

BLADE



ISSUE 10

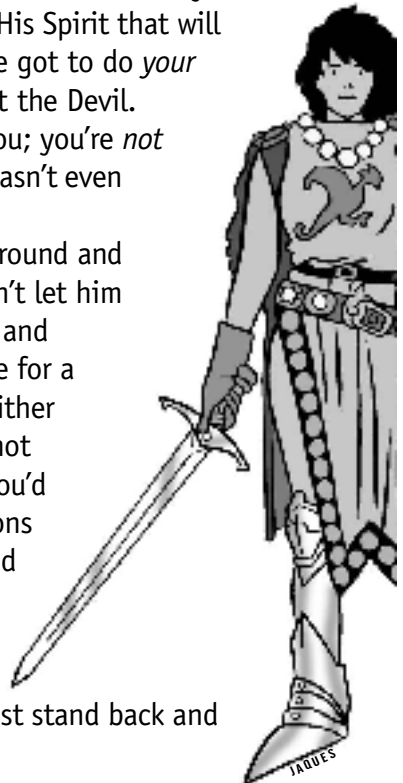
TIME FOR A SHOWDOWN



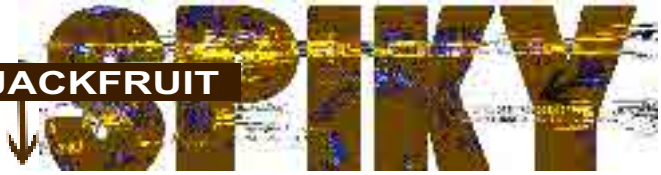
(Dad:) I'm sorry that you're feeling so down and discouraged, but you've got to fight! You've got to hit the Enemy where it hurts before he totally knocks you out of action. You're thinking, "But I'm already out of action! I don't even feel like getting up in the morning, much less like fighting. I don't feel like doing *anything* that You or anyone else is telling me to do."

I know how you feel. There were plenty of times when I felt like I just couldn't go on without some kind of a miracle. That's what you need, isn't it?—A total miracle of the Lord's love and grace. You need a shot of supernatural power running through those veins of yours, and the Lord has promised to give you just that. If you'll cry out to Him for help, He won't let that Punk continue to walk all over you like this. He'll give you a blast of His Spirit that will send you charging. But you've got to do *your* part. You've got to get mad at the Devil. Grrrrrr! Don't let him lie to you; you're *not* already defeated. The battle hasn't even begun yet!

You've got to stand your ground and face the Enemy down. You can't let him go on and on, weakening you and poisoning your mind. It's time for a spiritual showdown, and it's either kill or *be* killed. The Enemy's not going to be soft on *you*, so you'd better pull out the new weapons and stick it to him. Get up and fight, and don't *stop* fighting until you've silenced him. Praise and love and hear from the Lord, and then you can just stand back and watch Him fight for you!



THE SPIKY JACKFRUIT



When you wake up in the morning, sometimes you're like a spiky jackfruit. You may be soft and sweet on the inside, but that hard, prickly rind of yours is covered with spikes that stick out and poke everything around you and make others miserable. But it doesn't have to be that way.

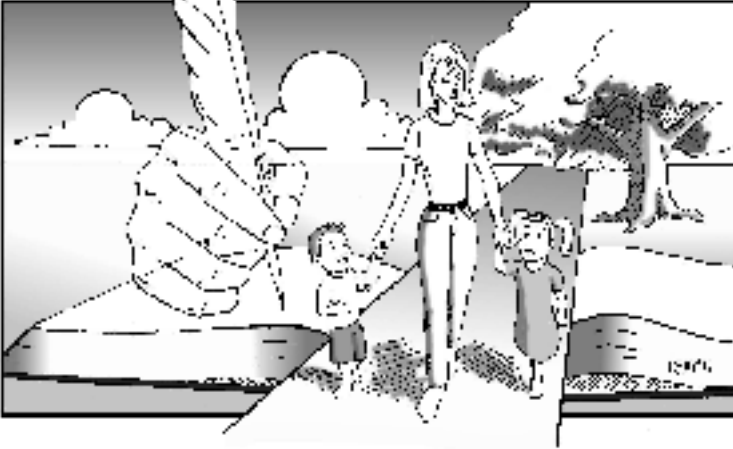
Whenever you come to Me and spend time reading My Word and praying and listening to Me and soaking up My love and Spirit, I bathe you in a special magic coating. It's like a big, thick, silky bubble of softness and sweetness that covers you all over, shielding those spikes and causing them to not hurt others. The bubble works both ways, too. It not only helps you to be nice and soft to those you come in contact with, but if others happen to come along with *their* spikes sticking out, that same soft bubble of humility will protect you from their spikes, as well.

This magic bubble is so soft and smooth to the touch, but it's amazingly strong. Nothing can break it or puncture it! It's like that verse, (Psalms 119:165): "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."—Nothing!

Why go through the day making everyone unhappy and ruining things for yourself, too? Just take a little time with Me and let Me wrap you in My bubble of soft kindness and invincible protection before you start the day. It'll make a world of difference, and you'll be surprised at how easy it is to work with and get close to others without all those thorny spikes sticking up and getting in your way.



← DON'T BELITTLE YOUR PLACE



I've seen you grow and mature and establish yourself as a firm and strongly rooted tree. Your branches reach out and cover the ground so that the children can rest under your shade, or play and climb up in your branches. You're their playmate and a strength to them. Don't belittle your place or your calling, for *I* have called you and made you special.

Don't think that *I*'ve chosen someone else for better and loftier callings or jobs, leaving you with only the menial or less desired. I know exactly what will make your wood turn out best.

Do you often wonder, "Well, why is it that So-and-so got to do this? Why is it that *I* haven't been given all the things that my heart desires?"

In time you'll see so much more clearly how *I*'ve fashioned and made your life to be. According to how you live now, and what you give of yourself now, it will be given to you in return; *I* won't hold back anything good from you that you desire deep within.

I'm the Beginning and the End, the First and the Closing Words of your life's book. *I* know the whole spectrum, and will write it so beautifully! Keep walking the path *I*'ve set before you. *I*'ve put within you the gifts, the talents and all that you'll need to do the job. Press ahead and fulfill that calling—that special ministry which only you can do.



I know the battles that you have when you come to Me and ask Me to speak to you in prophecy. You feel that you're just not worthy, and that you're way too insignificant compared to "real" prophets—like Moses and Samuel and people like that. You have a hard time understanding how much I want to speak to *you*. But I do! You

don't have to be some kind of sinless saint to be able to hear from Me. I'm always broadcasting—to anyone who will make the effort to tune in and listen.

When I was on the earth, I poured out My heart everywhere I went, through My deeds and My Words of love. The ones who benefited from the miracles I did and who had the blessing of hearing and understanding My Words, weren't perfect or super spiritual by any means. They were just people who were desperate enough and cared enough to stop what they were doing in order to come to Me for help and to hear what I had to say.

I'm still pouring out My heart today to anyone who will listen. Anyone who sincerely wants to hear and takes the time to ask Me to speak will hear from Me. That's My promise. You don't have to be a certain age. You don't have to be ultra-spiritual or good. All you have to do is believe and ask and receive. It's that simple. I'm just as willing and able to speak to you as I was to the prophets of old. Those who come to Me in faith, believing My promises, will receive.—And that includes you!

JUST LIKE THE PROPHETS ←

PROPHETS → **OF OLD**

YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!

FUTURE

DEPENDS ON IT!

If you want to grow up to be someone who's especially close to Me and strong in the Spirit, you can't just put it off until some time in the future. It's not something that happens overnight. The person you will become when you grow up depends very much on what you're doing now, day by day, to become that person.



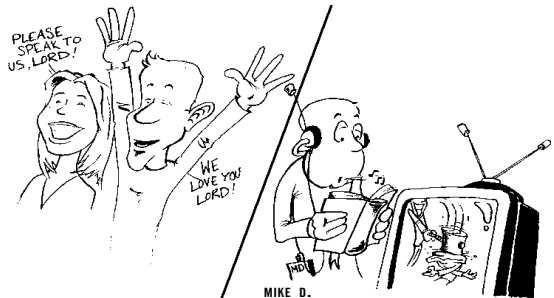
It's very similar to the physical. As people get older, they begin to see and feel the effects—both good and bad—of the way they've treated their bodies throughout their lives. If over the years they haven't been careful to eat the right kinds of foods and to get enough good, vigorous exercise, little by little they begin to suffer the consequences.

For instance, their arteries become more and more hardened and clogged, until eventually, it's hard for the blood to flow freely to their vital organs. The blood is what carries oxygen and everything that your body needs to stay alive and healthy. So, the less blood that makes its way through your veins, the harder it is on your body and all of its parts.



The time to start forming the right health habits of getting lots of good exercise and eating the right kinds of food is when you're young. The sooner you begin, the bigger the head start you'll be giving yourself toward a happy, healthy life. In the same way, if your spirit isn't getting enough good nourishment and healthy exercise now, but instead is taking in lots of unhealthy pollutants, your channel will become more and more clogged, and you'll have a very hard time receiving all the good things that will feed and strengthen your spirit. As you grow older, you'll begin having problems with your spiritual health and strength, and you'll need to make difficult and major changes.

You might find it a little hard to believe that all of this is important now, when you're so young and feel so strong. But please take to heart what I'm telling you, because your future depends on it.





Every bit of your love is precious to Me. I treasure it and keep it close to My heart. You might think, “What love? I don’t give You very much love—not nearly as much as I should.” But you *do* give Me a lot of love. Every time you stop to think about Me or read My Word, it’s a beautiful love gift from you to Me. Every time you do your best to hold on to My promises, it’s a precious gift of your love, and I thank you for it.

Every time you yield to Me and decide to do My will above your own, those are great love gifts! The little things you do for others, and the work that you do with a cheerful heart—even when you find it *hard* to be cheerful—all those become love gifts to Me. Each time you show love to the children whom you help to care for, you’re showing love to Me. I see all these things that you do, and it’s all love that flows from your heart to Mine.

The gifts I’ve cherished the most from you were the ones that were the hardest for you to give, because those were the gifts which I knew cost you the most—and therefore showed the greatest love. When you give away something that’s easy to give, it doesn’t always mean a lot. But when you do something that’s hard for you to do, I know it really costs you something, and that’s a more rare and precious gift of love. Even the little things that you do for Me are treasured gifts in My eyes, and make Me very happy. Of course, the more love you show Me, the happier I become, and the happier I’ll be able to make you, too. Thank you for your love.

LIFE IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES

I can't promise that your way will never be steep, or that you'll never slip and fall. I can't promise that you'll never get bumps and scratches as you travel up the mountain for Me. But I *can* promise that I'll be with you and that I'll help you. I'll uphold you, I'll strengthen you, and I'll continue to make you into the person I want you to be.

The making of a man or woman isn't an easy process. In order to become a reflection of Me, you must go through trying times. They make you stronger and help you to sharpen your weapons. Difficulties make you humble and desperate enough to receive My love and My Words, and to let them become a part of you.



LIFE IS LIKE A

BOX OF

Your life is like a gift box with an assortment of different kinds of chocolates.— You don't know what you're going to get until you bite into one and find out. I have an enormous box of chocolates prepared for you. Some of them will be sweet and soft—like easy, happy times. Others will be hard to chew—like the tough times you're bound to have.

Don't worry about what you're going to get in life. Be excited and anticipate *all* the chocolates that I have to give you, because they're all good! You'll find that in the end, you'll like them all—even if some are a little different or hard to chew at first. I love you and won't fail in any of the wonderful promises that I've made to you.



KEVIN

CHOCOLATES

TURN AWAY

Just as I tried to always make it clear to My early disciples, if you stick with Me and follow My teachings, you'll be part of a small but very special group of people. For instance, in Matthew 7:14, I explained that "Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way that leads unto life, and few there be that find it."

It's always been a fight to stay on "the straight and narrow." As you're now finding out, even when you're committed and sincerely wanting to do what's right, the Enemy is still on the attack, doing whatever he can to sidetrack you. But I promise that if you do your best to stay in the Word and close to Me, I'll help you to resist Satan's pull.

One of the best ways to resist temptations is to simply avoid them by minimizing ungodly influences in your life. Of course, you can't just put blinders on and shut out the world and everything that's going on around you—and I don't *want* you to, because the world needs you! But if you're finding it hard to say no to some of the world's ungodly diversions and distractions, I'm sure you'll find that the advice given in Proverbs 4 will be just as vital for you today as it was when it was

first given. "Let your eyes look ... straight before you. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left." What that means is, don't let yourself get pulled off course—avoid temptation. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away."

If you want to stand strong against the Enemy's temptations, ask Me to help you, and I will—every time. I'll light your way and help you to keep your eyes on the goal and not let you get sidetracked. Like it says in verse 18, "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day."



When you feel like you're in a muddle, confused and weighed down with problems and cares, don't you wish that you could just rise above it all and fly away like a bird with wings? You *can*, you know. On the wings of prayer and prophecy and praise, you can soar way up high, above all the mess, the problems and the confusion. You can flap your wings in the spirit, and let them carry you far away—not necessarily to *escape* your problems, but sometimes it helps just to see things from a different point of view.

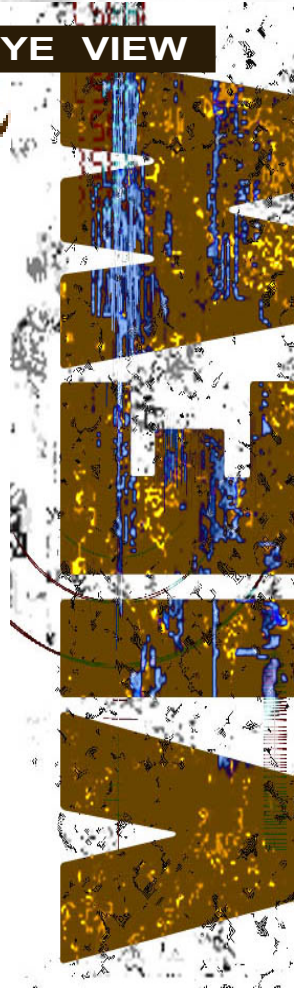


A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Do you know what it means to have “a bird's-eye view”? It's like when you're up in an airplane, and you can see everything that's down on the ground below you—the whole panorama. The higher you go, the smaller everything down on the ground becomes, and the less significant it seems. That's what flapping your wings in the spirit does for you; it carries you up above all the problems and helps you to see them from the proper perspective. The higher you go in the Spirit, the more clearly you can see things, and the smaller all your problems become.

When you fight to rise above your trials in this way, it helps you see not only the problem itself and what it is that's bothering you, but a lot of other things, too. You start to see the Romans 8:28 that you *couldn't* see down on the ground in the midst of all the confusion.

So the next time you're in a big mess, or you're feeling confused, or things just aren't working out right, don't let it frustrate you or drag you down. Flap your wings and take flight! Rise above it all, way up above the trouble and the turbulence—higher and higher—where everything is beautiful and quiet and peaceful.



FRIEND

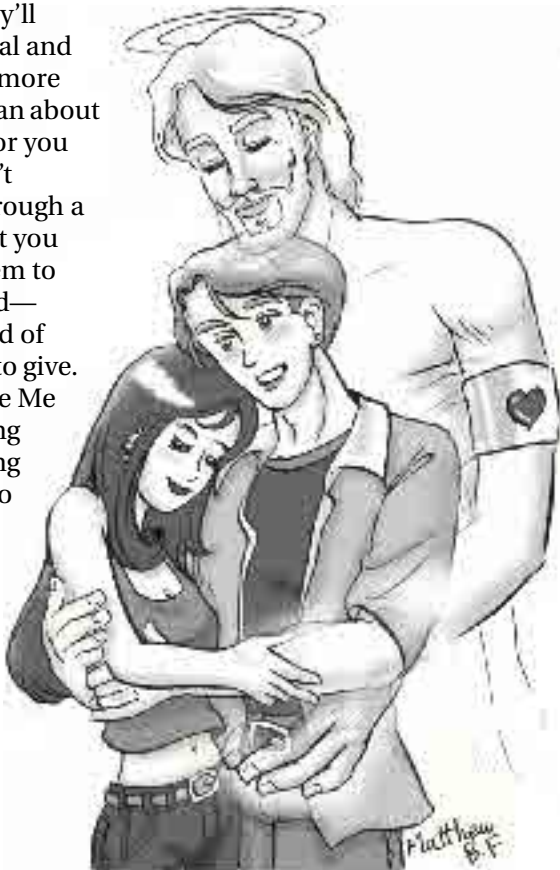
A FRIEND INDEED

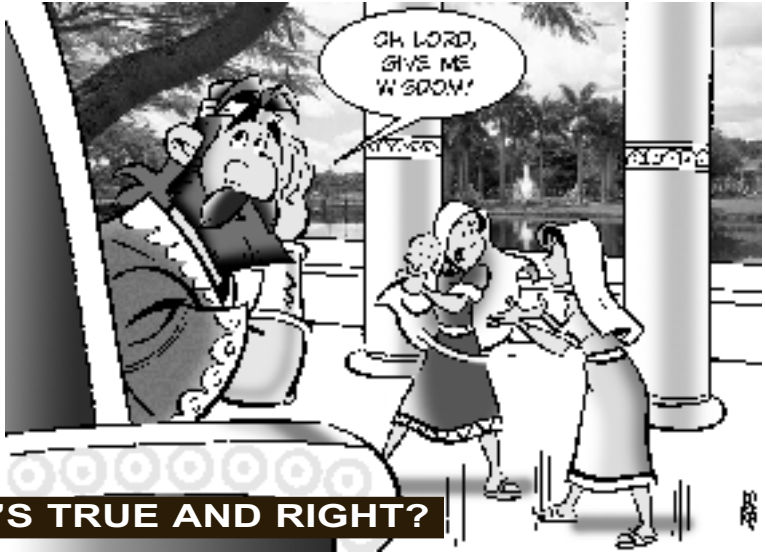
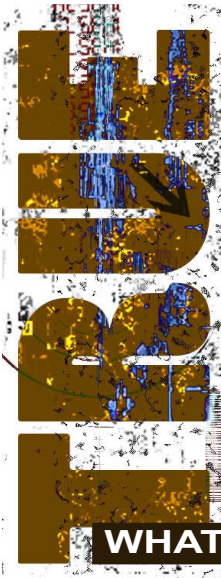


Friendship is something that's very important, not only to you, but to Me, too. I value friendship very much! That's why I said in John 15 that I don't call you My servant, I call you My friend. I want to be your *Best Friend*. But that doesn't mean that I don't want you to have other friends and to be a friend to others, as well. You *need* friends—good friends! But sometimes it's easy to forget what a true friend really is.

Believe it or not, the best kind of friend you could possibly have is someone who sincerely loves Me more than anything or anyone else—even more than he or she love you! If you have friends whose main goals are to follow Me closely, they'll generally be much more loving and caring and giving than those who are more into themselves and whose friendships are based mostly on personal likes and dislikes. If your friends are doing their best to let Me live and work through them, they'll probably be very unselfish, sacrificial and understanding, and they'll be even more concerned about *your* happiness than about their own. They'll always be there for you when you need them, and they won't abandon you when you're going through a rough time or when other friends let you down. You'll be able to count on them to give you whatever support you need—whether it's a hug, a prayer or a word of truth—even when it's not that easy to give.

If you have friends who really love Me and are developing habits of spending time with Me in the Word and listening to My voice, they'll be far less likely to be hypocritical or to turn their backs on you or gossip about you behind *yours*. They'll be true prayer warriors, fighting and praying for you in the spirit. That kind of person will most likely be your friend for life—a true soul mate—all the way into eternity. That's the best kind of friends to have, and that's the kind of friend I want *you* to be to others.





You can ask Me for any of the gifts of My Spirit, and according to My will, I'll give them to you. Remember Solomon's prayer when he was first made king? He was desperate for My anointing of wisdom because he knew that he needed it. He was so sincere and wholehearted about it, I really poured it on, and as long as He stayed close to Me, he was one of the wisest men who had ever lived.

Wisdom is a great gift to have, because it's the gift of understanding what's true and right.—And in today's mixed-up world, that can sometimes be hard to do. Modern man has gotten very good—or I should say, very bad—at taking things and turning them totally upside down with misinformation, presenting things in such a way that they sound like they're the truth, when in reality they couldn't be *further* from the truth. If you were to just go by what you read and hear in the media, in the movies or on the Internet, you'd be completely lost; you'd have no idea what the truth is and what's really happening around you. But with My gift of wisdom, you'll be able to see right through the System's lies and the Enemy's politically correct propaganda, and know exactly where things are really at.

Another gift that would be a big help to you is the gift of discernment. It's very similar to wisdom in that it helps you to have greater insight into people and situations, and be able to tell whether they're good or bad, right or wrong. The gifts of wisdom and discernment were both very helpful to *Me* during My ministry on Earth. With them, I was able to see right into men's hearts and know what they were really thinking and how to answer their questions. By discerning dangerous situations, I was also able to avoid a lot of trouble.

Having these two gifts is a lot better than just being smart or well educated, and you can't find them in any classroom or textbook; you've got to ask *Me* for them. So if you want to be wise and have good discernment, just ask Me—sincerely and wholeheartedly, like Solomon did—and I'll give them to you.

SURROUNDS

HEAVEN SURROUNDS YOU!



My dear one, I know that you love My Spirit, and you love the things of Heaven, and so I will bless you with what you've desired. I'm more than able to do wonderful miracles and let you see the wonders from Heaven above. Just trust Me and take time with Me each day.

Even if you *can't* see the wild things of the Spirit or hear the music, even if you can't see My face, those moments that you spend in My arms, reading My Words and listening to Me are very real. They're like trips into the heavenlies.

Though you can't see everything that you *wish* you could see right now, believe Me that I have special things ahead for you—special times with Me and fun spiritual experiences. Wait and see! Trust in Me and love Me with all your heart, mind, and soul, and I *will* give you the desires of your heart.

In the meantime, all your Heavenly helpers are around you and with you. They're by your side now, saying, "You've chosen to say yes to Jesus. Good for you! We're with you and rooting for you!" Many angels surround you—more than you realize. If you could see them, you'd know that Heaven is there right now, in your own Home. Heaven surrounds you! You live and work with a great Heavenly host.



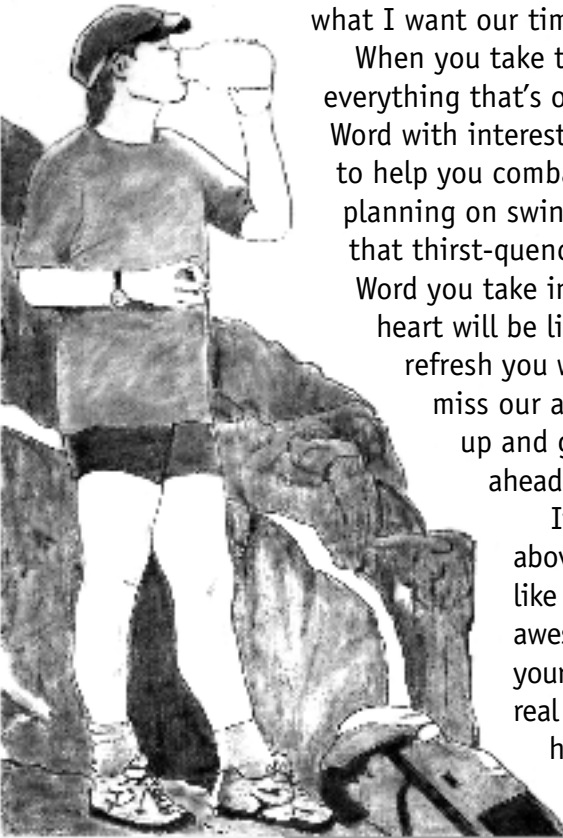
You're special! I knew you before the world was formed, and I've placed you there on Earth for a special calling and purpose. I love you like crazy! I want to be with you and give you joy and peace, and free you from the things that cloud your heart and life.

I want to refresh you, like a mountain climber, who's parched and needs water, and then he finds a little trickle coming down between some rocks. He tastes the water and drinks all he can, and then fills up his canister to the brim for the next part of his journey. *That's* what I want our times together to be like.

When you take time to listen and to tell Me everything that's on your heart, when you read My Word with interest, and claim a verse for your day to help you combat everything the Enemy's planning on swinging at you, then I'm able to be that thirst-quenching water to your soul. The Word you take in and write on the tables of your heart will be like the canister, filled up to refresh you whenever you need it. So don't miss our appointment each day, to drink up and gain strength for the climb ahead.

If you make the effort to put Me above everything else, even if it seems like a trial at first, you'll see some awesome things—the ways I touch your life to let you know how very real I am, and the ways I make things happen for you that you couldn't have worked out yourself.

There's so much I can do for you. If you'll just remember to make Me number one, then everything else will come together and fall into place far better than you could've ever dreamed.



THE CANISTER OF LIFE



To a Brave and Precious Soldier

(Dad:) You've gained such grace and virtue through your affliction. I know you feel that it hasn't been worth it, because there are so many things that you'd like to do. You feel left out, and like you're not accomplishing anything or being a blessing. But it certainly has been worth it—every minute of pain, every hour of trial, every month of testing, and every year of holding on. Jesus has kept tabs on every heartache and disappointment, and when the time comes for the rewards to be passed out, you're going to get all that made up to you!

Remember, all those who've forsaken houses, lands, mothers, fathers—and on the list goes, including health and personal happiness, pleasures, dreams and heart's desires, for the Lord's work—He's going to return unto them a hundredfold in the world to come. So you're laying up for yourself treasures in Heaven.

I know you're probably thinking that you didn't willingly choose this for the Lord or for His work, and you don't see what point there is in giving up your health, anyway. I understand, and I'm sorry that things are so difficult for you. But Jesus has a special reason why He's allowed this, and He's going to show you in His perfect time.

In the meantime, you're helping to fulfill God's plan in your life and in the lives of each person that you come in contact with. You're a tremendous encouragement, sample and blessing, and your sweetness and tenderness has a great effect on those around you.

God has a plan and a purpose in all that He does. In the most trying times, the most desolate, dark and difficult times in our lives, sometimes all we can do is cling to His promises and believe—even if we're believing by faith, and with blind faith at that!

Keep going for God! Keep hanging in there! Jesus is going to touch you and give you a special gift from His hands. I love you, my precious sample and encourager to many!