Staying Open to Shepherding

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Correction is My personal loving care and compliment for you. Yet is difficult for My children to receive for various reasons. Many have a misconception about Godly correction and instruction, thinking that it indicates some kind of backsliding or failure on their part. Others have a fear of correction and instruction, perhaps because they've experienced unloving correction in the past. For some it is difficult because of their pride. They are being told they are wrong or did something the wrong way, and that is almost always hard to receive. For others it is difficult because of the way correction was delivered in the past, with stern looks, with shouting, with names and labels that hurt, and with forgiveness granted in word but not in deed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Those who receive more correction are in a perfect situation for more growth. Those who are not touchy, sensitive, or

easily offended by instruction, but want it and listen to it, are the ones who are moving forward with My Spirit and are way up in front. But if you're quick to take offense at correction and instruction from Me, your shepherds, or your peers, you're hurting yourself, because it blocks the flow of instruction. It blocks the flow of My spirit of instruction in your life, which will give you the truth, which will give you the power to progress and change.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Well, that's how it works, folks. The Lord raises up those who He knows are right for the job, and He gives them the

anointing for it, as they're yielded to His training. Of course, it's a bit difficult and takes time to adjust to having someone get involved in your personal life, but look at it as coming from the Lord's hand. He's the One with the master plan, and He's got it all figured out.

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

It might be the most painful thing to discuss, and you feel that it's your own little life, they're your kids, it's your marriage, it's your sex life, it's your faith. Well, it's true that it does involve you primarily, but in our Homes, everything affects others. What goes on in your life definitely does affect others for good or bad. You might think you're hiding it or containing it pretty well, but if something's not right, it's affecting at least you, and you affect your Home. Not only that, but if you're harboring sin or compromise in one area of your life, it will bleed over into other areas in your spiritual life. If you resist shepherding in one area, eventually you'll be closed off to shepherding more and more, till it takes you right out of the Family.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I know that shepherding can be difficult to receive at times. You have your heart set on doing something, and then someone comes along and asks if you've heard from Me or checked with Me via any of the several ways to know My will. Your pride

flares up that someone could question your choice, and stubbornness kicks in, an unwillingness to even consider changing your ways.

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

For these reasons, it's important to be on guard against sensitivity, and to actively resist it whenever you feel it creeping in. Sensitivity blocks the free flow of counsel, and it can breed stubbornness and unyieldedness (being unwilling to yield to the Lord or others). When you're going your own way rather than Mine, you move out of the safe zone of My will and into the danger zone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hindrances to Receiving Shepherding

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jesus said that He must increase and that you must decrease (John 3:30). What He is saying is that what you want for yourself in your life, or your own will, must decrease, so that what He wants in your life can increase. Receiving shepherding, which can guide you in how you can decrease so that Jesus can increase, is what all His true children need and want. It requires that decision of putting the Lord first, putting the Lord's wants before your own.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overcoming sensitivity and being willing to shepherd each other all boils down to love. How much love do you have for your fellow men? Do you love them enough to have the humility to point out something that they're doing that could need some adjustment? Do you have enough love to receive it when they point out something to you? It's a two-way street, My loves, and I want to see it get some traffic!

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

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

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

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

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