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COLD OR HOT

"I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth" (Rev.3:15–16).

(Mama:) Here's what Jesus says about this verse [for you today], His interpretation:

(Jesus:) This is a prophetic verse, for I knew that in the Last Days, many would fall away from Me and be deceived, even the very elect. It's a strong warning about compromise and the seriousness of it.

Once My children have heard the truth, they are accountable, and for them to turn back or become lukewarm in their convictions and faith is a very dangerous thing, and sorely displeasing in My eyes. It would be better for someone to have never known the truth, to have never had a chance to hear My Word or know Me, than for one to know Me and have My truth, and then turn to walk down the road of indecision and compromise.

Many of those who are "cold" don't know any better and thus are not accountable, and I have mercy toward them. But those who are lukewarm are those who were once "hot," but have chosen to walk away from My truth, to compromise for comfort, gain, or popularity, and these are they who make Me sick. These are they who are accountable, for they know better. ("Woe!" ML #3448:103–107)

Notable Quote: (Jesus:) I'm looking for disciples who are so in love with Me that they are willing to completely surrender their personal agenda; all they want to do is whatever I ask, no matter what, with no questions asked. ("Issues, Part 12," ML #3418:76)

Xn Issue 38, February 2004. Xn is for ages 12 and up. Parents or teachers, you may read age-appropriate portions of this mag with younger audiences, at your discretion. If you have submissions for Xn, please send them to xn@wsfamily.com. Xn is a nonprofit publication, published free for members. Not to be sold. Copyright © 2004 by The Family. DFO. Cover art by Mathew B.F.

ART BY KRISTEN

nd so it had always been, Lydia and Marisha, the inseparable team. They had grown up together, always confided in one another, and had been there for each other no matter what. That is, until Marisha left.

Now Lydia groped to find common ground with the person who once mirrored her own soul.

"Yeah," Marisha acknowledged, "but I wasn't sure you'd be here. I didn't know if they'd *let* you," she stated, unable to hide the tinge of bitterness in her voice.

"It's not a matter of *letting* me. I can do what I want, you know that!" Lydia replied a bit indignantly. This wasn't the way she'd hoped the conversation would go.

Marisha reached over and helped herself to more wine. "Whatever," she mumbled.

"So anyway, how's life?" Lydia scrambled to change the direction of the conversation. She so longed to regain that friendship and camaraderie she'd shared with Marisha. It had always been so much a part of their lives.

"Life?" Marisha scrunched up her nose. Lydia could tell Marisha had started on the wine long before she arrived.

"Quite honestly," Marisha gave her friend a wry smile, "I'd say life sucks at this point!"

Lydia smiled, in spite of herself. Marisha went straight to the point as always, never one to mince words. Though their personalities were opposite in many ways, their differences had, oddly, only increased their closeness. Deep inside they went through many of the same things, though they expressed it outwardly in different ways. Lydia was always the quieter type, thinking, contemplating. But Marisha was in-your-face and as vocal as they come. She certainly harbored no fear of man. She'd even cornered Peter on his last visit, barraging him with "Why this" and "Why that"! If Marisha was miserable, the world was going to hear about it, in no uncertain terms.

"I knew you'd come." Marisha leveled her gaze at the figure of the girl who hesitated a moment in the doorway. The girl slowly made her way over to the table in the corner. Marisha pushed a bottle of wine across the table.

-A spirit story received by one of you

Lydia tried to suppress the volcanic emotions that threatened to erupt and spill over her eyes in the form of hot tears. "Of course I came. You're my best friend!"



Lydia remembered Peter taking his time to answer her questions, encouraging her to hang on. She had been surprised that he had spent so long talking with her, pointing her toward the Word, and going over the things that bothered her. It had impressed her. But still seeds of doubt plagued her friend, and over the following months things had gone from bad to worse. Finally Marisha's doubts began to outweigh her beliefs on the scale of faith, and she had made the decision to leave.

Still, Marisha's departure hadn't been a bitter one at the time. They'd even had a special going-away dinner for her. Everyone had prayed she'd find what she wanted in life, and had encouraged her to keep in touch. Marisha hugged those she was leaving behind. "I'll always love you guys!" She'd told them, wiping her eyes with the back of her hand.

Though it had wrenched her heart when Marisha moved on, Lydia could more than relate to the battles her friend had faced. This had been an extremely rough year for her as well, and she honestly felt weaker in her faith than she ever imagined would be possible. It seemed like one friend after another had walked out the door over the last twelve months. At times she wondered if everyone would end up leaving, and she'd be left totally alone.

And to make matters worse, the new revelations coming out were causing her mind to reel! Things were getting so heavy, so deep, at times she wondered if the leaders were honestly just going off on some spiritual tangent. That's what so many of her friends had said before they left, and she was beginning to wonder herself if it was true.

Lydia's faith before had always been a strength and inspiration to her, but now it seemed her spiritual life was mostly one long continuous test. At times she felt nearly torn asunder by the doubts that gnashed at her like wild dogs. She was tired of asking for prayer, tired of fighting. She hated to appear weak and struggling in front of the others. Why did it all have to be such a battle?

That afternoon, as Lydia set out to meet Marisha, she frankly wondered how she could help Marisha. Deep down she knew that she needed help almost as much as her friend, yet her pride brushed those thoughts aside. She mumbled something about needing to "pick up something downtown" as she headed out the door, not wanting to be upfront about her plans. Now Lydia sat fingering the cup Marisha had poured her, feeling a bit guilty, as if she was swallowing more than the wine as she listened.

Stupid! she told herself. I need to try to win her back! I owe it to her!

Desperately wanting to find some common ground, Lydia attempted more small talk.

"So, are you working?"

Marisha started to answer, then closed her mouth, leaned back in her seat, and shook her head. She stared at the floor and muttered, "Dammit, I can't do this!"

"What?" Lydia asked in surprise.

"You know," Marisha looked up imploringly into her friend's eyes. "The bullshit, lah-dee-dah, I'm-ok-you're-ok routine. When were we ever anything but story feature totally, 100-percent honest with each other?"

Lydia sighed. "Yeah, I need to cut through it too. That's what I worried about the most, that the level of friendship we've always had was going to vanish and degenerate into drivel."

"So look, can we be totally honest here? I mean no-holds-barred honest? If so, I want to talk. I don't want pat answers, 'quote-the-Scriptures' replies. I want to hear from you!"

Lydia bristled at her friend's reference to the Word in such a way, but she brushed it aside. After all, she didn't want to appear closed. "Ok, totally honest.

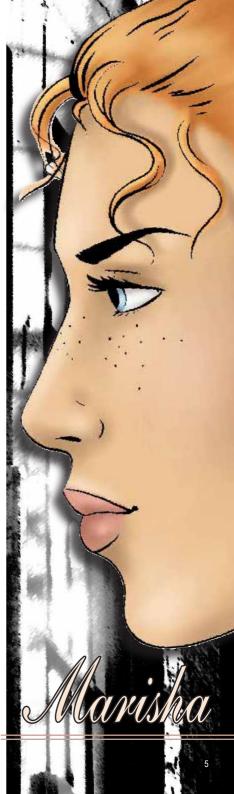
Go for it."

Marisha leaned forward again. "Lydia, I tell you this because I love you. I care for you. And I can't sit back and see you waste your life in this cult."

Lydia opened her mouth.

"Look," Marisha raised her hand. "Now, I know you're taught to defend your beliefs, but I want you to do me the favor of listening, only listening. After that, you make your own decisions. Fair?"

Lydia fidgeted in her seat. It seemed fair, but...



"Ok," Lydia answered cautiously. "But you know we're not a cult."

There, I'm standing up for my beliefs, Lydia consoled herself, fighting her growing sense of uneasiness.

"Ok, ok, you're not in a cult. You're in this 'group'!" Marisha rolled her eyes.

"Believe me, Lydia, I know where you are coming from, because I thought just the way you did! But you know what? After I left I found out a whole lot of things I didn't know before. Things *they* don't want you to know!"

Marisha looked at her friend knowingly.

Lydia didn't say anything, so Marisha pressed on.

"Listen," she continued urgently, "I've talked to people who were at the very top! I mean, like those who handled the money. And that's a story in itself, how some of it's been used, believe me. It's incredible some of the things I've heard!"

She paused for effect, then continued. "Lydia, these are not ignorant little podunk followers we're talking about who are leaving. I mean, these are people who walked, lived, breathed, and worked with top leadership. So why would they leave if there wasn't something mega-wrong about it all? It's getting weirder and weirder! The whole thing is about control. They got smart and realized they were just being manipulated, so they walked.—And you should too!"

Lydia winced. She just didn't think she could take it any more.

She'd known Marisha had been getting pretty negative, but this was too much. You can just get up now and go home, the voice in her heart told her. Just go home, back to what you know and believe, back to the truth! Get help, get prayer!

Yet, despite the inner voice calling her, she found herself sitting there, continuing to listen. Another voice, different from the first, now spoke to her heart. Why would Marisha make all this up? What if it's true?

She felt a little sick to her stomach, and confused. *I need to stay open minded*, she rationalized. At *least hear what she has to say*.

Marisha sensed her friend's wavering, so continued her barrage even more urgently. "If everything they stand for is the truth, why do they have so many enemies? Why would so many people lie?"

Lydia was silent, her confusion growing by the minute.

"I want to tell you something." Marisha lowered her voice. "But I'm not supposed to be telling you this. I only heard about it because of who my uncle is. ..." Lydia knew Marisha's relative was one of the top religious leaders in the city. "So swear to me you're not going to tell anyone! Because I will get in so much trouble if this leaks out. I mean like life-threatening trouble. So swear, ok? On our friendship!"

Lydia had no idea what was coming, and she battled for a moment with her loyalties. But Marisha was her friend, and Lydia's curiosity to know whatever she was dying to tell her finally won. "Ok, I swear."

"No, I mean *really* swear! I need to trust you. I need your guarantee that you are not going to tell anyone at home, under any circumstances, no matter what I say!"

"I said I swear!" Lydia answered.

"Ok, I trust you and I'm really putting myself out on a limb to tell you this. This is our friendship, and probably my head, on the chopping block. "Lydia, there's going to be a bust! And it's going to get pretty ugly."

Lydia gasped, eyes wide. Persecution was always the one thing she feared. Marisha knew that.

"But look, you're not going to be around for it," Marisha continued, "because you're coming home with me for the holidays!"

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Lydia's head was spinning.

"Listen," Marisha explained, "it's going to happen no matter what, and it has nothing to do with you! The authorities couldn't care less about somebody like you. I just don't want you caught in the middle of something that isn't your fault, which is why I want to help you."

Marisha spread her hands out on the table. "What I'm offering you is a chance to get away and think for awhile, while this group of yours sorts out its own problems. You get away, get your head clear and just chill for a bit. After that, you can decide what you want to do."

She raised her hand. "Honestly, if you want to go back after that, it's up to you. But you get to skip the nasty knock-on-the-door scenario, take a well-deserved holiday, and then you can decide of your own free will what you want to do. And if that's not fair, I don't know what is!"

Lydia's first impulse was to get up, race out the door and run home to tell the others what was happening. But compromise is a slippery fish to grasp. As she struggled with her conscience, she found that the longer she sat and listened, the more reasonable Marisha's plan began to sound. Her weakening began much the way one's nose adjusts to a bad smell. By the end of the hour, Lydia was nodding her head in agreement.

After all, Lydia began to think, if they're not really guilty of anything, it will all blow over. I can get away and think. I need this time to sort things out. I will probably be stronger at the end of it.

"Good, then it's settled! You're spending Passover at my house!" Marisha smiled, stood up, and adjusted her tunic, wrapping her robe tightly around her in preparation for the gusty spring winds. "Here!" She tossed a denari to the innkeeper for the wine and linked her arm through Lydia's as they headed towards the door.

"Lydia, I wish you could have been at my uncle's house yesterday and heard what I heard." Marisha bent her head closer to Lydia's ear. "I'm going to let you in on another secret. You know how I know all these things, about the raids and all? Honey, it's because Judas Iscariot himself has finally wised up and left. You can't get any higher than that! There's a lot of dirty stuff going on, all sorts of things he could tell you about that will open your eyes and make you think. Maybe you should meet him and talk to him yourself after the holidays." Lydia felt numb with shock at this final bit of news. A tear trickled down her cheek. Judas was one of the twelve!

"Hey kid, I know this is rough. It's a shocker, after all you've been taught to believe. But you need to know these things, what really went on at the top. This is the wake-up call, sweetie. Otherwise, if you don't face it, you're just living in denial!"

They pushed past a horse cart and made their way up the cobblestone street towards Marisha's place. A Roman guard stood at the corner, his shield glistening in the late afternoon sun. Lydia felt chilled by the wind and wrapped her cloak around her shoulders.

"How could it all have gone so wrong?" she asked her friend weakly, the tears now flowed freely down her face.

"Listen, in a few more years everybody is going to be asking that same question. They'll be kicking themselves for wasting the best years of their lives, being mindless followers instead of thinking for themselves. Anybody who's got a head on his shoulders is leaving. It's falling apart, dying! I mean, when the top starts going whack, the whole thing's bound to crumble.

"I saw it coming!" Marisha sneered and shook her head, "What did you expect after the guy started going around, proclaiming he's the 'Son of God'!"

A strong gust of wind shook them as they rounded the corner, and with it a memory that momentarily swept away the cloud of confusion surrounding Lydia's heart. Lydia halted as she visualized Jesus' face.

"What's wrong with you?" Marisha yelped. "It's freezing out here! My house is just around the corner!"

"There's just one thing I can't believe I forgot in the middle of all this..." Lydia looked at Marisha with a trembling lip.

"I love Him. Jesus means everything to me, and nothing warms my heart like His words do. ... And ... I believe He's just who He says He is ... the Son of God."

Marisha blinked in unbelief as Lydia continued.

"I'm sorry, Marisha. I love you, but our paths are separating here and now. I can't leave the One who means everything in the world to me."

Lydia turned to go and Marisha grabbed her arm and whispered desperately into her face.

"You're insane, girl! A jailed man isn't going to do your heart any good—or worse, a dead man. What if Jesus dies, huh?"

Lydia gulped and stared at the cobblestones at her feet. A smile slowly formed on her lips as she reviewed the many words that had burned themselves into her heart. She looked at Marisha again, who was now looking less sure of herself.

"You know what? Whatever trouble is coming, I know Jesus is aware of it, and that He could prevent it if He wanted to."

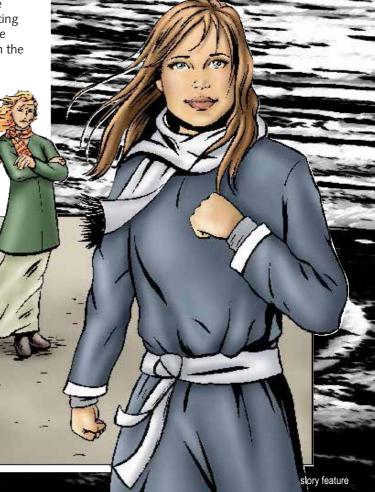
"And what if He doesn't?!" Marisha cried hopelessly, the tears streaming down her face now.

Lydia, now the comforter, held both Marisha's hands in hers.

"If He doesn't stop whatever's coming, it means it's all a part of God's plan, and will work together for good somehow to those who love Him. Goodbye Marisha. Don't worry about me. Take care."

And with a last squeeze of Marisha's hands, Lydia turned and walked down a windy alley toward her home, warmed by a flame of faith and love that had been rekindled.

The End



KEYS PROMISE:

Claim the keys of witness in your life—not just witness to the lost, but witness in every way, at work and at play—and My fire and love will burn in your heart brightly, illuminating others' lives.

NOTABLE OUOTE: (lesus:) The agenda of the Enemy, and those who are following him most closely, is to stop My work. That has always been Satan's agenda. He has always been My arch-Enemy and will continue to be so, the opposite of everything I stand for, the opposer and destroyer of every work of My hand, of every plan I enact in the world, of every group of disciples on Earth that I have ever rallied together. He has fought Me since his fall, and because he cannot touch Me directly, he seeks to harm My work, My children, and foil My plans. This is his agenda. ("So You Want to Be a Disciple?" ML #3458:19)

NOTABLE QUOTE: (Jesus:) My apostles, My followers, were in My presence. They lived with Me. They saw My obedience. They prayed with Me. They failed and got back up. They were instructed to tarry, so they tarried, and they were endued with power from on high. In obedience, they went out singly, not knowing whither they went. They forsook their friendships, their brotherhood, their personal support. They walked, they traveled by ship and by any means necessary, and as they went, their very lives were a testimony of Me. ("Be a Missionary for Me," ML #3178:94)

THE ISSUE OF FRIENDSHIP THERE ARE TIMES WHEN SOME FRIEND-SHIPS FALL SHORT—BUT JESUS' FRIEND-SHIP NEVER FAILS.

My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.

My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me. ... All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

[Sometimes friendship turns sour, especially when our friend's loyalty to the Lord has grown weak.] For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

And ye shall be betrayed [in the Endtime] both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends.—Jesus. I am a companion of them that fear Thee, and of them that keep Thy precepts.

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.

Whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in Heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother.—Jesus.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.—Jesus.

(Job 16:20; 19:14,19; Psalm 41:9; 55:12–14; Acts 29:28–30; Luke 21:16; Psalm 119:63; 1 John 1:7; Matthew 12:50; John 15:15) (Mostly taken from *Word Topics*— "Friendship.")

KEYS PROMISES:

Claim the keys of godly friendship, and I will enable you to build strong, solid relationships with your peers that are built on your common goals of serving Me and not on compromise and manpleasing.

GLAIM THE KEYS OF COURAGE TO FOLLOW WHAT I TELL YOU, EVEN WHEN ALL YOUR PEERS SEEM TO BE DOING THE OPPOSITE, AND YOU WILL STAND STRONG IN MY POWER AND ANOINTING.

Claim the keys to find like-minded peers with whom to share your faith and your love for Me, that you may be strengthened with bonds of brotherhood and unity.

THE ISSUE OF REPUTATION

Jesus wasn't concerned about His reputation...

He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

It is written of the Son of man, that He must suffer many things, and be set at nought.—Jesus.

I receive not honor from men.—Jesus

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU. WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS: WHO. BE-ING IN THE FORM OF GOD. THOUGHT IT NOT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD: **BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION. AND TOOK** UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT. AND WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN: AND BEING FOUND IN FASHION AS A MAN. HE HUMBLED HIMSELF. AND BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH. EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.

Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His Own blood, suffered without the gate.

(Isaiah 53:3; Mark 9:12b; John 5:41; Philippians 2:5–8; Hebrews 13:12) (Mostly taken from *Word Topics* section "Reputation.") (Xn: Read more Bible: "Reputation," "Friendship," "Confusion," and "Secrets," in the Word Topics book, and "Persecution" and "Backsliding" in the Word Basics book.)

KEYS PROMISES:

Claim the keys of conviction and love for Me, so that in everything you do you will testify of My Name, My love, and My power.

CLAIM THE KEYS TO LOOSEN THE GRIP OF FEAR AND MANPLEASING, AND YOU OF THE SECOND GEN-ERATION WILL HAVE TRUE SPIRITUAL FREEDOM TO LIVE YOUR FAITH OPENLY WITH YOUR PEERS.

Be proud of the gifts I've given to you—loving Me as your Husband, praising Me each day, and committing all things to Me in prayer—because the keys will give you the power to rise above the opinions of man and desire to please Me alone.

NOTABLE QUOTE

Christians lived on Earth long before the Family. They were separating themselves from the world, living and dying as a testament to the Name of Jesus, and setting us an example, upon whom the ends of the world are come. We may be a bit different and peculiar if compared to the wrong people, but if compared to the right ones, those who should be our role models. we find that the similarities of devotion and love for Jesus. commitment to the personal call of the Lord in one's life, and love and honor of the Word, are all gualities that bind us in the brotherhood of Christianity. People who want to tear down and disband the Family are simply being tools in the hand of one who wants to destroy that brotherhood and that testimony of our lives in the modern world.

("So You Want to Be a Disciple?" ML #3458:143)





(Jesus:) Your life is like a ship out on the open sea. Sometimes the seas are calm and the sky is blue and the sun is shining, but frequently there are great gales, with massive waves, and angry dark skies. These are like the difficulties and challenges of your life.

Sometimes you wish that you could just tie up in port, in some safe and sheltered bay, whenever the dark clouds start building on the horizon. But I didn't make your ship for the sheltered bay; I made it for the storms! Because I built it. I built it to withstand the storms and the crashing waves, so long as you face into the wind instead of trying to run and hide from it. And the more your ship faces the storms, trusting Me and letting Me pilot, the more weathered you become, and the stronger and tougher, until you begin to blade

laugh at the loudest storms and to welcome the highest waves.

What's the meaning of the storms? The wind blows so fiercely and the waves loom so high that you feel like you're going to capsize sometimes. But meanwhile you're being propelled onward in your life so much farther and faster than if you were on a flat and placid sea with not even a flutter of a breeze. Sure. that's relaxing. but you don't get anywhere either, and that kind of peace is deadly because pretty soon you run out of food and water, and you lose the vision because you're not getting

because you're not getting anywhere. Neither do you want to tie up in port, where you have food and water, but no vision, through which you will perish anyway. (See also Proverbs 29:18.)

KEYS PROMISE: THROUGH THE POWER OF THE KEYS I RELEASE TO YOU AN EXTRA ALLOWANCE OF GRACE, THROUGH WHICH YOU CAN RISE ABOVE!

So laugh at the storm, and cherish the peace I give you in the midst of it. The storms will come, but know that I have the power to say "Peace, be still" when necessary, and most importantly, to steer you safely through each one, so that you come out on

KEYS PROMISE: YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH ME. YOU CAN FACE SOMETHING THAT SEEMS INSURMOUNTABLE AND ACTUALLY ENJOY IT, IF YOU CLAIM THE POWER OF THE KEYS.

the other side so much farther along in your exciting journey around the globe, exploring new lands and bringing My light to the far corners of the Earth.

INTRODUCTION TO SPECIFIC KEYS OF HEAVEN, PARTS 1-6

Have fun and overcome with specific keys!

Xn: And now, for a full "specific Keys of Heaven" series, taken from the new *Key Promises* book! Feel free to use this *Xn* Extra as a tool for your

personal and public prayer times, and also to familiarize yourself with all the specific keys we can be claiming starting today (even if we haven't yet memorized all the keys promises they go with!).

The specific keys are grouped by their book categories (64 in all!) for easy reference. Check out the "See also" note at the end of each list, for other sections that might contain relevant specific keys to claim too!

You can find the full keys promises simply by referring to your new keys promise book! Please do familiarize yourselves with the full keys promises, so you can learn all about how the Lord intends for us to use these specific keys. (If you don't have a copy, you can find the text file on the MO site.)

P.S.: The original 60 specific keys, listed in *Xn* Issue 29 as "Specific Keys of Heaven 01," are incorporated into this new series for handy reference, under the appropriate categories.

SPECIFIC KEYS OF HEAVEN

Part 1

Activated / Disciple Winning

keys of activation keys of boldness keys of faith keys of humility keys of new vision keys of witness (See also Witnessing; Supply / Finances.)

Bitterness

keys of deliverance (See also Change / Spiritual Progress; Love; Unity / Communal Living.)

Boldness

keys of boldness keys of confidence keys of understanding (See also Conviction; Inspiration / Enthusiasm; Peace / Freedom from Fear; Performing / Shows; Pride.)

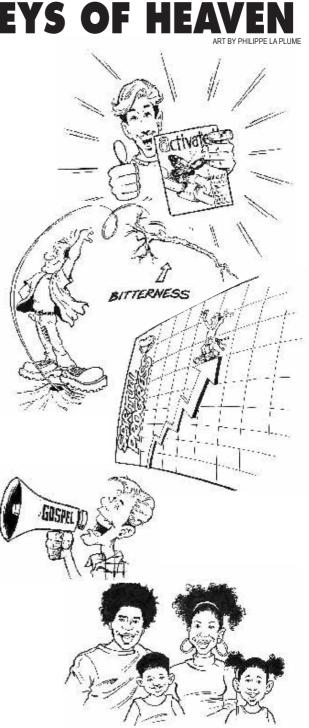
Change / Spiritual Progress

keys of acceptance keys of change keys of deliverance keys of faith keys of fight keys of perseverance keys of receptivity keys of regeneration keys of restoration (See also Spiritual Life; Word, The / Connecting with Jesus.)

Children / Parents

key of insight key of My protection key of understanding (See also Pregnancy and Childbirth.)





Comfort / Overcoming a Broken Heart

keys of bravery keys of comfort keys of love keys of My grace keys of spiritual healing keys of surcease keys of surcease keys of the Elixir of Love keys of vision (See also Depression / Discouragement; Faith / Rising Above; Loneliness; Peace / Freedom from Fear; Praise.)

Conflict and War

keys of judgment keys of righteousness (See also Peace / Freedom from Fear; Protection / Security.)

Contentment / Happiness /

Positiveness

keys of contentment keys of happiness keys of joy keys of merriment and mirth keys of overcoming keys of peace keys of positiveness (See also Bitterness; Depression / Discouragement; Faith / Rising Above; Inspiration / Enthusiasm; Jealousy / Comparing; Praise.)

Conviction

keys of conviction keys of courage keys of dedication keys of faith keys of godly friendship keys of love for Me keys of personal abandonment keys of personal abandonment keys of revival keys of revolution keys of single-mindedness keys of witness (See also Boldness; Discipleship /

Relationship to the World; Word, The / Connecting with Jesus.)



Cooking / Shopping / Provisioning

keys of discernment keys of supply keys of wisdom (See also Supply / Finances.)

Decision-making / Wisdom /

Meetings

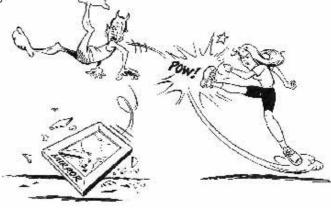
keys of articulation keys of boldness keys of clarity keys of communication keys of concentration keys of confidence keys of conversation keys of counsel keys of diplomacy keys of discernment keys of eloquence keys of focus keys of guidance keys of insight keys of organization keys of peace of mind keys of retention keys of revelation keys of simplicity keys of teamworking keys of understanding kevs of wisdom

(See also Boldness; Full Possession / Heavenly Thought Power; Hearing from the Lord; Performing / Shows; Shepherding / Leadership; Work.)

Depression / Discouragement

keys of deliverance keys of encouragement keys of faith keys of My ability keys of overcoming keys of victory (See also Comfort / Overcoming a Broken Heart; Faith / Rising Above; Fighting the Enemy; Praise.)





Weathered and Strong

B (Jesus:) I've chosen you for a very special calling in life, the calling of giving your life continually to Me and letting Me use you just how I want to.

Sometimes when you see your loved ones get sick, or accidents happen, or your Home goes through a financial crisis, or some other disappointment comes upon you, it makes you wonder where My love and protection is. But part of My calling for you in this life is to learn how to fight against the forces of evil, and the way you do that is by learning

to use the new weapons in your everyday struggles. I wouldn't allow sickness or sorrow or accidents or emergencies into your life if there were any other way, but you see, it's these very things that make you strong and equip you to take on the challenges I have for you in the future.

Picture a bunch of people going around a bend in the road. There's a commander around the bend, and he announces, "There's war ahead. Now we need some elite troops, people who have been through some tough battles and are ready for the tough challenges ahead."

In the crowd, there are some people who look puzzled. They're holding flowers and not carrying any weapons. Their hands are soft because they haven't been working hard in the fields, sowing the good grain, or practicing daily with the weapons they were given. They just wanted to enjoy life and take it easy and avoid all the hardships they could. The commander can't recruit them, because they wouldn't be dependable; they wouldn't even know what to do when the trouble hit and the battle grew hot.

So don't compare with people who seem to have it easier. Look on each struggle and battle and even sorrow as a beautiful opportunity to grow strong in My Word and the new weapons I've given you. Then in the crowd there are people whose faces have lines that show the wear and tear of the battles and the toils they've been through. Their hands are tough and weathered and ready to take up a

weapon and wield it with skill at a moment's notice. They can go ____ on long marches without much rest, and they

know how to get strength even in the midst of battle so they can continue fighting. These

are the real gold, the real valuable assets to the commander, and the ones he immediately chooses to be his personal band of mighty men and women for this new mission.

So wear your badges of struggle and sorrow and suffering with godly pride. The commander mentioned above represents Me in this case. You're being prepared every day to be My own personal band of mighty warriors, ones I can count on. I need you. I can't fight the battle against evil on Earth alone. I need you to fight by My side.

It's through you that I will work to reclaim lost and imprisoned souls, and to alert the vulner-

able masses to the coming onslaughts of the Enemy, to show

them how to remove themselves from the coming evil, and when needed, how to defend themselves. More fighters will join your ranks to help redeem yet others, and onward you will go.

I have chosen you and blessed you with the struggles of today, so that I can give you the medals of honor in the end, for having been ready and seasoned and strong warriors in battle.

Notable Quotes

But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Though He [Jesus] were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered.

Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

(Ecc.7:3–4; Heb.5:8; 1Pet.5:10; 2Cor.1:4)



The Family Tree

(Jesus:) Want to know how I see the Family, and how I see you, since you're part of it? I see the Family like a great, big, beautiful fruit tree. This tree is filled with big, succulent fruit, which is like all the fruit you bear in your service for Me—the souls you win, the sheep you feed.

Now, this tree may not be picture-perfect. The trunk has some dents in it where foolish people tried to hack it down. Some of the branches are a bit broken and some leaves stripped off due to the great storms it's gone through. On some branches there are bugs trying to get at the fruit.

Nevertheless it is a beautiful tree to behold. And you know what makes this tree so beautiful and special? It's beautiful on the outside because of what is on the inside, because of what's hidden—the most important part of the tree—the life-giving sap of My Word and My Spirit.

This is also the secret of the strength of the tree, and the reason nobody's been able to chop it down. And this is likewise the secret of the fruit on the tree, in that when the lost reach up to be nourished by the fruit, they receive new life in a sense, because through you they receive the hidden sap of My Word and Spirit.

Sometimes I have to come along and spray parts of your tree to get rid of the bugs of long-standing problems and the attacks of the bug-like forces of the Enemy. This might not be so pleasant for you, but if you trust Me that I know what I'm doing, you'll survive and prosper and bear even more fruit.

Sometimes too, after a big cycle of bearing fruit, I have to prune the tree back through tests and even persecution, and even send a few storms along just to get rid of any branches or leaves that haven't been desperately drinking in that life-giving sap, and so have become weak and a drain and strain on the entire tree.

Yet know that despite the pruning and the storms, that

I love this Family tree very much. I'm the One Who planted this Family tree, through My little prophet David. Through his faithfulness and obedience to drink in My life-giving Words, up sprang a beautiful new tree. All the old big trees around it looked

at it with disdain, thinking it too weak and flimsy, but those old trees had stopped drinking in all the sap they needed, or letting Me spray and prune them, and so I grew up this new tree.

Even though it's small in size compared to some of the mammoth trees of the churches, who have millions of members. this little Family tree has such big ripe succulent fruit, and produces it in such abundance, that it's actually embarrassing for all the other big old trees, who are so huge and spread their branches so wide, but have tiny undeveloped, bug-eaten fruit sparsely dotting the branches here and there.

Your branches are weighed down with fruit. Sometimes

LET'S

FORGET

IT!

you even wonder if your Family tree is producing too much fruit to really be supported by your branches, and you wonder if you'll be able to handle it, like the big visions for Activated and the other revolutions I lead

> you in to win My sheep. But trust Me that because you're filled with My life-giving sap, you will produce even more fruit than you had ever imagined. That fruit will in turn produce seeds that will be planted in the ground and sprout up, strong with the sap of My Word, to produce even more surrounding trees, all bearing the same life-giving fruit.

See how I see you? Thank you for being willing to be a part of this Family tree. I need every one of you. You all make up this beautiful tree, through which I can bear fruit and feed the hungry.

WE'LL NEVER

BE ABLE TO CUT IT

DOWN!

Notable Quote: Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the Vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me.—Jesus (John 15:4)

Your Presence Makes a Difference





(Jesus:) In all the great plans for My Family, all the great prophecies predicting the exploits of My children in the latter times, do not think that I have forgotten you. You may feel like just one small individual, not noticeable, not outstanding in gifts or talents, yet you are an important part of My plan. I have great need of you.

Even if nobody else notices you, and it seems you are passed over and new jobs and ministries and promotions given to others, know that I notice you. You are important to Me. You are a part of My plan, a very specific part, a very important part.

It is through you I will accomplish My purpose, if you are only willing. But do not put yourself out of the game, thinking that your presence or absence makes no difference. Your absence would make a great difference in My life, in My heart, and in My plan.

It is not important what others think of you, but only what I think of you, and I'm telling you now that you are important to Me, and I need you desperately to fulfill the mission I've laid out for you in your life. The mission might not seem obvious, but you can fulfill it by saying yes to Me every day, practicing with the new weapons, and fighting in prayer for My children.

You will see, I will use you in ways you cannot imagine, and it starts now, today, with your faithfulness to say yes.

Keys Promises:



When the lying vanities start crowding out your view, call on the keys and they will dash those lies to pieces.

The power of the keys will never be broken. Within the keys lie all the power and energy and components you will ever need to build on your dreams and carry out My will.

Introducing (Dear Xn readers.

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We are so happy to announce an exciting new column in Xn, which we believe will increase both the variety and the quality of your Word time. It's **still** a Word Revolution, and if you are so inclined, you may find Spice of Life just the ticket to keeping this revolution alive in your hearts.

Nothing can better explain this new column than the original inspiration for it, found in "Issues, Part 13":

Keeping the Spice of Life In Your Daily Bread

(Jesus:) Variety is very important when reading My Words. That's one reason I've given so many wonderful messages on so many different topics that you can read on. I know that at times you get stuck on one topic, and while it may be very interesting for a while, because of your human frame and mindsets you need a change.

So if you feel you need a little more variety in your Word diet, instead of spending the whole time slot you have allotted for your Word time reading just one GN, try balancing it out with My Words from other publications. Read portions from a couple of different GNs, some chapters from the Bible, an Xn, or one of the feeding Heaven's Library books.

Whatever it takes, do get that variety. Because if you don't, the Word you're reading may speak to you in the beginning, but as you get more and more restless it begins to speak to you less, because your carnal mind is distracting you. You begin to want something else, something different.

Pice@Life!i

Keep a good balance and some variety in your life. You need to read on different topics so that the Word on each of those topics can speak to you afresh

It's sometimes hard to read for hours on end, so you could break up the Word time. Try different schedules and combinations to see what works the best for you and what bears the most fruit. The most important thing is not to get bored. Keep your spirit and mind stirred up with constant changes and variety, thereby making it much more difficult for the Enemy to attack you with boredom. (End of message from Jesus.) (ML #3430:81-83)

An important thing to remember, as you use this new column, is something the Lord told us about the Word Revolution:

(Jesus:) Your one and half hours in the Word should be quality time. The onus is on the individual to determine what is "quality." It's not in just putting

in the hours. The point is to be fed, trained and inspired! ("What Is Jesus Worth to You?" ML #3433:233-234) [Xn: For an excellent recap, see "Quality Word Time Defined," on page 24 of this mag.]

We'll be listing a variety of reading in Spice of Life; however, it's up to you to confirm with the Lord what kind of reading constitutes "quality Word time" for you on any given day. Please do use your A.M.E.* weapon for maximum and enhanced benefits from this column. (*A.M.E.: Ask Me Everything)

Special note for JETTs and Junior Teens

Baked into the Spice of Life column is much of the new Word Course for your age groups. (There is also some recommended reading material for Senior teens.) Each Spice of Life listing represents two weeks of reading material. (Don't forget to keep up with the new wine too of course!) So if you faithfully read through and check off the assignments marked as required reading for your age group, you'll be hitting two birds with one stone!

That's it for now. Enjoy the Spice!

Love, Your Xn Team



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Anatomy of the Spice

List 01—Each Spice list will be numbered for your easy reference.

Themes—All sorts of themes in the Word are covered, topics that you need in order to be a professional disciple and live a happy and fruitful life!

Basic Letters of Father David— Get back to the basics! Taken from the CVC course REL HH-04 of the same name.

Xn Hosts—Our Xn hosts, Tod and Lina, will be popping up frequently to give tips and tricks and help make the Spice Word Revolution ride a great one for you.

Ongoing Reading—Stuff that's ... ongoing! Put a bookmark in it and read bits and pieces whenever you get a chance. If you don't get to something now, you can always go back later when you're short of reading material.

Effects of the Word—Read about it in this section!

NQ-Notable quotes appear here.

Trivia—If you have any interesting Bible/ML trivia, send it in and you may see it in this section!

A.M.E.—Keep that "Ask Me Everything" weapon polished suggested questions you can ask the Lord will appear here! Don't forget to save your prophecies (in your new Spice of Life Quote Book!—Explained later) so you can refer back to them.

(Jesus:) If everyone were to get one and a half hours of <u>quality</u> time with Me in the Word, and that includes personal prophecy time, then that would certainly fulfill the Word revolution. (ML #3433:235) TEL PLUNCE! ET

CAT Study of the Day— Ready-made compilations posted on the MO site we'll feature one or two in each SOL (Spice of Life) column! See CVC course REL CS-08, "Meeting the Challenges of Life."

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What the Bullets Throughout Signify

Xn: Many of these bullets serve as tools to guide you through most of the updated required reading Word Course for JETTs and teens. If you faithfully check off the reading assignments designated for you, you'll be through much of your required reading in two years.

		Box to check off items as you read them. That way you can go back and tch up on other stuff later!
12–13	=	Required reading for ages 12–13
14–15	=	Required reading for ages 14–15
15–16	=	Required reading for ages 15–16
14	=	Required reading for age 14
15	=	Required reading for age 15
P/S	=	Read with parents or shepherds (for JETTs/teens)
CVC	=	CVC credit potential!*
Web Only	=	Online only (no hard copy available)
Hard Copy	=	Refer to hard copy or download the PDF from the MO site

*(Note: Nearly everything in the reading lists can be found somewhere in the CVC courses. We're simply marking items that are clearly part of a full course.)

Where to find your reading material

-Look in your Home's physical library.

-Run a search in your HomeARC program.

---Check your CVC Pubs/Books CDs, or look on www.cvcollege.com (especially handy for viewing certain books you might not have in your Home library).

--Search for and download the reading item (text or PDF) in the Pubs section of the MO site.

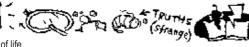
—Order GP books from your PC (i.e., *Evolution; Fact or Fable?*) (or if they don't carry something, they can direct you to a PC that does).

Why word counts

We've put word counts on most items, so that you can more easily see the length of each article or section, and plan your Word times accordingly. The word counts can give you an idea of how much time it'll take to read any one item once you figure out how fast you read (both privately and in united devotions). We hope it's a help.



Stars and



— When you read, learn to study more.

Highlight the portions that speak to you.

— Keep a notebook where you jot down those things that I tell you.

 Write down questions to ask Me, or other related Letters that I bring to mind for you to read.

— Pull quotes and promises for a quote book.

 Mark portions to share with [peers and siblings] or to read in a united devotions.

— Take moments while you're reading to stop and reflect and open your heart to My still small voice as to how that applies to you and what you can do to live it.

a list from mama

Generally speaking, the following things would usually count toward the minimum one and a half hours of quality Word time:

- Feeding study time, either privately or with others.

Personal prophecy time, but not work-related prophecies.

— Memorization and review.

 Occasional meaningful discussions about the application of the Word.

 Some classes you teach others, provided they are feeding for you personally.

 Devotions with JETTs and teens, especially if you read the New Wine.

- Praise time.
- Loving Jesus.*

(*Xn: You can use the *To Jesus—With Love* books.)

- MORE FROM JESUS

Each person will have to judge on a daily basis if and when they have gotten sufficient quality Word time. Some people might need the counsel and input of others to judge how their Word time is going, especially if they have developed poor Word study habits that they have a hard time recognizing and breaking.

("WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?" ML #3433:254,264-272,282,241)

KEYS PROMISE:

CC@LIfe

The keys will lift all barriers that block My Word. Call on the keys to open strong lines of concentration, focus, and absorption.

XN

For a complete explanation on the definition of quality Word time, please reread ML #3433:233–292.

MORE FROM MA<mark>M</mark>A

It's up to you personally to make sure those 90 minutes represent quality time—that's the key. You have to have <u>personal conviction</u> to make that happen. It's not like someone can do it for you. You must discipline yourself, bring your thoughts into captivity, call on the keys for spiritual growth, and really apply yourself to studying and memorizing the Word.

<\You:> Cool! New Spice of Life column! I was just praying for something that'd help me pick up speed again on the Word Revolution.

Dill@IIfe!=

<\Xn:> Great!

<\You:> The only thing is, I have a hard time even remembering what I read, and it's often tough to go back and review all the great counsel in the Word.

<\Xn:> It's a problem we all face.

<\You:> And now, BAM, the "Quality Word Time Defined" page hits my problem right on the head.

<\Xn:> Really? (We pause to flip to the page.) Oh yeah ... the point about pulling quotes and promises for a quote book?

<\You:> Exactly. I did try that once, on little scraps of paper that I found in a cardboard box by our printer, called "scrap paper for kiddo art." Only problem was, I left my bedroom window open one day and a great gust of wind blew all my precious, painstakingly copied jewels to who-knows-where!

<\Xn:> Oh, your problem has a solution!

<\You:> Which would be...?

<\Xn:> Turn the page!

<\You:> (Pause to flip the page over and look at the back.) OhhhhhKAY! Cool!

 $\$ You:> Yes, I mean, awesome. This'll give me just the boost I need...

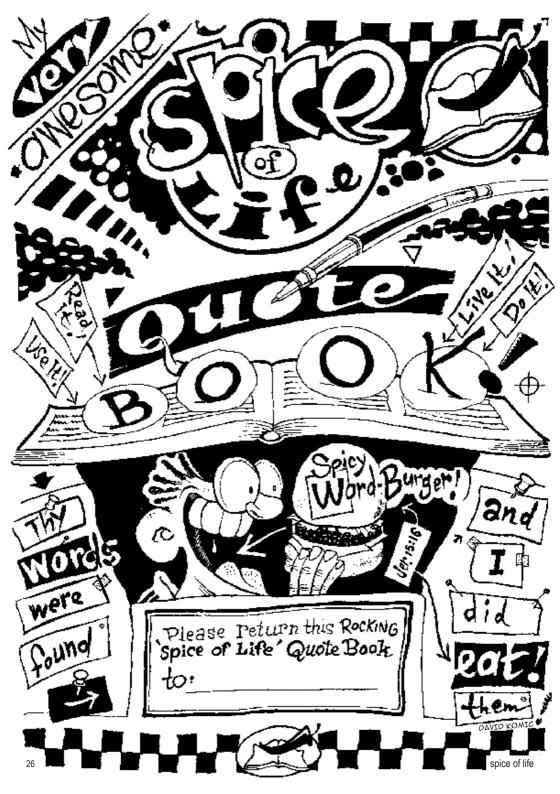
<\Xn:> Great! We wanted to get this in with the very first Spice of Life page and we're so glad it worked out. Now it's up to you to photocopy the picture and get your personal quote book going!

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Ed's Note



Xn: Photocopy your Spice of Life reading lists and paste them directly into your Spice of Life Quote Book, for easy marking off of items as you read them! That way you can go back later when you have time and read through anything you didn't get around to, without forgetting what it was! We've added a space on each list for your name and the date, so it'll be easy to make these lists a part of your ongoing record.

Themes 12-13

-Jesus In-Depth-□ Star Light, Star Bright (Xn 12) (400 words) I'll Never Run Out (Blade 03) (250 words) Mysteries and Hidden Treasures (Blade 04) (300 words) Simple Truths (Blade 05) (300 words) □ See Me! (Blade 12) (150 words) Millions of Questions (Blade 16) (350 words) □ Intimate Details of My Life! (ML #3268) (4,800 words) □ In Search of Truth! (DB 08) (5,700 words) Proof that Jesus Is the Messiah! (Treasures) (3,200 words)

-Being Born Again-□ Born Again!—Are You? (Treasures) (3,200 words) □ (Memory Passages/ Salvation) John 3:1-8, 16-21 (Bible) (350 words) (Bible Study) Salvation (Word Basics) (1,200 words) CVC

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□ (Memory Passage/ Communion) 1Cor.11:23-26 (Bible) (100 words)

—The Word Builds Faith— Flip the Switch (Xn 09) (200 words) □ I Give You My Blade (Blade 01) (200 words) I Want My Words to Grab You! (Blade 02) (400 words) The Word! (Treasures) Hard Copy "Faith Cometh by Hearing the Word!" (DB 11) (1,800 words) □ Truth or Theories? (ML #3322:64-79) (3,500 words) (CM Only) Why We Need a Word Revolution (ML #3433:104-120) (1,500 words) □ Proverbs 6:20–23 (The Word as Your Guide) (Bible) (100 words) Isaiah 55 (The Word Won't) Return Void) (Bible) (400 words) □ (Memory Passage/Jesus, the Word) John 1:1–14 (Bible) (150 words)

□ Heb.4:9–16 (The Word and Our High Priest) (Bible) (200 words) □ James 2:14–26 (Faith and Works) (Bible) (250 words) The Memorization Revolution! (DB 08) (3,800 words)

Date:

Basic Letters of Father David 14-15

U We Are It (ML #2222; Vol.17; DB 08) (DB: 7.800 words) Mountain Men (ML #B; Vol.1; DB 04) (DB: 2,300 words)

CAT Study of the Day CVC Web Only Discipleship

(22,000 words)

Ongoing Reading

Evolution; Fact or Fable? (Activated Book #66) (17,500 words)

Effects of the Word "The Gospel Within Me Began to Work Again!" (FSM 115) (2,200 words)

Question: Lord, can You tell me something today about Your personal calling in my life Σ to serve You?

How to Make Your Word Time Come Alive Again!

- -Keep a list of specific to-dos that the Letter you're reading recommends.
- -Write down or memorize a key quote or two from each new Letter you read. Ask the Lord to show you what the key points are. ("Desperate for Jesus!" ML #3250:56)

The eight men from Adam to Methuselah that are named in the Bible lived a combined total of 6,848 years. According to the "Age of the Earth" chart published in "Bible for You, Part 6" (ML #2691, Lifelines 19), that means that if these men had lived back-to-back, Methuselah would be celebrating his 345th birthday this year. (Xn: See Genesis 5:3-27.)





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