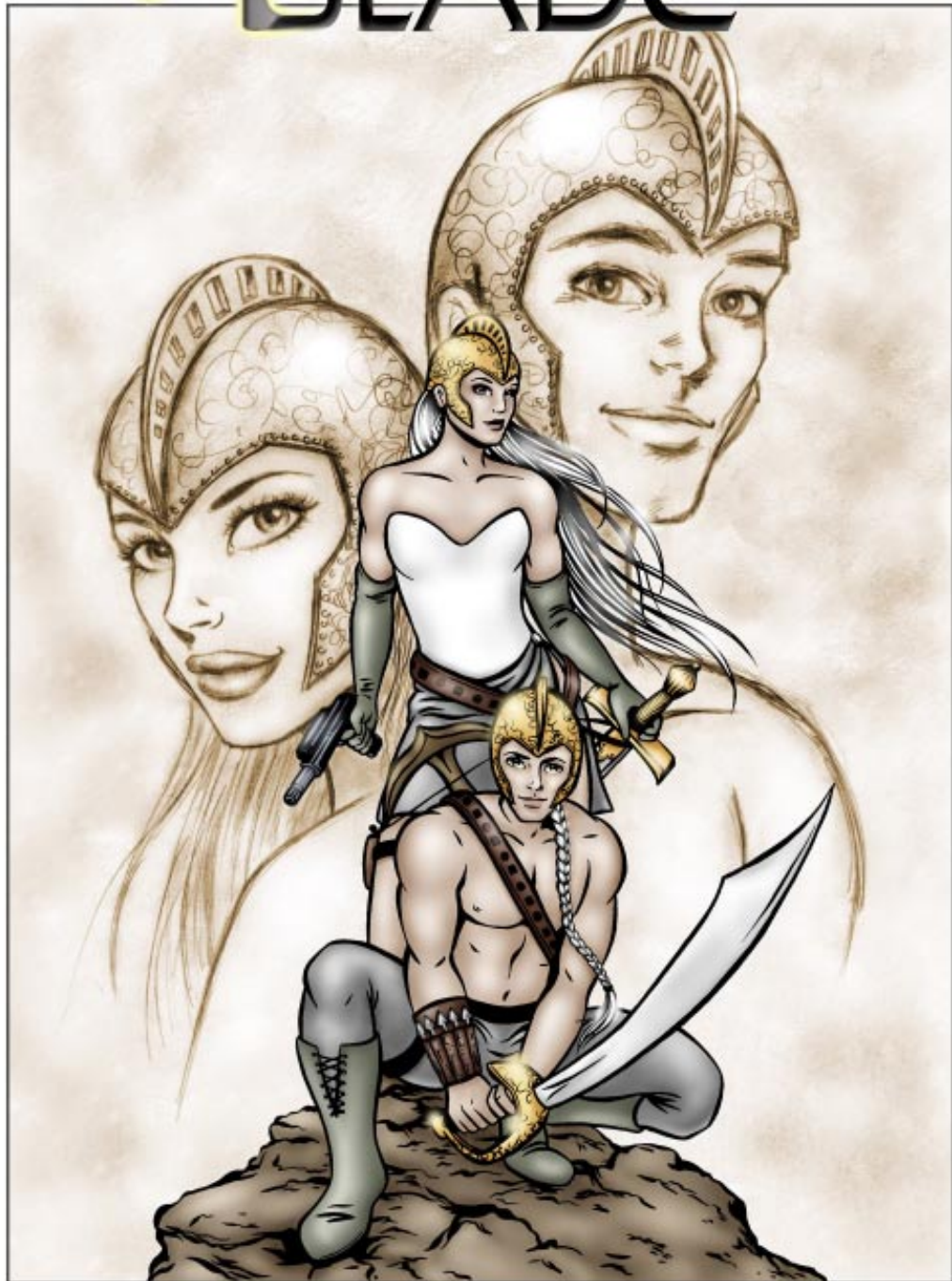


BLADE

ISSUE 14



Playing in the Big Game



This is the *real* Super Bowl,* and you're not in the grandstands watching. You're right down there getting dirty in the game. Every member of the team is needed. This is the finals, the big game. I've chosen the best of the best to get out there and confront the opposing team head on, and the best of the best is you! I know you have it in you to play as part of My heavenly team and kick the Enemy's butt—big time!

There are two primary ingredients to victory, and those are to try your best, and to play as a team. You don't necessarily have to have the glorious job of actually making the touchdowns, but you can be an integral part of making that happen, and we'll all rejoice together when the game is won.

You also don't have to be the quarterback—the guy who gives the orders and helps call the plays, in counsel with Me, the coach. Someone has to be the quarterback, but not everyone does. Being the quarterback is not necessarily the most enjoyable job on the team, because everyone is looking at him, and if there's a mistake the quarterback is often the first one to be blamed.

Just take the position which I've assigned you to, and use the talents I've given you to match your position. Get in there, look the Enemy in the eye and give him a wallop he'll never forget! Then when the victory is won, everyone will have a part in the celebration and everyone will get part of the credit. There are no one-man-shows on My team—just lots of little people doing what I've assigned them to do. And what a team we have!

*SUPER BOWL: AMERICA'S BIGGEST FOOTBALL GAME.

Draw That Circle to Include Others

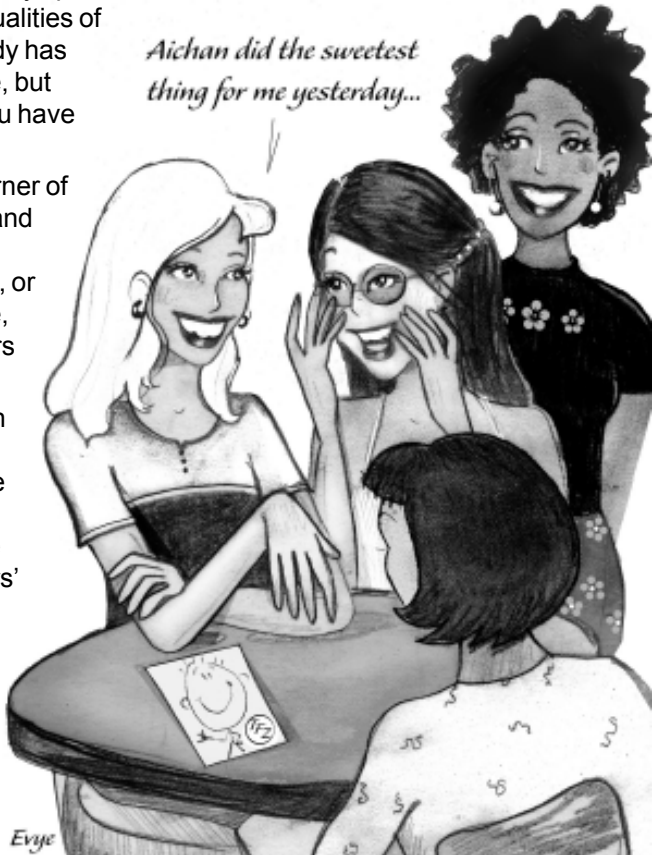
You're not even sweet sixteen yet, and you already draw stares from guys as you walk down the street. Your hair is thick, your skin is clear, and you have a nice figure.—No wonder they stare! It's natural to enjoy all the attention, and I don't mind that you do enjoy it. Sometimes other girls envy you, though, and you think, *It's not my fault that the guys pay more attention to me than to other, less pretty or outgoing girls.* That's where I want to give you a new perspective. I want to help you to change your attitude and to bring out the beauty that I love best in you—your inner beauty.

You see, you don't lose any love by drawing a circle to include others. When your peers tend to just praise those who seem the most good looking or talented or popular, I want to give you a very special gift of highlighting the good qualities of less talented peers. Everybody has something to love and admire, but sometimes it's hidden and you have to dig deep to discover it.

Watch people out of the corner of your eye whenever you can, and when you catch them being smart, doing something good, or saying something you admire, be sure to tell them and others about it!

You can still have fun, laugh with the guys, and talk with your best friend, but I promise that your life will be so much happier if you accept and use this new gift to highlight others' good points. This is one way you can give back to Me, in gratitude for all that I've given to you. It's a very precious gift that you can give to others, too. So don't delay—be a vessel of My love today.

Aichan did the sweetest thing for me yesterday...





Faithful Wounds

The Bible says, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend.”* What? A friend would wound you? This is supposed to be good and faithful? Rather than bad and deceitful?

Yes. A true friend is someone who will hold you back when you are about to do something dangerous and harmful—even if to you it seems fun. A friend will counsel you and wake you up when you’re under a cloud and not seeing things clearly.

“One can chase a thousand, but two can put ten thousand to flight.”** A friend is someone who will tell you what you need to hear, what will help you and save you from yourself and a lot of trouble, even if it’s a wrench for you to hear that something you were really hoping to do isn’t the best. Yes, “faithful are the wounds of a friend.”

Kristen

*(Prov. 27:6) ** (Deut. 32:30)

STEPS TOWARD BEING A

If you've learned to put others first and sacrifice for them now, when the time comes and you have to make a really *big* sacrifice—like laying down your life for someone or something big like that—you'll be ready. But if you aren't taking steps towards doing that now, then when that time comes it's going to be more difficult, because you'll be tempted to react just like you did when you brushed off the little things.



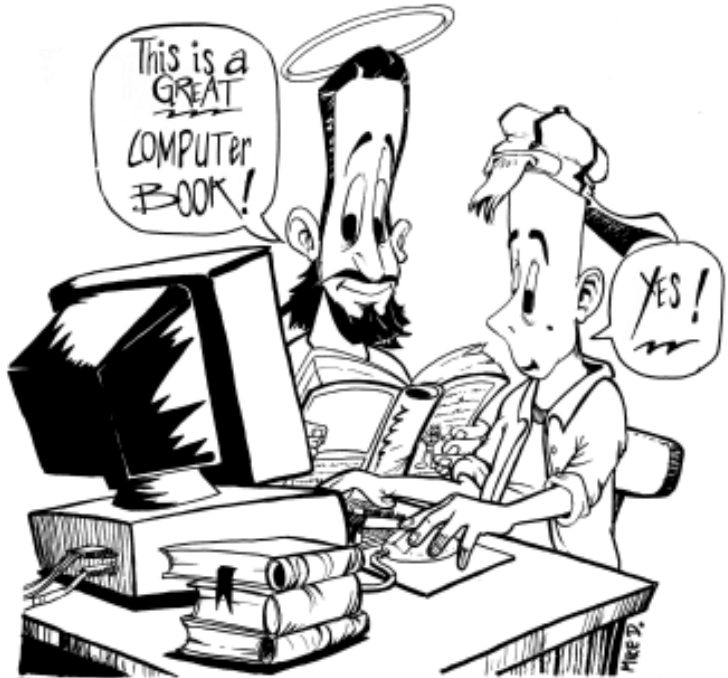
HERO

Life is a steady process of building the right habits and the right reactions. These habits are built day by day, moment by moment. With each decision you make, you either strengthen your habit of doing the loving thing or you weaken it.

So next time you're faced with a decision and you don't know what to do, remember that the choices you make today are going to prepare you for bigger challenges in the future. So put others first and do the loving thing!

A KNACK WITH COMPUTERS

You're a smart guy, with a pretty bright mind. I made you that way, you know! You love delving into the world of computer programming—anything to do with computers. You gobble up programming how-to books like chocolate chip cookies. The computer represents a whole world full of wonderful discoveries, and all you can think about is conquering that world, and becoming part of it.



I understand your love for learning, and I love it. But don't make the mistake of blocking Me out of your life, or of thinking that computers and I, or computer knowledge and I, don't go together. Where do you think mankind has gotten all his inventions from? Everything that Man has thought up has already been in use in Heaven for millenniums. I use computers daily in My work of governing the universe and tending to the needs of My children.

I love to sit down with a new book someone in Heaven has written, about how to operate new equipment. I get right into it and learn the ins and outs. Even though I am all-seeing and all-knowing, I reserve the joy of learning new things in certain areas, and new inventions are one of them. I still know all the fundamentals of the universe, yet I actually block out certain aspects that I want the joy of learning about. That way I can enjoy life more, and savor the experience of discovering something new that I haven't seen before, just like you do.

I'm working around to the main point of this message. Can you guess what it is? I've given you a gift. You have a knack for learning things fast when it comes to computers. I'm hoping that you'll be a wise man, and invest your gift wisely. Learn all you can, and

Include Me Moment by Moment

Sometimes you wonder, “How can I have fun during sports and yet still avoid injuries?” First of all, don’t worry about it. The main point is that whatever you’re doing, you must include Me. Period. Otherwise, you’ll run into trouble, because your own enthusiasm, your own desires and forward motion, is like a car moving along with no driver. — There’s bound to be a problem and a crash.

So, what do you think the solution would be? It’s pretty obvious, isn’t it? You gotta bring Me along when you’re having fun and when you’re on get-out. You can’t leave Me behind and forget about Me, otherwise you’ll have to try to figure things out on your own, and decide on your own what’s safe and what isn’t, on a moment-by-moment basis too, because what’s safe and okay one moment might not be the next. It’s tricky. The problem applies to much more than just get-out and safe



sports. The bottom line is, you need Me, and now you gotta include Me moment by moment in your activities. I’m your Friend. It’ll be fun. Trust Me on this one.

most of all, seek Me for how you can apply the knowledge you gain. There are cool methods for disseminating My Word to the hungry masses that haven’t even been thought up yet! If you’re game, you can even be a part of the last

electronic blitz of the Gospel that I’m planning.

Just keep learning, and stay close to Me. Keep your most powerful computer—your mind—operating in perfect synchronization with Mine. Stay tuned to My voice, and yielded to the whispers of My Spirit. Praise

Me and love Me, and most of all, commit this gift to Me, and pray desperately that you will be able to use it for My glory. There’re gonna be some cool opportunities to use your gifts in these last days, for the best cause in the world. So hang on!

YOU COUNT to Me!



You're only fourteen, yet I see the maturity that others sometimes don't notice. You're responsible, and not frivolous like some other girls your age. Some people talk about waiting till their mid-twenties to have a baby, but you've helped take care of kids since you were

an OC, and even though you can't have a baby yet, you're certain you could handle caring for one fulltime, day and night.

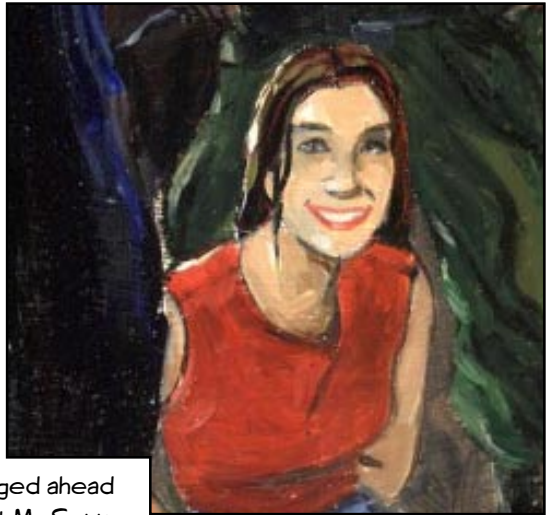
Thanks for being so reliable. I love you for it! I have special plans for you. I see those silent, unshed tears in your heart, when you see other, better looking girls, laughing and chattering away with their

friends. You figure, *So what if I'm responsible, mature, reliable, and smart. None of it matters, because I'm not especially pretty!* I see how you often feel left out of the circle of young people who seem less mature, yet have more friends. It's frustrating for you, because it seems like the more you try to use the new weapons, be faithful in the tasks you're given, and sacrifice your freetime to help out with something, the less you have time to make friends.

I've given you valuable, priceless gifts. You're good at beautifying the house when things start looking drab. When the kids are bored, you always have some interesting new trick up your sleeve to entertain and teach them. Sometimes it's tough to use the gifts I've given you, because they're not showy, and they require responsibility and maturity. Therefore you think that what you do doesn't count for much in the eyes of other people.

Guess what? What you do counts to *Me*.—You're priceless to *Me!* If you were held hostage and an insane amount of money were required to free you, I'd bury your captors with *triple* the amount, just to make sure you were released safe and sound into *My* arms.

I don't care much for shallowness, frivolousness, worldliness, and immaturity. Sure, most people go through stages in their lives when they're like that, but I want you to know that it means the world to *Me* that you've forged ahead for the real treasures in life—*My* Word, *My* Spirit, inner beauty, and love for others. You know what that means? It means I don't have to waste time trying to get your attention, or praying that you'll learn the basics of serving *Me*. You've got the foundation, lady, and you're going places with *Me!*



The Test of Youth

Life is a great mystery sometimes, I know. It's hard to know why learning this or that, soaking up the Word or even applying yourself to your school [work] is important, because you haven't got an inkling of what I'm going to use you for in the future. Sometimes it's hard to imagine I can use you for *anything* out of the ordinary. I'm sorry, much as I sympathize with your lack of motivation sometimes, I can't spoil the future.

See, that's part of your big test of youth: You don't know what the future holds and you just have to take My promises by faith. You just have to read the Word and believe it, practice the new weapons, buck peer pressure, resist worldliness, and strive to keep the vision of this new day, the vision of the Endtime. It's a big test, I know! And sometimes it doesn't even seem fair. If you just got a tiny little peek into your future, you'd know that the desert times—those times when you're

bored with your situation or having trouble being inspired about what you do—are so worth it all. It's like you think, "What's the big deal about having a peek into the future?"

I'll tell you, then. I have great things in store for you—not flashy, like some fake Hollywood [movie] plot, but much more real

YOU'LL BE RIGHT IN THE ACTION WITH THE OLDEST ADULT. AGE IS NOT GOING TO MATTER, I PROMISE.

and exciting. But you help determine exactly what I serve on to your plate in the future, by your actions now. Who you're going to be in a short while—when you have the right of mobility and you can follow wherever I lead you—you're becoming that person right now!

This is your big chance, your golden opportunity, to study up real good and pay attention to every hot tip I give you, 'cause the action is coming and you're going to wish you'd had a few more years to get all set.

In those days, coming very soon, every JETT, junior teen, and senior teen who did his or her best to soak up My Word, won't be considered young any more. You'll be right in the action with the oldest adult. Age is not going to matter, I promise. What *is* going to matter is how you practiced

those hot new weapons I gave you, and how much you minimized ungodly influences in your life.

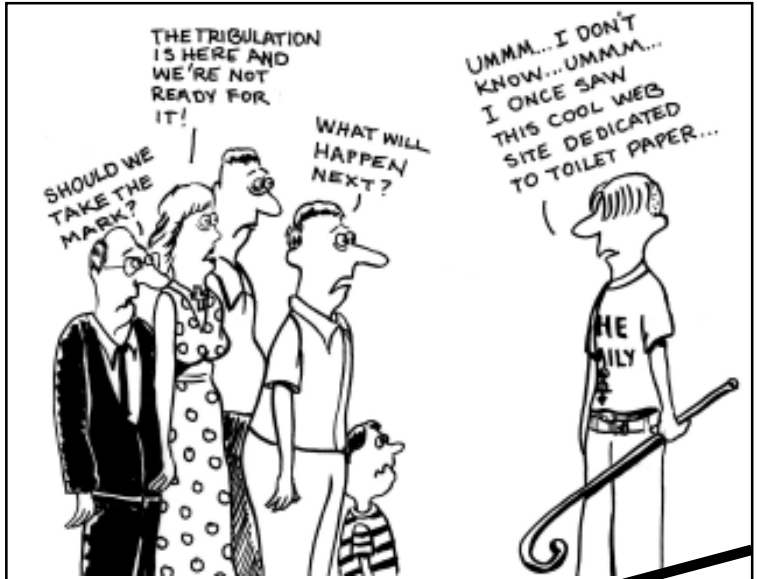
Well, that's just a little glimpse, maybe not so specific about your personal life, but I hope that it helps you.

You know, when you think life is going to go on the same "forever," it's easy to get bored and to look for any kind of escape you can think of—whether movies, the Internet, computer games, or books. That's why I'm telling you that it's not going to be like this forever. It's

not even going to be like this for a *fraction* of forever! I can't tell you exactly how long, but you will be able to count the years on your fingers, I will tell you that much.

I'm telling you this, giving you this personal pep talk, this special glimpse, because you're valuable to Me. I see your heart. I know that you love Me. I know you want to please Me. You have pleased Me, and I promise you will continue to please Me, if you just remember what I've said.

Thanks for trying to stay close to Me. I don't ask for a bunch of showy, outward signs of your love. But I do ask for the love of your heart. I ask you to love Me and to talk to Me personally when you're lying on your bed at night. I ask you to mark special quotes in the Word that stand out to you, and to pray that you can apply My Words. I ask you to post MyWords up on your wall, and to share MyWords with your friends. I ask you to hear My voice and to write [My Words] down. Thank you for listening to Me. I'm very proud of you.



This?

Or this?



HIGHS and LOWS

Sometimes life might seem a little slower than usual, especially after a special event like a JETT or teen camp, a road trip, an exciting movie, a fun united fellowship, or a great game you played. When it's all over you can be hit with the hard reality that those emotional and physical highs aren't permanent, and this can be a rather painful experience.

When you're faced with this, it's easy to look for ways to make your life a little more exciting. However, something you'll realize with time is that when life isn't fast-paced and the inspiration level isn't so high, it doesn't mean something's wrong. You can still enjoy those special occasions immensely, which is good, but just realize that when it's all over you'll most probably be back to what you were doing before. There is always work to do. There are scholastics to do, meals to cook, lessons to learn and much more. But rather than getting bummed out by the "same ol' same ol,'" just thank Me for the time of fun and for the opportunity you had to step away from your day-to-day life and work.

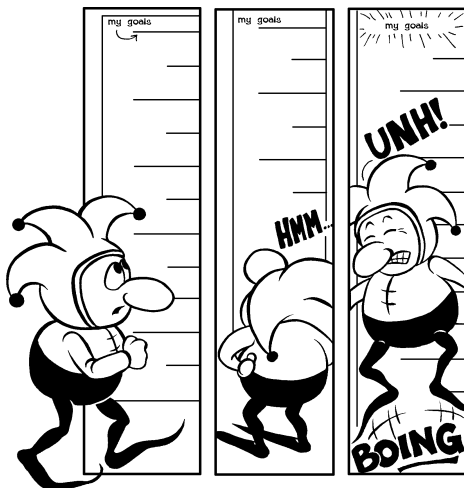


Times of fun and enjoyment are a special gift from Me, and though there will always be more, it's better not to live your life for the next physical or emotional high, because eventually this will only disappoint. But if you keep your eyes on Me and hear from Me fresh every day, I can help add some variety and spice to your life. That doesn't mean you'll be jumping up and down and laughing till your stomach hurts every time you hear you're on dishes, but your life will keep changing for the better in little ways as I speak to you.

Let Me Lift You Up

Do you wish you were more complete as a person? Do you dream of being able to reach your full potential, without any hindrances? Guess what? I purposely made it so that Man didn't see absolute perfection when he looked in the mirror, and so that Man's wisdom and knowledge could not scale every alp of discovery. Man is always going to want to improve himself and learn more, because nobody ever attains perfection—of body or mind—in this life! I made it this way so that men would look to Me. Yet many of them haven't. Still worldly men strive to build a phony world of perfection, to blind their eyes to their sins and the ghastly price tagged on their many errors.

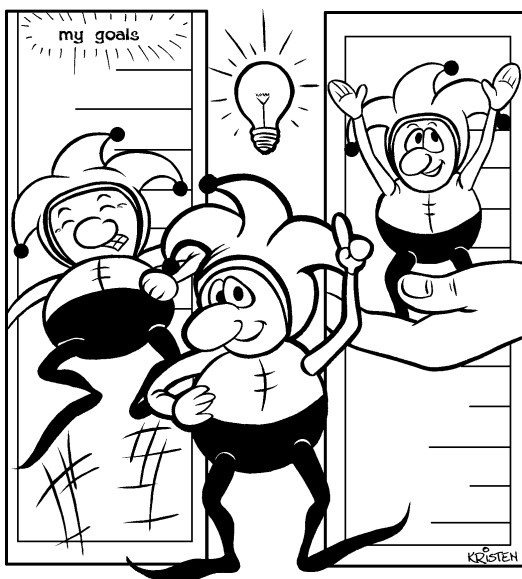
Nevertheless, the desire to climb ever upwards is a God-given instinct. I planted in you the desire to do more, and to be better.—Not so you could gain the worship and admiration of mankind, but so you can



be a better tool in My hand, and so you can always be thinking of the weak and the helpless and the lonely, and how you can help them and show them My love.

I feel so sad when you allow your imperfections to make you depressed about yourself. Instead, I want you to turn your face up to Me. Cry out to Me and ask Me to lift you to where I want you to be. Ask Me to give you the power to become the person I destined you to be. Ask Me for the strength to stand despite the fierce tests that come your way. Ask Me to strengthen your character even when those around you are faltering and weak.

Then, as you look to Me in obedience and faith, by doing your best to live the Word, I will lift you up to where I want you to be. I will perfect your life, and it won't be because you have finally attained perfection, but because I have *always* been perfect. I will make you complete. Trust Me and you will see.



When Friends Part Ways

Do you have a pal who decided that a missionary life in the Family just wasn't for him? He wanted to do something different in life. It's difficult to watch people leave their service for Me, and it can make you wonder about *your* place. You can begin to wonder if you are really meant to be serving Me. It's also hard to imagine your life without your good friend near you.

People left Me too, when I was on Earth. I'm not just talking about Judas, because you've heard that story many times. Many other people I liked, people who were My good friends, left Me when the going got rough. I was counting on them, but they didn't make it. It hurt Me to see them leave.

But I had to take that pain and lay it at My Father's feet. You can do the same and give it to Me. Ask Me about it. I'll encourage you and let you know that I've got other friends waiting for you. I'll show you how very needed you are in this Family. I can encourage you to keep going and to not forsake all your blessings.

I need you! You are a special piece of My Endtime puzzle. I don't want you to have to go out there and face that rough world all alone—I'd much rather keep you here and keep blessing your work for Me where you are happy and have lots of blessings.

So even if your friend has left, remember that I'm your best Friend and I'm going to supply you with a wonderful blessing for your decision to stay and keep fighting for Me.



Make a Spirit Being's Day!

There are so many spirit helpers, powerful beings who know your name, your age, your height, your favorite color, your biggest weakness, and what you most long for. But I know it's difficult to imagine these spirit helpers, or to talk to them, or to even remember to ask for their help, when you're not aware of their names. I want to give you their names! All you have to do is ask Me. Don't worry about your channel. If you miss a vowel in their names, they're not going to pout about it. Go even further, and ask Me what they look like, whether or not they are former earthlings, and what their personalities are like!

My spirit beings are cool beyond words, and they're available for you! You don't have to be a certain age, or possess a high IQ—all you need is that spark of faith that compels you to ask Me for one. You can either ask Me to tell you about one you already have, or you can be specific about the type of spirit helper that you want. You want it? I've got it! I have millions of powerful, wonderful spirit beings, just dying to help My children on Earth. Make a spirit being's day today, by asking for one of them!

Today, just for fun, I want to tell you about some spirit helpers who happen to know a lot about you. Their names are Zanko and Bridora. These two work together. Their gifts complement the other's really well. Zanko and Bridora have already been assigned to—guess who!—the *Blade* audience. It's their commission and their privilege to go around to every Home where you live!

These ageless beings are young at heart, and true warriors in My kingdom. They are uniquely tuned to the needs of you, My young people, in this ever-darkening Endtime. They're up on the nineties! They're up on the 2000s! And they're up on you! They're always wearing fighting gear when they're on the job, and that's because they're ready at a moment's notice to spring to your assistance. One of their great desires is to put every young person in the Family—you can't be too young—personally in touch with the spiritual realm. And I promise you, they'll take you for a ride that you'll never forget!

Stay tuned to the spirit realm, and I promise you that sooner or later you'll come away with a spirit buddy or an invisible coworker who will turn your life right-side in, remind you what you're living for, and help you fight and win!