

United Prayer Power!

By Maria

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Continued
from GN 994

Open-heart Prayers Of Your COs

■ Shine Your light on me

283. Shine Your light on me, Jesus! Shine Your light on each little corner of my heart. Flood me with Your light and power and make me a new creature within. Make me a vessel of love, a useful toilet, a servant to You firstly, and to the flock. Most of all, make me Your faithful bride, Your ardent lover, one who lives to love You, to praise You, and to please You.

284. Let Your new song be in my heart and let me bless You at all times, and have praise to You continually in my mouth. Let my heart be open to You, yielded to You, full of You, full of Your Spirit.

285. Make my heart Your home. I give You all the keys and take off all the locks so that You can dwell in the furthest corners of my heart. Fill it with the fruits of Your Spirit, so that my life will be a testimony of praise to You.

286. Please cleanse me, heal me, and deliver me from everything that stands in the way of

I am calling you to step out
of the shadows and shelter
of self and come into the
open air, where you'll
be free to dance again
in the sunshine of
My Spirit and
liberty!



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me loving You and yielding to You fully, and that hinders Your hand in my life or keeps me from being what You want. I yield to You completely and lay myself at Your feet, sins and all, and ask You to help me let go and forsake these besetting sins of:

287. • My ugly pride which causes me to be self-righteous, critical, impatient, condemning, condescending, sensitive to correction or instruction, hard and unloving. Or any pride manifested through fear of making mistakes and fear of what others think. I pray against being too proud to receive Your love, feeling that I have to earn it or be deserving of it. I will never deserve Your love. Help me to be humble and accept it. “The humble shall hear thereof and be glad!”

288. • Worldliness, which is manifested in skepticism, reasoning things out with the carnal mind, analyzing, and adopting ungodly attitudes or any thought or form of thinking that is contrary to the Word or Your divine nature. And against foolishness, thinking that I could figure You out or know better than Your Word.

289. • Laziness that keeps me from staying continually stirred up in the spirit, ready and eager to listen to Your voice and to create a vacuum and pull down the power, the help, and the answers from Heaven. I want to work hand in hand with our helpers from the spirit world. Give me a passion for the things of the spirit, for exercising greater faith in receiving more from Heaven.

290. • I pray that “in my tongue would be the law of kindness”; that You’d put a watch over my mouth and that I would learn to present things lovingly, speak clearly, and not cause misunderstandings and hurt feelings with my words. Please use the words I speak to heal, to help, to comfort and encourage those I speak to.

291. • I pray for a healthy fear of You that will reflect in my being instantly obedient to Your still, small voice in the form of the checks of Your Spirit.

292. • I pray that I will give You the time that is Yours, the moments that belong to You, and that I’ll change anything in my life that

needs changing in order to reflect the simple truth that You are first! You are the most important thing to me, and I don’t want to even try to do anything without Your power. I want to be happy when I’m weak and incapable, and be glad that I’m nothing, so that by depending on Your strength and Your power, You will get the glory and credit that is rightfully Yours for anything that You can do through me.

293. • Please open my heart to accept, embrace, and practice the new weapons in a greater way than ever before. I want to be a new creature, fitted with the new armor and new weapons so that I’ll be ready to follow closely where You lead in this new era we’re coming into. Please help me to say yes to You in regards to anything and everything You bring into or carry out of my life. Help me to trust You fully, to trust Your love, and to let You work and have full sway in my life. I’m Yours!

■ Giving the Lord a blank book to fill in

294. Hi and hello, my most passionate Husband! This is the greatest thrill of my life to be able to come before You in prayer. Knowing how much prayer can do, I could sit here for hours and hours sending my petitions to You and praising You for Your incredible love and mercy and passion You share with me. I love You, Jesus! But for now I would like to commit the most essential things of my heart into Your hands so I can be free to run the race that is ahead of me in new strength and in new freedom of Your Spirit, my Darling.

295. Please forgive me for the times I went astray, when I kept You on the back burner instead of making You and my appointments with You the most important part of each of my days. Please forgive me for getting bitter toward You at times when I felt that I fulfilled my part of the bargain in different situations, and yet things would turn out so difficult in my life. I want to yield my all to You, my sweetest Husband, and even if that means that You will have to take everything away from me to start my training and growing all over, I wish for You to do it.

296. Please forgive me for not always reflecting Your strength and love and patience toward others, but running ahead at my own speed. Please forgive me, my Love, for often being so negative about myself and what I am. You proved Your love for me in so many ways a thousand times over, and yet I still go astray by trusting the lies of the Enemy instead of trusting Your promises of love and strength for me. Take all my fears away and let faith combat all those lies of the Enemy when he floods me with worries and fears of his own.

297. We are now in a new era, and things are not as they used to be, and I don't want to be as I used to be either. I want to be that new bride of my darling Jesus, believing all Your Words, desiring You and Your seeds all the time. I want to be that new soul of Your Kingdom, empowered with new strength that is not my own but Yours.

298. My Dearest, this is my blank book that I give unto You; please start today and fill each page, each day from now on, with plans and missions You desire and wish for me to face. May each step of my life from now be a step that will bring me closer to You and closer to the goals You still have ahead for me to reach. I've lived my life and I don't want this to be my life anymore; I want to live Your life for whatever time there is left for me to live on this Earth.

299. I've found no pleasure and no joy in doing things my way, so please take my own ways and fill my heart with Your ways, Your thoughts, Your feelings each day, so I can live the life of servant of all, as You served us from the very beginning and You still serve me each day. You still are near to answer my questions, to forgive my sins, and to love me even when I'm so difficult to love and care for.

300. I love You! That's the most I can say with the words that I know. I want my life to end today, and I want Your life to flow through me till the time I will go to meet with You in the Heavens. I love You, my most passionate Husband of ALL.

■ Make me like Mary

301. Dear, precious Love, I love You with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind. I want to serve You and obey You and do what You want me to do. Not my will, but Thine be done.

302. Jesus, there are things that are coming between me and You—things that I'm allowing in my life. I want to come before You now in humility and honesty to ask for united prayer. Please help me, Jesus. I need Your help to change.

303. Jesus, take away the pride in my life and help me to be more like You—more humble and obedient. Help me to do the humble thing. Take away the pride that is manifest in my life by my shyness; by my not coming to You and hearing Your voice enough in my personal life; by my not sharing my weaknesses, faults, lessons, battles and trials with my teamwork; by my not being helpful enough in my Home and sensitive enough to the needs of others; by my not admitting to others that I need You constantly, Jesus, and giving You the credit and glory for everything in my life; by my not using the gift of prophecy that You've given me always, and in public most of all; by my hiding behind others sometimes when it comes to leading meetings or speaking publicly, or even leading inspiration.

304. Remove these things from my life. I don't want any part of them. I want You to change me. I yield to You my heart and my life. Please help me.

305. Jesus, I also want to ask that You help me to seek You more and to ask You everything in my life. This is a weakness and something You've asked of me time and again, and I've been disobedient in not obeying You and Your Word, and I'm really sorry, Jesus. Please help me to have a change in my life so that I will be a humble man, willing and ready at all times to ask You; to not lean to my own understanding and my own ways, but to seek You in prayer and prophecy about the big things and the small things. Please help me to change in this.

306. Jesus, I want You to do whatever You have to in my life to make me be what You want

me to be. Whatever it takes, please do it. I yield to Your will, Your ways, and Your slightest wishes. I pledge my love and loyalty and life to You, and by Your grace, I promise that I will yield, no matter how difficult it is, to whatever You ask of me in my life. I must decrease and You must increase.

307. Sweet Jesus, one more thing I'd like to ask of You—please help me to be like Mary. Give me all the qualities in my life that Mary had. I want to love being with You and treasure every moment with You. I want to hear every precious Word You have to say and not miss anything. I don't want to ever refuse to come when You call, to hear Your Words and Your voice. I don't want to disappoint You in this, Jesus. Please help me to change, to always come when You want to speak and You want to tell me Your Words. Make me like Mary, who chose the good part that shall not be taken away from her, in Jesus' name.

■ **Help me to avail myself of Your power**

308. Dearest Lover, thank You for choosing me, as nothing as I am, to be part of Your wonderful Family—and not only that, but making me Your bride, Your wife. Thank You for the opportunities You give me to progress and learn and gain victories. I'm so thankful for this time of united prayer, a time to humble myself in front of everyone and receive the help You want to give me.

309. Thank You for the power of united prayer. You promised that there is great power in united prayer, and I'm claiming that power to be released today as I pray for the following requests. You've been speaking to my heart about so many things, and there are so many areas I need to change and grow in. As I take this initial step to ask for prayer, I ask that You answer each prayer, and continue to show me ways to gain victories.

310. Jesus, I know I've failed You miserably by not spending as much time with You as I should on a daily basis. Somehow the work, the children, and the cares of life seem to dis-

tract me and pull me away from my time with You, to where I end up running on empty and I lose the joy and happiness that You wish for me to have in serving You. The days become monotonous, the problems seem overwhelming, and I lose Your joy—all because I don't avail myself of Your power.

311. Jesus, I don't want to operate like that any longer. I realize my need for You, and I truly do desire to have that special time with You each day to be strengthened and inspired. I want to have the renewed joy of serving You, the happiness of living for You. I've tried to do better in this area, but I've often taken a "defeatist" attitude toward it, feeling it would never work, and just accepting my circumstances rather than actively trying to find solutions. Please forgive me and help me, Jesus.

312. Please also help me to be more faithful to look to You for ways to put the New Wine into effect in my personal life. There is such an abundance of counsel and instruction You are pouring out through Your Words. Please help me to take the necessary time to study them, to pray about them, and to see the areas I can change and make progress in. I know this is an important key to my spiritual growth, so I'd like to ask for Your supernatural help with this.

313. Help me to do the humble thing at every opportunity, to humble myself before others, no matter how embarrassing it might be for me, or how humiliating. Please speak to my heart throughout the day and give me checks in the spirit when the opportunities arise for me to do the humble thing. Help me to be yielded and open to Your whispers and to follow through when You show me these things.

314. I'd also like to ask for Your help in asking You everything. I so much want to avail myself of the guidance and instruction You can give me throughout the day regarding every aspect of my life and work. Please give me reminders throughout the day, and as I make a conscious effort to follow through on the checks of Your Spirit, please help this to become a strong point in my personal life.

315. You told us that it is possible to change

deeply ingrained habits and mindsets. I claim that, Jesus. I don't want to accept my circumstances. I don't want to be satisfied with the way I am, the way I think, or the way I feel. I want to change with Your help. I want my weaknesses to be strengthened and for my faith to grow. I reach out and accept the gift of change that's offered to me.

316. Thank You for answering these prayer requests, sweet Lover, and most of all, thank You for always being there for me. I love, need, and desire You so much!

■ **Deliver me from the pitfall of pride**

317. Dearest Husband, thank You for clearly spelling out my need for deliverance from pride. I come before You and before all these, my loved ones and friends, and ask that You deliver me from the grip of pride in my life. Humble me under Your mighty hand and teach me Your ways of humility. Break me and do whatever it takes to keep me in the place of yieldedness and utter dependence on You, which You are requiring and desiring me to be in. Thank You also for giving me Your Words and for sharing the specific ways that my pride is manifested right now. You said:

318. At this time of change and the setting up of the board vision and restructuring of the Family, one way that pride is manifested in you is through your desire to want to play an important role, to be part of an important ministry, one that receives a lot of attention and counsel from the top. In your heart, you don't see this as pride, but rather a desire for training, a desire to be able to experience, learn, and benefit from the wisdom of your shepherds. Though in itself it isn't wrong to want to partake of these ministries and to be an integral part of the running of the Family, it is important that you realize that there is a fine line there with you, and there is the danger and the pitfall of letting all of this go to your head.

319. Beware when all men speak well of you. Beware when you have gifts and talents that others praise you for, because for you it is the beginning of the pride which can bring your

downfall in spirit. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

320. Dear Husband, please don't let that happen to me. Please forgive me and change me. Thank You Jesus! Sweet Lover, You also said:

321. To you whom I have given the honor to represent Me, to fight for My cause, and to stand up for the truth, there is also the great danger and pitfall of pride, of looking to yourself, of desiring the praise of man, of desiring lofty positions and showy talents. This is a very subtle attack, which you must be very mindful and aware of in your life.

322. In your heart you have always said that you want to be the "best of the best" for Me. This is a noble, loyal, and wonderful desire and goal. But remember that to be the best that you can for Me requires being humble and nothing, weak and insufficient in yourself, and willing to take on the lowliest tasks of leadership and servitude there can possibly be. Being the best that you can for Me does not mean being the most wise, the most talented, the most efficient, intelligent, capable, respected, revered, praised, needed, desired, or acclaimed in the eyes of the flesh, but it means the opposite.

323. You must remember that when you are weak and insufficient in yourself, then I will be everything through you. And when you realize completely that it is nothing of you, but just Me, only then will you have achieved your goal of becoming the "best of the best" for Me.

324. There is still much ground for you to gain, and the Enemy fights in your life to gain strongholds of pride. So be not tempted with his temptations, and fall not for those little flashy lights, but go deeper and seek the treasures of the unknown, the things that lie deep in the caverns of humility, of utter yieldedness, which produce the truly anointed, devoted, loyal and remarkable generals and warriors in My kingdom. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

325. Dearest Husband, help me do as You instructed me, to close my eyes and forget the world around me, to forget my fleshly objectives, desires, challenges, excitement. Help me to forget all of the challenges of the flesh and

desires of learning, of growing mentally, of understanding, and instead help me to seek the humility of Your Spirit, earnestly giving You my heart and mind, saying, “Not my will but Thine be done.” I know this will take me to the highest path of Your will in my life and I will become the vessel that You want me to be.

326. Jesus, I yield myself completely to You, my Forever Love, and in desperation come before You for Your healing touch in my life. The above examples are only a fraction of the many ways in which pride is manifested in my life, and I realize now that I’m actually quite deep into this pitfall. (And I’d like to add here that You would help me, dear Love, to get more insight on specifically what other ways pride is manifested in my life.) Please release me and deliver me from the Enemy’s grip, that I may start anew and become a new creature in You.

■ **Prayer for a fighting spirit**

327. Jesus, my sweet Lover and Husband, thank You so much for this special time of asking You to help me with my weaknesses. I thank You for the promise that when I am weak, You are strong, and Your wonderful power manifests itself in this earthen vessel of mine.

328. First of all, I’d like to pray for a fighting spirit. When it comes to my NWOs, I tend to get lethargic. You show me what areas I need to progress in, and I try a little bit, but then fall back into my old rut. I don’t want that to happen again. I want to make changes. Help me to fight for changes.

329. I want to pray against the spirit of busyness. Help me not to be too busy to take time with You or my brethren. Help me to lean more to You instead of my own wisdom and the arm of the flesh. Help me to realize from my heart that this work is of You and not mine.

330. Along that line, please help me to ask You everything. I tend to do things in my own wisdom, but You are the only One Who knows everything and how things should be done. Help me to humble myself before You.

331. I want to also embrace the new weapons fully. Help me to be a better sample of using

them in my daily life. Help me to fight to change my mode of operation. Help me to love You more. Help me to praise You more. Help me to be more like You by living in Your wonderful Word. Help me to apply the New Wine in my life—not only the new weapons, but also all the other beautiful instructions and revelations in Your Word.

332. I want to also pray that I can show my weakness to others. It’s not so natural for me to do that, but You can change my nature. Help me to be more open and honest to others and show my weakness to them so they know that it is only You working in me and that I can do nothing without You.

333. Another area that I often fall short in is my interactions with my mate. Help me to be more loving and understanding toward her, and not to think highly of myself, that I’m better than her and know better than her. She is such a precious jewel in Your eyes. Help me to respect her more, listen to her more, and get her help more in humility. Help me not to be too busy to show her my love.

334. Lastly, Jesus, I need faith that You will anoint those who will be involved in the board structure. I need to have faith that You will help them make prayerful decisions and that You will protect the work, and even make the work prosper tremendously. Thank You for the board vision. I know that it will be a real blessing and encouragement to the Family. Please help me to embrace this vision with perfect faith. In the sweetest Name I’ve ever known—Jesus, I pray. Amen.

■ **I want to live and breathe You!**

335. Dear Jesus, I love You and I thank You for this opportunity that we have to come together to open our hearts before You and each other so that we can receive prayer and help. Thank You, my precious Love and Husband, that You’re so near to us and that You will hear and answer our prayers. Help me to have the faith that You will do it as You’ve promised!

336. Jesus, I know there are so many areas that I lack in, but You’ve shown me which ones I should come before You for today, so I trust

that You'll take care of these and all the rest too.

337. First, Lord, I want to ask for deliverance from pride. I want and need to be more humble and be more like You. I know that's easy to say, but the "doing" part is what's not always so easy. So I ask that You would help me to yield and say "yes" in the little things every day. When You give me a choice of whether to do the proud thing or the humble thing, or when You ask me to do the humble thing, help me to choose the path of humility.

338. I pray that You would rebuke pride and all the horrible things that come along with it: discouragement, lack of conviction, sensitivity, self-consciousness, self-righteousness, and more. I want You to fill me with the fruits and the gifts that come along with doing the humble thing.

339. I know that I need this change very desperately for the days that are ahead. I know that I need to have this change to be able to trust in You and depend upon You blindly and by faith alone. I know I need to get rid of my pride in order to be able to have the crazy faith that is going to be needed in the days to come. So I pray that You would help me to forget myself and put this faith into practice day by day in each of the little things.

340. Jesus, I also want to ask You to make me into the Mary that You want me to be. Help me to sit at Your feet and come to You at any time during the day. I know that I can't do anything at all without You, so I ask that I would be faithful to take this time with You every day and every week, to make time for You and take time with You no matter what I deem important or necessary, because, really, nothing is more important than taking that time with You. So I pray that You'll help me to remember that and act like it!

341. Along with that I want to ask that You will help my link with You to grow stronger. Help me to walk much closer to You, by checking in with You more, hearing from You, loving You and praising You much, much more. Help me to read, absorb, and live the Words that You pour out not only to me personally, but the

Words that You pour out to the Family. Help me to concentrate on it and live them, so that I can become more what You want me to be.

342. Jesus, in short I want to live and breathe You. I know I have a long way to go, but I pray that I will walk closer so that I will reflect You more through my actions and in my life.

343. Thank You for Your promises to me. Even though it may look hard, You said that nothing is impossible! So I pray that You will answer this prayer and help me to do my part so that You'll be able to do Yours!

344. I love You to bits, Lord! You're absolutely wonderful and I'm so thankful that even though I'm unworthy, You still see fit to give me this extra blessing and help. Please help me to make the most of it and to follow through on what You've told me and shown me during this time, in Jesus' name!

■ Help me to keep my priorities straight

345. My precious Love, I first of all want to tell You how much I love You, and how thankful I am for this opportunity to be able to have prayer before my friends, mates, and co-workers. It's a blessing to be able to avail myself of Your help by coming before You and everyone here, as I know that there is great power in united prayer. I also want to thank You for everyone here and for the humility that they've shown by sharing their personal lessons. Their humility has made it so much easier for me to be able to ask for prayer and to be open and honest as well. Every one of them is such a wonderful sample to me, and I'm so thankful for each one.

346. I know that You know everything about me, but You still require that I vocalize my lessons and the different things that I'm learning and to share them with others. This is very good for me as it keeps me humble and not thinking more highly of myself than I ought to think. It's just a wonderful privilege that I will forever be thankful for.

347. You've spoken so many times about the importance of spending quality time with

You, but I've fallen very short in this area once again. I know that I can't go on business as usual or I'm just going to burn out and be of no use for anything. I confess that I have let the pressures of the job and the difficulties of my own personal situation distract me, resulting in circumstances dictating whether I spend time with You or not. I've neglected some of my conference days, which has resulted in not having enough of Your grace and strength for even the simplest of daily tasks.

348. The problem with this is that it doesn't just affect me personally, but this has affected my sample to others as well, including my wife and children. This lack of spending more time with You in the bed of love has caused me to be frustrated, confused, and sometimes even rebellious about certain things. This has led to unyieldedness to the point of almost leaving my post and quitting.

349. The ultimate manifestation of this sin of not keeping the spiritual on top of my priority list is that I eventually lost the joy of my salvation. So many things just seemed like drudgery, and sometimes I couldn't find the strength to do anything at all, and I know this was a bad sample to others. There were times that I was not a sample of trusting You.

350. I want to ask for Your forgiveness for not keeping Word time, prophecy time, and my conference days in first place. I promise that I'm going to keep these priorities straight from now on—with Your help, of course! I want others to see the fruit of putting the Word first in my life. I want this, because then I will know for sure that they will not be drawn to me but to You, and only to You.

351. I've also been afraid to make mistakes, which is pride, and this has caused me to not be as honest with You and others as I know I should be. I know that pride hinders me and that it keeps me from showing myself weak at times. I know that I am so weak, and that without You I am absolutely nothing; but still I have found it difficult to show myself weak at times because it hurts my pride so much.

352. I pray against pride, and I pray that I

can do the humble thing, to be a yielded, moldable, malleable tool in Your hands. I want things to be different because I know that they need to be different. I want to take on Your nature, just like You took on Your Father's nature, which then gave You the strength to rise above any difficulty. It seems humanly impossible for me to rise above my weaknesses, but by taking on Your nature, I know that I'll be able to do it and things will be different.

353. You said that the more I reach the point of recognizing my own weakness, the more I will know I need You; and the more I know I need You, the more I will call out to You and depend on You. You said that as my need and dependence on You grows, so does Your power within me grow, until I reach the point where Your Spirit and power rests fully upon me. You then said, and I quote, "Then you truly become a new creature in Me, one who defies all the odds and can do the impossible!" This is what I'm standing on, in Jesus' name! Amen! (*End of CO prayers.*)

Why Ask Again?

354. (Mama:) When you're preparing to ask for prayer, the Enemy will probably try to keep you from it in any way he can. But just go to the Lord with your questions, and know that Jesus wants you to take the step of asking for prayer, because it enables Him to help you so much more than if you didn't ask. No matter what the problem is or what obstacle hinders your asking for united prayer, He has a solution and will give it to you.

355. One of our young staff members who recently asked for prayer had the following question, and received this very good counsel from the Lord, which I think will be encouraging for you as well. I sent it around the week before several folks from our Home asked for prayer, so that everyone could benefit from the counsel and be prepared to do their part to bring about the victory!

356. (Question:) Why should I believe that this time of united prayer should make any more difference than the last time?

357. (Prayer:) Dearest Jesus, You have told us so many times about the power that there is in united prayer, in the laying on of hands and coming together as a body in order to gain the victory over long-standing battles. But, Jesus, I've had united prayer in the past, and though I want to believe that the united prayer helped me to make the progress I needed, when I find myself falling back into the same traps that I had prayer against, it makes it hard for me to believe that it does, in fact, work.

358. So my question is: Why should I believe that having united prayer again will be the solution I need? If it didn't work completely in the past, why should it work now? Was there something that I didn't do that made the prayer of less effect? Was I doing something wrong?

359. Please do show me, Jesus. I want to make progress, and if united prayer is the route You want me to take and what will bring the victory, then I want to do it. But I also want to make sure that I do it right, so that I can ensure the victory this time around. I don't want to lose faith in the power of prayer, so help me now as I hear what You have to say about it. Remove anything that might hinder me from getting this clearly. Make me the channel that You need me to be.

360. (Jesus speaking:) My ability to completely change you is determined by how much you are desirous of change. Everybody wants to make progress in their life, but the extent of progress is the underlying question. To effect a complete turnaround in someone's life, the individual must desire a complete transformation; I am only able to take them as far as they're willing to go.

361. It's like learning a new sport, in a way. If you've never played a particular sport, it's hard to imagine that you will ever become good at it. It's so much easier for you to hide behind the sports that you do know and com-

prehend. In learning a new sport you have to be prepared to fall on occasion, to seem uncoordinated at times, to be the worst at it, before you make progress. You have to be willing to humble yourself in front of the others you're playing with, to realize that you have many steps in front of you before you'll master the art of that sport. Every time you fall, you have to be willing to get up and give it another try.

362. You may commit to the idea of learning a new sport, but sometimes as you find yourself in the middle of the fray and you realize that there's so much in front of you to learn, you're bound to question whether or not you'll ever master the sport.

363. It's not sufficient that you determine from the beginning that you want to learn the sport. That's the first step, yes, but each time you get out on the field or court to practice and increase your skill in that sport, you have to recommit to your desire to learn.

364. There are others with you learning the sport as well. Some of them are more advanced, others are on a par with you, while others might struggle behind. Because it's a team game, everyone must contribute toward the other's learning. They must guide and show how it's done, or simply encourage each other when you get frustrated with your slow progress. That's the role of all who participate in the game—to not only improve their own skills, but to help the others improve as well.

365. This is what it's like with asking for prayer. You must first make that initial decision to ask for prayer, to realize that you will be required to humble yourself before all in order to make progress. That's usually the hardest step to take, because as with your first attempt at a new sport, you're usually the clumsiest and make the most mistakes.

366. However, from then on, it still must be a continual commitment on your part to progress, regardless of the falls or your lack of coordination. Those continuing steps become just as important as the initial step you took in asking for prayer. Often those are the most discouraging, though, and this is when your per-

severance is stretched and tested to the limit. It's during those times when you feel you should be making progress, but it seems so slow in coming, that you must be even more determined.

367. Remember, in sports you have your good days and your bad days too. There are the days when you go out and it seems everything you've learned is forgotten, and it becomes very frustrating; you're uncoordinated and fall regularly, and it can be discouraging. However, you may go out the next day and everything's fine; in fact, you've progressed! You seem more skilled than you were before, and you wonder how that's possible, seeing as the day before it was the total opposite!

368. Just because you have those less-than-coordinated days doesn't mean that you should quit, because if you did, that would mean that all those previous times of practice were wasted. Who wants to think of laborious work as wasted? No one does. And that's usually the boost that keeps you pursuing your dreams and goals in life.

369. Spiritual progress is often not seen in the same light; but it should be, because it's exactly the same. You have to first commit to the challenge to become what you are not, and you must then see it through, regardless of the mishaps, in order to master what you set out to learn. It's that simple.

370. Another important thing to remember is that when you ask for united prayer, the responsibility of making progress also rests on the body's shoulders. Having humbled yourself in coming before the body, you're admitting that you can't do it on your own; you're asking for help. Just like you ask for guidance from someone who is more advanced in a sport you're trying to master, asking for prayer works the same way.

371. Prayer and your commitment to progress then work together to bring about the desired result. You, as the one asking for prayer, must be willing to persevere in spite of the stumbles, and those who have prayed for you must realize that their job doesn't end with the initial prayer—it must continue until you have true victory.

372. It's easy to get desperate for someone when they first confess their need for help. If someone is contemplating a new sport, it's a natural impulse to encourage them to do it, offering to help them out if they need it. However, as time goes on, it's easy to get so wrapped up in your own progress that you forget to help someone else.

373. This is something that everyone needs to keep in mind, to realize as their responsibility. It's not enough that you get desperate for a person once when they come before the body and ask for prayer; the prayers must continue, the fervency must remain. The battle is no longer left to the individual; it becomes a united endeavor. The victory is for all to achieve through each person's individual prayers.

374. This is the course to victory, the way in which united prayer is fully enacted. It must begin with the desire for you to ask for prayer, to realize your need to change and progress. And then as a body you must all commit to stand by the victory you asked Me for, to lift the hands of the one who is in need of help. And the individual must be willing to follow through to triumph, no matter how difficult it may be. Only then can true victory be claimed.

375. The battle that rages now is fiercer than it has ever been. Everyone must rally behind the one who has asked for prayer and support them each step of the way. But you, as the one who has asked for prayer, must remember that the course of victory rests on you as well. You are in the forefront; you must be willing to continue the charge, to lead the others on, because it's your battle to win. Others are there to support you in the fight, to be the backup you need, to wield their swords at the Enemy on your behalf; but you are the one who must pursue the victory at all costs. You cannot blame your failure on the others, for in the end it is your decision to win the battle or to lose it.

376. What will it be for you? Will you pursue victory at any cost? Do you desire to triumph so badly that you're willing to go to whatever lengths to gain it? If so, then the victory will be yours. Count the cost from the start. Be

prepared for whatever lies in front of you, and then go forward and claim the victory, rallying your fellow soldiers to fight with you. If you're willing to take those measures, then victory will be yours.

377. It's a simple process. You must:

- 1) desire victory regardless of the cost;
- 2) be prepared to go to any length;
- 3) make the commitment; and, finally,
- 4) persevere at all costs.

The formula is there. Find out how you can make it a part of your life, and let it become the means you need to gain the victories you need. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

Prayer Against Pride, Self-righteousness and Criticism

378. (Mama:) This last prayer request is from Matthew, one of our co-workers who is very dear to Peter and me. We really don't know what we'd do without him. He heads up the administration team, in counsel with Peter, and is a tremendous blessing. As I told you in "Call on the Keys," we recently had to give him some correction, which he received wonderfully and has gone on to great victories. (See ML #3368:61–65, GN 962.) This is the prayer request he shared with our Home after receiving that correction, which I'm publishing because I think it will be motivating and convicting for you, too. Please note that he shared this prayer request several months before the "Conviction vs. Compromise" series or the worldwide prayer and fast day. So when he mentions fighting lethargy in his personal life and battling negativity about the problems of the Family, realize that it was before our wonderful Lover had provided the solutions and counsel given in that series.

379. Whenever we publish lessons or mistakes of your leadership, I'm always concerned that it doesn't become something that hinders you from respecting them or trusting the Lord in them. In my opinion, it should make you love and trust and respect them even more, when you see how they humble themselves before

the Lord and you and are desperate to be whatever He needs them to be in order to serve you in His Spirit.

380. Of course they're not perfect—but no one is perfect, including Peter and me! What matters is if they are willing to acknowledge their mistakes and apologize—and in so doing, they can help you to avoid those same pitfalls. The Lord works in the lives of your leadership just as much if not more than in your life, because He knows they need to stay humble and broken before Him, and that their lessons and breakings help them to be an even greater help to you, as they can comfort you with the comfort where-with they have been comforted.

381. So whenever you see one of your leaders going through a time of lesson learning, rather than growing critical or losing respect for them, your respect and thankfulness should increase, knowing that it's helping them to do a better job for the Lord and for you.

■ **Matthew shares his prayer request**

382. (Matthew prays:) Thank You that I can have this time this morning to ask my loved ones to pray for me. I pray that no one will feel uncomfortable or embarrassed for me. I'm very thankful to be up here in front of everyone asking for prayer, and I am thankful for this humbling. If it can draw me closer to You and make me less proud, then I'm very thankful for it, Jesus. I'm thankful my mates are here to pray for me and help me through this.

383. Help me to be clear as I read this and present this prayer request. Please anoint this time. I call on the power of the keys, that You will give me the humility and the conviction to read these prayer requests and make things clear to everyone here. Thank You for them being here to help me. Amen. (*End of prayer.*)

384. Thanks for coming, everybody. I'll just read the request I have prepared here, as it's long. If you have questions or if something isn't clear, I'll be happy to explain it.

385. (Matthew reads his request:) Thank you, my dear mates, for taking your time to

pray with and for me today. I know I can't make it without your united prayer and help.

386. I want to say I'm sorry and to ask for your forgiveness for my bad sample in advance of sharing the following prayer request. I recently received some very strong correction from the Lord and Mama and Peter, which I really needed and am thankful for. I've been guilty of the sins of pride, self-righteousness, criticalness and dereliction of duty.

387. I'm sure all of you will immediately recognize at least some of the following sins and weaknesses in me, if not all, and will be wondering what's taken me so long to get up here and get prayer. Sadly, because of my pride, I'm usually the last one to see my weaknesses and sins, and it usually takes a two-by-four to get through to me. I'm very sorry for that, and although I wish it weren't so, the Lord uses it to humble my pride, self-righteousness and self-confidence. So I am very thankful for whatever my Husband chooses to do, as I want to be humbled, and through it, to gain more humility and dependence on Jesus and all of you.

388. This time of correction was no different, and I needed help to see my problems. Mama and Peter have talked to me several times about some of my deep-seated NWOs of being too laid back, not prayerful and thorough enough, too strong with my opinions, etc. So they were very aware of my NWOs intensifying. Since I have had these ongoing problems, they were praying for me and waiting for the Lord's timing on giving me the shepherding I needed. But when they heard from Misty, God bless her, that I was becoming critical, it set off alarm bells that I needed correction and help right away. Because, although I've had these other ongoing weaknesses and NWOs, my becoming critical was very recent, which was indicative that I was really heading down the wrong road and that my sample was off and could be hurtful to others if not corrected.

389. I want to say that I am very thankful to my Husband, Who in His mercy has given me two wives during my time in the Family who have had the conviction to help me in my weak

areas. I love them both dearly for that. I don't know if I'd still be here without that kind of safeguard in my life. I often have a hard time seeing when I am missing important checks concerning my pride or self-righteousness or getting too laid back or insensitive to people or my sample being off. I have lots of pride and carnal weaknesses and bad habits, and when I get out of the spirit, these weaknesses and NWOs become very strong and almost overpowering. I'm very thankful to my first mate, Mary, for all that she did to help me during the years we were together. And I can truly say that it makes me admire and love Misty more for her conviction to help shepherd and keep me on the straight and narrow.

390. Before I get into all the nitty-gritty stuff, I would just like to testify of a great miracle that happened to me this time in my correction. I have had over 50 years of correction in my life, and lots of it. And I have always hated and resisted it. Before the Family it was mainly because of my total resentment of any authority over me. Thankfully, being in the U.S. Army and the early years in the Family knocked some of that chip off my shoulder. But even in the Family I dreaded correction and "NWO talks"—I'm sure partly because of this resentment of authority. But I believe the main reason was because of the discouragement and despair it brought me, as I felt in my heart that I just wouldn't be able to change. Of course, prayer works and there was some change over the years, but I would still be overcome with hopelessness.

391. But this time when Mama came to give me a prophecy about my problems, I immediately called on the power of the keys to the Kingdom to give me a desire for the correction rather than a fear of it. I prayed desperately even before reading the prophecy that I would be able to fully receive it all, without any condemnation or discouragement. And the Lord miraculously did it! I haven't had one moment of condemnation or discouragement, thinking that I couldn't change and get the victory over these problems and weaknesses in my life and walk with the Lord. So I'm a huge believer in the power

that the Lord has now given us through the keys of the Kingdom, and I'm positive that they have been activated in my life. Glory to God!

392. After I had a chance to read the prophecy—a message from Jesus to me—and pray about it, then Mama and Peter talked with me for two hours. Even during that time, I felt a total peace. Afterwards they gave me more counsel from the Lord—this time it was about me rather than to me—with more detail, again hard-hitting. I read that additional counsel from the Lord the next morning and was able to receive it without feeling at all discouraged, which was another huge miracle.

393. Now, I'd like to move on to my problems and sins, which I desperately need your prayers to overcome. Of course, all are rooted in sickening ugly pride and self-righteousness, as you will see.

394. First, the Lord and my shepherds clearly pointed out how lethargic and lazy in spirit I've become recently. This came as no revelation to me, as I have known for some time that I was giving up the fight in spirit and feeling tired and weary and defeated. I had been listening to the Enemy's voice concerning how hopeless some problems were in the Family that didn't seem to be changing. That feeling of "why try, nothing changes anyway" was a lie of the Enemy, which I believed because I had become spiritually weak and was giving up the fight.

395. From reading reports over the years, most of which deal with problems, I allowed myself to get weakened because I began looking at things carnally and trying to figure them out, rather than taking all these problems to the Lord for His reading and viewpoint and solutions. That was the root of the weakening—my not being faithful to always ask the Lord and hear from Him in prophecy about the problems. Therefore I didn't get His perspective and answers, and was left only with the negativity and weight of the problems.

396. But, even though I felt myself weakening and losing the vision and desire to fight, in my pride, rather than admitting these problems and asking for help and prayer, I simply

reverted to trying to fight the Devil off in my own strength. I've failed miserably and ended up just getting more and more laid back and being a bad sample and bad representation of my present post in the Family. Mama and Peter gave me one prophecy directed to me and another one about me. These both explained in detail about my problems, most of which are long-term or deeply ingrained bad habits—such as being too laid back, talking unprayerfully off the top of my head, forming opinions without being fully informed, and dealing with problems superficially. But these bad habits had worsened to the point of becoming serious spiritual problems of lethargy, familiarity, and spiritual laziness, which had affected my work.

397. Here's what the Lord had to say about that:

398. I have commissioned you as an officer who carries a spiritual burden, and in some ways you have gone AWOL [absent without leave, or permission]. You have grown weary in well doing. In some ways, you have abdicated your spiritual responsibilities, and that has caused you to become relaxed, laid back, familiar, and off guard. You have not been willing to accept the greater responsibility I have offered you. You've pawned it off in some ways on others, and therefore through the unlawful lightening of your load you have lost the sense of urgency, inability, desperation, and utter dependence on Me that are absolutely necessary if you are to have success and be the sample you should be.

399. You see, the sheer magnitude of a person's responsibility is often what keeps him close to Me. When someone knows that he can't possibly do it on his own, he's "forced" to be desperate, to seek Me, to stir himself up to seek a higher power. When you have your back against the wall, when the weight of your responsibility and all that is hinging on you is ever before your face, of course it motivates you to obey; it humbles you, it causes you to need others, and it helps you respect others who also carry a heavy load.

400. But when a person casts off that responsibility, either through unwillingness to carry it or in an effort to lighten the load and make things more comfortable for himself, with that abdication comes the loss of some of these crucial spiritual attitudes and qualities. With less desperation, one naturally feels more secure in himself, less in the fear of Me, more comfortable, better able to do things on his own, and easily critical of others. (*End of excerpt of message from Jesus.*)

401. (Matthew:) The Lord also said:

402. Some of Matthew's weaknesses were also exacerbated by the arrival of the young people and his desire to impress them. He wanted to be seen as "cool." But in an effort to not be seen as self-righteous, he overreacted and has allowed that very laid-back spirit to dictate more and more of his reactions. It has now grown to be quite a serious problem, as it not only results in work that is not thorough enough or prayed about enough, but it's also a stumbling block to those who see a very shallow, superficial approach to work and problems.

403. Matthew's laid-back attitude is also manifested in his verbal reactions. He's quick to say some rash, sweeping statement in what looks like frustration. Because Matthew doesn't analyze or have a tendency to question much, he is exasperated when others do. Though he doesn't realize it, he thinks, "Why can't they just flow? Why do we have to get into all this?" and that causes him to want to deal with some problems in a quick, but very unrealistic manner. It's laid back in that it's a surface fix-it plan, something simple and not comprehensive, and it is delivered in a very lazy sit-back-and-relax tone, like, "Hey, what's the hurry?" Or it's delivered in an upset, "Let's get on with this" tone. But while both appear very different, they're both laid back in that they're underestimating the problem and solution.

404. This is also tied into spiritual laziness, because it takes a lot of sacrifice, effort, strength, faith and perseverance to be thorough and to tackle big jobs or problems. (*End of excerpt of message from Jesus.*)

405. (Matthew:) When I asked the Lord for more input on my lethargic and spiritually lazy spirit, He said:

406. You are naturally easygoing, but your easygoing nature turns into a laid-back attitude when you get weary and stop caring about others as I do. I was willing to give My all for each one, and that is what is needed in your life too. To be a Christian leader, each person must be so important to you that it doesn't matter what it costs you to help and be there for him or her. When you stop caring for others with My love, you can't be much help, because your love is not enough, which of course you recognize; so then you feel incapable and get weary trying in the flesh, and adopt a laid-back "there's nothing I can do about it" attitude.

407. You know that My love and wisdom is the answer, so why do you hesitate to come to Me? I'll tell you why. It's because of laziness and pride. You've become lazy in spirit because you've kind of settled down and aren't fighting to move forward. You got weary and want to just do what you have to, to maintain. But that's a proud, old-bottle attitude and has no part in My revolution.

408. Let this be a wake-up call to you, My wife. Get back in the saddle and start moving toward the goal. Get ready to fight the Enemy at every turn. There is no discharge in this army! It's the Devil's new tack to convince you (and many others in the Family) that, "You've done enough; you're tired and weary and need to be able to slow down and take it easier." But I never promised My disciples that. I cannot, because My Spirit keeps moving forward, and it doesn't matter what age you are or how long you've served Me, you must fight on! There is no discharge in this war! I will carry you over the next mountain or change or revolution and through the next battle. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

409. (Matthew:) So in this area, I'd first like to ask your forgiveness for my bad sample and the trials or disappointment I've caused you. And I'd like to have prayer, calling on the power of the keys against:

410. • Lethargy, which the Lord has made very clear to me is one of the primary roots of the spiritual drifting that happened in my life.

411. • A laid-back, not concerned enough attitude.

412. • Lack of thoroughness and a disdain for getting into the nitty-gritty of complications and problems. Spiritual laziness.

413. • Deliverance from talking “off the cuff” without being fully prayed up and informed. That I’ll learn to listen better, study and research more, and above all, ask the Lord before speaking. And that I won’t try to tone down the severity of problems to make them appear simple with simple solutions, if the situation calls for desperation, fighting in spirit, and getting involved.

414. • Against a “big shot” attitude and reluctance to take upon myself the hard, complicated, long-term projects, and wanting to pawn them off on others. That I can learn from Peter’s sample. The Lord brought out in the prophecy to me that I need to take a lesson from the story in the *Good Thots* where George Washington pitched in to help his men move the log while the corporal stood by watching and directing. When Washington asked the officer why he didn’t help, he said, “Why, I’m the corporal. Can’t you see?” Washington replied, “I see. Then next time your men need help, call on me. I’m only the Commander-in-chief.” Peter is very much like Washington in that story, always there to pitch in, and I want to pray that I can be more like that. (See GT2, page 1449, #117.)

415. I’d like to say I’m sorry to my teamwork and any others that I’ve had this spirit around and caused them trials and extra burdens. Please pray I can change immediately in this area and overcome this lethargy and laid-back attitude.

416. Next, I need desperate prayer against pride, familiarity, resentment, a criticizing, self-righteous spirit, and lack of fear of the Lord. I allowed myself to become critical of various people and situations in the Home. That was bad enough, but then in pride I got even more

off guard and started becoming critical of Mama and Peter, and voiced that criticism to Misty repeatedly regarding various situations that I didn’t agree with, so it was obvious I was getting pretty out of it. I wasn’t critical of the Word or the direction the Family is moving. I wasn’t critical of the board vision or any important decisions regarding the leadership of the Family. I was then and still am convinced that Mama and Peter are led of the Lord and going in the right direction. But I allowed myself to get critical about smaller issues, things that I allowed to get “personal” between me and them.

417. Mama and Peter are very open to suggestions, and they don’t mind if you have other ideas or even disagree. They welcome other opinions; they know they need counselors. They don’t want to surround themselves with yes men. So there is no problem in bringing up the other side of issues, and they realize that sometimes you might disagree and have a little battle about it. That’s natural. But when all is said and done, it is their responsibility to pray and hear from the Lord about the final decisions, when they’ve benefited from counsel. The final call in these particular matters that I was critical about was theirs. In my pride I wasn’t willing to let go of my opinions on the matter and accept their final decisions, and I became critical of what they decided, and every once in a while those criticisms would surface. Thankfully, the Lord didn’t let that go on very long.

418. About these problems the Lord said:

419. You have fallen prey to a critical spirit, which has caused you unhappiness. You know this displeases Me greatly.

420. The root of these problems is pride. Everyone has problems with pride to varying degrees and has to fight it. It’s a continual fight. You have let pride in, and it has gained a stronghold in your heart. You think too highly of yourself, and this is the source of many wrong attitudes, reactions and comments, which have hurt others.

421. In pride, you have become self-confident, and it’s greatly weakened your sample and walk with Me.

422. This should be the thing that is easiest for you to recognize as a serious problem. Your criticism of the king and queen, the Home shepherds, and almost everyone else in the Home from time to time should wake you up to the danger you're in. The fact that you can criticize and not heed My checks that you're treading on very dangerous ground shows that you have become very proud. You have been taught your whole time in the Family that it is wrong and dangerous and divisive to criticize leadership—how much more so to criticize the king and queen, My appointed Endtime shepherds.

423. You have repeatedly voiced unwarranted criticism to Misty, and I am angry with you about this. This is the result of pride and familiarity. When you think about it, you will see how very wrong you have been, how you have accepted attitudes or “complaints” that were not founded in the truth, how you have judged matters without being informed.

424. You have taken on carnal attitudes and have judged surface judgments, implying through your criticisms that the king and queen are wrong, and consequently must not be praying or hearing from Me.

425. There have been others who have gone before you who also fell into the same critical spirit. Some have been salvaged; others have gone back, some even into the camp of your enemies. Criticism of your co-workers and mates is no small thing, and spreading it to others is worse still. When you get to the point that you can even criticize the king and queen, you're in bad shape. This is the tip of the iceberg of pride and familiarity, and without an immediate repentance and cleansing, you will only continue down this path of delusion and pride until you find sudden destruction.

426. Pride is what makes you feel self-confident, what makes you able to blow off My checks, what makes you resistant to My checks to pray and ask Me, what makes you touchy and defensive when others try to check you. Pride gives way to carnality, which gradually replaces the dominance of My Spirit in your life. Pride is depending on yourself rather than using

the new weapon of prophecy or intercessory prayer. It's depending more on your own arm than on Me.

427. Most criticism and familiarity is born of pride—but especially to be critical of the king and queen or to disagree not to their face, but privately, talking behind their backs and sowing division. If someone disagrees but does so in the right way, that is not criticism. To bring up other ideas, even contradictory opinions, is not wrong; it's part of counseling and finding My leading so the king and queen can see all sides of a situation. But if someone continues to disagree with a final decision after they have brought up the other side and it has been explored and prayed about by those who bear the final weight of responsibility, or if the disagreement is voiced behind the backs of their leadership, it's usually pride, lack of fear of Me, resentment, and sensitivity. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

428. (Matthew:) When I asked the Lord the reasons I became critical of Mama and Peter, He said:

429. Being critical, especially of your leadership, can only be the result of pride and self-righteousness. Thinking you know best, thinking your way is the right way, your ideas are the best ones. Thinking, “they shouldn't have done this, or they should have done it this way.” And on and on it goes, until you are steeped in self-righteousness, pride and criticalness, and are no longer seeing things in the spirit, but seeing them from your own carnal reasoning.

430. Being critical of your shepherds can be the road to destruction, and once you start on that road, it often takes a rebuke to help you see where you are heading. I'm very thankful that you called on the power of the keys to help you let Me humble you so you could see clearly where your mistakes have been, and the sins that they led to. The Devil tries to make you feel that you should be able to have your own views and opinions and voice them. He's right, if they are voiced to the proper people and in the proper way. But when it gets to where you are saying

things behind your leaders' backs and disagreeing with them to others rather than presenting your views to your leaders themselves, then you've crossed the line and are being critical, self-righteous and proud.

431. It's the little foxes that spoil the vines, and if you give the Devil an inch on the spiritual principles you've been taught, you will soon be giving him a mile and doing things you never thought possible.

432. Familiarity is a dangerous game—in a marriage, a teamwork, or with your leaders; it can destroy all the good that I would have you do together. Familiarity is an occupational hazard in any of the above relationships and must be guarded against doggedly, for it is a killer. Peter has very humbly expressed to you several times that he allowed himself to get familiar with Dad a couple of times, but that I shook him up to see that it was the road to destruction, as it was for Rachel, Jethro, Deborah, Timothy, and others. Familiarity enters subtly into My soldiers' hearts.

433. The Devil knows that if he can get you to doubt and criticize your leaders, you will soon be criticizing your entire movement and your God. Through your pride, you got self-confident and felt you didn't need the daily and continual humbling necessary to keep you in the Family and in your position, that you are humble enough! That's almost funny, if it weren't so deadly serious.

434. Through your pride, you allowed the Devil to deceive you into thinking you knew best; but in your heart you knew it was a lie, which led you to unhappiness and beginning to give up in spirit. That is the ultimate purpose of the Devil, to convince you to be proud and self-righteous, leading to your disdain of the spiritual weapons at your disposal, and reliance on your own strength and wisdom. This eventually leads to condemnation, as you realize that you can't make it and you begin to see how dirty your self-righteous critical spirit is. The next step, if you don't humble yourself and ask for forgiveness and prayer, is that you go back to wallowing in the mire of self, because you know that in yourself you can never attain per-

fection, and yet you do not humble yourself to cry out to Me for My mercy and forgiveness.

435. I'm sorry this happened, My love. Had you stayed close to My Word and intimate with Me in our bed of love, had you let Me keep you weak and broken and dependent, this need not have happened. But don't get condemned. "There is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Because you are humbling yourself and calling on the power of the keys, I will take you to new heights of the spirit as you draw close to Me again.

436. You must not go on one more day with business as usual. You must have a complete metanoia, have prayer from your mates, and get back to being positive and praiseful of Me, your king and queen, your mates and your wonderful Family.

437. I realize that it's a temptation to question and even criticize your Family when you often read reports about problem situations. But your big mistake has been not taking those battles and questions and even doubts that you read in letters from the Family on the field to Me, instead of leaning to your own carnal reasoning, which was so wrong and off. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. Who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counselor? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things.

438. The Word is a light in the darkness and will repel the darkness from your spirit, your mind, and your life. Nothing else will work. You cannot fight the Devil in your own strength and wisdom; he'll clobber you every time. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

439. (Matthew:) The problem was me, not Mama and Peter. They were taking my suggestions and observations seriously and praying about them and confirming with the Lord what was best, but I wasn't. If I voiced a different view from what Mama and Peter were recom-

mending, they would pray about it, and then they would tell me that they prayed about it and the Lord showed them to do such-and-such. The problem I developed with criticalness was because I didn't forsake my view or opinion at that point, but held on to it, which led me to criticize Mama and Peter—and the Lord, Lord forgive me!

440. Mama and Peter are very open to suggestions and ideas—more than anyone I've ever known—and they're willing to go with other plans and methods if the Lord confirms to them that it's okay. I had just become proud and self-righteous in thinking my way was best. I wasn't praying about my suggestions, and so they weren't Spirit-led or what was needed. My criticisms were totally unfounded and I was seeing things so self-righteously in the flesh. I feel so ashamed now of my attitude. But I believe the Lord allowed it to humble me and help me to see where I was headed, and I'm thankful for that.

441. Mama and Peter have been so gracious and forgiving, despite my waywardness. I feel much like the fellow that Edison allowed to be responsible for the second light bulb. (See *Good Thots 2*, page 1286, #287.) We have amazingly just and understanding shepherds watching over us all in this great Family. Praise the Lord!

442. In another prophecy, Jesus told me:

443. Self-righteousness is the most deadly sin and the hardest to recognize. One reason it's so hard for My children to see is because pride takes such a strong hold in their lives that they can no longer see, nor do they even want to see, how critical and self-righteous they are being. Through pride they feel that the way they see things is the best way, and that they are right. They feel they are strong and everyone else is weak. But that is because they are seeing everything in the flesh and are working in their own strength.

444. This is what happened to you, Matthew. Because you got discouraged and tired of fighting the spiritual warfare, and stopped looking to Me at every turn and letting Me continually

soften your heart through My Word and voice, you began to look to your own wisdom. This resulted in pride, and as always, self-righteousness followed. You were becoming blinded by this self-righteousness and My voice and checks were not being received, and it was getting harder and harder to get through to you. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

445. (Matthew:) Closely related to pride and self-righteousness is sensitivity, which I manifested in not receiving checks from others and not being communicative, open and honest. On this the Lord said:

446. Matthew is sensitive. He's afraid of correction, and he lashes out when you cross him or he feels you're insinuating that he's wrong. This isn't the case all the time, but it happens sometimes. It happens often enough to indicate a problem, and to point to a strong case of sensitivity.

447. The pride and sensitivity are also the cause of his lack of openness. He tries to mask it, but the truth of the matter is that he's closed. He doesn't want to expose his battles, weaknesses, fears, criticisms, etc. This is naturally more difficult for men than women, but Matthew doesn't even see that he's closed or doesn't communicate because he doesn't see what he'd have to say. He thinks, "Everything is fine, so what's the problem?" He doesn't want to show his innermost weaknesses. He's afraid it will come back to him somehow, that he'll lose something—others' respect or trust.

448. This fear is pride. It's bondage. It's a shame that he feels this way, because after being so close to the king and queen, he should know better. He is a man of few words; he doesn't like to put forth the effort to communicate. He prefers to just let things pass. He is prone to do that with his problems as well, not realizing the seriousness of some of them. And then when he does catch a glimpse of his problems, he falls into the depths of despair and discouragement, as well as pride and sensitivity. I expect more of him, and others expect more of him;

they expect more openness and honesty. It's an important sample. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

449. (*Matthew:*) Another message the Lord gave me on this subject said:

450. As I said earlier, everyone has pride; everyone has problems. Some can keep on top of these natural tendencies because they're willing to be shepherded by Me, and they're more communicative. They pour out their hearts and therefore get the help they need. Because you hate correction so much, you subconsciously try to do whatever is necessary to avoid it. You don't want to be corrected so you don't communicate, especially not your mistakes and sins. You don't want to communicate your problems via personal messages of correction received from Me either, so this creates a blockage in your channel. You don't necessarily want your shepherds to know the nitty-gritty, so you are not open to receive the correction that I would otherwise have given you.

451. Had you been more willing to allow Me to shepherd you, more willing to open your channel to Me, to ask Me questions about how you're doing, about your sample, and had you really wanted to hear the correction, I could have told you. I could have saved you a lot of this pain and heartache, as I would have helped you to see the truth. But I can't give correction if you don't want it, if you resist it and refuse to receive it. Therefore, I have to resort to using your earthly shepherds and those close to you in the flesh.

452. Of course, the most important thing is that you finally do get the correction. But it's much easier and more efficient, too, and keeps you from getting so far off track if you receive the shepherding I wish to give you through times of opening your own channel to My voice of prophecy and My specific instruction regarding your weak areas. That's the key to staying on the straight and narrow—receiving those little checks, those little taps, which make it unnecessary to receive a big correction from Me that is much more embarrassing, time-consum-

ing, shocking, and potentially discouraging and disruptive to your life.

453. So make this a lesson for the future, dear love, and take the time to receive from Me. Let Me shepherd you and correct you. Check in with Me. Ask Me how you're doing. Be open to receiving My little chidings, be communicative along the way, and you'll avoid these big spankings and all the trouble and problems that come with them. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

454. (*Matthew:*) My prayer requests in this area that I'd like to ask you to pray for me with the power of the keys, are:

455. • Against pride and self-righteousness and the self-confidence that comes with it, which results in my thinking I know better or that my ideas and ways are best—when actually many times they aren't, and especially weren't when I was blinded by my own pride and self-righteousness and was not seeing things in the spirit.

456. • Against the stronghold pride has in my heart.

457. • Against any inferiority complexes I have that make me feel I have to prove myself.

458. • Against sensitivity to correction and fear of exposing my weaknesses and sins to my shepherds.

459. • Against a critical spirit, which has caused me much unhappiness and which is dangerous to my spiritual life. That I can immediately be delivered from it and that I won't fall prey to it again.

460. • Against carnality and analyzing things in the flesh, and against surface judgments that are not founded on prayer and counsel and research of all the pertinent information.

461. • That I'll immediately be delivered of familiarity toward Mama and Peter and others in the Home, and that the Lord will continue to humble me.

462. • And that everyone will have the love and grace to forgive me and help me do better. I need your checks and safeguards. Please tell me when you see me falling into these bad habits. I want you to tell me.

463. This is my prayer, which I prayed earlier, shortly after receiving the correction:

464. Jesus, I want this to be my “whatever it takes” prayer. I guess until now I didn’t have the faith or even the burden to pray it. I found ways to justify my not having done it before, but the reasons were so lame. I was just too deceived and weak and therefore unwilling to pray it. But now I ask You in all sincerity to do whatever it takes to help me get back on the wall and moving forward in spirit again. I’ve failed You, my king and queen, the COs, my teamwork and my mates in WS, and I repent of my horrible sins and attitudes this moment and ask for forgiveness from You, my king and queen and my mates.

465. I’m thankful, beyond belief, for this correction and exposure of my sins, wrong attitudes and weaknesses. I’m ashamed of the horrible critical and self-righteous spirit I fell into through my pride. I’m sorry I gave up in spirit and just wanted to drift along. As Dad said about the churches, they thought they had arrived at the top, but were on a slope and began drifting backwards. Thank You for my shepherds and loved ones’ help and prayers that stopped me in time so I didn’t completely crash.

466. I truly don’t want to ever have another day where my pride causes me to be critical and self-righteous of others or to think I can do anything on my own without You. I want the victory over being so strong and forceful with my opinions and causing people to have to get confrontational about things with me.

467. (Matthew interjects: It’s one thing to bring a point to the discussion and to present what might be a possible solution, but when you come on so strong with your point and what you feel is the best solution, it causes others to have to confront you personally rather than just discussing the point, which is very uncomfortable for people. The point is not who’s got the right point or solution, but that the point is put on the table for discussion and looked at from all angles to discover the best possible

solution, and then that it’s taken to the Lord to see if He agrees and what He has to say or add.)

468. This is the harder of my weaknesses to overcome, because it’s such a long-term habit and part of my personality, but I believe with the power You’ve given me through the keys to the Kingdom and Your grace I can finally overcome this weakness that makes me less effective as a counselor than I could be.

469. Please do whatever it takes to sober me and make me more aware of the spiritual battle raging around me. Do whatever it takes to help me take things seriously and not be laid back or so dull and lazy in spirit that I don’t want to attack. I pray that You won’t let me get so far off the track again, Jesus, no matter what it takes. I’m willing to do whatever it takes. I put everything on the altar—my wife, my job, my closeness to Mama and Peter, my comfort, my friendships, and anything else that would hinder me from getting as close to You as I can and want to. I love You so much. I truly can’t completely understand yet how I allowed myself to neglect You and Your power to such an extent, but it is becoming more and more clear to me each day as I pray, read, and hear from You and others.

470. Please help me to communicate more openly and honestly. Help me not to be so proud and afraid of being exposed for my sins and weaknesses.

471. Help me to do whatever it takes to fight the spiritual lethargy that is holding me back. I know it’s going to take a lot of work on my part, but You give me the strength and will to fight on. I can’t work it up. Thank You that Your Word has come so alive to me again. It seems unless it’s a lifeline to me, I drift. I’m sorry that I’ve drifted, but please have mercy and renew my hunger and increase my vision again through Your wonderful Word and Your personal Words to me. I need You so very desperately right now.

472. I have full assurance that You are there for me and that nothing is impossible for You. You can even help me change these long-standing bad habits and overcome my weaknesses

through Your Word and the power You've given me through the keys. I don't think I could have made it without the power of the keys.

473. Whatever it takes, my dear Husband, I am determined to forsake my sins and start fighting in spirit and make the changes necessary to regain the ground I gave to the Enemy. Please help me, as I can't do it without You pushing, pulling, and directing me each step of the way. I'm not going into this with blind exuberance either. I know it's going to be a battle each step of the way and I'm going to fall at times, but like Jacob, I refuse to let go until I receive the blessing that I so desperately want.

474. Thank You, my Love, for rekindling my fire and desire for You. I want to be with You every waking moment and sleep in Your arms each night. I feel so weak and helpless, and I've never felt the need for You as much as I do at this moment.

(After several people pray for Matthew, the Lord speaks in prophecy with His encouragement and confirmation that the victory is won:)

475. (Jesus speaking, excerpts:) It's one thing just to stick! You have stuck by Me, My son, and now you have come before your mates and humbled yourself in My sight. And because you have humbled yourself, I will be faithful to cleanse you from all your sins.

476. It's an uphill fight from this day forward, but you are fighting! You're not sitting back. You're going up the mountain and you're allowing Me to take you up, step by step, looking to Me, depending on Me, confessing your need for Me, so you have nothing to worry about. Be encouraged, because when you are going forward you're getting somewhere. It is when you stop, get weary, and give up that you start to go back. So even though it might be painful at times, even though you might get corrected at times—and you will—don't get discouraged, because you're fighting, and fighters win! It's when you quit fighting that you know you've got problems.

477. The future is as bright as My promises, and I have given you a lot and I keep My Word. You can count on it. You can stand on it. You can claim it. It will do the miracles. I have also blessed you with greater faith and the power of the keys to the Kingdom. I have given you all power over Heaven and Earth, over all power of the Enemy, and you have nothing to fear or worry about. You just need to fight. I'm going to help you to fight as you look to Me. All your mates are here beside you. You are one in Me. All for One and One for all. Go forward. Know that I am with you and that I will do what I said. *(End of message from Jesus.)*



478. (Jesus speaking:) It takes great faith to leave the shelter of self and walk out into the sunshine of openness and humility, exposing all your fears before all. But the man who walks out of himself at the call of My voice, coming to Me, will in no wise lose his reward. For he that seeks to save himself shall lose it, but he that humbles himself in My sight shall be lifted up, and he shall never lose his reward.

479. He shall be an example to many of the humility that I call for and want in all My servants and those who follow Me. To follow Me and be My disciple is a death to self, a death to pride, a death to wanting to protect and keep yourself private, closed, insulated and isolated from the world. I have bought each one of you with a price and I am calling you out. I am calling you out of the valleys and places of sin, darkness, weakness and confusion. I'm calling you out to the light. But to come to the light it sometimes hurts, for you feel exposed, humbled, vulnerable and weak. Nevertheless, in that weakness you shall find strength—for you will be less confident in yourself and you will learn to lean on Me. You will not be so defensive of foolish pride and the mindsets and things of the world which cannot last and will be destroyed with this world, but you will place your confidence in things above, looking unto Me, the Author and Finisher of your faith.

480. So come out, My children! Come out into the sunlight, into the open air. It is hard at first. It is humbling, but it is so liberating. Once you shed the shackles of self, you'll be free to dance again in the sunshine of My glorious spirit and liberty, the liberty which I give unto all the children of God. Let no man take away your freedom. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

481. (One of the Home shepherds:) Personally, I really admire Matthew for coming and asking for prayer. I'm sure we all do. You know how it is when someone asks for prayer: You understand them more, you have more sympathy, more love and understanding for them, and you pray for them more. But the Enemy does try to come in and get you critical of that person at times. But I got that verse, "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." And "Judge not, that you be not judged" (John 8:7; Mat.7:1).

482. (Another Home shepherd:) Recently, the Lord has been highlighting a lot of things for all of us. But there have been a few people who have been up here asking for prayer and reading us these really powerful prophecies that the Lord has given them, and often the tendency is to feel sorry for them, or to feel like, "Wow, the Lord is really working in their lives, poor things!"

483. I was getting the verse, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether; more to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold" (Psa.19:9–10).

484. Recently the Lord said to one of our mates, whose life He's working in strongly, that they are a billionaire in the spirit. So we shouldn't feel sorry for anyone or think, "Lord, I hope that doesn't happen to me, that I would get that kind of correction and have to get up and ask for prayer!"

485. We can follow Matthew's example and say, "Wow, thank the Lord! This is my chance to become liberated!"

486. (Matthew:) I'm very thankful Misty told Mama and Peter about my misbehavior. People often get really worked up when they suspect or find out that someone they're close to has "told on them." But you know, it's ludicrous to think that someone who loves you so much is going to hurt you when all they're doing is trying to help you, and they're sacrificing to do it, because they know you are probably not going to be too happy about it, so it's a big sacrifice for them.

487. I also wanted to say that Mama and Peter have been so loving to me all the years I've been here and through this, too. They've been so understanding, merciful, kind and forgiving—all the things that God is. They've really been that to me through all this, and so has Misty.

488. (Gabe, who was visiting at the time:) I would like to talk a little bit more about the aspect of reporting, like Matthew brought out, because it is very, very important.

489. My very first talk from Dad was about the importance of reporting. When I first came to the staff, I was a helper. I just came to do dishes and take care of him. He gave me quite a serious talk after I'd been around for a while about our spiritual responsibilities and maintaining a high spiritual standard and the importance of reporting. It was a good lesson for me and a bit of an awakening to realize the responsibility that we all have to maintain a high spiritual standard.

490. When we are with our friends and mates, that's when we usually drop our guards and expose our innermost self. That's one of the prime opportunities for us to get help, really—when we're with those that we're close to and who see the side of us that we don't often show in public. But if we're not helping each other at those times and we're not faithful to uphold the standard "behind closed doors," then we won't get the help that we need.

491. To report on your friends or mate is a controversial topic, because people are afraid

they're going to be misrepresented by some self-righteous, inaccurate report. That's why if you're going to report about some problem you feel someone has, you need to pray desperately, asking the Lord to help you be humble and have the right motives. Pray specifically in the power of the keys that you'll be as accurate as possible, and that you won't allow any personal grudges, jealousies, criticalness, or hurt feelings to influence what you might say.

492. But of course, you still have to realize that even if you are trying to be prayerful, accurate and loving, what you say will still just be your point of view, one side of the story. But that's all you can do. You can only share things as you see them, and that's enough. Then you can trust your shepherds to be prayerful and seek out the other sides to the story, and especially the Lord's point of view on it. But it's very, very important to seek the Lord in your personal life and be willing to learn to handle these touchy situations correctly and wisely and with prayer.

493. (Misty:) As you know, I had united prayer not too long ago for some of the same things—pride, etc. If you have been through the same thing, it is easier to relate and not be so critical of the person, because you feel like, "Well, I've been there, done that." Also, you realize the seriousness of it spiritually and what it can do to your usefulness and life for the Lord.

494. But one thing about reporting that really puts your shepherds in a tough position is when you report about someone and you say, "But don't tell them I said that. I don't want them to know that I said those things or that I've been talking to you about them."

495. Then your shepherds are in a very difficult position. They can't bring up any of those specifics or examples, because often they're things that only you would know. I suppose reporting with the stipulation that anything you say has to be kept confidential is better than not reporting at all, but it's much more helpful if

you give examples and are willing to let those examples be used, because that helps the person to see how the problem is manifested and to understand the need for change. You know how it is with pride, self-righteousness, criticalness—you often just don't see the problem unless there are examples of your behavior and how it has affected others.

496. It's not easy at all to be willing to have the other person find out that you reported about them. When I talked to Mama about these things happening with Matthew, she said, "It's really going to be hard for us to say these specifics without him knowing that you told us." I told her, "I don't mind that he knows I said it, if necessary, because even if it's difficult initially, I know the Lord will help him get over it!"

497. But because it really is difficult, you have to make a choice, and to do so, it helps if you look at the big picture, the long-term effects, the future. Look at what the person you're reporting about stands to lose if they don't get the help they need. It will probably embarrass them to hear what you said, and the fact that you reported on them to your shepherds might change your relationship somewhat.

498. You have to count the cost. It's not like everything will necessarily go perfectly smooth. You might lose something through it, at least temporarily, or you'll at least possibly go through a period of awkwardness and you'll need to sort things out through honest communication, prayer, forgiveness, etc.

499. But if those possible difficulties make you not want to report, then look at what you stand to lose if you don't. If the person that you love keeps going in the direction they're going, they might lose their walk with the Lord, their place of service, their job. You might lose your whole relationship, your marriage, your friendship, because that person might not make it in the Lord's service. It could be that serious. So when you put it in perspective, it becomes clear that you just have to take a risk.

500. And that's where the question of loyalty comes in. Who are you loyal to? Are you

loyal to the Lord and the Family, and are you putting the person's well-being and service for the Lord first? Or do you put your friendship first, or your marriage, or whatever? What are you willing to lose to help that person, to salvage their spiritual walk with the Lord? It's really a question of love—how much do you truly love that person? Do you love them enough to take that personal risk that it might cost you something to help them?—They might get upset with you, they might not confide in you in the future, they might feel that you betrayed them. But even if that were to happen, it's still not as bad as their continuing in the wrong direction and not receiving help and possibly getting so weakened that they end up leaving the Family!

501. It isn't easy, but it is something that the Lord expects us to do. It's real love, even though it's a real killer.

502. If you know that people report on themselves and they are very communicative, honest, and open, and they get prophecies and include detailed prayers that they share with their shepherds, then you don't have to worry so much about reporting on them, because you have the assurance that they pass things on themselves. They are sharing what's on their heart, and they can therefore get the help they need, so it's not really up to you to do so. You can leave that in their court and let them express their own needs, battles, problems, etc., in their own way and time.

503. But when you know the person doesn't communicate—like Matthew hadn't been for a long time—you know that unless you say something, it's not going to get said. Then it is your responsibility to report; that's what the Lord expects of you.

504. There are a lot of different factors that you have to weigh up and pray about when reporting about someone else. You have to determine, with the Lord's help and counsel, when it's your responsibility to say something, and what to say. You also have to decide how much you're willing to make it known that you re-

ported. You have to count the cost and make a decision. It's never easy. But in the long run, it's worth it.

505. (Matthew:) I think it's really the Devil's tactic to make you feel your friends aren't going to like you anymore if you report on them. If they're true friends, they're going to love you more. If you are doing it in a self-righteous way or critical way, it's not in love, and then it's not going to bear good fruit, of course. But if you really love the person and you've prayed about it, and you're doing it out of real love for them, and it's a sacrifice for you to do it and it hurts you, then the Lord is going to bless it and the person is going to be very thankful.

506. In my case, I only love Misty more. I'm so thankful she told Mama what I was thinking and feeling so that I could get the help and correction I needed. It was rough, and she was really praying hard for me when Mama was talking to me, but it only made me love her more. I am so thankful! (*End of meeting and Matthew's prayer request.*)

507. (Mama:) God bless Matthew for sharing his lessons so openly. Dear Family, I'd like to ask that you ask the Lord to speak to you about which of Matthew's lessons apply to your own life. Please take full advantage of his love and sacrifice in sharing them with you, and benefit from them all you can by taking them to heart, and making steps to make things right in your own heart and life. Read through them again and this time ask the Lord to bring to light the areas in your heart and walk with Him which need attention. May God bless and keep us all humble and open before Him, so that He can continue to use us according to His perfect will.

Love and prayers in our wonderful Lover and faithful Shepherd,
Mama