



BLADE

ISSUE 3

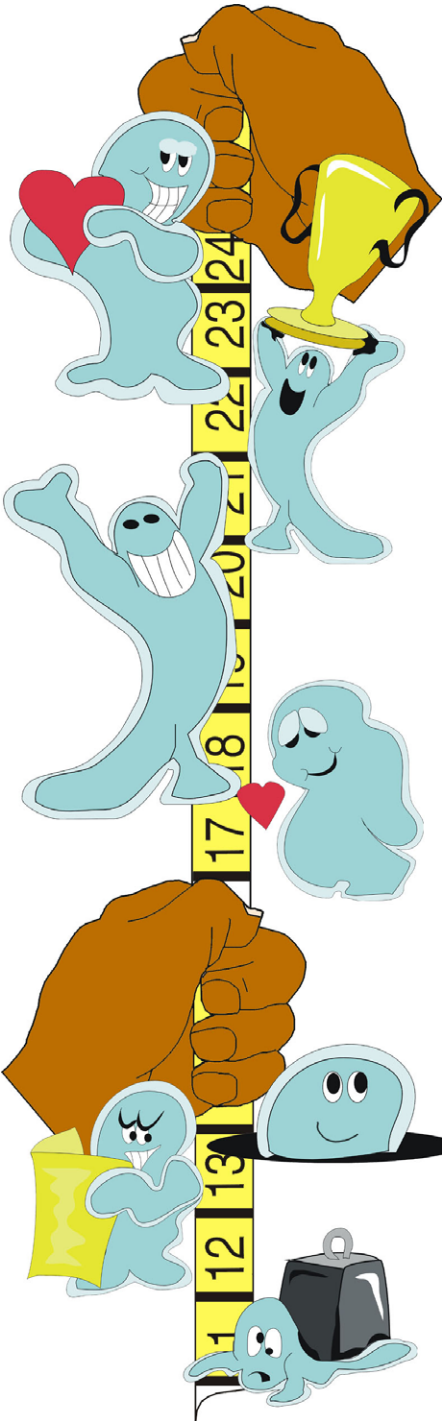
BEYOND COMPARISON?

HOW DO YOU MEASURE PEOPLE? DO YOU TAKE A RULER OR A TAPE MEASURE AND MEASURE THEIR SIZE AND COMPARE THEM WITH EACH OTHER? WHO'S TALLER? WHO'S SHORTER? FATTER? SKINNIER? OR DO YOU LOOK FOR OTHER DIFFERENCES? WHO HAS BROWN EYES? WHO HAS BLUE? WHO'S FASTER? WHO'S STRONGER? THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS THAT PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT, AND SO MANY THINGS ABOUT THEM THAT YOU COULD MEASURE AND COMPARE.

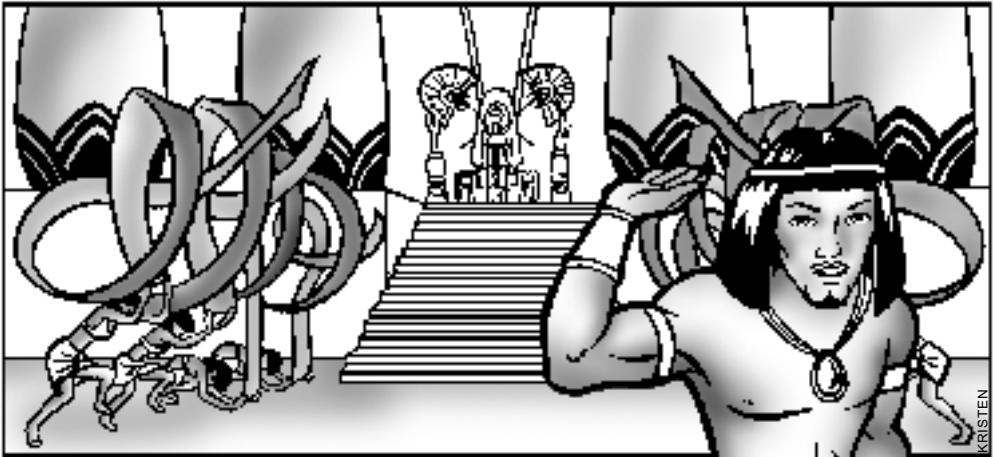
SOMETIMES YOU TRY TO MEASURE YOURSELF BY COMPARING YOURSELF WITH OTHERS. "ARE THEY SMARTER THAN ME?" "ARE THEY BETTER LOOKING THAN I AM?" "DO PEOPLE LIKE THEM BETTER THAN THEY LIKE ME?" COMPARING ISN'T A VERY GOOD IDEA. IT CAN REALLY BE A BUMMER AND LEAD TO ALL KINDS OF THINGS—ENVY AND FEELING BAD ABOUT YOURSELF AND THE WAY I MADE YOU; OR IT CAN LEAD TO A CRITICAL AND SELF-RIGHTEOUS SPIRIT.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO MEASURE YOURSELF AGAINST OTHERS. I WANT YOU TO MEASURE YOURSELF AGAINST WHAT I CAN HELP YOU TO BECOME. THAT TAKES FAITH AND TRUST IN ME. I WANT TO TAKE YOU BEYOND YOURSELF, BEYOND COMPARING AND BEYOND THE MEASUREMENTS OF MAN.

I WANT YOU TO BE LIKE ME, IMPOSSIBLE TO MEASURE. I WANT YOU TO BE SO FULL OF ME THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO MEASURE YOU—YOUR LOVE, YOUR SPIRITUAL DEPTH, YOUR UNDERSTANDING. I WANT YOU TO BE SO FULL OF ME THAT YOU BECOME IMMEASURABLE—JUST LIKE ME—TOTALLY FREE AND BEYOND COMPARISON!



Everything Money Can't Buy



There are some things that seem so important on the surface, and money is one of those things. Everyone wishes they had more of it. They think that if they did, they'd be so much happier and better off. You may be tempted to wish that your family had more money or even just a few more things. I'm not surprised that you would feel this way. Remember when I was in the wilderness for those forty days? The Enemy came and tempted Me by offering Me all the kingdoms of the world. I know what he tries to hit you with, because I was hit with the same thoughts and temptations, although maybe for different reasons.

You look at some of those guys out in the System, and you think they can have anything money can buy. But can they say that they're really happy? Moses knew that money didn't satisfy. He forsook being the prince of Egypt in order to fulfill his calling and live for the true riches of Heaven. I also rejected the temptations of power and grandeur, and gained instead the salvation of all of My children, and all the riches of Heaven as well.

Some people in the world may look like they have everything, but what do they really have? If you could see them on the inside the way I do, you'd know that they're crying out just to be accepted and loved for who they are—not what they have. Many of them are desperately looking for answers—the same answers that you've grown up with as a natural part of your heritage!

You've got an edge on your peers in the world. You've got so much more that will last—truth and happiness, as well as the inside scoop on the future and Heaven. Please don't envy them. Do your best to share with them the true riches that you've grown up with—the things that money can't buy.

The Backwards, Inside-out, Negative World

You know what it's like to look at the negative of something, don't you?—Like the negative of a photo or a negative picture?

Everything's reversed in the negative, and what you see is just the opposite of the way things really are. The things that are normally really dark come out looking white, and everything that's usually light looks very dark or black—just totally reversed.

That's very much the way things are for people who see things from a worldly viewpoint rather than through the eyes of My Spirit. Without My love and My Words in their hearts and minds, they often see things just the opposite of the way they really are.

That's why they usually have things so mixed up and backwards. The things that are really yucky and gross and unloving and selfish and hurtful, they see them as really cool. But things that are super neat and really good and done with love, they think they're just not right. It's a backwards, inside-out, negative world they're living in, where the things that are good are looked on as bad, and the bad stuff is what they call good.

If you sometimes feel kind of strange, like you're different from a lot of other people your age, believe Me, you *are* different. I don't mean like a weird different or a creepy different; what I mean is, you've grown up being able to see a whole lot more than what most people get to see. So, please don't let the Enemy make you feel bad about being different. You can help them. Every person that you help to receive Me and My Spirit in their hearts will automatically begin to see things differently, just like you do. Rather than having to get by with just the negative of the picture, they'll finally be able to see and recognize all the beautiful colors and the love that is just waiting there to be seen. Please don't leave them in that sad, negative world. I'm depending on you to help them.

What's Age Got to Do with It?

Okay, so you're young. You've got SGAs, YAs, and all the other "A's" way ahead of you, and sometimes it seems like they're devouring all the ministry opportunities, big responsibilities, and fun missions. You feel like you're always going to be down at the bottom of the totem pole when it comes to being chosen and used for something special.

The Enemy really loves to get in that way, to try to discourage you and make you think that you're never going to be used. But it's a lie that there won't be anything important or exciting left for you to do. He's just telling you that because he wants to make you think there's no use in even trying to stay close to Me or learning the things I want to teach you.

I don't operate according to age. I never have, and I never will. In fact, I've always chosen to do things totally contrary to the way people might expect. Take King David, for example. When I spoke to My servant Samuel, the prophet, in I Samuel chapter 16, and told him who to look for when he was selecting the next guy to be king over all My people, I made it plain that age and size and looks and experience shouldn't have anything to do with it. I told him to look deep inside the heart, instead of according to outward appearance.

I'm still doing things that same way, looking deep inside people's hearts and seeing how strong their desire is to be close to Me, to love Me and to be a blessing to others. If those are **your** desires, deep within your heart, don't worry, I'll see it. And **you'll** be the one I choose, in My perfect time, to be greatly used to help lead and be a blessing to others.



Perfect and wonderful—that's the way I see you. You say, "Aw, come on now, I'm such a mess." Well, maybe you are, but you're a wonderful mess. And I love messes. They're so easy for Me to love, to work with, and to shape into just what I want them to be. If you were perfect, how boring that would be, and how difficult too.

You say, "Now You're contradicting Yourself! You said that You see me as perfect and wonderful." Yes, that's how I look at you, because I can see the end from the beginning. At the end of the road, you will be perfect and wonderful, through the many rounding outs, the breakings and the lessons learned.

Even though right now you feel like a mess and a failure, I can see all that you're going to be. But I still love you just the way you are right now, and I'm proud of you. Maybe you feel like you've blown it, but I can assure you that you've really grown. All the ups and downs you've had have really helped you to skyrocket. You may feel like a weed sometimes, but you're My sunflower, growing tall and beautiful, a giant of a flower that keeps pointing its lovely head towards Me all the time.

I think you're doing great. So don't worry about any mistakes or faults you think you may have, 'cause you're beautiful to Me! And in the end, you're going to be wonderfully perfect for what I need you to be.

**You're Perfectly
Wonderful and
Wonderfully Perfect!**



Onward + Upward

Each year is a step forward, a step upward. Although each step is not always easy, every step leads to something bigger, something greater, something special, some goal or purpose.

If you want to cross the river, you have to row. If you want to scale a mountain, you have to climb. If you want to explore the bottom of the ocean, you have to dive. If you want to sing, you have to practice. If you want to walk, you have to put one foot out in front of the other—again and again and again.

That's what life is, a bunch of little steps, a bunch of little decisions to just keep walking, to keep putting the next foot forward. Sometimes it's involuntary—you do it almost without even thinking about it. But other times you have to put forth extra effort and almost force yourself to keep moving, growing, progressing and walking.

If you stop and just sit, you'll never get anywhere; you won't make any progress or move closer to the goals you're striving for. So it's important to keep moving and keep taking steps in the right direction, to keep sticking your foot out, even if you can't see the ground it's going to land on. Have no fear, it'll be there to hold you up. Keep going by faith, and I'll never let you fall.



I hope that just because you hear some things over and over, you don't get so used to hearing them that they don't mean anything to you anymore. Some things are just so important that I have to keep saying them and showing them to you, even if there's a risk that some people might get a little too familiar with them.

For instance, take the quote, "As you pour out, He'll pour in; you can never outpour Him!" You've probably heard this so

many times you might be tempted to think it's nothing more than just a

children's nursery rhyme. But why do you think I keep telling you that in different ways, and have been for as long as you can

**IT'S ONE OF THOSE
SIMPLE LITTLE GOLDEN
RULES THAT WILL MAKE
YOUR WHOLE LIFE
BETTER**

remember? It's because it's something that's majorly important to your happiness! It's one of those simple little golden rules that will make your

whole life better and more meaningful —if you'll do it.

I pour out blessings on you all the time, tons of 'em, because you're Mine and I love you. You have many blessings that others don't have, and you have so much to give. If you ever have any doubts about that, then just





ANTHONY

watch the news to see what's going on in the world around you. You've got loads of blessings. But if you're not enjoying them, or you don't feel very happy or fulfilled, then it's probably because you're not pouring out by doing things to share My love with others, like witnessing or helping those who need what you have to give.

So, because I really care about you and want you to be happy, here I am saying it again: Do whatever you can to pour out to others—whatever it is

that the situation you're in requires you to do—and I'll make sure that you get poured into too, and that you find all the happiness and blessings that you need. That's My Word, and you can count on it. Now doesn't that sound like a good deal?

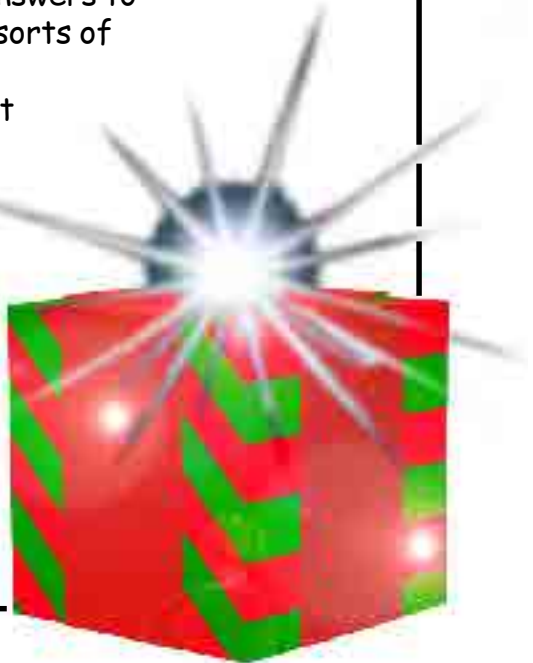


A Very Special Gift

[Grandpa:] I want to tell you about something. The Lord is willing to give you a special gift if you want it—the gift of hearing the Lord's voice. Jesus would like to make you a special channel that He can use to pour His love and waters of living Word upon others. Now that's special! I know you may feel like it's not something that you're going to be able to do, but that's okay. You don't have to feel like you can do it, because it's not going to be you doing it anyway. It's going to be the Lord!

All you have to have is simple faith to believe that the Lord is going to give you this gift. He's going to put the words in your mouth, and His thoughts in your mind, and all you've got to do is give what He's whispering in your ear. You can get words of encouragement for other people; you can get answers to your questions; you can get all sorts of things.

I know you're young, but that doesn't matter to the Lord. Remember when the Lord called Samuel out of his bed at night in I Samuel chapter 3? He was just a child! Jesus is going to answer your prayers. He's going to do it! He's going to touch you and give you a special gift from His hands.



Worried About the Way you Look?

All your worries about how you're going to look when you get older, well, that's all they are—worries! Yes, of course there are things you can do to help your body be strong and healthy and not overweight (or too thin). You can make sure you get good get-out as often as possible, as well as eat healthy food. But don't worry about it; just get out there and do something about it.

When you've done all you can do, just trust Me to do the rest. There are some things that you can't really do anything about, because that's how I made you. I think you're beautiful, and there's nothing I want to change about you. I'm not looking at you thinking, "Oh, I should have made your hair a different color or your face a different shape." Not at all!

I like you how you are, especially when you're wearing that beautiful smile and letting Me sparkle in your eyes. You don't need to think about it or worry about it or get down about it, because that's not going to help any. The best thing you can do is keep letting Me shine through you. Don't worry about the future, and you'll be so much happier.

I have a special ministry for you—something I think you're really going to enjoy, and which I've been preparing you for since you were born. There's so much ahead for you this year and in the years to come. Just keep soaking up My Word and listening to My whispers in your ear. Keep smiling and being a sample of My love and happiness to everyone you come in contact with. Hold on tight to Me, because I'm going to use you in ways you've only dreamed of!





BE COOL!

Be cool and enjoy life! Yes, you heard Me: enjoy life and have fun! Life wasn't meant to be a drag. It was meant to be fun. So, when you're enjoying life, you're getting back to the way I planned for things to be in the first place. You're getting back to the Garden—that is, the way it was until some wise guy got in there and messed things up. In the end, after Adam and Eve started listening to him, they ended up without much of anything left to enjoy, just a lot of work, "sweat of your brow" and all that.

So don't listen to that guy when he tries to tell you how to enjoy life. Some people have screwed up ideas about

what fun really is, because some people are all screwed up themselves as to what's really cool. Hey, *I* define what's cool! (My world, My word!)

I'm cool. How about that?! Because *love* is cool, and *I* am love. So *I'm* cool. If it's not loving or lovely, it's not cool and it's not fun. So don't go around saying some things are cool when they aren't. But it *is* cool to have fun, so have it. And even better than *having* fun, *be* fun! No one likes being around a drag. Be fun. Be loving. Enjoy life, and make life fun and enjoyable for others.



Feel Like You're Stuck in the Boondocks?



I understand that sometimes you may feel pretty bored where you are—especially if you start comparing it with some other places where you think there are more opportunities and more things to do. Although your parents seem to be happy there on the field where you are, you're tempted to wish you were someplace else.

But I'd like you to understand that you're not where you are just because it's where your parents chose to be. You're there because it's where I need you to be. It's where you're needed and where I guarantee that you'll be the happiest. If you were to be someplace else, or even if you just spent your time daydreaming about being someplace else—someplace where I hadn't called you to be and hadn't planned for you to be—it wouldn't matter how much there was for you to do, you wouldn't be happy, and you'd be missing out on so much that I've prepared to give you and teach you.

Instead of growing up in the exciting and wealthy cities of Rome and Pompeii where there was supposedly a lot more going on, I was raised in the very small town of Nazareth. My whole life's work centered around the "boondocks" of Galilee. But I had been destined to grow up there; the different stages of My life had even been prophesied and written down long before: born in Bethlehem; called out of Egypt; known as a Nazarene and a Galilean. My Father had a plan for Me, and though I was sometimes tempted to think that it was taking too long, I waited around patiently in order to fulfill My destiny.

My story doesn't mean that you're destined to stay on your parents' mission field forever. What I'm saying is that it's not just their mission field, it's your mission field. It's where you're called to be for right now, until the time is right and I speak to you and put the call in your heart to go to another place or another country, the one I'm preparing you for.



The Devil has challenged Me to a game of chess and is planning out his strategy. I'm moving My pieces forward, and he's moving his. It won't be long before you begin to see some really big moves being made as things start seriously heading towards the End.

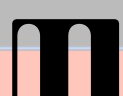
The Devil thinks he's got the advantage, and he's waiting for his chance to be the master of the chessboard. Pretty soon things are going to get very intense! He's going to make a few swift moves, and will think that he's got the upper hand. But you don't have anything to worry about—I'm the Master chess player. If you stay close to Me and watch carefully, I'll show you what the Enemy's planning to do for his next move. After all, you're one of My favorite chess pieces, and you're an important part of the game.

Trust Me and let Me





move you wherever and whenever I know is best. If you let Me move you at just the right time, you'll always be one jump ahead of him. When the final match is being played, you're going to have an even more important role to play. So stay alert and tuned in to Me so that I can easily pick you up and strategically place you where you will count the most. The game is on. The pieces are being moved into place. The End is near. And at the appointed time, check-mate will be Mine.



I'll Never Run Out

A sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The sky is filled with dark, silhouetted clouds. The water in the foreground is dark, with a few birds in flight, their silhouettes visible against the light of the sunset.

Since the beginning of time, the sun has been rising and setting each and every day. Can you imagine how many different sunrises and sunsets I've painted since the beginning of time? And yet, there have never ever been two sunsets exactly alike in all the world—and there never will be. I'll never run out of incredible color schemes and far-out patterns to use.

And just as I'll never run out of sunsets, neither will I ever run out of things to say to you either. As you learn to hear from Me, you'll discover that I have an endless stock of cool word pictures and visions to choose from; and I'll always have something left to show you. There'll never be a time when I won't have any new ideas to give you or interesting ways to explain things to you if you'll just ask Me to.

Because My Words are spirit and come from a world that has no end, they're like Me—eternal—like rivers that never run dry! They're magical, like sunsets. I'll always have more to give you—more awesome answers, more simple solutions, and all the Heavenly help you'll ever need. I'll never run out of love for you either. In fact, nothing about Me is ever going to run out or come to an end! So as you grow closer to Me and let Me become a bigger part of your life, it'll be like you're getting filled up with an ocean of love that'll never run dry.