It’s a SACRIFICE

"I will not give unto the Lord of that which hath cost me nothing!" (2Sam.24:24) He was saying, "It's got to hurt to be worth something!

It's got to be a sacrifice!"

What is a sacrifice? It's something you lay on the altar!

It's something you kill! But you have got to keep doing it every day!

There are so few who are willing to live their lives in sacrifice, who are willing to put aside all of their own desires and preferences except one--the desire to serve Me and love Me and be My face to the world. Your revolutionary heritage is an essential part of My face. Your obedience to Me, your willingness to live dropped out of the System--that's what makes the Family what it is. And it has become more and more lacking, as you have become more and more compromised and conformed to the System.

So as you read this, realize the goals:

1) To get back to the revolutionary heritage of obedience, dedication, not caring what the world thinks or how it does things. This will make you a better witness, a stronger disciple, and a happier and more fulfilled individual.
2) To be free of the weights and conformities the Enemy would put on you, which only make it harder for you to do your job.
3) And, remember also the blessings--the great, wonderful, eternal blessings that obedience brings.

(Shooting Straight, Part 1 [#3499])

Give till it hurts then you’ll know that you are winning in the battle against your selfishness

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom.12:1).

3. I realized once again that the long hours of work, the tiredness, and the difficult decisions to make are all part of my reasonable service, part of presenting myself a living sacrifice before the Lord. It's the dying daily part of our job. As Dad said, "**Daily dying is the hardest kind** because you do it a thousand times, whereas at the end of your life the final death is nothing by comparison. Your final death is your graduation! This **slow death of dying a little each day--that's what takes a lot of guts**!"

Going back to what I mentioned earlier: The verse that comes right after "present your bodies a living sacrifice" is "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom.12:2). That verse applies well to having the right perspective on the sacrifices that the Lord asks us to make. If you have the right perspective, one that is realistic and yet also positive and praiseful, it can make a big difference. When your perspective is renewed and realigned with the Lord's, it does literally transform your life.

So whenever you are tempted to feel that life is too rough, or the battles are too heavy, or that we really shouldn't have this much hard work, you should try to look at the sacrifices you have to make through this new perspective, which will help you to see things more positively.

I think Mama is going to be happy to hear me say this, as it goes along with something she tried to teach me a long time ago.

Years ago (a couple of decades ago, actually), when I would be down in the mouth about things, complaining about this and that, Mama would give me what I called "the prison talk." She'd say, "If you think things are difficult for you, just imagine what it was like for those missionaries of the past who were put in prison and had to suffer for years at a time. Then you'd see that compared to their troubles, yours aren't so bad." Well, I didn't really like it when she told me this, and eventually I explained to her that her telling me this didn't really help me all that much. So she

stopped saying that to me. But, lo and behold, all these years later I'm finally getting the point.

Understanding what others faced, the sacrifices they made, the hard lives that they lived, and the impact that their fortitude and stick-to-itiveness had on the world--not only the world of their day, but on **today's** world due to their stand of faith--has helped me put my life and work in perspective. In fact, it has helped me to face my duties with more joy, realizing that it's through the hard work, through doing whatever job is necessary, that I'm helping to move the Family forward and that progress is brought about and victories are won.

Fight the good fight of faith (1Tim.6:12).

I have *fought* a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith (2Tim.4:7).

23. The apostle Paul was definitely someone who experienced a great deal of trial and anguish in his service to the Lord. He said:

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches (2Cor.11:25-28).

24. But through all that Paul experienced and endured, the physical deprivations, the spiritual battles and tribulations, he stayed focused on the heavenly vision. Even when he told it like it was, "…we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life," he sums up their situation with a statement of praise, a declaration of faith: "Who delivered us…, and doth deliver: in Whom we trust that He will yet deliver us" (2Cor.1:8,10).

25. I'm sure Paul had to make a conscious choice to have a positive perspective, and to look at the sacrifices and the cost of serving Jesus with such faith and praise. Listen to some of the other things he said.

None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy… (Acts 20:24).

We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope. And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost… (Rom.5:3-5).

I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom.8:18).

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom.8:35-39).

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer (Rom.12:12).

I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation (2Cor.7:4b).

…Our flesh had no rest, … we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.

Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us… (2Cor.7:5,6).

…Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal (2Cor.4:16-18).

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not (2Cor.4:1).

And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong (2Cor.12:9,10).

I will very gladly spend and be spent for you (2Cor.12:15).

Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil.1:6).

To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil.1:21).

…What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

…I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings… (Phil.3:7-8,10).

Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it (1Th.5:24).

For 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 (2Tim.1:12b).

Those are beautiful verses, very meaningful. They really help to present a new perspective on the life of service and sacrifice, don't they?(Living Sacrifice, A [#3761])

What it means to give thanks

(Question: Oh, that really hurt to see. It really hurts my heart. I'm trying to praise now. Talk to me. It broke me.)

(Jesus speaking:) This is nothing, My darling, compared to the pain I feel when you don't praise Me for all the good that I do day after day. It hurts like something you've never experienced.

Heal Me and so I can heal them.

Comfort Me with praise.

(Question: Tell me about this pain?)

(Jesus speaking:) It hurts, because it hurts you. I am in pain when I see the enemy hurting you. It hurt you so bad to see and to feel these pains, so is the pain the same for Me, when I see you being harmed with every thrust when you are not, or because you have not, praised and upheld the weapon of praise.

I am in pain when I see you are.

(Question: What do you mean by praise, what do I need to do differently. I've been trying to extreme praise no matter what, like saying "Thank You for__" whatever it is that I don't like or that is hard. What do I need to do differently, or not be doing?)

(Jesus speaking:) In everything give thanks. **To "give" means that it might be a sacrifice**; it might cost you something.

Sometimes to praise means you have to first let go of something you were hoping for, holding on to, as you see something turn to ashes. But let it go and praise for the fire. Maybe the light of the burning thing you so wanted to keep will instead help light someone's way home.

So it's hard to praise when you haven't yet given up the thing that you are sad about. Give it and praise. Move on. Trust that all things, and I mean all things, can and will work together for your good.

So give it up, and then you'll be happier to be around. You'll talk less, and that means less internal fires will be burning, gnawing on hearts and minds because of what you said. You'll get less uptight about things when they go wrong.

I know it's hard to let it go, but do it and you'll have more to praise about.

Just trust Me. Release this and then you can spot the good more than the troubles. If you are always wanting things to be perfect, that is what you will be looking for—the imperfections, as if it's a project for you to work on, like finding bugs in a program.

But if you are instead just happy for anything going right at all, you'll be glad to see these things.

Let it go. Then you can "give thanks".

So if you feel beaten down and are having a hard time praising, see what you need to "give up" so your arms can be free again to praise.

Cut the strings to things of a different nature that you want. Let it go, and keep offering the sacrifice of praise. **And it IS a sacrifice (hehe)**, because it takes giving up, and giving in to your Lord and King. But if it keeps you humble, this is a good thing. (Kori)

The truth isn't popular.

The truth isn't comfortable.

The truth isn't easy.

(But, hey the secret is…it isn't easy, but it's still the truth, why live a lie just because it's easier)

That's a pretty accepted fact, isn't it? It's always been that way. The way of the fighter for truth and justice is known to not be the way of comfort, ease, and personal happiness and security. The road of truth, the road which a disciple or anyone seeking to make a difference in the world must travel, is a road of challenges, of sacrifices, and often of hardship. That's just the way I've made it.

The life of faith is a life of constant tests, of constant stretching, of giving and sacrificing. Not everyone is called to that life. For some people it's just too much, it's too difficult

My way is both the way of sacrifice and death to self, but also the way of the greatest reward and joy--not necessarily the greatest comfort or ease, but there's simply nothing that can be compared with the joy of knowing that you

have the truth, that you are living for a cause that is right, and that you are giving of yourself toward eternal values and treasures. That's something that you have to decide for yourself.
You have to determine personally whether that matters enough to you that you're willing to dedicate your life toward it . Nothing I say will convince you. Nothing that anyone says will convince you. You must decide for yourself, "Is this worth it? Is it worth it to me to be a disciple, to give my all for Jesus, to believe in the truths that have been revealed to me, to forsake myself, to yield all to the Lord and to go His way, with the goal of winning others to Him and helping them find the truth and eternal salvation and happiness?"

If it is worth it to you, then to hell with all the nagging voices of "reason" that try to persuade you that there's another better path! And if it's not worth it to you, then you're in the wrong place. That's what it all comes down to. That's the heart of the matter here. That's the bottom line. The rewards of serving yourself and going your own way might be apparent and perhaps show their "fruit" more quickly in the here and now, but the rewards of serving Me and going My way are eternal!
(Issues, Part 17 [#3480])

21-4-21

It can't be easy it has to be a sacrifice and it has to be hard. You have to feel like you don't want to go on; you have to feel hopeless and lost at some point…if it was all given to you and if it was easy for you to reach and find Me what testimony would that be? What story would that be? How would that prove My power? Your mission on earth includes proving I am what I say…and if it's too easy what testimony is that? If the sacrifice isn't costly then what is the point of saying that I am so wonderful and so powerful, it didn't take much to get where you are so whatever you are special. The rest of world doesn't have it handed to them, why should you? This is where you prove Me to the world and to the universe. This is your declaration of faith to the worlds. And for My grace and love to be seen that declaration has to be given through great sacrifice and pain

Look up the word sacrifice:

1. An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to God

2. Christ's offering of Himself in the Crucifixion

3. Give up something valued for the sake of other considerations

Similar: give up, abandon, surrender, forgo, renounce, forfeit, relinquish, resign, sign away, yield, let go

Meaning : the act of giving up something you want to keep especially in order to get or do something else or to help someone else

I want you to be able to say in Heaven…He is Who He says He is. I want to be proved by you. But how can you if I am not all you have left?

Meaning this is going to cost you…cost means you are going to pay something to get Me

I know you want to pay this price even in the fickleness of your heart you hold back, so I will keep bringing you back to this place, this altar where you put it to death.

Pleasure Seekers or Frontline Soldiers?

1. ***(Jesus speaking:)*** **I call you to war!** I am transforming the children of David, My full-time disciples, from reserve units to My frontline soldiers! This is a battle cry! He that has ears to hear, let him hear! Let him awake to the sound of the trumpet and go forth for God and country to conquer!

2. You've felt you were fully occupied with your calling of serving Me. But now I call out you who would give more or sacrifice more. I'm calling you to be as the great men and women of accomplishment who have gone before you.
For they gave until there was nothing left of themselves, they worked at all hours when necessary, they toiled when they were

exhausted--all because they were driven with a vision, a goal, something greater and bigger than their immediate concerns.

3. You've seen many such examples in movies and have read the life stories of some of these people. I know they've inspired you, and you walked away with a feeling of great admiration and respect for the determination and dedication of such people who went down in history as great inventors, pioneers, missionaries, generals, teachers, athletes, soldiers. Those who made a difference in the world had some things in common, regardless of what their quest was. There were qualities in their character that motivated them, that compelled them to greatness.

4. They all had a vision that they readily believed was possible.
Not only did they feel it was possible, but to them it was worth everything.
They were willing to make whatever sacrifice to attain the goal.
They were passionate in their labors, not casual.
They didn't listen to those who said it couldn't be done.
They labored even when they didn't feel like it, knowing the shortness of time.
Their personal desires and needs took second place to their work.
They didn't concern themselves with the opinions of others, peer pressure, or the status quo.

5. They endured many failures and defeats before they eventually succeeded. They had enemies as well as supporters and friends. There were times when they doubted themselves, when they fell into discouragement, but they rose again. They gave up a lot in order to accomplish something great. They didn't live lives of comfort; there was physical sacrifice, pain, and exhaustion. Many sought Me, privately or publicly.

6. If you were to study the lives of great men and women who bucked the tide and accomplished great things in their fields, you would see that they led lives of sacrifice. Theirs were not easy lives. They narrowed their activities and judiciously guarded their time in order to preserve their strength and energy for that which really mattered. They didn't "play" at their mission. They didn't fiddle around and take it easy, entertaining a come-what-may attitude. They were consumed with achieving the goals before them, and most of their waking hours were spent thinking, experimenting, training, teaching, pushing, working and doing whatever they could to succeed.

7. Everyone who has ever done anything great has had to give up something great. There are no easy paths to greatness. There is no simple, casual, risk-free way to unusual accomplishment. Everything in life that is really worth something is going to cost you--a lot! If these men and women of the world were able to make such sacrifices and were rewarded with such victory through perseverance, think of what could be accomplished by you who have the goal of eternal salvation of all mankind, were you to take on the same qualities and determination!

8. This is a message that each of you of My children of David would do well to take to heart. There are many of you, My brides, who are dedicated and who have given much. But with "the good life" of My abundant supply there has also crept in a type of self-indulgence and a feeling that you deserve a certain amount of comfort and independence. While I am good to My children and I do supply even many blessings beyond mere needs, I would hope that My full-time disciples would keep these things in perspective so they don't take too great a position in their lives.

9. I have called you to be one of those truly great people, someone who accomplishes something extraordinary. But like those I've mentioned, and like thousands of other heroes who went down in history and are remembered today, it won't come easy. Meditate on the sacrifices some of My great missionaries of old endured. See how they gave their health, the lives of their mates and children, their ties to loved ones at home, even their lives for the lost. By comparison, the children of David have given little, but that will change with time.

10. The circumstances will eventually be such that you will be driven, you will push and give and die daily! You will be overwhelmed with the need. Prepare to give your life. Prepare to live a hero's life, which is martyrdom.

11. Remember, you are warriors, and I call you to the front line! Things will never be the same! *(End of message from Jesus.)*

How Much Are You Willing to Give?

12. ***(Jesus speaking:)*** **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.

13. There are slaves and servants in the world today who do this for their worldly masters. If their master says "do this," they do it; if they say "do that," they do it.

14. And really, that's what a true disciple of Mine does. Of course, 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.

15. 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.

16. 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. 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.

17. 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 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."

18. 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])

The Lord in some ways sets us free, but in other ways He binds us & ties us to Himself.

We're love slaves, the best kind of slavery in the World!--We never want to be free to do anything but serve Jesus forever for love!

Freedom costs something. It usually entails sacrifice & hard work & a real battle to stay free. (Freedom [#044])

What do you want to give your life to? What are you going to do? Are you just gonna sit there and keep saying with your mouth that you are disciple or are you going to get up and do something about it. Are you going to challenge yourself to change? Are you going stir up the places in your heart that have been unyielded to the Lord? Are you going uncover every stone before the Lord, so He can look everywhere and tell you exactly what has to go and what you have to forsake. It's not an easy thing or like an overnight occurrence. It takes time to undress your heart before Jesus, but that is what He is asking you to do, so you might claim what He is offering you and that you might drop and cast aside all that the devil is offering you.

YOU NEVER HAVE A VICTORY WITHOUT A BATTLE, and there are some battles you have to fight your whole life until your dying day!

2. But you have to keep getting the victory! Once the Lord humbles you, He has to keep humbling you--He's gotta keep you humble. You can't just "forsake all" once and for all. (See Luke 14:33.)

3. You've got to keep "forsaking all" every day! You can't just be a martyr one day, you're a martyr all your life! You have to keep leaving Egypt every day, or you're going to build up a new Egypt. It's something you have to do almost every day--"die daily." (1Cor.15:31)

4. LIFE FOR THE LORD IS NOT SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH YOU JUST SAY, "WELL, HALLELUJAH! I MADE THAT VICTORY! I got over that, now I'm free! I don't have to forsake all anymore, I don't have to hurt anymore!

5. "I don't have to suffer anymore! I've got the victory! I've won the battle and war is over, and now I'm going to settle down and be selfish and unsacrificial and enjoy life!" But David said,

6. "I will not give unto the Lord of that which hath cost me nothing!" (2Sam.24:24) He was saying, "It's got to hurt to be worth something! It's got to be a sacrifice!" What is a sacrifice? It's something you lay on the altar! It's something you kill! But you have got to keep doing it every day!

7. Every day He'll probably have you sacrifice a little more to see if He can trust you with more responsibility, if you can become stronger and tougher and a better fighter. He'll give you more, and He'll trust you with more if He finds out you can give up more, if He finds out you wont get so attached to it that you won't give it up.

8. And when you give up something for the Lord, and then if later it is good for you, the Lord will return it again some day when He can trust you with it.

9. But if you are stubborn and rebellious, He's apt to take it away from you entirely and forever, if you're selfish and wont give it up. If you are not willing to make it a free-will offering to the Lord, then God will take a collection and take it away from you.

10. YOU HAVE TO FIGHT THE DEVIL AND YOUR OLD SELF EVERY DAY! You are a new creature, yes!--But boy, how that old self likes to try to pop up again!

11. It's a battle every day--especially with your besetting sins--"the weights and the sins that so easily beset you" (Heb.12:1), like your selfishness and laziness and jealousy.

12. You never stop battling, you never stop winning victories, you never stop progressing or you'll backslide! You can never stand still. You don't just get the victory once and for all over some besetting sin, you have to keep fighting it. But the more you win, the easier it gets, with His help.--On that one!

13. Either you are growing or you are dying! It's all or nothing at all! Once you've started on this road, there is no turning back, or you'll turn into a pillar of salt, solidify and die! (Gen.19:26) "Remember Lots wife!" (Luke 17:32)

14. You gotta keep going, you gotta keep sacrificing, you gotta keep forsaking, gotta keep fighting everyday!

15. (Maria: Well, what's the end purpose that the Lord's trying to bring about by making you sacrifice more and more every day? What's that supposed to do?)

16. IT COMES DOWN TO THIS WHOLE THING OF LIFE: IT IS TO PREPARE YOU FOR THE NEXT LIFE, when in the Millennium you are going to have to learn how to run the whole world over a bunch of wicked, stubborn, rebellious people!

17. We're just like little children spiritually. Every day a child has to eat a little more. Yesterday's food is not enough for today. Yesterday's exercise and play and work is not enough for today.

18. He's trying to make you stronger every day and make you able to give a little more, sacrifice a little more, suffer little more, fight a little more, grow a little more!

19. He wants you to grow into the full stature of a full-grown mature Christian that is a real fighter for the Lord and a real soldier and able to really stand a lot of responsibility, a lot of suffering, a lot of giving, and can do a big job, not just little ones.

20. SO FOR GOD'S SAKE, LET'S LEARN OUR LESSON TODAY and get it down pat so we don't have to learn this one over again tomorrow! Amen? Praise the Lord!

21. But don't get me wrong! Some things do get easier! You don't usually have to fight the same battles over again if you get the victory! Otherwise it would be too hard and a losing game!

22. God bless you and help you gain greater victories every day! It's really thrilling to look back and see your own progress!--To look back down that rugged mountain road you've just come over and to see you're really getting somewhere!

23. But it's even more to look forward and up to heights you're soon to attain and views you're soon to thrill to if you keep fighting, climbing, winning and don't quit! (Greater Victories)

5. The Enemy's trying hard to get you to quit and give up, attacking you with his fiery darts of doubt, discouragement and disillusionment. If he can convince you that you're not much use to the Lord and the Family and aren't doing much for Him anyway, it's much easier for the Enemy to then try to persuade you to leave altogether, because--he tells you--it won't make any difference. He tells you that things will be easier for you; you'll (supposedly) get to do things that Family policies and your responsibilities don't allow or give you time for; you'll (supposedly) be free from anyone telling you what to do (except your System boss and the government, of course); and that you'll generally have to make less sacrifices and give up less.

6. It's true that life for the Lord, and especially living and working communally as the Lord has shown us to do, is a life of sacrifice. As Dad put it so well in "Mountain Men," it's hard work climbing mountains, and there are lots of scratches and bumps. It's sometimes cold and windy and a rough ascent. So I can understand why you'd sometimes be tempted with thoughts of giving up the climb and going back down to the comforts of the valley where you figure you'll have it easier--at least it looks that way on the surface.

7. So the first thing that I'd like to tell those of you who've been hit at some time or other with the thought of leaving the Lord's service--which is probably most or even all of you--is: Don't get condemned about it! It's happened to everyone at some time or another, and it even happened to Jesus! The Devil tempted Him by offering Him all the kingdoms of the world if He would just give up His mission, surrender His crown, and quit His job for His Father, God.

8. But Jesus socked the Devil back with the Scriptures and won the battle! And you can too if you resist the Enemy, hold on to the Lord for dear life, and call out for His help to keep holding on when you feel like you can't hold on anymore. If you commit your life to the Lord and take a stand that you're going to keep climbing that mountain come what may--rain or shine, bumps, scrapes and bruises included--the Lord will give you the strength to keep going and reach the top. And what a victory that will be! You may have been more comfortable in the valley, but the things you'll experience on the mountain, the valley people can only dream of!

9. "What do you hear on the mountain? You hear things that are going to echo around the world! What do you hear in the stillness? Whispers that are going to change the course of history! On the mountain you're the first to see the sun rise and the last to see it set! You see the full circle of God's glorious creation. You see the world in its proper perspective with range after range to be conquered and a world beyond the horizon of normal men!--A world beyond their vision and their horizon.

10. "You see distant peaks yet to be climbed! You see distant valleys yet to be crossed. You see things that the men in the valleys can never see.--Can't even comprehend because they can't see it! And you can see the 360-degree circumference of the total

horizon--the entire scope! It's like seeing all of life from its beginning to its end and understanding. You feel like you're living in eternity; whereas, down below they're living in time" (ML #B:5,16).(Hold onto your crown)

I see Your gentle, tender eyes and feel Your unconditional Love. I thank You for Your Love

You and I often see things so differently. You look at it as blessed to have a more carefree or obviously successful life with fewer problems, difficulties or afflictions. I look at it as being better to have a full life--one that is rich in faith, depth of spirit, understanding, sacrificial love and concern for others, an intimate relationship with Me, inner spiritual strength, and a tender heart. And often these treasures of spirit, these priceless qualities, don't come without trials, suffering, or surviving great difficulties.
In Heaven, everyone will lead charmed lives. There will be no more suffering, sadness, or times when you have to "walk by faith" through very difficult circumstances. But the attributes you gain through those difficult conditions now will be with you for eternity. Now is your chance to gain those virtues, through experiences which you will only have on Earth. Although there are difficulties, they lead to precious lessons, spiritual "medals of honour" which go to those who pass through the fire and endure the tests.

(Prophecy:) "Precious in My sight is the death of My saints--the death to self, the death to sin, the death to thine own ways. And man feareth death, but I say unto thee, fear it not; for from this death springs forth the beauty of life, the beauty of resurrection, the beauty of My Spirit. For this death to self and the decision to say, `Yes, I will go to the cross; yes, I will go to the flame; yes, I will go through the flood,' is what bringeth forth the beauty of the resurrection and of the life to come. Without this death there can be no resurrection. The laying down of thy life, thy will and thy desires--even though thou seest not what is beyond the grave--is the step of faith that bringeth forth the beauteous resurrection of My Spirit in thy life.

144. "For without faith it is impossible to please Me. And if thou canst see the way, or if thou knowest all that is ahead, then the decision is not one of faith, but one of knowledge and one of understanding and one of clarity. But when thou seest not what is ahead, when thou lookest forth and seest only darkness and knowest not where the light is or when it shall come or from whence it shall come, but thou sayest, `Yes, I will follow anyway, and I will take the step because Thou hast said this is what I must do, this is what Thou requirest of me,' this is great faith and it doth greatly please Me. And because I am well pleased with thee, so will I pour forth unto thee all that thou hast asked for. So shall I strengthen thee and so shall I lift thee up, and so shall I pour forth unto thee My Spirit and My love, My compassion and My understanding. And so shall I bring thee into the rest of My Spirit that thou seekest.

145. "For he that is willing to say `yes' unto Me will find that I will say `yes' unto him. And he that is willing to give his heart unto Me will find that I will give unto him his heart's desire. As thou hast laid down thy life and hast said, `Take me,' so will I take up thy life, and so will I strengthen thee, and so will I give thee the desires of thine heart. For he that pleaseth Me shall be pleased of Me, and shall receive of Me the blessings that I can pour forth, that I will pour forth, for thy step of faith.

146. "Though thou mayest not see it at this point, the time will come when thou wilt clearly see and will clearly understand and wilt glorify Me for the miracles that I have done, and thou shalt see the power of saying `yes' unto Me. For he that withholdeth not will find that I withhold not from him, and that I give faith in great abundance--a great abundance of love, of care, of compassion, of joy, of My Spirit, and the power of My might.

147. "For thou hast come unto Me with thy vessel completely empty, saying, `I have no more herein to succor myself. I have no more herein to strengthen myself. I have no more herein to feed myself.' Thou hast come unto Me and begged, so now I pour forth unto thy vessel and fill it full to overflowing. I will fill thy vessel with My strength and My succor and My food. And thou shalt be strengthened, encouraged and uplifted, and I shall restore thy faith unto thee in a new and greater way, for thou shalt have the faith of the faithless, of those who have come to the end of their own strength and have found that I am He that is the father of faith, the author and finisher of thy faith. And I will pour forth unto thee in great abundance. I shall lift thee up and comfort thee, and I shall heal thee. And thou shalt go forth in the power and strength of My might that thou mayest accomplish all that I have chosen for thee to do. Such is the power of saying `yes' unto Me." *(End of prophecy.) (Let Jesus Bear the Weight! [#2987])*

What if the apostle Paul refused to do anything that got him hurt? Did he? No, because he wanted to “win Christ” as he put it. It was pain for gain. With pain comes gain.

Let it go. Let yourself get hurt, if it is when doing what Jesus asked you to do. Yes, it’s used to steer you to doing the right thing, and used as a punishment. But that’s not all. Pain isn’t just to stop you from doing this or that, but to strengthen you as well.

So when you flare up with a “how dare you touch my precious self—you trespasser” when it was just a mistake, that means you care a bit too much about yourself. You are into “saving your life” rather than saying to Jesus, “It’s all up for grabs, have every part of me, in whatever condition You want it.”

To surrender to being hurt, even time and again, while in the line of duty, is deep humility, and it comes at a great cost. But costly gifts gain in value when given to Jesus.

Say you let Him use you in a way that gets you or someone you love broken down in health. Was it wrong? Or was it a “loved not their lives unto the death” sort of mentality. You can’t just have a posh life and then “bing!” suddenly you die for the Lord and get that glorious crown. No, you have to be willing to go through any level of giving up yourself to pain and suffering, until you are a hair line away from death. And those levels of giving yourself, your very body, are far more of a cost than suddenly dying for Jesus.

(Jesus speaking:) Think again of Paul and all the near deaths I allowed him to go through. He just kept going, and didn’t hold it against Me. He got his “lashes” in this life, and a crown in the next. He held nothing back from Me, not his body, not his time, not his freedom, not his friends and who he worked with or said good bye to, not his possessions. He was an example of truly giving all.

And who did he hold up as his heroes? The prophets who went on before him, and all they endured. He could think of anyone who had suffered, and it would give him courage that he hadn’t gone through as much as they. That’s what “Fox’s book of Martyrs” did, was give people the faith that they too could endure.

So darling, can you give Me your body? Not just for pleasure, but for pain to help you learn deep things? Just as I did? Will you accept the gift of pain when it graces your well-kept frame? When a rock hits your vase and smashes it and you cry out “look out what you are doing—I’ll fall to pieces”, can you rather be glad that I can then make a better vessel out of you?

That’s what you are here to learn, besides to love and to learn of Me—to learn through sufferings. I know it’s one of the vaults you have guarded the most fiercely. Not a soul was to touch the temple of pain. The guards, the fierce guards are at the door. But that needs to change if you wish to be fully used, and fully filled by My spirit. You can’t have “no go” zones.

Will you allow Me entrance to that gold-plated door that leads to the tools of pain used to reshape a person? It will only be for a time.

I could melt the door down of course and walk in and shake up the place. But it will be more effective if you were to tell the guards to step aside and let Me through, give Me the key, and come on inside with Me. Sit by the fire while I heat up the various instruments that will be used to shape and to carve lovely designs on you.

I don’t want there to be this strong box, this vault in your soul that no one can touch or you explode. There are others, but I’m bringing this to light these days. Because once this land or area is conquered and the fear is gone, you’ll be at so much more peace. It’s the fear that needs to go.

Let yourself go into My hands and let Me use whatever tools are needed to reshape you. Okay?

Remember when I asked you to take the humble way of letting the tool of love be used? It has helped you much. You let go. I don’t want fear to control you and make you so uptight. The pain won’t be as bad as constantly fearing you will get hurt. That’s actually hurting you.

Give all to Me. Allow yourself to get hurt sometimes, or to do things that risk you being so. Let the guard dogs go. Fling open the door to this well guarded place and let Me use this room anytime I see fit, using whatever tools or implements will make you the most useful.

Why should I see you limping around, when I can operate and remove something quickly?

Yes, pain has a way of moving you along quickly. To where? To the healing station. You can't get there unless you are worked on first. Yes, I prod. I prick. I gouge out the evil that has worked its way into a soul. Yes, I lash. Yes I stipe and strike. And the souls that allow Me to do as I wish, when I wish, good or bad, hurt or heal, end up being the shiny winners, as I only did that which would make them fast track.

Do you want to hold on to the things that are precious to you—like yourself, primarily—in stead of reaching for the prize?

It's the season of forsaking, remember? Let go of holding on to yourself, your very own body. Let Me do what I will with you, until it's time to release you from the room of "reshaping".

Pain is gain in My eyes, just as it was for Me when I walked the Earth, and so it might be the key to your spiritual progress (Kori)

PHI.3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Paul : I count it a loss. Yes, it takes saying that. It takes that, when you are facing sacrifice…"I count it a loss to win Christ." These smaller sacrifices are preparing you for what the future holds. But will it ever be too much to endure for His sake? Nay, it can never be too great a pain, too great a sacrifice, for what is this life if not sacrifice? Why come to Earth at all if you aren't prepared to give? Yes I know you don't remember, but you did decide, and you did leave home just to learn down here in this hard, hard place. You didn't leave the warmth of Heaven just to try to warm yourself on Earth. No, you are away on a mission, a tough journey, so what is the point of trying to avoid sacrifice or uncomfortableness? He didn't, because He knew what He was called to do. So when you see the stones flying in your direction…don't act so surprised or even offended. When it's time to start walking and go on that tough journey…don't try to escape or avoid what you know will be difficult. This life is short but hard, so make it worth the trouble by giving yourself unto the death. What is hard? What is a sacrifice for you? Don't ever say you could never do something, because by and by you might find yourself in that very situation. Believe it or not…before I was converted, I always feared physical suffering…I had seen stoning before, and it was horrible, but that just proves that it wasn't me. It was the love of Jesus that set me free to be and do whatever was needed. It can be like that for you too. The love of Christ can constrain you till the point you embrace sacrifice and look for ways to give of yourself to Jesus and others. Not everything is a monumental sacrifice either; it could just be cheerfulness when you feel grumpy. Smiling when you are upset is a sacrifice, but it is these sacrifices that pave the way for the real crucifixions. I know you want to be the best for Jesus, but it is a step-by-step process. Sacrificing your desires, sacrificing what you think and what you feel are all the steps you have to take. It's a daily thing…breathe sacrifice, and you'll be the perfect bride of Christ. Because to think of others and to think of Christ instead of yourself is a sacrifice in itself, and that is what it will take to fulfill your mission here on this earth. To forget your own wellbeing and focus solely on someone else's is a sacrifice. It doesn't leave much time for wound healing or comfort of self in one's own sorrow, just like when I was stoned that day, the love of the sheep and the love of Christ picked me up, and I got up when others couldn't. I was so convinced that I had my mission to fulfill that nothing could stop me, not even those stones. Of course it was His will and supernatural power, but I had to choose to get up. I simply could have given in and said "It's too much; I think I deserve to die now" like some of you do when it gets a bit hard. But I was constrained by His love, My desperate love for Him overcame death.

ACT.14:18,19 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having

stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, <u>he rose up</u>, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Yes, now it's your turn to rise up. Rise up and claim the life you should be living for Him. It's not time to fall down and say it's too much. The sacrifices are what make you see that all you needed in the beginning was Jesus. They have a way of ripping down unrealistic fears and pulling away selfishness of man. But first you have to step out of your comfortable place; you have to put yourself in that position even if you feel you won't be able to rise up. Take hold of what is your calling; if it kills let it kill. The less of you there is when you get Home the better. You see, I was stubborn, I had a lot of pride, Jesus had to beat out of me. I know you aren't used to seeing that way. Yes, I was persecuted for righteousness sake, and yes, it was a righteous cause, but sometimes it was because I was stubborn and the Lord knew I needed it. So in a way it was both for a witness and for me personally, to break me and crush me. No, I wasn't born the "Apostle Paul." I was broken and crushed so I could be poured into that mould. It wasn't me; it was the Love of Christ and that is what caused me to rise up when others couldn't. Embrace the sacrifice and allow the pain to melt you down so you can fit into the image of Christ. There isn't room for both of you in the body of Christ…only the melted you can hope to live with Christ. So take the meltings and everything asked of you as a priceless privilege. Go into the enemy's camp and look for ways to make trouble for him, I was always looking for ways to hurt Satan's cause, so must you be. If you are always trying to protect yourself from hurt then you aren't going to be much good to His cause. He needs burnables and people who aren't afraid to speak the words "I count it a loss." Don't avoid hard things, because often that is what you need to make you fight like you have never fought before. Battles bring out the fighter in you, so put yourself in the position to sacrifice yourself and your pride, and Jesus will meet you. Come out from under your pillow and face the storm like a disciple.

If you don't know SACRIFICE, then you don't know JESUS, because that is what takes to love wholly and Jesus Himself is love and real love takes SACRIFICE.

2COR.5:14 for the love of the Christ doth constrain us, having judged thus: that if one for all died, then the whole died,

2COR.5:15 and for all he died, **<u>that those living, no more to themselves</u>** may live**<u>, but to him</u>** who died for them, and was raised again.