

Prayer For Sara! Peter's Challenge To The Teens!

SARA'S CONFESSION OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS & PRAYER FOR LOVE & MERCY

By Sara D.

TYJ! I am very grateful to have had a lesson this week. I've known that I needed to ask for prayer in this area of self-righteousness for awhile, & it's a lesson that I should have really begged for united prayer earlier because I knew I really really needed it. But my poor excuse was I didn't really have time to get prepared for it. So because I didn't take God's hint, He gave me a shove!

I really need to ask for prayer against self-righteousness & pride, especially in the area of being too legalistic & being a real extremist. I really need the balance of the Spirit, especially in working with the children, & even in the household, as I've just been too legalistic. To combat that, what I really need is prayer for love & mercy, wisdom, patience & understanding.—All the things that Dad says you need in caring for children or taking care of people. I need the patience of Job & the wisdom of Solomon & the Love of Jesus!

I have had lessons before on pride & self-righteousness, but I've never really had prayer against it, because it was a long time ago before we used to have united prayer over people & real deliverances. It's a besetting sin with me, that's why I knew I needed to have prayer against it when we first talked about really having a spiritual housecleaning.

What brought this all to a head was when Grandpa got really upset with me for spanking Tech1. He wasn't necessarily so upset about the spanking itself, but the fact that it was too harsh & unmerciful. So of course I had to really search my heart as to why I'd reacted in my own spirit & the arm of the flesh & not the Lord's. It wasn't that I was angry or upset, I was just bound by my own rules. I had threatened I would spank if such-&-such happened & all the kids knew it, Tech1 knew it too, but when it did happen, although I had a check that I shouldn't carry through with the severe punishment that I had threatened that I would, I went ahead & did it anyway. I was not being led by the Spirit of Love, I was bound by the law, even though I really didn't want to have to carry out this spanking. According to all the rules, law without enforcement is no law at all & you shouldn't threaten something & not carry it out, but

if you don't have that peace about it & you know things aren't going right or you're not really in prayer & hearing from the Lord & especially when you just don't know what to do, then the law has become of no effect, fruitless & you become more of a problem than the offender! That's the time to stop everything, get ahold of the Lord & seek His mercy & grace!—if I only had!

"The best Law is Love, & along with Love comes reasoning persuasion, explaining, teaching the Word & all the rest so that the children can make their own decisions, because they'll stick to it far better if they decide to do it themselves because they want to do it right! That'll go a lot further than only doing right because you're there to make'em."—MOP 9:193

After going so many years on just the children's Word studies, without that personal Word time daily, I have gotten accustomed to operating in my own strength, in my own spirit most of the time. I didn't even recognise it until I got in the Word recently. When I finally did start taking personal Word time daily, I realised how wrong I've been all along for many years & what a terrible mess I am & how far behind I am, in fact I feel like I'll never catch up. I see now how I put the doorknob too high for others, in self-righteousness, & have made others feel bad by my legalistic attitude. The more Word I've gotten, the more my problem has come to the Light & the worse I've felt, so I really should have asked for prayer about it before!

The Lord has been faithful now to show me my problems & I've really asked Him to change me! I've been desperate with the Lord about this whole new teen vision & Teen Training, as well as about more leadership coming to visit, added staff members, etc. But I've been at wits' end & knew I didn't have the strength, especially through this pregnancy & nausea & Red Red Alert paperwork push! I was running on my own steam. So I asked for it! While reading the Word lately, I finally asked the Lord for a lesson, I was expecting it, I wanted it! It's not like I was even fearing it, I really wanted it, because that's what the Word did, it exposed my problem & made me sick of it! If it hadn't been for our daily prayer vigil, plus our scheduled one-



Love is...
Believing
Trusting
Helping
Encouraging
Confiding
Sharing
Understanding
Feeling
Touching
Caring
Praying
Giving



hour Word time every evening I don't think I would have been as aware of the problem, because I would have never taken the time to read the Letters on the subject.

I've always been so involved with others' problems, I seldom applied the Word to myself personally, thus I didn't think for a long while that I even needed any extra help or prayer! LHM! It's been very rare that I've ever even confessed any sort of weakness to the children or adults! But I'm confessing now that I've been a real mess for a long while & I apologise for my bad sample & influence on you & others!

The thing that really drained me, which I need to even explain to you kids, is just having to correct so many things constantly every day, minute after minute after minute, not only some problems with the children & teens now, but with the house, notes, people, announcements, paper work! I was just like a machine gun going at full speed! The little bit of Word I'd get I'd just cling on to for help, but I'd feel like even more of a wreck because I saw the light of the Word shine so bright & I was so convicted. I have explained to you kids already that I have that tendency to push myself in my own strength. I get drained, I get too pressured, there's too much going on at once & then I get impatient, & a bit harsh & unloving. I've shown a real lack of love & kindness & mercy & forgiveness & faith & patience—those are the things I need to pray for—love & kindness & mercy! Dad's "Prayer For Love & Mercy" is just perfect, it's just exactly what I need.

"We should do with our children as God does with us: He tries to persuade us to do things through the right loving motivation because we want to do what's right, because we love Him & we love others, not just because we're made to, forced to, or because of fear of punishment; that's the old law!"—MOP 9:139

I took two complete days of Word time which really helped! The point that jumped out at me in almost every Letter I read, believe it or not, was how Grandpa said, "Jesus said, you need to go", like get away & alone, & "learn what this meaneth, I will have mercy & not sacrifice!" I realise to learn my lesson I have to stop & get away from it all now, I have to go take time alone with the Lord & His Word to learn my lesson, I have to learn what it means & I need to make that quiet time more of a habit! That doesn't mean you get an instant

victory, it means it's a long painstaking effort to learn to live! These two days in the Word make me feel even more behind & even more useless because I see how wrong I've been all along & how it's gotta be all the Lord & not of myself, because I've been going on for so many years in the same ministry, with the same children, the same habits, the same reactions, & now the Lord needs to change me, to completely rewire me! LHM!

It was like I'd never even read that verse (Mt:9:13) before!—Like I didn't even know it existed! But it's come out in almost every single Letter I've read! Peter gave me a real good list of Letters which was a real real blessing because I didn't have to waste any time researching & wondering what to read. It really saved my time & it was really the Lord for him to ask Jesus what I needed, because I didn't even know what I needed. I didn't know until I started reading the Word what I needed, so how would I know what to read?

The other verse that I'm claiming is, "He that confesseth his sin shall obtain mercy." (Pro.28:13) Jesus says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!" (Mat.5:7) I've found too that it really helps to keep a notebook, or to have a special section in your Diary to write down what speaks to you from the Word, & to mark what you read & review it often! Just reading the Word alone for two days was like solitary confinement, the exact opposite of what I've been used to for ten years. In "Stop, Look & Listen" it says that people who are used to working in an atmosphere of spiritual or mental or physical confusion become hardened to the voice of God, & that's just what I've done. I've always been right in there with the kids, & available to the whole Home & Staff, so getting away from it all was really odd, really different, it was almost like being sent away. But it was so good for me, it was just what I desperately needed in order to learn from the Word!

I did apologise to David & Teché already but I needed to apologise to all of you kids & to one of our teens for being too hard & critical & unloving & condemning. It's been a bad habit, it's been a bad spirit of self-righteousness, being too condemning, impatient & impulsive. It's a lack of love! Grandpa says if God is anything He's a God of Love & Mercy. It's such a basic lesson, it seems like I'd know better. But I did want to apologise to you, Honey, because you were the first teen to come for a visit & retraining & I really clamped down too strong on you & I know it

was not a good representation of the Folks. I'm really sorry, sweet Kids! Please forgive me.

I can be very thankful that the Lord was very faithful not only to point it out to me, but to stop me before it got really bad. Because in the past I have had similar tendencies with angry impatience which I battled with for a long time, & I know the Lord gave me the victory. I really want to give God the glory for giving me the victory in that area, because it was something that sometimes had a real grip on me, like Mama talks about with jealousy & other things. It was a spirit of angry impatience & the Lord really freed me of it. But we didn't know then what we know now about asking for united prayer for deliverance, & especially going to the Word for strength & renewing & reneking!

Jesus was real faithful, He showed me what I needed & He stopped me real soon after I got desperate with Him & finally asked Him to help me. Because of the accountability of being with these precious children the Lord didn't want it to go on for a long time. I just got downright caught & I was downright guilty in every way, there is nothing I can say but "I'm guilty!" I was really thankful to finally see that they're the Lord's children & it's the Lord's work & God will do it in spite of me. I think this is the first time I've asked the Lord wholeheartedly to really humble me & really change me & really get me out of the way. So He's been very faithful to answer my prayer.

Grandpa says, "If the baptism of the Holy Spirit is anything, it's a baptism of Love! Wisdom is Love because Wisdom is God & God is Love!" I really need the wisdom to know the balance in how to correct & instruct & encourage & praise, but also how & when to discipline or punish the children in love! Now I honestly don't know what to do!

"Under the law of Love God has even more rigidly enforced some rules, but He has relaxed some others where they're not as tough. You have to have the wisdom of the Lord to know the difference—which ones you must enforce without fail & which you can be merciful about."—MOP 9:186

But it's good because it makes me desperate to pray for the Lord's direction & wisdom. I'm sure it's the way the Lord wants me to be & He'll continue to humble me & make me desperate because I really want to learn it all the way. I see how much unlike Jesus & Dad & Mama I've been in lording a spiritual

authority over the children & others, but never admitting my own weaknesses & sins. Even though I've been dishing out plenty of correction to others for a long time in my own strength, I found I was so weak I can now hardly stand the blow of getting corrected myself!—A definite problem with pride & self-righteousness!

The Letters also say, "Sometimes backsliding can be good for you, to wake you up to what a hopeless sinner you are without God's help. Then there's hope that you'll turn to God for help!" "Self-righteous perfectionists are the hardest people in the world to live with."—Poor children! I'm so sorry! "They're usually merciless, intolerant & unforgiving. Jesus was patient & loving & kind & sympathetic & forgiving, loving & leading, not pushing or driving, but always feeding & encouraging & strengthening His little lambs." Also "If you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you." And Grandpa adds, "And you've got plenty of 'em, let's face it, & even bigger because of your importance & the size of your job." "Seek not to be teachers, for unto you is the greater condemnation." There are lots more, really tremendous quotes, especially in Volume 1, & it's been real helpful to me just to get back to the basics, but I have a long ways to go!

Meanwhile the job still has to be done & we have this whole Teen Training program to do now. TTL, He's squeezing me real tight now, & I hope He'll hang on to me until I've really learned love & mercy with others! I know the Word is the answer! I really appreciate your prayers & I'd really like to make it an all-the-way process & really learn all the way now. It's not for myself, it's for the sake of others as well. I don't only have myself to be concerned about, I also have the children & the classes & articles that are being published for the World. I know the Lord doesn't want me to miss one little area that I need this help in.—Not for my sake only, but for the World's sake, & that's the most important accountability there could be. Because they're not only Jesus' disciples, but His children & His future! So please pray for me! Thank you so much!

PETER'S TALK TO THE TEENS!
—"Let's Be Here for Jesus!"

By Peter A. --No. 22

Don't you all love Sara? (Fam: Amen!) And don't you children love Sara & don't you really know that she loves you too? (Kids: Amen!) I don't think there's any question

that Sara has certainly proven her love for you kids.

The Lord uses things to teach us lessons & He sometimes really shakes us up in a big way so that He'll make sure we don't miss the lesson. The more responsibility that you have & the more that you grow & the more that you're responsible for & the more you become a leader, the more important it is that the Lord keeps you in line. And often the Lord keeps you in line by chastisement, by discipline from His Hand. The Lord has used this situation with Sara to teach her a lesson, & thank the Lord, it's a good lesson for all of us & we all need to make sure that whatever we do, we do in love & we do in mercy. But that doesn't mean that we don't ever need discipline. Right? If you do something wrong you deserve to be disciplined. The Lord disciplines us, right?

You're never going to stop getting disciplined!—Whether you're 2 years old, 5 years old, 10 years old, 20 years old, 50 years old, or 100 years old! Maybe you're not going to get your bottom spanked, but the Lord's going to chasten you one way or the other, in order to teach you to obey & to be yielded. The Lord disciplines us, He chastens us, because He loves us. "Whom the Lord loves He chasteneth", & that's discipline! So although the Lord used this mistake to teach Sara a good lesson & one she needs to learn, it doesn't mean that she's never supposed to correct or chasten you ever again.

Who knows what happens when you don't get disciplined? (Tech: You become a spoiled brat.) That's right, & you start going off doing your own thing, & nobody ever tells you to stop & you get further & further away from the way you're supposed to be. If nobody corrects you, pretty soon you're so used to just doing your own thing that you will no longer do God's thing. You'll no longer do what Jesus wants you to do! You'll begin to think, "Nobody ever corrects me, so I must be right all the time! Nobody ever tells me I'm wrong, so I must be right!"—And you turn into a rotten apple! And let me tell you, children, we've had some rotten apples in our Family! And you know why you're not one of them? (David: Because we get disciplined.)—That's right!

And the reason you teens could come here, is because for years & years you had faithful overseers who loved & cared for you & disciplined you when you needed it! Maybe as you got a little older & got to be Teens you resented it. But you can thank the Lord & those overseers that they did it, because if they hadn't, you would not be here today!

You wouldn't have made it! You'd be spoiled, you'd be rotten apples, you'd be shallow & frothy & you wouldn't be able to make it as a real dedicated disciple! But you were disciplined & it gave you a fear of the Lord & it taught you to obey. Like Mama says in her Letter, "Pride!—The Root of All Sin!" If you don't get used to being disciplined, & if you don't get used to submitting & yielding & obeying your elders, then you are going to have trouble learning to submit to & obey the Lord!

You children & teens need to see that when you don't obey, or when you sass back, it's not that you're disobeying Auntie Sara or Uncle Alf, you're disobeying God! And if you lie, you're lying to God! And if you do a poor job, you're doing it to the Lord! "The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the good & the evil." (Pro.15:3) He sees everything that we do!

The Family needs people that are sold out to Jesus & that are doing things because they love Jesus!—Not because Auntie Sara is going to see them & give them a spanking if they get caught. You're not going to be here forever, none of us are, so what are you going to do when it's your turn to go & you get out there & Auntie Sara isn't looking over your shoulder? Are you going to do the right thing then just because you love Jesus & because it's the right sample & because you believe it, because you're sold out to it?—Or are you just going to say, "Oh well, nobody's looking so I can sluff off & disobey!" The Lord's looking, He's always looking, & He sees every disobedience & He knows every murmur, He knows every complaint, He knows every lie, He knows everything!

We have to decide how much we're here for Jesus! Ask yourself, "Why do I have to get corrected so much & why does Auntie Sara have to always tell me I'm doing things wrong?" Well, Auntie Sara & all of your other uncles & aunts don't like to correct you, it's a very unpleasant job. (Sara: It's a real drain & makes you feel bad & ugly.) It makes you feel rotten & it's very hard! Everybody here who's ever been a mommy & daddy or has taken care of children, knows that it hurts to have to constantly be nagging on you, "Stop biting your nails, don't do this, why don't you do that!" It makes you feel rotten! You go to bed at night & think, "What did I accomplish today except to push & remind & hassle the children all day long?"

But let me ask you something! Dad says we should make it easy for others to be good, & that's true! So how easy are you making it for your keepers to be good? How

much love do you have for them that you're willing to obey Jesus & do what you're supposed to do so they don't have to correct you, so they don't have to ride your case! Ask yourself that! How much love do you have? You're murmuring & complaining that you have to do this & "How come I have to be told 10 times a day not to put my hands in my mouth or bite my fingernails?" Well, the day you stop doing it is the day you'll never hear about it again! We want to make it easy & the Lord wants to make it easy for you to be good, but it works both ways. You have to manifest enough love for others to make it easy for them to take care of you.

You see poor pregnant Sara all tired & grumpy, well, I don't blame her for being tired & grumpy, & to tell you the truth, I don't blame her at all for getting upset at you sometimes! How many times has she talked with you about something or told you again & again & again & again? I don't blame her! If you, David, had to tell Davida something every day, 20 times a day & she never changed, wouldn't you get discouraged? (David: Yes!) So would I!

We adults still get discipline, we get corrected & we still have to learn too. In fact sometimes the Lord really jumps on our case because we need it & we want it. Like Sara said, she was praying for the Lord to show her what the problem is & the change she needs to make, & other people have prayed that too! We've prayed & said, "Lord, whatever it is, whatever it takes to get me to be the way I should be, please do it to me!" But what about you? As teenagers aren't you just as responsible to have that same desire to want to do right? We don't pray, "Lord, chasten me, purge me & spank me, Lord", because we like it, we don't like it!—But we want to get right with the Lord no matter what the cost, just like Sara, she wants to do things the right way & in the right spirit.

What about you? Do you want to be right for Jesus? Do you want to be here to serve the Lord with all your heart & all your soul & all your mind & all your strength & you'll do anything to serve Him?—Even if it means that you have to give up some of your ways & some of your sins & some of your disobediences? If not, then we're just spinning our wheels & the Lord's wasting time on you! But we don't have that kind of time, Sara has other things to do besides telling you she's going to get upset at you because you're not heeding instruction or wasting time or being disobedient & telling lies & all!

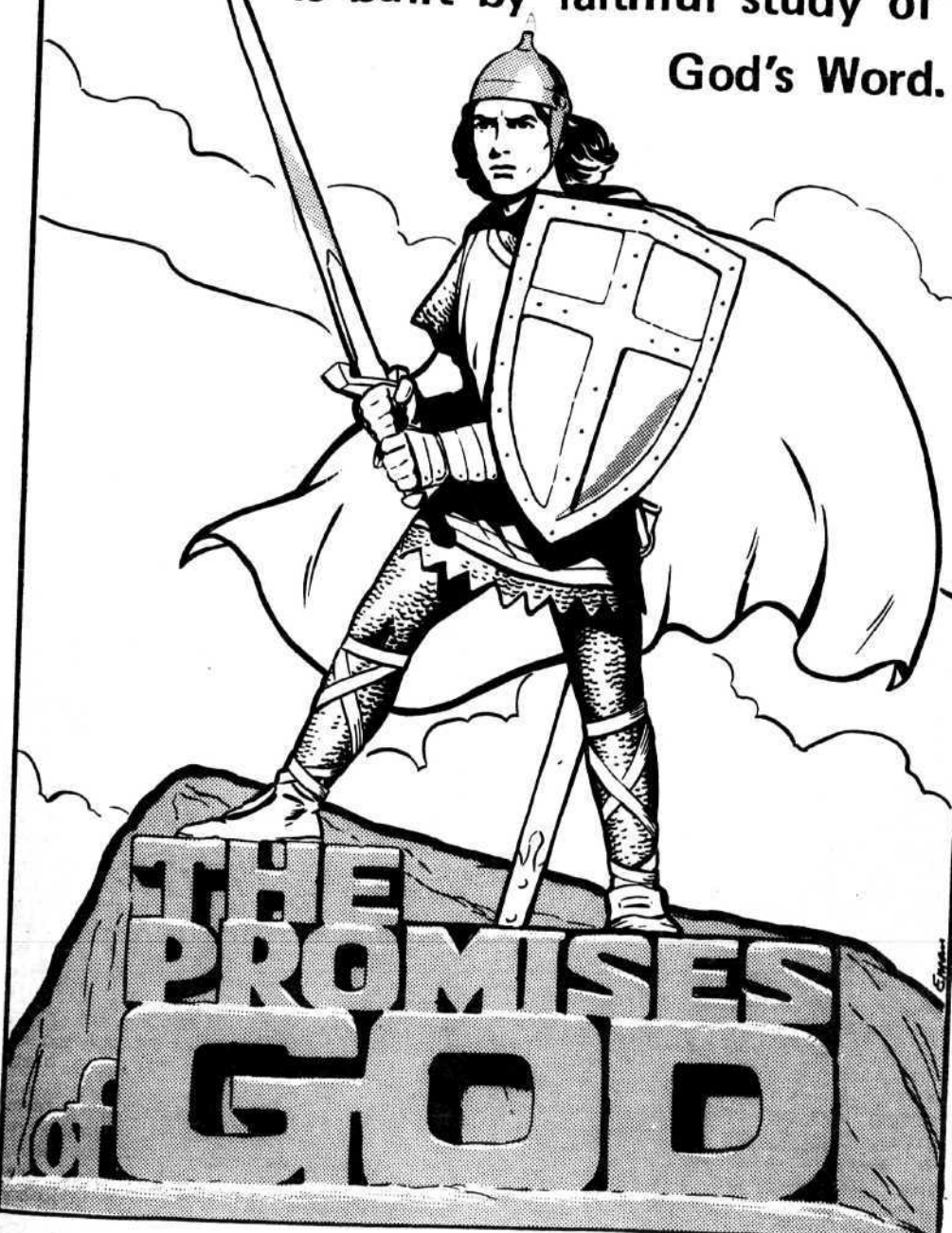
Isn't it time to stop doing those

things? Isn't it time for you to help make it easy for her to be good? Isn't it time for you to stop looking at it like, "What are you correcting me for" & start looking at it like, "The Lord is trying to teach me something!" The Lord is trying to get through to you! Jesus is correcting you! Jesus is telling you to please do it the right way! Because if you don't, you'll never be much use to this Family! People who have been on their own & haven't been willing to receive discipline & haven't gotten correction, don't usually make it! They don't make it because they're not sold out! They're not here with all their hearts, they're not desiring to change & they're not appreciative of discipline!

If you're a leader & you know you have to go & talk to people about problems, which is one of the jobs of a leader, & you see that they have no desire to change & they don't really seem to care at all, then there's very little you can do to help'm. What can you do? You can give'm good counsel, you can read to them out of the Bible, you can show'm they've got a problem, you can give'm all the MO Letters In the World to read on the subject, but if they personally don't want to change in their own heart, they're not going to change! It's like the old saying, you can bring a horse to the water, in fact you can grab him by the neck & push his face in the water, but if he doesn't want to drink, he's not going to drink!

Do you want to change? Do you want to overcome your problems? Well, then you need to do something about it! You sit here every week in Sunday Fellowship & you see these adults share their hearts & share their lessons & ask for prayer & be desperate to change, desperate enough that they're willing to come down here & humiliate themselves before the Family & say, "Look, I'm a sinner, I need help! Please, I need prayer! I'm trying to fight discouragement or I'm trying to fight jealousy or I'm trying to fight disobedience! Help me, I can't do it on my own!"—And they ask for prayer. Why? Because they like the attention? Because it's fun? No! It's very difficult & humbling for them to admit & confess. But it's because they're here for Jesus & they want to change, that's why! They want to get over those things & forsake'm & stop'm & not do'm any more. They don't want to keep being disobedient! They don't want to continue to be unmerciful or self-righteous or proud or jealous, they're sick of it! They know it's the Devil & they're God-damned tired of it! But what about you? You're just as responsible, every one of you!

The main thing to know is the Word!
Faith is built by faithful study of
God's Word.



We sit here while Sara tells us that she feels so horrible & unmerciful, & the Lord has used this to teach her a lesson. But how much have you contributed to that? How easy have you made it for Sara so that she doesn't have to be correcting you constantly to the point that she's discouraged about it? Ask yourself that! How many times have you been corrected when you didn't have to be? If you would have just done it right the first time or if you would have just told the truth the first time or if you would have just been obedient the first time or if you would have just stopped with your foolishness like you know you're supposed to do, it would have spared her. That's something to think about, isn't it?

But you see, if you're not corrected, you're not going to make it. But even if you are disciplined, if you're rebellious to it & if you don't want it, then it's not going to change you. Because what counts is the change in your heart. How much do you desire it? How many times have you children prayed, "Jesus, I have a real problem with this, I want help! Please help me, please change me! Do anything You have to do! Change me! I don't want to be that way!"

You need to realize that although Sara is learning a big lesson, that you need to learn a lesson too! You need to stop with all the disobedience, stop with the foolishness, stop with the things you're not supposed to be doing! Why do you do them, anyway? If you know it's wrong & you do it, it's a sin! That's a sin against the Lord!

Do you want to be sinning against the Lord? No, none of us do, do we? We want to be right with the Lord. Don't you love Jesus? I love Jesus & I want to be close to Jesus, don't you? Well, then we should do what we know is right, shouldn't we? (Jn.13:17, Ja.4:17) We should remember that Jesus is always right with us. Even though you can't see Him, He's right in your heart! He knows everything! He knows all the things that you can hide from your elders. He even knows all the things that you think.

We're all sinners & we all make mistakes, & when we do, He forgives us, but if you remember that He's right there watching you, maybe it will help you to do the things that you're supposed to do & to do'm right. (Psa.33:13; 14:2; Pro.15:3) He sees when you contend with each other when no adults are around. But He's the adult that's around & He knows, so who do you think you're kidding? Sure, you can hide it from Auntie Sara, in fact we can hide things from almost everybody, except the Lord! He sees it &

eventually we'll have to pay for it, our sins & disobediences will cause us to stray from the Lord, unless they get corrected!

With disobedience & other sins, you don't always pay for it today or tomorrow, you might not pay for it for years to come! It's like what happened to someone who was going to come here, but because of his problems, he didn't come. For years he wasn't getting discipline, & his shepherds weren't cracking down on him & making him toe the line & making him be a disciple. He didn't pay for it then, he went on & he did his work & the Lord even mightily used him. But the day of reckoning came, he was weighed in the balances & found wanting! Now he's paying for all that time when he was allowed to get weak & get off the track. Now he really has to get desperate, now he's really got to fight against those things, now he's really got to get ahold of the Lord. It would have been a lot easier if he'd have been ahold of the Lord all the time, right? It would have been a lot better for him if his overseers & his mummies & daddies in the Lord were giving him the correction he needed & were making him get the victories over his problems. If they had been, then maybe he'd be sitting at this table right now!

So be thankful that you've had good disciplinarians! Be thankful every time you get corrected! Thank Jesus for your correction, because whom the Lord loves He chastens! You're chastened by Sara not because she wants to be Miss Ogre, Adelle Grandorf (See "Life of Grandpa" TK: "Oklahoma!"), it's because she loves & cares for you & wants you to grow right, she doesn't want you to have to pay later. She wants you to learn it now so that when you become an adult you'll be a leader. That's what you're here for! But what kind of a leader are you if you have to always have somebody watching over you to make you do the right thing? That's not a leader, is it? A leader is someone who you can trust that when their supervisor is not looking over their shoulder, that they're still going to do the right thing. In fact, every Family member should be that way! We should all want to please the Lord by doing the right thing! But it all comes back to you! Because it's between you & Jesus! You can't blame others!

We've heard about a number of our teens who have become very worldly because of their parents' bad sample. They love Jesus, & they love to witness, but somehow they seemed to miss some of the revolutionary

basics of the Family. The girls got into worldliness & makeup & looking beautiful, & the boys into lifting weights to build up their muscles. Apparently their parents & their leaders really didn't train them well enough & weren't good enough samples, & in some cases were outright bad samples, so it's partially their parents' fault. But now the teens are old enough to decide for themselves. You have the Letters, you can read what the standard is, you know the Truth, so now the choice is up to you!

It's your decision! You have to decide! How much do you want to follow Jesus?—Halfway?—All the way?—Three-quarters of the way? The Lord will allow you to follow Him as much as you want to follow Him! If you want to be a 50% Family Member, then that's all you'll be! Or if you want to be a 75% Family Member & be fairly close to the Lord & only sort of obey the Letters & only sort of follow the instructions & only sort of follow the Lord, well, that's your decision. You decide that! But if you want to be fully used by the Lord, then you have to want to be a 100% disciple—A disciplined disciple! But you have to want it, every single one of you! You have to decide! You have to make that decision!

We adults were in the System, you children weren't. For each adult here there came a day when they had to stop & say, "I want Jesus & this Family more than anything else, & I'm going to give up everything to have it!" But what about you? You have to make the same decision! You can't have that attitude that "I was born here so I'm automatically a revolutionary disciple." Being born in the Family doesn't make you a 100% disciple, your personal dedication & desire to serve the Lord is the determining factor!

Are you going to be just a member of the Family, or are you going to be a sold-out, live-or-die, sink-or-swim disciple of Jesus? The Bible says to serve the Lord with all your heart & all your soul & all your mind & all your spirit, but you have to decide on your own to do that! That's your decision! You have to want it! You have to want to obey, you have to want to follow closely! It's not going to do us any good to constantly tell you, "Do the dishes this way, sweep the floor this way, cook the dinner this way, do your studies this way", if you're not going to make the effort to follow through & obey it!

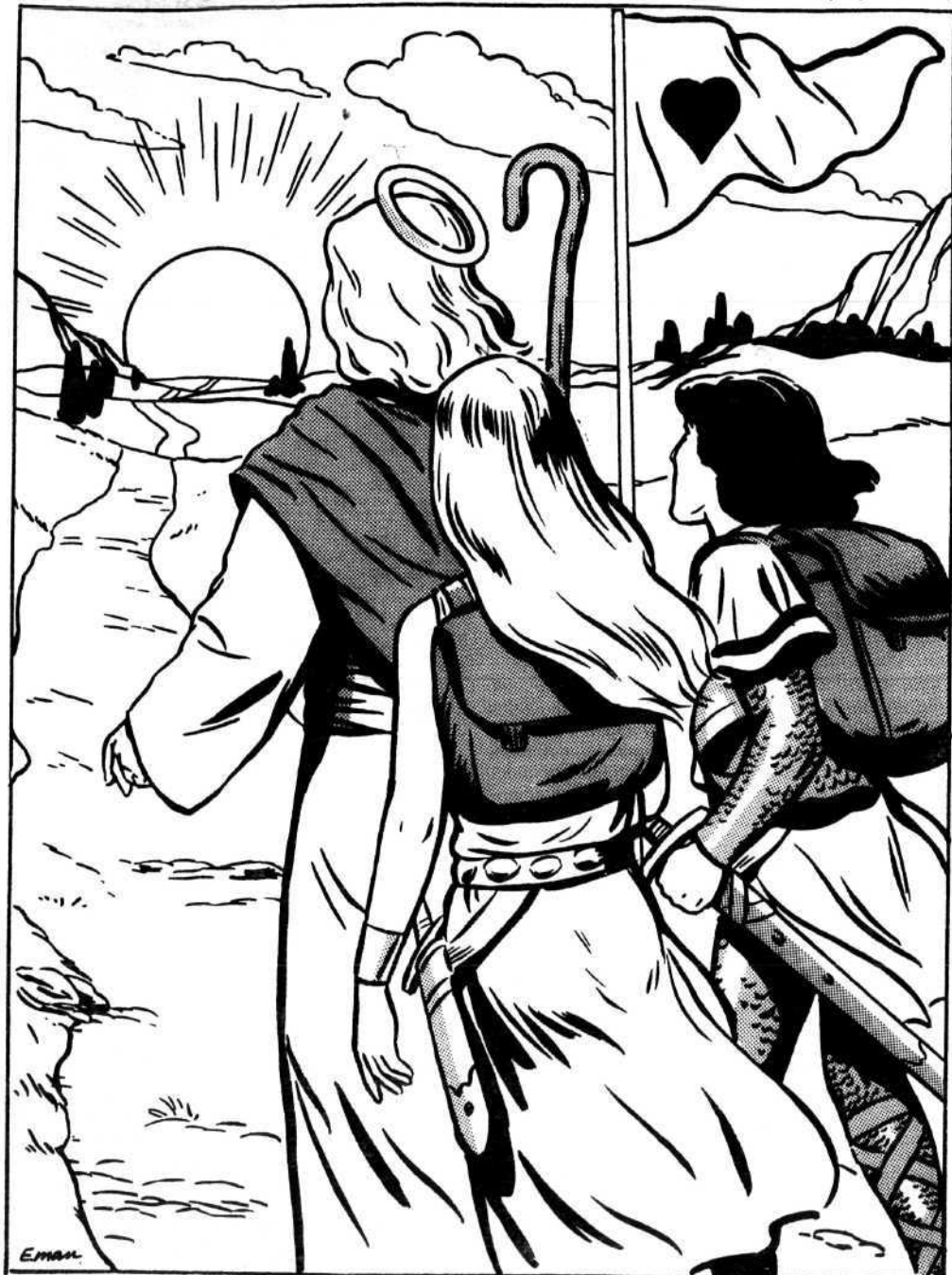
You're supposed to learn responsibility, you're supposed to learn to be able to do those things on your own, & that, kiddos,

is what makes the difference between a young teen & a responsible mature adult! That's when you start to become really grown up, when you can take those responsibilities & do them without having to have somebody peaking over your shoulder all the time! And that goes for all of us! We all have to decide how much we are going to forsake ourselves & serve Jesus & how obedient we are going to be, & that's how much the Lord's going to use us! If you want the Lord to use you 50%, you give Him only 50%. If you want Him to use 80%, then you give Him 80%! But if you want to love Him with all your heart & all your soul & all your mind & all your strength & all your spirit, then you have to give Him everything! But you need to decide if you're going to serve Him with all your heart.—And you need to decide it today!

You're such wonderful children! We love you so much! We know you're not going to be perfect & you are going to disobey sometimes & you are going to do naughty things & you'll always be forgiven, always! The Lord always forgives us for our sins every time. If we're sorry for our sins & ask for forgiveness, He always forgives us because He loves us so much & He loves you! But if we love Him, then we should at least try to do the right things. Even though sometimes we're going to fail & even though sometimes we're going to sin, we have to at least want to do the right things & we have to at least try to do the right things. If our hearts are right with the Lord & we're trying to do the right thing, He'll give us the grace to do it, & even when we fail He'll use it to teach us to do better next time!

You are special, children, you have a great great blessing, but you also have a great great responsibility too, & it's your responsibility to serve the Lord with all your heart! TYL! Jesus really loves us all & He wants all of us, so let's give Him all of us! Let's not hold anything back from Him, let's give Him everything & do our very best! Amen? That's all we can do, our very best, right?

"The Lord will perfect that which concerneth thee!" (Psa.138:8) Do you know what that means?—That He'll make you the way He wants you & that He'll help you overcome your problems & He'll do it! If you do your part & want it & desire it & yield to it, He'll do His part & will change & remold & remake you. The Lord really loves us all & He really wants us to be here for Him. So let's be here for Jesus! That's what we're here for, that's all that counts, let's be here for Jesus! Amen? TYL!



A DISCIPLE FORSAKES EVERYTHING, WALKS WITH JESUS, FOLLOWS JESUS & LIVES WITH JESUS!