

BLADE

ISSUE
8



What's the Big Deal?

You may look at some of the older folks' reactions when they read the New Wine and wonder what they get out of it that's so special. You might even ask yourself, "What's the big deal? Why are they so excited about it? Do they really feel like that, or are they just acting that way because they think they're supposed to? I read the same thing they did, but I didn't feel a thing!"

A lot of it has to do with experience. Older people have been through a lot more than you have, and have come up against many more tests and problems in their lives. They've had to make a lot of decisions too, and have sometimes made the wrong ones. They're thankful to know that I still love them, and am continuing to pour out the answers they know they need. They're also very grateful to know that the answers will now be there for *you*, their children's generation, when the time comes that you're faced with those same problems and decisions in your lives, and that God willing, you won't have to learn the hard way, as they did in many instances.

I don't necessarily expect you to always be as excited by reading the Word as your parents and many of the older generation are. But I ask you to read My Words

and store them in your heart whether you're excited by them or not, because you *need* them—both for now and for what you'll be facing in the future. The more you realize how much you need them, the more excited by them you'll be.



GETTING IN SHAPE

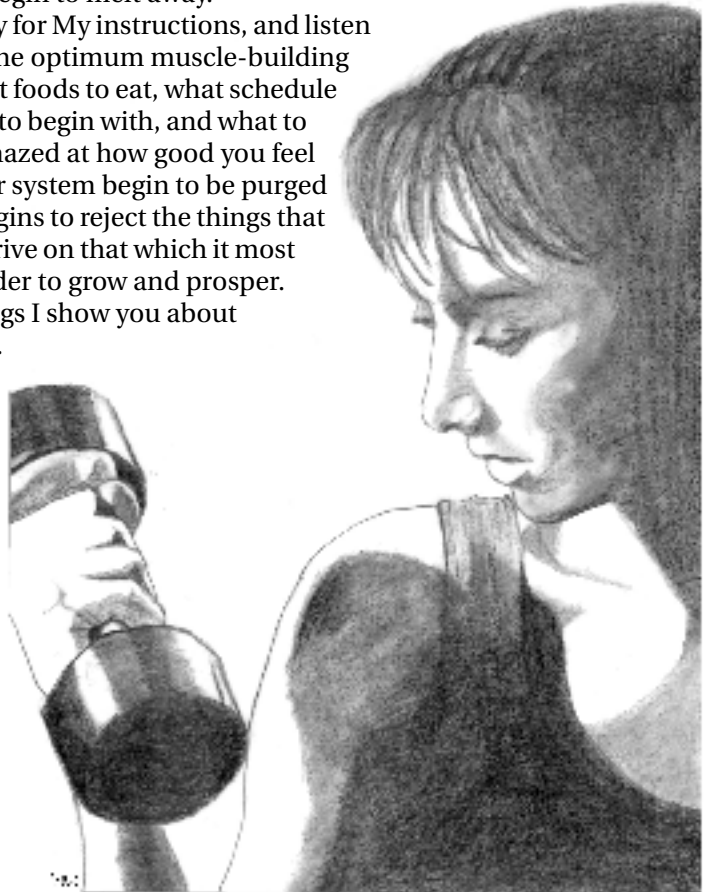
It's very easy to get out of shape and lose the edge when you don't keep up with your training. Some people think that they'll have plenty of time to train later, and that right now they just want to take things easy. But like I've told you before, whether you're in shape or not, the big games are coming—the Endtime Olympics! *These* are the days of preparation and training!

If you're going to make it to the Olympics, you're going to need Me, your Coach and Trainer. You'll have to make sure that you keep up with your personalized exercise plan and training program, or you won't last very long. Make sure to stay in shape by following My instructions and doing the things I ask you to do, and keep your spirit flexible and agile by stretching your faith daily. If you're faithful with these, you'll find that your spiritual muscles will soon start to grow, and your spiritual flab will begin to melt away.

Come to Me each day for My instructions, and listen carefully. I'll show you the optimum muscle-building plan for your spirit: what foods to eat, what schedule to follow, what routines to begin with, and what to build up to. You'll be amazed at how good you feel as the impurities in your system begin to be purged away, and your spirit begins to reject the things that weigh it down and to thrive on that which it most desperately needs in order to grow and prosper.

Stay open to the things I show you about your spiritual condition.

When I point out some of your weaknesses, I'm not picking on you. I want to help you. If you're willing and ready to make the commitment to get serious about your training, then I'll be right there with you to help you. It'll be tough going at times, but if you put your heart into it, I promise we'll have a lot of fun doing it.



Light Up the World

I've given you a lot to be happy about, but that doesn't mean that you're necessarily going to *feel* happy all the time. Still, regardless of how you feel, there's already so much darkness and sadness in the world, won't you please let your light shine for Me by wearing a smile on your face?

Why is it so hard for you to smile sometimes? Is it because you think it's hypocritical to look happy and act happy when you don't necessarily feel that way? Do you think that you're not really being honest unless you let your "true feelings" hang out? Have you gotten the idea from worldly models and advertisements that to look cool or sexy you've got to look a little hard and indifferent? Is it a little bit of all of the above?

When My children smile, it's very powerful in the spirit. It's a declaration of faith to all who see it. It's like waving a flag or lifting a banner. When you smile, you're fighting and praising; you're showing the Enemy who's boss. You're creating a channel through which I can pour down My blessings on you and through you. It's a witness of trust and confidence in Me—without you even having to say a word. A smile lights up the world that's so full of darkness. It has creative energy, and it's



contagious.

Needless to say, if a smile is that powerful and can do so much good, a gloomy face can be just as powerful in the wrong way. A long face or an empty, sullen look is destructive. It not only causes you to be more dumpy and discouraged yourself, but it brings others down, as well.

You may not always *feel* like smiling, but if you decide that you're going to wear a smile no matter *how* you feel, I guarantee that you'll begin to feel better almost immediately—and so will those around you.

PLOW, PLANT, WATER AND REAP

(Dad:) Farming is a lot of hard work—there are no two ways about it. Tending the farmland of your life is hard work too, and takes a lot of faith and patience before the fruit can be borne and the harvest can be reaped. It's a lot more than you could ever do on your own, but if you're faithful to ask the Farmer to help you, and you let Him work the land as He knows best, He'll do whatever's necessary to make your farm prosper.

It's almost guaranteed that the Enemy will often try to get in and spoil your crop with his pesky varmints and weeds, but if you yield to the Farmer's care and oversight, He'll raise a standard against them and stop them in their tracks before any serious damage can be done.

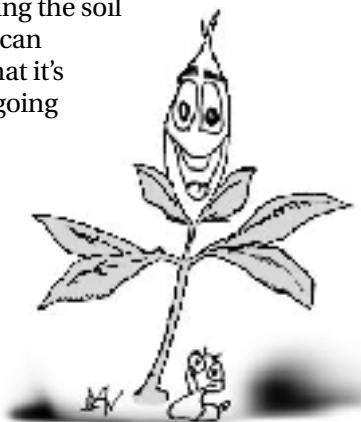


to help you bear more fruit—the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

It takes a lot of patience, and you may not necessarily see or feel all the progress that's being made in your life and the fruit that's going to be borne from all the hard work and waiting around. But when you trust your heart to the Farmer, Who bought it and paid for it with His Own blood, sweat and tears, He'll do whatever it takes to help you bring forth your fruit in its season.



Sometimes, if you haven't been getting enough water of the Spirit, and you've let your heart get a little hard and crusty, the Farmer will need to come in with a plow and loosen things up so that the soil will be nice and soft and receptive for Him to plant His seeds. This might not feel very good at the time, but whenever you go through something that feels like it's tearing you up and breaking the soil of your heart, you can remind yourself that it's good for you. It's going



Give Them a Chance



(Dad:) You've got real potential, but there's still more to learn. I know sometimes it's hard for young people to admit that they don't know everything. But if they're humble enough, they can learn a lot from those who've been around longer.

It's a little hard for you to get along with some of the older generation and to take full advantage of their help and support. But if I could give you a little word of advice, it would be, "Give them a chance." They really *do* want to understand you and get to know you and help you. When both young and old get along in harmony, it's a beautiful sample. It takes a little work, but it's worth the effort and the Lord blesses it.

Your home is what you make of it. Sometimes it all just depends on how you look at things—like the story about the man who was traveling to a new city, and asked someone on the road what the people were like there. The man from that city replied by asking him, "How were the people where *you* came from?" The traveler explained that they were not to his liking. The man then answered, "Well, that's exactly how the people are here, too." In other words, if you think people are going to be a certain way, they'll be that way. But if you look at people through positive eyes, you'll see the positive.

The Ride of Your Life



Step right up to the greatest theme park you've ever seen! That's right, it's the theme park of the spirit, where the *theme* is anything and everything you've ever wanted to know, and anything you've ever wanted to see or hear.

We've got rides and movies, music and dancing, time travel, space travel, water travel and thought travel—every kind of travel you can imagine. It's all right here, in the land of the spirit, and you don't even have to wait until you get your spirit body to experience it.

All you've got to do is open the eyes of your spirit, reach out with the hand of faith, and grab your ticket. Walk right in and enjoy this special park, which has been designed just for you—My dear children of the Spirit.

Dive into My Word—the messages, stories, testimonies and pictures that I give you—and before you know it, you'll be having the time of your life, taking spirit trips and bumping into heroes of faith from the past. It's the greatest! It's free! And it's here for you.

FACE THE SON

(Dad:) The world is full of beauty. It's full of beautiful people and beautiful things—and you're part of it! The Enemy is always on a bummer, and he tries to get you to be on a bummer with him. But don't do it! No matter how hard he tries to persuade you to look at the dark side of things, just keep looking to the Light. Be like the sunflower that keeps its face to the sun. It follows the sun across the sky and turns its face from one side all the way around to the other side, always following the sun.

Sunflowers, with their huge yellow petals are so big and beautiful! It's a miracle the way they grow. Some kinds of sunflowers can grow to be up to twelve feet tall—huge! They just keep facing the sunlight and soaking up all those heavenly rays and energy.

If you do the same and look to Jesus all day long, and not let the Enemy's shadow darken your world, you'll grow strong and beautiful in spirit and make others happy. Just keep your face turned to Jesus and soak up all of His love and Spirit, and you'll be as bright and beautiful as the sunflower.

break the chains

(Dad:) Don't you want to be free and *feel* free? You're not alone; that's something the whole world longs for. King David said, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away!" When you get to Heaven, you *will* be free—truly free—from the weights and problems of life in the physical world. But Jesus promised in His Word that through His Spirit you can be free right here and now, no matter where you are. Because where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

If you live for Jesus and let His Spirit fill your thoughts, I promise that *your* spirit will soar like the eagle. But if you place too much importance on physical things instead of living a life of spirit, you'll never even make it off the ground. The Word says to keep you mind on things above—things of the spirit—not on things below, of the Earth. In the spirit there's peace and happiness, but when you're living only for the physical, it's a real drag in every way.

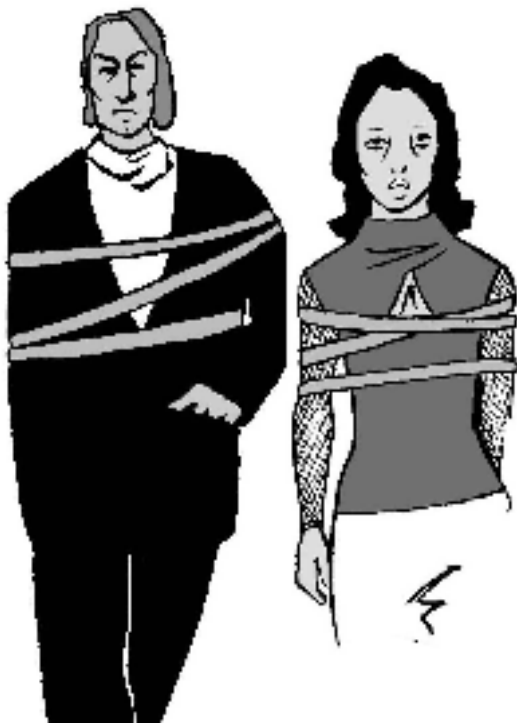
Take your body, for instance—your physical appearance. It's easy to spot people who are overly concerned about their bodies and how they look. You know why? It's because *they're* not free at all—they're bound, and it really shows, just like this simple little poem explains:

They try to look good, but they're wearing a frown.
They're all tied up, as well as tied down.

They're chained, enslaved, controlled, and imprisoned.
They're locked up, restricted, without life and vision.

They trust in the flesh, though they know it won't last.

They follow the world, and with its poison, they're gassed.



It's good to want to look nice and be attractive to others; I'm glad you do. But don't let it be so important to you that you become a slave to it. Thinking about your body all the time and trying to have just the right "look" can become a real trip and bring your spirit down. Don't fall for it. Break those chains of bondage, and live a life of freedom and happiness.



RAIN

Only in the spirit will you ever be free.

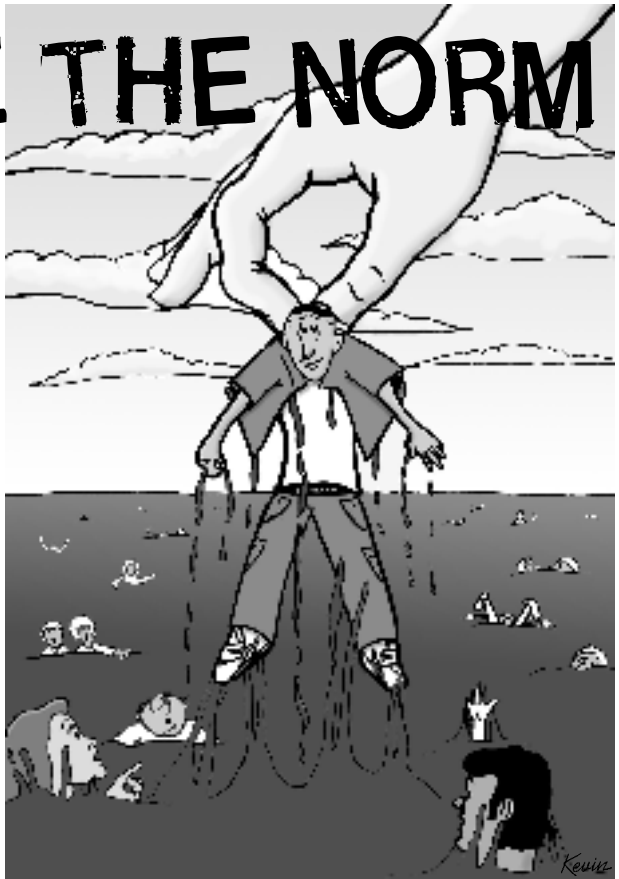
ABOVE THE NORM

What kind of person do you want to be? Just a run-of-the-mill, ordinary Joe Blow? It takes someone very special to decide that they're not going to let themselves be pushed around by the whims of others, much less by the temptations and dictates of the Wicked One who's controlling much of today's world.

Most people, deep down inside, long to be able to rise above the norm and make their lives count for something. I know *you* do, too. But do you want it badly enough that you're willing to buck the tide of negative peer pressure and make your own decisions in life?

Allowing yourself to be pulled away from My Spirit by others and toward the ways of the world, is like letting yourself be carried away by a river of raw sewage. It's spiritual, so you don't necessarily see it or smell it or recognize it for what it really is, but try to picture it in your mind. It's not funny! Growing up in today's world—with all its evil attractions and pull—and trying to live a life that's unique and special, is very difficult. It's like trying to swim against the flow of a big, violent, stinky river of muck! It's a nasty, malicious river, and the worst thing about it is, it wants to carry *you* along with it and pull you away from your destiny and the purpose for which you were created. It would like nothing more than to swallow you up and drown you in all its filthy, stinking dung.

Many helpless souls are trapped, and being swept along by that awful current, but *you* don't have to be. I'm reaching out to you right now, asking you to grab My hand. If you just say yes to Me and reach out, I'll keep you out of that miry mess and set your feet on higher ground. I promise that it won't be that difficult; I'll do the hard part for you. All *you* have to do is recognize the pull of the world and negative peer pressure for what it is, and decide you want more out of life than that. Don't let yourself get carried away with the flow. Ask Me to make your life special, and I will.



What Good Will Come of This?



I know the situation you're now in. You wonder about your dear sister and the path that she's chosen, and the difficulties and hurt feelings that her choices have caused you and your family—and herself.

I was there in each difficult moment. I'm still with her now, and will keep her, because I know that you're praying for her. I held your mother's hand and put My arm around your father. I comforted you with My hand on your shoulder. I patted your brother's back. I was very much a part of your family in the most difficult times. My heart is broken for each of My wayward children, and I wish for them all to come to know how much I care.

You wonder what good is to come out of this, for it seems to only have brought pain and hurt. I can't tell you

everything, for much is still being decided in each heart and life, and everyone has to keep making choices. But the more each one of you seek Me and want to follow Me and do My will, the better off things will be.

The good that I'm already working in this situation is that it's helping you and your brothers and sisters to get desperate and to want to do the right thing with your lives. It's also helping your mom and dad to pray like never before and hear from Me much more than ever. Even though some things are hard to understand, I reward you for your desperation of spirit and for crying unto Me for My help and guidance and support.

Don't despair. I've got it all under control, and I'll continue to work things out as I have promised. It may take some time until you see the fruits of your prayers, but they will come, and you'll rejoice in the victories I'll bring for each one of you.

The Gift of Helps

Did you know that you often have a wonderful effect on people? There are a lot of people who think you're super. Do you know why? You've got the gift of helps—and that's a great gift to have! You might not think that it's very glorious, but every time you do something for others, you're being a token of My love for them. I love to watch people's faces light up when you do something to help make things easier for them. It's so cool when you let Me use you to be an answer to someone's prayers by doing something for them—whether it's big or small.



Even though there are times when you probably help out just because you're asked to—while the truth is that there are plenty of other things you'd much rather be doing—it means a lot to people to know that they can count on you.

Maybe you sometimes feel lazy or like you just can't be bothered. But that little extra effort you make to be helpful goes such a long way. Of course, the gift of helps isn't the *only* gift you have; you're a person with *many* gifts and talents, and you're getting a lot of experience under your belt that will be very useful to you later on.



For instance, when you're being a blessing by helping others even when you don't feel like it, you're developing some other very important gifts—the gifts of faithfulness and dependability. Those gifts need a lot of cultivating and a lot of practice, but you'll be very thankful to have them in the future, so keep at it. If you keep being faithful today, just a few tomorrows down the road you'll look back and thank Me for helping you to be such a blessing to others.



I Can Help

When I was on Earth, I was tempted and tried in all points—just like you are. If you can, try to visualize Me as being the same age as you. The world around Me was different then, but man is the same. As a young person, I had the same longings and frustrations that you have; I had the same idealism and the same struggles. I went through many of the same tests, temptations and trials that you go through. Just like you, I was impatient for things



to get moving in My life so that I could experience what I was born for and see the proof of My Father's anointing on Me.

I know that your heritage as one of God's children doesn't make the battles any easier for you, just as Mine didn't make it easier for Me. But you'll learn, as I did, that it's all a part of your Heavenly Father's plan. He's preparing you and growing you into the person He needs you to be. It's worth it all, too. I've realized that so many times over the centuries—every time that

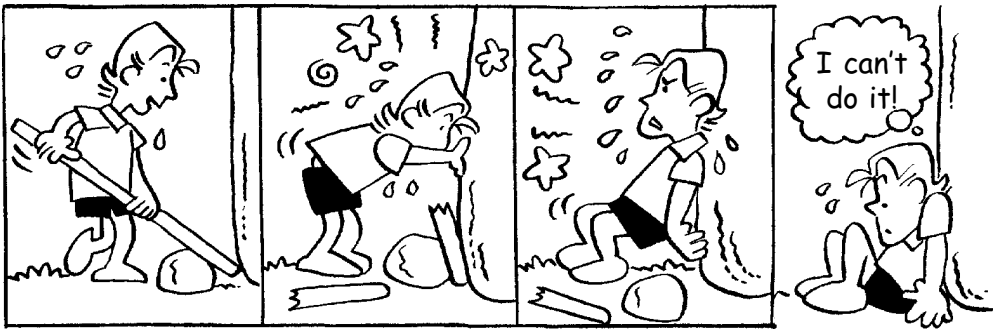
someone's life is touched and changed as a result of My having yielded to what My Father had planned for Me. *You'll* realize it too, when your life on Earth is finished and you're able to look back and see all the good that will have come out of it.

Because I went through the same things that you're going through, I understand how you feel and the questions you have. I have so much I want to share with you. I want to help you understand the things you're going through so that you'll be able to see, just as I did, that it's all worth it. As you spend time with Me, opening up your heart and listening to everything I have to say—just like you would with a close friend who you know really relates to you—you'll soon discover that I do understand. If you'll let me, I can help you a lot.

Setting Goals



Life is full of decisions, lessons, experiences, challenges and ups-and-downs, but that's what makes it so rewarding and fun! You love to learn and experience new things, and I'm pleased that you've set goals for yourself. But remember, there are many things to learn, and you can't learn them all at once. So don't get discouraged or set your goals so high that you can't reach them.



The best way to set goals is to break them down into small, attainable goals. Once you achieve one, then right away strive for more, and on and on. It takes many trials and errors and tests and battles to learn all the things you need to know. So don't get discouraged that it takes time. You have your whole life ahead of you—and eternity too!



Just because you have to struggle, it doesn't mean you're *not* progressing. In fact, that's how you learn and grow—by struggling and fighting on. Just keep fighting and keep your eyes on the goal, and you'll be going forward.

One thing that would help you reach your goals is to spend more time with Me. You can do that by reading My Word and by hearing My voice in prophecy, and then doing the things I ask you to do.

JACQUES

Married to Me



So you're a guy, and you have a problem with some of this talk about loving Me and being My bride in the spirit. You don't necessarily get off on all that sweet, mushy stuff. You think that it's just too wimpy and icky. I can understand what you might be feeling. When I was on Earth, I hung out with My disciples a lot. We were a hardy bunch, and spent the best part of those years together traveling around. My disciples were all men of passion and fire. I even called John and James the "sons of thunder." They weren't at all wimpy, and neither were any of the others. We had a great time just being men and acting like the men we were.

During our times together, I taught my disciples a lot. But there were also times when we just relaxed, let our hair down and had fun. We played sports, swam, fished, watched girls, and even joked around—not in an unloving, worldly way, but we did have fun. So don't think that loving Me and being married to Me in the spirit is all that weird. I know you're a guy, and I don't expect you to be anything else. Being My bride is just referring to our relationship in the spirit.

One of My early followers, Paul, first wrote about being married to Me in Romans 7:4, where he said, "My brethren ... you should be married to another, even to Him Who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Paul was a man himself, and very manly, but he wasn't ashamed to be My bride. He suffered many things because of his love for Me. Does that help explain what it means to be married to Me in the spirit? I want you guys to act like men and to be manly, but you also need to be loving and kind and not try to do things in your own strength. Most of all, I want you to love *Me* more than anything or anyone else and to always remember how much you need Me in everything you do.

Be Like Samuel

I need you to be like Samuel, who lived and worked in the temple. He heard My voice and loved Me above all else. Even though things didn't always turn out the way that he expected, and he was faced with many battles, still I kept him and trained him and made him into the man that I needed him to be.

Because of his faithfulness to My Word, and because he faithfully sought Me, I was able to make his life a wonderful blessing to many through the words he passed on from Me and the things he did for Me. He was at the right place at the right time to anoint My chosen kings, and he helped to bring the people closer to Me. These things were possible because of dear Samuel's faithfulness to hear My whispers.

Be like Samuel. Follow My whispers and dedicate your heart to Me. You may not see everything clearly now, just as My men and women of the Bible didn't always know what I had



for them up ahead. But they followed, and I did My part to keep them and bless them through each hardship and challenge.

Keep desiring to give your all to Me, and I *will* bless you. You won't be able to see all that I'm doing and working on from behind the scenes, but when you follow My voice and keep your heart right with Me, then I'm able to work out good things on your behalf. Even if things don't go as smoothly as you wish they would, and even if there are more battles and difficulties along the way, please remember that I'm right by your side. You just have to look up to Me, call out My name, and I'll help you with all that you need.