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A TOUGH GIVER

"Speak the truth in love…" Ephesians 4:15 KJV

It's really a great feeling to give and there are so many ways to do it. Giving isn't always about money as there are so many things we've been given by God to give to others. One particular thing we can give is the truth.

It's noted, people often have difficulty giving money to help someone. Another difficulty people have is being willing to give 'the truth' to people in need of help. It is so critical when someone comes to you for help in a situation that you be a tough giver by telling the person the truth. Giving help is not productive when the advice or information given is not honest or accurate. If someone looks to you for help and you really don't know what to say the best answer is, "I don't know." Those words wrapped in love can be the best answer given rather than saying something that is not wise or accurate. You are a tough giver for sure when the advice given is at your disposal and there is the possibility the person will become agitated over the response.

Real love, when helping others, must be packaged in truth. While growing up, my parents would tell me things I didn't want to hear. Their love made them a tough giver of truth in order to help me develop into a person of integrity. When we have to dispense unpleasant truth to others in need of our help, I call that being a 'tough giver' because it takes fortitude and strength from God to risk receiving someone's anger toward you for speaking the truth in love.

Residing in Fort Worth, TX, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the former Senior Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles and currently serves as its Chief Executive Officer. She is also the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures.

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