

Spirit!

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The Lord has said numerous times that the Offensive is a work of His Spirit. He recently said to Mama and me, “If the Offensive could have happened solely through plain old hard work, or getting good plans, or through completely practical means, then it would have happened already. But it is a work of My Spirit, and that’s what’s going to bring the success. It’s going to be My Spirit, My free Spirit, My Wild Wind Spirit, moving and changing the face of the Family, the hearts of the Family, the minds of the Family, the actions of the Family. That’s what’s going to bring about the success of the Offensive.”

2. Mama and I believe that this is a foundation principle of the Offensive—that it has been and it’s going to continue to be a work of the Holy Spirit, just like the very first offensive in Christianity, which started with the Day of Pentecost. God’s Spirit moved upon the disciples, upon the circumstances, and in the hearts of many, and multitudes were won. In the years that followed, the Church grew and progressed.

3. Jesus had told His disciples, “Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come

upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). And that’s exactly what happened. Once God’s Spirit moved upon them, they received power, and that power led to action, and that action led to success. But the core of that success was the power of the Holy Spirit.

4. The movement of the Spirit wasn’t the only factor in the success of the expansion of the Early Church; the disciples had to do their part as well. The anointing gave them the power to witness, but to use that power they had to leave the room in which they were hiding, they had to preach boldly in the street and from house to house. They had to get into motion and take action. Once they did, the power of the Holy Spirit was made manifest; miracles happened and the Lord brought about wonderful opportunities for them to witness, win, and train.

5. It’s a bit like that verse, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:20). The Spirit can move, but if we’re not doing our part, if we aren’t doing the “work,” if we aren’t sensitive to the movement of the Spirit and if we’re not willing to follow wherever the Spirit is leading, then the Spirit can’t fulfill Her plan. It’s a teamwork effort—those in the spirit world and us in the natural world working together.

6. Clearly, we’ll have plenty of “plain old hard work” to do in order to bring about the Lord’s plan, but just working hard is not going to be anywhere near enough. It’s the Spirit that’s going to make the Offensive a success. God’s Spirit is going to open doors, lead us to the right places at the right times, bring people to our door, anoint us in our witnessing, winning, and training, and show us new methods and ways to do the job, just like in the days of the Early Church. The Holy Spirit “will make a massive difference in [our]

success in reaping the final harvest” (“Pentecost 2008,” ML #3683:14, GN 1244). It’s going to be wonderful, because far-out things happen when the Spirit of God moves.

7. It’s interesting, though, because as Dad said, the Holy Spirit is like a dove that is easily shooed away (ML #75:13). If we aren’t sensitive to the Spirit, if we aren’t open to Her, then we shoo Her away. In other words, if we aren’t open to the Spirit and willing to receive Her, then we restrict Her abilities to work through us. We have to let the Spirit move, change, create, and flow freely. We have to give the Spirit more room to work by opening our minds and expanding our horizons.

8. In many Letters Dad talked about how the churches became rigid, unbending, and unwilling to change. They held on to the past and the way things were, and in doing so they became frozen, unfruitful, ineffective, and dead. In short, they quenched the Spirit, they lost the Spirit. We can’t allow this to ever happen to us!

(Jesus:) My Family is a Spirit-filled movement. I’ve put a lot of emphasis on the Spirit, being filled with the Spirit, following the Wild Wind of the Spirit and being free. ... I put that desire in your hearts, and it’s My way of protecting you from the dangers of compromise and from winding up among the ranks of the dead churches. ... That is the influence of the Wild Wind in your lives. She whispers to you in the night, She leads you, She calls to you.

Having the Spirit strong in your life is what has kept you a revolution, changing, growing, and leaving the old to embrace the new. You love the exhilarating high that comes from chasing the Wild Wind. You love to feel Her breezes in your face, beckoning you to new horizons and

unconquered territory. You’re enraptured by Her, mesmerized by Her voice, and you follow out of love—love for Her and love for adventure and change.

This is a unique quality of the children of David, and one that you must cherish and protect. You can’t risk losing that free spirit brought to you by the Queen of Heaven. Hold on to Her; you’ll need Her now in the Offensive more than ever! (“The Best Is Yet to Come,” ML #3684:87–89, GN 1245.)

9. Mama and I are extremely desperate with the Lord as we lead you further into the Offensive, and as we make the changes that the Lord is directing us to make to professionalize and improve various aspects of the Family. We’ve explained some of our thinking to you in “The Change Journey.” But in all our prayer and discussions about change, we are extremely desperate with the Lord to get things right, to not lose the essence of what the Lord wants us to be as a Family, to not lose touch with the Spirit of God. This is what we value above all else—God’s alive, moving, changing Spirit—and giving the Spirit preeminence is our sacred touchstone in any decision that we make.

10. As Dad said in “The Temple Prophecy,” we realize that it’s a serious danger to lose that vital touch with the Lord and “His divine life, beauty, power and wisdom, which makes all of His prophets what they are” (ML #9:8). We are praying daily and fervently for the Lord to lead and guide us in these weighty matters of leading the Family and making the changes that He’s instructing us to make. We know that we—as your leadership—are nothing without Jesus, His Spirit, and His power. We also know that we—as a Family—are nothing and won’t be able to accomplish anything without His life-giving Spirit. Doing our best to obey and follow

His Spirit is what has gotten us to where we are today, and it's the only thing that will see us into the future.

11. When it comes to the Offensive, there are a lot of practical issues to address. There are new strategies to employ, new endeavors to try, and professionalism to incorporate. There are new changes to implement in the Family, and a slew of practical tips we can apply to help us to be more successful. These things are good and necessary, but all of our efforts will fall flat if we don't have the Lord's power, the essence of His Spirit, moving freely within the Family and within each of our lives.

12. Even though we have to take practical steps and action, we must always remember that we are still engaged in spiritual warfare. The Offensive requires action plus spirit. The action will hardly make a dent without the spirit.

13. Dad said in "The Temple Prophecy": "When you are strong in the Spirit, God will do anything for you!" You're one with Him, and when this happens, you can command Him to do anything" (ML #9:5). This oneness with the Lord and His Spirit, this strength of spirit, this connection to the Spirit, is something that we can't ever afford to lose as a Family. We need to be able to cash in on that "God will do anything for you" promise if we're going to be successful, not just as a movement, but also in our commission of winning the world. The Spirit must be alive, on fire, and fully present in our lives, Homes, and hearts.

14. If we were to ever lose the Spirit of God, we would become has-beens.—As Dad said, urns that were created to pour out and minister and slake others' thirst, only to become dry and useless; lamps that were meant to give light, only to be darkened without power; flowers that were meant to give life and beauty, only to fade and die.

15. As the Lord said in prophecy: "Each is but an urn; each is but a candle; each is but a light; each is but a flower; and each is but a word, which has no usefulness, no ministry, no power,

no light, no beauty without Me" (ML #9:11). He said that in 1970, in "The Temple Prophecy," and it's as true today as it ever was.

16. That's what we are without the Lord—absolutely useless! Nothing! We're nothing without Him and the essence and the totality of His Spirit. His Spirit is what Mama and I are committed to never letting go of, personally and as a Family, because if we ever did, we know that it would be the beginning of the end for us. His Spirit moving freely, powerfully, and visibly in the Family is what keeps us alive. It's what enables us to do the job that He's given us to do.

17. If I were to narrow it down, I would say that this is the very most important thing that ensures our success—the Spirit.—And closely related to that, our ability to move with the Spirit and to follow where God leads. If we don't have the Spirit, if we aren't following the Spirit, we might as well forget it!

18. Amidst all of our improvements and changes, and everything that the Lord is leading us to do during the Offensive, one thing must remain unchangeable and unmovable, and that is our dependence on the power of the Lord and our connection to it, the Orb of His Spirit. At the core of our beliefs as a Family is a truth that Mama and I will never let go of—that God is alive, He speaks, and His Spirit is moving today, and we will do whatever it takes to follow Him, no matter what the cost. This is what we're impassioned about. This is what we stand for. This is what we believe. This will never change.

19. This immovable belief is what makes our faith alive, and what sets us apart from mainstream denominations and churches. As long as the Lord is moving and guiding us, we will be spiritually alive, we will be in His will. No matter what changes we make as a Family, if we have His life-giving Spirit as our center, we will not solidify or die. God's Spirit is at the heart of it all—everything that we do, everything that we are, and everything that we will ever be!

20. As the Lord said in "The Ride of Your Life": "If the call you hear is a call for serenity,

for sleep, for preservation, and for personal gain, then you have become the next dead carcass for the rubble heap of history. But as long as My voice is in your message, and My call is a call to arms and a call to sacrifice and a call to love Me and to forsake all that you have to be My disciple, then you are a revolution!" (ML #3686:73, GN 1247.)

21. In that same Letter He also said, "The Family of the future will look very different than the Family of the past, and even different than the Family of today. But what you need to understand is that it's still the Family! It's still My Endtime movement. It's still based on the rock-solid foundation of Me and My Word. It still has that same revolutionary spirit that it was founded on" (ML #3686:86, GN 1247).

22. The key, again, is the Spirit—desiring the Spirit, valuing the Spirit, capturing the Spirit, depending on the Spirit, and allowing the Spirit unrestrained access and movement in our Homes and lives. This is what the Lord means when He says that the Offensive is a move of His Spirit. Our movement, the Family, will not be successful without the Spirit, and neither will the Offensive. Both require maximum spiritual power.

23. Two principles are crucial to the success of the Family and to the success of the Offensive:

24. First, that we can't afford to ever lose the Spirit of God. We must allow that Spirit to flow through the Family without restriction. It's the movement of the Spirit that will breathe new life into the Family. We must actively draw on the power of the Spirit in all that we do, since the Lord has said that that is key to Offensive success.

25. Second, that as the Lord's Spirit moves and flows, the Family is going to change, and we must embrace that change.

The Offensive is about letting the Spirit flow

26. As I explained in "The Nature of War," we are now engaged in offensive war, which is very different from defensive war. It requires

different strategies, and almost a completely different philosophy. Offensive war is attacking, it's aggressive, it's mobile. Its goal isn't only or even mostly to preserve, but primarily to gain. It doesn't wait for the fight to come its way; it takes the fight to the battlefield.

27. Being on the offensive is, in many ways, much more exciting than being on the defensive. I believe we're all excited about this change of position, from defense to offense, because we all want to move forward, we want to gain new ground, and see the Family grow. It's what we've all worked hard for in these last years, and now it's here! We're in the Offensive.

28. One of the major challenges we face is moving from a defensive war mentality to an offensive war mentality, and doing so rapidly. We have started to make this switch, but we must continue to embrace this outward, Offensive mentality, and ask our Husband to help us to translate this shift of mentality into action.

29. We are no longer putting the majority of our energies toward defending and preparing as we did during the years before the Offensive. Instead, those energies are now being targeted toward marching forward, gaining ground, and expanding our membership, with the goal of winning the world for Jesus.

30. One of the greatest dangers the Offensive faces, at least in this beginning stage, is if we fail to translate this mentality shift into action in both spiritual and practical ways. It could stifle the Lord's Spirit, and we can't afford to let that happen. We need the Lord's Spirit in full measure. There's a very real possibility that the Offensive could be crippled if we hold on to past methods that are no longer the Lord's will for today, or if we maintain our defensive wartime mindsets, instead of taking on the new mindsets and attitudes that are needed for today.

31. Our previous methods and modes of operation have served us well until now, and it's not that we're throwing them all out wholesale. But we've entered into a new phase—the Offensive—and the way the Lord is

directing us, and the way His Spirit is moving within the Family, will change. Therefore many of our mindsets, methods, and modes of operation will also need to change accordingly.

32. The Lord's Spirit is moving. The Wild Wind of the Spirit is blowing through the Family. The Lord is directing us differently in many cases, and we need to act on these new and different directions. The Holy Spirit is leading, and She'll lead Homes and individuals in new ways. And herein lies the challenge that we, as the Family, are going to face:

33. Will we truly grasp, understand, and become the new Family that the Lord is calling us to be today? Will we allow the gentle Dove of the Spirit to flow freely through the Family, or will we shoo Her away? Will we resist the inevitable change that's coming? Will we try to preserve the status quo? Will we maintain a defensive stance in trying so hard to preserve what we've gained that we miss golden opportunities for advancement? Will our former mindsets about how to achieve success be so strong that we fail to embrace the new mindsets and methods that will lead to greater triumphs today and in the future?

34. For the Offensive to be all that the Lord has promised, we must transition from a successful past to a more successful future. We must commit to following wherever the Lord leads, no matter how new, how different, how uncomfortable, and no matter how He brings change about. We must commit to allowing the Spirit to flow throughout the Family. We must desire it, crave it, invite it, follow it, and love it!

35. The only way we will progress is if we change. As we've been discussing, the Offensive is about change and forward motion, about letting God's Spirit move in us in new and wonderful ways, about flowing with the new. We can directly affect whether the Holy Spirit will be able to have full sway in the Family or not. We do that by our outlooks, our attitudes, our decisions, our mindsets and our mentalities. We do it through how flexible and how open to the new we are, and the action we take.

36. The Offensive is bringing change whether we like it or not. It will change us in ways that we can't even fathom at this time. It will change us, because the Lord knows that if we don't change, we'll remain just as we are, and that's not sufficient for the future. If we don't change, we will stifle His Spirit.

37. We've spent years working to grow stronger as a Family. Today you are better connected to the Lord, you're more united, you're stronger disciples, you're skilled prayer warriors, you're more committed than ever to doing the job of reaching the world. Your flames have been ignited, and now we want to see you burn free and burn bright.

38. We have faith in you. Similar to how parents have to let their children leave home and flap their wings once they're of age, so do we—your spiritual parents—have to let you stand on your own, in a sense, when it comes to following where the Spirit of the Lord is leading you and doing what He asks of you during the Offensive. We trust that you are trained and spiritually mature enough, prayerful enough, and wise enough to succeed in doing the new, in taking calculated risks, in allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you.

(Jesus:) As you let go of the shackles of past mindsets, and of the past in general, and as you move into the fantastic future that I have foretold, you'll see that following My Spirit, following My lead, and being sensitive to where I'm moving, will be key. You'll find that you're more sensitive to My Spirit and attuned to where I'm leading, because you've gotten stronger through the years of strengthening and training, you have a better connection with Me now, you better understand what it means to live discipleship, and all of this puts you in a position to be more creative, to be more aware, and to have a better sense of how My Spirit works and how I flow.

You've done well with the restructuring and the strengthening and the training. And now more freedom will come as My Spirit begins to move in a new way for this new day.—And My Spirit will move, that I guarantee you, for I've been waiting for the day when you, My children, would be prepared spiritually, when you'd be strong and hungry for My Spirit to move through you. (From "The Best Is Yet to Come," ML #3684:58,60, GN 1245.)

39. Mama and I believe that your goal is the same as ours—to never lose the Spirit, and to allow the Lord's Spirit to be fully present in your lives and Homes during the Offensive.

40. I'm going to share with you some counsel along these lines—key points, things to do, or mindsets to take on, that will make a pathway for more of the Lord's Spirit to be present and moving freely within our midst.

41. As you read this, think about your personal outlook, attitude, and mindset. Consider your Home and situation. Are you allowing the Lord's Spirit to move freely and fully? Is the Lord's presence strong in your Home? In the midst of all your hard work, changes, and new initiatives, is your desire for the guidance, power, presence, and blessing of the Spirit—in all its fullness—at the forefront of your minds and hearts? Are you preserving the Spirit at all costs?

Be eager to let Holy Spirit fire burn

42. As we move further into the Offensive, the Lord is going to make us, as a Family, even more of a "city set on a hill that cannot be hid" (Mat. 5:14).

43. We certainly don't want you to hide your candlestick under the table, and the goal isn't simply to put the candlestick on the table so that it gives light to your house. We want you to

take those candles and create fires outside your houses that give light and warmth to others. We want God's Spirit to start fires all over the place during the Offensive! We want fire—the fire being God's Spirit at work in our witnessing and winning—and we want lots of it.

44. Since we need fire, we have to have faith to start fires, even bonfires. Of course, we don't want huge wildfires that are raging out of control, but neither do we want little matchstick fires. We need fire, we need light, we need heat, we need the Spirit. We need fires that are a display of the Lord's Spirit, that exude light and warmth, that attract people to Jesus and the Family.

45. We want fire in our witnessing and winning. We want a lot of it. We need fires that are an undeniable and powerful witness, fires that have a clear purpose in the Offensive. The goal in lighting fires is to let the light of our message and truth shine brightly so that we can win the world for Jesus. We need many types of fires—small fires, medium fires, big fires, even bonfires—that attract and create warmth and light. We're after helpful, constructive, positive fires. We want lots of big fires that attract people to Jesus and our message and enhance our work. It's not as though the only two options we have are "no fire" and "wildfire," but any time there is fire, whether big or small, there's a risk of wildfire.

46. Since we do want to create big beautiful blazing fires, and the possibility of "no fire" is not an acceptable option, we have to be willing to view the potential of wildfire as an acceptable risk. If it's a choice between having no fires or pitiful fires that don't light up the world, or having big and brilliantly burning world-changing fires, while risking some wildfire, then we have to take that risk. We don't want wildfire, but we do want fire! If we're so worried about "potential wildfire," we'll end up in the "dark ages," because we'll never light a match. We don't want to become walking fire extinguishers. Our job is not to prevent fires, but in fact to create them. We're not firefighters; we're firelighters. We want to set the world on fire for God!

47. As we've said before, "Changes and experimentation are good." It's not something to be afraid of or to squelch because you don't want anyone to take any risks, or to shake things up, or to make any waves. Being radical is being willing to do whatever the Lord asks of you, and doing it with your whole heart" ("Liftoff," ML #3678:152, GN 1239).

48. We must ask the Lord to give us wisdom and prayerfulness in our decision-making so that we can avoid wildfire. We'll also need to learn to recognize when our bonfire is heading toward becoming wildfire, so that we can ask the Lord to show us how to scale it down, so that it doesn't have negative repercussions. But some wildfire is a possibility. It's not something that you can guarantee the prevention of, without causing the greater damage of squelching and hindering the Lord's Spirit from moving and igniting in your hearts and Homes. That would result in the end of the Offensive, and that is not an acceptable option.

49. Dad often said that he'd rather have wildfire than no fire, and he really meant that. In other words, it's not that he wanted wildfire, but he was willing to take the risk that there might be some wildfire, rather than not take any risks and have no fire at all. This is also true today. If we want the Offensive to have a future, if we want the Family to be successful and happy and fulfilled, if we want to fulfill the Great Commission—and Mama and I believe that this is our united goal—then we need to ask the Lord to help us to realize how important the fire is in our witnessing and winning, and then be willing to light those fires.

50. I'll repeat here what I said before in "Liftoff." This is Mama's and my stance: "I'd rather have some wildfire than no fire at all. I'd rather Homes and individuals try and fail than to never try at all. Mama and I expect that some attempts won't pan out or will even fail. Of course, we know you will have success too if you're following God, but we don't expect every venture to be a success. Failure is not

bad. Failure can be a stepping stone to success" ("Liftoff," ML #3678:149, GN 1239). That's the end of the quote.

51. As I said, the fire that we want is ultimately the Lord, the Spirit of God, infusing us with faith to try new things in our witnessing and winning. You have to follow the Lord and light the fires He shows you to make, within the bounds of the Charter and according to the counsel in the Word. Some fires might start out small. Some fires might be huge at the start, and you think that they might end in wildfire, but then you learn how to control it and handle it, and it becomes a more manageable, but still brightly burning bonfire.

52. The point is that you shouldn't be afraid to light a fire or start something new when the Lord is clearly leading you to do so, just because you don't know how it will turn out or you're worried that it might get out of control. If you've taken the steps to counsel and research the Word, and you've taken your plans to the Lord and have received His confirmation, then even if you're taking a risk, it's an acceptable risk.

53. When "firelighting," it's just common sense to regularly monitor your fire to see how it's burning, to see if it's bearing the right results. If at any point your fire seems to be having negative results or getting a little out of hand, then you should take it back to the Lord and ask Him for counsel. "Should we make some adjustments to help our fire not to get out of control?" "Is it time to put out this fire and start a new one? Or is it a matter of patiently praying, waiting, and watching?"

54. Sometimes it takes a while for a good fire to get going and stabilize, so your automatic reaction shouldn't be to immediately put out the fire if something starts to go awry. But you also don't have to keep going with something that isn't working, especially if it's bearing negative fruit. Sometimes you will have to douse a fire and ask the Lord about lighting a new fire, but that's not necessarily a negative.

55. However, if you're just worrying that your Home's fire might get out of control, you may act out of fear instead of faith, which could result in putting out fires—or worse yet, not starting fires—that actually are the Lord's will. You shouldn't be preventing fires, but rather seeking the Lord and taking the steps needed to start the right kind of fires. The Lord has already given us “fire safety measures” to use—counsel, shepherding, prayer, hearing from Him, Home accountability, the Word, the Charter, your own gifts and talents and anointing—and we need to utilize them.

56. Of course, if your leadership sees that a fire is beginning to get out of control and has the potential of becoming a damaging wildfire, or harming the overall work—and certainly if what you're doing is contravening the Charter or going against the Word—then they will come in and do fire control. But that's not something that should cause you to fear or hold back. Of course, we expect that you'll be responsible and prayerful and wise as you light and nurture those fires. But it's not the end of the world if leadership has to get involved and give counsel.

57. Leadership's job is not to overprotect you. We won't be fire extinguishers; rather, we will encourage the lighting of fires that will attract others to Jesus and our message. Your regional leadership will also be supporting your fire-lighting initiatives, so that together you can effectively reach your part of the world.

58. Remember, we want fire, we need fire. Our Homes need to be on fire in their witnessing and winning. We need the power of the Spirit to burn brightly as we work to reach our goals in the Offensive. We need to do things differently from how we've been doing them. We need to adopt new methods and ways of professionally presenting our message and mission to the world, even if they are a bit different or not our present norm. We, as your leadership, are encouraging you to do so.

59. If we're afraid of fire, we will restrict the Holy Spirit. If we fear that the way the Lord leads is going to cause problems; if we have fixed ideas that we aren't open to changing about what

will or won't work in our Homes, or what is and isn't possible, fruitful, and acceptable; if we don't realize that the Spirit of God can move and work through anyone, then we will limit what God can do with the Family.

60. We must ask ourselves: When the Spirit lights flames of new ideas, new methods, and new fruit, will we be eager to nurture those flames? Will we add fuel so that they can continue to burn, to give light and warmth? Or will we be afraid or fearful? Will our attitude be that fire is dangerous, and thus we shy away from it? Will we be so afraid of wildfire that we have no fire at all? Or will we only let a little flame flicker because it's safer and easier to control?

61. We want you to light fires that will bring the lost to the warmth and light of God's love. Will you? We must each do our part to let the Lord's Spirit burn freely within the Family—in Family hearts, in Family Homes, in Family leadership. Burn free! Light your fires of witness and truth! That's one of the goals of the Offensive.

Be willing to take risks

62. There will be times when the Lord does something new or gives a radical new idea, maybe to you, or to your Home, or to your field or region, or through the Word to the Family as a whole. Your natural reaction might be to click into “safe mode”—to shy away from the idea or to be hesitant to seize the opportunity, because it's new and untried and seems risky. But maybe it will be a case where the Lord wants you or your Home to seize the day. Because if you wait too long, or if you make others wait too long while you try to be so perfectly “safe,” or you generate a whole slew of red-tape-type hoops that you have to jump through, or that others have to jump through, you might miss the opportunity or the open door of the Lord's highest will.

63. The Spirit doesn't wait forever; it's ever moving and changing. So if you don't flow with the way the Lord is guiding—and sometimes that means moving quickly—then you risk missing a golden opportunity that has the potential to catapult you forward in a significant way. This ties in with

the importance of being willing to take risks when that's what's called for. In other words, not just generally being willing to take risks—because some people have that quality in abundance—but actually taking them when needed. This is called taking calculated risks.

64. What is a calculated risk? It's a risk that you or your Home are taking after having considered the various pros and cons, and confirming with the Lord, and through counsel (including the balanced counsel of the Word and the Charter). For example, you might be taking a calculated risk by deciding to walk through a new open door of opportunity, or to embark on a project that requires long-term collaboration, or to try a new method in your witnessing and winning.

65. The process of deciding whether or not you will take a certain risk doesn't necessarily have to take a long time. Sometimes you'll need to go through those steps and make the decision within a short time frame. There's often a small margin of time when you can walk through an open door, and if you don't, then the door is shut and you've missed that golden opportunity. But no matter what, you can't afford to lean to your own understanding, and there's always time to ask the Lord for His guidance and counsel. It goes without saying that it's wise to consider the matter as thoroughly as possible before you proceed.

66. When I talk about taking risks, I'm not talking about abandoning wisdom and common sense and jumping willy-nilly into action on any idea or opportunity that comes to mind, just because "it seems risky so it's probably good." That's not going to bear good fruit. If that's your approach, you'll miss the mark more likely than not, and you won't have the "insurance" that comes through seeking wise counsel, obeying the Word and the Charter, and asking the Lord everything.

67. When it comes to taking risks, you've got to do your homework. You have to take time (even if you only have a short period of time) to pray, to objectively discuss the pros and cons, to counsel with others, to hear from the Lord. If you do that and the Lord gives you the green light,

then you should have the faith to take the plunge, and trust the Lord for the outcome. Mama and I do encourage you to—with wisdom, desperation, prayer, hearing from the Lord, and common sense (including counsel)—take calculated risks.

68. We want to preserve the good and what the Lord has instructed us to build, but we don't want to preserve the old for the sake of preservation alone. If this is our mindset, then we will wind up solidifying and dying. We will restrict the Spirit's ability to flow and move us to do the new and innovative—which is what it's going to take to realize success in our Offensive goals. We want to preserve the Revolution for Jesus, the Spirit of God, and to do that, we have to keep changing, growing, stretching, trying and doing new things; we have to keep trading our old wineskins for new ones.

69. During Prayer Drive 2007 we spent months praying for the new, asking the Lord to change us and to change the way we do things and to give us new open doors and new fruit. So we have to trust that when He answers and gives the new ideas, innovative direction, and even radical initiatives, we're actually meant to follow. And then we have to trust that He will bless us as we follow, and that it won't result in bad fruit and disaster, but rather in good fruit and success.

(Peter:) When we talk about doing the "new," we're not just talking about doing wild and crazy things for the sake of doing something wild and crazy. Whenever you say the words "radical" or "revolutionary" or "crazy," a lot of people think of solely wild and outrageous things. But when the Lord and we talk about doing the new or the radical or the revolutionary, our thinking is different. Simply put, being radical is doing whatever God asks you to do. That could be something very new and challenging, or something common and simple, or even something that seems "old hat" ("Liftoff," ML #3678:151, GN 1239).

70. In order to reach the goals of the Offensive, the Lord is asking us to take risks when needed, even though it will sometimes be uncomfortable for us and for others. It's a mindset change that Mama and I have to make too. It's difficult when you have to "roll the hard six"—that means to make a decision or to do something that's potentially high risk and high reward. But when the Lord shows us to do that, then we'll just have to trust the Lord for the outcome. We'll just have to trust the Lord. It's come to that. But that's our primary guarantee of everything in life, isn't it?—The "God factor."—That if we trust God and follow what He shows us, everything is going to be okay.

71. The Lord said, "...It behooves you to remain desperate with Me, to open wide the doors of your lives to the 'God factor,' and to have faith that as you obey, as you wage spiritual warfare, as you work in the spirit and in the flesh, I will do whatever miracles are necessary to bring the success that you seek" ("Liftoff," ML #3678:87, GN 1239).

72. Our trust in the Lord is going to be tested during the Offensive. Our faith in the Lord to catch us and lift us even higher than before, when we've stepped out on a limb and sawed it off, is going to be tested. Our willingness to take risks when needed, and to support and encourage others as they take risks too, is going to be tested. But the Offensive is the Lord's timing for these things to happen. In fact, taking those calculated risks is crucial to the success of the Offensive. It's a change, but the fact that things are changing in a good way should give us faith, because it shows us that the Lord is moving, that His Spirit is flowing.

73. This brings us back to one of the key differences between offensive and defensive warfare. Defensive war does need to be much more "safe." When you're trying to survive, or you're trying to regain a position of strength that you've lost, a lot more caution is in order.

74. That's the name of the game if you're in defensive war. You can't afford to make mistakes; you have to be extremely cautious about taking any risks, because you're already in a weaker position. You're on the defensive, and your enemy will be

looking for any weak area to exploit. In defensive war, that safe, cautious approach works and is often vital. It's a priority.

75. However, caution and preservation can't be your default modus operandi in offensive warfare. If it is, not only are you not really on the offensive, but you'll never win anything. You won't gain territory. We still need to exercise wisdom and prayerfulness and love; we need to be spirit-led and at the same time be as balanced as we can. But we also need to keep in mind that in offensive war, successful strategies include taking risks, stepping out of the norm, the element of surprise, ambushing your enemy, and seizing the moment.

76. We need to be ready to seize the opportunities the Lord brings our way, because when the Lord's Spirit is moving and flowing freely, open doors are plenteous. We can't let the doors the Lord opens for us or the buses of golden opportunity pass us by. As Dad taught us, it's not as though the Lord will never give a second chance, but as much as possible, we want His first best; we want to capitalize on the opportunities the Lord gives us right away.

77. We need to be wise, prayerful, and consider the various factors and options, but we also need to seize the day (and support others as they do the same). We can't wait for everything to be so perfect and risk-free that we move too slowly and end up missing the Lord's open doors.

78. Part of being in position to move with the Lord's free-flowing Spirit is in fact taking the time to plan ahead, to think proactively, to develop a strategy, and to be organized and professional in our methods and actions. The Lord's Spirit moves freely, yes, but it's not haphazard. The golden opportunity may seem to just drop into your laps unexpectedly, but you can be sure that the Lord planned and orchestrated it in advance.

79. As I said in "Fresh New Mindsets": "You're more likely to be attuned to the Lord and led by Him if you are acting in an organized way. If you're organized, you'll think ahead, you'll plan ahead, you'll schedule ahead—and that gives you time to hear from the Lord about those plans, and [to] make sure they're right" (ML #3682:150, GN

1243). Being spirit-led means letting the Spirit lead you to the right plan, and then following the Spirit as you enact the plan.

80. It's not as though the Lord's Spirit can't flow when you're having a meeting to strategize, or when you're taking time to think proactively and develop your goals and methodology. In fact, that's a great time for the Spirit to work and to speak to you as you open your minds and hearts to the Lord and ask Him for His counsel and ideas. You should actively seek out the direction of the Lord's Spirit in your times of planning. That's being a professional missionary.

81. What you do have to be careful about is not locking yourself so tightly into your plan—even if it's one that the Lord has confirmed—that you don't leave yourself open to changing if circumstances change and the Lord is trying to lead you to do something differently. You can't say, "Well, sorry, Lord, we have a plan already. This new open door doesn't fit in with our plan."

82. So it's not a case of either/or. We don't have to choose between letting the Lord's Spirit flow or being organized and professional. We need to do both. We need to be organized and on it and professional, and we need to let the Lord's Spirit flow and lead and guide us.

(Peter:) **We need to strike a better balance** between looking for open doors and "golden opportunities" to witness—and being more methodical and organized. We still need to follow the Lord and keep our eyes peeled for the Lord's setups. We need to be poised to take advantage of whatever the Lord brings our way. But we also need structure and organization if we're going to be effective in this day and age. That, combined with moving with the Lord's Spirit and His miracles, will bring us the results we're looking for ("Fresh New Mindsets," ML #3682:144, GN 1243). (For more on this topic, see paragraphs 143–154 of this Letter.)

Be flexible and open

83. Since one of the major keys to being effective during the Offensive is willingness to follow the Spirit, to do what the Lord wants you to do, no matter how different it is from what you're presently doing, it's absolutely vital that you are attached to the Spirit so that you're moving forward in whatever direction the Lord is moving in. You could liken it to being in a river—where the current is swiftest in the center and it moves more slowly at the edges. We need to be in the center of the current, flowing wherever it leads, no matter how fast it goes.

84. It's dangerous for us to seek the edges of the river, where things move more slowly. It's even more dangerous if we try to find a nice calm cove, where the current barely moves, and we settle down into it, because if we do, the flow of the river will just pass us by and we'll no longer be moving in the direction where the river is flowing. We have to diligently seek to find exactly where the Lord is moving, and then move along with Him.

85. There are many hindrances in our lives that fight against this, which we need to overcome: inflexibility, wrong mindsets, lethargy, liking things as they are, not wanting to upset the apple cart, being "comfortable," fear of the unknown, fear of making mistakes, fear of man and what others will think of you or your decisions, not wanting to take on more work, a lack of desire to change. I'm sure there are others as well.

86. These hindrances cause an unwillingness to move and to change, or even to get stirred up enough to receive the new. But without movement, as Dad said in "Old Bottles" (ML #242), we'll die. It's the movement and the changes caused by following the direction of the Spirit that keep us alive.

87. Dad was a tremendous example of this. Sure, he had his faults and he wasn't perfect—no one is. But one of his greatest qualities was his passion to follow the Lord wherever He led. In order to do this, Dad had to embrace change. He had to let go of old mindsets. He had to be flexible.

88. I believe, in fact, that ultimately the Lord was able to use Dad so greatly because early on in the beginning days of the Family, he showed the Lord that he was committed to going wherever the Lord led, no matter what the cost to him or to his ministry. There were numerous times when I saw Dad change the direction he was heading when the Lord showed him to do something new. We all saw that. Dad loved to follow the Spirit! And we should too.

89. We need to be new bottles. We can't afford to be like those old, inflexible, breakable wineskins that burst when New Wine is poured into them. We have to be changeable, flexible, and moldable. We have to let go of old mindsets. We need to have that same willingness that Dad did to follow wherever the Lord leads.

90. How much are you like that? Do you truly hunger and thirst after the Spirit? Do you encourage others in following the Spirit? Do you make room in your life and heart and Home for the Lord's Spirit to move freely? Are you flexible enough so that you can follow the Spirit wherever it flows?

91. We must be willing to regularly evaluate our "ranching" and bring it up to date by changing, or being open to changing, our mindsets and perspectives and actions when needed. Something that's very right or fruitful at one point in time or in one situation may be wide of the mark today or unfruitful in another situation. Something that seemed unfruitful years back may be exactly what the Lord has in mind for today.

92. A danger that comes with old mindsets is that you can have things so pigeonholed and boxed in that it's difficult for you to receive new, fresh things from God. Old mindsets can cause you to use carnal reasoning instead of being guided by the Lord's Spirit. They cause rigidity.

93. When we inflexibly hold on to our opinions and mindsets, the idea that, "This is the way it was. This is the way it is today, and this is how it's always going to be," we're making the wrong choice. If we're so sure that "this way" is right because it was right before, or that this or that

method or way of thinking is wrong or negative, because at a different time, in a different setting, it was negative, and we aren't willing to change, we put ourselves in the dangerous position of getting out of step with the Lord, boxing in the Spirit, and hindering the Lord's ability to do something new through us.

94. The Lord said in prophecy, "As soon as you settle down, or start thinking in a certain frame of mind or with a hard-and-fast mindset, you'll become old and locked down to the past." Rigid mindsets are dangerous because they bring about inflexibility; they hinder the flow of the Lord's Spirit. This is one of Mama's and my regular personal prayer requests: that we will stay flexible and open to the Lord's Spirit.

95. Here is some further information that the Lord gave us about mindsets, related to flexibility:

96. • When you have a mindset and you're convinced that you're right, and that that's definitely the way things are, and you're unwilling to consider other possibilities or change, that's a danger sign.

97. • You risk stepping off the cutting edge of the Spirit if you're inflexible and continue to hold on to your original thinking, when God is trying to effect change, even if the original thinking was previously correct.

98. • Your usefulness, your wise counsel, and your discernment fades and is less valuable to those around you if you have negative, inflexible mindsets.

99. • You should pray often for the Lord to guard your mind and your thoughts and attitudes, and to keep you flexible, yielded, and willing to change, so that you don't get rigidly stuck on information you've gathered, or conclusions you've come to, or the way things always have been.

100. • Being flexible in your mind and spirit is part of being a disciple.

101. • Change is God's domain, and your job is to flow and change with His changes. This means that there really isn't anything you should

get so dogmatic about, feeling that, “This could never change or should never change,” because that’s not your call to make. It’s God’s call.

102. The principle of flexibility can be summed up in three short words: All things change! We need to be flexible; we need to be open. We need to understand that the Lord may want to do something new, and when He does, then God help us not to get in the way.

103. It’s the danger of every religion or movement to solidify, to become established and settled down. Even those who started out as revolutionary, in time they became brittle old bottles because they stopped flowing with the Spirit of God. Without the flow of the Spirit, there’s no life.

104. We need to guard against hindering or—God forbid—cutting off the flow of the Spirit. While we’re trying to be more professional, more organized, and to use methodology and structure in our planning in order to build lasting, fruitful, solid, stable works, we most certainly don’t want to ever cool off in spirit. We don’t want to become rigid or inflexible, resistant to change or to following wherever the Lord is leading.

105. It’s vital that we all stay connected to the Holy Spirit, that we’re malleable in the Lord’s hands, that we’re changeable, and that we expect God to move—and when He does, that we are flexible enough to move with Him.

106. We need to cultivate spiritual flexibility by constantly tapping in to the power of the Lord. We need to have the white-hot Spirit of God in our lives. We need to have a passion and a hunger for it. We need a permanent connection with the current of God through the Word, and through receiving His Spirit and loving Him deeply and fully, by listening to His voice through prophecy, and by committing to follow the Spirit no matter where it leads, no matter how difficult, and no matter what the cost.

107. Let’s stay connected to the Spirit, shall we? Let’s follow the Spirit. Let’s be open. Let’s be flexible. Let’s be moldable, so that we can do the will of God.

Be dynamic in embracing and implementing change

108. With the Offensive, we’re all going to have to grow in willingness to change. We must be willing to change. We must be aggressive in enacting the changes that the Lord shows us to make, or that He engineers, no matter where they come from.

109. We need to expect change. We need to leave ourselves open to being surprised with new things by the Lord. We can’t get satisfied with the status quo, and we can’t expect things to remain the same.

110. If you expect everything to be the same as it always was, and people to be the same as they always were, then one of two things will happen: Either nothing will change, because you aren’t giving the Lord’s Spirit room to move or to grow; or you’ll miss seeing the changes the Lord is bringing across your path. You may actually be blocking the Lord from showing you something new, due to your lack of faith to accept something out of the ordinary.

111. One of the main things we need to pursue is the Lord’s Spirit flowing freely through the Family. None of us want to be a bottleneck that inhibits God’s Spirit from generating change, whether in our own life or in the lives of those we influence. We can’t limit others according to our faith, or rather according to our lack of faith—our fears and worries and trying to keep things comfortable.

112. If the Lord shows someone something, you have to see God in their idea and suggestion just as much as you do in the ideas that God gives you. The point is not, “What channel is God using?” But rather, “What does God want done? What is God telling us?”

113. So as much as you wholeheartedly jump into exploring and praying about your God-given ideas, you have to do the same with the ideas that God has given through others.

114. You can help to cultivate others’ channels for the new and different by believing that the Lord is going to use them to receive new

ideas that will result in change that results in growth and progress. Show yourself open to that.

115. It's a matter of faith. It's a matter of being adaptable in the spirit, not rigid; being willing to bend and to change in any direction the Lord leads. It's a matter of allowing the Lord to move you, and following wholeheartedly in the direction the Lord has shown us to go, even if the direction is one that you might not have personally chosen.

116. So leave yourself open to being surprised; leave yourself open to change. If you keep in mind that the Lord's in perfect control of everything, then even with things that are surprises to you, or changes that are somewhat radical for you, you can have faith and peace that the Lord has a plan for how to make them work out to fulfill His will.

117. We need to be dynamic in accepting change and implementing change. Some of the definitions for "dynamic" are: vigorous and purposeful; full of enthusiasm and a sense of purpose; able both to get things going and to get things done; active; characterized by vigorous activity and producing or undergoing change.

118. Let's be dynamic in embracing and implementing the change the Lord is bringing about. If God is behind the change, then we certainly don't want to try to stop it or to keep it under wraps or to slow it down. We want to be the first ones to try it, the first ones to say that it can be done.

119. Sir Winston Churchill said, "To improve is to change. To be perfect is to change often." Of course, we won't ever be perfect, but we do want to continually be improving, we want to excel, we want to be proficient. We want to be the best we can and give it our best shot. We want the Family's obedience to the Lord's will—and thus our success—to be complete, enabling us to accomplish our mission. Most importantly, we want to finish the job the Lord has given us to do here on Earth.

120. To do this, we must all be willing to change and to change often. We must be

adaptable. We must exhibit faith in others. We must believe in the Lord's ability to introduce the most potent, successful ideas and changes through anyone—someone in your Home, someone in another Home, someone in leadership, Mama and me, you—anyone!

121. The Lord is looking for open, willing, humble, full-of-faith vessels, and I believe that as we start stretching and flexing and limbering up in the spirit more, there's going to be a limitless cascade of good ideas and positive changes flowing through our ranks.

122. We must work to cultivate "an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, humanness is understood, communication is open, and preferences are flexible ... an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, where the frailties of the individual are overlooked while seeing the potential and the possibilities and coaxing those out. That's faith, real faith, great faith, patient faith" (ML #3642:146; GN 1214).

123. That faith and openness to change, to trust others as they step out by faith, to try new things, and to make those positive changes happen is part of what's going to bring much more happiness and freedom of the spirit into the fabric of the Family.

124. We all want that, so let's go for change with a passion, shall we?

Accept God's anointing, regardless of imperfections

125. We can sometimes tend to put a lot of emphasis on trying to perfect ourselves, or trying to perfect our Homes, or trying to project the perfect example. But perfection and being a perfect example doesn't guarantee fruitfulness. It doesn't guarantee the uninhibited movement of the Lord's Spirit in your life or in your Home. We must be obedient, but not by going on a works trip to get every jot and tittle just right. Perfection isn't what brings down the Spirit of God.

126. We have a high standard to live up to, but the Lord has never encouraged or required

perfection. We can't be perfect, so there's no point in trying. We can expect to make mistakes, because we're flawed and faulty individuals. We can expect others to make mistakes. We can't think that personal or Home perfection is a prerequisite for the Offensive to be successful. We have to do our part, but our part isn't to be perfect. That's God's job. He's the only One Who's perfect. The Lord isn't limited by anything or anyone. That's the beauty of His power and Spirit coming to life during this modern-day Pentecost.

127. We've worked hard to progress and to change and to get strengthened.—And we have gotten stronger! Overall the Family is stronger! That doesn't mean that every individual or every single Home is super strong, but for the most part Family members and Homes have gotten stronger. Regardless of where you stand on the "strength scale," the fact is that the Offensive is here, we're each where we're at, and the Lord expects us all to do the best we can to obey and progress in the direction He's showing.

128. It's not that there's nothing else for us to learn, or that we've arrived. Far from it. You might feel discouraged that you don't have this or that down better, or that you're weak in a particular area. But at this point in time, the way we're going to learn is by doing, by taking action.

129. We must have strong faith in the Lord's anointing, the power of His Spirit, and the fact that He will use us regardless of our problems, even though we're not perfect and never will be.

130. If you're thinking, "I don't know if the Lord can use me, because I'm not 100% up to par in this, that, or the other"; "I'm not sure how the Lord's Spirit can flow through our Home, because we don't have the 'perfect' winning team," that will hinder the Spirit of God from moving in your life and Home. You might not even be able to receive His checks or feel His nudging to do and try the new. A lack of faith in yourself and how the Lord can use you or your Home throws a bucket of cold water on the power of the Spirit.

131. The Lord says, "This is a work of the Spirit, so don't look at the flesh. Don't look at your heart. Don't analyze your feelings. Don't look at the wind and the waves of your circumstances and situations. Think only of My commands, and of My supporting and never-failing promises. Set out to do what I've given you to do, and the power will come—not from within you, but from above you" ("Pentecost 2008," ML #3683:40, GN 1244).

132. The Lord knows our frame and remembers that we're but dust, so He does look at us realistically. But He also sees our hearts, and He continually looks at us through the viewpoint of what we can become, what we're destined to be, the greatness we have inside because He lives in us, because we know that we're weak and nothing without Him, and therefore He can come through and be our everything.

133. We want to go by God's definition of "realistic," and often His definition of "realistic" is "potential." With God anything is possible, and He knows that no matter what has happened in the past, or what our current weaknesses or lacks, we can change and He can use us. We must learn to see ourselves and others through the eyes of faith, through the perspective of what we and they can become, what Jesus' power can transform us into, what God can be in us.

134. Even if you and your Home are not perfect—and whose Home is?—you can still be on-fire and going places, if you have the Spirit of God in your midst. The Spirit will fill in the gaps of the little problems and imperfections. If you're craving, desiring, and seeking after the Spirit, She will be present and active. You will be successful and fruitful. As Mama often says, "If the spirit is right, the work will be right." God doesn't need perfection from us to work His wonders.

135. Perfection is not what brings down the Spirit of God. God loves to use the most unlikely people, the most unlikely situations, to

show us what He can do. His Spirit is attracted to those opportunities, and loves to move and flow and work. It's never the person. It's not about how good or strong we as individuals or as a Home think we are. It's always God. It's His plan, His program, His power, and God often chooses to use the most imperfect vessels—including you and me—to showcase His power.

136. Let's make room for God to work by not looking at the condition of our vessels or the vessels of others, or at our Home and its imperfections, but by looking to Him alone to do it through us, and then launching out in obedience, putting our faith into action, holding Him to the promises of His Word.

Closing

137. In summary, here are some of the actions and attitudes that preserve the Spirit, and create a vacuum for the Spirit that allows Her free rein in your Homes and lives.

138. ▶ We need to be willing to let the fire of God's Spirit burn brightly in our witnessing and winning, in our lives and Homes. We need big, positive, warm, light-giving fires of Spirit power, so that the world will come out to see us burn. The goal of lighting fires is so that we can set the world afire for God with His message and truth. We must allow the Spirit room to move and work in order for the Offensive to be a success.

139. ▶ We need to have faith to take calculated risks when the Lord leads us to do so, since those risks will often be gateways to success. We need to allow the Spirit room to work, to guide us to do the new, even when such opportunities are somewhat risky.

140. ▶ We need to be new bottles—changeable, desirous of the new, and moldable. We need to be committed to following the Spirit wherever She leads, open to the Lord doing new things, and determined to remain flexible in spirit.

141. ▶ We need to pursue the Lord's Spirit flowing through the Family, expect change, and

be aggressive in enacting the changes the Lord engineers.

142. ▶ We need to accept that the Lord can use each of us, and each of our Homes, regardless of any imperfections. The Spirit can flow and move in any heart or situation if we are desirous of Her, if we're obedient, if we're putting our faith into action, looking at Jesus and not at our vessels, and standing on His promises.

143. As we look forward to the future, we're expecting change, and a lot of it. We anticipate that in the future, the Family will be profoundly different from what it is today—similar to how the Family of today is vastly different from the Family of 20 years ago. But, one thing has remained the same, and must remain the same in the future: We must have the essence and power of God's Spirit freely flowing within the Family. We must protect that at all costs.

144. No matter what changes we make in order to improve the Family and to enable us to do a better job of winning the world, we can't ever lose the Spirit. We must always follow the Lord and treasure what He brings to the table more than anything else in the world—His power, His anointing, His ability to do the miraculous, His direction and instruction.

145. That was Dad's strength, which he also embedded within the Family from the very beginning—his ability and willingness to receive the new, to do the new, to change things, and yet to stay in step with God so as to never lose the power, the life-blood that keeps the revolution of God's Spirit alive.

146. We want the new, we want the fire, we want change. The reason that we want this is because it's how the Lord's Spirit is moving today, and we'd be crazy to stand in the way of what He's trying to accomplish. The purpose of any changes that we make is to allow more room for the Spirit to go to work. The Spirit of God is always moving, always flowing, and we have to be ready to move and change with it. Amen? Praise the Lord!