

Extreme Praise

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(Jesus:) Let it be the era of extreme praise for the Family! It is extreme in the world's eyes, but not in Mine. It is the way of the revolutionary, the extreme follower of Me and My ways, and of those who are willing to go to any length to love Me and praise Me and win others to My service. I love you, My heavenly extremists!

Dear Family,

1. I love you so much! And I have some exciting insight from the Lord to share with you! All of the Lord's counsel to us is inspiring in some sense, of course, and I'm **always** happy to share our Husband's perspective with you. But I'm very inspired about this particular topic, and I think you will find it challenging, invigorating, and enlightening as well.

2. As you read in "Gold, Roses and Thorns," the Lord is asking us to learn to maintain our heavenly perspective even in the midst of very bad situations, and the secret to doing so is using the weapon of praise. The Lord has taught us a lot about praise over the years, but this concept of using praise even when things are going terribly wrong is not unique to the Family. Many of you have read the book summaries we put on the MO site by Merlin Carothers, "Prison to Praise" and "Power in Praise." He is a very strong proponent of this principle of praising **in** and **for** very bad situations.

3. This is a principle that's hard to grasp because it goes contrary to our natural reasoning. It sounds bad, callous, even hardhearted to be grateful when something really bad has happened or is happening--especially something that is causing pain or hurting someone.

4. What is our natural reaction in those types of situations?--To show sympathy, to feel bad, to want to do what we can to help. In order to understand the need for the principle of praise, we have to realize that our natural reactions can only do so much good. Yes, they can make the person feel that we care and understand. But do those feelings of sympathy fix the situation? Does feeling bad about something that has happened--whether it happened to you or to someone else--make the situation better? Does it lift your spirit and cause you to remember the Lord's love and goodness and see things through His eyes? Not usually.

5. On the other hand, practicing praise--or, as non-Christians would call it, gratitude--in

difficult situations does change things. It brings the Lord's Spirit and power into the situation. It uplifts you and others around you. It helps you to see things through a positive perspective. It gives you faith--faith in the Lord, and faith for change and improvement and positive results even from negative circumstances--and **faith** is the victory. Prayer and other spiritual weapons can change the situation too, of course, but in really bad situations, it's often hard to instantly have the faith and spiritual power you need to wield them, because your natural reaction is to be saddened or dismayed or discouraged. Praise, on the other hand, counteracts all of these negatives and instantly infuses your spirit--and the circumstances around you--with faith, trust in the Lord, and positive spiritual energy.

6. The Lord has been talking to us about this a lot recently. I'll start by sharing with you some counsel the Lord recently gave for me personally, about my attitude of praise and my need to grow in this area. We had been praying for a couple of our former member young people who had gotten involved in some gang activity and were in serious physical danger, and that situation was weighing heavily on my heart. I was asking the Lord how to praise in difficult situations like that one--because I found that it didn't come naturally to me, and in fact it was very difficult to know how to apply the praise principle in that situation.

7. The Lord not only answered the question that I had, but went further and gave us tremendous counsel about the attitude that He expects of us when tough times hit and when we're faced with difficult, impossible, or even terrible situations. This counsel on the next step in learning to use the weapon of praise aggressively, as a first reaction and not an afterthought, is challenging and radical! I love it!

8. I'll let the Lord explain it as only He can:

Take praise to the next level!

9. (Jesus, speaking to Mama:) You are improving in the realm of praise. You're a praiseful person. You're not only a positive, happy, joyful, and not negative person, but you go beyond that to where you actively wield the undefeatable weapon of praise. You have put some significant time and effort into learning to use the weapon of praise. You are not casual in the use of this weapon, but you really do try to use it more and use it effectively. You strive to learn about the use of this weapon, and you are making a lot of progress.

10. However, you still need to continue to apply yourself to learning to use the weapon of praise more. It simply takes a while to really grasp the power of this weapon, and it takes quite a long time for praise to become the habit in your life that I want, to the degree and with the intensity that I desire. You have done well, and you are learning to praise differently and offensively, but there is more that I want you to learn.

11. So you are well on your way to mastering this art. But the angle that needs more attention and learning is that of using the weapon of praise more aggressively, learning to fight with it to defeat the Enemy when the Enemy is still in the stronger position. This is where you will gain much spiritual strength, for this aggressive use of the weapon of praise will speed you and others along to victory. No one has "come up to the average" of what the weapon of praise can do. None have fully tapped into that power.

12. You're starting to feel it a bit. You're starting to get the hang of it, and are approaching the point where you finally understand what can be done with aggressive praise, the kind of praise that turns the Enemy back when he is advancing, when he has the advantage, when he is strongly manifested. But take, for example, the situation with [the two young men who were being harassed by a gang]. How much have you used the aggressive weapon of praise on their behalf and [their parents']? I know you've prayed, you've called on spirit helpers, you've bound the power of the demons who are attacking, but how much have you picked up that aggressive weapon of praise and wildly whacked the Enemy? Has that been your weapon of choice? No.

13. Have you truly thanked Me for allowing things to reach such a bad state, so that I can work in the lives of My children? Have you thanked Me for those things, and then taken it a step further and been happy that you have the blessing of hearing the bad news, because you are thrilled about the results you know I'll bring about, the many Romans 8:28s that you'll see, and the good that will come of it?

14. Can you take what may seem to be a truly tragic, hopeless, desperate situation and allow it to kindle your faith in My power so much that you burst into praise, and you swing the weapon of praise boldly, thrilling to the battle, knowing that I will overcome, that I am greater, that I am in control, and that one way or another, I will bring ultimate victory?--Not to mention countless other benefits along the way?

15. Can you look at a terrible situation that is enough to upset your spirit and grieve your mother's heart, and yet rise above that, and instead race into battle with the weapon of praise?--Happily entering the fight, thankful that you have the privilege of taking on such an ugly mess with your undefeatable weapon, and with total peace in your heart that I am in control and that I allowed this for the good of all? And I don't mean just for the overall good somehow, or the good of those involved, but for your personal good too--because I have things to show you, victories to bring through your prayers and praises, and spiritual fortitude for you to gain through your aggressive fighting.

16. This is one of the most powerful forms of praise: Praising right from the start, praising even though you haven't seen a hint of victory yet, praising even in spite of apparent defeat. When you have taken on that attitude, you will have only just begun scratching the surface of using the weapon of praise as the offensive weapon that I've designed it to be.

17. This aspect of praise is a tricky one to master, because it goes contrary to your natural mind. You feel that you're betraying even your sense of justice, honor, or compassion when you revel in the challenge and defy the Enemy's attacks by glorying in the battle like this. But when you feel that eagerness to fight, that thrill at seeing bad situations because you know that's the battleground where I am going to bring victory out of defeat, **then** you're starting to get there with the weapon of praise.

18. You, and all the children of David, have a long way to go with this weapon, and that's partly because it's so unnatural and even seemingly heartless to look at problems in a positive way, with gratefulness and praise.

19. You subconsciously pull back from saying such extreme praises in the face of problems, especially problems that hurt people, or where people are suffering or there is pain and injustice. You feel you must instead show sympathy, compassion, and understanding for the poor and downtrodden. But when you do that alone, you lose sight of the battle, and you aren't fighting. You're commenting or observing or analyzing, but not fighting. You're not truly fighting with praise until you glorify Me in spite of the pain, suffering, tears, sadness, injustice and anything else.

20. When you fight with the weapon of praise, the details of the situation become almost irrelevant, except that you are thankful that the situation, no matter how bad or ugly, has paved the way to the fighting ring for you, and has exposed the Enemy so that you can attack him and let Me win the victory. You're so thankful for My goodness, My mercy, My love, My wisdom, My care, My ability to use absolutely everything for good, that you overflow with praise to Me, because you are honored with the opportunity and have the blessing of seeing Me move and act.

21. You love the fight, and therefore you love whatever situation brought you to that point. You are grateful and you praise Me for the fight, for the chance to engage your Enemy. And the "worse" the problem or situation, the happier you are for the opportunity, because you know you can only see your Enemy more clearly and know his weapons, and fight well.

22. That is how I wish for you to use the weapon of praise, My love. That is aggressive

fighting. It's not just in what you say; it's not in the wording of your praises, although that is part of it. It's an **attitude**. It's about whether you run to the battle and fly into the Enemy's attacks and thank Me for every blow you're able to send his way.

23. This doesn't mean you're ignoring the seriousness of a situation; it means you're doing something about it. You're looking past what's in front of your eyes and you're seeing behind the scenes. You're acknowledging the spirit and the spiritual warfare and working with Me to overcome and bring My power into the situation. You're choosing to rise above. Fighting for a victory by choosing to praise is actually **doing** something to help the bad situation. When you only sympathize and feel bad and show concern, you're essentially a bystander in the spiritual warfare.

24. You know it will take time to reach that level of skill in wielding the weapon of praise as well as your attitude toward using praise. It's human nature to pull away from ugly things, to want to hide your face. It's human nature to not want to be uncomfortable. And certainly it's human nature to feel that sympathy is the only appropriate response to pain and hurt. Learning to go beyond your natural reactions and use praise in those situations is advanced soldiering and takes My supernatural anointing and power. But I can give it to you, and I will.

25. As a start, you could get some "scripts" from Me about how you can react to mock situations. Read those things aloud, and hear yourself say praises about bad, sad, ugly, mean, disgusting situations that make you cringe or cry, because it goes so against your grain and character and nature. Say those things. Practice. You'll get used to it, and then it will become natural--just like saying graphic love words to Me was unnatural to you at first, but now it feels very natural and beautiful. The same will come to pass with your aggressive Enemy-killing supernatural praises.

26. The weapon of praise is not a sweet, gentle, loving little Christian toy gun that squirts harmless water bullets at the Enemy. The weapon of praise isn't a warm and fuzzy makes-me-feel-good-all-over powder puff of a tool. You have raw power in your hands with the weapon of praise, but it takes time, effort, study, and a vacuum to learn to use it and to truly access that power. It's an advanced weapon, and only those who really want it will learn to use it to its full extent. Only those who are truly humble enough to learn it and use it will ever come to know even a fraction of its power.

27. I commission you to become a student of the weapon of praise. Become a specialist. There is so much more to be discovered, so much more to be revealed. Ask, and you will not be disappointed, and you will grow tremendously in this art of war.

28. (Mama:) So I did! I had some of our channels ask the Lord for examples of bad or even terrible situations: situations where we wouldn't normally use the weapon of praise immediately, and when we might even think it wrong to be positive and grateful.

29. We then took these very terrible, heartbreaking, ugly, real-life scenarios to the Lord and asked Him for "scripts" of what we could say to use praise in those situations, glorifying Him, charging into the arena with the Enemy, and bringing home the victory--in our spirits, if not in the actual physical circumstances! I'll include a few of those scripts later on in this GN for you, so you can do what the Lord says and read them aloud and practice using your weapon of praise in this way. And, of course, the very best way to practice is to praise the Lord for the situations that come up every day of your life!

Tossing the lifeline of praise to those who are drowning [box]

30. (Jesus:) You might naturally think that praising Me in a difficult situation is the opposite of having understanding and compassion. But think about Me and My love for you. Is there anything more perfect? Is there anyone who knows you better, understands you more deeply, or empathizes more completely?

31. But when I speak to you in times of trouble, do I get down in the sorrow with you and

talk about how bad it is, how wronged you have been, how miserable the situation is? No, I offer you My hand to climb up and out of the sadness and into My perspective, where all is well, everything has a greater purpose, and where My love can surround you and heal you.

32. Take on My nature, and I will help you to know how to use praise in even the saddest and most personally troubling circumstances as a rescue rope, a blanket of comfort and warmth and encouragement to those who are struggling. If you are taking on My nature, your praises will be full of My heart of love, My understanding, and yet My perspective that I have a plan, I am in control, and thus you can praise Me with faith that I'm going to take care of you and everything is going to be all right in the end.

33. Sometimes you will be praising through your tears, as your heart is broken for others and you feel their pain. That's okay--it's still praise. Sometimes you will have to desperately ask Me for My love and My perspective so that your praises come across with the right mixture of understanding for the situation, and yet blind faith that looks past the difficulty and faces Me to praise anyway.

34. Of course, it is never My plan for you to come across hard and calloused to the pain. I know many of you fear that too, for you wonder if your praise will come across as if you don't care or don't understand the difficulty. No one wants to come across in a self-righteous way. No one wants to come across in a way that would be hurtful when they're only trying to help. For most of you, your greatest fear about using this method of praise is that it would cause someone to feel unloved or uncared for, because in essence you have to look past the pain and suffering and instead let the light in through praise.

35. So you're going to have to realize, My loves, how powerful using the weapon of praise in these situations is, and how much of a lifesaver it is. When you're rescuing someone who is in serious danger of drowning, for example, you don't worry so much about whether their hair gets pulled or their skin gets scratched as you're hauling them up into the boat. You focus on saving them, and they're thankful. It's somewhat the same in learning to throw out the lifeline of praise to someone who is drowning in sadness or difficulty. You might not be expert at it at first, but should that keep you from learning, from giving someone the opportunity to be rescued? That would be a poor tradeoff indeed.

36. You're going to have to get over your worries about seeming insensitive and realize that praising Me in difficult situations might seem a bit insensitive at first, because it's turning away from the difficulty and facing Me. I can and will help you learn to mix praise with comfort and understanding, as you ask Me to help you take on My nature. But when it comes down to it, there is often a much greater need than mere sympathy, or only making someone feel better. There is often a solution needed, a long-term victory, a breakthrough in the spirit, a healing, a miracle, or what have you. And sympathy on its own isn't going to bring those elements of the miraculous into the situation, or even make people feel better enough to overcome their sadness.

37. So in that case, which is better: To only give sympathy and make them feel better temporarily, or to throw them a lifeline? The more you make praise a part of your life, the better at it you'll get. Soon you'll be an expert rescuer, an expert who throws out the lifeline graciously and with finesse, and will be able to both adequately comfort **and** rescue the one in need.

38. Here are a few more tips, and then you're just going to have to swallow your pride and do it. And the more you do it, the more you will learn, and the better at it you will become.

a) Claim the keys of humility. Ask Me for humility. Take steps of humility. The more you can get rid of pride in your life, the easier it will be for others to accept help from you, because they will sense that you aren't looking down on them in any way.

b) Ask Me to give you a spirit of sincere praise. If you are praising Me from your heart, this is beautiful and comforting and liberating in the spirit, and contagious in a good way. There are no pretenses or airs.

c) Be willing to sacrifice and lay down your life in order to help the person. If you are willing to do whatever is necessary to help them pull through--praise being one way, but not the only way you're prepared to help--that conveys a tremendous amount of love and reassurance.

39. I can help you to learn how to use praise skillfully and powerfully to help others and change circumstances and situations, My loves. Remember that My love for you is full of understanding and yet full of heavenly perspective. You too can have both as you use this weapon of extreme praise to comfort and encourage others and help them to receive My healing and solutions. *(End of message.)*

The "gratitude attitude"

40. During the time when I was compiling these praise scripts and messages for you, someone gave me a book called "The Gratitude Attitude." It's a motivational book, a compilation of the writings of a number of authors on the power of gratitude. The interesting thing is that most of the authors are not Christian. A couple of them write as if they believe in Jesus, some are Buddhists, some are Jewish, some are Muslim, and many are quite new agey. And yet all of them are writing about the power of praise and gratitude as a powerful spiritual force.

41. I'm not recommending that you read the full book, because parts of it are a little too new agey to be inspiring or spiritually uplifting. But I want to share a few excerpts with you that show that this is a spiritual principle that has been tried and proven true by many people. Similar to the principle of "you reap what you sow," or "give and it shall be given unto you," or that hatred and bitterness will poison your spirit, these spiritual principles hold true for everyone, regardless of whether they believe in Jesus or not. The power of praise and gratefulness is one of those. If the world and those who don't even know our Husband can practice this, how much more so should we, with all the truth we have been blessed with, be examples of living this spiritual truth?

42. Following are a couple of short excerpts from "The Gratitude Attitude," and you can find more in the book summary by that name posted on the MO site.

Love is the power that heals our lives, and love is the power that will ultimately heal this world. Gratitude comes from love. It is the natural expression of a loving heart. Therefore, whenever we express gratitude, we align ourselves with the power that heals us. Giving thanks and praise spreads healing energy and makes our lives and the world a better place to be and live.

Even in our darkest hours, we can cultivate an attitude of gratitude. No matter what is happening around us, we can choose to respond in a way that will help us learn and grow. When we look at our difficulties as opportunities for growth, then we can be grateful for the lessons we are learning from these difficult experiences. There is always a gift in every experience. Expressing gratitude allows us to find it.

Every morning upon waking up, the first words out of my mouth are "Thank You." This allows me to feel immediately connected with God and fills my heart with love. I am grateful that I am alive and breathing and have another day to live life fully and richly.

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Gratitude is our way of saying to all situations, "Welcome! I've been expecting you! Thank you for being here to help me learn and grow." We are always stronger, wiser, and filled more with peaceful power when we face each of life's lessons with this sort of grace.

No matter what the form or physical appearance of situations in your life, see them as teachers lovingly sent to you for your highest and best good. Through these teachers, you learn to trust and lean on God's reliability and love. And the more you lean on God, the more you open the floodgates to your supply of harmony and abundance.

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Gratitude and trust are closely related. In order to be thankful for everyone and everything in my life, I need to trust that the universe makes sense, that everything my soul has chosen to experience in my lifetime has been for my ultimate highest good. I trust that when it appears I'm failing, I'm only learning. I make a great effort to bless my life as it is, both the so-called triumphs and disasters. A line from Kipling's poem *If* often comes to mind: "If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat these two impostors just the same."

When I remind myself that I am a student in Earth School, choosing those lessons that enhance my soul's purpose, it's possible to more readily bless every circumstance of my life. Of course, from a more unenlightened segment of myself, I sometimes wonder, "Why did I choose this particular misery?" Yet, gratitude for, and trust in, ultimate justice is the best antidote for the poisonous emotions of self-pity and resentment. I find it impossible to experience gratitude and negative emotions simultaneously.

When my soul arrived in Earth School, it set up some challenging lessons. Many years went by before I learned to see the blessings in these experiences. When I could honestly begin to understand their purpose and to feel gratitude for them, I made an escape from the darkness of a victim's prison into the light of freedom and joy.

Although "illegitimate" was stamped on my birth certificate, I am grateful I now know God has no illegitimate children. I acknowledge God's indwelling presence and embrace my innate worth as I go about completing my legitimate Earth School assignments. Although I was physically and sexually abused as a child, I am grateful that I now know my spirit is indestructible and cannot be harmed by anything done to the Earth Suit. Although I've experienced "failed" relationships, I'm grateful that every relationship presents unique opportunities to practice love and forgiveness, opportunities to learn about myself at deeper levels. I'm grateful that it's possible to learn from relationships after they are over.

My oldest son Richard died when he was nine, and I'm so very grateful that I know that each soul chooses its Earth School experiences, including the manner and time of departure from the Earth plane. In reality, there is no death; the soul is ageless and eternal, and love knows no barriers of time or space. My second son Robert nearly died when he was two and suffered brain damage as a result of the illness. I am grateful that I know that Robert chose this Earth School lesson, and as his mother, that I chose the experience with him. I've felt much pain watching him struggle with life, but he has demanded from me, and thus has taught me, unconditional love. Such a great gift!

Looking back over my life, I can see the beauty that the windstorms have carved. I trust current and future challenges to facilitate additional soul growth. My heart is filled with gratitude for all the people and events in my life because I now understand their higher purpose. My heart overflows with gratitude for the Divine Love that enfolds, guides, protects and sustains us all!

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As a child, sitting between my parents in church on Sunday mornings, I often heard these words read from Scripture: *"In everything give thanks!"* And my young mind responded with: "Yes, one needs to be grateful for every good thing that happens in one's life." From time to time, through the years of my youth, those words replayed in my consciousness, and I learned to be grateful for many obvious things. I expressed gratitude for gifts received, kindness bestowed, and all the good times and friends I experienced in the course of living.

Expressing gratitude even when things went wrong was much more difficult to do, but I was also amazed at the outcome of doing so. I discovered that the scripture *"God inhabits the praise of His people"* was to remind us that gratitude releases an energy that could begin turning things around, and when I did so, it imbued me with the strength and ability to surmount whatever was happening in my outer world. Eventually, I would see that what had often appeared as a negative circumstance was really the pivotal

point for a new direction that I would take. Often, in retrospect, I could see clearly that it had been a blessing in disguise and had led me into a deeper and more meaningful place.

"In everything give thanks!" Now, I can be equally in awe of, and grateful for, a coastal sunset or the learning process inherent in an illness or a time of confusion. I can be grateful for my unshakable faith in divine order as my child faces a life-threatening illness over which I have no control, and in which I have, as yet, to fully discover all the lessons and meanings it holds. I am grateful for the times of connection with those I love, and I am equally grateful for the times of disagreement and estrangement that mirror for me new lessons to learn and insights to be discerned. I am truly GRATEFUL for discovering the power of gratitude in my life, and I shall always continue to give thanks in EVERYTHING! *(End of excerpts.)*

43. (Jesus:) One way to make your first reactions more praiseful is to break the habit of using sentences or phrases that many people use that do NOT denote praise, such as "Oh dear!" or "What a bummer!" and things like that. When you say things like that, you're inadvertently dropping your weapon of praise.

Total praise = total yieldedness

44. (Mama:) Following is further counsel from the Lord on learning to praise through everything. Since this can be a pretty difficult concept to grasp, we went to the Lord several times with questions, and I asked Him if He could clarify what the goal was. Should we be trying to get to the point where we praise Him for very bad things **specifically**, or is it good enough to just learn to be more praiseful and positive in difficult situations by praising Him for future victories or even unrelated things, as long as we use the weapon of praise in those bad situations?

45. (Jesus:) It takes both kinds of praise to be completely victorious in a situation, as well as to be a testimony to others. Think of the time when I addressed My disciples concerning the recently-deceased Lazarus and I told them that I was glad for their sakes that I wasn't there in time to heal him.

46. But I didn't leave it at that. I went further, mostly for their sakes, and explained that I was glad things were as they were, so that they might believe when they saw the power of God demonstrated (Jn.11:14,15). This is the template for you to follow--to praise Me for the negative or bad situation, yet also proclaim that you're standing on My promises and claiming a victory.

47. Yes, it is hard to praise Me directly for something that's very hard or seemingly bad in your life, or in the life of someone you love. But when you find yourself in a very bad situation and choose to praise Me for it, that act of praise is an act of yieldedness and testifying to Me and others that you know I am in control, that you are My bride and I am your Husband, that you know nothing comes into your life but what is from My hand, and that if I allowed it to happen, then there must be good to be brought from it. This type of yieldedness and praise is powerful.

48. To only praise Me for the upside, or because you hope things are going to change, is good, but not nearly the best. The best is to be able to praise Me for the situation exactly as it is, in conjunction with praising Me for My power to bring victory in any situation. Both are needed. To praise only for how you hope things will change, or how you think I'm going to deliver you, is not full praise. It is not complete yieldedness to Me. Full yieldedness is knowing that no matter what it looks like to you, I have a plan, I have all power, and I will do what is best. Without that full yieldedness, you're in essence saying that you'll only praise Me if and when things change--and that's not full praise.

49. The highest level of praise is "though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15), showing Me that you're thankful for what I've done in your life or the lives of others, even if it seems very hard at the moment, and even if there is no improvement. It acknowledges that whether you can see the end in sight or not, you're thankful for what I've done, fully acknowledging My involvement and that

nothing enters the life of one of My children except what I allow.

50. Then I expect you to also stand on My promises and hold Me to My word to bring total victory in the situation, in whatever way I know is best--and this too is great cause to praise Me, even if the victory is nowhere in sight at the moment. You know it's there. You know I will bring it. So after you have shown your yieldedness by thanking Me for allowing the bad situation, you then praise Me for how I'm going to use it for good--even if you don't see how that's possible--because I am all-powerful.

51. It's important, though, to not tie your praises to a specific resolution that you desire. You can praise Me that I'm capable of doing anything, but you shouldn't only praise Me for one particular outcome, as that may not be My will.

52. For example, if someone were in love with someone who didn't feel the same way toward them, it would be My will that they praise Me for that feeling that I put in their heart, even if they found it uncomfortable or it brought them sadness at the time. I would expect them to praise Me for that situation exactly as it was: that they loved, but were not loved in return.

53. And then I would also expect them to praise Me for the victory, for the good that I could use it to bring, but not only what they desire in the situation. I wouldn't want their praise to be, "Thank You for allowing me to have these feelings for so-and-so that aren't returned right now. Thank You for what a hard time this has been, because I know that when You give them feelings for me in return, which I know You can and will someday, getting to be together with them will be that much sweeter and more wonderful." That's tying your praise too specifically to your will, and not necessarily to Mine.

54. If I have shown you clearly and unequivocally that a specific outcome is My will, then by all means, praise Me for how I'm going to take you from where you are now to where I said you are going to be. But if you don't really know what the positive outcome is going to be, it's good to keep your praises a little less focused on the specifics of the answer and more focused on My power to use the situation for your good and bring victory regardless of how I choose to do so.

55. Going back to the situation where you're in love with someone and your feelings are not returned: You can focus on My ability to keep you happy regardless of any circumstances, focus on how the situation is teaching you deep lessons and making you sweeter because you're more broken and humble. You can focus on how you know that these lessons of the spirit are worth the suffering, and that you're thankful I chose to bless you with this time of difficulty, which is maturing you and making you more loving and compassionate. You can focus on how I'll make you happy in the end and bring wonderful things into your life as a result. All of those praises give Me room to work and show Me that although you don't know how something is going to turn out, you know that I have a whole lot of good I will bring out of it, and whatever I choose to do is all right with you.

56. This kind of praise in the face of extreme difficulty, this unrestrained, unrestricted, no-personal-agenda type of praise is the kind that really gets results--and one immediate result is the feeling of power and happiness that will fill your soul even in the darkest, roughest times. When you yield and praise like this, you're always going to benefit, simply through the act of doing it.

Praise and prayer work hand in hand

57. (Jesus:) When you praise in a very difficult situation, what you are telling Me is that you submit to My will and accept My allowing it to happen. In these kinds of situations, praise demonstrates acceptance. Your praise is acceptance. The praises that come out of your mouth are a verbal expression of the faith and trust that is in your heart. The reason that a lot of people find it so difficult to praise Me when something "bad" happens or when something happens to them that they don't like is because they aren't trusting Me and their faith is weak.

58. It's a fairly simple concept. Do you believe that I, the Lord of the universe, truly have the

whole world in My hands and that I would not let anything bad happen to you except what is for your good? Do you trust that I can bring good and My plan and a victory out of any bad or negative situation? Do you trust that I often allow difficult circumstances or attacks of the Enemy simply so that I can manifest My power and do miracles to change the situation and show the strength and power of the weapons that I have given you? Do you believe that I often bring tests or trials or difficulties into your life to strengthen you? If you believe these things, then you can praise Me no matter what "bad" thing may happen to you or your loved ones.

59. Say, for instance, you have an accident and you break your leg. Well, no human being in the physical realm is going to feel happy or naturally praiseful about this. You have to go to the doctor to get it set. Having a broken leg is going to affect how you can participate in the Home. It's going to be difficult to take care of your children. It's going to cost money to go to the doctor. You are in pain. There are a number of "bad" things in the situation, and you will naturally be feeling a lot of bad feelings.

60. But when you praise in this type of situation, you transcend the physical plane into the spiritual. Praise shows Me that in spite of how bad it looks and how bad you currently feel, you trust Me. You accept that I have brought this into your life for a reason and you believe that through your praises, you will release My power to bring about My will in the situation. Your acceptance that I have brought this into your life at this time shows faith and trust in Me that I would not allow anything that I cannot use for your good.

61. Praise is the voice of faith. That's an old quote that many of you memorized years ago. But think about that quote for a minute, because it is really very true and very deep. Praise voices the faith that you have in your heart. When you have faith and you're trusting Me, the natural result is praise. When you have faith in Me and you trust Me, things that happen around you or to you don't bother you so much because you trust that everything is part of My perfect plan. You even believe that I am able to turn mistakes that you or others make into good. You trust that all things will truly work together for good to them that love Me. If you find you have a hard time praising Me, it could be a sign that you need to strengthen your faith.

62. So many things in the life of a disciple boil down to faith--including being able to use the weapon of praise in difficult or negative circumstances. If your faith is weak, take steps to strengthen it. Fill up with more of My Word and then put your faith into action by taking steps to implement and obey what I have told you to do. As you do this, your faith will grow, and you will develop the trust and faith in Me that will enable you to offer praises from your heart even in trying times and through difficult or extremely negative circumstances.

63. But even if you don't find it easy to praise in difficult situations, you can still do it. Let's take the example of the broken leg. Whether or not you feel thankful that you broke your leg doesn't matter. You can still acknowledge Me as the King and God of the universe, and you can put your faith in Me into words. You could praise Me that in spite of how bad you feel, how much your leg hurts, or the potentially negative impact this will have in your life, you trust that I have a plan and that it's a good one, one that you will be very thankful for someday. You can tell Me that you accept that I have brought this into your life and you're going to praise Me for it, even if you don't see the good right now. You can tell Me that you are praising Me in advance for all the good that I will do through this. You can pick up your weapon of praise and tell the Enemy that you refuse to look at the circumstances with your carnal mind, you refuse to accept your natural feelings about the circumstances, but you instead choose to partake of the supernatural. You choose to praise and you choose to trust that I have a bigger, better plan, and through your praises, you are unleashing My power to bring about that plan.

64. This kind of praise is very powerful. It defeats the Enemy. It's "but if not" praise. It releases My miracle-working power to work in whatever way I see fit. When you praise like this, then I am able to go to work to bring about My will. Through your acceptance, you free Me to work in the situation as I see fit.

65. This is when the magic can happen. This is when I am able to more clearly show you My will.

This is when I can do miracles, because you aren't putting Me in a box. You aren't limiting Me. Your praises allow Me to perform whatever miracle I may have in mind. Maybe it's the miracle of a changed heart or attitude or mindset, or extra grace to endure. Maybe it's the miracle of a life changed through your witness in spite of being injured. Your praises give Me room to work My plan and they show that you aren't second-guessing Me or trying to put Me in a box.

66. Your praises say that even though the circumstance or negative situation may change your plan or your mode of operation or bring things into question in your mind, you trust that I am bigger and greater than you are, and you realize that I see further ahead and that I will bring good out of the situation in some way.

67. When you make these types of declarations to Me, you are picking up the weapon of praise. You are accepting My will and you are trusting in My greatness and power to accomplish that will, in spite of everything. This releases My power on your behalf. It also increases our closeness and connection, because you love and trust Me enough to join the ranks of those who throughout history have said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

68. The weapon of intercessory prayer works hand in hand with offensive praise in such difficult situations. When you praise Me, accepting that I will bring about good in every bad situation, that doesn't mean you can't pray for the situation. You can and you should. Many times I bring circumstances that are adverse or difficult or negative into the lives of My children because I know that they can be strengthened in their use of the spiritual weapons as they use them to achieve victory.

69. Prayers that are prayed against the backdrop of faith and praise are the most powerful prayers. When you pray with praise and acceptance in your heart, My hand is moved to work on your behalf. You can ask Me for a specific thing if it's on your heart, and you are welcome to. But the bottom line in your prayers should be faith that I can and will do what I have planned. You should be praying for My will, above all. "Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven."

70. When you pray in faith, I hear and I move. When your prayers and your faith release My power to affect the situation according to My perfect will, that's when the magic happens, that's when miracles come about. That is when your prayers truly change things.

71. So praise and prayer work together perfectly because they are both based on faith. When your praises are based on faith and your prayers are prayed in faith, then faith becomes the victory that overcomes the world (1Jn.5:4).

Let the light in and the darkness will flee

72. (Jesus:) The strongest method of using praise is to actually praise Me for the problem or hardship. That's the method that brings about the biggest miracles. For one, praising Me for a problem or hardship will immediately give you more peace in the midst of the storm. You will be thanking Me for the difficulty, which means you are trusting that I allowed it in your life and trusting Me for the outcome.

73. By praising Me for a problem or hardship, you slam the door shut on the Enemy, who expects this difficulty in your life to be a victory for him. The praise completely shuts him out of his expected victory. Satan looks at problems and hardships in a Christian's life as his opportunity to tear down their faith. He looks at those situations as his opportunities. But when you praise Me for those difficulties, you destroy Satan's opportunity to enter and make use of these things.

74. I'm not just referring to praising Me by faith for a positive outcome, which is also a form of praise. I'm talking about the method of praise when you thank Me for the **problem**. You actually praise Me wholeheartedly, even if by faith, for the problem just as it is at the moment.

75. Once you have truly thanked Me for the difficulty, then you can praise Me for overcoming

the problem.

76. But don't stop there; don't hinge your praise on My answer. Hinge your praise only on **Me**. "Nevertheless, Jesus, thank You for allowing such and such, and the lessons You will teach us from it."

77. Then take in a good dose of Word. Read a Psalm on praise, such as Psalm 103. Or read some key promises on praise or on faith or on overcoming the attacks of the Enemy. This is when the Word will have the greatest access to your heart, so take it in and let the light cleanse your heart of all worries and fears.

78. I will then be able to ride in on that faith and work out the situation fully to your advantage, and make it work out for your good. I promise that. It's just that simple. As you keep your heart flooded with My light, I will win the victory. And you are guaranteed to see the fulfillment of the promise, "All things work together for good to them that love God, unto them who are the called according to His purpose."

79. This method of praise does not come naturally. You are going to have to practice diligently to build this as a positive habit. But it's one of the main secrets to the age of miracles during this time in history, the Endtime. It's a secret to greater unity, greater dependence on Me, greater humility for Me to work through, greater faith, and greater access to My heavenly thought power. Learn to turn every problem or hardship into a full praise, and you will be an overcomer that the Enemy cannot touch or stop.

80. (Mama:) The following praise scripts are just samples to help us get started in this new attitude toward praise. There's always so much to praise the Lord for that our praises could be endless; there are so many lessons to be learned, victories to be gained, and specifics to each situation. So use this as a starting point, but don't limit yourself to it. As you practice praising the Lord for everything, He will help you to advance in your use of this weapon and to praise Him for anything.

Heroin addiction

Scenario: Your daughter has become a heroin addict.

Praise:

81. Jesus, as You told Mama, "You don't truly start fighting with praise until you ignore the pain, suffering, tears, sadness, injustice, and all that the one in trouble is facing, and instead turn and face down the Enemy." So I come to You now, my Love, with a broken heart for my daughter, who I have discovered is a heroin addict. Yet my heart is full of praise to You, because I know that Your ways are far above ours, and You don't allow anything that isn't going to turn out for our good!

82. Praise is raw power against the power of evil and the Devil himself, and I harness that power right now--I need it, Jesus. I praise You for Your eternal wisdom and love in allowing my daughter to become a heroin addict. I praise You, that though this seems like one of the absolute worst things that could happen to a person, I know that You do all things well and that all things work to Your glory. Praise You Jesus! I praise You that You love her enough to let her see that the way of the transgressor is indeed hard, and that through these difficult experiences, she will learn where it's "not at."

83. I praise You, my Husband, that she is saved and has the helmet on and can never get away from You completely or be fully possessed by anything or any spirit. Thank You, dear Love, that You have her in Your hands, and You, Who have begun a good work, will complete it until the end. Hallelujah! I praise You, I praise You, I praise You! Though all that is within me is distraught and devastated by this news, I wield the wonderful and powerful weapon of praising You, my Lord, my God, my King. Glory to God!

84. I praise You that You will not let one thing happen to her that is not for her good in the

end. I thank You that even if it takes until the Millennium to deliver her from this addiction, that You are more powerful than the grip of addiction, and eventually she will be free.

85. I know You hear my praises of faith and love and trust, and I am assured that You will take up the fight for her with the Devil himself and cause him to be totally defeated. Thank You that You are always there for me, and that You have given me the faith to praise You in the face of this daunting news. Thank You for helping me to wield the powerful advanced weapon of praise. I praise You for Your wonders and love, and that I can trust You utterly and without compunction with my daughter's life.

86. I praise You now for what I know You will do in the future, and the deliverance You will give her from this addiction and all the pain that accompanies it. I know not when, but You know when the times are right, and as soon as she is ready, You will step in and rescue her. I praise and commit my darling daughter into Your hands. All praise and glory to You, Jesus, my Love, my Life, my Hope, my Everything!

Computer work lost

Scenario:

87. For two months you've been putting all your time and focus into a certain project, but something happens to the computer and you lose all your data and files. Two months of hard work and overtime have gone down the drain and you have to start the work all over again.

Praise:

88. Thank You, my awesome Lover, for this tough situation. I could easily get very discouraged with this, and I'm sure the Enemy wants that to happen. Well, no way. I'm going to praise You, Jesus, and watch the sword of praise cut the Devil to the heart.

89. Thank You, Jesus, for how You've kept me going these past couple of months, encouraging me to get this project completed. Thank You for the prophecies You've given me, showing that the project has been of You and that You were working through me. And thanks very much, Jesus, for all of those extra hours of work You not only allowed me to put into this project, but encouraged me to do. You have repeatedly told me this project would be a big blessing to Your sheep, and You've encouraged me to give it my all.

90. Now it takes more faith to praise You for the loss, but I thank You big time for letting all that work get lost. Oh, that hurts, but it's good hurt. I thank You for this good hurt! It doesn't feel like good hurt--hurt never does feel good--but I'm praising and thanking You for it. It's wonderful hurt, and I praise You for this hurt! Thank You for letting it happen; You must have had a reason, and I trust You for that. I trust that You consider this loss, and whatever good you bring from it, to be more important than the waste of time that it seems to me.

91. I thank You now for the vision that You are going to give for how this loss of work is going to glorify You and help Your sheep too. That seems pretty wild, my Love, but I believe it. You've been in this project from the beginning, so I'm going to step out by faith and praise You for this awesome new step, which is the loss of all that work. Thank You for giving the work and taking it away, and I'm excited to see what You will do next to bring good out of this.

92. I thank You that no matter what, You are still here, and since You are still here, that means the project can be done again if it is Your will.

93. I'm going to praise You every day and every hour and every minute while I'm working on redoing this project. I'm going to see You flow into this project more than before, because I'm going to praise, and praise, and praise some more!

94. Ha, Devil! You thought you had destroyed this project. But nope! Because I'm praising no matter what, this project is going to be so spirit-filled that it will wipe you off the map! It's going to bring in the sheep right and left. You are sunk. You shot yourself in the foot. Thanks, Devil. That was awesome. I'm soooo thankful for this gift that Jesus let you bring to me.

95. Jesus, You are tremendous. I don't know what I'd do without You. I'm ready now to have more fun with You while we redo that work. Thanks, Jesus, for giving me this wonderful time with You! And thank You for these marvelous victories in the spirit which will now come through in this project.

Apostate children

Scenario:

96. Your children left the Family and went to the camp of your enemies and are fighting vehemently against you, even to the point of threatening your life and the lives of others you love.

Praise:

97. My darling Husband, I praise and thank You that You have given me faith to trust You for my children. I praise You because I know that You know what is best for my children, who are **Your** children. And now with the voice of praise and thankfulness I commit them into Your loving hands and wise heart to do or allow whatever You know is best in their lives so that You can bring them back to You, Your service, and their loved ones at the earliest possible time.

98. Although I can't think of worse news at this moment, I know that with You there is always a happy ending. Therefore I will not doubt or waver in the power of praise to You that shows my utter trust and confidence that You, my Lord, will bring victory out of this seeming defeat.

99. I praise You, my Darling, because I know there is no power greater than Your power, and no love stronger than Your love, and no wisdom greater than Your wisdom. So I praise and commit the lives and future of all my children, Your children, to You, the all-powerful God of the universe. I thank You that no matter what they do, You are in control and You never fail. There are no other gods but You, my Love, and I praise and thank You for all that You are doing in my children's lives, and that through this experience and these bad decisions they have made, they will eventually be wiser and stronger than ever.

100. I praise You for the promises that You have given about their future. I praise You for Heaven that we have to look forward to, where all tears will be wiped away. And I praise You that, because of what they're going through now, they will be wiser than before when they see clearly again. Thank You Jesus! Onward and upward to victory through Jesus Christ is my praise and fight. Hallelujah! Glory to God!

Stranded!

Scenario:

101. Your team is on a road trip, and you're all lost. It's late at night, and you're far out in the boonies, where your cell phone is out of transmission range. You're all tired and hungry. To top it off, you discover that you have a flat tire and no jack.

Praise:

102. Thank You, Jesus, for putting us in this situation. It's a great thing to know that no matter where we are, even if we're out in the boonies and the phone doesn't work, we can still reach You. Thank You that this is an opportunity to thank You for something that is going completely wrong.

103. It's easy to praise You when things are all bright and sunny and going perfectly, but we know it means a lot more to You when we praise You even though there isn't a glimmer of hope in sight, and when we can't see a way out of this and it definitely seems like a defeat. There is good for each of us in this situation, and we thank You now for this experience that is teaching us to trust You in spite of how dark things look and how stuck we seem. Thank You for testing and strengthening our faith in this way.

104. Thank You also that even though physical help is far away, Your help and power is always near, because You hear our prayers. Thank You that we'll be able to appreciate the answer even more because the problem was so great and seemed so impossible. Thank You that because it's impossible, You are going to do the impossible, and that we'll smile and praise You when we think of the miracle You performed for us.

105. Thank You too that through these praises to You for something so seemingly bad, we're routing any of the Enemy's plans in this. Thank You that we're completely devastating him and wreaking havoc upon any demons that are trying to cause doubt, fear, worry, or discouragement. Thank You that we can not only hold them off, but blow their hordes to smithereens!

106. Thank You that though this situation makes us feel so small and weak, it is a perfect situation to smile and laugh at our own predicament, and feel comforted in how big and strong and capable of everything You are. We know that when there isn't much we can do to fix the problem, that means You'll be the One doing the fixing, and that means it's going to turn out even better in the end.

107. Thank You also that because You've never failed us before, we know You're not going to fail us now. Even if it takes a while and there isn't any hope in sight, we have no reason to doubt that You're going to do this. When You do answer, we won't even be surprised, because we expected it, and we want to thank You already for doing it. You are so loving and kind and You always get the greatest victories out of seeming defeats.

108. Thank You for this seeming defeat. Thank You also for any failures on our part that contributed to this situation, such as not replacing the tires on the van soon enough, because our mistakes remind us of how incapable we are on our own and how much we need You and Your help and guidance. Thank You that this situation will help each of us to stay closer to You than before, to be more desperate with You than before, and to get Your direction more than before. Thank You that it draws us to Your side and keeps us close, humbled, and in awe of Your greatness. We can do nothing but trust in You.

109. Thank You for Your goodness and Your divine ways that are higher than ours, and that Your ways that sometimes seem to go down are actually going up. Thank You for taking us down this route and for allowing us to experience this touch from Your hand, and for giving us the opportunity to praise You through this, because we know it means a lot to You when we trust You for seemingly bad situations, and praise You no matter what.

110. Making You happy and praising You also makes us happy and gives us faith. So thank You for helping us to give ourselves over to You and place this situation in Your hands, where we'll be completely safe and in Your will. We love You and thank You with all our hearts. Your ways are higher than our ways, and we know this will work out for good, as You have designed it to.

Marriage problems

Scenario:

111. You're in a marriage or long-term relationship for a good many years, with kids, but you and your mate don't get along. You can't seem to agree on anything of significance, and you're growing apart because of it. Resentment is building as well as a number of side problems. You've tried to pray, tried to read the Word on the subject, and made efforts at resolving your differences, but there's a barrier that

can't seem to be overcome. You feel it's the Lord's will that you stay together, but you don't know how long you can go on in this frustrating and discouraging situation which seems impossible to get over.

Praise:

112. Hallelujah! Thank You, sweet Husband, for making me such a flopsy, emotional wreck of a person. I am just so weak and helpless without You. Thank You for that. Thank You for the frustration and disappointment that my relationship with my mate has brought over the past years. Each problem has been a wonderful opportunity to run to You and ask You everything, to let You work through me more, and to learn something new, to become more humble and yielded and dependent on You. Thank You Jesus!

113. It's wonderful to see You bring good in so many ways out of what to us can seem like a frustrating and pointless experience. That is something that I personally want to praise You for, Jesus, because though things seem all muddled to me, You know what lies ahead for us, and You're out there planning and preparing the way for us, and You certainly make all things work together for good. I appreciate that so much. It makes me feel so loved, cared for, and like I don't have to be strong. I wouldn't feel that way without this situation, Jesus, so it really is a Romans 8:28. My natural, normal, fleshly reaction is to be strong and firm and unbending, but I've become so weak and helpless that I've had to depend much more upon You and Your help these past months.

114. Thank You, Jesus, for the kids that our relationship has given us, the priceless treasures that we will take with us to eternity. I thank You that even though it's been a rough, bumpy time, it's produced loving, sweet witnesses and disciples for Your Kingdom. Thank You that they are so well taken care of by my mate. Despite all that I may not like, I admire his (or her) heartfelt and dedicated care of the kids.

115. Thank You that though we have our spats and arguments, You've helped us stay in control of our spirits, and for that I'm grateful. The times that we disagree are wonderful opportunities for me to learn and practice personal relations skills, and without this practice and being forced to learn these things, I'd probably be like I was when we first got together--very rigid and unbending. But because of this rather difficult and long-term situation, I've learned some valuable lessons, and by Your grace I've become a more skilled communicator. Thank You for that.

116. Overall, it's been a really great educational experience. The trials, tests and repeated difficulties that we've gone through have kept us desperate with You. Without the battles we would just stagnate, grow old, and die on the vine. You've used this in our lives to keep us stirred up and desperate. Thank You! It makes it worth the hard times.

117. The personal feelings and emotional battles have given me so much more sympathy and understanding of others.

118. Thank You also for our shepherds who have given us such valuable counsel and advice. They really are so full of love and understanding, having gone through so much themselves that now they can be a real strength and help to us in our times of distress and trouble. Over the years I have learned a lot about being open to their help and about putting it to good use. Thank You for them and for all that they do for us. I praise You that one day I'll probably be in a position to help another couple or couples from the experiences that we're going through now. I'll have a lot of practice under my belt in this kind of stuff, and You're going to use it for good one way or another, I know it. It may even be with my own kids, when they grow up some more and start having families of their own.

119. These years have helped me to understand what it's like to be in a long-term relationship that has serious issues and no apparent way out. Now I know, and it gives me a broken heart for the lost out in the world who don't have the help we have. They have no Husband and Lover that they can go to for comfort, counsel, advice, and forgiveness. I so appreciate that about You, Jesus.

You're my all in all, and unlike those in the world, even if I do lose everything in the end, I'll still have You, and You've become the most important thing in my life, literally and in every way. That is a big comfort and relief when it comes to thinking about the future.

120. Thank You, Jesus, that I've failed my mate, and that he/she has failed me too. It reinforces the principle of Your Word which says that we are all sinners and we've all fallen short of Your glory. I thank You for every last problem and difficulty along this road. Thank You for the times when I've blown it and been the cause of problems, as it's taught me humility, openness, flexibility, and much more. Thank You also for the problems that haven't been my fault. They've taught me to in turn forgive, be merciful and understanding, and much more. You've used everything for good in my life, and I thank You for that.

121. There is just so much to praise You for in this otherwise "bad" situation that I'm really thankful that You've allowed it to happen, and that our current circumstances are as they are, which is not as we would prefer them or like them to be. It's great! The discomfort has kept us from getting lazy and settled, and certainly accounts for a lot of the progress we've made in our lives for You, Jesus. We praise You for Your wonderful plan, for Your grace and strength which is always there for us, and all that You do so wonderfully. All glory to You, our Lover and Husband!

Sewage overflow!

Scenario:

122. You've been working on handyman projects all day and have been giving each task your maximum focus, attention, and skill. You're tired and exhausted and smell and feel really, really bad. On top of that, someone asked you to help them put up their large mirror, which accidentally fell and shattered all over their floor, which they got very upset about, as that mirror had sentimental value. All day people were asking you to run errands, fix things, and do special favors for them. You felt stretched and tired, but you kept on going, and didn't put up a fuss even though it was very difficult and could have been "justified."

123. Finally, there was a sewage overflow that you had to take care of, as it was coming out all over the bathroom floor--pretty deep, and was starting to stink up the whole house. At the end of the day you take off your clothes and get into the shower. You turn the knob and there's no water. You go to the water tank and it's empty. There is no water anywhere.

Praise:

124. Lord, this is a pretty disgusting situation. I can't go anywhere, I stink, I can't sit down, I'm dirty, I can't walk down the street, I'm a bad testimony. This is so bad that I have to either complain and cry or praise and laugh. So thanks, Jesus, for this unbelievable mess. I'm going to praise and laugh despite it all. Phew, thank You, Jesus, for this great mess! Thanks for letting me feel cornered. It's a terrific opportunity for me to praise.

125. Well, damn Devil, I might feel cornered, but I'm not. I love You, my wonderful Husband! I love the way You make everything all right even when the Devil dumps sewage all around me. I praise You for being such a sweet, loving smell and highlight in my life even right now when I'm covered with sewage.

126. Hallelujah, this is wonderful; I love it, Jesus! I'm so proud of You for having the guts to allow this situation so that You can bring me through with a victorious praise. Jesus, You are awesome! You knew it would give me just the solid connection with You that I was praying for. Thanks, Jesus, for being my love-filled Dear, the Rose of Sharon that fills my life with heavenly scents.

127. I'm going to wipe myself off the best I can with a towel. There's some fairly clean water

here in the flush container, behind the toilet, and I'm going to use that to clean my hands and feet.

128. Thank You for how You always, without fail, supply all my needs. Thank You that though the Devil is unleashing his sewage on the world during these days of the End, You haven't allowed him to foul **all** the waters of the world with his rot and stench, but You lead us to clean waters. And even if You had let him seep into all the water around, You've given us the keys to purify the waters around us. You're awesome, Jesus. You made a way for me to get cleaned up!

129. Thank You also for allowing the incident with the mirror. I'm such a mess, Jesus, and it's always a blessing when I remember that without You, I can't do anything. Thank You for giving me that chance to be humble and apologize and make things right with one of my dear mates and loved ones.

130. Ha, you old Devil, you thought you had me licked! You thought I wouldn't be able to clean up at all and that you would be the victor as I went to bed dirty, discouraged, and complaining and murmuring. You thought you had me there, but praise is the victory that will, and already is, making you wish you had personally brought me some water. Jesus loves me too much to allow even a petty attack like this one to work. I can't be overcome by your stupid, low-down attacks, because He gives the victory every time. Yes, every time, absolutely, and you can't stop me. Ha! I'm so happy! And this will make a great story to tell, once it's over.

131. Jesus, thank You for the showers of praise, how You have cleansed my heart today and made this last event, the sewage and the empty water tank, into a joyful experience. Jesus, You are the most awesome Husband. I love You!

132. Boy, this has been one blessed day! I'm very, very thankful for it. Thank You, Jesus, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to end my day in praise and thankfulness to You! How else could I have exercised the weapon of praise like this? It's a grand opportunity, and I praise You for giving it and helping me make good use of it. I love You, my wonderful Husband! You rock!

Death of a child

Scenario:

133. You've just lost a child in an accident.

Praise:

134. Sweet Love, I give You the gift of my broken heart and I determine to praise You now, even through my tears. Thank You for this ultimate test of my abilities with the powerful weapon of praise. I want to praise You so that I may be able to break free of any holds and chains and burdens of sorrow and guilt that would otherwise take hold of me.

135. Dearest Lover, You have given and You have taken away, blessed be Your name. I know that my child is now in Your hands, and I shouldn't weep for that. It's hard on me, but I know he is happy and in the best place there can be. I praise You, my Dear, that in giving and in taking back, You have brought lessons and victories into my life. I know this will eventually be a positive experience, though it feels just the opposite right now. I trust what You said, that all things work together for good to us who love You. I love You, so I know this is for the best somehow. As such, thank You for taking him.

136. I praise You for this opportunity to see You in action, the opportunity to see my life and the lives of others change and grow and become stronger in You. I praise and thank You and am indebted to You forever for loaning me that special gift of my dear child for as long as You did. I thank You for this empty spot in my heart and life now, and for the chance to fill up more of my heart with You. Thank You also for the love and concern manifested by those around me; thank You for their support. But most of all I thank You for teaching me to lean fully on You.

137. Thank You that praise can turn my heartbreak and pain into a wonderful gift of outgoing concern and sympathy for others. Through this breaking and crushing of my heart, I am going to be drawn closer to You and Your love than ever before. You are going to turn my life into a living example of beauty for ashes. Thank You for the different feelings and emotions that I am experiencing, for they teach me many things--to look beyond the natural, to see things through Your eyes, and to depend on You most of all.

138. Thank You for this precious link with Heaven that I now have through one of my little ones being with You there. Thank You that every time I miss him and think of him and my heart breaks because he isn't here, it's going to pull me closer to Heaven, and closer to You, and to the day when we are reunited and all tears are wiped away forever.

139. I thank You for counting me worthy to be one of Your precious gems, one that can only be formed through great hardship. I thank You for trusting me and believing in me enough to permit this, which will mold me into a great blessing to others and to Your Kingdom.

140. I thank You, praise You, love You, and greatly appreciate the work of Your hands. There can be no middle ground, dear Love. I can either accept this, knowing and believing that You are in control, or I can sink in despair, guilt, sorrow, and confusion. Though emotions overwhelm me now, I trust You enough to make the very faith-based decision to completely trust. It's the only smart thing to do, and You've taught me all the smartest and wisest things in life.

141. I trust You, dear Love. I trust You and believe in You. And I'm going to prove it by praising You every time I think of it. I'm going to rise above my sorrow and my own nature and live in the heavenly dimension that You've given me access to, where I can see the bigger picture and be happy for everything You allow, and where my heart can accept things that my flesh cannot. You are my Love, and I love You more than ever. You are my happiness, and I depend on You more than ever. You are God, and I rest on You now.

End of a relationship

Scenario:

142. You've just found out that someone you care about a lot is actually more attracted to someone else, and that there's no future for the two of you together. You feel like you've invested a lot in this relationship, and that its end came about in an extremely unfair way.

Praise:

143. I praise You for Your plan in my life, even the times when You have to step in and make it happen Yourself. I love the way You don't let Your feelings of love for me get in the way of placing me where I need to be. The hurt and pain that I feel is nothing compared to the deep love You have for me.

144. I'm so thankful that nothing earthly can fill the deep vacuum that I have. I can't go to anyone--my friends, the children, my ministry, the shepherds--and have this vacuum and despair magically disappear. You're the only thing that fills this large void. I love the way that nothing can substitute for You.

145. I feel dizzy whenever I think about my loss. Thank You for this dizziness, and for catching me in Your arms. Nothing reminds me better to run to Your arms than this deep sinking feeling, like the world is going down the drain. Without this feeling I'd be floating along happily without a care in the world. But now I can learn the true meaning of falling on the Rock. The whole world is swaying. You're the only thing that's steady.

146. Thank You for changing my priorities. Thank You for reminding me that You're the only

thing that matters. Thank You for taking away earthly loves so that I can love You more.

147. I love You. Nothing can replace You. Thank You for giving me this time with You and You alone, where You are the only constant, You are my fortress, my strong tower, my salvation.

Phrases of praise when you can't think of where to start

148. (Mama:) Sometimes getting started is the hardest part. Once you start praising, the light starts flooding in, and you can think of more and more things to praise for. But getting started when you feel really rotten, or when something really bad has just happened, is difficult.

149. Here are a few phrases that you can use to get started when you can't think of anything good to praise the Lord for. These are phrases that are universally true, and as you say them and think about them, it will help you to get rolling. As you step out by faith and sincerely ask the Lord for a spirit of thankfulness, gratefulness and praise, more will come. And before you know it, you'll be swept up in a powerful stream of praise that will send the light flooding in, and the darkness will have to flee!

- * Thank You, Jesus, that You know best.
- * Thank You for allowing this to humble me, Jesus.
- * I know nothing and You know everything.
- * Thank You for Your wisdom that is so much greater than mine.
- * Thank You for being in control of this situation.
- * You are my Lover and Husband and I thank You for taking care of me.
- * Thank You for doing what is best for me, even when it seems so contrary to what I might think is best.
- * You do all things well, Jesus.
- * You're wonderful, Jesus.
- * You're beautiful and I praise You for Your greatness, Your power, Your majesty.
- * You can do anything, Jesus, and You allowed this, so I praise and thank You for it!
- * Thank You for the power of praise, which defeats the Enemy in any battle. I'm going to use it right now!
- * All things work together for good to them that love God and to them who are called according to His purpose. Thank You for being powerful enough to turn even this for my good.

150. (Mama:) Praising the Lord is so refreshing and invigorating, isn't it? Praise is the secret to the victory in anything. We never lose, and only gain, by praising. We love You, sweet Lover and King, and thank You for teaching us more of Your heavenly ways.

Praising with you,

Mama

Art by Tamar