What Makes a Good Leader?

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated. Dad's writings in the Letters are prefixed by "Dad wrote:" Prophecies received from Dad from heaven are prefixed by "Dad speaking:")

The Letters Train Leaders for the Endtime

I wish for all of My children to be shepherds and leaders, for great will be the flock that will look to you for guidance in the Last Days. So prepare now and begin imbibing My Word, and all the training that is contained therein. (1)

I want to see faithful students feasting on My Word! I love to see the diligent soul made fat and prosperous and wise through faithful study of My Words (Pro.13:48; 2Tim. 2:15). This is how I raise up strong leaders for the Endtime, faithful workmen who are eager to labor in My Word and doctrine. I bless and empower those who feed diligently on My Words. (2)

(Dad speaking:) The best training you have is the Letters. They are the Word of God, which never fails. It is always faithful, always a good sample. You couldn't ask for better training than all the thousands upon thousands of Words I have written, and other pubs on subjects from handyman to childcare. There is no better training since the beginning of time than the Words that have been written for you. It's all there. The Letters are the leaders, as I said many years ago--the best leaders, the most loving leaders, the most faithful, unchanging, always dependable. It's all there for you.
You've got the best training you could ever get--me, the Lord, and the Letters. Praise God! (3)

In time, all of you will be called upon to shepherd others. You will be faced with their problems, questions, battles, doubts, and fears. You will need to be prepared to answer them. So you must prepare now to become shepherds. Start in your own life. Make the commitments needed to be a shepherd. Decide that you will follow close, not afar off. Embrace My Word. Apply it to your life now, so that you will be able to help others apply it in their lives in the days to come by seeing your good sample of following closely. Become your brother's keeper. Learn to shepherd one another in love. Help one another in the spirit. Uphold one another in prayer. (4)

Your special role as a Family continues to be preparation to be a unique testimony of full-time obedience and discipleship, as well as trained and capable leaders of other Christians and brand-new babes.

At this time you, the Family, are doing your best toward the salvation of the world, but your role as leaders of the End hasn't been fully realized yet. You're in training, you're living My Word the best you can, but I haven't yet exalted you by giving you the role you'll play in the future. This will come in My time. (5)

I have saved the deep things for you--the miracles, the revelations, the power, the healings, the understanding, the intimacy, great faith, great boldness, hearing clearly My voice in prophecy, the anointing of being My Endtime leaders of the world. This is reserved for you. The task before you, My Family, is reserved as your specific chosen calling. You will fulfill the verse, "Greater things than these shall ye do." This is what I will call you to do. The Endtime passages that you've read about those who do miracles and exploits, this is for you--you upon whom the ends of the Earth have come. (6)

As things start to happen, the power, anointing, and miracles will be there. I promised I would not leave you comfortless. Do you think that during the darkest days on Earth I would leave you, My leaders of the people, the standard-bearers, the Endtime warriors, the examples, the voices crying in the wilderness, the fighters until the End, the shepherds, the martyrs, the exposers of evil, the champions, the righters of wrong, the heroes of faith, the soul winners, the captive-freers, the reapers, the protectors, the gatherers of the lost, the freedom fighters, My brides, without all that you need? Do you think I would leave you without the protection and provision that you need to do the job? (7)

Don't worry, My children, for I will protect and keep you. Though you feel weak in yourselves, I will make you leaders of My people. Many will flock to you, for they will see your strength, power and faith. They will know that your connection with Me is strong, that you know My Word and My ways, and that you hear My voice. So fear not for the evil you see and the danger which shall surround you. You have nothing to fear, for I will keep you in the hollow of My hand. Many will come to you to be enriched and strengthened, to draw from the truth of the treasures of My Word that you have loved and valued all your lives. It shall become known that you, My little ones, the children of David, are the leaders of the Endtime, the avant-garde, the officers, the commanders. You shall lead My people in times of trouble, and you shall bring them through to great victory, because of your great faith and your deep knowledge of Me and your intimate relationship with Me. (8)

Why do you think you're going to be the leaders? Why do you think others will come running to you and know that you are

the ones that I've chosen to lead My children in these Last Days? It will be because the spirit and power will be so strong in you that nothing will stop you. You'll be able to face any difficulty, any odds, and be able to call on My power and help. This will prove to others that you are great in My eyes. [9]

My vision is to have thousands and thousands of little Jesuses spread throughout this world, living as I lived, doing the work I began of loving and teaching all men, wreaking havoc on the Devil and his plans, and ushering in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Each Family member is being trained toward this end. It's with this vision in mind that I prepare the Family, because with this preparation, you'll be able to live, work and survive through any world conditions, both the present ones of relative tolerance as well as any future persecutions, and even the Great Tribulation. [10]

My prayer for the children of David is that not only will they be open and willing to be shepherds and leaders when I call them to be, but that they will realize that this is the reason I have brought them into the world at this time, and have invested years of training in them; it's for this very purpose. You will lead the armies of Christians in rebellion and final victory over the Devil's leadership of the wicked of this world. That is what I have called you to, and there is no greater calling or prize than to be at the forefront of this battle. [11]

A Leader Should Have a Shepherd's Heart

I've been teaching you to be a wise leader, but I'm also teaching you to be a loving shepherd. And this takes time, for it's easier to lead than to shepherd. To be a good and wise leader takes a good connection with Me; it takes My wisdom and the gifts and anointing that I have given you. To be a good and loving shepherd takes a broken heart--a heart that overflows with love, that takes time with others, that lays down its life, and that allows itself to be eaten that others may gain strength. [12]

It's not the day of grand evangelism; it's the day of loving shepherds. To be able to know My sheep and what they need and what they're feeling is a special gift. [13]

Going out to feed My sheep can be difficult. Sometimes you're tired and you don't feel like getting out of your nice comfortable bed to go out into the muddy pasture among the sheep, facing the elements. Sometimes it's wet or cold outside, or the sheep are far away on the other side of the field or meadow, or they've managed to get themselves in some sort of trouble with brambles or predators. But still you go out to feed My sheep and minister to them, and it is your faithfulness to do so that proves your love for them. It is your perseverance in feeding them that makes you a good shepherd, one who loves them and has a heart for them.

You don't have to be inspired to feed My sheep, or have a vision for their future, or have a deep love for them. It can help if you do, of course, but feeding them doesn't depend on any of these things, just on your obedience and faithfulness to do it day after day after day, to provide what My sheep need and to take it to them, no matter what the cost. This is how you show your love for them, and as you do, all these other things are added unto you--the inspiration, the vision, the love. If you don't feel these things now, just do it anyway. Continue to feed My sheep. Lovest thou Me? Feed My sheep. [14]

True shepherds go beyond the call of duty and what is required of them. Their ears are attuned to the call of love, the call that beckons them to go a step further, to show initiative, to seek out and actively pursue ways in which they can help lighten and relieve the load of others. This is a true shepherd. This goes way beyond the titles of leadership, the positions, opinions, and appearances of man. [15]

Can you shepherd My sheep? No, only I can shepherd them. You can shepherd them only if you let Me shepherd them through you. [16]

How can you know the needs of your sheep unless you ask Me?--Because sometimes they won't even tell you! You can't be a good shepherd unless you ask Me about the needs of the flock. [17]

My people are sheep, they follow, and what they really follow is what you do more than what you say. If they see you walking up the mountain, and you call to them to get their attention, they'll follow the shepherd! But if they hear you call out, "Go up the mountain, sheep," they'll simply lift their heads, look at you, see you're not doing anything, and then go back to grazing! You have to call out to them and then start up the mountain yourself. As you start climbing, they'll see you're serious, they'll try to get that last bit of grass in their mouths, and then they'll take off after you before they get left behind. [18]

We are all on the trip together, and I keep you a little ahead of the flock so that you can lead them and guide them. But I would that you would have them close behind you, as a good shepherd does not venture out too far ahead of the sheep, lest they worry and be concerned. But I would have you just at the head, showing them the way step by step by step by step. I am just ahead of you showing you the path, and showing you the waters, and showing you the green fields, because we are all in it together. [19]

(Dad wrote:) Are we giving our sheep, especially the little young new lambs, the tender loving care, food, and training they need? Some of our shepherds have become careless, selfish, indifferent, and unobservant of the needs of their flock and allowed some of them to sicken from neglect, perish with malnutrition, or wander away to the wolves!

So it is not the fault of the sheep, but the shepherds! Our greatest need this year will be good leaders who are concerned for their flocks!--Good shepherds who will lay down their lives for their sheep! Are you one of these?--Or are you one of the hirelings who will flee when trouble comes? [20]

(Dad wrote:) We need people first of all with love! If they haven't got love to begin with, they're nothing and they can do nothing!--No matter how smart they are or anything. If they don't love our people and love souls and love the field, then they're nothing!--Anybody that's cold and hard and dictatorial and Chain-like and hasn't got real compassion and real love and isn't really concerned for those people in the field certainly doesn't belong in leadership writing letters to the sheep!

I don't want anybody in our leadership anywhere in the family that's not working for that one reason, trying to save souls, the lost to begin with, and trying to help the soul-savers!--Really, sincerely, honestly concerned about them, not just doing some kind of formal, mechanical job, going through the motions without the power thereof. (2Tim.3:5) What's the power?--Love! Love! And if they haven't got that power, they haven't got anything! You might as well kick them out, forget them!

If we're training people to run the world, we've got to have people who really love God and who love the sheep.

That's the story, brother, if it's not love, it's nothing! If it's not in love, it's nothing! [21]

My children have now seen that that which is at the extreme is not the most beneficial. They have had extreme shepherding, where they were so boxed in and were not able to do anything without permission; and now they have felt the opposite extreme, of being able to do everything with no one to watch over them, no one to shepherd them, no one to care for them, and they find that this is not satisfying. There needs to be a fine balance, there needs to be the hand of a shepherd leading and guiding and caring for the sheep.

What does a shepherd do? He cares for the sheep. He gently leads them, but he lets them graze and find their own grass and meander over the hills. There are times when he calls them together and when he protects them, but there are times when he lets them roam within the pasture. My children must learn to shepherd properly. Shepherding does not mean keeping all the sheep penned up tightly, crowded together. But neither is it letting them roam everywhere, all the time, with no protection and care.

My sheep do not want to be penned up. They do not want to be regimented. They do not want to be bound. They want to be free to serve Me, free to follow Me. But they have need of proper shepherding--shepherding that helps them maintain their health. For does not the shepherd shear the sheep? Does he not trim their hooves and bob their tails? Does he not make sure they are eating properly and that they are brought into good pasture? Does not the shepherd protect them from the attacks of the wild beasts? Do not My children need that kind of shepherding?

They have rebelled against the harsh shepherds, the shepherds that kept them penned in tightly and would not let them move. In their rebellion, they have pushed off all shepherding, but I say they need proper shepherding. They need shepherding of the Spirit, shepherding of love, shepherding of care, shepherding of loving discipline. When one sheep begins to lead the other sheep astray, the shepherd must discipline that sheep, lest there be great damage and harm in their being led astray.

Sheep need shepherds. Have I not called you the sheep of My pasture? Am I not the Chief Shepherd? Have I not appointed unto you shepherds to care for you? Have I not said they must watch for your souls? Have I not said to you shepherds that you are not to act as lords over God's heritage?

Sheep, love your shepherds. Shepherds, love your sheep. Work together in harmony. Have I not said that when one is overtaken with a fault, that you who are spiritual should care for them in a spirit of meekness? Have I not laid down My rules of discipline? Have I not said that if one is overtaken with a fault, you should speak with him?

You must shepherd in the Spirit and not in the flesh. You must shepherd their souls. You must show them those areas in which they are falling away. You must show them through love and through My Word and through example. For I wish My flock to be shepherded by loving shepherds, wise shepherds, shepherds who shepherd in the Spirit. If your shepherding is shepherding in the flesh, without love and without care, if you only push and shove, if you only demand, your sheep will not follow. But if you will lovingly shepherd, if you will shepherd in the Spirit, if you will shepherd by love so that all that you do is in love, they will follow.

But you sheep must remember that love takes on many forms. Love can be gentle, love can be loving, love can be caressing. Love can be correcting, love can be disciplining, but even so, it will be loving. Even so must it be done with love and with patience, with long-suffering, with meekness and with gentleness.

But the sheep who will not receive the love and the gentleness must receive the discipline, the correction. For the wayward sheep, who after much cajoling continues to lead others astray in waywardness, must be disciplined, must be corrected, and must be brought back into the fold. If it will not, this is the sheep that the shepherd will sell and will be rid of, so that it will not lead others astray.

How are you shepherded? You are shepherded through My Word, for I have given you an abundance of guidance and direction so that you shall know what is right and what is wrong, what is allowable and what is not, what is of the Spirit and what is not, what is of God and what is not. I have given you the Charter that has set the boundaries, so that all will know and all will be

judged fairly by the same standard. By this you shall know that which is right and that which is unacceptable, that which will keep you, the sheep of My pasture, and that which will not.

I shepherd you through My voice and through conviction and through speaking to your heart, through the experiences you have, the problems you face. These are all the shepherding of My hand. I also shepherd you through your shepherds, those who are there, who see you day by day, who pray for you, who weep for you, who are concerned about you and who wish to give you counsel and guidance and help to keep you moving forward in the right path.

Do not reject any of this shepherding, whether it be from My Word, whether it be from the Charter, whether it be from My voice, or whether it be from the shepherds who are there with you. All of them are needed, all of them are necessary, and none of them can be neglected. For he that neglects shepherding, he that will not receive shepherding, is he that will be led astray.

But you shepherds must shepherd in the Spirit with great love, for your sheep will not follow you because of your hardness and because of your demanding. They will follow you because of your love and your care for them. So love and care. If you care as one cares for his child, you will show love, you will give instruction, you will correct in love, you will help supply their needs, and you will help them to grow in the proper way. You will feed them with the Words of God, you will feed them with the Words of David, and you will uphold these Words in your own life as an ensample unto them. For the good shepherd goes before his sheep. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The good shepherd loves his sheep.

Be not as an hireling, one who cares not for the sheep but cares only for yourself, only for your power, only for your control. That is not shepherding, that is fleecing!--Fleecing in the flesh, fleecing in the spirit.

Love your sheep. Love those that I have put in your care. Care for them and love them. Listen to them. Live with them. Be one with them. Have compassion upon them and care for them, as I care for you. For that is true shepherding, that is shepherding in the Spirit.

Are you a true shepherd? Then love My sheep. Are you a true sheep? Then love your shepherds. Lovest thou Me? Feed My sheep. Lovest thou Me? Follow your shepherds. Lovest thou Me? Together follow Me, your Chief Shepherd, and I will lead you to green pastures, to pure, still waters, that you may benefit, that you may grow and that you may be strengthened. [(22)]

(Dad speaking:) There was one thing I could never stand, and that was the shepherds taking advantage of the sheep, not really loving and caring for them, but using them for their own ends.

That's why I called for the RNR, because the sheep were being hurt by the shepherds. So I set everyone free! But that had its problems too. You can see that now as well with the Charter. You can see that total control has its problems and that total freedom has its problems. They're just different problems.

It's like I said about the Spirit: Some people are afraid of wildfire, so they have no fire. Some people try to so completely control the fire that it's quenched, and things become cold and lifeless. But the wildfire that has no control also does damage. So you must find the balance in the center, so that there is fire, but it is controlled enough that it does not burn down the house and burn down the fields.

This is how it is with shepherding. You cannot shepherd so tightly that everyone is bound and no one is free and no one can follow the Lord. But if you have no shepherding, if you allow only wildfire, it will hurt and it will destroy. It will burn others. You have to find the proper balance, folks!

There has to be some shepherding, but it has to be the right kind of shepherding. You shepherds must have conviction to do that which is right. You must uphold the standard, the Word--not a false standard, but the standard of the Word, the standard laid out in the Charter, the standard of love, based on the Word of God. People will respect you if you stand for the Word and if you show them love.

These are the pillars of shepherding: keeping the standard of the Word of God, and showing love. Both of these must be there for the proper balance, to uphold the Family, to uphold your Home, for one without the other is not enough. If the pillar of love is not standing, and only the pillar of the standard of the Word is, then people become self-righteous and critical and follow the letter of the law. But if only the pillar of love is standing, then the conviction to follow the Word is weakened and no one wants to stand strong, for they fear that they will be seen to be unloving.

Without the pillar of the standard of the Word of God, the love will have no backbone. The love will ooze out, but it will be weak and will not be able to uphold the Home, for there is no standard and it is not standing in conjunction with the Word. The pillar of the Word alone becomes too strong and hard, but the pillar of love alone becomes too weak, too soft. But together, they are a perfect balance.

So it is with good shepherding; it needs both. There has to be the strength of the Word, the strength of the strong pillar, but it must be tempered with the love and the tenderness of the pillar of love. Like a father and a mother--the father having the strength and the stamina, and the mother having the love and the compassion--together they make good parents who raise good children. So is it with shepherding. It needs both, and one cannot do without the other, for they balance it together.

You have swung from the one side, from the pillar of the standard of the Word, way to the other side, to just the pillar of love. But you need to come back to the middle where both pillars will work together, and together will be the perfect balance.

So have conviction, folks! I always had conviction. I always stood up for what was right, but I also had love. I had them together.--And you must have them together. This doesn't only go for you shepherds, but also for you sheep. You too must have the conviction of the Word, and you must use the power of love. You must have them both. You must not demand of your shepherds that they only ooze out love all over you, but that they also stand strong with the conviction of the Word. You know in your heart

that you need both! You know in your heart that you crave both! But you need the proper balance, and you shepherds must supply the proper balance.

The Charter is there to protect from the extremes, but you must use that which is given to you, the pillar of the standard of God's Word, the strength of that pillar, as well as the pillar of love, the pillar of warmth and fire. These two must be blended together.

Each one of you, each member, each disciple, each lover of God, must have a proper balance in your life, the balance of love and of the standard of the Word, together as one, if you wish to find real happiness, real strength in spirit. For this will give you the proper balance. In this proper balance you will find peace and contentment, you will find faith, you will find the happiness and the freedom and the warmth and the fire, all that you need, without the extremes. [23]

(Dad wrote:) We thank you, Lord, for those who were good shepherds and faithful and cared for the sheep and laid down their lives daily for the sheep, Lord. Bless them and keep them and continue to make them a blessing, Lord. We know that You will raise up shepherds after Your own heart to care for Your sheep, Lord, wherever they may be, and a man's talents shall make room for him, and if they're worthy of being a good shepherd, Lord, then they will be and You'll make them so, and the sheep will follow them because they know Your voice.

Help us to be the same, all of us, Lord, good shepherds of Your sheep, good stewards of Your Kingdom, Lord, whom You can trust with the task of feeding them most of all and caring for them, Lord, as well, guarding them from the wolves and the Devil who goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, and who stands day and night accusing Thy saints and trying to divide, trying to subvert and propagandizing and lying and causing doubts and fears. [24]

The Breakings Give You Love and Compassion

(Dad speaking:) There isn't one single leader in the Family today that the Lord is greatly using and who has His special anointing, that hasn't been through the fire. They've all been tested. They've all had to go through personal battles, trials, and make great personal sacrifices. They've all had to surrender and yield their lives, their personal desires and plans, their pride, and many times their loved ones on the altar of sacrifice and give them all up to the Lord. That's why they're such beautiful, yielded vessels which the Lord can use. It takes real humbling and breaking and remaking by the Lord's Spirit for you to become the leader He needs and wants you to be.

The Lord knows what's best for each one of us, and all you have to do is yield to the lessons He's teaching you. Be desperate to learn them and yield to them. Cry out to Him for His help, for His anointing, and for the grace to stick to it until you've learned it. Don't give up! Don't walk out the door, throw in the towel, or give up in discouragement. The test may be hard, but that's the case with all true leaders. [25]

(Dad wrote:) Even your mistakes were part of your training, and he gets some of his greatest victories out of seeming defeats, victories of brokenness, humility, and more utter dependence on him, which you must have to be a leader! My Mother once asked the great evangelist, Paul Rader, "Why are the labourers always so few?" And he answered wisely, "I guess God can't break them fast enough." How true! God only uses broken men and women--no others will do! Others are too self-confident in their own flesh! God has to break them, melt them, and mold them again in the hands of the Potter, to make them a better vessel, but He won't force it! The breaking depends upon you and your yieldedness, and willingness to be made willing, total humility, which is synonymous with total love, so you're willing to go anywhere, anytime, and do anything, for anybody, and be nobody, to please him, and help others! [26]

(Dad speaking:) I'm sorry that you've had to go through some heartbreak and suffering, that your sons have broken your heart. I'm sorry. I know what it's like, Honey. It's tough, it's really tough.

Like me, the heartbreak has given you deeper compassion and love. That's something that you really need to be a good leader. Don't despise your broken heart and the sorrow that you've felt. The Lord has required great sacrifices of many throughout history, which they were willing to give to Him. They too gave with heartbreak, but they gave nonetheless. The Lord doesn't say that you have to be happy about it, but just that you have to trust Him. [27]

Anyone can be a shepherd if they are willing and have My anointing, but I've had time to break you and remake you, to teach you through experience, to let you go through things that make you more understanding of others and better able to relate to them, to raise your children and a family, and see the results of your investment--for better or for worse--and this has given you beautiful qualities that are useful in shepherding.

You've learned some balance, wisdom, and discernment, learned that you're not always right, learned to listen, learned to give, learned patience, learned how to take people and situations where they're at and work with them. You've learned these and many other things that make a shepherd able to do their job and do it well.

You are one of My best comforters, counselors, and shepherds. There's something about knowing that the person you're sharing your heart with has been through many things, forsaken all many times, and is still going for Me, that makes them easy to

talk to and their advice easier to accept, and people find that in you.

You've been comforted by Me through many troubles, and thus I have made you, and will continue to make you, a comforter of others. [28]

Take Time with the Lord

Jesus' Quiet Time Testimony!

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.

They were fun, I enjoyed them! They were wonderful folks. Each one was special, each one was different. Some were simple, some were quite bright and clever, others were talented--special people, I'd say, just like the special people that surround you. Each one had his own mind, his own will, his own heritage and background that made him unique, special and different.

Learning to shepherd and care for them and lead them was a challenge for Me--wooing them, winning them, understanding them, convincing them, cajoling them, staying a step ahead and leading them, encouraging them to follow, even though most of the time I realized that they didn't understand where we were going.

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. [29]

The “Morning Prayer” vision

(Dad wrote:) A beautiful vision of a shepherd on the hillside with his sheep. The shepherd seems to be upset about something. The sheep are bunching up and running around nervously, excitedly, and somewhat fearfully, and they're running back and forth in confusion, as though they're wondering what made the shepherd angry. It's a funny thing how animals partake of your own spirit. If you're frightened, they're frightened. If you're cross and nervous, they get nervous--horses, dogs, sheep or goats, etc., react this way to your own emotions, especially if you're very close to them!-- Chickens, too!

When the shepherd gets upset, it upsets the sheep. The shepherd must feed of the elements of the earth to be satisfied, and to satisfy his flock. He too, must sit upon the hillside and pipe sweet music unto His Creator in praises, to bring peace to his own soul. So the shepherd sits down on a rock on the hillside overlooking the pasture and the sheep grazing, and begins playing on his wooden pipe--there is another shepherd with him, who sits quietly listening. And when he just quit trying to run everything else in his own spirit, and sat down and relaxed and got in communication with his own Creator,--when he shut his eyes and began to play such sweet music on his pipe--the sheep knew everything was alright, and they just calmed down and went quietly about their business. That quietness of spirit was passed on to them. So the shepherd himself has to be fed with the hand of his Creator, and the hand of his Shepherd, If he's going to feed the sheep and bring them the same peace. That sweet music of praise relaxed the sheep and they began to graze again and spread out over the hillside.

Occasionally it is necessary for the shepherd to feed a sheep with the rod and with the bread of affliction (Mic 7:14; IKgs 22:27). So instead of bawling everybody out, he just takes a staff and strikes the one sheep that's disorderly, not making a big fuss about it, so it doesn't upset all the sheep. But that one gets the point!

The main job of a shepherd is to keep in touch with the Lord--to begin the day with sweet music--praise and fellowship. We have to learn how to first of all, rest at the Lord's feet. The secret of that calm and peace and rest and patience and faith and love is that resting in the Lord!--Getting calm before the Lord and praising the Lord and seeking the Lord first. And then you just impart this to the sheep--it's a spirit--you impart that very atmosphere.

This is why you cannot even make a move until you first have found that place of rest and calm and sweet peace in the Lord, and have set down and played your pipe to the Lord. It's all a spiritual thing. If you try to do it in the flesh, you might as well quit. Your own flesh will get you down. That sweet rest is a sign of real faith, which brings patience. As your harp begins to play sweet music, it communicates to the sheep. Our music has communicated more to these sheep than anything else. We comfort others with the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted. [30]

Others Partake of Your Spirit and Sample!

(Dad speaking:) Our folks need to review what I said in that simple little Letter about morning prayer. The sheep partake of the shepherd's spirit, folks. Everyone in our Family is shepherding someone, and if you're a bad sample, you're passing that same bad sample right on down the line--whether it be to the children, our young people, the folks you're witnessing to and training to be disciples, or even your brothers and sisters, all of whom look to you and observe your sample. It might not seem obvious all the time, but they do.

And it's not only those times when the shepherd gets angry and impatient and out of sorts that the sheep partake of. In spirit, if you're not filling up on the Word on a daily basis, reading and tanking up, this is going to be reflected in all you say and do. It's not always so outwardly obvious or something that meets the eye, but the spirit bears witness, and sooner or later you'll reap the results.

Whereas if you're pouring out and ministering from a full heart because you came down from the mountain that morning refreshed, clean, and emanating the Spirit of God--then this is going to have a good, positive effect on those with whom you come in contact! All those around you partake of your spirit, and when your spirit is full of the Word of God, this is going to have positive results! But, sad to say, if your spirit is full of worries, cares and burdens, this too is going to flow out and affect all those you come in contact with. And that's what your spirit will impart, even though you smile on the outside.

You might say and do a lot of the right things, and you might be kind and even be able to spread a little love, but because you're not able to get fresh daily vision, because you're heavy-hearted and pressed with burdens, because you didn't take a nice invigorating shower and get all cleaned up--even though somehow you're able to keep up good appearances, nevertheless, that busy, somewhat heavy, burdensome spirit is still there in the atmosphere around you.

You simply cannot serve and minister to others from an empty shell! And if you're operating "business as usual" with little fresh inspiration from On High, so will those around you. It's in the atmosphere around you. Something is a little stiff, a little dry, because you didn't have that time for the Lord and the Word; you didn't stop to get refreshed from On High. You can be preaching all the right sermons, you can be saying all the right words, but if your life and your actions are not sparked with that fresh input and inspiration from Heaven every day, it's all a bunch of hot air!

Sure, I know you have to take care of the Home, the children, the outreach and the many affairs of the Lord's business. But there's a marked difference between starting off your day in that sweet communion with the Lord and allowing Him to carry you through the business of His Kingdom, and going day after day and only catching the Lord for a hallway hit-up here and there! If that's all you're getting, you'll be missing out on that spark, that pep, and zest that enables you to zip through your work and perform your ministry with effortless ease and really connect with others and inspire them along the way! You're simply not going to be able to be a good representative of the Boss if you're not sitting in the conference room with Him every day. [31]

(Dad wrote:) We cannot nourish others unless we ourselves are refreshed and nourished and can minister unto our babes of the strength which you supply. So help us to remember that we need rest and we need nourishment and we need refreshing and we need inspiration. We cannot feed them from empty shells, Lord, from an empty cupboard, an over-burdened heart, a strained body that has not even enough for itself much less for others.

Help us to drink in to overflowing so that we can overflow upon others, not to have to try to squeeze out the last drop of our blood and our strength and our time and our spirit to nourish someone else when we haven't enough even ourselves. Help us Lord to be filled to overflowing by Your Spirit, so that we may have not only enough for ourselves but enough for many others as well.

Help us never to forget that the first place is for You, Lord. The first place is for You and we must drink of You and Your Spirit if we're going to have enough not only for ourselves but to overflow upon others. So help us to take good care of ourselves, Lord, both physically and spiritually.

Help us to let you take good care of us, Lord, and to give You all the cooperation we can by getting proper rest, Lord, and proper exercise and diet. Help us most of all to get the rest, exercise and diet of Yoyr Word and Your Spirit and Your Service, that we may be physically whole and well and strong and well able to serve You, and spiritually whole, strong and happy in Your service, Lord.

Help us Lord not to be so pressured that we put off our time with You. Help us, even as we went out this morning to bask in Your sunshine for a little while and breathe deeply the refreshment of Your wonderful fresh air, to put You first each day, spiritually to bask in Your sunshine, rest in Your arms, drink deeply of Your Word and inhale your Spirit! Hallelujah!

(Tongues) "hear ye the words of thy father and hear ye the wise counsel I have given unto David." Thank You Lord! Thank You Jesus for Abrahim! [32]

It Has to Be Done In the Spirit

Your work for Me, the Family's work for Me, is a spiritual matter. Your efforts and works must be founded primarily upon the spiritual. As you well know, you wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Greater am I that am in you than he that is in the world.

No matter how much training, expertise, wisdom or initiative you or your co-workers have, that alone will never be enough. Never! Even your best efforts, your hardest work, your greatest teamworking and pumping people power will never be enough. Only I can make up the difference.

You must have My miracle-working power, otherwise everything you do will fall short. This is the crux of the matter. If you can just understand this point, then I believe you'll never stray down that path of Martha again.

What that means is, no matter how hard you work, no matter how many messages you write or how many meetings you host, it will never be enough, because it's the dynamics of the spirit world that My work must be done first and foremost in the spirit--through spending time with Me in the Word and prayer. I know you know this in principle; you've read it hundreds of times. But the full truth of this has failed to sink deep within your heart. The reality of My power and your need for it has not taken hold in your mind to the point that it governs your priorities, decisions, and mindset.

Let Me work for you!

Be honest with yourselves. If you truly understood this concept and accepted it fully in your heart, do you think you'd be missing your Word time, skipping your prayer vigils, and regularly postponing or cutting short your conference days? Step back and examine yourselves. Look at the way you operate. What do you see?

I'll tell you what I see. There are multitudes who need to be reached with My message. There are countless disciples to be won. There's a hungry and bleating flock already within the folds. There are ravenous wolves attacking and trying to maim and kill the lambs. There are harvesting tools to be made and implemented. And there you stand with your little tools in hand, ready to go to work. You're determined and dedicated, and you're looking around seeing which direction to move first. Of course, it's overwhelming, as each and every need would be a full-time job. So you dash around, a little here and a little there. Your tools are very tiny and outdated, so you get your hands all scratched up and your clothes torn. By the end of the day you're exhausted, dirty, and sad. The next day it begins again.

All the while I'm standing right behind you--Me with My team of angelic helpers and spirit beings who tower above you like giants--and we're trying to get your attention. We're waving and shouting and whistling! We have huge modern technology in our hands, tools that you've never seen. If you'd just ask, we're ready to operate our tools on your behalf, which would make your work much easier. But alas, you keep running around here and there, saying, "I'll be right with You. Just a minute. I just have to take care of this one thing, and then this other, and then this other. Ahhh … just one second. Really, I'm almost done."

Every once in a while you collapse, and then you call on Me and My team, and we're so happy! Finally we're able to step in and do the work for you. But then, as soon as you feel you've recouped a tiny bit of strength, you're up and at it again. "Oh, excuse me," you say, as you push your way to the front. "Uhhh, I need to get to work. Could You move over a little? Let me see, now where was I?" And there you go again. Same story, over and over.

If you could see it from My point of view, you'd see that it's really ridiculous! You are merely weak men and women. I am the God of the Universe. All power is given to Me. I rule! I keep My promises. I am a faithful, doting Husband, and yet there's so little room for Me in your lives.

You know what that is? It's self-righteousness. It's thinking too highly of yourselves. It's the epitome of the arm of the flesh. Anything and everything that you could ever do is minute, weak and pathetic compared to what I can do. I can do anything! I can do everything! When you really think about it, what can you do?

This is My work, My Family, My flock, My harvest field, My tools, and I am the Boss! This is something I want to get straightened out once and for all. If you want to work for Me, if you want to be an example to the flock, if you want to be in leadership, there are rules, and the first one on the list is to let Me work! The way you do that is by letting Me into your lives fully. Instead of thinking the world will fall apart if you don't rush into the day answering your mail messages, instead of working late into the night trying to finish up that last file, instead of all those long, draining meetings, instead of rushing around here and there to tie up every loose end in sight--call on Me. Let Me work for you! Let Me do it! Because don't you get it?--Only I can!

I want to see your priorities change. I want that time with you in My Word every single day. I want to speak to you in prophecy every single day! I want to give you answers as you meditate in prayer every single day. I want you to lay hold of My miracle-working power through intercessory prayer every single day. You either do that or you're fired!

Sorry, but we need to be clear here. I'm the Boss. It's My company. Those are the rules. It has to be that way, and the reason it has to be that way is because otherwise you'll fail, and the Family will fail. It's as simple as that. There's too much for you as a human to do. The load is and will always be too big. The battle is waged in the spirit, not in the physical world. You must have My miracle-working power. [33]

This has been the struggle from the very beginning: flesh versus spirit. This was the choice that Cain and Abel faced, the cause of the controversy between them, and this same struggle between flesh and spirit continues to this very day.

The reason the Enemy fights so hard is because he knows that this is a way that he can easily get in. It's already man's natural tendency to be strong and to lean on his own strength and logic, and seeing that you are in bodies of flesh, it's hard for many to differentiate between strength of flesh and strength of spirit.

I have blessed many of you with a strong mind and intellect, and when you're yielded to My Spirit, then I can use your natural strengths to help accomplish My will. I've given many of you gifts in the natural--organizational talents and abilities, as well as drive and initiative--and when coupled with My Spirit, you can be powerful and useful tools in My hand.

But you must let My Spirit have full sway. Pray without ceasing, always looking to Me and letting Me lead and guide you in everything you say and do. If not, if you go ahead and do things in your own strength and wisdom, then I can't fully bless you. You will have complications, difficulties, things will take much longer than you expected, and you'll find yourself becoming discouraged,

tired, and lacking in My Spirit and strength.

I can't bless you and help you as much as I would like if you're running around and doing things in the arm of the flesh, outside of My protection and blessing. You have to spend time with Me. You have to be in constant communication with Me and let My Spirit empower and anoint you. Your job is too big and the responsibility is too great to even think that you can do things on your own, and if and when you try, you are automatically overextended. It all comes down to the wrong mindset of thinking you have to do it. You don't have to do it; I have to do it! But because there's so much work to be done, it's hard for some to realize when they're starting to cross over and do things in the arm of the flesh by overextending themselves, rather than relying on Me and My timetable, My direction, and My Spirit.

How many times have I shown you and told you that by spending time with Me, I will help your work to progress even more quickly, and give you the solutions and answers? When you're taking your time with Me faithfully, I'm able to help you keep things in perspective, and you're not as easily pressured and tempted to overextend yourself. I'm also able to bring the solutions through prayer, much quicker than you could ever bring them about, if you could bring them about at all. I will do the work for you if you'll let Me. So if you really want to accomplish a lot and make a lot of progress and avoid the pit of overextending yourself, the secret is to take the necessary time with Me. The dynamics of the spirit are such that you can accomplish much, much more if you spend time with Me. (34)

No longer will I allow you to operate in the arm of the flesh. In days past I winked at these things, for there were many other lessons to learn, there was much other growth needed. But these days are now the days of the voice of the Lord, the voice of My whispers, the strength of quietness and the power of weakness. No more will I allow the strength of the strong or the wisdom of the wise or the power of the mighty to rule, for those are the ways of defeat. But now the strength and power of My Word and the strength and the power of your weakness rules, and the strength and the power of My voice instructs, and the strength and the power of My Love empowers. These are the things that must rule in these days.

Would you have this power? Would you have this wisdom, and would you have this understanding, and would you have this empowerment, and would you have this strength? Then come unto Me! Enter into My rest, for in quietness and confidence shall be your strength. You must stand back and see Me fight! Stand back and see My strength! Stand back in prayer, stand back in praise, stand back in quietness, stand back in communion with Me. Stand back as receivers, listening, tuning in to My voice. Then you shall see the power and might of God in a way that you have not seen it in any of the days past.

As I have brought weakness unto your shepherds, so do I bring weakness upon you, for I will not let you operate any longer in the arm of your own might. Instead you must operate in the power of My might, in the power of prayer, in the power of quietness and in the power of communion with Me.

And what must you do to accomplish this? You must take time in quietness, listening unto Me. You must take time in feeding, feeding of My Words. You must take time in asking, asking for My help. You must take time in seeking, seeking My direction. And you must take time in listening unto My voice.

You must continue to do the works that I have sent for you and the work that I will show you that you must do. But you can no longer do this work without the power of My Spirit, and the power of My Spirit can only be received in communion with Me.

Do not fight it, do not resist it, just yield. Just yield to Me. Yield by stopping, yield by looking, yield by listening, yield by putting up your antennas and carefully tuning in to My Spirit in faith, in quietness and in confidence, knowing that as you tune in to Me, you shall receive that which I have for you. And that which I have for you will work and will strengthen you and empower you, and it will push you and move you and guide you. And by this, you shall surely know that it is the power and might of God that leads you and that brings forth victory.

It will cause you to praise Me even more, it will cause you to seek Me even more, and it will be a continual cycle of you seeking, Me answering, and you praising. The more you see these victories and the answers to your prayers and the empowerment of My Spirit, the more you will praise Me and the more you will ask of Me and the more I will do for you; and the more you will seek Me and the more you will praise Me and the more I will do for you! And it will continue rolling and rolling and rolling, ever gaining momentum and gaining praise and gaining victories and gaining miracles.

So shall your strength grow, and your faith grow, and your in-tuneness grow, and so shall My power and might within you grow, and so shall you be the children of David, empowered by the Spirit and the might of God! So shall you have faith to do the exploits and the mighty things that I will call upon you to do in the Last Days.

For this is the beginning, and you must learn these things now. You must yield unto My power and My might now. You must learn to tune in to Me and receive of Me now. You must learn to seek Me now, to praise Me now, to worship Me now, to be empowered by Me now. The cycle must begin now, so that in the time that you have remaining, you will grow in power, grow in might, grow in praise, grow in thanksgiving, grow in faith--that you may be strong in the power and might of God in the days ahead!

So fear not, worry not; you will grow if you will but take the little steps now. Just begin tuning in now. Commune more with Me now. Speak more to Me now. Listen more to Me now. Love Me more now. Follow closer now. Obey My Word now. Yield to Me now in the little things, day by day, step by step. Make the effort and pay the price. Take the humbling and take the step of faith, and do it now, that you may begin the cycle of the empowerment of God! (35)

It is your love for My Words and for the spirit of David that has made you what you are this day--a good shepherd and one who loves the sheep. It is your humility, your willingness to be open unto those that you shepherd, to confess your faults, to seek

prayer and to seek the help of others, that has made you what you are today. Remember these things, for these are the things that keep you--My Word, My Spirit, your humility and your love for Me. So seek My Word and My Spirit. Seek to be lowly and open, humble and loving, that you may bring forth fruit. For without these things, your natural tendencies come to the fore and are an offense.

But My Word, My Spirit, My Love and your humility cover this, and I shine through you, and this is what your sheep, your flocks, need to see. They need to see Me shining through you, and they need to see your humility and openness. They need those who are touched with the feelings of their infirmities, even as I came forth as one of the people. I now understand the tests and the trials, the hardships, and I have compassion. So must My generals understand and have compassion upon My sheep.

Knowing that your sheep love you and look unto you is a heavy burden to bear, for they follow you because they love you, and they imitate you because they love you. Thus you must be desperate to stay very close to Me and to My Words and to My Love, and in humility and in lovingkindness one to another, that they will emulate this, and that they will not see you in your own strength, in your own ways, lest they imitate that. So seek to stay very close to Me and filled with My Spirit, following closely day by day, that your sheep may see Me shining through you. (36)

Stop… Look… and Listen

(Dad wrote:) The Lord is trying to teach you to make decisions. Don't start talking amongst yourselves--the first step is to ask the lord! God likes you to give Him a little honor. Prayer is not just getting down and speaking your piece, but most of all letting God speak His piece, and waiting in quietness and confidence until He answers! You've got to know you can't do it, and be desperate for God's answer, and stop everything else, and listen! Getting quiet before the Lord shows you have faith that God is going to handle the situation. He's going to take care of things. Take time to hear from God, and He'll take the time to straighten out the problem. Your feverish activity is nothing--your service is nothing, if you don't give the King your attention, your love, your time, your communion. Remember that hurry is lack of faith, and is of the Devil! If you're hurrying and rushing around, fretting, and impatient, you'll never be able to focus your full attention--your eyes, your ears, your mind, your heart on the Lord for the solution to the problem, the answer to the question, the best decision for the situation! But if you Stop, Look, and Listen, and Wait in communion with Him--when you have learned to do this, and to get His answer, you will have learned how to make decisions! You will have learned to pray, and will have become truly one of God's leaders. "He gives the very best to them, who leave the choices up to Him!" (37)

(Dad wrote:) You cannot look to your own wisdom, you cannot rest in your own understanding, you must look for the supernatural, miraculous and powerful leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It's impossible to solve these problems on your own. Lean not to your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.

So remember that you cannot possibly solve these problems in your own wisdom, your own strength, your own mind, your own understanding, your own trying to put two and two together. But you're going to have to ask the Lord by the supernatural, miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, to give you downright, outright, upright revelations, Heaven right, straight from Him, to show you exactly what to do.

Now this is what we've always been dependent upon: he's the one we've always had to look to for leadership in all the former decisions and in the laying of plans and programmers. Some of you know me well enough, you've lived with me long enough, you've watched me in operating long enough to know that I never make a decision on my own if I can possibly help it.

I never ever make a snap judgment or usually even a quick decision. Some people get very impatient with me because they think I'm so slow, because I can't give an immediate answer. This is because they're giving too much credit where credit is not due, and that's to me--that I am the one that ought to know, and I'm the one that is making the decision. But you know me well enough by this time, and you know by our history for years now, that this is not so.

Most of the time I don't know what to do. We always have to ask God and look to Him for His direct revelation, or His impression, or His leading, or His burden, or His guidance, with it being confirmed by the mouth of two or three witnesses, or by His Word, or by some fleece, or by some revelation, or by some leading. God has always worked with us that way.

We've tried never to depend upon our own wisdom, our own understanding, or what we think is the thing to do, but to look directly to Him and expect His direct revelatory, revolutionary, immediate guidance.

So quit trying to figure it out yourself and to reason it out and to do it in your own understanding. Get down on your prayer bones and get desperate in prayer before God! Get your leaders together and fast and pray and cry out to God as Moses and his disciples did, and as I'm sure Noah and his family did, and as David and his family did. You can read their prayers and outcries in the Bible as the prophets of God and their little groups of disciples cried out to God.

You don't always have to know all the answers. Someone recently asked: "Well what shall we say when they ask this? What shall we say when they ask us that?" Well, one of the best answers is, as Dr. Irwin Moon said: "I can answer any question you ask me, only most of my answers are going to be: 'I don't know; I don't know!'" So, why don't you get smart and just say I don't know?

Only God knows! People ask you, "Well what are we going to do now?" Just be honest and say, "I don't know; let's ask God." "Well what are we going to do next?" "I don't know, let's ask the Lord." The quicker you learn that you don't know, the better off you're going to be because only God has the answers!

Only God knows what to do, and only God knows what He wants done, and only God can do it. Do you get the point?--Now don't forget it! God has His own plan. God has His own way. God knows what He's doing. So for God's sake let Him do it and just look to Him to find out what He's doing, and what He wants you to do, and which way He's going!

All we have to do is follow God. Don't you understand? Don't you get the point? Don't you understand? Amen. Praise the Lord? God is the One who's leading. God is the One who's doing. God is the One who's planning. God is the One whose program it is. God is the One whose business it is.

So for God's sake, follow God!--Not yourself, not your own ideas, not your own plans and programs, but for God's sake follow God! If I was going to entitle this little talk anything I guess that would have to be the title: "For God's Sake, Follow God!"

For God's sake follow God! For God's work's sake, follow God! For your own sake, follow God! For God's people's sake, follow God! For God's plan's sake, follow God! For God's world's sake, follow God! For God's future sake, follow God! Don't try to figure it out yourself.

Don't try to reason around with your own understanding, but get down in prayer and cry out to God with strong crying and tears and desperation, and look to Him alone for the answers. God alone has the answers and God alone can do it. It's His business, His program, and His plan. We're His people, it's His world, it's His idea, and it's got to be His whole leading, His decision. It's got to be His protection. It's got to be His provision. [38]

It's important for the shepherds and generals of My flock to spend time alone with Me because of the many responsibilities, the many facets, and the many details they need My instruction on. They must spend more time with Me than some in other ministries, because to them much has been given in duties and responsibility, therefore much shall be required of them--which requires them to spend much time with Me, not only to get My leading and instruction, but personal feeding from Me, inspiration, time talking with Me, and listening.

It's similar to Noah and the construction of the ark. Noah, as the engineer, was required to spend more time with Me than his sons who helped to do the manual work. For Noah to get the instructions, he had to spend time away from the wings and the work to hear My voice. He had to come back daily, day after day, to get further instruction, to seek Me for the complicated and intricate design which had to be perfectly balanced and constructed and the measurements exact. This required him spending more time with Me than did his sons, who helped to saw and to build.

Although his sons also had a relationship with Me and had to take quiet time and personal time, they did not have to receive such detailed, explicit instructions. They did not have to spend as much time with Me, because the nature of their work did not require it. But My shepherds and engineers and those who administrate and oversee the work and the flocks--because of the nature of their work, the involvement, the intricacies, the amount of work that they have to do, the complications--they have to spend that time alone with Me, more time than the workers, to get My instructions, as Noah did.

This does not mean that the workers are not important and do not also need time with Me. As I have said before, all the children of David are shepherds. Some shepherd the members of their Home, others shepherd the children, many shepherd those whom they meet and minister to while outside the Home. Even the children shepherd their younger brothers and sisters. So all need this time with Me to hear from Me and get their instructions.

It takes time. It takes seeking. It's part of the job. Without spending this time and getting My specific and detailed instructions, your boat will not float. There will be leaks. The workers will not construct properly because of a lack of detailed instructions and missing figures--like the song, "For the want of a nail, the kingdom was lost."

This is the ministry of My shepherds--to spend this time daily to get My instructions on how to build the boat that you're working on, down to the smallest measurement, to the last nail. I will provide the workers to do the manual labor and the time to build if you are faithful to get the measurements.

Time spent sharpening the scythe is not time wasted. Time spent praying, researching, analyzing, studying, surveying the possibilities, calculating the costs, conferring, weighing up the pros and the cons, taking account of the possibilities and the direction, is not time wasted.

As I've instructed you through your father and founder many times, somebody needs to be thinking, praying and planning all the time. Someone needs to be analyzing, looking at things, and coming to Me with specific questions, being concerned about specific details, so that they can get the specifications and the details that form the direction that I am leading.

Even Noah took time with Me. Not only did he have the general vision of the impending disaster that I was about to bring through the Flood and the desire to save his family, but he also needed very detailed instructions on how to do the work that I had called him to do, and this took time.

He had to research materials. He had to take into account what type of materials should be used that would weather the conditions, and I gave him specific instructions because he asked. He had to take into account the way the material would be fitted together, the type of fastenings to use, the type of covering, the type of material to use to waterproof it. All these were details that he had to ask Me about, and I answered him and told him why and where to get them, and in some cases even how to get them--and this took time.

He had to get the exact specifications, the length of the ark itself, and then break it down into the individual increments of the specific measurements for each piece of wood. Each plank had to be cut and fitted in the right place. He had to have a big picture, a big scheme of how it was all going to fit together.

He couldn't just chop down a tree and start hammering it up against another piece of wood without any scheme or overall plan. The boat never would have been waterproof. It never would have been strong enough to weather the huge tidal waves that resulted from the Flood. It never would have been able to house all of the creatures in the different compartments that needed to be fashioned specifically to meet their needs.

All this took time and prayer. It took listening and then meticulously recording things that I gave him, so that he wouldn't forget. So follow his good example, as I have referred to it in My Word. "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man."

For there are many things coming your way--many changes, many adjustments, and new frontiers to enter into--and in order to meet those demands, you need to prepare yourselves and your household. It takes a team of prayerful, diligent, skillful, faithful servants who not only have the ability to work skillfully, but also have listening ears, and who understand the importance of taking time with Me to get the specifications for their particular work.

So don't minimize the importance of taking time with Me to pull down from Heaven the resources that I have to offer you--the world of helpers, those who are knowledgeable, those who are intelligent, those who are under My authority to serve you. You must ask, repeatedly and specifically, and you will receive. (39)

The Anointing Must Be Nourished

While you feel the anointing, and while in many ways the anointing can carry you a little way, the anointing is something that needs to be fed, nourished, nurtured. It alone cannot carry you for long before you begin to hit bottom and run on empty. And that's when your actions aren't as oiled with My Spirit, and you don't have as much of My anointing and that close link with Me as you could have.

You must not make the mistake of leaning to your own arm, trusting that the anointing will carry you through until you get time to replenish, stock up, recharge and get rejuvenated in My Spirit. Next time the rejuvenation won't come as quickly, and the anointing won't last as long, as the days are getting darker, and times and seasons are changing, and the Enemy is fighting harder. You can't afford even one day following your own impulses and your own wisdom, thinking that you don't need to be in complete touch with Me every minute of the day.

So from this day forth make the commitment that you will get time with Me first and foremost, and watch Me take care of the rest.

My anointing is with you at all times, but you must seek to feed that anointing. That is how you will stay safeguarded; that is how you will be a consistently loving and wise shepherd. It's by consistently getting that time with Me. That is the secret. (40)

(Dad speaking:) If you would realize how delicate and fragile your anointing is, you wouldn't allow yourself to rely on it as greatly as you have in the past. Before, relying on the anointing was in many ways what carried you through. In the days before we used prophecy so much, you trusted the Lord's anointing on your leadership; that's what you had faith in--not the leader but the anointing. Today you still need to have faith in the leader's anointing, but what you have more faith in now is the fact that you know your leadership is going to the Lord about everything. But how can you give that same peaceful reassurance to the flock if they don't see you going to the Lord for everything?

Remember that your anointing is not as durable as you think. It's not like it used to be in days past when you very much depended on the verse, "The gifts and calling of God are without repentance." Now your anointing is not as necessary to the overall running of the Kingdom because you have the much more powerful gift of prophecy, and through that gift and through your spending time with the Lord, you nurture your anointing.

The Lord has also made it very clear that if you do not nurture that anointing, it doesn't stick around as long or as firmly as it used to. It flees away, much more like a dove that has to be wooed to stay with you. And you do that through your daily feeding from the Word, your inspiration and praise time with the Lord, your loving Him through your words of love, your spending time in prophecy hearing His voice.

All these things strengthen your anointing and your relationship with the Lord. But things that tear it down are working in your own strength, going ahead with your work without spending that solid time in the Word, prayer and prophecy, hearing from Him and loving Him. That's why these times in the Word and prayer are so vitally important. You need to get those two hours of quality time with the Lord in the Word, prayer and prophecy every day, and not delay, procrastinate, put it off, or get slack. (41)

It’s the Day of the Weak

(Dad speaking:) You've got to realize that this is a new day. It's the day of women, the day of the weak, the day of each disciple following the Lord according to their own faith. It's the day of teamworking. It's the day of confessing your faults one to another, and praying one for another that you may be healed. It's the day of being a woman in the spirit, of letting the Lord be your Husband, letting Him be the macho man, the big general, the strong leader, the faultless role model.

You're not expected to be any of these things to either the sheep or to your co-workers. In fact, you need to desperately pray and ask the Lord to help you to be weak, to help you to be meek, to help you to trust the Lord, to help you give the reins to

others. You need to jump for joy when the Lord shows up your faults to others, and strive to show yourself just as you are--a weak man who doesn't know anything.

The battle plans have changed drastically, and unless you get on board, you're going to keep sending mixed signals to the troops that it's not really the day of new weapons and of looking to the Lord and trusting Him for everything, but that it's still a day of personal strength and toeing the line to big cheese leaders and the bureaucracy of shepherd after shepherd after shepherd having to approve something. [42]

(Dad speaking:) I know that you think you're not anything special--not very smart, not very gifted, not very talented--and oftentimes you wonder what you're even doing being a shepherd. But this is a case where the Lord took the handmaiden of low degree and has raised her up, honored her, and anointed her. You're an example that the Lord can take weak things and make them strong; that He can take little girls and make them beautiful, powerful women of God, leaders, shepherdesses, and prophetesses for His Kingdom.

One of your strengths is the very fact that you feel so weak and you don't know what to do. You don't feel strong in yourself, so you look to the Lord, and you pray and you counsel with those around you. Because you don't feel self-confident and you don't feel like you know what to do, it makes you more desperate in the spirit. That makes you a more yielded vessel, and it makes you a better leader and shepherdess. It makes you a good sample to those around you--to your fellow leaders and to your flock. Then, of course, because you're looking so much to the Lord, and praying and seeking His face and His will, this gives all the glory to the Lord.

Don't worry, Honey, if you feel weak, or you don't feel as talented or as good a leader as others, or as strong as others, or as charismatic, or as gifted in some ways. Don't worry one bit, because the Lord made you exactly as you need to be, with gifts of sensitivity and humility, and the desire to call out to Him and look to Him. [43]

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth. Do not think that your meekness is weakness, or that your submissiveness and your yieldedness are signs of weakness, or that esteeming others greater than yourself is a sign that you are weaker. These are the true strengths of a shepherdess, and the reason that I have exalted you to a position of shepherdess to care for My wonderful children!--To show them the true riches, the true joys, the true happiness, as well as the way that I see things; to guide them and lead them and to help them find My wisdom, My understanding, My Love.

So continue to let Me lead you through meekness, through submission, through yieldedness, and through loving and caring for others. Do not listen to the lies of the Enemy when he tells you that you do not have enough gifts to be a leader in My Family. For I tell you, it is a lie. You have the gifts that are needed and the strength that is needed, for you are dependent upon My Word. As long as you continue to be dependent upon Me and My Word, and yielded to the way I am working in your life and the way I want to use you, I will continue to use you mightily--and even more mightily in battles to come! I will give you strength that you know not of, and will use you to lead and guide your people to victory! [44]

The Lord's Definition of a Pillar

A pillar is something that holds something else up. So obviously an important prerequisite for being a pillar is that you're helping to bear an important part of a load. Whether that load is a physical one or a spiritual one, a pillar will play a key role.

A pillar needs to look good, and by that I mean that they must be a sample of Me and a sample of obedience to the Word. Nobody wants to see a pillar that looks cracked, worn, and crumbling, or they won't trust it to bear the weight. This doesn't mean putting on a show, but it does mean reflecting Me in your life and actions and words as much as you're able.

A pillar needs to be strong and sturdy. This means that you have to have faith and be strong in Me and in your beliefs and convictions. You can't be blown about by every attack of the Enemy or you're more like a straw than a pillar.

A pillar needs to be dependable. Along with being strong, people also want to have the assurance and security that the pillar is going to stay in its place and do what it's supposed to do. Others want to know that they can count on you to do your job well and faithfully without needing lots of outside intervention to make you do what you must. You also have to be stable, not doing well just when you feel like it, but consistently, because you know it's My task for you, and thus you put your heart into it day in, day out.

A pillar takes initiative. A pillar doesn't wait to be told to help with something. They see the need, seek Me, counsel about it if necessary, and respond.

A pillar has vision, and a direct connection with Me. Pillars don't need a go-between between Me and them. They look to Me directly for My input on how to live and how to improve in bearing the load I've called them to bear. They feel personally responsible for getting My viewpoints on how they can do their job better.

A pillar knows its place, and it appreciates and celebrates the chance to serve Me in the way I've called it to. It doesn't try to be something it's not, but does the best it can for Me in the place where I've put it.

A good pillar works to make others stronger. A good pillar for Me doesn't just do its own job and bear its own load, but it helps to pull others up to a higher level as well, and through their sample and through their interactions and effects on others, they help others to be more for Me as well.

A pillar works with others and isn't a one-man show. There are very few buildings made of only one pillar, and it's in the teamwork of all the pillars together that buildings are made strong. Strength and dependability are traits I look for in a pillar, but that doesn't mean that My pillars don't need others.

Pillars are content. They are happy to be a pillar for Me, and My joy becomes their strength.

Being a pillar is a lifestyle choice. It's not something that happens at some point and then your status as a pillar is forever confirmed. It's the faithful performance of your tasks for Me at a high level of consistency and excellence that determines your status as a pillar in My house.

Take up the torch, My loves, take up the torch! Pass through this period of transition and know that the roles you play from this time forth will increase in importance and responsibility, and that it will require you to live the life of the disciple, to live the life of a pillar, to live the life of a leader. Take up the torch and hold it high through the power of My Spirit. Take up the calling and carry it through to the end. [45]

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2. The Endtime Series, Part 2 #3279:83
3. Prophecies on Leadership! #3052:138, 140
4. The Family's Future and Expansion Program! #3308:103
5. The Ride of Your Life! #3686:47-48
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23. The Two Pillars of Shepherding! #3067:37-48
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36. Prophecies on Pride and Humility! #3043:76-78
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39. Quiet Time--Your Lifesaver! #3183:82-87, 89-97
40. What Is Jesus Worth to You? #3433: 359, 365, 366, 369
41. What Is Jesus Worth to You? #3433:378-381
42. The Weakness Revolution Part 2 #3218B:270, 271, 273
43. Jewels on Comparing #3326:79-81
44. Prophecies on Yieldedness! #3044:132, 134
45. Carry The Flame Of Revolution!--Will You? #3663:115-125, 171