Can't you lift your head and say, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"? That's for you! That's the place of victory!

Liquors easily receive whatever figure or boundaries we desire to make them assume, because they have no consistence or solidity in themselves to restrict or interfere with their yielding character. Pour a fluid into a vessel and you will see it rest, quietly bounded by the lines that limit the vase and assuming perfectly its exact shape. It has no form or figure of its own, but only that of the vessel in which it is contained. Such, however, is not the natural pliancy of the soul. It has its own set form and sharp outline, the former due to its habits and inclinations, and the latter to its will in self, and when it refuses to come forth from these we say that it is hard, that is obstinate and willful. I will take the stony heart out of their flesh saith the Lord God (Ez. xi. 19), that is, I will take away their stiffneckedness. Wood, iron and stone must feel the wedge, the hammer and the fire before they will change their form, and so must it be with a heart that resembles them in its hardness and insusceptibility to divine impressions and remains entrenched in its own will and fortified by the inclinations which follow in the train of our corrupted nature. A heart on the other hand that is plastic, soft and yielding, is called a melted or liquefied heart.—St. Francis of Sales, on the Love of God. (Madame Guyon's Song of Solomon)

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(Jesus:) Self-pity is like a sweet. The sweet will eventually rot your teeth and rob your body, but it tastes so good, so you wonder how it could be bad. You feel you have a right to pamper yourself over this one thing--that's how it all starts. But self-pity is simply putting self above Me, or others, and not being willing to sacrifice your self for the sake of others.

Self-pity is pride in almost its most refined, deceptive form--just like refined white sugar. White sugar looks so white, so clean, so pure!--When in fact it is the opposite as far as your physical body is concerned. Thus is self-pity. It baits you, catches you, then rots away your spiritual health and happiness, and as a byproduct, snuffs out your usefulness.

Once somebody is addicted to sweets, it takes almost a miracle to get them off of it. Thus is negativity. The heart of negativity is deceptive pride in the form of self-pity or self-concern. It is this deception that is so hard for the victim to realize. If the person realizes this and really takes it to heart, then half the battle is won. ("Positively Positive, Part 2," ML #3538:26-28)

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Nothing makes us turn our eyes away from the Lord quicker than self-pity! We're down at once into a lower plane, the "self" plane, when we begin to have self-pity over anything that's come in our lives. The Holy Spirit is hindered in His working, and we can't see God in our experience when we begin to complain and act like we're pitiful martyrs of some kind.

The workings of the flesh begin at once and you find yourself even blaming other people! That's exactly what the Devil wants you to do! You find yourself all vexed and anxious and worried and burdened about things, and looking inward instead of upward! Then the irritation and discouragement spring up and you're so vexed and so anxious, everything seems wrong, just everything seems wrong!You're coming under the power of the Enemy when you get into this condition! That's the strategy of Satan in these last days, he's after getting God's people, God's children, self-occupied and anxious about things, and discouraged and suspicious of each other.

The Poor-Me's

The issue:

56. (Mama:) Some of you feel that your lot in life is worse than others, and you tend to be very vocal about it. (or in your heart) You criticize others and talk down about their struggles, making them seem insignificant, because you feel that your own struggles are worse. You openly talk (think) about how much harder things are for you, and you let it be known how much more difficult it is for you to cope with change than it is for others.

57. If something needs to be done, you begrudgingly agree to do it, but only after you've spelled out in an unwilling and murmury tone all the reasons why it'll be so much harder for you than if someone else did it. You easily become critical; you feel you work hard and others are lazy. Some of you feel it's your lot in life to go through spiritual "martyrdom," that God purposely makes life difficult for you, so you must be better because you're more "tried" and have greater battles, whether spiritual attacks, afflictions, or others.

58. You try to appear willing, but this often backfires on you because you don't have the right motives; (thus so many accidents and mistakes) you want praise for your good works. You're heavily laden with burdens and cares you've placed on your own shoulders, yet you tend to blame your struggles on the work, on the people you live with, on your shepherds, on your Home, and even on the Lord. Your self-centered, self-pity attitude is misery for you and a drag for others. It's difficult to pull out of this sorry state, because as you see things, life is harder for you, and new challenges are a drag.

God's mind on the matter:

59. (Dad:) The Lord works fair and square in each person's life, according to what He knows they need and can handle. He doesn't allow an overabundance of problems in one person's life while making another's load extremely light. God works differently with each person, and in His omniscience He knows exactly what's best. The bottom line is that it's a manifestation of pride and unyieldedness when you have this type of attitude.

60. It's wrong to adopt the "martyrdom" mindset and continually lament your vexation of spirit, which often does not accurately reflect the struggles you're going through or the burdens you carry, but instead is a spirit of murmuring and complaint that God is unfair in the tests He metes out to each individual.

61. There's nothing to be gained in vocalizing your trials, in boasting that you give and sacrifice so much, in trying to pat yourself on the back and gain sympathy, while at the same time you're tearing others down. This self-pity attitude is nothing more than a spirit of pride***! You're looking for an excuse, a way out of having to do what the Lord is asking of you,*** and if you continue to go down this road, it leads to a lack of willingness of spirit, unyieldedness, and to more murmuring and despair. You'll become stubborn and fight against the Lord's plan for you; you'll always be pointing the finger at someone else or some other situation, anything but putting the blame on yourself. (this is what has been happening)

62. You don't want to admit that you're unwilling and proud; it offends you when someone suggests that if you just got up off your fanny and started praising the Lord for whatever He brings your way and facing the problem head-on, things would start looking up. Instead, you sit down to tea with the Enemy; you share your woes with Mr. and Mrs. Doubt and all their little doublets, who give you a hand in enumerating your problems and expounding on the difficulties you face.

63. Watch out, folks! When you allow yourself to take on this poor-me mindset, you're giving place to the Devil. There's no disputing this fact!

64. Life for the Lord requires sacrifice. The Lord never promised a cushy lifestyle. He promised the rigors of battle, forsaking of personal preferences, sacrifice, and giving all to Him. He wants your willingness to take the bitter things in life and learn from them. He wants the surrender of your will in order to do His.

65. Have you lost the vision and forgotten that your life is supposed to be a living sacrifice unto the Lord? The life of a disciple is to be a sample of faith, sacrifice, obedience, yieldedness, humility, and love.

66. Where's your spirit of praise and your joy of the Lord? Is your antenna pointing upward? Or is it turned down toward the muck and the mire of your own stinking self? Remember the little quote that says, "If you think, think, think, you're gonna sink, sink, sink, because you stink, stink, stink!" Your spirit of self-pity and your attitude that you're doing it all yourself stinks! ***When you try so hard in the arm of the flesh to appear "willing," but your spirit is anything but willing, it's nothing but husks--empty works of man. You're not allowing the Lord's Spirit to possess you and pour through you, to fill your mind and heart and spirit with the joy of your salvation.***

In Jonah 2:9 Jonah cried out Salvation is of the Lord!

67. It's akin to the Scribes and Pharisees who tried to keep every jot and tittle of the law to prove to others that they loved the Lord and that they followed His Word. But they were full of hot air, **because they didn't live the doctrine**, **they didn't live in love, and they didn't have the energy of the Spirit running through their veins.** They were empty, self-satisfied, critical hypocrites with their stinking holier-than-thou attitudes. Don't you be the same way!

68. **You've read in the Word many times how the battles and tests in life are good for you--they bring a richness of spirit that can't be obtained any other way. But you want to prove you're made of tough stuff and that you can handle the battles on your own. Rather than letting the Lord work through you, you lean on self-works, which turn out to be nothing but dead works. You lack joy in your spirit, happiness in your sacrifice, and faith in the Lord's promises, *and what's worse, you look down on those who do have it. You label them as having an easier lot in life than you do.*** You're lifted up in pride about your own sacrifice. You have the wrong attitude and **you're yielding to the wrong spirit. You blame all of your problems on something or someone else, rather than rising above them.**

69. There are always going to be tough things to face in the Lord's service; there are difficult battles that test your faith; there is sacrifice and you have to give until it hurts sometimes, but in return you have everything to gain. As David Livingstone said, "I've never made a sacrifice for God." What you stand to gain far surpasses any sacrifice you can ever make. You gain the joy of the Lord, His blessings for your giving, and His rewards for your sacrifice.

70. There's no comparison when you look at it in this light, because not only does the Lord repay those who give cheerfully in this life, but He's already stockpiling even greater rewards that He'll place at your feet when you get up here. But He can't fully reward you for the deeds you do for others in a begrudging spirit. He can't pour down the blessings that come through yieldedness when you're not surrendering willingly and cheerfully.

71. When you operate in that poor-me, self-pity attitude, you tie His hands. You put limits on Him and He can't satisfy your spirit with a full measure of joy and happiness when you're unwilling and you're following merely out of duty or because you want others to see your good works. To hell with your good works and your pitiful attempts to do the right thing in the arm of the flesh! It stinks!

72. Live for the Lord and this Family and the lost sheep simply out of a desire to please Him. Stop trying to prove your worth by bragging about your sacrifices. When you do, you make the commandments of the Lord--to give to Him freely, to sacrifice and surrender your life to Him fully--of no effect.

73. Without love, all the works of your hands are nothing. **When you are unwilling in spirit, when you complain about your lot in life, when you murmur about the tests He allows, and when you compare with those around**

you, thinking that they have a better deal than you, you lose the motivation of love to follow the Lord and give of yourself no matter how much it hurts or what it requires of you.

74. ***God puts the pressure on in our lives as He sees fit. Who are you to question Him?*** Who are you to presume that you know better than Him? Who are you to say that He is unjust in His dealings with you? **You're missing the point.**

75. Live your life as a disciple, one who gives all no matter what the cost. A true disciple doesn't question the leadings of his Master, Jesus; he obeys out of love and deference. He trusts that Jesus has a plan, knows his frame, and allows and plans for things as He knows best. A disciple knows that he cannot make a sacrifice for God; that all things work together for good to them who love the Lord; that there's a wonderful plan that the Lord wants to accomplish in his life, even if he doesn't understand at the moment. He knows and believes that his light afflictions [tests and trials] are but for a moment, and that they will work for him a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, and he praises the Lord for it.

76. Are you a disciple or aren't you? If you are, then let God have the controls on your life. ***Stop pretending to yield when you're withholding.*** Either trust God with all you've got or you're not really trusting Him at all.

77. If the shoe to this issue fits you--get help. You don't have to live with a complaining, murmuring, proud spirit another day. Call on your mates, ask for the laying on of hands, and get delivered from your draggy old self! Start praising the Lord and keep it up until you praise your way right out of the pit where the Devil is trying to keep you.

78. The Lord can change your attitudes. He can change your spirit through the power of the keys. Don't delay, get prayer and start praising today, because we need you, the Lord needs you, and the world needs you! The keys of change can pull you through. Take the first step and the Lord will do what you can't do. Call on the keys of acceptance and claim the change you desire, and you will get it! Pray, and ask Him to do it right now!

In summary:

79. (Mama:) Life is fair and God is good. He knows what He's doing when He passes out the burdens and the tests He sees fit to allow in each of our lives. He knows exactly what we need and He works differently in each life. If you go around vocalizing the tests and trials you bear; if you pat yourself on the back because you think you give and sacrifice so much; if you criticize and tear others down; if you've fallen into a poor-me spirit of self-pity; if you give in to pride; if you're murmuring and complaining and dragging yourself down and others down with you; if you're leaning on self-works; if you lack joy, happiness, and faith; if you complain that others have it easier than you do; if you're lifted up in pride and you blame all your problems on something or someone else, you need help and deliverance. Don't delay, get prayer, and get out of this horrible trap of the Enemy!

80**. It's hard for you to pull yourself out of this state, but not too hard for the Lord. That's what the power of the keys is for. Don't wait another minute, start praising and claiming the keys today!**

81. And even if you don't have a specific problem with "poor me's," this message is still important for you. Making sacrifices is a part of our lives for the Lord, and we need to do what He asks of us cheerfully and with a thankful heart--not in a spirit of murmuring and complaining. Having a positive outlook and being cheerful about sacrifices is a part of discipleship. So let's all try to have a better attitude! It's an improvement our Husband can help us all to make that will change our lives--and the lives of those we live with--for the better!

Key promises:

82. The keys of new life, praise, joy, and happiness are strong enough to overpower a poor-me spirit. The keys enable you to have complete transformation.

83. **Call on the keys of deliverance when pride, self-pity, criticalness, and discontent engulf you, and My light will chase away the darkness and restore to you the joy of your salvation.**

Challenging Thot:

84. (Dad:) Why not put the keys of full possession to the test? Let them prove to you that it is possible to overcome the spirit you often have the most trouble with--your own. Prove the keys of full possession and let His Spirit take full control! Let go of yourself, let go of your pride and your own righteousness, and let Jesus go to work in you. Let go and let God have His wonderful way in your heart, mind, spirit, and life today!
(SHOOTING STRAIGHT PT. 13)

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24. YOU'RE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMY! Don't blame it on everybody else & evil spirits & even the Devil*, he couldn't touch you if it wasn't for your spirit that lets him in & lets him cause you trouble!*--Or even lets God let him touch you because of your evil spirit & your problems with your own heart & your own evil self! You're your own worst enemy!

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37. I told Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh, but I repented of destroying them because of their repentance and Jonah's obedience. Jonah learned the value of obeying My voice through a difficult time of testing, and was closer to Me because of it.

38. You must saturate yourself with My Word that it may fight for you and wash away the seeds of doubt that the Enemy has planted. You must soak in My Word and absorb it and live in it. The Enemy seeks to hold you down, but you can be free of all confusion, all darkness, and all doubt, for I have promised that the entrance of My Word gives light and understanding.

39. So prove Me now herewith! Take My Word into your bosom--absorb it, live on it, drink it in. Let it cleanse you and wash you and free you from the pain of the Enemy. Turn not into his hands and go not his way, but keep your face toward your shepherds, and toward Me. Set My Words before you. Post them on your walls. Set them by your bed. Carry them in your pocket. My Words are life and truth. Absorb them, listen to them, talk of them, think of them.

40. Have those in your Home pray for you and uphold you with their prayers, and fight for your healing. Fight to be freed from the pollution of the Enemy! It is not something that you have to do in your own strength; you simply must look to My Word. Read it prayerfully and carefully. Continue to ask Me for the strength and the help that you need, and I will not fail you.

41. My Word is powerful and is able! I am able to do that which none other can do. I am able to restore you and to give you peace of mind. I am more than able. You must just continue to trust and hold on to Me. Do not analyze; do not worry or fear. Just hold My hand, rest in My bosom, and I will sustain you. Rest on My Word and it will keep you. Think on My Words and they will cleanse you from all fears and doubts and afflictions of the Enemy.

42. Dig into My Word, old and new. Dig into the treasures and do not let the Enemy rob you of the truth. Do not let him steal your place in My Family, and do not let him steal you from My arms. Let not the Enemy take away your connection with Me and rob you of the blessings and strength and faith that only I can give. I am able to give you the peace, comfort

and strength that you need, and freedom from fear, worry and doubt. Only I am the source of peace, for I am Peace, and I am Love.

43. You must simply come to Me and rest completely upon My Spirit and upon My Words. I simply ask that you come; that you call upon Me and let Me work within you. Let My Words work within you, and let My Words give you strength and faith. For no one else and none other can give faith--it is in My Word and My Word only. In My Word lies everything! My Word is the source and supply of all your needs. (End of message from Jesus.) (Believing Prophecy! [#3130])

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20. As the war escalates, it is imperative that you stay constantly on guard. You must not take your armor off. Where once it was a good idea to always take the attacking initiative, in this day it has become more than a good idea--it's a matter of life or death! Therefore you must stay on the attack if you want to overpower the Enemy instead of him overpowering you. (Weakness Revolution-Part 2)

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Choosing to be in the center of God's will … and loving it!

73. If you really want to find out what God's will is for you and what He wants to do with you, just dedicate yourself to Him, holding nothing back. Be open to Him in everything, in every way, in every area of your life. Stop preaching the Enemy's propaganda, and instead be the Lord's mouthpiece. You can't say, “Okay, God, I'll do this for You, but not that. I'll agree with this, but not that.” He's asking you to give your all to Him, and let Him do with you as He pleases, to sign an empty sheet of paper and let Him fill in the blanks.

74. Are you willing to let Him change you? Are you willing to be and do and say anything for Jesus? Even if it's something you feel you can't do, are you still willing to say yes and give it a try? “Not my will, but Thine be done.”

75. Jesus went to the cross for you. He agreed to do whatever it took, to pay any price, and because of that, His Father was able to use Him for His most important mission. He'll do the same with you, if you'll just put your will on His side. Are you willing to do that for Him? (End of message from Dad.)

How much are you willing to give?

Jesus:

76. Sometimes how you look at things comes down to a matter of how much you're willing to give all, to serve, to have no reservations left for yourself at all, to truly be a slave of whatever I ask you to do without hanging on to any personal desires of your own. That's really what a love slave is. When you give your life to Me, that's what you're doing, and that's really what I'm looking for--those disciples who are so in love with Me that they are willing to completely surrender their personal agenda; all they want to do is whatever I ask, no matter what, with no questions asked.

77. There are slaves and servants in the world today who do this for their worldly masters--day in and day out. If their master says “do this,” they do it; if they say “do that,” they do it.

78. And really, that's what a true disciple of Mine does. Of course, because they are My disciple and My love slave, I'm a lot more understanding and generous than worldly masters, and I allow a great deal of freedom. Being a love slave for Me isn't the same as being a slave for those in the world. In fact, I am so liberal, sometimes people hardly know they're love slaves. And because I have given people free will, they can be loosed from being My love slave whenever they wish. Those who are My love slaves are slaves of their own choosing.

79. But those who are My love slaves and continue to be My slaves, giving their all, are those who remain the happiest. Those who continue to say, “I want no will of my own; what do You want me to do today? I'll do whatever You want, I don't care what it is. Please just let me serve You, I beg You. I'm unworthy to do anything and I'm so thankful to do anything for You!”--they are the ones who are the happiest. Total bondage to Me brings total freedom and happiness. Total yieldedness is total fulfillment.

80. When My love slaves who at one time had forsaken everything and had no agenda except doing whatever it was that I asked, begin to put restrictions and limitations on what I ask, they begin to run into problems. When they begin to say, “I prefer to do this” or “I prefer to do that,” then they begin to feel unchallenged and discontent. Whenever I have called someone to be a 100 percent follower, but they begin to want their own way, then they begin to lose the happiness they had when they completely abandoned their life and will to Me. The more they try to do what they want to do, or think they want to do, or think they should do or deserve to do, the more unhappy they become.

81. I have a place for each person, and only as you fulfill that place will you find true and lasting happiness. Actually, you don't have to find happiness; you don't have to look for it. Happiness is the fruit and byproduct, the natural result and state of mind that follows when you come to Me and you say, “Jesus, please help me. I love You and I want You. Thank You for saving me. What can I do for You today? What do You want me to do? I'll do anything, I don't care what it is. Just let me be Your love slave. I only want to do what You want me to do and I have no plans or will of my own.”

82. Are you still doing that? Are you giving your will 100 percent to Me, or do you have plans of your own? Are you still forsaking all every day? Or do you have work or things you like or want to do above Mine? No matter how long you serve Me, the secret and the formula is always constant, it never changes: “Not my will but Thine be done.” In total abandonment and total slavery to Me is complete happiness, contentment, and fulfillment. (End of message from Jesus.) (Issues, Part 12 [#3418])

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All power is given you, and all the power of Heaven is augmented in these Last Days! The power has been there all along, within you, but now, today, you can access it--according to your faith it is done.

The evil forces are also amplified. They surround you; they are everywhere, working to keep people in bondage and darkness. But your power is amplified many times over. **You have the power to release those in bondage. You have the power to overcome all evil.** In your keys, you have liberty and freedom. Therefore start today and access this power I put in your hands; use it prayerfully and wisely, and walk in and claim victories. There are no obstacles to you; as long as you continue to do your part, I will never fail to do Mine.

This is your day! Now I give you all power in Heaven and in Earth; according to your faith be it done unto you. It is accessible to you who follow closely. Access it as often as needed, put it to use, exercise it, spread it around, use it to draw men to Me, to carry out the plan I put before you. (End of excerpts of ML #3318:31-37, GN 922.)

(Our Accountability [#3452])