

It's a Fight!

By Maria

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Hi, dear Family,

Peter and I love you dearly, and one of the things that we love the most about you is that you're fighters. You've fought long and hard, and you're here today, continuing to fight. We're proud of you!

2. The first months of the Offensive haven't been easy ones. I'd venture to say that nearly all of you have faced at least one thing that was huge, that sorely tested your faith, or that made you feel like quitting. Maybe you've battled with thoughts about leaving, when it had never even crossed your mind before, or you've grappled with doubts for the first time in your life—or maybe you've battled these things before, but never so often or so fiercely. Maybe you've been hit with severe discouragement or depression, or have had to fight battles of disunity. Maybe you've become weary with the sacrifices and challenges of communal living, and this has weighed on you. Or perhaps you've faced some other serious problem or difficulty in your life or in the life of someone you love—such as health problems, or marriage difficulties, maybe battles for finances, or legal issues, or accidents, to name a few.

3. I'm not just picking these examples out of a hat. These are things that you've written about and expressed. These are real battles that many of you have been fighting. As we've heard of the difficulties and challenges, Peter and I have

supported you in prayer, and we've claimed the keys of fortitude and endurance on your behalf. But you know what? We're not surprised. We're not shocked. We expected that the Enemy would be attacking on all kinds of fronts, because he's angry that we've launched the Offensive, that we're on the attack. Did you expect anything less? With this aggressive campaign against the Enemy, as we move forward in a way we never have before, did you think that he'd just let us march ahead completely unhindered?

4. The Offensive isn't just a small change or a new little push. Before we launched the Offensive, the Lord told us in prophecy: "The Offensive will be the biggest thing to happen in Family history to date. The Offensive is going to catapult the Family onto the world stage of the Endtime. The scale of the Offensive and the vision I've given you of what it will entail and accomplish should tell you that the Enemy isn't going to take the Offensive lying down. He's going to fight, and he's going to fight hard and dirty."

5. We're working to make big mindset and lifestyle changes. We're adopting a more focused and targeted vision in our witness and winning, with the goal of being more effective and successful than ever in fulfilling the Great Commission, making the change from winning souls to winning souls and soul winners. The Offensive is a big deal, as far as what's ahead and the fruit that the Lord has promised. The Enemy isn't just going to let us walk right over him or take away his territory without lifting a finger to try to stop us. He's playing for keeps, because we are.

6. If the Enemy wasn't attacking so fiercely, I'd kind of wonder if we were on the right track, if we were getting it right. If the Enemy wasn't attacking, I'd wonder if we were really being a threat to him. So I think it's clear from his reaction that what we're doing by going

on the offensive is affecting him pretty severely, because he's retaliating with some mean and low blows. That shouldn't surprise us, though. It should encourage us, because it's a sure sign that we're doing the job, that we're making the Devil very uncomfortable with our efforts, to say the least.

7. As the Lord said in “Offensive Briefing #1”: “**The Offensive has been nothing but bad news for the Enemy so far.** He's already being defeated in significant ways, due to your obedience, your perseverance, and your faith. ... I can see how mad the Enemy is. He's one unhappy devil. ... Just knowing how unhappy he is should make you very glad, because it means that you're on the right track, you're taking the appropriate steps, and you're making progress. The Enemy knows that it's only a matter of time before the flocks will abound and the fruit will flourish” (ML #3706:28–29, GN 1255).

8. Of course the Devil is mad. Wouldn't you be mad if you were the Devil? I sure would be. So we have to realize that these battles and difficulties that we're facing in our lives are directly related to the Enemy's displeasure with our being on the offensive. It's precisely because we're on the attack and moving forward and gaining territory that we're feeling the attacks more strongly. It's not because we're failing, or you're failing, or your Home is failing, or the Offensive plan isn't working, or the Lord's promises aren't going to be fulfilled. It's because we are succeeding and the Offensive plan is working.

9. Granted, we're just taking the first steps; we haven't arrived. Everything isn't “working” or “succeeding” so perfectly just yet, because we're at the very onset of the Offensive, and we're still in the “getting started” stage. You have to keep that in mind when you look at your progress or at your tangible “successes.” You are implementing the plan the Lord has given, and it's working, and will continue to work.

10. These attacks are the Enemy's defense mechanism. He's afraid of us. The Devil is not

winning. It's a battle, to be sure, but it's not even a close battle. We have the advantage, because we have God on our side. We just have to keep fighting!

11. As the Lord has said: “It's a classic propaganda maneuver for [the Devil] to be saying, ‘I'm winning, I'm winning! I've won; you've lost. My forces are getting stronger all the time and you're getting weaker’—when the reality is that there are very few of him left. He's won very little and lost a whole lot, and the little of him that's left is just hiding out with a real big megaphone, trying to bluff his way into a better position” (ML #3532:40, GN 1123).

12. The victories coming are going to be so great, far surpassing the victories that we've already won! We have incredible things to look forward to, but they're not going to come without a fight—not just a fight for the Family as a whole, but personal battles for each of you, too. The Enemy will try to get at you in whatever ways he can. Of course he wants to take out disciple winners and world changers. You're one of his targets! He fights the hardest when he knows he's going to lose the biggest. He wants to cheat us out of our victory.

13. So don't be discouraged by the battles or feel bad about them. Realize that it's the Enemy. You're not the problem. The situation isn't the problem. If you're going through battles of some kind, you need to understand that the Enemy is fighting you because he's trying to hurt the Offensive and hurt the Family in any way he can. You can also know that if the Enemy does attack you, the Lord has a good reason for allowing it and will use it to strengthen you and enrich your life and spirit—if you'll just continue to hold on. You're about to win great victories, and the Enemy can't overcome you, much less defeat you.

14. Maybe you think you should quit, because you don't have enough faith. Well, I'll bet you have a whole lot more faith than you think you do. Remember the Lord's opinion

about faith. He says: "Faith is not something felt. Most people who have strong faith don't feel like they do. So not feeling as if you have faith doesn't mean your faith is shaky. You don't go by your feelings. You go by the facts. You are not strong because you feel strong. You are strong because you obey, because you fight, because you overcome, because you are willing to keep moving forward for Me" (ML #3532:57, GN 1123).

15. You can't fight your battles with a little wooden bat, politely asking the Devil to "be defeated" and vacate the battlefield. You've got to take full authority in the spirit as the powerful spiritual warrior you are, the one who has the upper hand, who is on the offensive. You are the far superior fighting force. As the Lord said, you need to, "Get tough on the Enemy! Be strong in the spirit like you have the potential to be. ... Deal with the fact that there are going to be battles and there are going to be rough spots. But when you visualize that victory and can almost taste the sweetness of triumph, you're not going to mind. You're going to push your way through as many enemies as dare step in your path" (ML #3532:50, GN 1123).

16. We're not just any old fighters. We are experts, Offensive fighters, those who are a real threat to the Enemy! Remember, as Jesus has told us, you're "a dangerous man or woman of God who fights and 'kills' Satan's [spiritual] minions wherever you find them! You're a hardcore threat to Satan's realm, you're on his most-wanted list, and he's offering big rewards for your spiritual capture, dead or alive. There's no way you're just a weak, sick sheep that's easy prey, or why would he expend so much effort time and again to bring you down? You're tough, you're mighty in the spirit, because you have [Me], and because you've yielded and you've given and you've done your best to fight time and again" (ML #3532:41, GN 1123).

17. We're all in this together, and we need to support each other in prayer and support each other in spirit. Whatever or whomever the

Enemy is targeting and trying to weaken or defeat, we need to rally around to support—especially in the spirit. We need to work together to defeat the Enemy. We need to fight not only for ourselves, but for each other—through prayer, through honesty, through calling on the keys, through summoning our spirit helpers, through using the spiritual weapons, through loving and caring for each other. That's how you're going to be able to stay ahead of the Enemy, by being vigilant and faithful in spirit first of all, as well as by asking for prayer, listening to the Lord, and following through on the counsel He gives.

18. Because the Enemy is so desperate, we need to remain on guard. We need to monitor our spiritual lives and ask others to help us in this as well. If you see your brother or sister starting to slide or to battle in something, pray about lovingly mentioning something to them, and ask them to do the same for you. If you're struggling, be honest about it, share your heart with your shepherds, ask for prayer. We can all make a commitment to fight the good fight of faith more than ever, and proactively pray for each other.

19. It's war and the Enemy will fight dirty, but we can fight dirty back! As the Lord said, "If the Enemy comes at you with a baseball bat, meet him with a machine gun! If he comes with a sword or fiery dart, show up with a tank! If he comes with a gun, drop a firebomb on his head! Blast him, crush him, defy him, resist him, burn him, and give him no place! ... You have these powerful weapons available to you, it makes sense to use them" (ML #3402:98, Post-it GN #4).

20. So don't be discouraged or condemned by the attacks. Discouragement and condemnation are attacks of the Enemy too, so we can't give place to them. Just remember the Lord's promises to us—that He not only never gives us more than we're able to bear, but that victory is guaranteed, no matter what, if we yield to Him and keep fighting.

21. As the Lord said, "To gain any victory, to fight through any battle, or to win any kind

of war, you have to really want and desire the end result. You have to picture that result in your mind, and hold it out in front of you like a goal that you're shooting for" (ML #3532:17, GN 1123). That's good news for us in this battle, because we certainly know what we're fighting for, and we all really want and desire the end result—the Gospel being preached in all the world so that the Lord can return. We can hold that glorious result in front of us and let it spur us on in the fight. Yes, the Enemy is hitting us hard, but we've just got to hit him back harder.

22. About these intense attacks of the Enemy during the first months of the Offensive, the Lord said:

23. (Jesus:) Of course the Enemy is fighting, and he's fighting mean and dirty. Did you expect anything less? This is what you signed up for. This is what being on the offensive is all about. The Enemy fighting and fighting hard is a sure sign that you've got the upper hand in the spirit. He's desperately trying anything he can to hinder, delay, or stop the Offensive.

24. His attacks should make you so glad, so happy, so encouraged, because they're the surest proof that you're on the right track, that your close proximity is making him very uncomfortable, and that he is scrambling. Don't worry about his attacks. Worry if you're not being attacked. Don't fear the problems and the challenges. Fear the absence of the problems and the challenges. If everything was smooth sailing, that would be peacetime—but you're at war, and war means battles.

25. Don't let the Enemy convince you that it's you—that you're the problem, that your Home is the problem, or that maybe you're not cut out for the job, or that the attacks of the Enemy are My judgments on you or a sign of My displeasure. The Enemy loves to do that to My brides. First he'll attack you, and then on top of it, he'll blame you or make you feel condemned or make you feel like quitting.

26. My loves, don't let the attacks, the problems, or the battles cause you to quit.

Don't even consider such things. You are in a better position to win now than you've ever been. The problems are there, yes. The battles are real. But it's all part of the plan. I am in control. My promises are sure, no matter what the circumstances are like, no matter how you feel, no matter how many problems you see.

27. I'm in control of the Family. I'm in control of the Offensive. There will be problems. There will be failures. There will be setbacks. There will be battles and trials. But there will also be solutions, successes, and victories. The problems result in answers. The failures result in lessons learned and beauty from the ashes. The battles pave the way for My miracles and victories. It's all part of the process.

28. Let the problems and battles and challenges always remind you that I'm at the helm, that I'm the One directing and leading and guiding you during the Offensive. When things seem overwhelming, when there's more to do than you can ever do in the natural, when the problems and situations seem so complex and hard to figure out, much less fix, use it as an opportunity to lean on Me and to work in the spirit.

29. Faith isn't obedience and perseverance when there are no problems or obstacles. Faith is fighting on in s spite of all of the problems, obstacles and battles. Faith looks to Me regardless of how many difficulties there are. Faith keeps following, no matter what the circumstances indicate. Faith knows that My promises will be fulfilled no matter what. The more roadblocks there are in the way of progress during the Offensive, and the more battles and tests, the more I will thrill to helping you overcome them.

30. (Mama:) The Lord also reminded us about the importance of using the weapon of praise against the Enemy during this time, especially when problems or battles come our way. He said:

31. (Jesus:) Be zealous wielders of the weapon of praise. This is the weapon of choice

when you're facing major difficulties and dealing with some of the problems and battles that are coming about during the Offensive. The weapon of praise will keep you on My wavelength, seeing things through My eyes, and will give you the faith to keep trusting in My great plan and believing in My great promises.

32. The weapon of praise is created for combat, so make it your most used weapon at this time. Praise Me, praise Me, praise Me! Don't ever stop praising Me. Praise must be employed consistently while you're on the battlefield. It's both your protection and your weapon. It will keep you focused on the victory, and will shield you from succumbing to the Enemy's propaganda of defeat.

33. Keep praising no matter what happens, no matter what obstacles arise, no matter what problems or battles crop up. Remember that you are the overcomer, the victor. The Enemy may appear to have the upper hand at certain times and in certain situations, but I'm always more powerful and My promises are unbreakable. The more problems and challenges there are, the more clearly you will see Me work. The harder the Enemy fights, the harder I will fight back.

34. I'm the winner of this war. That's already been determined, and nothing can change that. The Enemy may be enjoying a few little temporary wins here and there, but that's all the satisfaction he'll get. I'm the ultimate winner, and you'll be winners right beside Me. He'll try to scare you and rattle you, but that's about the extent of his power. So keep laughing in his face and telling him that he doesn't stand a chance, because that's the truth. He won't win the battle for the souls of men, no matter how hard he tries.

35. (Mama:) I'm going to repeat our Husband's words to you, damned Devil: "You won't win the battle for the souls of men, no matter how hard you try!" You also won't win your battle against the Family. We aren't intimidated by you, nor are we shocked. You're not attacking us, we're attacking you! You're

the one on the defensive! You're the one who is losing territory and influence!

36. We have the advantage! We have the upper hand! Our spiritual weapons are impressive and undefeatable, and you don't have anything to match their power! We will fight you with passion and fervor. We will not rest! We won't give up or let up! We are going to give you hell! There's absolutely nothing for you to look forward to, other than defeat.

37. Now I'm going to pray for you, my dear Family. Peter and I pray for you every day, of course, but I'm going to pray for you here, so that you can partake of it. I am going to plead before our Husband's throne for your strength, and your faith, and your fortitude, and that your faith won't fail (Luke 22:32).

38. (Prayer:) My darling Husband, I pray for these, Your dear brides, who are battling so intensely. I come before You with a desperate heart, and I beg You to give them strength, to pour Your power within them, so that they'll be able to fight on and desire to keep fighting. We need them, Jesus! The Family needs them. Your cause of winning the world needs them. Help them not to give up! Help them to hold on a little longer, to give You a chance, to wait for the victories that are going to come.

39. Some of them are so sad, Jesus, and that makes me sad too. That's one big reason I beg You to help them to hold on, because I know that if they don't, ultimately they'll feel so much more sad—if they give up when You had such wonderful things in store for them. Maybe some of them don't know how they can hold on for much longer, but maybe if they could make an agreement with You that they'll hang on for a little longer, if You'll give them the strength—in order to give the Offensive a chance, to give Your wonderful promises a chance to be fulfilled.

40. These great tests that they're going through right now, during the launch of the Offensive, are actually a fulfillment of

something that You said in prophecy. You said, and I quote, “In order to receive great honor, you must pass through great tests. And you, the children of David, are destined to receive the greatest honor ever bestowed on anyone. You will be My shining lights in the deepest darkness. You will endure to the End and receive the crown of life. You will live the fulfillment of the prophecies given throughout time.

41. “You will be My men and women of faith who will do exploits. You will help the Gospel to be preached in every nation, and before kings and governors, before hungry crowds and before raging mobs. You will bring many to Me, and your witness will be greater than any who have gone before you. Because of this, My loves, you must face great tests ... I must humble you and teach you what it means to be fully dependent on Me. The truth has not changed that I can only use broken men and women” (ML #3532:67–68, GN 1123).

42. Jesus, what You have promised that the Offensive will bring in the years to come is certainly a great honor. So it stands to reason that You would need to continue to allow things in our lives that enable us to prove ourselves worthy of this great honor. Thank You for continuing to teach us humility, dependence on You, greater faith, and for helping us to have the willingness to fight on through anything. With so much responsibility and such a great honor come such great tests.

43. Please help those who are passing through these tests. Help their faith not to fail. Shield them and protect them. Endow them with perseverance, and faith, and determination. I claim the key of determination for each of our precious loved ones. You said, “This key will be instrumental in fighting the Enemy, and overcoming, and being successful. This key enables you to fight on when you don’t feel like it. It keeps you from giving up and surrendering to defeat. This key of determination gives you the strength to persevere—to continue fighting till you see victory” (ML #3532:83, GN 1123).

44. I rebuke Pan, Apotheon, and any of the other demons who are fighting Your children and their faith at this time, and who through their attacks are fighting against the Offensive and Your will being enacted on Earth. I activate the Eleria to guard each Family member’s personal flame of the revolution, and Arcothon to use his power in full, and Lucerne to flood them with Your light and truth. Send the Wildcats to clear the battlefield, and make short work of the Enemy, and empower the Victory Squadron to fully engage the Enemy on their behalf.

45. These dear ones need that strength to persevere, dear Love. They need that power You promised that will enable them to fight even when they don’t feel like it. Many of them don’t feel like fighting right now. Many were expecting the Offensive to hold less battles, not more, and now they’re wondering how long they can hold out, or what’s wrong with them, because they’re being attacked so fiercely. So I claim Your power, which You have promised will keep them from surrendering to despair.

46. Help each one to feel You right beside them now, Jesus. Help them to feel Your presence strongly right now as they hear this prayer. I want You to do something, Jesus! I want You to show and prove Your power. They’re showing and proving their love for You by holding on, by not giving up. Now please come through for them and do something special and wonderful in each of their lives. Help them to feel Your care, and Your love, and Your peace.

47. I don’t ask for the battles to go away. **I know that’s not possible.** Battles and tests are part of our lives for You—even in the Offensive. But I do pray for an immediate increase in strength, and faith, and power for each person, so that they’ll be able to fight on and hold on. They need the faith that You gained, dear Husband, when You were facing some of Your biggest battles and tests—when Satan was tempting You with the world, and when You were in the Garden of Gethsemane before Your death. You know what it’s like to battle and to be sorely

tempted; please give these precious ones who are battling whatever will help them to hold on and stay the course, just as You were given what You needed in order to fulfill Your mission.

48. I beg You, I plead with You, my dear Husband, to “withhold not good from them to whom it is due when it is in the power of Your hand to give it” (Pro.3:27). These, Your precious Family, need You now more than ever. Show Your strength, Jesus! Show Your power! Please be to each one exactly what they need. I ask all of this of You as the queen of Your children. If I have found favor in Your sight, my Husband, please fulfill this request from my heart to Yours. And I know You will, dear Love. You never fail in all of Your good promises. Hallelujah! We have the victory!

49. I'd like to close with reading some of “The Fighter’s Creed of the Children of David.” It’s very applicable to us at this time, and expresses our fighting stance so well:

We are soldiers. We are conquerors. To fight in our Lord’s wars is our calling. This is our destiny: to set back, to defeat, to conquer, and to completely rout our adversary.

We are aggressors. We are attackers. We are overcomers. This is our calling and our commission.

We are an uncompromising threat to Satan’s realm.

We are an aggressive, invading force, conquering the Enemy’s territory.

We are tough and mighty in spirit because we have a tough and mighty God. We are strong in Him and in the power of His might.

We will take the initiative and get the upper hand.

We will fight this war to the best of our ability. We will give it all we’ve got. We will fight with heart, mind, body, and soul. We will win the war.

We will learn to enjoy stamping out the Enemy and rescuing ourselves, our brethren, and the lost from his clutches!

We will take over the world for our King and Husband and Commander in Chief! This is our goal and this is our focus. This is what we vow to live and breathe and fight for every day.

We will scare the Enemy back to Hell, because we are channels of the full power of God through our use of the undefeatable and invincible weapons of the spirit that He has entrusted to our hands.

Our attitude toward the Devil will be one of a seasoned veteran fighter who is not shocked or surprised or overwhelmed by the Enemy’s tactics, a fighter who has been through the worst and has won, and who knows that with the power of the spiritual weapons, any attack will end in defeat for our adversary!

We resolve to use all of our firepower and to put down his forces completely.

We will wallop him, assault him, bombard him, combat him, blast him, confuse him, and finally obliterate him.

We will take active steps to grow in wielding our weapons of love and unity, which are some of the prime weapons that will help us to win disciples of all nations and to win the world for Jesus.

We will take up the undefeatable weapon of praise and use it in every situation, no matter how we feel.

We will brandish our weapon of prophecy, and through it, have foreknowledge of the Enemy’s attacks, and thereby chart the course to victory.

We will skillfully use the weapon of loving our Husband intimately, until we are known as His intimate brides who are victorious in every battle!

We will wield the weapon of humility, even at the times we least feel like it.

We will diligently use the weapon of focusing on the power, and will put down all attempts by our adversary to distract and confuse us.

We will charge with the weapon of the keys, knowing that their power is unequaled and victory is guaranteed.

We will rely on the weapon of prayer, exercising and stretching our faith in this area as we claim the miracles promised to us.

We will rely on full possession by our Husband, for though we are weak, He is strong in us.

We will depend on the weapon of working with our spirit helpers, and through them be all that our Husband needs us to be.

We will unleash the weapon of the Word on our adversary, and not rest until he is defeated.

We will lead the way and be the attackers, the aggressors, the conquerors!

We will persevere, endure, and triumph!

(From "The Art of War, Part 1," GN 1123.)

Encouragement in Battles #1

Victory Vitamins

By Maria

AM 3721 9/08

1. It's wonderful when you come to Me for My help in time of trial. It's so beautiful to see you depend on Me. It makes Me want to come through for you like never before because you are leaning so fully on Me. This is just where I want you to be—totally dependent on Me for strength, focus, and inspiration for your tasks. Keep looking to Me and I will keep working through you all the more, to make your way clear and the path ahead beautiful and glorious.

2. When an attitude of defeat overtakes you and you're thinking, "That's it! I've fallen so many times, I've failed the Lord again and again—there's no more hope for me. I've used up all my chances, even my bonus points. I might as well quit!"—please remember that no matter how many times you fall, if you want to get back up, I will personally help you to keep going. And if you believe that when you get back up, you can be stronger, then I will make you stronger. What it comes down to is how much you believe in

My Word and how much credence you put in the things I have told you. There is no such thing as running out of chances, because I am your chance! Hope and faith are on your side for as long as I live—and that's for eternity.

3. Everything in life that is worth something costs something; but not only that, it usually takes a lot longer to accomplish something than you had planned or thought it would. You usually face unexpected delays, losses, and setbacks. Sometimes people get sick, or don't keep their word, or there are emergencies that take your time, attention, and finances. It's easy to become frustrated with the lack of progress, and you might even be tempted to quit altogether.

When that happens, the key is to remember how far you've come—not to be miserable about how far you still have to go. When you take on a big job, of course it's going to take time, lots of time, probably more time than you planned for or expected. In such a case, be like the farmer who has a thousand hectares to plant. He just gets started. He doesn't lament that he's not finished at the end of the first day. He knew full well he wouldn't be finished, so to be disappointed that he's not would be unrealistic and silly. Instead, at the end of each day he feasts his eyes on the part of the field that has been worked, prepared, and planted. And each day that portion of the field grows and grows. That's where his inspiration comes from, by remembering and encouraging himself in how far he's come—not by lamenting over how far he's still got to go. Measure by the progress made, the victories won, and how far you've come. Look at where you started, and celebrate the distance covered already.

4. Have you ever wondered why life has so many battles and why you have to fight them? It's because that is the purpose of life: to grow, to change, and to move forward! It's the battles that keep you from becoming a prisoner to lethargy and complacency. It's when you stop moving and growing that you die spiritually.

5. Battles are often won at the very last second, through one final decision to not give up or give in regardless of what happens! Just like you have to hold on in a race until the last lap, and then give it all you've got as you're coming down the last stretch, so it is with a battle. When you feel like you can't hold on for one more second, that's when you must give it all you've got and praise Me with your whole heart as you sock it to the Enemy—and you will win! I guarantee it.

6. When you look at yourself and all you can see is a big mess that couldn't possibly become a great Offensive warrior, let Me be your mirror. Come and stand before Me and I'll show you the reality of who you are. It's not that you are anything great in yourself—it's just that you're not seeing Me in you. When you add Me to the picture, suddenly you become that all-powerful, miracle-working, key-wielding, Devil-defying world changer who can meet any challenge that you are faced with. We're one, and I'm a part of you every step of the way. If you start to forget, just run back to Me, your mirror, and have another look at reality.

7. The trials of life will never be able to overtake you; they will never be too much to bear, because I have put a built-in mechanism in your soul, an escape button. I always give a way of escape, I always give a way out, and I always help you to overcome life's difficulties through faith in Me, My words, and the keys.

8. Cast your cares upon Me and let Me handle them all. I'm your 24-hour support line. I'm available and right there at the other end of the line, just waiting for your call and ready to assist you. I always have the solutions, too! Furthermore, I never put you on hold. I'm always right there and available to give you the answers you need. You can fully rely on Me.

9. Your hopes seem shattered right now and all seems lost. I am here to hold you in My arms, to wipe away your tears, to look lovingly into your

tender eyes and to tell you that all will be well in due time. I want you to think back on extremely difficult times in the past and remember that I have always brought you through to an even better place, and I will do the same this time as well. That better place is just around the corner. Come with Me now, My love, and we will find it. Don't give up the fight, and together we will win the victory!

10. I'm so proud of you for facing these tests so bravely. You have the heart and spirit of a true revolutionary disciple—one who is willing to change, and willing to follow wherever I lead, no matter what the cost! That will help you to ride through these rough times. Your yieldedness, your willingness, and your decision to not give in to the Enemy will help to bring you through this battle—tougher, stronger, and more resolute in your convictions. I'm so proud of you.

11. My dearest one, come lie with Me and rest a while. You're tired and spent from your battles; you need rest and reprieve. Come lie down and let Me cradle you in My arms; let Me take you to a place where all is peace and quiet. Let Me renew your spirit as you rest, so that when you go again to face the Enemy, you will be strengthened and fully empowered with My weapons.

12. Remember, it is never My will for you to feel down and discouraged. No matter what the Enemy tells you, you do have control over your emotions and feelings through the power of the keys! The way things are is not the way you have to feel, for you can rise above! You can rise above feelings of discouragement even if the circumstances say you should be discouraged. You are their master; you have control over your feelings, because you have Me and My power!

13. My love, it hurts Me to see you struggle so; it pains Me to see you go through these things. But it's a joy to My heart when I see you come through victoriously, praising Me in spite of the problems. These trials are tailor-made from My hand to make

you into what I need and want you to be, trials for which you will later be glad. I could change what you're going through, but that wouldn't be in your best interest. I can and will make it easier to bear, though, as you come to Me and let My love, power, and grace flow into you, giving you the strength to continue on. I love you.

14. Patience. You need patience for many things in this life, and one very important thing that you need patience for is for resting in Me. Yes, it takes patience to allow yourself to rest fully in Me. It takes patience to let your worries and fears go, to place them in My hands, and then to let Me handle them fully in My time and in My way. I don't always give you the solutions instantly, so have patience. I don't always heal you the instant that you ask, so have patience. I don't always pour down My full blessing from Heaven the very first time you ask, so have patience. Your patience in Me is a sign of your faith that you know I am in control. So have patience, and in the end you will see results greater than you ever even imagined.

15. Sometimes things go haywire and just don't work out, and there's not much you can do about it. When that happens, it's natural to get very discouraged. When you have worked so hard, put so much into a project or person, and then things don't turn out as you had hoped, it's hard to feel motivated to keep trying, keep pressing ahead, and not feel like giving up.

In times like that, you just need to slow down, relax, and let Me put things into perspective for you. Rest in the comfy chair of My arms, and soak your feet in the warm water of My promises. Just stop, lay your head back, close your eyes, and make a conscious effort to release all the cares, pressure, stress and tension.

As you rest in Me, placing your time, schedule, deadlines, and foiled plans in My hands, I'll take care of everything that concerns you. As you are motionless, doing nothing in your own strength, I'll gently work out the tension and stress, infuse

you with renewed energy, and whisper to you words of guidance, insight, and revelation that will show you the next step to take.

16. My love, though this time is difficult, and though the pain you feel weighs on your spirit, I can ease the pain and make it more bearable as you call on Me and claim My keys of relief. The keys can override the pain so that you don't feel it anymore. They can give you such strength of focus that you forget the pain, and you see and feel only My love and comfort. My presence is with you and will see you through.

17. Imagine walking through a large jewelry store and marveling at the many delicate-looking and exquisitely jeweled pieces before you. Within each glass case is displayed a dazzling array of precious stones and metals, designed, cut, and set to perfection.—Rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and more. You name it, this store has it all.

In your hand you hold several of what to you look like dirty old coins. Your eyes then widen as the clerk opens a glass case and selects a very beautiful, very costly necklace that you've been admiring. He boxes it, puts it in your hand with a smile, and tells you that it's yours in exchange for one of these dirty little coins. What's more, he tells you to come back again tomorrow and he'll trade another treasure for one of these coins.

Too good to be true?

My love, that "dazzling array of precious stones" that you see before you are the priceless life lessons and experience that those seemingly dirty and almost repulsive coins—the many battles, tests, and trials you are facing right now—are able to purchase. I am that clerk and owner of this storehouse of wealth, and I want to enrich your life. I want to shower you with the jewels of My Spirit! I want your coffers and safes bursting and barely able to contain the spiritual wealth and life experience that I have for you. But this is how you get them: through these trying times of trials, affliction, and hardships. These are the currency that buy the jewels that beautify your life.

Encouragement in Battles #2

Victory Vitamins

By Maria

AM 3722 9/08

1. The Enemy can't touch you or walk all over you if you don't want him to and if you don't let him. You will only find yourself on the path of discouragement if you make the choice to take that turn. You don't just accidentally fall into a pit of discouragement. You end up in a pit of discouragement because you make the decision to either willingly be pushed into one, or you are lured into one by stopping to lick your wounds or lend self-pity an ear.

You have to consciously decide that you will not listen to the Enemy's voice, and neither will you become your own worst enemy by feeling sorry for yourself. Don't give the Enemy a chance to make you stumble and fall. Make the choice to close your ears to doubts and discouragement by quoting My promises, speaking faith, praising Me, and reaching out to help someone else who needs My encouragement. By making this right choice, you will stay on the healthy path of My happiness and encouragement.

2. When you're going through a trying time, whip out the weapon of praise. Set the Devil back through your praises to Me in word and song, thanking Me for how I'm going to work everything out, for how I'm going to defeat the Enemy and send him packing! He won't hang around to hear your whole praise, believe Me! He can't stand it and will turn tail and run, leaving the field to you and Me. You are always a victor in every battle through praise!

3. I know it's tough, My love. I understand the deep pain and disappointment you feel. I was tested in all points like you. I understand the depths of despair when you are in this carnal frame and can only see the moment in time you

are in. I understand, and I promise to help you through. Just call My Name and I will be there, right beside you, helping you and holding you up. So don't worry; just lean on Me and My strength, and I will see you through. Things will get better!

4. I greatly reward you for each battle you fight, for each time you keep going in spite of the struggle. I will reward you for not giving up in spite of the difficulties and the opposition. My rewards will be worth every fight, every battle, and the taste of victory will be all the sweeter to you, if you just hold on. In looking back you'll be so thankful that you didn't give up, and you will enjoy My wonderful rewards that I keep for My seasoned, veteran soldiers.

5. Your battles and times of deep trial and difficulty are the propulsion that thrust you even higher into the skyways of My Spirit, that give you the opportunity to see life from a more heavenly perspective, and that ensure that miles and miles of progress will be made in just a fraction of the time that it otherwise would have taken. And, of course, you can have the added joy of knowing that in just a little while you'll be happily arriving at your new destination—your victorious future!

6. Heaven is perfect, peaceful, and completely loving. Yet, even in Heaven you will have new experiences, challenges, and things to learn and grow in. The only difference is, in Heaven your perspective and attitude toward the challenges will change, and you will see all that I bring into your life as positive and good. This is how I want you to see your battles on Earth—as welcome challenges—and thus partake of the heavenly peace and happiness that those here have.

Every time you're hit with a battle, instead of thinking, "Oh, how horrible!" I want you to think, "Wow! I'm a child of God! I'm an enemy of Satan and I'm destroying his kingdom!" You should look forward to Heaven where all will be

at peace and life will be happy, but I also want to give you this same peace here and now. I want to give you victory and freedom in the midst of adversity. This is the peace that can be yours if you will but claim it!

7. When it came time for Me to start My earthly ministry, do you think I felt ready or like I could do it? I was the Son of God, the most powerful being in the universe other than My Father, and now I had to set all that aside for a time to become a lowly human. I could do nothing in the flesh—in My Own strength, that is. There were times when I was clumsy, I sometimes felt at a loss for words, and I had to look to My Father for the answers. When I looked at all that needed to be done, I felt so small and so incapable of fulfilling the task when I only looked at My human flesh.

I was the same as you are—nothing but a vessel, a tool that waited to be picked up by the Master. I felt in every way human. I was not born with any special powers or abilities, looks, or talents. I was pretty much your average Joe without the anointing of My Father. It was through yielding to My Father and His power, through saying yes and doing what He showed Me to do, that I was empowered. You too can experience this same surge in power, this same full possession. This power will enable you to do what I did and more! All you have to do is believe it and you will receive it.

8. Picture the Grand Canyon. Its many levels, from stark cliffs to lush inner sanctums, tell a story. The waters that created this seeming wound in the landscape also bring forth its most beautiful and abundant life deep within.

The same majesty and beauty is formed in your soul as the sometimes raging currents of battles, failures, tears, and suffering create what at first glance may seem to be deep scars on your heart or life. I allow those waters of troubles to flow through your life to create a refuge where My most precious and treasured gifts can grow like rare flowers.

As you look beyond the surface into the depths of a heart reshaped by troubles that were carried to Me, you'll find that hidden within those canyons are the most beautiful of blossoms. Soul blossoms are brilliant, and breathtaking in color and fragrance. They are a source of inspiration and comfort to the heart that bears them, and to the spirits of others who venture there in search of comfort, solace, and the waters of My love to slake their thirst. Everything there carries a distinctiveness that says: Jesus has been here.

9. Have you ever been tempted to wonder why, if I'm right here with you, comforting you, that you still feel the sadness and the pain? Think about a mother with her young child who has fallen down and gotten hurt. Think about how the mother holds, comforts, and nurtures her little one. Initially, it doesn't seem to help. The child is still hurting and crying, but in a few moments the pain is forgotten, as the child is comforted through the mother's love and tenderness. It's the same with you and Me. When you are hurting, I hold you through the pain, and it won't be long before My love will have soothed it all away, and you will be happy and able to smile again.

10. There is gold to be found, even in these dark caves which threaten to snuff out your little light. That's My promise to you, My love, when you find yourself in one such cave of life. I go before you and I never allow you to pass through a cave that will not return to you that which perisheth not—the treasures and gold of the spirit. So when you feel like you're in a deep, dark cave, the key is to seek after that gold, never doubting that it is there somewhere, just waiting for you.

11. I won't give up on you! You may feel like utter scum and that there's no way I can make something beautiful of your life now with all your faults and failings—but I can! I haven't changed My mind about being your Husband and using you in My service. I don't care how dirty you get or how far down you go; I will always lift you out of any

pit, clean you up, and give you another chance. But you've got to believe in My love and desire for you; you've got to accept that I believe in you and want to use you.

12. If doubts, discouragement, and despair are clouding your mind; if all you hear when you stop to listen is how you have failed and how bad you are, then speak My words out loud. Select some quotes that are faith-building and filled with encouragement and read them out loud. Challenge the Enemy to a Word duel. The Enemy only has so many lines of discouragement up his sleeve. When you realize that he is only repeating the same old lies over and over, and that My words are true and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, you will see clearly who the winner is! Not only that; if the Devil sees that you won't give up on quoting My Word back at him, he will turn tail and run. There is nothing like My Word to shut the Devil up!

13. Keep your eyes off your mistakes. Don't even think about them. Consider them casualties of war, casualties of the battles you're fighting. Keep your mind on what I'm doing and how I'm using your mistakes. Keep your mind on what you're learning. Picture yourself free from the chains of condemnation and regret. Dwell on the positive, not the negative. This is a lesson that is often very difficult for My brides to learn. It's so easy for you to fall into condemnation, because often you set too high a standard for yourselves.

But what I want you to realize is that all I want you to be is little old you, just as you are, with your weaknesses and faults, raising your hands in praise, looking to Me, and determined to receive the victory. So just accept that you have weaknesses and that you will make mistakes, and then do your best to obey Me and love Me and love others. As you do, I will use you and create within you something beautiful, and you will fulfill the destiny that I have set before you!

14. When was the last time you tried threading a needle? You probably licked the end of the

thread and held the needle up close, squinting, straining your eyes as you carefully and repeatedly tried to maneuver the thread through. Sometimes it threads easier than at other times, but almost always there are those moments of difficulty and frustration, right up until you finally get it through. Now why would you bother threading that needle in the first place? Because there's a purpose and a plan. You need to create something or mend something.

Remember this the next time you feel like your trials are threading you through the eye of a needle and you're experiencing pressure, frustration, and anguish. There is a plan and a purpose—My plan—and that is to create something glorious with your life: a tapestry that is going to wow the world with its deep colors, intricate detail, and beauty, the kind that can only be created through the trying of one's faith. It's those difficult and hard-earned lessons that make the tapestry of your life stand miles apart from all the rest, because so few are willing to endure and persevere through the trial in order to create that life of beauty and substance.

Admiration!

By Maria

FD/MM/FM 3727 10/08

1. Hi, all of you wonderful loves and co-workers and friends and comrades in arms—you who are all those beautiful things all rolled up into one. Wow, you're certainly worth praying for! And I was sitting here in my chair doing just that, and thinking about the victories that are being won around the world, as well as the cost of those victories. We're all paying a big price right now, because souls being saved, disciples being won, and the truth being spread throughout the world doesn't come cheap.

2. Thinking about all that you're going through as you fight to fulfill our Love's commission broke my heart for you. The tears I cried were tears of admiration and appreciation

for the sacrifices you're making. They weren't tears of regret. My heart was filled with praise to the Lord for strengthening you and keeping you through the tests, and praise to Him that Peter and I have such wonderful co-workers and fellow laborers to count as friends and mates. As much as this life of love costs us—me, Peter, you, any of us—we know it's worth it; we're happy to pay the price and we don't have any regrets. But my heart goes out to you because I know how fierce the struggle is at times.

3. Our Husband has given such wonderful promises about our future, and He's given us a clear plan for how to get there. Those promises give us strength. No matter how much sacrifice, hard work, or how many hard-fought battles it takes to see those promises fulfilled, it'll be more than worth giving everything we've got. I love that dedication to go the distance that I see in you.

4. We have a monumental job in these Last Days, but like the men and women of God who have gone before you, you keep going, even when you're feeling down or weary or overwhelmed. When I think of you and how beautiful your love is, how strong your faith is, how you pray such powerful prayers, I'm moved with thankfulness to the Lord for blessing Peter and me with such wonderful co-workers and friends. You make us proud to be in the Family and a part of this wonderful work for the Lord. It's you—your love, your faithfulness, and your sacrifice—that make the Family what it is.

5. I was thinking about how your love for our Husband has kept you, each one of you, and preserved your service, regardless of what the Enemy has tried to throw at you. I was reflecting on all the times that you've each engaged in fierce hand-to-hand combat with him, and used the Word to resist his lies. And then there have been all those times that you've used your undefeatable weapon of praise no matter how you felt. And all the times you've held on, even when you felt you had no strength left. And all the times you've chosen to trust the Lord, even when the test was incredibly great and you couldn't see it doing any good whatsoever.

6. I thought of all the times that you experienced loss—sometimes very great loss—but chose to put it in our Husband's hands and carry on for Him, knowing that He was going to care for that which is most precious to you, and that one day there will be no more pain or sorrow. There were all the times that you were wounded in battle and refused to surrender, and then humbly let the Lord tend to your wounds and restore your strength. I know there were so many times you couldn't make heads or tails of what was happening, but you chose to just close your eyes and rest your head on our Heavenly Father's chest, knowing that He would care for you and would work everything out in the end.

7. You've given so much for Jesus. You've each gone through those scenarios, some of you more times than you can count. You have trusted Him through so much. You've endured and held on and let Him strengthen you. Through the tests, and through the times you've felt stretched, your spirit has grown and matured and become even more beautiful. You may not see it, but others recognize that depth and maturity. It's Jesus' spirit of giving and kindness and unconditional love that they see in you, and it's rubbed off on you during those times when you've had to cry out to Him for the strength to make it through. All those times when you felt you had no more to give, but you asked Him to help you to keep giving anyway—those are the times that have made your spirit so beautiful, so strong, and so humble.

8. I know the tests are intense. Sometimes when the battles are really raging you can feel like you don't even know which way is up. It's probably happened to you at some point: You're hanging on and enduring for a while, but all of a sudden something happens that throws you for a loop and you wonder, "Wow, do I really have what it takes?" It can make you question yourself or your faith on some pretty fundamental levels.

9. The Enemy is wily like that. He loves to make things seem so confusing and messed up that you really wonder what's going on. But during times when you feel confused or shaken, you have to hang

on to what you know the true realities are—which generally have nothing whatsoever to do with your emotions or how you feel about the situation. You have to remember that no matter what things look like, no matter how great the problems, no matter how confusing the questions, or how hopeless the circumstances, all of that will pass, but Jesus and His love and His truth and His plan for your life will still be intact.

10. You have to retreat into what you know is truth, what our Husband has told you—what He's told us as a Family. His perspective is reassuring and it's comforting and it's challenging, and it's worth hanging on to. It will endure. It will stand the tests of time. It will still be there, unchanged, when the storm is over.

11. With the mission that we're engaged in, we can count on the Enemy continuing to fight, and fight even harder; that's something we know. But we have to mentally and spiritually and emotionally prepare ourselves for it, so it won't surprise or destabilize us. The Enemy hates you. He hates the victories you're helping to win. He hates the results that are changing the world. And he knows that despite his best efforts, he'll never be able to stop the flood of truth and love and light that you're helping to bring into the world. So he's going to play dirty, and when he pulls out his worst tricks you can sometimes feel pretty overwhelmed. But, as the Lord recently reminded us, while the Enemy will try to fool your mind, and while he can try all sorts of attempts to confuse you, and upset you, and bother you, and irritate you, and discourage you, in reality, you can win over him absolutely any time you choose to. If you fight, you're destined to win, and he's bound to lose. (See "It's a Fight," ML #3718.)

12. A key in almost any battle the Enemy brings against you is simply remembering the true reality of the situation. So often the circumstances, your emotions, your feelings, your outlook or what you perceive, will be the complete opposite of what the Lord tells you about those situations. And that's where faith comes in. That's why faith is the victory. Faith is believing what the

Lord says rather than what you see, hear, feel, or experience with your physical senses.

13. When you're really getting slugged around in battle, faith is often what's lacking. So when you feel like that, call a timeout on trying to figure things out, and instead, strengthen your faith. Adjust your outlook to be in line with what the Lord and His Word say rather than what you're feeling. Find a promise that fits your situation, and hold on to it with everything you have in you.

14. Holding on to the Lord's reality rather than the "reality" of your feelings or circumstances makes all the difference in the world. It doesn't usually dissolve the battle, but it makes it easier to bear. It ensures that you'll make it through the battle. After all, faith is your shield.

15. You're a fighter! You're a winner! You're the kind that doesn't quit! You're one of those who were foretold 2,000 years ago, who will come out of great tribulation with your robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev.7:14).

16. The battles are difficult; I know, because I experience them too. And I just have to mentally "schedule" them into my daily life, and I just expect them and I'm ready to battle through them to the victory that I know is always there. So I don't have to get upset, and I don't have to get worried or fearful. It's just one of those things in our lives, because of who we are and what we're doing. We're not fighting for ourselves, nor for petty earthly reasons, but for eternal ones. The Enemy uses earthly circumstances to make you feel beleaguered or weary or discouraged, and it can be a pretty effective tactic, because we do have to deal with this earthly reality, and it's sometimes difficult and draining. But the reason we're fighting, and the cause we're fighting for, is so much greater than all the earthly circumstances that surround us.

17. We're fighting for the eternal souls of men. We're fighting to spread the truth far and wide so that as many as possible will not fall for Satan's kingdom on Earth. We're fighting to have the Gospel preached in all the world so that our Lover and Husband can return and set up His Kingdom. We're

fighting today so that tomorrow His righteousness will cover the Earth “as the waters cover the sea,” so that one day there will be “no more sorrow or pain” (Hab.2:14; Rev.21:4).

18. Everything that the Enemy tries to use against us is insignificant in the big picture, and he knows it! They seem so big and bad at the moment, but in reality they’re here today and gone tomorrow. You know it too, and that’s why you hang on day after day, and choose to lift your eyes above the problems, above the rough patches, above the sins and mistakes and difficulties and human frailties—your own and those of others—and keep working to show Jesus and His love to the world. You know that He’s worth fighting for! He’s worth living for.

19. Well, dear loves, I just wanted to let you know that Peter and I love you and admire you, and that you’re always in our thoughts and on our minds. In everything we do, we’re praying for the Lord to supply what you need, to strengthen your faith, to uphold you and protect you. Peter and I are so desperate with Him to give us the answers that we’re responsible to pass on to you, and we’re so comforted when we remember all that He’s already given us to bring us through these battles and to keep our faith strong. He truly is so good to us. And though we all have to do a lot of giving and stretching and taking things by faith each day, I really believe that in the end we’ll say with conviction, “I never made a sacrifice.”

20. Thank you for all you give for Jesus every day. Thank you for bearing His babies, raising His children, and going into the “uttermost parts of the Earth” to bring His lost children His love and truth. Thank you for caring so unselfishly for all the flocks He’s entrusted to your care, despite the pull of your personal needs or desires. Thank you for pressing on through the battles and keeping the true reality before your eyes.

21. I can hardly wait for the day when all the earthly battles are won, we’re together forever in Heaven, and the moment comes for you to receive your heavenly reward. I want to be there for that moment, because I know it will be spectacular! It’s

going to be beautiful, awe-inspiring, emotional, and life-changing. It truly will be worth it all.

Peter and I love you so very much, and you can count on our daily prayers,

We’re yours forever.

To My Soldier With Love

By Maria

FD/MM/FM 3729 10/08

1. (Vision:) I see Jesus in battle gear, walking into an army tent. It’s nighttime. There’s a soldier sitting on a cot. The soldier has been in battle and is a bit scruffy looking and dirty. The soldier has been crying, and looks up when he hears Jesus entering.

2. Jesus has a look of deep concern on His face. He strides up to the cot and immediately drops to His knees. He begins to speak, His voice choked with emotion. (*End of vision.*)

3. (Jesus:) My dearest soldier, My beloved friend, My comrade in arms, the joy of My heart—I have been thinking about you every second of every day. Not a moment has gone by since the war started that you haven’t been on My mind. Not only have you been in My thoughts, but you have been in My line of vision. And you have always, always been within arm’s reach. In fact, even when you felt the farthest from Me, I could never have been closer to you.

4. I’m here now, My friend, to remind you that I have been there with you through every battle, every ambush, every daring attack, every defense, and every offense. I was there when your plans went awry. I was there when the Enemy was routed due to your bravery and persistence. I gave you the grace to face each fight and endure it. I was there when you suffered hefty blows, and I helped you to get up again after every blow. I was there when you received the deep wounds, and it was My hands that sustained you as your wounds healed.

5. You cannot feel Me, touch Me, or see Me, but just like the air that you breathe, I have been

the most constant element in your life, your most loyal companion in every conflict. Even when you stepped out of the tent in the middle of the night to face a foe, a personal battle, I walked with you.

6. I have ridden into every battle with you.

I was your right arm, your shield, your helmet, and your weapon of war. You could not have been separated from Me even if you tried. I'm your general, yes, but I'm also your big brother and your inseparable friend. I love you so very, very deeply.

7. I had to come to you now to remind you, before the morning dawns, that I love you. I saw that weary look in your eyes, and I couldn't wait a moment longer. I couldn't let you pass through this night without being reminded that this battle will not last forever. You won't be living on the battlefield forever. Your time on Earth is but a second in comparison to eternity—and in the eternal future, you will be living in victory.

8. To help remind you of the victory and of your brilliant future, I wanted to bring you something special. This, My love, is the flag of victory. Open it with Me; I want you to see the brilliance of what this flag signifies. On this flag is embroidered every single victory that you will personally win. Right now you're experiencing the battles, but this flag shows you the picture of victory that all of these battles will bring. This flag is made of heavenly materials, threads of gold and silver inlaid with precious stones—rubies, diamonds, sapphires, onyx, opal and emeralds.

9. I have created this flag for you, My dear friend. I wove it with My Own hands. As I went over the blueprint of your life, I made careful note of each battle and difficulty you would face and of the desired fruit and victories that those tough times would bring. Then, with the vision of those victories in mind, I created this tapestry. I sang as I worked, and My songs of your victories and conquests became a part of this victor's flag. My songs of victory are those gold and silver threads that you see throughout the design of this flag.

10. Here, let Me wrap this flag of victory around your shoulders. It is not only to remind

you that victories will be won through the battles, but to prove to you that you have victory. I want to repeat that: You have victory. This does not mean you will have the victory, but that you do have the victory.

11. I want you to know without a doubt that you have victory. You already have victory in anything and everything because you have Me, the King of Victory, the essence of victory, the soul of victory. I am giving you this flag in the spirit as a reminder that indeed the victory is yours. It's been written in the books of Heaven. I declared it before you were born. This flag, which exists for you here in My Kingdom, declares your victory, states your conquests, and shouts out to the armies of Satan: "I have victory! I hold victory! I breathe victory! I obtain victory!"

12. I wanted to show you this flag, My valiant soldier, because I want you to visualize it and remind yourself of the victory that you have been assured of in Me. Remind yourself of it when your faith flickers low and the battles rage ferociously. Wave this flag of victory in Satan's face when he threatens to overwhelm you with his evil hordes. When My songs of victory are ringing in your mind and heart, Satan cannot stand, let alone fight, against that victorious sound; he must fall on his knees and declare defeat.

13. You cannot be defeated, My soldier. Oh, I know how oppressive these recent battles have been. Your shoulders are so heavy, your knees are weak, and your heart is weary. But I am in you and with you, and it is written that you will overcome. It is promised. You have but to remember it and claim those promises. I want the knowledge of this flag of victory that is around your shoulders and that I created especially for you to strengthen your feeble knees, enlighten your darkness, enrich your heart, and renew your strength.

14. This flag is a symbol of My promise—that I am with you in every fight. As you picture this flag flying high as you head into battle, or clutching it to your chest when you climb those craggy cliffs, or wrapping it around your shoulders when you need warmth and comfort, I will be

singing you songs of victory, and songs of My faith in you—a faith that was uttered before you were even created.

15. You can stand under this flag when you feel you need a boost of staying power, when you feel you need surcease from the battle. Just say, “Jesus, You have given me the flag of victory—now prove to me in some way how this victory is assured, how it will come about, and what I can expect to see when it happens.” I will show you the victories to come. All you have to do is ask. Every single victory is portrayed in your flag; all you have to do is picture yourself unfurling it, and there you will see that every battle will eventually be won. There is a victory for you in every situation—I have not missed a single experience.

16. My love, I am so happy and excited to be able to share with you this reminder of victory! You look outstanding wrapped in such victorious, brilliant material. You look majestic and heavenly! Your face looks brighter already! You’re smiling now, and look, some of those bruises are healing miraculously.

17. Yes, victory fills you with strength. This is how you can keep the victor’s outlook. This is how you can stay focused on the light. This is how you can keep pressing forward even in the midst of the darkest battle and fiercest carnage—by holding on to My promise of victory, and knowing, absolutely knowing, that your victory is assured, that you have victory.

18. Say it out loud, right now: “I have victory!” Say it again! “I have victory!” What do you have victory over? Think of that battle you’re facing, or those many different battles you’re facing, and with each one say to Me: “I have victory!” Yes, you do! You have victory over each of those battles. I have made you victorious!

19. Now, My love, will you pass the night in faith? Picture yourself resting comfortably with the flag of victory surrounding you. You don’t ever have to let your victory be taken from you. As long as you hold on to it in faith, carry

it high in faith, and use it in faith, it can never be lost to you.

You hold the victor’s flag, and thus you shall not fail.

You hear the victor’s song, so let your faith be strong!

Raise your voice, lift your eyes, step forth with heart of praise!

The battlefield is yours to conquer, so let your flag be raised!

20. And, no, I’m not going anywhere. I’m going to pass the night with you, just as I always have before, and just as I always will. As the King of Victory, My rightful place is here with you, My soldier of victory.

21. I am your victory, and with My arms around you, there is no way you can be defeated. I am the victory that overcame the world, and with this victory in your heart, you too will overcome the world.

22. I love you, My dearest, and I plan to tend to your every ache, pain and bruise tonight. I plan to make you a new creature by the morrow. I plan to wash you clean of everything of this past year that has hurt or stained you. I plan to restore health unto you and to heal you of your wounds.

23. Lie still tonight and be content to dream. There is nothing that you have to do to enable this healing and restoration to take place. You just have to rest with Me and I’ll stay up the whole night long, massaging, healing, restoring, cleansing, and renewing you. I love you. Let Me give you rest. Listen to the songs entwined in the victor’s flag, and be prepared to awaken to a new day of restoration and renewal.

24. I love you, My soldier, My friend, My companion, and My fellow victor! You mean all the world to Me. You were the greatest victory that I ever won, and I promise to be your greatest victory forever!

With all My love, all My Spirit, all My heart, all My longing,

Your King of Victory, Jesus

Jewels from HIM #2

Posts compiled from “History In the Making”
(Mama Online)

By Maria

FD/MM/FM 3758

Comp.1/09

♦♦♦

Boeing 747

9/08

Here's an interesting little excerpt from a book called *Built to Last*:

In 1965, Boeing made one of the boldest moves in business history: the decision to go forward with the 747 jumbo jet, a decision that nearly killed the company. At the decisive board of directors meeting, Boeing chairman William Allen responded to the comment by a board member that “if the [747] program isn’t panning out, we can always back out.”

“Back out?” stiffened Allen. “If the Boeing Company says we will build this airplane, we will build it even if it takes the resources of the entire company!”

Indeed, as it had with the P-26, B-17, 707, and 727, Boeing became irreversibly committed to the 747—financially, psychologically, publicly. During the 747 development, a Boeing visitor commented, “You know, Mr. Allen, [Boeing has] a lot riding on that plane. What would you do if the first airplane crashed on takeoff?” After a long pause, Allen replied, “I’d rather talk about something pleasant—like a nuclear war.”

This little, somewhat humorous, anecdote reminded me of the Offensive and how it's like our “Boeing 747.” We’re putting everything we’ve got into it, we’re banking on it, and we know that the Lord is going to come through for us.

We are “irreversibly committed” to it, and there’s no way we will “back out.” If the Lord

has said that we will succeed in the Offensive, then we will, no matter what it costs us. And just like the 747s got off the ground—and not only got off the ground, but made the difference between Boeing being average and being the top company in the business—so will we!

♦♦♦

Do I Love the Fight?

9/08

I realize that there are some of you who don't feel inspired by the concept of battles and fighting, or who don't feel that you'll ever have “battle lust”—a passion for the fight, or a love affair with spiritual war.

Well, I don't think that I could say that I love the actual fight itself either. I do love the victory. I'm after the end result. So in that way I do love the fight, because you can't get the end result without the battle. I just don't have those emotional “loving it” feelings.

Maybe it's a little bit like love for the lost. The Lord has said that we don't have to have the feelings, we just have to obey—that our love for the lost is manifested in our obedience and willingness to sacrifice in order to give them the Lord's love. So perhaps that's similar to fighting battles. We don't have to feel emotional about it in order to love the fight; we just have to be obedient and willing to fight and win the battles.

I went back and researched what the Lord and Dad said in “Art of War, Part 6” about learning to love the fight. Dad's answer was pretty clear. He said: “Even though the fight is not pleasant in itself at times, it's knowing you're fighting for the Lord, for goals worth attaining, and the love of the victory that enables you to love the fight. ... Basically, loving the fight is based on loving to win—loving to overcome, loving to triumph.” (ML #3590:5-8, GN 1173.)

Also, here are some practical tips that I gleaned from that “Art of War” GN on learning to love the fight:

- Ask the Lord for the gift of loving the fight.
- Learn how to love the fight through a spirit helper who loves the fight and can impart it to you.
- Focus on that feeling of love of victory while you're in the thick of the fight.
- Fight an aggressive warfare, not a defensive one.
- Enjoy winning.
- Go out of your way to pick fights with the Devil, by charging into his territory because you know you can defeat him.
- Realize that if you fight, there is no question that you will win.
- Realize that if you give your all, you can outsmart the Enemy.
- Don't allow condemnation in your life, because that keeps you from enjoying the battle.

We have to look at things through the eyes of the spirit. We have to think about the fact that there are demons in the spirit world, and we do actually want to hurt them—slash them, burn them, send them to Hell. So if we think about what we're doing in the spirit when we fight battles, I suppose in that way we do actually love to do it—no matter how we feel in the physical.

Anyway, I just wanted to encourage you, if you're a more “peaceful type,” like me, and if you don't feel naturally battle-inclined: The Lord can make us fearsome fighters in the spirit too.

Here are two key promises that I like a lot and that I am claiming for myself, and maybe you'll want to claim them too:

“No one in their right mind enjoys the suffering, the exhaustion, the wounds of battle, but through the power of the key of conquerors you can love seeing evil defeated, sin crushed, hatred obliterated, and My Spirit ruling more and more over all, as you persevere in your tasks for Me.”

The next one is: “Loving the battle doesn't mean drawing pleasure from pain or enjoying the suffering. It means loving the thrill of knowing you can change any situation if you fight on and refuse to quit. The key of the big picture carried close to your heart in times of great struggle will bring you that joy, even in the midst of the suffering of the moment.”

♦♦♦

Free-Skate

9/08

Someone recently wrote me: “Many times I feel that I just need to be alone with the Lord without a lot of pressure to do this and do that, and feverishly receiving prophecies. It's like the ice-skaters who have to perform certain tricks or requirements in order to be considered top-notch skaters, but once in a while they have to be able to free-skate—like we have to have that free expression of love and faith and prayer in our relationship with the Lord. [My husband] is continually encouraging me that our relationship with the Lord has to be fluid and flexible and has to capture the spirit of closeness, the free expression of intimacy, and really what's at the heart of it. ... All the new weapons are to help us with this, but they have to be wielded in the spirit or it becomes a works trip.”

That's an important key, dear Family: Finding pleasure in fulfilling the spiritual requirements, and learning how to enjoy the Lord and the things of the spirit and wielding the new weapons. Your Word time and times with the Lord can't always feel like work. You do have to “study” the Word, of course. But you also need to regularly have times with the Lord that are personally rewarding, interesting, relaxing, and provide something you can look forward to.

I hope that each of you is able to find that time to enjoy Jesus and the things of the spirit. It's part of having the joy of the Lord and resting in Him.