Taking Quality Time with the Lord

Keeping Him in First Place

Faithful, consistent, quality time with Me is the key to everything else in life. It's the key to productivity. It's the key to wisdom. It's the key to having your works remain, rather than being destroyed by the first opposing storm (Mat.7:24-27). It's the key to My blessing. It's the key to leading a balanced life. It's the key to happiness. It's the key to loving and fruitful relationships with co-workers or loved ones. It's the key to everything good!

It's a law of the spirit that when you put Me in first place, everything else falls into line. It's a promise I've given over and over to My children throughout history: "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing," and, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these other things will be added unto you" (Psa.34:10; Mat.6:33).

If you haven't yet made quality time with Me a habit in your life, start today! Make a commitment. Make it sacred. Set aside the time and follow through at all costs.

If you have made it a habit, then drink deeply from My Words now and let them encourage you that by putting Me first each day, you're doing the most important thing. You never lose by giving Me your best, My loves. Your Word time is the tithe of your time to Me, and just as tithing your money brings financial blessings because it's a principle of the spirit, so tithing your time by setting time aside daily for Me and My Word brings down My blessings on your entire life.

My Word cannot be overrated. It is THE secret! [1]

The ideal is to become addicted to getting a good dose of Me, so that even if you're not able to get it during your preferred time, you will still seek it out and go after it.

You have to want that time with Me; you have to crave it! I want you to try your hardest to build a good habit of spending time with Me at a regular time every day; but in the event that it isn't quality time, I want your spirit to still reach for Me, to be motivated to make it up later. And I want you to be prepared to move anything and everything else in your schedule around so that it can happen. [2]

You can't let things slide, not even for a day. If this Word revolution is going to be real to you, it has to be the most important thing to you, always and every day, with no exceptions. One little exception leads to another. Remember that, and make it a personal motto to "make no exceptions!" Even if you're traveling, extremely busy, sick, or whatever the case may be, you can always find a way to have quality time with Me. Make no exceptions.

I want you to be fanatical about this! Make your time with Me your primary passion in life. Your time with Me is the proof of your dedication to Me and to being My disciple. I am your God and I will have no other gods before Me. When you make exceptions, you're saying that something else is more important than Me, and you're giving something else first place. That is nothing less than spiritual idolatry. From this time on, that's not acceptable to Me. It must stop.

I would naturally prefer that you spend time with Me because you really want to, because you hunger for it and desire it-and sometimes you will, and the more you make a habit of it, the more frequently that feeling of hunger and desire will occur. But you can't be led by your feelings, and you won't always have those feelings, even if you've made it a very good habit. So in times when you don't have the feelings of desire or need, I'd rather you do it even out of fear or duty than that you not do it at all.

I want your love, and I would rather that you are motivated to obey out of love. But even when you don't feel that motivation, I still want your time and your heart and your focus, and as long as you're giving Me that, I don't care so much how you "feel" about it.

If you're inspired about it and looking forward to it, if you're hungry for it and feel the need for it, that's great! But if you sometimes do it simply because you know that there will be consequences if you don't-or even if at times you do it dispassionately, or even somewhat begrudgingly out of a sense of duty-no matter what the case, no matter how you feel, I want you to do it. Just do it! Do it every day. Make no exceptions. Obey My commandment. [3]

If you put anything in first place before Me and My Word, if you consistently--in fact, almost all the time--enjoy other things more than you enjoy Me, then that's a danger sign. You need to get back to the basics, back to the beginning, back to the beauties of loving Me and being on-fire for Me. That's what I'm talking about.

I'm talking about that revolutionary spirit, that do-or-die spirit! I'm talking about being drunk on the Spirit! Yes, I can allow you to watch movies or do whatever it is that you enjoy, but if you put that before Me or you always like it more than you like spending time with Me, then that's the time to forsake it, at least for a while, and get back to your First Love.

If there comes a time when you realize that something in your life is more important to you than Me, then you should right away, without delay, forsake it. Only by putting Me first and keeping Me in first place above everything else--your desires, your ambitions, your work, your relationships, your fun and entertainment--will you keep that revolutionary spirit, that "I-could-lose-the-whole-world-cause-I-have-Jesus" heart, soul and spirit. [4]

No matter how much there is to do, it's unacceptable to put Me in second place. I can't and won't stand for that. I always deserve first place, no matter how many items you have on your to-do list, no matter how burdened you feel with all the work there is to do, no matter how important other things might seem to you. And if you don't keep Me in first place, you

are the one who will feel the loss.

When there's so much to do, you need My help and strength and anointing and power even more desperately than ever, not less than ever. When you have a myriad of details to take care of, and so many important work items on your plate, then you need My supernatural empowerment and discernment more than ever, not less than ever. Everything you need during busy and stressful times is found during your times with Me, and your times of reading and absorbing My Word. There is no other source.

If you're ever tempted to skip or skimp on your Word, don't do it! There's no benefit whatsoever in doing so. You're not going to get more done if you neglect Me. You're not going to accomplish more if you forget Me. You're not going to make more progress if you overlook Me and decide to forsake your time with Me and go on to other things. You'll get less done, you'll feel more drained, and you won't have My supernatural anointing and strength that you so desperately need.

So remind yourself of these three words when you're considering excusing yourself from your most important appointment of the day: "Don't do it!" I bless those who keep Me in first place, and who consider Me and their time with Me more important than anything else. (5)

(Dad speaking:) People's mindsets have got to change! They've got to realize that this is the number one priority! They've got to see that their number one, top-priority appointment every day needs to be their time with the Lord! Everyone ask themselves what's more important than that. Who is more important than that? What are they doing that is more important than their audience with the King of kings?

Let this be the official sound of the trumpet here! There's nothing more important than your time with the Lord, and if you ignore that time, you're gonna be sorry! You're gonna find yourself in a real fix!

The Lord Himself made it a prerequisite for happy, healthy and fruitful living! It's His law of prosperity! Make it sacred! Make it untouchable! Make it sacrosanct [set apart as sacred; inviolable]! Make it indispensable! Make it imperative! Make it everyone's job! And by all means, at all costs, make it happen! Do it!

Do you think that Martin Luther's example of doubling his time with the Lord when the work doubled was just a clever anecdote, or something that sounded good to say or do? Was it just some story that would tickle everyone's ears down through history or inspire them with how holy Luther was? No, this was a down-to-earth example of someone who obeyed the Lord and got double done because he spent double time with the Lord! This is a story with skin on the bones! This is real, and it's not just a nice story.

When I say that the problems are just too big, the battles are too heavy, the war is getting hotter and hotter, and you folks need to take more time in the Word, I'm not exaggerating or just using pretty words, or getting hot under the collar about nothing! I mean what I say, and I'm very serious about this!

As you know, things are not getting easier. The End is drawing closer by the day, and don't you think that it stands to reason that we should increase our ammo too, since the Devil is pulling out his big guns? We need more strength and more power to win the battles and go from strength to strength. So doesn't it seem logical to you that an increased amount of Word time would be in order?

If you folks aren't willing to trust the Lord and to obey His command to take this time with Him and in His Word, then you're going to fall flat on your faces! You're not going to last long, because you won't have the strength to go on.

If you aren't willing to take this time out of your busy schedules for Word and prayer, then you're eventually going to die on the vine and fall off through lack of nourishment and sap. If you don't receive enough nutrition, minerals, and goodness through the sap, it's just a matter of time before you'll drop off the tree. It's a matter of science; it's a fact of life.

If you want to stand strong, if you want to make it, if you want to continue on for the Lord, if you want to be all that the Lord wants you to be, if you want to overcome your problems, if you want unity, if you want love, if you want inspiration, if you want power, if you want stamina--then you're just going to have to take this time with the Lord, like it or not! (6)

Your first duty is to Me, your Husband and Lover, as My wife and bride. Everything else is secondary to our relationship and time spent with Me. I am your primary responsibility; you should seek Me first and above all else, and then everything else will be added unto you. You might think that there is so much work to be done and so many other discipleship responsibilities, but in truth I am your primary duty. Spending time with Me as My bride comes first.

It's our marriage, and you must treat it as such. What husband would like his wife to always be running off first thing in the day without spending time together, always being busy with the other work that has to be done, the cooking, the cleaning, and everything else? This is the same thing that I told Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Spending time with Me is your primary responsibility, for how can you do the Master's work without the Master's power? And to get it, you must spend time with the Master, with your Husband and Lover-Me.

Your relationship with Me should be priority-number one. It might sound illogical that I would put our time together above even My work-your service for Me. But remember that I've spoken about this before: You cannot do My work unless you have My power. You've got to take time to rest in My temple before you can go out and face the day. And if you happen to miss that time with Me and you get into your day, then you've got to make it a priority to get to it as soon as you can.

And throughout the day, ask Me for a special linkup-a connection for the day. Let our minds become one, as you take on My mind and allow Me full possession. In fact, you should be striving to do this all the time, as much as you can. It doesn't have to take hours out of your day. It's a matter of simply staying in communication with Me, asking Me everything, and letting Me do the work through you.

Having intimate time of loving Me will help you to more easily take on My mind and make this connection. We'll have a stronger linkup and be more in sync with each other. So don't be afraid to call on the key of intimate love for your times with Me. It will boost you to new highs and thrills in the spirit, which you've never experienced before. (7)

Return to your First Love, and be strengthened in My Word. If you have strayed from loving Me fervently and desiring Me above everything else, ask Me to help you return to your First Love. Ask Me to restore unto you the joy of your salvation. Make more time for Me. Fight to be close to Me. You must find that place of peace and perfect faith that you felt as a babe, when nothing else mattered but Me. Let Me lead you back there now.

Pray for a renewed hunger for My Word and a strong connection with it. The Words that I speak are spirit and life, but to fully receive this spirit and life, you must connect with these Words. When you only read My Word out of duty or for information, it will seem dull and lifeless to you. It will have an effect even then, but when you make a connection, it rings true in your heart, it thrills your soul, it spurs you to action, and you receive such an infilling of faith that nothing seems impossible, for nothing is! This is the secret of rising above power! (8)

In the end, when all is said and done, those of you who put your time with Me first will have to trust that everything in your lives depends on My blessing--your fruitfulness, your finances, your health and provision, the happiness of your children, the growth of your outside members, your unity, and the list goes on and on. Every aspect of life can only go well with My blessing. And the only way to be sure you have My full blessing is by way of obedience--and that means putting Me and My Word first. That is the first step, the primary step of obedience, for if you do that, all the other steps will fall in line. (9)

Making your time with Me a habit is something you need to really strive for. This is a point that I've been repeating for years. Your Father David often spoke of it, and all the men and women of God before him knew that it was the key to a godly life. They knew it was what would sustain them. I'm not going to give you all the reasons why it's good, as you can read about it in countless Letters from David and now Maria to you. You can also read about it in the testimonies of every truly great man or woman of God. The fact that it's necessary is not disputed. You know the need for it, so you ask yourselves why it's so hard to find the time to do it.

One of the reasons is that you're taking Me for granted, and taking advantage of My great love for you. You know that I'll understand if you miss our time together, and I do. But that doesn't change the fact that it hurts you every time you miss your time with Me. Because of that attitude you feel, "It's okay, I can fit in my time with the Lord any time." Well, that's true. I don't demand a certain time that you come to Me, and I'm available to you any time. But with that attitude, it's easy to let the time slip between your fingers, and then it's the wee hours of the night and you still haven't spent that essential time with Me.

At that point, you promise you'll spend time with Me the next day. But the problems just tumble about you and eat away at your time, to where before you know it, another day has gone by without your taking that vital time with Me. Whereas if you'd spent time with Me, I could have prevented the problems or given you advance warning of them. Instead it gets into a vicious cycle that's hard to break out of.

So what can you do to make it a habit? First you have to commit to it--you have to believe that it's the most important thing in your day and that if nothing else gets done, you will spend time with Me. Believe that it's your most important accomplishment of the day, so if you aren't able to do anything else, if you've had your time with Me you'll feel fulfilled and satisfied. Of course, if you're spending time with Me, then a whole lot of other things will get accomplished as well. (10)

When there are things that are very important, that you know you can't afford to neglect--like your time with Me then you have to schedule it. Some people don't like the concept of scheduling things like their time with Me because they feel it should be more spontaneous. Well, spontaneous is good in its place, but for all you busy missionaries and disciples, it doesn't usually cut it in the long term, because you're too busy for that.

So what you must do is sit down and look at your time. You have 24 hours in every day. That doesn't change. What can and does change is what you do in those 24 hours. So you have to start with the most important things. Give the most important things the blocks of time that will ensure that these important things will happen. If the important things don't have a slot of time, they won't fit into your day. It's as simple as that.

And as you're making your schedule and realizing you're not going to fit everything in, here is where you have to remember a law of the spirit: If you seek first the Kingdom of God and My righteousness--in other words, the things I've told you to do, My priorities--then all these other things will be added unto you (Mat.6:33).

So as you're putting aside those precious blocks of time you can be claiming My promise that then "all these other things will be added unto you." Either I'll give you time to get to them, or I'll take care of them so that you don't have to worry about them. Either way, it's a win-win situation. (11)

Things aren't going to be perfect or smooth sailing. Things are going to be stressful and busy. You are going to be tired and spent. Things will come up that you're not expecting and that you have to deal with. But you have to maintain your stability despite it all. And you do this by being faithful with your Word time every day, and hearing from Me. You do it by filling your mind and heart continually, at every opportunity, with faith-building thoughts and promises.

Even though there's so much to do, don't skimp on the things that are essential to your spiritual health and well-being-such as the Word, prayer, praise, and hearing from Me. If you're not faithful with these things, then you'll wear out and burn out fast, and then you won't be much good to anyone, let alone a key player in helping to win this war. Your Home won't be the key battalion I need you to be.

The Enemy loves to tempt you to jump right into work without stopping to take your time with Me, especially when there's so much to do. He loves to make you think you don't need Me, that you can do it without Me, that you can make it on

your own. Well, maybe at times you can, but something will be lacking-you'll be lacking My full power. You will go through the day with less power, less inspiration, less anointing, and you will feel drained and spent when the work is done. But by taking time with Me, I give you more power, inspiration, anointing, and a special joy in your labors.

I love you depending on Me and coming to Me. Even when you feel you have your work mapped out for you, and it's almost automatic to do what I've given you to do, I love it even more when you take time with Me under these circumstances. I know the Enemy fights and tells you that it's not worth it, that you don't really need to take the time with Me, but it's so important. I doubly bless you for taking time in My Word when you do it even when you don't feel like you need to in the natural, or when you do it in spite of other work temptations.

I will help you, bless you, and pour down My anointing in full abundance every day that you put Me first. That's My unbreakable promise. It's a mystery of My Spirit, how I oil everything with My power when you are leaning and depending on Me, but it's the truth. Your day always goes better when you take your time with Me and My Word.

I will help you and anoint you and give you strength, and you won't wear out if you do your part. Always remember, every single burden, every single to-do, every single thing you put your hands to do is My work and My concern. Cast all of your cares upon Me, for I care for you and for the work that must be done. You must only do your part by putting Me first, and I will do the rest.

I will bless those who put Me first in very tangible and noticeable ways. Not only will your work go smoother and be more accurate, but I will also give you deeper joy and happiness throughout your day. I'll give you benefits in the form of giving you more strength-both physical and spiritual. I'll help you to feel more invigorated, even though there won't be physical contributors to this feeling of vitality. I'll even help you not to feel tired at times, overriding even the physical needs you might have when necessary, if you are putting Me first and loving Me and My Word more than anything.

As you supply My needs, I will supply yours-even through miraculous or inexplicable means. I will bless you in the ways that mean the very most to you. I will reward you with treasures of the spirit that you are most desirous of. I will shower you with spiritual riches of the greatest value, and I will give you joy and satisfaction from the deepest wells of My Spirit.[12]

As the world grows darker, it is more important than ever for My children to be beacons of light, and the only way that you're going to be able to do this is if you shine with the light of My Spirit and truth and Word and love.

This is not something that can be generated from within yourselves. It has to come from My Spirit and be channeled through your spirits. Your spirits have to be fresh and clean, open, free from sin--not in the sense of being perfect, but in the sense of having regular cleansing in the spirit. You need a strong and healthy connection with Me in order to be the beacons of light that I have called you to be today, and even more so in the future.

You also need to be the warriors of the spirit that will be needed, and thus you need to be very adept in your use of the spiritual weapons. You need to tap into My power through praise, through proactive prayer, through intercessory prayer. So much is going to be required of you as you step into the future that I have ordained for you. [13]

Get away like I did--somehow, some way, some place--for quiet time with Me and Me alone. When it seems difficult and you find no place of refuge, ask of Me, and I will supply. Remember how I got up early and went out, up into the mountain to pray? I had to, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to carry on. But when I did, it was so wonderful! In those times I was able to fill up and be refreshed. I would breathe of the Heavenly air and receive power--such magnetic power from on high!

Please remember to take this time. You're going to need it even more than I did, because as I promised, you are going to do even greater works than I did. The world is even darker now in these Last Days, and you are going to need even more power than I did when I walked in the flesh. You are going to need it in order to be able to stem the tide of iniquity that has covered the Earth. But don't worry! You've got nothing to fear. I'm right by your side, and I'll pump you with My golden seeds of power as you come lie in our bed of love. It's going to be just fine. This mission is going to work just as I have planned.

So keep your eyes right Here on Heaven. Keep coming back to our little honeymoon cottage. This is one honeymoon that will never end! Keep coming, keep loving Me the way you have been, and know that I am with you always. I hold you in My everlasting arms. [14]

Bed of Love Time

The Parallel of the Mountain And Restful Time With the Lord

Picture yourself crossing a rugged, icy range of mountains. This is no easy beginner's trail, but it's steep and rocky, and it's snowing. As you look around you, you see the fir trees laden with snow, their branches bent with the weight of it. Your path is not marked because of the snow, so you have to go by sight and by prayer, to be sure that you don't fall into a crevasse or gully. You look up at the sky and find it gray and bleak. In fact, there's such a cloud cover and so much snow falling, you can't see the sky.

You trudge onward, knowing that the hardest is yet to come. There will be more steep grades, less visibility. You'll come to the truly hard parts where you must use your climbing equipment to be able to even hold on to the mountain. You aren't to that part yet, but you know it's ahead. Even now it takes every ounce of your strength to press onward. Your muscles are aching and your face stings with the cold. Little beads of tears that have escaped the corners of your eyes freeze on your cheeks. Your hands feel numb, yet you forge onward.

You have great courage, great tenacity, great determination, so you don't let all these obstacles hold you back. You're determined to make it to your destination, and this desire and tremendous compulsion you feel inside eggs you on.

Still, your strength is waning. You have the advantage of the intense motivation you feel inside, but even so, your spirit and body and abilities are all stretched to the limit. You know that the hardest part is yet to come, and so deep inside, you wonder if you can make it.

And what's worse, you're alone. You're not traveling with a guide who has been that way before. Others are depending on you to forge the way, to scout out the difficulties, to find out how to get there so that they can follow. Once you've done that, you yourself can be the guide, but right now there's no one, no person to show you--only God.

Right at that point, through the trees you see a glimmer of light. Then as you proceed, the forest parts and there's an inn, a type of way station for travelers, a mountain lodge. It looks so warm, so inviting. Probably hot chocolate will be served inside, or tea with brandy, or some other warm and invigorating drink. It looks like a fire is burning in the fireplace, as its flicker and gleam appears through a break in the curtains at the window. You can hear people laughing inside, and see them eating and drinking. They don't even have their jackets on--they're so warm and cozy inside.

There's smoke coming from the chimney, and the building, built like a log cabin with a steep overhang to the roof, is like an island of warmth, cheer, and encouragement in the middle of the snowstorm, the dark trees, and the forbidding mountain path.

You pause for a moment. You see those inside who are so warm and who are getting strengthened and rested for the rest of the journey, or maybe they're even finding out how to make it. Perhaps they, like you, haven't been there before. Maybe there are guides inside who have been that way and who will tell them the best way to go, the pitfalls and dangerous spots to avoid, the safest and most efficient route.

There's also food inside--good, hearty, nourishing food--something that you can hardly imagine, because you've been hungry for so long that you can hardly even remember what it feels like to have a warm meal. You've just been eating your trail snacks along the way because you didn't want to stop for long, and anyway, there wasn't a spot to do so.

But here it is--a nice, warm, inviting place that has been put there for travelers just like you. It looks like there are even small bedrooms at the back of the lodge, so that you could go in and rest if you needed to. The place has everything a traveler needs to continue the journey.

Yet as you survey this lovely lodge with all that it offers, you decide to keep going. You don't want to stop. You've got your momentum up, you feel, and you don't want to break your stride. Sure, you're aching with tiredness, your tummy is hurting for food, and your extremities are numb and stinging with cold. But stop? "That's for wimps," you think. You can make it. You don't need to have a stop for rest and nourishment and strengthening. You'd rather keep on going and see if you can find your way yourself. "Sure, there are guides in there, but wouldn't it be better if I find my own way? Wouldn't I get a little more glory that way, or a little more credit?"

A little voice inside says, "But what if you don't make it? What if you take the wrong path or you don't have the strength to continue?" But you ignore this voice, as well as the urge of almost everything that is in you to stop and get all your needs met in that lodge. You feel the pull of the companionship inside too--the chance to compare notes with fellow travelers, to draw encouragement from them and learn from them. You feel that they could give you tips and lessons and how-tos that they've learned. But instead of stopping, you press on into the murky snowstorm, the dark forest, through the bleak and menacing mountains. You feel it's better to go it alone with only the compulsion you have inside of you driving you. And that's the last you're seen or heard from.

That's what so many of you do when you don't stop for Word time, for strengthening time with Me. I'm giving you everything you need to make a difficult and perilous journey, and the means by which I'm giving it to you is inviting, entertaining, and enjoyable. Yet so many of you prefer to make the journey without these refreshing and enjoyable stops along the way. If you made them, you'd find fellowship with Me in My Word and in prayer. You'd find spirit helpers who know the way and could help you with their advice. You'd find strength to your soul, rest to your spirit, and encouragement for your heart. You'd be able to make the journey with all the resources that I have for you.

But so many want to go it alone--partly out of pride, partly because they don't want to admit that they're not sufficient in themselves, that they need My help and the help of My Word, My helpers, My personal Words to them, My love that I can put in their hearts. So they trudge on, and oh, the way is so hard, so difficult!

I can't take away the difficulty of the path, but I can make your journey much easier. These enjoyable stops in My Word along the way will make the journey a joy, because you'll have the strength to meet each challenge. So stop in at My Word-Lodge, won't you? Won't you have a cup of comfort with Me? Won't you have a chat with a spirit helper who can give you some tips? Won't you have a rest in one of My big comfy beds with eiderdown covers and soft, squishy pillows? And won't you warm yourself by the fireplace of My Word?

Let all that I have be your help and comfort, and it will make your journey through life much easier. The challenges are there, but the wise man will do all he can to prepare for them, and avail himself of all the resources that will make the journey possible and successful.

Then you will complete your journey and reach the final mountaintop, and you and I together will rejoice at the beautiful view! We'll drink from the mountain streams, pick some of the flowers that only grow on the mountaintop, and return to tell others how they can get there too.

I love you! I'll see you at the Lodge! Love, your Mountain Guide, Jesus. [15]

Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For I call you out of the wings and into My bedchamber, that you may lay your head gently upon My bosom, that I may wrap My arms around you, that I may stroke you and whisper unto you. For by taking this time in rest and repose you are calmed, you are strengthened, your faith is renewed, your spirit is uplifted. For time in the bedchamber with Me is time in My temple, is time in My Love, and is time in My strength. You will be renewed and refreshed for the battles that you face. And when you come to these battles you will have a renewed strength, a renewed vigor, for you have had a time of rest in My arms.

So neglect Me not and fear not to take the time that is required. For I say unto you, seek first the Kingdom of God, the arms of your true Lover, and all of these other things will be added unto you, all the strength that you need, and the wisdom and the faith. For as you take time with Me I will answer you, I will guide you, I will speak to you, and I will give you strength that you know not of, that you will be able to perform My will with ease. For you will be fighting with My strength and My power and My anointing. So neglect Me not. Do you understand? Neglect Me not. For it is in the time and the love spent with Me that you will have that which you need.

Look not at what is not being done, but look at what is being done; that you are building up a reserve of strength, and of wisdom, and of love. And I will pour forth unto you all that you need to do the things that you must do. For now you must walk by faith and not by sight. As you seem to fall further and further behind, it becomes a test if you will still love Me and put Me first. And as you do this thing, your strength will grow, and your capacity for understanding, for wisdom, for receiving My answers, for knowing and understanding My direction will grow.

This will be a wellspring of new faith, of new strength, of new confidence in Me! For you will truly know what these words mean, that the battle is not yours, but Mine, saith the Lord. And not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.

For as you set these things aside by faith, you are showing that you trust Me and that you trust the way that I am leading, and that you trust My Word; that if you will lie in the bed of love with Me, I will empower you with My seed and with My Spirit and with My anointing in a new and greater way.

So shed these things of Earth and set your affections upon things above! And as you let go of the things that you think you must do, I will pour forth unto you a new way and new things. I will speak and I will comfort. I will encourage and I will strengthen you. And you will find renewed faith in My ability and capacity to perform all that I have promised you. (16)

Come Home

Come home, My dear one! If you are weary, come home. Where is home? Home is in My arms.

Sometimes your earthly home can get a little hectic and noisy. Sometimes there's no quiet place to go. Sometimes just being at home reminds you of all that you've still got to do before you crash into bed, utterly exhausted. But that's not the home I'm talking about when I say "come home."

All you've got to do is lie here in My arms, close your eyes, block out the thoughts and cares of this world, and set aside all that you're thinking about doing. Rest completely, let all your cares go, take some deep breaths, and look at My loving face.

I'm not lecturing you or reminding you of the things that you've forgotten--unless you've forgotten about how much I love you. No matter what you've done or haven't done, I want you to know that you're special to Me. I don't want you to go on for another second without being firmly reminded of that love.

In order for you to know that I really mean it, as you rest in My arms and look into My face and relax and breathe deeply of the fresh, heavenly air, tell Me what you want Me to do for you. You don't need to tell Me why. Just think about what's weighing on you the most and let Me take care of it for you. It can be anything that you want. I'll do it for you, just to show you My love.

Make My arms your home, and rest there a little longer. Take a few more deep breaths as you wait on Me. I'm taking care of things for you in your absence, so there's no need for you to "catch up" when you go back; there's no reason for you to rush about as you did before.

Now that you've waited a bit and spent this time with Me, know that your whole day can be like this. You can be this peaceful. You can imagine the heavenly choirs playing slow, relaxing music for you all day and all night long--setting the pace for your work and the things that you need to do.

This isn't being lazy. This is operating on Heaven's time. When Heaven is on your mind, there's no need for rush or stress or strain on your part. I'm in control and I'll take care of everything, just as I have taken care of you thus far and will continue to do so until you come home to Heaven. (17)

Do you feel the comfort and rest in My arms? Do you feel the rest that you find as I hold you, as you lay your head upon My breast after sweet lovemaking, and you feel at ease and at peace, and you feel filled with My Love and satisfied in Spirit? And thus with this strength and this peace and this calmness you can go about the duties of your day. For there is much noise outside the bedchamber. There is confusion there. There are many voices and many duties. But if you have spent time being filled with love and with peace before you enter your day, you will take this peace and this love with you, and you will be a bubble of peace and love in the sea of the confusion of the world.

They shall see you, and they shall come to you and say, "We can find peace and rest with you. We can feel in the Spirit your peace and your love, and we want to know how you can have such peace in the midst of our storm and in the midst of our confusion." And you can then tell them of Me, of your Lover Who gives you this peace and love, and will give it to them if they will know Me and love Me.

But if you go forth into your day without receiving My peace and love, then you are much more like them. You do not reflect this calmness of Spirit, and it is more difficult for them to see the difference between you and them. For as you spend

time with Me receiving My seeds, and as they become part of you and we become one, then you become more like Me, and this is reflected upon you as you are out there in the sea of confusion, and this reflection is seen clearly.

Therefore spend that time with Me each day. Spend that time with Me before you face the cares and duties of this world. Just as you wrap your arms around your loved one to kiss and caress and speak of love in the morning, so you must wrap your arms around Me and we must kiss and caress. You must let Me whisper My Words into your ears, and you must drink My Words into your heart, and you must be filled and filled and filled with My Words! For as you eat them, they strengthen you! As you suck on them and suck them into your heart, so they become part of you. They become part of your being if you digest them. They become you, and you become Me, and we become one for all to see!

For when they looked upon Peter and James and John and saw that they were ignorant and unlearned men, they marveled, because they knew they had been with Me. It reflected upon them and we were one. So it is with you.

Suck My seeds, suck My seeds, suck My seeds! Swallow them and they become part of you. Eat them and they enter into you, and they strengthen you, and they become you, and you become Me, and we become one. And when they see you, they will see Me; and when they feel your love, they will feel My Love.

This will give you more power in your witness, for it will not just be words, but it will be deeds. They will not just hear My voice, but they will see Me, because you are so filled with Me. So do not neglect time with Me in the quietness of My bedchamber. Do not neglect our sweet lovemaking. And do not forget to suck the seeds, to absorb into your very being the seeds of My Word, the seeds of David, the seeds that I have implanted in My children. For the seeds of David are the seeds of My Word, and these are the most powerful seeds on Earth!

These seeds fill you, these seeds strengthen you, these seeds give you power, these seeds transform you, and these seeds give you new life, new love, and new anointing! For these seeds are Me, and these seeds are My Spirit, and as you suck these seeds, so you suck Me; and as you imbibe these seeds, so you imbibe Me; and as you become one with these seeds, so you become one with Me. I in you and you in Me, and we are made one. (18)

In quietness and confidence shall be your strength. It is in the quietness of your bedchamber away from the noise, and away from the multitudes, and away from the business where I will speak to you and give you that which you need.

For it is I that see all things and know all things. It is I that see ahead to the future. It is I that have planned the destination and the route, for I know exactly where I want My children to go, and I know exactly the means by which they should get there. And you know nothing at all, for how can you know these things? You cannot see them. But I can reveal them to you. I can show them to you. I can lead you and guide you and direct you, if you will but listen.

Oh, the joy it brings Me when you wait to hear from Me and when you seek Me, and when you take this time together to stop to hear Me. For this is how I wish My children to be, that they would take time to stop and to hear from Me, to seek Me.

If you are willing to take this time with Me each day, seeking Me, crying out to Me for My guidance and My strength and for My wisdom, if you acknowledge that you are nothing and know nothing and need Me, so will I pour forth unto you all that you need. You must then just follow Me step by step. For I will show you this step and I will show you this place to go. I will lighten your path and make it plain and clear.

So follow faithfully by listening to Me, by seeking Me, by hearing My Word, by reading the Words of David, by praising Me and loving Me and by listening to the voice of My Spirit that I may help you, lead you and guide you. So will I inspire you and strengthen you and empower you!

For I know that you are but children and that you have not that great depth of understanding that My David had. But what you have is Me! What you have is the ability to seek Me and to hear My voice, to receive My Word, and thus you have the depth and the wisdom that you need.

For though you are weak, I am strong. For though you have no wisdom, I have given unto you wisdom through those that I have placed at your side to help guide you. For truly you are as children, but I am your Father and these are your counselors, and together we give you that which you need.

But never think that you can do this thing on your own or in your own strength and in your own wisdom. You have no strength and no wisdom, but you have Me and the things of My Spirit, and through this I will empower you. But you must hear from Me. You must seek Me. You must be strengthened by Me. You must seek My will, and you must move according to Me and My Spirit and My strength, that you may accomplish that which is My purpose. For without Me you can do nothing.

So hearken unto Me, seek Me, hear from Me, cry out unto Me and I will give you all that you need! (19)

Take Enough Time with Jesus In the Bed of Love!

Don't run away too quickly from My bed of love, for I long to hold you a little longer. Be still and know that I am God. I am Love. I'm waiting for you to be still, so that you can feel Me move and work in you.

You're so anxious to get away from Me. Why, My love? Is it the work that calls you? But the work is Mine to take care of. I'm the breadwinner around here. Your work is to love Me, to be here for Me. Don't be as one who would come to My bed of love but is concerned about the time, looking at your watch secretly, feeling that you must go. Don't be as one who breaks the foreplay abruptly, feeling justified in saying that you must get back to work.

You must spend time with Me. My seeds are waiting to fill you, but they must be pumped by the heat and passion of your love. If you want My seeds, you must prove that you desire them by working for them. I don't mean working for them in the carnal, human way, but I mean the work of the spirit, the work of love. Your work is to love Me, to work on Me, to work on Me until I come and fill you with My seeds.

There are times when we may have those quickies, when I'm so excited by the fact that you come to Me on the spur

of the moment, kissing Me and rubbing Me with your Words of love and praise. Those are exciting times of hot passion for Me, and we come quickly together.

But there are times when those brief encounters aren't enough. In those times, times when you're having a hard time concentrating on Me, a hard time giving Me your full attention, when you're having a hard time going, then I too am inhibited from filling you with My seeds. In those times, you must linger with Me. You must stay awhile with Me, My darling.

Let Me blow away your distractions, as I blow softly on your face. Let Me drive you wild with My touches until you forget about everything you thought you needed to do. Let Me hold you tight, pumping My seeds into you until you are truly Mine, conquered by My love, wanting nothing but more of My love.

Don't go away from My bed of love until we've climaxed together. You cannot think of going back and bearing fruit in your work unless you've been filled with My seeds first. Those are what conceive and bring forth life and love to others. It doesn't necessarily have to take a long time--just long enough for you to give Me your heart and your mind and your soul--all of it. I want it all. I want all of you! (20)

(Dad speaking:) You need to have more "bed of love" time. You really need it, and it's the most important thing you can work on because as you work on your time alone with Jesus, He'll speak to you, anoint you, strengthen you, and give you faith to apply the Word. That's the most important thing you can concentrate on. Other things are important too, and you need to have a good balance. But the thing that will give you the most inspiration, vision and faith will be your bed of love time.

You should study the GNs, and one way to make the Word come more alive in your personal life is to pray about things in the GNs. When you come across something that speaks to you personally, that convicts you, take the time to bring it to the Lord and ask Him to speak to you about it. That will really strengthen your bed of love time. It will give you an excitement about spending time with the Lord, more than just sexually--spiritually--and will be feeding, encouraging, and inspiring.

You must keep Jesus in first place all the time, before your work and before your friends. It takes faith to put your work aside and spend time with the Lord. You have to apply that faith and block out your work, not think about it, not let it pull on your spirit while you're in the bed of love. You really have to have faith to rest in Jesus' arms, but when you do, He rewards your faith with even more faith, rest in spirit, inspiration, grace, love, and all the good fruits of His Spirit.

His seeds are real, and as you suck for them, they become part of you, and go to work to bless your life. So you must have them every day. You must spend time alone with your Lover in order to let Him empower you. It'll be so wonderful and so good when you start seeking the Lord about the Word and applying it. It's really going to change your life. It'll work on your pride and selfishness and help you to have more of a spirit of humility and love and grace.

The more time you spend with Jesus in the bed of love, the more humble you become, because you're partaking of His humility, His love, His Spirit, which is so lowly and beautiful. The more you study the Word, really apply it, absorb it, and let it become part of your very being, the more humble and yielded and willing you become, because the Word is spirit and truth.

Reach out more to Jesus, and then reach out to others, and your life will change, your spirit will change, and the world around you will change. It takes humility to apply the Word, but as you do, everything will change. (21)

Have you ever had a really good friend who you were super close to and you'd talk to a lot? Sometimes you'd stay up late at night and you'd talk and talk, and you felt like that person knew you better than anybody. You could tell them all your secrets and you knew that they'd understand. They knew all about your battles and your trials, but they loved you anyway. And the closer you got, the more you felt you could confide in them, the more you trusted them. Well, you know, that's how it is with you and Me--the more time we spend together when you're pourin' out your heart to Me and I'm able to speak to you, the closer we get, and the more I can confide in you.

This is one of the coolest things that you can experience when we're close and we're really one in the Spirit, when we're best friends, when you're My Bride and I'm your Husband--and that is that I can whisper to you really cool things that you need to know. I can answer your questions. I can tell you what you should do. I can speak to you about what Word you should read. And if you come to Me in faith to hear from Me in prophecy, I can even give you special, personal words of encouragement and guidance. I can be your personal Shepherd, and I can help you through your rough days. When your heart is aching or you're real bummed 'cause something didn't work out like you'd hoped, you can come to Me. You can confide in Me, and I'll confide in you.

Not only will you be fed by your personal link with Me in the Spirit, but you'll also be more fed by the Words of David. (And when I say the Words of David I don't just mean the MO Letters that Dad wrote, but I also mean the Letters that Mama writes. Now she has the mantle of David and now she gives the Words of David.) The closer you draw to Me and the more faith you have, the more intimate we are, the more you're going to be able to be fed from those Words of David, from the new Letters and new revelations and the far-out prophecies and messages. Man, you have some very awesome stuff at your fingertips--mysteries and discoveries and answers that millions of people would love to be privy to. But I only give this very special meat of the Word to those I can confide in, to those I trust and to those who are close to Me, who I know will appreciate it.

So you see, it really pays to spend that time with Me. As you get close to Me, then I can get close to you. We can talk to each other. We can share our secrets. I'll lead and guide you and answer your questions. I'll bring the Word to life for you. See, when you're closer to Me and you spend more time praying or praising or reading the Word or seeking Me, of course it creates a bigger vacuum, and then I can pour out to you more. See, it's very easy to understand: The greater the vacuum,

the more you get. The closer you are to Me, the more the vacuum you have for the things of the Spirit, and the more I can pour out to you. (22)

Living in joy

If you're overwhelmed by everything that there is to do and you're striving to get everything done, to accomplish as much as you can for Me; if you've lost the joy of living and the joy of your salvation; if you feel tired and worn at the end of the day, let Me help you uncover the gentle flame of joy and fan it into a raging fire that powers you forward and clearly lights the way.

The secret of joy is rooted in living in Me, not just living for Me. I know that you long to fulfill everything I've asked of you, but what I long for the most is to see you happy, living in joy, going to bed each night tired but with a feeling of fulfillment and happiness, and truly loving your life.

If that feeling eludes you, please spend more time with Me. Use the full length of your Word time tomorrow loving Me intimately, giving yourself to Me completely. Remember what it means to be My bride, to be doted on by Me, to feel the warmth of My Spirit near you. Rest in My arms and think about My love for you. Find that assurance and rock-solid faith in My love.

As you bring your service before Me and find My answers, you drink in My Spirit and are refilled with My love. My joy gives you reason to live, reason to serve Me. You will be driven by more than what there is to do. Instead you will be motivated by the joy of knowing Me deeply, intimately, and finding strength from My love.

We will tackle the work of the day together as partners and lovers, the work no longer a drain but a pleasure, the joy of the morning pumping through your veins, filling you with life and vigor, floating you along on the wings of the strength of My love. (23)

The First Thing in the Morning

I love them that love Me, and they that seek Me early shall find Me. That's the key, My loves--to seek Me early before your day begins. You must put Me first in your day before anything else, and this will be the secret of your success of making time with Me a part of your schedule, never to be missed.

You know that if you don't do this, it's rare that you will stop again later in the day to take quality time with Me. Of course, you do check in with Me throughout the day, but I'm talking about quality time--loving Me, hearing My plan for your day, taking in My Words and sucking My seeds, communing with Me in the bed of love.

In most cases, in order to make this work, you must do this first, before you do anything else. Each of you should come to Me and ask Me for specifics on how to implement this counsel in your life and situation.

For example, in some cases I might tell you that one way to accomplish this is to make it an inviolable rule not to turn on your computer before you've had your time with Me. Once the computer is on and the mail rolls in, for some people there's too much temptation to be dragged into this business or that, and then it's difficult for you to stop and be with Me. You know that's true.

In that case, the solution is simple--you must take your time with Me before you turn on your computer. Let Me turn you on first, and you turn Me on, and let's have our love feast in the morning, in the quiet, before the day begins. Once we're satisfied, and you've poured out your heart to Me, and I've poured My love and words into you, then it will be time to enter into the wings and go about your duties of the Kingdom.

I know you love Me and seek to please Me in all that you do. And this will be the thing that will please Me the most and thrill Me the most, and make the biggest change for good in your life--to put Me first in your day.

Rise up early in the day, as I did, when I walked upon the Earth with My disciples. I had to have time alone with My Father to receive the strength I needed for My mission, and the same is true of you. You need My strength to accomplish all that is before you, and you can receive this strength in the morning hours, when the dew is still upon the roses, when you walk with Me and talk with Me in the garden of My love.

My solutions are simple, and I will give them to each of you as you seek Me. What works for one person may not work for another, but I have a solution for each of you, because I love My time with you and I will not go without it. I will take care of everything else while you're spending time loving Me. That's a promise.

I love you, and I look forward to having more time than ever with you in the garden of our love. (24)

Begin your day with praise and prayer, Word and time with Me, and then carry Me with you into the day. You cannot do My work without My power, and to do it you must spend time with Me--and continue to spend time with Me if you are to continue to have the power you need and not get run down or run over by all the cares and duties of your busy life.

Abide in Me, and let Me abide in you continually. Talk to Me, sing to Me, converse with Me, listen to Me, commune with Me. You can't make it without Me. We have a little time together in the morning before the day begins, but that's not enough. We need time together throughout the day as well.

Some of you may be thinking that this sounds good, but that you don't know if you can do it, that it's a bit too spiritual, and you're not really that spiritual. In reality, it's a very practical matter, and you can do it once you establish the habit of doing so. After all, you think all day long, don't you? Don't you always have thoughts going on in your mind, considering how to do this or that, when or where to go, considering what to say, and so on? You talk to yourself continually. Well, talk to Me instead. After all, why talk to yourself when you can talk to Me and share your heart and thoughts and desires and questions

with Me?

As we talk, I can give you the right perspective on your work, your relations with others, or even your attitude toward yourself. As you allow Me more entrance, then you take on more of My mind, My attitudes, My thoughts, My possession. I can get through to you easier, you can hear My voice clearer, and I can guide your actions better. I can remind you of things to do, give you new ideas or new ways of doing things, and provide the answers you need. Come to Me in quietness and in confidence and you will find the strength and power you need. Draw nigh to Me and I will draw nigh to you. Those are My promises to you.

Start the day off right with praise and prayer and Word and communion with Me, and continue praising and praying and communing with Me throughout the day. You can do it; you can pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, and commune more frequently. If you do your part, I will do Mine, and will meet you more than halfway. Faithful is He who calls you, Who also will do it.

I long to be a more constant presence in your life every day. Won't you let Me? Won't you talk to Me more and talk things over with Me more as you go about your day, sharing your heart and thoughts and desires with Me? I long to share My heart and thoughts and desires with you, to develop a sweetness and a love and a bond and a fellowship with you that you can't even imagine--to be a constant companion to you, My dear wife, because I love you. (25)

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

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

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

You may not see down the road as much as you would like, but the important thing is that you stay with Me, that you keep your face turned toward Me. Having done that, as you look back you'll see how I led step by step. You'll see the continuity, the progress, and the way that I led through the walk of My will and My perfect plan and all that was accomplished because you looked to Me step by step, and because you took time with Me so that you could see clearly to know where I was leading at each turn of the road. (26)

(Dad speaking:) Spending time with the Lord should be the main thing that matters to you. When you wake up in the morning, the only thing that should be on your mind and your to-do list is your time with the Lord. Until you get the Word in and get that time with Him, there should be nothing else on your to-do list for that day. (27)

Start every day off right, loving Me, praising Me, feasting on My Word, and letting Me speak to you. This will put you solidly on My channel so that you can hear from Me and soak up My Spirit all day long, in everything you do. If you can just get on My channel and stay there, all your time will be quality time with Me. Of course, you can't spend all your day with your head in the clouds, so to speak, but the more you practice getting in tune with Me in the morning, the closer you will be to Me all day long, and the easier it will be for you to reconnect with Me after being called back "into the wings*" to attend to earthly matters. (28)

The most important thing you can do is to get your time with Me first thing in the morning, in the early hours, if possible. Once you've done that, everything else will fall into place and be clearer. When your burdens have been lifted and your cares have been cast upon Me, your vision will be clearer and you will know where to direct your attention, your time, and your energies.

Through this time of our communion, first thing every day, you'll also grow in faith and in strength. You'll have greater willpower. You'll have greater conviction to deal with things according to their priorities rather than according to your desires. It all comes back to our time together first thing in the morning. Once this is in place and in order, all the rest will fall into place and be clear. (29)

How true it is that your time with Me in the morning is not lost that morning, but the night before. The timewasters happen mostly at night. People get in the habit of going to bed late, and that's how the Devil steals their time with Me the next day, so that before people even wake up, the Devil has already made off with their quiet time--he's spirited it away the night before, as they chatted, played, watched TV, surfed the Internet, etc. All those lesser activities, whatever they are, that keep people chained to a late schedule, and therefore needing to sleep later, are what steal those quiet hours in the morning that they could otherwise spend with Me. (30)

The idea of taking time with Me in the morning is throughout My Word, in the Bible as well as in the Letters of your David. There are verses like, "Thy voice will I hear in the morning," and "Cause me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the

morning." The ideal, if possible, is first thing in the morning. It would be good to do a study on how the morning time is wonderful for hearing from Me, for getting yourself on the right channel, for tuning your spirit into My Spirit, for letting Me direct your thoughts, actions, energies and concentration first thing.

This is a wonderful time, when the soul is just beginning to stir, fresh and clean and new, and not yet imprinted with the business and glare of the day. It's a time when the soul of man is like that of a new baby--without the harsh realities of the physical world having yet made their mark on it. The soul or spirit of man comes out of sleep; it's fresh from communion with Me during the night, having loved Me with another or alone before sleeping, and having communed with Me in the night seasons. It's ready to receive My Word and My thoughts in a much easier way than if it were to try to do so during the day.

There's a readiness to receive My Word and My Spirit at that time. There's a fresh and untouched quality about the spirit of man at that time that allows Me to mold and guide it further.

Of course, some people enjoy their communion with Me at night when no one else is around, when the house is quiet and when there's not the static of daily activity. So this is also a good time to tune into Me and My Spirit. (31)

Beyond Duty

Time with Me is supposed to do something for you and do something to you. It should charge you up spiritually, and make you more willing and able to do My will in your life. After being in the Word and in My presence, you should be spiritually strengthened, and motivated to live in a more heavenly way and work with more power and diligence.

Something that will help you to have the right attitude and perspective toward your spiritual requirements and time with Me is if you give more focus to the results--and that you chase after those results by almost any means necessary.

The same things don't work for everyone. What feeds and strengthens one person will not do the same for another. The same time slots may not work for everyone, nor the same approach to using the spiritual weapons. So your focus shouldn't be on having a certain kind of time with Me for a certain length of time or in a certain way; instead, remind yourself of what you're after: connecting to Me, hearing My words to you deep in your heart, partaking of My Spirit, letting Me change you and love you. If you go into your Word time with that as the goal, you'll have a much easier time figuring out what works for you.

If you go into your time with Me thinking, "I need to take my 1½ hours of Word time," then chances are you're mainly focusing on what you can do to fill the time scheduled for Word time. Getting your Word time and being able to tick it off your to-do list becomes its own goal--rather than your goal being to fight for quality, intimate, strengthening time with Me. While it is sometimes necessary to take your 1½ hours of Word time out of obedience, even if you don't feel super fed by it, it's not good enough if that's your general mindset, because you won't be getting what you need from your times with Me.

To change, think about the result that should come from it.--Not, "I need to fill the time requirement," but, "I need to connect with Jesus. I need to be spiritually strengthened. I need to align my mind with His. I need more faith. I need to renew my heavenly vision. I want to show Him that I love Him by putting Him first. I need to express my love to Him, and I need to be filled with His love." That's approaching your spiritual requirements with the result in mind, and then being flexible with the methods to produce the results you're after.

Maybe you're already using the right methods. After thinking and praying about this, you may wind up doing things exactly the way you have been doing them. Or I might lead you to some new and different ways and approaches. But whatever you do and whatever I show you, as long as you're pursuing the spiritual results that you need in your life, you will find them and you will be the disciple you need to be. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled (Mat.5:6).

I'm challenging you to move past fulfilling the requirement for the requirement's sake, and to instead grasp and understand the goal of it. That's what you need in the busy days that are ahead. You need awareness of your spiritual needs. You need to become a doctor of your own soul, so that you can sense what you need and make sure that those needs are filled by whatever means are necessary. Sometimes the demands of your life will mean that you need a shorter but more concentrated time in My presence, and other times you will need a very long, relaxing, drawn-out time. Your time with Me can be so many things. The needs of your spirit will sometimes require that you go beyond the amount of time which is required of you.

Have you ever had a long time in My Word, but you felt you could have kept going for longer? Maybe you should have! The fact that your 1½ hours were up limited your spiritual man from truly filling its needs. Or have you ever felt that it was difficult for your spirit to receive the feeding that you needed because you were trying to force yourself to have time with Me at a time when it was extremely difficult to focus because of other pressing needs? Maybe you were exceptionally tired or there was noise and confusion and it just wasn't conducive to Word time, but you went ahead anyway, with fairly poor results, because that's what your schedule or routine dictated. Maybe in that case it would have been better to go out for a walk and some quiet meditation with Me, rather than staying and trying to concentrate in the middle of the noise and confusion.

Obviously, I always bless obedience, and I am pleased that you do your best to meet the guidelines of the spiritual requirements. I bless your efforts even when you're tired and the results you get aren't always the best or optimum. It's better to have some time with Me than none at all.

For the purpose of training, you sometimes need hourly requirements and a strict set of standards of what does and doesn't constitute quality time with Me. In some ways this limits and binds your spirit, while at the same time acting as a safeguard to ensure that you don't dip below acceptable levels of spiritual feeding.

But as you learn and mature, I want to release you more and more from adhering solely to a written code or standard, and I encourage you to find the spiritual ways, the spiritual avenues of fulfilling that law--which are often far more compelling than the physical application of the requirement.

In Heaven the great men and women aren't bound by any law except that of love, and their times of the spirit aren't ever defined as such, because My Spirit is everywhere here, and praise and love and intimacy with Us is something that permeates their entire being--it is their very existence.

To mirror the heavenly culture as much as possible is a unique calling of the Family. That is why I give you rules and guidelines, but then as much as possible I try to turn your attention to the spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law. I challenge you to go after the results, the intent, the fruit, rather than being so black and white about exactly what you have to do to get there.

The heavenly way is harder, just as fulfilling the Law of Love is harder and more challenging than simply following the Ten Commandments. If you live under the Mosaic Law, then if there is no law against something, you can do it, and if the law says you can't, you can't. It's inflexible, yes, but it also doesn't require much thought or soul-searching or sacrificing to live it. To truly live the Law of Love you have to examine your heart and your motives, you have to study the cause and effect of your actions, you have to have a lot of love, and you can't hide behind the excuse that, "Well, the law doesn't say I can't," because the spirit of the Law of Love is about looking at the effects that your actions have, not about absolute rule one way or the other.

You'll find it quite the same with this new perspective I'm giving you regarding your spiritual requirements. If you look only at the requirements, you are fulfilling your duty if you spend the required time in My Word doing the things that constitute your spiritual requirements and quality feeding. But now as you mature and I broaden some of the guidelines, you will find that you have not met the spirit of the requirement, or the intent of time with Me, unless you have achieved the result of spiritual strengthening, spiritual nourishment, and a time for our spirits to touch and become one.

An amount of time spent on spiritual matters will no longer be the only measuring stick, but rather how your spirit is faring and whether you are progressing in spirit, growing in love, growing in faith, and becoming a better disciple day by day. If you're getting those results, then you're doing it right, even if your methods are unusual or more personally tailored to your schedule and needs. But if you're not getting those results, even if you're spending the required time, then something is wrong with your methods, because they aren't producing the desired fruit.

It will take more effort to find what your spirit needs in order to grow, and then to do your best to fill those needs. Yet at the same time the greater flexibility will free you to be more adaptable in the busy lives you lead, and more able to approach time with Me as a joyous thing, a happy time of meeting a true and desperate spiritual need rather than only doing it out of necessity. (32)

The Enemy Will Try to Attack Your Taking Time with the Lord

If you neglect your daily appointments with Me, you cannot be assured of My presence with you, overshadowing the influences of the world with which you are constantly faced. That's what our appointments are for--to help you disconnect from the world and realize that I am the only One Who really matters, that My Spirit is the only world that really counts in the big picture of things.

Of course the Enemy is going to seek to distract you from approaching the portal of My world and realm of the Spirit--the portal of My Word, and My Words to you. You must fight! You must see these infractions of your Word time not as a personal failure, but as an attack of the Enemy. This way, you will see the need to fight rather than ascribing it to your own inherent weaknesses all the time.

It is an attack of the Enemy when you're persuaded to forgo a little Word time for something else. There are many devices of the Enemy or of your own flesh that would work to separate us: the late nights that leave you too tired to read My Word; your projects that keep you from getting to quiet time with Me; the evening activities that keep you up; the desire to keep working just a little longer rather than stopping to take time with Me.

The Enemy uses these things against you as snares and attacks, but you don't even recognize them anymore. You think it's just part of the way things are, part of your personality. The Enemy has convinced you to accept and believe that these things are your own fault, so that you don't see that they proceed from him.

But I'm here to tell you that you can change. You can make it. You can do it, through My Spirit working in you, through accepting the things I'm telling you, through studying and obeying My Word and My Words to you. That is the secret, the openly divulged but oft-forgotten secret. You cannot do without Me. You are only the branch; I am the vine. Only if you abide in Me and My Spirit can you bring forth the fruit of the Spirit that I expect of you, as well as the fruits of the Spirit in love, joy, peace, longsuffering, and all those things that help you to emulate and partake of My holy realm.

But when you lose sight of those things, you automatically find yourself sliding back into the things of this world, the influences of Satan and his kind, and further from Me, to where you find it harder to hear My voice, more difficult to see the need for My Word, until finally you totally fade from the sphere of usefulness I had so carefully prepared you for--all because you lost sight of the Word, of the goal, of the vision.

So that's what I'm here to tell you, and that is My message to you--an important and vital message that's not just for today but for your life, for your future. Because whether you realize it or not, your entire future depends on this message, on your realization of it, on your taking it seriously, on your believing what I have said, and following through on My Word--seeking My Word desperately, being desperate for Me, being dependent on Me in your heart.

The dependence is there. It is the turning to Me with all your heart, mind and soul that I am still waiting for. And when that comes, when you allow Me to fully enter your life like this, leading and guiding it from within a vessel that has no will of its own, then I will be able to fully use you.

But the only way to get there and to stay there, the only way to reap the full benefits of what My Spirit is working and trying to accomplish in your life, is to keep your spirit attuned to the things of the Spirit, My Spirit. And that, My friend, is what

the Word is for. So read it, remember it, receive it, study it, review it and do it! (33)

One of the Devil's main tactics in these days of the End is to send the world hell-bent to destruction. Thus it takes guts, uncompromising faith, and real conviction to stand strong against the pull of this current of the world. It whirls about you, but as those who are “in the world but not of it,” I urge you to come out from them and be ye separate.

Look back to the original days when your Father David was starting this wonderful Family. Examine how much time he set aside for quiet time, time alone for contemplation and relaxation. With many cares of this world, and many to attend to, priorities get so easily swamped. You can hardly resist the urge to fill each moment with action.

Fear not, My loves, for I see your desire to be of service. I understand your wish to be of help. But if you're to be different from those around you, make time to be alone--quiet in My creation, contemplating, and receiving from Me. It is in this quietness of spirit that you will be refilled and refreshed.

I've called you to busy places where the lost are thronging around you. I've called you to places rich in fruit and where the harvest is ripe wherever you turn. Yet take a lesson from the farmer. He steps back when the day is done to reflect, to be quiet, without the sounds and sights of the Enemy, so that I can give him new strength and direction for the next day. So it should be with you, My dear ones. I long to re-strengthen you. I long for you to be rested and refreshed in the arms of My love.

Stand back and ask Me to help you sort between that which you must do and that which can wait. That which is committed to Me in prayer, will it not be tended to far better than if you'd taken it upon yourselves to do? Seek Me for the balance. Come to Me constantly with your burdens. I am meek and lowly in heart; therefore learn of Me, and you will find rest unto your souls.

A rested soul is a soul which is able to pour out and to give from the abundance of its fullness. Take time to rest, to drink in of Me. Use those moments in the evening to be quiet, to step outside, to listen to My wind and My whispers. In these moments alone, you will find the strength to live as My bride, as one wife, in unity.

The Enemy uses tiredness to cause a lack of spiritual strength and a lack of vision. Those who start to feel that it's too much and that the battle looms too hard, often simply need a time alone of refreshment, a few days without the normal pressures, to come into My arms and be loved to the full.

Fear not to take that time of quiet. In fact, fear if you don't take it. The Enemy of your soul would crowd out every moment I would prepare and set aside for you. See, therefore, that you seek Me for how each moment is filled. No situation is so busy that there is no way to take time with Me.

Call unto Me! Cry out to Me! I will not fail to show you ways to pull back, to arrange things, so that we can have time to rest together. If you can have the conviction and faith to pull out and make that time, you will find treasures of youth, of strength, and of vision that you hardly imagined you could have before! (34)

(Dad speaking:) My God, look at history! Look at some of our own folks who tried to keep up such a strenuous schedule. They were good people. They had many talents. They loved the Lord and were dedicated, serving the Family faithfully. They did well at their work. They put in long hours and tended to the flocks of God. They appeared to be strong shepherds and leaders who were able to handle a lot of strain. But in the end, look what happened!--Because they forgot the most important thing.

They forgot to take that vital, essential time with the Lord and with me every day, until finally it caught up with'm. They appeared to be strong and they were talented people, but inside they were dying spiritually. Their light went out. They lost the fire and the vision and the strength they needed, until they were alienated from the very life of God itself.

If our folks are not spending time getting in touch with headquarters every day, they're not gonna last. It's as simple as that! If they're not gonna spend time listening to God and listening to God's prophet, they're not gonna get far! If our folks insist on missing their most important appointment of the day, that spells disaster--it's proven by history! (35)

The Enemy goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Just as you can imagine would happen if you were to walk through an area populated by lions, you would walk in fear and trembling that one of those big cats would be lying in wait for you, stalking you, hunting you, seeking his next meal. This is the picture that I have portrayed in this verse, and the picture is accurate. The Enemy of your soul and of My Kingdom stalks and hunts and seeks to destroy. He seeks his next meal, his next prey. Lions seek the weak, for the weak are an easier target. They are worth the hunt, for the weaker the prey, the easier the hunt. Similarly, Satan seeks out the weak or those who've been strong but are experiencing a weak period in their life.

The weak periods are times when you have to be careful to not push yourself or further weaken yourself. When you have been through a time of battle or a time of pouring out, a time when you haven't been able to get the amount of Word or time with Me that you know you need in order to stay strong, then you need to be careful that you don't put yourself in harm's way. You need to be mindful that you get the time of strengthening that you need, for these are times when those who are usually strong can also become prey. This is why some who have been strong in Me and very used of Me have also succumbed to the Enemy's attacks--because during a time when they were a little weakened they didn't take it as seriously as they should have. They got overconfident. They looked at themselves as being strong and thereby underestimated the danger and overestimated their strengths.

If you don't stay close to Me, you'll get weaker. You'll experience discouragement and frustration. You'll make mistakes that you could easily have avoided. You'll wear thin in your ability to tolerate problems; you'll react with impatience when confronted with problems. You'll snap at people; you'll deal with others self-righteously. People will seek to distance themselves from you, as they will be discouraged and experience battles when around you. You won't be happy; you'll know

something is wrong, but you won't have the strength to make the changes you need to make to overcome. You'll gradually get weaker and be less effective in your shepherding and your ability to inspire and lift up others. You'll experience periods of anxiety, of being distraught and confused about life and what you're doing with yours. The world and what it has to offer will look more attractive. You'll look at things more in the flesh and less in the Spirit. You'll be tired and downcast. You'll be sad.

I don't tell you these things to scare you or intimidate you, My love. I tell you this because I don't want you to have to experience any of this, even in the slightest degree. I want you to live a life that is full of My love and My Spirit; that's what I died for! I died to save you for eternity, yes, but I also died to give you a better life while you're alive--that no matter what your physical condition, whatever problems life brings your way, My Spirit in you will cause you to overcome, because you'll have your eyes on Heavenly things and your heart more full of My love.

Love is the greatest force in the world! Love is My Spirit! It is powerful, motivating, captivating! It is the power that overcomes all difficulty, heals the broken heart, lifts the discouraged spirit. The Enemy seeks to snuff out true love, to obscure it with things that smother it and asphyxiate it. He seeks to cut off the air of My Spirit to your heart, to get your eyes on things that upset you, that worry you, that discourage you, that bother you. He seeks to get you to walk in the flesh and not walk in faith. He knows that faith is contagious, that love is contagious. So he seeks to drown it in a flood of worldly thoughts and impressions. Resist him, resist the world, resist the flesh, and My Spirit in you will cause you to overcome! My love will lift you high and you'll not only accomplish what I want you to, which gives the greatest sense of satisfaction, but you'll walk in love, contentment and greater happiness. (36)

Slow It Down!

Tic toc, tic toc tickin'! Tic toc, tic toc tickin'! Time is just ticking away, passing by so quickly. Hurry, stress, pressure, tension, all these things are of the Enemy. Hurry is a lack of faith. Hurry, pressure and tension come when you're thinking you have to do it in your own strength, your own power, your own ways, and with your own hard work.

It is the Enemy who speeds everything up, but I say, slow it down. Take time to come out of the wings, into My temple. Take time in bed with Me, resting, relaxing, making love to Me, hearing My still, small voice, receiving My seeds, letting Me fuck you. Take time to allow Me to whisper My answers, My solutions, My wonder working Words in your ear in times of quietness and confidence and peace and rest.

When you're hurrying and running around in your own strength, how can you hear My voice or find My strength? Take time to rest in Me. Take time to lie in My arms, to hear My Words, to find My solutions, because they're there for you in great abundance.

For I am not just your King and your Savior and your Shepherd, but I am your Lover, your Husband, the One Who longs to supply all your needs and care for you in every way, both great and small. I want you to see My Love, to feel it. I want it to be manifest in your everyday lives, through solutions and great supply and peace and fruitfulness. But you can only find this as you spend time with Me--loving Me, listening to Me, becoming one with Me. Through those times of intimacy you will find the power and anointing and solutions that you so desperately need.

So don't let the Enemy speed things up and push you and rush you and cause you to hurry and run around in your own strength. Recognize that this is a tactic, a ploy of the Enemy. Slow things down. Take time to relax. Take time with Me. For I am your Answer Man. I am the One with the solutions. I am your Husband, your Lover, and I will never fail you! (37)

Rest, My loves, and enjoy that which I have freely given you … time! For of all things the Enemy would love to try to steal, it is your time! His purpose in using the Internet, television, entertainment, video games and movies is to fill the world with action and eat up time, deceiving man to think he's using it well. As the days grow worse and worse, so does the Enemy use these avenues more effectively--to distract, to hypnotize, and to cause life to be a passive thing.

I give each soul years, days, and hours to be spent in caring for others, being of assistance, showing love. Yet the Enemy seeks to sap each potential moment of renewal by eating up the moments with garbage, pollutants, and waste.

Thus is your struggle in these days of the End--in many ways, far more difficult than in My day. Thus will it be said of you that “greater things shall ye do,” because it will take greater conviction to stand against the pull of the Enemy on your time. It will take greater guts to resist the urge to do that which seems to be interesting to the neglect of that which is best--a quiet moment of renewal with Me.

The time robber is lurking about, seeking whom he may destroy. Be not his next meal, My loved ones!

Listen to Me, My children, and be not afraid of making times of rest. Fight against that which would clutter your lives with obligations to the point of exhaustion. I often walked in the hills above the town to drink in of My Father's creation, of His love for Me, and to pour out My soul to Him.

Find your hills! Seek for those moments! Call out to Me to show you that which has to be done and that which can be committed to Me. For if you can become conquerors in this matter of using your time, if you can resist the Enemy's entrapments and ambushes to fill what could be precious moments of renewal, then you will be more than conquerors! You will be some of the few able to rise above the most effective wiles of the Devil in these Last Days. (38)

Just as Satan attacks the citizens of the world on their quality of life, trying to destroy their physical bodies through anxiety, depression, mental and social problems, through a multitude of physical ailments and maladies, so his drive against you, My brides, is to launch even greater attacks on the quality of your spiritual lives--your time with Me, your time in the Word, your time in meditation and prayer.

He knows that the quality of your spiritual lives is far more important than the physical. He seeks to attack your absorption of the Word and your application of the Word to your lives and Homes. There is absolutely nothing that he fights

like the Word, for this is the only thing that can defeat him! [39]

You're probably wondering exactly what it means to be "separate from the world" and how to do that. I will tell you. While it's not easy, I promise that for every step you take for Me, I will take two for you. You start with spending time reading and studying My Word, and taking time for prayer, praise, and hearing from Me. When you do those things, you fill up on My Spirit and power, which automatically separates and shields you from the evils of this world.

The time you spend with Me then translates into being a witness for Me through your sample of happiness, peace, love, patience, giving, understanding, forgiving, listening, and more. Those are all fruits of My Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) that become a part of you when you have spent time with Me. Your life becomes a testimony to My power, because those around you are going to see that you have something special, and they will also want those benefits. That opens the door for you to lead them to Me, the source of your peace and strength of spirit.

So while it may seem as if you live much like everyone else, in reality you are bringing a sample of Heaven's love and ways to brighten up your corner of the world. It's My will for you to stay separate from the evils of the world, and at the same time use your physical presence to bring My love to others who are trapped in the evils of the world, helping to free them by leading them to Me and showing them the heavenly way. [40]

While there is a fine line between being separate from the world, "not touching the unclean thing" and at the same time being "in the world," it's really not complicated at all. It's like swimming underwater. You are not a fish and you have to hold your breath to be able to go underwater; if you just stayed underwater, you'd drown. You have to keep coming up for air, and so it is with your interaction with the world.

You are called to "dive down" into "the world" whenever you have to witness or do business or pass through it for one reason or other, but your lifeline is outside the "water"--outside the world. You do your spiritual breathing in Heaven. As long as you are being faithful to tank up on the Word and spend personal time with Me, you'll be able to stay separate no matter where you need to go in the world. If your spirit is well nourished, you will not be of the world and the distinction will be clear, both in your own mind and also in the eyes of those you come in contact with. [41]

Any one of you, no matter how strong you may seem in the spirit, can fall by the wayside if you do not continue to seek My face, stay close to Me, and tap in to the power that I have. The pressures, the cares of this world, the strains of it all, the attacks of the Enemy from every side will get to you after a while if you don't spend the time with Me that you need--the daily washing of regeneration and renewing of My Holy Ghost.

Never think that you can do it in the arm of your flesh, for you will fall and miss the highest calling that I have for you if you do not learn these lessons. Learn that just like in the oil lamp, the wick must be immersed in the oil. If it is not, the wick will burn, and it will burn black, and it will soon burn out. I wish for you to burn bright and beautiful, but I do not wish for you, the wick, to burn. I wish for you to burn the oil of My Spirit, and that's what I want people to see.

You can't do it of your own self, your own power; it's just not enough. It won't cut it, especially not in this time. The power that you have must come from Me. I wish for you to die to your own self so that you will not live anymore, but that it will be Me living and working through you. That's how you will be most effective, and that's how you will stay alive spiritually and be able to help others as well. [42]

1. Quality Word Time, Part 1 #3549:7-12
2. Quality Word Time, Part 4 #3582:16, 17
3. Quality Word Time, Part 1 #3549:42-46
4. More on the Shakeup 2000! #3262:258, 259, 264
5. The Art of Dependence #3537:83-86
6. The Spiritual Health Revolution! #3184:111, 115, 117, 132-135, 140, 141
7. The Art of War, Part 3 #3558:190-194
8. Faith for the Future #3487:72, 73
9. What Is Jesus Worth to You? #3433:207
10. Leadership Lessons, Part 1 #3347:79-82
11. Training Winning Teams, Part 6 #3586:54, 55, 57, 58
12. Training Winning Teams, Part 1 #3551:74-81
13. Beyond Duty, Part 1 #3749:159-161
14. The Summit '96 Letters Part 6 #3092:44-46
15. Leadership Lessons, Part 1 #3347:140-157
16. Loving Jesus! Part 1 #3024:25-30
17. Perfect Love, Part 2 #3704:9-16
18. Loving Jesus! Part 1 #3024:37-44
19. Loving Jesus! Part 1 #3024:90-98
20. Understanding Prophecy, Part 1 #3275:287-293
21. You Can Make It, Part 2! #3292:37-42
22. It's Cool to Love Jesus! #3101:116-119
23. Surviving and Succeeding, Part 2 #3694:12-16
24. Leadership Lessons, Part 1 #3347:110-118
25. Sweet Communion! #3594:51-56
26. Quiet Time--Your Lifesaver! #3183:74, 77-79
27. Training Winning Teams, Part 1 #3551:12
28. Quality Word Time, Part 3 #3568:37
29. Quality Word Time, Part 2 #3563:15, 16
30. What Is Jesus Worth to You? #3433:169
31. Leadership Lessons, Part 1 #3347:92-95
32. Beyond Duty, Part 2 #3750:3-19
33. You Can Make It, Part 2! #3292:123-131
34. Gems and Jewels, Part 1 #3416:46-54
35. The Spiritual Health Revolution! #3184:79-81
36. Being Re-created! #3346:97-101
37. Problems and Solutions! Part 5 #3073:56-60
38. Gems and Jewels, Part 1 #3416:55-60
39. What Is Jesus Worth to You? #3433:130, 131
40. Not Of This World!--Part 1 #3648:15-17
41. Not Of This World!--Part 1 #3648:41, 42
42. The Weakness Revolution Part 3 #3219:61-63