

Women in the Church Newsletter

As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those in the household of faith



Bible Study Nugget:

Becoming a Woman Who Loves by Cynthia Heald

Chapter 10: Loving Words

This month our Bible Study takes us to one of the most important aspects in the Christian life: **the power of the tongue.**

Our words have the power to build up or tear down. The author has us look up many verses that deal with everyday situations where we must choose what sort of words come from our lips. Will the seeds we plant bear fruit of bitterness towards others, stir up strife, or cause divisions? Or will they bring healing, encourage unity, and cultivate conformity to Christlikeness? Topics such as gossip, the hateful rumor weed, and reproving one another in love will also be discussed.

If we are to love as Jesus loves, our tongue must be under control. **Matthew 12:34** reminds us that, "*out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks*", so it is essential that love dwells abundantly in our hearts. Kind, gentle, considerate, truthful words can only spring from a heart abiding in Christ! And "*He works in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*"

Even if you can't make it to your normal circle this month, try to

Ways You Can Encourage:

- *tuck love notes into the sock drawers of your family members*
- *take a friend out for breakfast*
- *wash your teen's car & fill up the gas tank*
- *pick a bouquet of wildflowers for a friend*
- *leave a basket of goodies for someone who's "under the weather"*
- *go through old snap shots and send one to a friend that brings back memories*

Missionary Focus

Frank & Cindy S-
WARM

Rostislav & Irene
Bilosevitch-
Gideons, Ukraine

Sam & Elizabeth
Goodwin-
Germany

Harold & Sarah
Schepian-
SERGE, England



Take the time to thank our Father for the freedoms He's given us and to pray for our nation.

Testimony Corner: Sharon Pratt

Dear Friends and Family, I am writing this letter to you to encourage you to draw near to God, (Hebrews 10:22), to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, (Hebrews 10:23), and to consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.... (Hebrews 10:24). Scripture has always been important for me and to me. Let me explain.

I began my journey as a very young child who was taught Bible verses from many people. Having been called at that young age, I gave Jesus my heart. At that time, I didn't know many Bible verses but knew I loved God's word. A few years later, while at Bible school, I memorized the 23rd Psalm. Being active and not good at memorizing, I worked on that all week in order to recite it on Friday night with the others. I still know that chapter. Through Bible school, Sunday school, and my family, I'm sure I learned many other little verses. God was preparing my heart for further scripture memory.

As a pre-teen, now attending a new church, I had many other opportunities to learn scripture. I was taught how important it was to learn God's word and how to apply it to my life. At this point, no other books were as important as the Bible. Then as a teenager, I depended on my scripture memory to get me through some very tough times. God's word became my friend. Through lots of prayer and reading, God continued to grow me up in Him. The girl's club, Pioneer Girls, and church groups were my life lines. Scripture memory was a part of every badge I earned. Those verses led me when making life decisions. No, I didn't always obey them, but the Holy Spirit guided my thoughts and brought me back every time.

While in college, I told the Lord I was not going to trust Him. That lasted for about a week. When you belong to Him, He won't let you go. During my sophomore year, God opened up an opportunity for me to debate a pastor who professed that the Bible was not relevant for today. After the debate, that pastor told me that I would change my mind later in life to renounce my belief. I didn't believe him then nor have I ever believed that. I live moment by moment. I trust the Lord. Proverbs 3:5-6 says to "Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Not to lean on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your ways."

The Bible holds the truths for life. It was relevant in my youth. It is relevant now. It has been relevant for me in every aspect of my struggles, successes, and heart aches. In the Psalms He is my strength, my shield, my protector and defender. When I need comfort, or wisdom the Proverbs direct me. The precepts guide my every way.

Several years after I retired, I realized that He wanted my all. My possessions and me. I surrendered. The peace that came over me was overwhelming. He says to humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. He is my strength, my help, my covering, my best Friend. I know this because of His word. Written in my Bible is this: "Accept me as I am, So that I may learn, What I can become. My heart's desire for you is that you, too, surrender to the Lord. Read and study His Word. Learn what His will is for you. I pray that you all will consider what I have written. That you will be blessed.