you have to go a little overboard for teens as you try to make their life exciting, but it doesn't have to last forever. It's just for a time as they get over that hump in their life. If they can see that life for the Lord is fun and exciting, if they can make it over that hump, then that's a major battle won.

Teens are often looked upon as a great work force. There's often a tendency to depend on them for their physical help in certain areas of Home life, rather than tapping into their heart and mind to find out what they're really interested in and what would challenge them. Everyone has to do some of the boring chores of life that just need to be done in order to keep a Home running, including teens, but it's important that this isn't what their life is composed of entirely.

Let them focus on the jobs or ministries that they're interested in, that challenge them. If those jobs or ministries aren't available in your Home, then ask the Lord how you can create them, how you can make them happen. Or combo with another Home in the area and see how you can work it out.

If your teen wants to learn cooking, then see if you can have someone tune into that and teach them how to be a real good cook. If your teen wants to learn to sew, see if you can help make that happen for them. If your teen wants to learn to be a secretary or a computer

programmer or a web designer, see how they can be trained, and then give them hands-on experience. Give them the responsibility of making the Home's monthly newsletter, etc.

It can be a lot of work to try and adapt your Home to training your young people and teens, and it will take extra time and sacrifice, but it's well worth it. They'll still have to help out with the different tasks in your Home that must be done to keep it running. But remember, they need challenge, challenge, challenge--and more challenge! If we can't give it to them in the Family, then they're going to go elsewhere to look for it.

Their care, their need for fun, their need for challenge, is all a part of showing them the Lord's love. The Lord wants to give them the best care possible in every area of their lives, both physical and spiritual, and He needs you to help channel that love to them.

Some folks in the Family are bored--not just the teens. Some SGAs are bored. Some of our FGAs are unchallenged and wonder if they're "over the hill" or if the Lord still wants to use them. Well, this is an area of dire need--the care of our teens, this next generation. You want a challenge? This is one of the greatest challenges of all, to win our teens for the Lord! You want a great ministry that will reap great rewards here on Earth as well as in the world to come? Be a helping hand to a teen! Be a friend to a teen. Even if you can't devote your full time to it, do what you can. Like I said in "Change the World," even if you can't change the whole world, change your part of the world. Even if you can't help all of the teens, help whoever you can--whether it's one, two, or three.

Our teens need the Lord's love shown to them in a physical way, through physical people. Love is spelled time and friendship. A friend will go all the way--will even die for their friend if need be. Are you willing to give your life to help our upcoming disciples? Or are they going to fall into the clutches of the Enemy because they don't find in the Family the freedom, challenge and excitement they're seeking? If they don't find what they're looking for here, where will they find it? Nowhere. Well, they might find an imitation of happiness or an illusion of freedom in the System, but that's exactly where the Devil wants them and where he's trying with all his might to pull them.

It's a big tug-of-war in the spirit! The Enemy and all of his demons are on one side of the rope trying to pull it to their side, and the Lord and all of His spirit helpers are on the other side of the rope trying to pull it in their direction. Hanging in the middle of the rope is one of our teens, representative of many of our teens in the Family right now.

Heaven is fighting for his life and service, and so are the forces of Hell. They're pulling with all of their might, and it seems like the Enemy's winning. You may wonder then why the Lord, being all-powerful, doesn't just pull the rope in His direction and save the teens for Him. Well, He can't. He's bound by the rules of the game that forbid Him from using His full power. He's bound by the rules of choice and decision-making.

What Jesus needs is you! He needs your help. He needs all of those who can to get on His side of the rope to pull those teens in the right direction and out of the clutches of the Enemy. With your help the Enemy won't win this tug-of-war for the lives of our teens. As you reach out in love and sacrifice to win these teens to the Lord and the life of service He has for them, we will win the tug-of-war! Heaven will win and the forces of Hell will be defeated. But the tide of this battle for the hearts and souls and lives of our teens depends on you. Not your

neighbor or someone else, not that other person in the other Home who is good at working with teens, but you! The tide of this battle depends on you.

What are you going to do to help win this tug-of-war? What are you going to do to help win our teens, to help our teens, to be a friend to our teens, to encourage our teens, to challenge our teens, to shepherd our teens, to love our teens, and most of all, to be Jesus for them--to be His hands, His feet, His all?

What would Jesus do if He were here on Earth today? What would Jesus do to help that teen in your Home? Would He stand to the side and let the Enemy pull him away from the light through boredom, lack of challenge, lack of love for the Word, loneliness, and his many other tricks? No way! If Jesus were there in your Home, He would love that teen. He would befriend that teen. He would sacrifice His time to help that teen, to talk to that teen, to have fun with that teen, to answer that teen's questions. He would do all that He could to help that teen make it.

But Jesus can't physically be there right now in your Home to help your teen, so He needs you. The only way He can help that teen is if He can work through you. Will you let Him work through you? Will you let Him love through you? Will you let Him use you to help that teen make it? That's what He wants from you. He wants you to be His vessel of love.

Even if you don't feel like you're good with teens or that you can be much of a help, the Lord has a job for you. Ask Him what He wants you to do and what He expects of you today, and then pray desperately for His strength to help you do what He shows you. It's so important, because the Lord needs our next generation. He's got great things in store for them. He needs their fire and their fervor and their all. He wants them all! There's not one to spare!
(2)

Those of you who take up the challenge to invest time as shepherds, friends, mentors, mates, and comrades to your young people will find your lives blessed in supernatural ways. Not only will you joy in the results you will see in the ones you have loved and cared for, but fountains of personal and otherwise unattainable blessings will abound in your hearts and lives because you gave, sacrificed, and weren't too busy to play a part--no matter how large or small--in shaping the future of the Family. ⁽³⁾

(Dad speaking:) During the teen years, their minds revert back to that very impressionable state, like they were when they were very young. The only difference is, this time around they aren't so eager to please their mommy and daddy or shepherds. They'll do all in their power to make it difficult for you, but deep down inside they still want and need those rules, just like a toddler does. The boundaries are what make them feel safe. If you don't put them up, they'll go to the extreme just to get your attention or to see where you'll draw the line. They're testing your love--determining how much you care for them by the boundaries you set.

Of course, if you overdo and go to the opposite extreme and lay down too many rules and regulations, restricting your teenager's every move, it can have just as many negative effects in their training as if you didn't put down any. But many Family parents are tending

toward the former--failing to set down the boundaries clearly enough, not holding the standard steadfast, as it should be held.

Obviously it's a fine balance and you must be Spirit-led. That's the most important thing to remember when handling young teens. If you're stuck in a rut in your interactions with them, they will feel you boxing them in.

They generally will react and behave the way you treat them. If you talk down to them and treat them like children, they'll behave like children. If you treat them over-strictly, expecting too much maturity for their age, they'll feel overwhelmed, and likely make an effort to "be good," but they'll turn around and rebel behind your back.

So the key is to move with the Lord's Spirit. Their thoughts and attitudes are twisting, turning, and changing every day. Their minds and hearts, not to mention their bodies, are growing by leaps and bounds every day. One day they might be struggling with a simple spiritual concept, and the next day something clicks and they're able to grasp it completely. For this reason, the way you interact with them has to be constantly updated. Don't be stuck on yesterday's plan. Be open to the Lord's leading for the new day.

They don't want to be treated like children, yet at the same time you can't expect adult maturity and behavior from them. There's an in-between. There's a balance. This is how you will win their respect and trust--not by giving them everything they want, or letting them run wild in hopes that they'll get their "yah-yahs" out. They're in need of direction at this point in their lives--not overbearing, restrictive, breathing-down-your-neck kind of shepherding, but trusting, loving-yet-firm, flexible, Spirit-led shepherding, with clear boundaries. ⁽⁴⁾

Be Negotiators

Teenagers have this inbuilt mentality that fights against rules and restrictions. They're rebels at heart. I made them to be this way so that they would want to grow up and take responsibility for themselves and gain a desire to make their own choices. Yet this natural rebellion must be channeled, because otherwise it can also ruin them. It can make them cantankerous, crabby, difficult to get along with, and in their teen years they can develop nasty habits of poor human relations and lack of respect for others that will then last them a lifetime.

They need to be taught, they need to be instructed, and yet at the same time given sufficient freedom to make their own choices about whatever is appropriate to make choices about at their age. Often they want to make choices that are not yet theirs to make, because they don't have the wisdom, the maturity, the experience, or the sense of responsibility. Still, I put that desire within them, because otherwise they would remain children forever, content to just do what their parents say and never wanting to think or plan or decide for themselves.

You have to realize the inherent nature of teenagers and why they rebel before you can do anything to help them overcome it. You have to understand that it's an inbuilt mechanism and that it's very useful if channeled right. It's not that you want to "break" them, to change their personalities, to make them "yes people" or agreeable to everyone and everything. You

can't, even if you try! What you do want to do, though, is teach them to be reasonable.

As parents and shepherds, you need to learn the art of negotiating. If you've seen any of those movies about hostage negotiators, you'll get a better idea of the kind of negotiating that is needed with teenagers sometimes. They can be about as volatile, unpredictable and unreasonable as a kidnapper--though of course not as dangerous.

The combination of their natural rebellion, the intense emotions of those years, the Enemy's attacks, and the worldly input they receive combines to make them act really "way out there" at times. It's almost like they speak another language, come from a different culture, or even a different planet! You have to keep that in mind.

You have to remember that what they want out of life at this immature stage is often completely different than what you want out of life. The way they see things may be completely different than the way you see them. What to you is a very good reason for doing something may not be a valid reason at all to them. Basically what you need is supernatural wisdom to know where they're at, what's in their heart and mind, so that you can establish points in common. From there you can have fruitful communications and reasonable negotiations.

Granted, there are times when you just have to put your foot down and say, "Do this because it's the right thing to do," and be real parent-like about it. That is your God-given right. And it is your duty, in fact, to make sure that they're behaving in a godly fashion, and especially not doing anything that would be hurtful or harmful to others. There isn't always time or room for negotiations; some things are simply not negotiable.

On the other hand, while the bottom line is not negotiable, some things are worth having discussions and negotiations about, so that they can come to an understanding of where you're coming from, and you can understand their side and see if parts of the plan can be modified. At least you're talking, you're communicating, you're hearing their side, you're understanding their viewpoint, and in the process I can and will inspire you with ideas of things to say or do to help them understand, or things you can do to make it easier for them while still sticking to your convictions.

Firmness and guidelines are essential at this age and phase of life. They have to be reasonable guidelines and you have to really pray about them, because while there are certain basic codes of behavior that should be required of every human, some teens need more or less restrictions.

One thing that helps is to not make rules about areas that aren't problems or issues. Don't create new issues--you'll have enough real ones already! For example, if your child doesn't have a problem with listening to System music, don't come up with a big rule of "no System music in the house," because that'll probably just make them want to go and get all of it they can!

Don't try to cover all your bases by coming up with rules and guidelines that would cover every possible scenario or misbehavior. Try to keep your rules as simple and minimal as possible, and then if things come up that require more rules or guidelines, pray about them and make them then. You're going to have to have rules and guidelines, but the simpler and more concise they are the better.

Shoot straight and make it completely clear what you expect. Try to give them as much reasoning and explanation as possible for everything that you require of them. But if they don't agree and negotiation doesn't make them see the light, well, you still have to follow through. It's a lot more difficult, of course, when they haven't agreed to it, but it still must be done.

In some cases, it may be helpful if you can get your teen to sign some sort of contract or written agreement--especially if they're one of the more rebellious or quarrelsome types. You'll have to pray about the specific terms of the contract with your particular teenager, but it could be something to the effect of: "Once you're 16 you may leave this Home or you may leave the Family. However, as long as you are under our care and we are feeding, clothing, housing, and providing for you, you will agree to abide by a few house rules, which are the following..." Then both parents and teenager would sign this. Of course, there is already the provisional contract for senior teens of 16 and 17, but in many cases you parents may want to sign some type of similar contract with your younger teens.

It's ideal if people obey from the heart, but sometimes that just doesn't work with teenagers, at least not right off the bat. But if you can at least get them to agree to do such and such by agreeing that you're only going to require it for a certain time, you can in some cases make it easier for them to turn around. If they yield and make the right decisions, they will eventually start to stay within godly bounds because they know it makes them happy and it makes for a good life. But they don't have that wisdom and experience to begin with, and you sometimes have to enforce the rules until they come to understand that the rules are for their benefit.

See, if they think that they're going to have to listen to you "forever," they'll just hate it more and more. But if they realize that at a certain point you're prepared to let them go their way, and they truly believe that what you're asking or requiring of them is for their own good, they'll be more willing to follow. They may still be quite reluctant, but at least they'll be in a "negotiable" state, and as they follow, there's a good chance that they'll turn around and start to want to do the right things, if you're handling them with love and giving them responsibility as you go. ⁽⁵⁾

Do all you can to give them the Word. Do all you can to pour the Word into them and to help them give the Word to others--whether it be to their peers, to those they witness to, to their younger brothers and sisters--however you can encourage them to get the Word in and out. That will be their salvation.

By seeing My Word work not only in their own lives but in the lives of others, they will realize that it is a powerful force, that it is living, that it is not dead words on a page or ancient writings of man, but it is My Spirit and it works miracles! So pray to find their key, and then proceed day by day to give them the Word, even if you do not see the results immediately.

If these outside influences are continuing to pull them further and further away from My Word, show them this clearly. Present it to them lovingly and ask them to make the choice. Hear from Me with them, read My Word together, and find the answers therein.

Do not curb and restrict all their activities, for they will feel rebellious. But show them how certain activities are bringing forth bad fruit, not only in their lives, but in the lives of their younger brothers and sisters; in the lives of those they should be ministering to; and ultimately in the lives of the souls which they should be saving, but whom they're not going to reach as they should because of their sample.

My dear parents and shepherds, this is not a one-step solution. There are many steps, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, following Me, seeking Me and continuing to give the Word even when it looks like it's failing, even when it looks like it is not accomplishing the purpose. You have My promise that My Word never returns void!

That is their foundation, sure and steadfast, which will remain through all eternity. Like the helmet, My Word is never given in vain. It is there to stay, even though they may close their conscience off to it, put it from their minds, and rebel in their hearts. Yet is My foundation firmly there, and one day they will come back to it and find it sure and steadfast.

So continue to give it to them day by day, brick by brick. Continue to build, and continue to check with Me, the Master Foreman. Use the tools that I have given you; hear from Me so that you can know by faith that you are proceeding correctly in each situation.

Then do not be discouraged, My dear ones. Do not be weary from your many days of work. Rest each night and commit all to Me, and the next morning as you wake, pray for faith to continue.

It is in My hands to work the miracles. These children are Mine. They are Mine more than yours, and I love them and care for them and will keep them forever. Not one Word shall fail of all the things which I have promised you, and once again these children will return unto Me and unto you and will accomplish the destiny for which I created them. Only be faithful now to build brick upon brick, stone upon stone, so that their foundation will be sure and steadfast. ⁽⁶⁾

Find the Key!

(Dad speaking:) Every young person's heart has a unique key--a unique and separate code that will unlock the door of their heart. You as their parents, shepherds or friends, must seek the Lord as to what that is. It doesn't stop there. Once you have found the key to their hearts, you must use it wisely and not exploit it for your own advantages. Then you must ask the Lord to touch their lives in the way that He knows best. Only the Lord knows what your junior teen's code is--but He'll show you as you ask Him, and then watch your teen, and let the Lord reveal to you what makes them tick, what makes them happy, what you can do to help them grow.

Once you do your part and continue to follow through on what He's shown you, then it's up to them. I know it might sound a bit frustrating to realize that you don't control the outcome after all you've done and been for them, but it really does come down to them eventually. That is the freedom of choice. That's what it's all about: Doing your part until it's

their turn to decide for themselves. When it really comes down to it, it's a personal choice that your young person has to make. It comes down to them and God, their decision and their responsibility. No one else is to blame. ⁽⁷⁾

Knowing When and How to Discipline

It will take desperate prayer, unconditional love and faith and determination to see them through--and a strong hand and firm discipline if necessary, which is a part of love. You might also see some setbacks along the way. The kids will have days of some progress and days of some setbacks. Look at some of our adults--it's taken them literally years to come around.

Young people need sympathy and understanding, unconditional love and prayer. The parents and shepherds need to pray and ask God for wisdom as to when to give what. Discipline is love. That's one thing you never could accuse me of--that I couldn't control my kids, even when they were teenagers. My kids loved me as well as feared me, just like we do with God--we love Him as well as fear Him.

In many of these cases the kids are putting the shepherds to the test. They're playing the Devil's advocate in some ways, to see if the shepherds are going to practice what they preach. They've seen a lot of double standards, so they're putting you to the test to see what's up, what you're going to do. It's a combination of many things.

The kids are testing things out, which is normal and natural at this age. So this needs to be considered and this is why you have to pray. If they play around too long, harboring doubts, for example, if it gets to the point of no return, they might have to learn the hard way.

The Devil's right in there fighting long and hard and furiously to defeat our kids. Only with the Lord's divine intervention are you going to know what to do and when to do it; when to apply loving discipline and a firm hand and when to give love and understanding and bend a little; when to apply the rod of correction and when to pick them up and hold them tight in your arms, or when to do both.

I'm not talking here about tolerating any foolish behavior and certainly not any harmful shenanigans that will cause hurt to others. This is why the shepherds have to pray every day to know when and how to apply the discipline the Lord wants.

If the young people resist what the Lord is trying to do in their lives today, if they insist on yielding to the Devil and if they're going to be bad boys and girls, they might have to go out from among us and learn their lessons the hard way!

This is what the shepherds need to decide and why they have to keep praying. Only the Lord knows the heart of these kids, and through prayer He's able to show you shepherds and parents what's needed and when--when to hold on and when to let go. Pray for wisdom and discernment. ⁽⁸⁾

As shepherds you must have wisdom and restraint and not go jumping all over someone for every comment that happens to raise a few eyebrows. Especially in shepherding young

people, you should have a certain expectation that every now and then they will say something for shock value, or they will slip in their commitment to focus more on the Word and will be heard to promote something unedifying in a public area of the Home. That probably wouldn't turn out to be a big issue for you as a shepherd, and you may not even follow up on it unless you hear of it happening again, or unless the comment made seems very serious. ⁽⁹⁾

I'm sad to say that many kids who are doing poorly, or who have even left the Family altogether, feel that their parents lost faith for them. Then they lost faith for themselves. They needed their parents to hold on to them, no matter what. But when the parents let go, then the kids felt like I had let go, and they gave up.

Everyone needs someone in their life that understands them, loves them unconditionally, and never gives up on them. Love has creative power, and My love never gives up, never stops trying.

I beg you parents and shepherds, let Me break your hearts for these young ones that bring out the worst in you. You feel so righteous; you appear to be so obedient and good by comparison to the obvious and blatant sins of the young ones. In many cases, it is that very sin of self-righteousness that is impeding the spiritual growth of the children and teens in your care. They need you; they need your unconditional love, acceptance and support. They need you as a role model, a mentor, and a friend. They need to know that you love them and that you will never stop loving them.

Sometimes even if you don't understand why a young person is reacting a certain way, or you feel that that JETT or teen is not living up to their potential or training and they're letting you down, that doesn't give you an excuse to let them down. As the parents and shepherds, I hold you responsible to let things pass without getting upset and certainly without giving up and showing a lack of faith or even contempt for the child. You are the adult; they are the children. You are strong spiritually and experienced in life. You should be able to sort things out with Me, so that you can unload any of your hurt, frustration, impatience or self-righteous pride before you interact with the young people who depend on you.

You need such strong faith and love that you're there for them, even when they've lost faith for themselves. No matter how hopeless they feel about themselves, even when they hate themselves, you need to demonstrate unchanging, constant, warm support and love!

You will find yourselves in situations where young people will feel they can't make it. Now that the standard of the Word has become much clearer, and the challenge of the "Conviction versus Compromise" series and the Feast messages have shown what I expect of the children of David, there will be young people who will lack faith that they can make it. Maybe they will even confess that they have doubts about some aspect of the Word, Mama and Peter, the Endtime, or Family doctrine. They might love the Family and desire to continue living in a Family Home, but they might be torn up inside, because they feel they're no longer worthy of that, because they feel like hypocrites. They'll feel their faith is not strong enough, and therefore they can't be My disciple.

The key in these situations is to see their desire. Beneath the declarations of their

doubts and battles are they really saying, "I believe; can't you help my unbelief?" Are they finally coming clean about the battles they've had, possibly for a long time, wondering if there is any place for them, knowing that "to whom shall I go; you alone have the words of eternal life"? Are they looking to you with their last bit of hope, wondering how you'll react, hoping against hope that you'll have the faith to see them through, to help them over these obstacles and to answer their questions and give them what they need?

Dear loves, remember that the hearts of these young ones are tender and moldable. Even if they seem very strong in their feelings, even if they seem totally decided, once they've gotten things off their heart, if you pray desperately and don't prejudge the situation, you might be surprised at the will to believe in their hearts that is uncovered with time. Many young people are weighed down with unconfessed battles and sins. They have kept things inside for too long. But when they finally do get things out in the open, compelled by the conviction of the Holy Spirit brought about by the New Wine, then they have the chance to be strengthened.

Don't give up prematurely. Don't overreact and get upset. Don't be self-righteous and say, "I knew it all along!" Love, pray, understand, weep, support, and never give up! ⁽¹⁰⁾

(Dad speaking:) Please have patience with the young people! Some just take longer than others to come around. Ask the Lord for a look inside their heart, to see if their heart is generally in the right place or not. If so, then pray and love them through. It's your responsibility as parents and shepherds to know the state of your flock. You don't want to be entertaining the Enemy in your midst, so you have to be able to discern the difference--whether it's simply the Enemy attacking, or a teenage phase your son or daughter or another young person is going through, or whether they're purposely making wrong choices and are headed out, and are just contaminating and polluting others in the process.

How can you know the state of your flocks? By asking the Lord, of course! What may look to you like a rotten apple could just be a desperately needy young person who's hoping for some shepherding and help. With a little love, prayer and determination, they could have a turnaround and you could find yourself with a solid and committed disciple on your hands. It's happened before, folks! Don't fail any of these young people by neglecting to hear the Lord's voice and receive His instruction for them personally. Amen? ⁽¹¹⁾

The saying is true, that trust is the basis of any relationship. I would that you would base your relationship with these young people on trust--that you should trust them and that they should trust you. For if you trust them in these little things, it shall increase their desire to trust you for the bigger things, for the duties that they will be called upon to perform, for the new revelations that they will be called upon to receive and to implement and to shepherd others on.

I am calling these to be bellwethers to the flock, bellwethers to their peers. In order to be bellwethers, they must follow the shepherd very closely, wherever he goes. They must stay very close to the shepherd in complete trust. They must trust that the shepherd knows where he is going. They must trust that when the shepherd turns to the right, it is the right way to go.

Or when the shepherd turns to the left, that it is correct. They must not lean to their own understanding, analyzing, drawing their own conclusions, but they must trust that the shepherd is led of Me. For indeed, My queen and My king, who are their shepherds, are led of Me. And the greater amount of trust that they have in you, the better samples they will be, the better bellwethers to My flock.

Trust engenders more trust. So as you trust them in this thing, it shall engender their trust for you. Therefore make it clear to them that you are trusting them and that you are counting on them to not violate this trust.

For some it will be a test. For if you cannot trust them with these little things, how will you then trust them with the weightier matters of state? This will be your first step in building up their trust--your trust in them and their trust in you. ⁽¹²⁾

Many of them (young people) stand at the threshold of the big old world, wondering which way to walk, which path to embark upon, and they feel quite lost. Some feel very hopeless, some are in despair. Some are very foolish and naïve, and some are full of fear and apprehension. They see ahead of them a great, great forest, and they know that each step that they will take is an unsure step and they know not which path to embark upon.

But there, on the horizon, is the shepherd standing next to the sheep. Though the shepherd's heart is aching and breaking for that one to enter back into the fold, to come back in where it is safe and warm, and where he can care for it and continue to lead and guide, yet he stands there beside this sheep, honoring and respecting his majesty of choice.

He sits down with him at the edge of this large forest. The shepherd pulls out a map and lays it in front of My dear wayward sheep. On this map are many instructions. The shepherd has been through the forest before, and has carefully marked each path that the sheep might walk on.

He has marked where each pit is, where each trap is, and he has carefully marked with bright colors where the enemy lurks. These dangers are the first thing he points out. "These are the things to watch out for. These are the things that I want to guard you from falling into and falling prey to. Do not go down these paths, for if you do, you will be consumed. But here, look carefully at the map. For here are several paths for you to choose from.

"I am your shepherd and I know you. I know your strengths and your weaknesses. I know enough about you that I am able to help you in choosing which path to walk. Though the final choices will be yours, I will counsel you and let you know which ones I think might be best suited for you.

"As we sit here at the edge of this vast forest, let us discuss for a while just what might work out the best for you. Through the gifts and talents that the Lord has given you, you can learn how to minister in your own special way. There is a purpose and meaning for your life. You've been given a precious heritage of faith, and you'll be expected by the Lord to make use of all that you've been given by striving to do good toward others, whatever your lifestyle or profession.

"Please, as you embark upon this trip into the forest, remember this: You were called and chosen. I ask you to not forget this. I will give you precious gifts from within the fold--gifts

that you can take with you and use as the need arises, if you're willing to do so.

"I give you a bag that contains certain items that you will need to make your way. Firstly, there's a book, which as you open it, will give you instruction, even along the path that you have chosen. This book, which you have been taught from since your youth, contains answers, solutions, wisdom, and sound advice. Within this bag I have also placed a notebook of special memoirs. When you're lonely and when you feel in despair, open this and remember that you are dearly loved and cared for. Also within this bag is a compass. When you wonder which way to turn, it will guide you as to what is right or wrong. It always points 'north,' upward, to the path of truth and love.

"Upon your head has been placed a helmet, which will keep you connected to your Heavenly Shepherd. You can never lose this helmet, for it symbolizes your salvation and your eternal attachment to the One Who loves you above all others, and Who will never let go of you. And we, like Him, will love you always and never let go of you.

"Upon your feet I place special shoes. These shoes have been especially designed for the path that you will now walk upon. They're built for this rough and rugged terrain. Armed with this preparation, you'll be able to find sure footing, and will be able to sense if you're beginning to turn down a path that will lead to harm.

"Lastly, I place a special treasure within your hand. This is a priceless jewel, an elaborate transparent crystalline gem, which you can tuck deep within your heart. When you're in desperate need, when there's nowhere to turn, when there's no one with an answer, when you have not the wherewithal to fight, take this crystal from your bosom and it will provide the answer that you need. It's magical, and when you use it, it will help lift you from the low place or the place of confusion where you find yourself.

"Take these gifts with you now as you embark upon your journey. I love you, and we of the fold love you very, very dearly, and we want the best for you, as you go out and learn through experience.

"One thing that we and the Lord would ask of you is that you respect us, that you respect that we love you, and that you respect the gifts and training that we have given you. Hold on to them, for they are your heritage. Despise them not, for they will help you and they will see you through.

"You are not on your own. Though you embark on your own, you are not your own and you are not on your own. You still belong to Him. He's still the One Who is fashioning you. He's the One Who will bring you through your many experiences. He's the One Who will continue to teach you, lead you, and train you. He's the One Who has a perfect plan for you, no matter which path you embark upon.

"We will help you, but please help us and help yourself by saying, 'Yes, I will keep these things. These are my birthright and my heritage. I will respect them, and I will use them to the best of my ability.'"

The Book is My Word, their foundation of faith; the memoirs are the memories and thoughts and promises of love from their Family and friends. The compass is their conscience and the voice of My Holy Spirit in their heart. The helmet is their salvation, their eternal

attachment to Me. The shoes upon their feet are the "preparation of the Gospel of peace"--including the practical preparation that you have given them to prepare to walk outside the fold, on their own. The last special treasure, the crystal, signifies spiritual communication. The gift of prophecy and of hearing My voice is still available to them, if they will open themselves up to receive it, and if they are desperate and hungry. ⁽¹³⁾

Fear not, for not one that has been given to Me by My Heavenly Father will be lost. Neither will these ones who I have given you to love, care for, shepherd and parent be lost, either to Me or to you. They are Mine forever, and they are yours forever. Though they may stray from the fold, though they may wander through barren deserts, and even though they may find themselves trapped within the deepest pits of the System, they will in time be brought to feel My love and care, and see My hand work in their lives once again.

They will be Mine for eternity. Their souls are Mine, for I have bought and paid for them. Their spirits are Mine, and have been washed and sanctified with My blood. Their hearts are Mine, and within them are planted seeds of faith and truth that will never die. If they will take even the smallest step in My direction, if they will let the voice of My Spirit within their hearts--even if they only admit to it being their conscience--guide them and direct their actions, and cause them to do loving, honest, helpful deeds, they will be rewarded and blessed accordingly.

Many of your youth will try out a variety of things for a time, and some of those things may be far from your liking or preference, and fall far short of My highest will. Yet rest assured that your love for them and your faithfulness to manifest that love by reaching out to communicate, to understand, and to do what is in your power to assist them will bring forth fruit.

Your love for them is a manifestation of My love for them, and as they feel and know that you love them, and yet see that your convictions and dedication remain steadfast and sure, they will love and respect you more, and Me as well. They may still travel their own path, but at least they will have an active link to Me and My Spirit, rather than attempting to fully disconnect the antenna and go totally on their own. If they will let Me into their lives, and if they let you into their lives--and they will if you will be patient, wise, and show them unconditional love--then their lives will be far better than if they had to go it alone.

I will work in their hearts to do what you cannot do if you will do what you can. You can show them you care in many ways, and manifest your love in word, in deed, and in prayer. My love works miracles; it changes hearts, it guides lives, and it makes life worth living. Whatever path they've chosen, help them see that their life is worth living, and they in turn will be motivated to make it so, and make the most of it. As they travel down the path of right and good, it's a path much closer to My highest path than the other options that would take them farther afield and downhill. The higher and closer path can easily lead back to the path of full-time service, if at any time they will open their hearts and accept their high calling once again.

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1. Jewels on Junior Teens, Part 1 #3439:34, 35, 54
2. Jewels on Junior Teens, Part 2 #3440:109-129
3. International Board News 2003 #3476:71
4. Jewels on Junior Teens, Part 1 #3439:61-66
5. Jewels on Junior Teens, Part 1 #3439:68-82
6. Shepherding Our Children and Young People! #3191:83-91
7. Jewels on Junior Teens, Part 2 #3440:96, 97
8. Shepherding Our Children and Young People! #3191:58-65
9. Shooting Straight, Part 18 #3592:55
10. Solutions for Shepherds, Parents and Everyone! #3389:43-51
11. Hold on to the Reins! #3239:82, 83
12. The Summit '96 Letters! Part 2 #3065:115-118
13. They'll Always Be Mine! Part 2 #3300:224-239
14. They'll Always Be Mine! Part 2 #3300:316-320



PROPHECY VITAMINS ON LEADERSHIP AND SHEPHERDING

Prophecy Vitamins on Leadership and Shepherding

Book 9, Compilation #07 of TCOB pubs on the subject, by theaudiokey.com team - August 2021
(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

1. Being a shepherd means laying down your own life for the brethren, giving all that is within you, just as I did for the love of My sheep. It is a death, yes, but it is a death that is beautiful and glorious in My sight, bringing forth eternal and lasting fruit and the true beauties of spirit: sacrifice, humility, and love. No greater than these three walk among the children of men.
2. (Dad speaking:) It takes a lot of humility and a lot of yieldedness to be a leader.
3. (Jesus Speaking:) It takes a small man, insecure in his authority, to continually demand respect and loyalty, but a true leader inspires it by his sample, by his deeds, by his love, and by his care. When leaders give their lives for their people, the people love their leaders.
4. (Dad speaking:) God is God, and He knows His sheep. He knows His flock. He knows what they need, and He's going to give it to them, because He's the Good Shepherd Who cares for His flock, and it's His greatest desire to feed His flock and to give them what they need.
5. (Dad speaking:) It's time to start giving. That's what leadership is all about--giving--and depending on the Lord. It's time to wake up, tune in, and get desperate with the Lord. It's time to start depending more on the Lord and seeking Him more.
6. (Dad speaking:) If you don't spend quality time with the Lord every single day without fail, you will fail.
7. (Jesus Speaking:) You're constantly busy-busy, doing-doing, going-going, producing-producing, trying to be effective, trying to be efficient. But what you don't realize is that the most important kind of effectiveness is through prayer and through making sure that you go slow enough to really get the Lord's mind.
8. Just as the tide comes in and goes out, the moon rises and sets, the seasons come and go, so must a shepherd have the pouring out and the filling up again if he is to have the dying daily and the resurrection of new life.

9. A good shepherd loves the sheep--not just the pretty sheep, or the easy-to-lead sheep, or the outgoing and friendly sheep; he loves all the sheep. Impartial love is a very important quality; don't start your day without it.
10. If there is a conflict between you and one other person and you don't feel you can work it out between the two of you, get help, ask for prayer, and seek counsel from your shepherds.
11. As you build on this (hearing from the Lord) and as you learn to come to Me in this way, I will broaden your shepherding ability. I will strengthen and deepen your communications with each other. You'll be so thankful, because this kind of shepherding will bear the fruit that you so desire your shepherding to bear.
12. You need not fear, for in the absence of earthly leadership, I will still be your Good Shepherd, your Leader, and your Counselor. I will guide you towards My highest will and away from the traps of the Enemy.
13. Learning to get along with people of all ages and relate well to them is a skill well worth cultivating. It's highly sought after even in worldly circles and considered a valuable talent. And in My work of winning the world and becoming the leaders of tomorrow, which I've ordained for you to be, it's a "job critical" skill.
14. There are always going to be overseers and shepherds, and I have ordained it that way for many reasons. One reason is to teach people basic submission and humility--how to receive things from others and yield to them. Learning this vital lesson of humility and submission develops character, and is a necessary lesson and skill in any circle of life. It's especially important in the Family, in order to progress and grow in spirit the way I want you to.
15. The test of truly loyal and enduring leadership is when you're faced with a choice and you choose to believe the Lord and to forsake your own ways and wrong attitudes, even when the cost is a great humbling.
16. (Dad speaking:) It's the mark of a true leader when you're even willing to lead the way through acknowledging your weaknesses and sins. But that's what leaders are--those who are willing to live their lives completely open. Not only the good they do and the accolades they receive, but their willingness to lead the way in broadcasting the censure they receive. It takes true love and humility to do that.
17. (Jesus Speaking:) Remember that you cannot help anyone when you are not being well-fed and nourished yourself by My Word. You cannot feed people if your own storage of food is empty. You will be able to help people just as much as you yourself

are being helped by Me.

18. In My eyes, the leader is not greater than the follower. Everyone is needed; everyone plays a part to complete the whole.
19. If you are truly open to My direction in your life through My Word, prophecy, and the shepherding of those spiritually mature in Me, then you can rest assured that even when you begin to stray from My ways, you will quickly be brought back into full fellowship with Me and learn more about My wishes and desires.
20. A wonderful remedy is to share the battle with your shepherd or someone else who's strong and have them pray for you, which is like pouring a healing oil over you, to cleanse and wash the wound and start the healing process.
21. Where are the samples of leaders who spend time with Me getting My Words and receiving from Me? They are few and far between.
22. You who are closest to Me will be the leaders and commanders of the great multitudes of My children who will rise up with you against the Antichrist. They will stand with you and you will direct the forces.
23. Gentle shepherdess of the brokenhearted, never be ashamed of your tears for the sheep. For it is those tears, mingled with your prayers, that heal their wounds and bring new life and strength.
24. I've given you many strong leaders and bellwethers to follow, so keep your eyes on Me as I work through them. And though they may look weak, lacking in charisma, knowledge and experience, trust Me that they indeed are My anointed and the leaders I have chosen for these Last Days. For they are the ones that are desperate and know that they need My guidance and My power to make progress in the battle against the Enemy as he prepares his mighty onslaught against My children.
25. It's not a weakness that you can't think of what to tell people without seeking Me, but this is your greatest strength! For through this you allow Me to work and do My will as you constantly turn to Me for everything.
26. A shepherd's job is never done. A shepherd is always on call; he must always be there for the flock. This is also now the call of every Family member, for I call you all to be shepherds. Every one of you is a caretaker of another; you are to be your brother and sister's keeper, as well as keepers of My flock. I call you to care for one another, as I have cared for you. This is an enormous responsibility.

27. You don't always have to have the qualities of a leader--in the usual way you think of leaders--to lead others. All you have to have is conviction to stand up for what's right.
28. You shepherds must not be intimidated by people and their viewpoints or their protests.
29. There are times when the sheep bleat to warn the shepherd of impending doom, and if the shepherd does not take this warning and take heed, there is great loss. Therefore the sheep and the shepherds work together, for this is My plan.
30. (Dad speaking:) Are you going to answer the call of the high commission of the army of David? I have received the order! I have received the high commission to lead the troops in this final hour. This commission has been reserved for the army of David! We are the leaders! We have been commissioned. Are you with me?
31. (Dad speaking:) Swallow your pride, and be willing to accept shepherding when necessary, because it will only bear good fruit.
32. (Jesus Speaking:) I am calling each of you to a ministry of greater works, and you must each learn to lean on your connection with Me and on what I tell you. In this way, you will all grow into the role of prophets and leaders of My Endtime Church that you're destined for.
33. Your influence in the world will reach far, and the strength of this influence will increase as the years pass. You will grow in conviction and faith for astonishing miracles. You'll see wonders from My hands, and an increased anointing to be the shepherds of My flock.
34. The path of all true shepherds first begins by entering the gateway of brokenness. Only through this gateway will you have what it takes, what your Father David talked about in "Prayer for Love and Mercy," the kind of love and brokenness whereby you fall upon Me, your Rock, in humility and surrender, knowing you have not the love in yourself and are desperately in need of Me each step of the way.
35. The shepherding that I seek is for shepherds to lovingly help those that are battling to overcome the areas in their lives which they need to overcome. It's the shepherd's job to try to help people overcome their problems and to overcome the things they do that hurt others. It's the shepherd's role to help people to see that they should do the loving thing, the Godly thing, the kind thing. It's up to the shepherd to point out the areas in which people are falling short.

36. Is the leadership of the Family perfect, without fault, having never made a mistake? Of course not! They are like any other men or women, but they are My tools, My instruments, those that I have chosen.
37. What is a shepherd but a servant to the sheep--one who tenderly cares, who bandages up the broken legs, who cares for the animals. Even as a farmer who does tenderly serve his cattle and milk them, and brings them into green pastures and tends to them when they are sick, keeping their stalls clean and taking away the refuse, so do I ordain you as servants to your brothers and sisters. For did I not come as a servant? Therefore, if you would follow Me, if you would follow in My footsteps, you must also do likewise.
38. Counsel with your shepherds about your battles. Be honest with them about the things you're going through, and I will also speak through them as you counsel and pray together. Sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees, but as you speak with your shepherds who are not battling the same things as you are, who are removed from the situation, they can help you to see things in perspective and give you good insight and answers to your situation.
39. I have given you, My darlings, a very high calling--that of being My front-line soldiers, My elite troops, My cadre of officers, My leaders of the True Church in the Latter Days. This calling is given to very few, and even of those who it is given to, there are few who follow it, and even fewer who will follow through unto the End. This calling, to live and fight and die if need be for Me and My cause, is yours, and cannot be taken from you unless you give it up.
40. To be a wise leader you have to not just be open to counsel and help from your co-workers, but you have to actively seek it out and feel unsure and insecure without it.
41. Please avail yourself of the wise counsel of others--your shepherds or those who are strong in faith--by discussing and praying with them about the difficult and challenging situations that you face.
42. If you are to be a leader and shepherd in the era of action as I want you to be, then you must become a man of prayer. For through intercessory prayer you will take hold and avail yourself of the greatest action there is--the action in the spirit world performed by Me, the One Who holds the power of life and death in My hands.
43. I wish for all My children to be open and honest, and for all to feel like they can bare their hearts at any time to their shepherds. Even when some are found lacking in how they go about sharing what's on their hearts, even if what they share is not always delivered in a nice, neat, pretty package, nevertheless, it's better out than in.

44. This is always a danger with young leaders, young shepherds, young Christians--they have a tendency to try to do things in their own strength and to make a god of My service.
45. Learn to receive correction, guidance and counsel from one another. For if you expect to become the teachers and shepherds of the new flock that I am going to bring to you, then you must be humble enough to be shepherded yourself. You must not see it as interference by others, but as someone who loves you trying to help.
46. If you're not open to shepherding in a certain area of your life, that's a sure sign you really need it. The part of your life that you keep closed and private and "untouchable" is probably the area you need the most help in--help from Me and from others. There are some things in your life you just can't see clearly yourself. I sometimes even cause you to be blinded to certain problems so that you will be pushed to accept the help of others, not so that you can clam up and privatize your life even more.
47. (Dad speaking:) Remember, we don't just need laborers in the Family; we need labor leaders! We need people who can take initiative, go the extra mile, do the extra job, and work better and harder and sometimes longer than they're expected to. If you do what the Lord expects you to, there are no limits! If you exercise the spiritual weapons He's given you, there are no impossibilities. If you give your all for Jesus, He'll give His all for you, both now and a hundredfold hereafter, for eternity.
48. (Jesus Speaking:) My plan is that you as a whole, as the Family, will lead My sheep in the world through the Endtime. That's what you are destined for. If everyone in the Family was busy leading the Family, how would you lead the world? I need every single Family member to be a leader, and if I'm not calling you to help lead and shepherd other Family members at the moment, then it's because I'm asking you to feed My sheep in the world who are desperate and starving spiritually.
49. You must also prepare yourselves by becoming ready to shepherd others, for as you begin to feed My sheep, you will become shepherds. No matter who you are or what you're doing now, as My sheep come to your doors, you will be shepherds. You will need to teach and train them. You will need to answer their questions, be a good example, and give them counsel in their lives. Each of you, from the youngest to the oldest, will be called upon to participate. Are you ready for this? Some are; many aren't. Now's the time to get ready.
- First you must prepare on an individual basis, by making sure you are living My Words and upholding My standard. You must study My Word, both old and new, so that you know the principles of faith and truth. I'm calling you to be priests and ministers of My Word, My love, and My truth to those who seek to have Me play a more important role in their lives. You must prepare yourself in heart and spirit, and strengthen yourself in

the faith, so that you can be these priests, ministers, and teachers of the Gospel.

50. (Dad speaking:) If our busy shepherds and those in leadership are having a hard time stopping and getting enough quiet time with the Lord, maybe they need to lead the way and start a new trend in the Family! If they get everybody following suit and into the same groove, everyone will be doing it, and folks will be more sympathetic towards those who are having their "untouchable" time!
Get on the bandwagon and make it the fashion! Get on fire with a renewed Word revolution in your lives, and see others catch on! Make it the new "in thing!" Get on the bandwagon together! Declare Word time as sacred time! If the whole Home can't take it together while other work needs to continue on, or different ones have to follow different schedules for one reason or another--be respectful of those who are having their top-priority appointment with the Boss! Be mindful, be respectful, and make it easy for others to be good.
51. (Jesus Speaking:) The reason that you are here in the world is to be a witness and to reap the souls of those who are lost; to be as the good shepherd who left the ninety and nine and went out and sought that which was lost and brought them safely back into the fold, and there watched over the whole fold of one hundred. For he was not always gone, searching for the lost sheep, but his job as the shepherd was to watch the hundred and to care for them.
I send you forth as My shepherds to go and do likewise. When one is lost, go seek and search them out, and tell them of My Words and of My Truth and compel them to come into the Kingdom. But neglect not to care for those that are within the fold. For if you shall care for those that are within the fold, then they shall in turn go forth and bring many into My Kingdom; for they are your investment in the future.
52. And remember above all: Use the Word as your standard, not your own interpretations. The published Word is the authoritative source that measures what is godly and what is ungodly. The Word also gives counsel on letting people have freedom and trusting Me to work in their lives as I see fit and at My pace, as well as giving people leeway and room to be themselves. So if you follow the Word and apply it with a balanced implementation, you won't stray too far into compromise on the one hand, or into heavy-handedness on the other. But if you lean to your own understanding and judge others by your personal standard or sensibilities, you'll have nothing but trouble.
53. Any counsel that I give will be true for some, but in some cases would not be applicable or appropriate. I don't have to give across-the-board counsel that will fit every situation, because it is the day of the channels, the day of hearing from Me about everything. For the most part I will hit the broadest possible spectrum; but for those who are different, that is why I have given channels to My shepherds, parents, and caretakers worldwide.

People must learn, and have learned, that they need to personalize My counsel and adapt it to suit each need.

54. (Dad speaking:) I've suggested that the leaders and shepherds who are constantly pouring out to others--take a longer time of three hours twice a week, or half a day, besides their regular quiet time on other days, because they have an extremely arduous task of constantly hearing about problems, bearing burdens, pouring out and ministering. Their ministry and job requires them to constantly give and give and give. It's necessary that they spend this time in the Word because their spiritual inner selves are being depleted, and they don't even realize the devastating effect, the constant wear and tear on their spiritual bodies and their spiritual condition that this constant ministry has on them.
55. (Jesus Speaking:) Learning to have a broken heart but not a wounded spirit is the job of every shepherd. A broken heart brings compassion, understanding, strength to lift another's burdens, and vision to see the light at the end of the darkest tunnel. My shepherds all need broken hearts for the sheep. A wounded spirit sees only the pain, the apparent inability to overcome, the sorrow and loss. It is so focused on the mud that it no longer sees the stars. You have to help the wounded spirits to regain their focus on what is truly real, on Me, on the promise that I will never leave nor forsake and that nothing can ever separate them from My love for them.
56. The failure to correct one another on the part of teamworks shows a weakness of faith and/or humility. If you don't have enough love or humility to present what you see as wrong or a weakness on the part of your teammate, you are sinning against that person. Remember, you are your brother's keeper. You are to watch for his soul. That means you are held accountable for him if he is straying, or being a bad sample, or stumbling others. To not have the faith to point it out to him is doing him a great disservice, and his blood will be on your hands.
57. Being the Good Shepherd that I am, I have taken you, My little lamb, and I have broken your leg. It was not harsh nor severe, but I broke it in just the right spot to get your attention, to cause you to look to Me, to need Me, to desire Me, to feel your weakness and necessity. The fruits of this breaking of your leg and instruction are bearing good fruit, My little lamb. Now you're coming to Me and feeling the need for Me. I'm putting within your heart more of a longing, in answer to the cries and pleas of your heart, for you know that you need it and you can't be happy without it. You need it for the inspiration of your day, for the ability to get through your work. So isn't that a wonderful benefit?
58. I give parents and shepherds certain responsibilities--the responsibility to care for their flock. If they do so lovingly, I reward them accordingly, and My flock is strengthened. If

they do not care for the flock wisely, then the flock is weakened, and the shepherds must give account of this. Yet this is between Me and them. The sheep who decide to leave the fold cannot blame the shepherds, since they know what is right and true, even if they do not see that same in others.

59. I have given each Family individual different gifts of personal expression. Part of the beauty of the Family is that so many individuals can live together in unity of beliefs and goals and purpose, yet maintain and respect each other's individuality. That's not an easy balance to maintain without a great deal of love, wisdom, and understanding, and I'm proud of those who are growing in these ways. However, although I love wild freedom and the many and varied ways that people express themselves, I also know that no man is an island and everyone affects others in some way--for good or for bad. That's why counsel is good. That's why shepherding is necessary--not to contain or control, but to be a sounding board and a source of godly counsel.
60. (Dad speaking:) As a good shepherd, I always made it my job to stick my nose into people's business. That oughtta be the job of every good shepherd, to go around checking up on the sheep, checking on the flocks, and making sure everything is A-okay! I always made it a point to do that from the very beginning--even in the seemingly small things. As far back as when we were on the road in our early days, I'd walk around the camp at night checking on all the vehicles and the trailers, making sure everybody was warm and comfortable, had enough blankets or enough ventilation if they had those heaters on. That's the job of a good shepherd, to always be checking up on the sheep, and I'm still at it! Only now I can keep a closer watch on you than ever before.
61. (Jesus Speaking:) For I have among you some who are prophets, some who are teachers, some who tend tables, some who are shepherds, and all of these I lead in love. And some of those who are prophets are not teachers or shepherds, just as some who are among you are teachers, but are not prophets. But all are Mine, and none is above another, for I look on the heart, and if the heart contains love and joy and compassion, then this is the greatest gift. Do not compare among yourselves the gifts that I have given. Love is the greatest thing. For when you stand before Me, it is not the gifts that I shall be looking at, it is how much love and kindness you have shown to others, how much of Me you have given to others. Do not look at these gifts as something you absolutely have to obtain to be closer to Me. ... Above all, strive to give Me to others. This is the greatest gift, the gift of love.
62. I want and expect every young person in the Family to view leadership and shepherding as part of their commission and calling in the Family. From the very beginning your Father David harped on this topic. Though many of you

take his letter "So You Want to Be a Leader?" as an excuse to shirk this calling, I inspired him to write that to impress upon you that leadership is a tough and high calling, and though you may not want to be a leader, I want you to be a leader. And, whether you like it or not, as a disciple in the Army of David, one day you will be a leader and shepherd--if you are willing to go all the way for Me.

63. You are all shepherds, you are all teachers, and you all have great wealth of the truth and wisdom of My Word in your hearts. There is much for each one of you to do! For if you look around you there are many hungry sheep that long to be fed from your hands. There are many desperate ones that would come unto you and say, 'Feed me of the truth of God! Feed me of the Words of David. Teach me the life of faith. Teach me how to raise my children. Teach me how to pray and hear from the Lord. Teach me how to witness. Teach me how to provision.' There are many that would come to you and seek that which you know, and draw from the wisdom that is within your heart.
64. If you fail in this one area (taking time with the Lord), you are failing in many areas. I want you to see how much responsibility and accountability rests on this one point. I want you to see how important I consider this one aspect of your life. Above all, I require that you take the time with Me that is necessary, I require that you learn to operate more in the spirit, if you are to be one of My leaders.
65. The Spirit calls out to you! She bids you come into Her warm and loving arms. Only there will your heart be truly healed and your spirit set free to become all that I've ordained you to become. Can you not hear Her calling you? Can you not see Her in the eyes of your brothers and sisters? Their spirits and eyes look expectantly to you, desiring to see one raised up from among them--one who has been bruised and broken, yet who is then raised from the ashes of tears and defeat to become a broken, humble, new vessel; a vessel that lives only to do His Master's bidding, that bears clearly the imprint of the Master's face upon its own shattered surface.
Are you willing to bear My imprint? Are you willing to take your place among My greats, My broken ones, in order to lead others? Are you willing to pour forth from your broken and beaten vessel love without measure, love without reservation, love without fear or hesitation, love that thinks not of itself or what it has to gain or lose, but the kind of love that only lives for others?
66. Your planet has been especially chosen by Me to be the training ground for leaders of the future--leaders for not only this planet, but for all the galaxies and the entire universe.
You are the ones in whom I have invested the most in physical gifts and talents, skills and abilities, as well as in the way of knowledge and understanding of Me and My Words and the deep things of life and of the spirit.
You do not need to be the most technologically advanced race to be leaders in the

universe. Indeed, the ways I would have you lead have nothing to do with technology. Rather I am strengthening My called-out ones in the weapons and strengths of My Spirit.

67. David's (Dad's) humility and honesty to admit his faults is one of the things that made him into the leader and the great man of God that he was. He wasn't afraid to share his blunders, his human frailties, or even his human errors that sometimes clouded the message or correction I wanted to give to the Family or to an individual. But David was humble enough to admit those faults and show that he was just as human as everyone else--he wasn't perfect.
- Many people lack that same quality of honest humility, the willingness to admit that sometimes they get in the way of what I'm trying to say, that their humanness sometimes obstructs and hinders the correct presentation. That's a good question to ask yourself as well: Do you have the honest humility to admit to others when you've erred or not been in line with My Spirit?
68. This is the lesson that I wish for you to teach these shepherds and these young ones that will be there looking to you, looking to your sample, looking to the way you handle things in the Spirit, the way you get your signals from Me. They need to see that you don't do things just on a whim or even because you like to do certain things, but that you seek My face and seriously call out to Me to help you to be an ensample to My flock, just as I said that you should be in the Word.
- This will then make each of them have to seek Me and ask Me what My will is for them. I will surely tell them, and they will listen and they will follow. This will be a good lesson to many--a lesson of faith, a lesson of trust, a lesson on yieldedness and obedience and submission. For My principles revolve on little things. I am proud of you for asking. I am proud of you for not wanting to do even the littlest things without My counsel, without My advice, without My wisdom.
69. (Dad speaking:) You should treasure every opportunity to be able to share your hearts openly and honestly with your shepherds, and not mind sharing your weaknesses or problems with the Home, if necessary, so you can get more prayer and more help in the spirit. That way you'll continue to grow and make progress; you'll be a good sample and testimony to others; others will understand you better, and it'll ensure that you can do an even better job for Jesus.
70. (Jesus Speaking:) I'm asking you to become teachers, pastors, and shepherds--no longer the roving pioneers, but now stable pioneers, building a work, building a following, building a church of believers who will work with you and be part of you, new members of My Endtime army and Family. This will require dedication and stick-to-itiveness. It will require laying down your lives in new ways

71. As with any flock, the shepherd must cull out those that are weak. Then those that are strong, he uses to reproduce, to create more strong sheep. That's how a shepherd comes to have a strong flock. He doesn't keep the weak and the sickly. He doesn't breed them, but rather culls them out so that his flock reproduces only from good stock. And so am I going to do with you, for I am the Good Shepherd.
72. My Word is above all your source of spiritual life and sustenance. It is what keeps your spirit connected to Mine and keeps you attached to the spiritual realm. It is the root and source and heart of every aspect of your spiritual life. It is also a source of guidance in the practical realm, because it gives you answers, solutions, and direction--for your personal life, as well as for your shepherding of others.
It is important in any case to have an open heart and mind as you soak in My Word, not only toward being personally or generally fed and strengthened spiritually, but even to find and mine the jewels within My Word that will bring you specific and very practical and workable solutions to problems in your personal life, your work, or your shepherding. You've heard it said before that the answer to everything is in My Word, and how true that is.
73. The job of a shepherd is slow, plodding work and can sometimes border on being routine, monotonous, and perhaps even boring, if it weren't for My Spirit and My anointing.
So what do you do in such a situation? What do My real-life shepherds out in the fields with their sheep do? What about farmers who have to plod along day by day, faithfully doing their jobs and tending to their crops and animals? What do they do? In many cases they just have to endure. They just have to learn greater patience. They just learn greater desperation with Me, and they just keep going by the grace of God.
74. A key to taking this new step in your spiritual life is being open to shepherding, open to the checks of others. If you're truly after spiritual strength, strength that is from Me and My Word, then you'll realize that you not only need input from Me on how to go about it, but you also need the input of others. They can help you if you're getting off track. They can check you if something isn't right in your spirit.
75. A policy that you should take as your own is one that I personally practiced when I said, "I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends" (John 15:15). If you become more communicative, friendlier, and more approachable, you will be more like Me. While I needed time alone with My Father, My disciples knew they could seek out My assistance, counsel, support and prayer as often as they needed it. I was Shepherd and Friend, Savior and Brother.
76. I want to work with you, like a teacher with his students, to help you find the answers that you need. The best teachers don't just give the students the answers straight off,

having them memorize them in rote fashion; they teach the students how to get the answers that they need, how to think, how to research. Of course, the answers ultimately come from Me in either case, whether I give them to you straight out or you research and find the answers in your "school books," as in this case I'm both the teacher and the writer of the textbooks. But the process of searching and finding is good for you and teaches you many things that help you to be better students of Me and My ways, and that teach you to be better leaders. This is important not only now but is also good training for your jobs in the next world, in the Millennium and beyond.

77. You are destined to be leaders, those who will teach, instruct, and shelter many. What will give faith to those you are leading?--When they see you facing the ferocity of battle and suffering the wounds of war, even falling to your knees in exhaustion at times, yet you won't stop, you won't give up. Seeing you struggle back to your feet, again and again, till the battle is won, is a greater testimony than anything else you could do or any witness you could give.

It's a fallacy that a leader should appear unscathed by the battle. It's a lie of Satan that good leaders don't make mistakes, don't falter and struggle, don't suffer through the same desperation and frustrations that their followers face.

I'm the standard of the leader. If you want to be a good leader, follow My example. I was tempted in all points, as you are (Heb.4:15). I suffered agony, pain, desperation, and moments of doubt and hopelessness.

Do you think the battles that I faced in My last hours were easy? Can you imagine the intensity of a struggle that would cause you to sweat drops of blood, as I did in the Garden of Gethsemane? Can you imagine the agony that would cause Me to cry out to the Father as I did on the cross, "Why have You forsaken Me?" (Luke 22:44; Mat.27:46). That's what makes a true leader: clinging to Me and fighting on, no matter what.

78. The one who refuses to listen to their brothers and their sisters, to their elders and their leaders, puts themselves in My hands alone. And as I have said, I do and will shepherd them. But he who will not be shepherded by Me through others must be shepherded by Me directly. They must face those things that I bring across their path to shepherd them, to teach them--experiences, afflictions, heartaches, hard sayings. For they choose not to listen to the counsel of the Godly, and thus must be shepherded through raw experience at My hands.

79. Learning to be completely open and honest with your shepherds is a step towards greater humility and meekness. When you're constantly confessing that you need help and prayer and counsel, this is humbling and this kills your pride, but it's so good for you. Confessing your faults lowers your self-esteem in your own eyes, but it exalts you in My eyes and brings down My blessings. Your shepherds are also proud of you when you take these steps of humility and openness.

80. When there are big problems, don't be too proud to ask for the help of your Home shepherds. Don't be so proud that you try to work it all out on your own, because sometimes it is helpful to have a mediator, a third party, who can help your communications/negotiations to go more smoothly.
- At the same time, don't be dependent on your Home shepherds to do all of the problem-solving work for you. There's a balance to be had, and you need to learn to pray about problems and work them out as well, without always expecting your shepherds to walk you through them.
81. It's so much easier to look to the work and to the job that I've given you and say, "Let's move forward with the work and let's not have to bear the burden of others' problems, especially serious ones." I don't blame you or fault you for that, because you do have a ministry that ministers to the "all," and you can't always leave the "all" to go after the one. I know and understand this, because your ministry at your level is to minister to the "all," to the ninety-and-nine. But from time to time I have to ask you - not just you as the shepherds, but you as the body - to be willing to go after the one. Some of these have been long term, but they have proven fruitful, even though it has required work and love and patience and stamina. And now I ask you collectively if you will put your will on My side and on her side in this matter, so that all three bodies - I, you, and she - are moving and working together to free her from this bondage.
- From time to time it is necessary to focus on the one, to leave the ninety-and-nine to seek out the lost one - and this is one of those cases. I know it's not easy, but I say that in the long run it is worth it to save the life of this one.
82. If you're going to succeed as a revolution, it's imperative that you are open to the new and even the crazy. Your Father David was often a great example of this. While he also had his share of old mindsets, in comparison to the rest of the Family he was the most "out of the box" thinker ever. He was rarely afraid to share an idea, even if it seemed a little ridiculous to him or to others. Sometimes the idea worked perfectly, other times it didn't, and other times it was the springboard for a great change for the better.
- I want you to be in tune with Me during your discussions. I want you to specifically ask Me to be there with you, leading and guiding your thoughts and words. I also want you to use that brain I gave you to come up with ideas. Sure, I could give it all to you in prophecy, but it's also healthy, both spiritually and emotionally, for you to come up with ideas, discuss them together, and develop workable solutions which can later be brought to Me and confirmed in prophecy. This method will help you to grow in maturity and make you more effective leaders and disciples.
83. I love sheep! What a motif they are! Sheep are often depicted in artwork, from beautiful pictures of a herd of sheep in a pastoral setting, to those in comic art style that make for a good chuckle! You can find the wise old ram depicted or the motherly ewe with her adorable lambs.

Look at the cuddly toys of sheep. Don't they touch a child's heart and often become a favorite? Many people have enjoyed a good laugh at some of the movies made with sheep as the characters. There is the wisdom-filled story about the wolf in sheep's clothing. Indeed, sheep are a lovely creation I take much pleasure in. How useful they are!

Not all of the depictions of these creatures will show the nearby shepherd, but if you come across a real-life herd of sheep on your travels, they won't be without a shepherd. He'll be there, most often leaning on his staff or sitting on a little hill close by. He's there watching over his flock unobtrusively, but if danger lurks, he knows it and is right there to clobber an intruder if necessary.

I have a point in this declaration of My love for these darling animals. They have a quiet assurance--or some call it instinct--that someone is there to care for them.

Translated into the realm of My people, there is a quiet motivation deep in your heart to seek out that "someone" who is there when you need them. You need Me, but you also need someone "with skin on," someone in your realm who you can confide in if necessary, someone you can share worries or trepidations with, someone you can count on to give you wise counsel.

84. As you, My children of David, grow and mature and become the shepherds I need you to be, you will learn to be more like your king and queen, and look ahead, and get ahold of Me for direction. You need to learn how to look beyond the immediate needs of today, to plan and prepare and be strengthened for the future.

As you grow into the mentality of looking outward, reaching forward, and seeking to progress, asking Me about the future and how to best prepare and attack, what to put your efforts and energies into now in order to be prepared for where I'm taking you and what battles you'll face, huge leaps of forward progress will be made!

Learning and applying this principle of looking ahead and asking Me to forewarn you and help you to be prepared and preempt the Enemy's attacks, will tremendously strengthen you as a body and help to turn the tide of the war, putting you in charge, in front, and sending the Enemy reeling away in fear to regroup, re-plan, and recover from the ferocious assaults he will be receiving on all fronts.

85. (Dad speaking:) Shepherds, if you're not willing to gently and lovingly correct your Home members when they go astray, then sooner or later others will follow them. You'll lose your flock after a while, or you yourself will go astray, following them, because you weren't willing to forsake your pride and do the hard but loving job of shepherding. Remember, it's a loving job as well. "Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth." Whom the Lord loves, He shepherds. If you love your Home members, you'll shepherd them. If you love the Lord and want the best for His work, you'll shepherd them.

And dear Home members, if you're not willing to overcome your pride and sensitivity and be shepherded, then you'll only go further and further astray. Just as your shepherds need to have a change of heart, a change of mind, and a change of attitude

to be willing to take up the gentle and loving staff of shepherding again, you need to be willing to accept that shepherding.

Don't look on it as some terrible, horrible, evil thing that you're being shepherded, that you're being asked why you're doing this, or if some decision is the best course of action, or if you'd considered this or that in the Word, or if you've heard from the Lord about a decision you're making. If you love the Lord and want to do your best for Him and be your best for the Family, look upon it as instruction in the way of righteousness. Look upon it as godly counsel and help. Look upon it as good, not bad. Look upon it as a blessing, not a terrible thing to be dreaded and avoided.

86. (Jesus Speaking:) Being your brother's keeper is all about love. It's about loving enough to care. So when a fellow Home member or loved one is going through a rough time and it's obvious they're not excelling in their obedience to the Word, you should love enough to care.

Caring doesn't always mean correcting the person or even talking to them about what you've noticed. Often that's best left up to the Home shepherds. But being your brother's keeper means doing whatever I show you to do in a situation to bring about change, whether it's notifying your shepherds that someone is going through a rough patch so that they're aware of it, or praying for that person, that I will help them to put on their fighting gear once again and get back in the arena to fight for progress.

87. (Dad speaking:) Well, I'll say this to you shepherds--you'd better be good shepherds! You'd better watch for your flock and take care of them! What do you do with information that someone shares with you in confidence? Do you close it away in your heart, and pray for that person, and treat it with the utmost care and respect? Or do you talk about it unwisely or unprayerfully with those who don't need to know, gabbing about it in an unloving way with the uninvolved?

Brethren, such things ought not to be! If I were there, I'd give a tongue-lashing to anyone who did that! I mean it! Just think if it were to happen to you! If you told your innermost secrets to someone and they turned around and spilled the beans to the next person they saw, you'd feel betrayed! You'd feel terrible! You'd feel like never opening your heart again.

And I want you to remember this: When people come to talk with you, they're giving you one of the most precious things they have--their heart. They're laying out their heart and they're asking you to take care of it. They're trusting that you will take care of it--that you will not bruise it or hurt it, but that you will handle it with care and with love.

So the worst thing you can do is to then talk unprayerfully about what they said to you. Please, really pray about what you share with others when someone has confided in you. Pray about what you must tell your teamworkers or pass on to others. Realize that this is a very special gift that someone has given you--the gift of their trust and their

confidence--and you need to respect that. Above all, don't share these confidential things with people who don't need to know. Okay? I love you!

88. (Jesus Speaking:) I'm calling each of My children of David to be a shepherd to some - degree. I've made that clear in the call and direction I've put forth--both with the *Activated* vision and expanding your sheepfolds, your membership, as well as throughout your history. I've long been preparing you for the day when you will be the leaders of My Endtime children, teaching and instructing many. Those days are now fast approaching, and it's time for every Family member to realize the responsibility that will soon be upon them.

Up until this time it has seemed afar off to many. Those days have seemed distant, especially when they have looked around at the meager responsibilities they carried in the flesh, compared to some others. But with the era of action will come much change in the way you see yourselves as a Family. You will no longer be communities of followers, with one or two or three obvious leaders or shepherds. Each of you will be called upon to shepherd, to step forth, to claim your responsibility as one of My leaders who has been prepared for years for this ministry and calling. You will be called upon to give from the storehouses that I have blessed you with. You will be called to be examples, both in your public lives and in your private lives.

These lessons, in essence, are for each Family member. For each Family member is called, or will soon be called, to take up the torch and responsibility of leadership.

89. (Jesus Speaking:) Having added responsibilities can work two ways, depending on how you go about it. If you go about it the right way, taking on more responsibility in the spirit rather than in the flesh, it can help to stretch you and grow you up. The added responsibilities can help to make you more effective and more efficient, by causing you to draw closer to Me and making you more dependent on Me. However, if you don't go about it the right way, if you try to work harder in the flesh and handle things in your own strength, you'll not grow in spirit; you'll actually wither spiritually. Your faith will shrink and you'll wear yourself out and hinder your usefulness to Me.

90. At a time like this, the temptation is to just go go go! After all, there's so little time and so much to do. But remember that the busier things get, the more important it is to spend time with Me. In your situation, that doesn't always mean that you need to take more hours of Word time or more P&P time than normal--although I might occasionally ask that of you. It means that your focus should be more on Me as you go about your work, making sure that your priorities are right, your goals are defined as I want them defined, and your schedule is in sync with Mine. It doesn't take more time to do this; it just takes more heavenly thought power, more full possession, more calling on the keys, more focusing on the power of My Spirit rather than your own strength and power.

91. (Dad speaking:) Noah couldn't have run the Ark and his crew of helpers if he hadn't

been pretty humble and yielded. Now Noah knew things some of them didn't know, because he had heard straight from God about the whole project. He had a direct hotline to Heaven and personally received instructions, personally had a very good handle on things, knew what was right and how to go about it. God talked to him daily and told him what to do and how to do it. Have you ever wondered how Noah got his family to follow God's instructions, how he ever managed to enlist their help to build the Ark and get the animals in? It was a pretty insane-looking project and plenty of people were scoffing, so how did he get his kin to agree and work together with him? His family had questions, disagreements about the project, different opinions. They had a lot to talk about and hash out, and they weren't all meek and mild personalities. Believe me, one of his sons was pretty strong-willed about what he thought should be done and how to go about things. Another of his sons was the meek type that didn't like confrontations, and when anything got a little too difficult to handle, he'd withdraw. Even if he disagreed with the direction things were going, if he felt his opinion wasn't being received, he'd pull out of the conversation and look to Noah for help. There has to be a people handler. There has to be someone who can see the whole picture, who isn't set on one way of thinking, who can put their personal opinions aside in order to see the situation clearly and make a wise decision. I asked Noah how he did it, and he said, "No one's perfect, and in order to work with imperfect people, you have to give them room to operate according to their faith." You have to give, even when you don't think it's right. You sometimes have to allow things even when you think they're a little off track. You have to agree, even if you think you have a better way. You just have to bend to other people's ways of doing things sometimes, their way of seeing things, even their preferences; otherwise you isolate yourself from the talents and anointing of others.

If the situation is such that people are usually giving in to your preferences, the way you want things done, then eventually people will feel they can't count on you to be open-minded. They'll hesitate to counsel. They won't seek out your counsel or look forward to your counsel if they feel your norm of operation is to control each situation to your way of thinking. Noah's family had to feel his support in the spirit, his encouragement toward their communications, his openness of mind to their questions or ideas in order to get the job done and to do it in harmony and unity.

92. (Jesus Speaking:) Delegating is another secret to success. It's manifesting faith in My plan and in others, and it keeps your self-righteousness in check so you won't be as tempted to try to do it all yourself, and thus overextend yourself. You can't do it all. You must learn to trust that I am in control and that it's My work and I will do it. The answer here is simple: You need to come to Me in prayer and ask Me. Ask Me if you should be doing this, or if you should delegate it to others, and I'll show you what to do. If I tell you to delegate it to others, then you can give them some advice and instruction, but then pray and commit it to Me and trust that they'll take care of it. They may not do it exactly the way you would do it, as each person has a different style; but if they're prayerful,

then I will anoint them to do it and it will be taken care of.

93. At times it's hard for My brides to trust Me for all that there is to do. In their great love for Me, they often try too hard in their own strength to do the work of the spirit. For the most part their motives are pure, as they sincerely desire to be a blessing and to tend diligently to the affairs of the Kingdom. They want to do a good job for Me. They want to take care of the sheep and the many details that come across their plate. The one thing that they must realize is that except the Lord build the city, they that build it do so in vain. It's better to do a little with My Spirit than much in the arm of the flesh; it's quality and not quantity. These precious ones must realize that their time with Me in the Word and the bed of love is as important as their physical rest and eating to strengthen their bodies. Just as you need to have the right amount of food and rest in the physical, so do you in the spiritual. In order to do their best for Me, they must take the time that they need with Me. So much depends on these precious ones, and I need them to be in tune with Me and abiding in My Spirit. Shepherds need to be the well-oiled gears of the intricate machinery of My Family of the Endtime. They need to be as the jewels upon which the movements of the clock hinge. They need to be in place and well-oiled and honed in the proper fashion to fit their place of service, so that the other parts of the mechanism can move freely and with a minimum of friction.
94. I put My earthly shepherds in strategic places, and I anoint them for their tasks, and from them you have received for many years. But know that there is a time and a purpose to everything under Heaven. This is the season when I would that many of you receive this direct shepherding from My hand, for this will be imperative in the days ahead. I long to be your mediator. I long to answer every question, to solve every problem, to soothe every trouble, worry, or heartache. Fear not that this is not enough, for I say unto you, as you walk on in faith, as you grow and reach out to Me, you will soon discover that My love, My shepherding, is more than enough. To everything there is a season, and as you look to Me, I will bring My earthly shepherds around in due time, in due season. Know that you will have both--a time of direct shepherding from My hand, and a time of counsel and love and shepherding from the hand of My appointed ones on Earth.
95. (Dad speaking:) There's a need in the Family for leaders. There's a need in the Family for people who are willing not only to be leaders, but to endure the refining and the breaking that comes with the job--the humbling, the humiliation, the giving of yourself and the daily sacrifices for the sake of others. You have to forsake all. You have to be willing to put in long hours behind the scenes, both in prayer and desperation with the Lord for the answers, and then in counsel with your teamworkers at whatever level or rank you are. Then there are the painstaking hours of trying to implement the solution--the talking with people, the work involved,

the following through, the going back to the Lord to iron out the kinks and get further direction, and it just keeps going. Before you're finished with one situation or problem, there are ten more waiting at your door to be solved! And, after all that, no one will probably even know you gave it a second thought until Heaven. It's a thankless job, and a difficult one.

Then there's being willing to be what the Lord wants you to be. If you're not a good speaker, well, you'll probably have to talk to people sometimes anyway, and let the Lord use you however He sees fit. If you're not a good people-handler, the Lord is going to work on that area of your life to make you more loving. You're going to face no end of situations to keep you desperate, humble, and very close to the Lord. You know why? Because the Lord needs you! He needs you as His representative.

96. (Jesus Speaking:) I lead each one down the path of My will, and along this path are pleasures which I have put there for their enjoyment, their recreation. Also along the path are distractions which prevent them from moving forward along the path of My will. It's part of My will for each to stop and enjoy the pleasures which I've put there, but it's not My will for them to be distracted.

The distractions are steps in reverse rather than steps forward, but these distractions are different for each individual. If they have trouble or difficulty deciphering whether it's a pleasure or a distraction, they should ask Me, and also counsel with their shepherds, so that they might have conviction, faith and peace, knowing that what they're doing is according to My will and done in counsel with their shepherds. In the multitude of counselors there is safety and My will is established.

97. My loves, let Me also remind you of one other very important thing you can and should do to be cleansed, and that is to ask for prayer from your shepherds, and be open to counseling. Often when you've been muddied spiritually, your perspective isn't as clear, and it really helps to not only let Me speak to you, but also to talk about it with those who are strong and can help remind you of things which are true, and help bring things back into perspective.

So don't be too proud to take advantage of this support system I've provided for you. Ask for prayer from those who are strong in Me. Don't simply default to your friends. Go to those who are strong in My Word, and who can help you be strengthened too. Don't be afraid to show them that you've gotten dirty, because they can help you to get washed up and cleansed. Maybe they'll have some ideas of things you can read from My Word, or at least they can pray with you and for you, and that spiritual reinforcement will make your cleansing and strengthening process quicker and easier.

98. (Dad speaking:) You have to take it from the point of view that it's the Lord Who's working in a person's life. If they have bitterness and hurts that need to be opened up and talked about, then the procedure of letting all this come out is much like a surgeon's gentle, tender, delicate removal of a cancerous tumor. It hurts, and there's a

recuperation period, but sometimes the "operation" of getting it out is the only way that the person will get the victory. If the tumor is removed, then the wound, treated with love and prayer and understanding and Word and faith, will heal and it will be gone.

But sometimes the hurt is deep and festered and infected, and in that case, removing it is much more painful, more difficult, and can hurt more. It can take longer to heal, and it can be a torturous process. But the Lord has the healing, the solution, the victory. So removing these deeper hurts that people are afraid to talk about takes very, very gentle care and lots of patience. But by applying the Word, prayer, faith, prophecy, nurturing, and care, there can be great victories won over things that people have never even talked about.

Remember, prayer can do wonderful things in these situations. When someone brings something up that seems so difficult, so ouchy and hurtful that you just cringe to hear about it, one thing that you can always do for them is pray with them. That's a wonderful response, and it will work wonders. It will make the person feel that they've been considered and not blown off or rejected. It will set the Lord to work cleaning up the problem, and it will give peace to the heart of the one you prayed for.

Bringing up past hurts which people are reticent about or reluctant to discuss is like opening a can of worms, you may feel. But the Lord has the victory, and He has healing, and He has good spiritual health for those who have been holding these things in. It simply has to be treated, handled, addressed, and prayed for. The Lord likes to do this type of healing. He's a specialist at it, in fact, and has healed many people of deep hurts. So it's very good to encourage people to be open and honest--about the past, about things that worry them or irritate them or plague them--and then to trust the Lord for His healing of them.

99. (Jesus Speaking:) He who has no control over his spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls. There are numerous references in My Word to those who are foolish and lack wisdom, those who get upset easily or say things they shouldn't. As My children and My representatives on Earth, it's vital that you control your spirits and keep them in check. This includes restraining yourselves from raising your voice and getting upset, shouting, arguing in an angry spirit, yelling at others, being harsh and stern in your communications. I am pictured as a dove--a soft, cooing dove that lands where it is wanted and is easily shooed away. I am not like the wolf who howls and destroys, but like the gentle lamb. I want you to be more like Me and take on the attributes that I am known by. There is no reason to shout or yell at others. Raising your voice does nothing but put the person you're shouting and yelling at on the defensive. It's demeaning and degrading to have someone shout at you. Pray for a meek and quiet spirit, one that I will not despise. Pray for wisdom and tact, love and patience. Pray against the spirit of haste, of being too rough and harsh in your speech and actions, against rushed judgment, verbal anger and abuse, and especially

against violence of any sort. I am a Man of Peace and I came to portray that spirit in all that I did and said. Take on My attributes as you claim the power of the keys. They will transform you into loving conversationalists, good disciplinarians, and tactful messengers of My truth.

100. I'm sorry to say that because of System attitudes and mindsets and the human nature of putting people on a pedestal, you, My children, have created a hierarchy mentality within the Family that is not of Me and not according to My Word. This position-oriented mentality has been in play for years now, ever since "the Chain" days. "The Chain" is created when you look to the person and compare the talents that I have gifted them with, with yourself. In this way you create a difference between yourself and others that I have not made. Exalting that person and their responsibility is the recipe for failure for both yourself and the one you're holding up and comparing with. Remember, it's the faithful, not just the talented, that I will greet with a "well done" when they enter into the joy of My Kingdom. It's the faithful whom I will make rulers over many in that day.

101. Where are the shepherds? Where are the shepherds among you? Am I not trying to raise you up to be shepherds? Am I not trying to bring out the need for you to stand strong? Am I not trying to train you to become shepherds? Do I not put you in positions where you must stand up for your convictions? And when you are in these situations, what do you do? Do you become shepherds, or do you remain dumb sheep? When you see the wolves coming to devour the weak and the weary, do you sit by and eat grass and pay no attention?--Or do you rise up and fight against the devourers? I am trying to make all of you shepherds. I am trying to raise you up in strength and power! I have given you the opportunity, I have given you the power to stand up, through My Words, through the Words of David, and I have made it very clear and easy to understand through the words of the Charter. You know what is true and right. You know what is the standard for all, as I have made this clear. I have made it so that if you see one that is being hurt or that is hurting, you have the right and the responsibility to speak up and to protect the weak. But no, you say, "The shepherds must do it. We will wait until the shepherds take care of it." But I say to you, you are the shepherds--you who are there, you who know it's wrong. Look not off in the distance and say, "Oh, when the shepherds come, they will take care of it." For I say to you, you are the shepherds, each one of you, for you have My Word, you know My standard. I have made it clear. I have given a clear sound of the trumpet. I have put it down for all to see and all to know and for all to enact. When you see the Evil One come slashing and ripping and devouring, if you stand not up to fight against him to save your brother and to save your sister and to save the flock, then it is you who are at fault.

102. One can chase a thousand, but two can put ten thousand to flight! In unity there is great strength and in wise counsel there is safety. When you do not seek counsel, I am not able to bless you as fully as I would like, and you who would try to manage on your own will be found lacking in strength, power and direction. You will miss out on the extra boost I will give through sweet counsel together with a shepherd, a parent, a friend--one of understanding who is able to give helpful counsel. Through wise counsel, I give strength. In the multitude of counsel I establish purposes. I am able to define goals and lead you to bear good results, good fruit in your relationships. I am able to clear away any rubble or confusion, and give sound wisdom. By seeking counsel, you are able to be instructed, and when you do this, you become wise. When there is no counsel you are apt to make mistakes and fall, but as you seek counsel, you guard against mistakes, for in wise counsel there is safety. If you will hear instruction, you will become wise. For I did not make man to live alone, but to need each other, to counsel together, because in this unity there is strength. This is the law of My Spirit, that in the multitude of counsel there is safety, strength and sound wisdom, and purposes are established.

103. (Dad speaking:) God bless you, son! I love you! You've been a tremendous blessing and a help to the folks there. I mean, you've shepherded them for years! You've put up with their shenanigans and you've helped them time and time again. You've had faith for them; you've had love for them. Oh sure, you've been frustrated a few times and thrown up your hands in despair, but you didn't give up or quit. You just had faith, you kept plugging along, and the Lord did it. He rewarded your faith and your patience and your love for the sheep. I can sure understand some of your trials and difficulties and feeling a little what they call "burned out." I felt that way too sometimes. I got a little bored with my surroundings. In fact, I often did. I loved change. I loved to see new territory, new scenes, new vistas, and often the Lord would give that to me. But other times He wouldn't, because I had a job to do. He just made me stay put and do what I was supposed to do, because He knew the Family needed it and it was going to help them and bear fruit. So don't lose sight of the goal! The Lord has you there for a special purpose, because He knows He can use you to help these folks through their trials and battles. And though it may seem wearisome at times, just hold on and the Lord is going to pull you through. These seasons in our life just come around every once in a while, and we simply have to weather them, so to speak. So hold on to that crown! Do the best you can, share your heart, get prayer if you need prayer, and take those breaks when you need them. Trust the Lord that He's going to bring you through, and that things won't always be like this. I love you and I'm praying for you. God bless you!

104. (Jesus Speaking:) The Spirit must reign supreme, for My children are children of the Spirit, first and foremost. The flow of My Spirit and the flow of My Word pours forth from Heaven to the top, and then is poured out amongst all. There must be a structure to ensure that the Spirit and the Word is implemented in the lives of My children. You will never get away from the need for spiritual shepherds, for those who will lead the sheep, who will comfort and care for them. If you were to set this aside, then you'd lose the purity in the Spirit and the strength that comes from abiding in My Word, and you would only have a business or a company. So you must set up within your mechanism, within this building, within this structure, the spiritual shepherding of the Family. If the spirit is right, the work will be right.

105. Shepherds, don't hesitate to bring up your concerns if you feel a prophecy is incomplete or needs more prayer or balance. You're shirking your responsibility if you simply look the other way and say, "Oh well, I guess there's nothing we can do about it. He's already heard from the Lord." I've made it clear time and time again that I expect you to come back to Me if you have reservations or questions. And this counsel is not just for shepherds, but for all concerned Home members. I call you to be your brother's keepers and to share your feelings in love and humility if you see something that needs further prayer or if you receive a check from Me. Humility is the key if you want to use the gift of prophecy wisely and happily. Both those who receive the prophecies as well as those who judge and help to interpret the prophecies must be humble. And the greatest manifestation of humility in this situation is to want My will above anything else, and to be willing to let go of your own plans and aspirations in order to find what I know to be best.

106. You have learned to love and serve and to give in your serving, but your serving will now need to be more filled with love. Ponder what I have told of Martha, who did not recognize that the Spirit had visited her enough to stop and to look and to listen, to stop from striving and working and being recognized in works, and learn to simply sit at My feet and get refilled and empowered. For in this resting upon Me and stopping and tanking up and refilling, you will have love that you know not of. Have I not given you the example of the Samaritan on the road to Jericho? There are many such occasions even in your everyday life where I want you to stop and touch and caress and hug and listen and heal and pray. For all these are a part of My Love and My care and My concern for those that I wish to bestow a touch of healing on. So be touched with My Love, that you may touch others. Will you say, 'I have given once, it is enough'? For there will be many upon the road of your day; many occasions for you to recognize a need for love. Therefore stop your working, be touched by My Spirit. For as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me. Have I not given you the sample of the good shepherd who leaves the ninety-and-nine, the duty, the responsibility, the administration, all that he thinks he must do, and his

heart is pulled toward the one who cries and has need, to rescue those that are in need? Therefore, think not that you know what to do, but look and listen, for I have to whisper into your ears what I see behind the outward appearance. Learn to look upon the heart, for I see it not as man sees.

107. I know that being honest is difficult. I had many encounters on Earth where I too was faced with the choice of whether to be honest or not. I knew that I should speak the truth in love to one of My disciples, a friend, or even a leader of the day, but it was hard. I knew the reception might not be the greatest. I knew it would hurt in some cases. I knew that they would rather have love and sweetness from Me, and I was tempted to not bring up such a matter many times. But I yielded to My Father, and I asked Him for counsel about exactly how to present My feelings and thoughts, and how to make it most acceptable. Once I had received that instruction, I prayed for courage and faith to deliver My heart and soul, and then I did.

Being honest and not withholding things that are on your heart--whether they're about your husband or wife, your teamworker, your shepherd, your friend, your sheep, or whoever--is part of the price of leadership. You won't be able to be a completely effective leader or one that people will feel comfortable with if you're not consistently honest. You will also be robbing those around you of one of the prime functions that you are supposed to be providing, and that is your honest and prayed-about counsel and direction. You will also be robbing yourself of the help, understanding, explanation and victories that you more easily receive when you're honest.

108. The true leaders and shepherds are the ones who do the job to their own hurt. They're the ones who take the correction; who bear it bravely; who take the flak from those under them who don't understand the whole picture and criticize them; who are loving and patient with those who rail against them and condemn them; who are weak enough to admit their failings and seek Me for help; who are humble enough to be honest with others and share their hearts, in order to create and maintain unity, and to help their brothers and sisters stay on the straight and narrow, without exuding a spirit of condescension, condemnation, or judgment. They speak the truth in love, and do it as unto Me.

Those are the kind of people that are able to go the furthest and fulfill My perfect plan for them, because they're willing to go the distance and do the tough things. They aren't here for themselves; they're looking to the city that hath foundations, of which I am the Builder and Maker. They have their eyes set on Heavenly things, therefore they're willing to endure the grime and toil of daily living and the messes that can come along with it. They're not going to compromise and choose a smoother path over the one that will take them to the peak of the mountain, even though the rocks and thistles and brambles are a bit uncomfortable. They have a goal and they know where they're going, and because they have met the requirements I've set before them, the climb and the eventual victory is glorious.

109. (Dad speaking:) Look, kids, when the Lord calls you, He calls you, and there's nothing that you can or should do about it except to obey. I've heard and seen that a lot of you are adamantly opposed to serving the Lord in any kind of leadership position, and you avoid it like the plague. Well, say what you will about the rigors and difficulties of leadership, but refusing to consider any aspect of your service for the Lord is just plain disobedience and unyieldedness.

You can't have places that you will not go for the Lord. He is a strict commander and He requires complete obedience. And even if He's not asking you to go somewhere and lead people at this time, He still doesn't like to hear you say that if He did ask that of you, you wouldn't go.

Believe me, I understand the fears or reservations you may have. I had'm too. I had times in my life where I was dodging the Lord's call to be a shepherd to His flock. But in the end, if that's what the Lord has in store for you, then you can't avoid it without disobeying Him and stepping outside of His will. It might not be your idea of fun or your idea of a career, and it might seem like the last thing in the world you want to do, but if it's His plan for you, then that's that. You can't say no to God. I found that out the hard way as you've read in my testimonies about joining the army or when I temporarily passed on because of my poor decisions.

You can't afford to have untouchable areas in your life, because then the Enemy can use those things, those chinks in your armor, to expand his little area of Huddersfield, and to search and try to find what other things you won't do for God, and what other things he can make you refuse to do for the Family. Yes, leadership and shepherding is hard and it's not for everyone, but if you're God's man or woman at God's time, then He will give you the grace and the talents and anointing for it if you'll only say yes to Him.

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