



# Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS

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## **SPEAK A GOOD WORD**

Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery | July 22, 2015

Changing our style of speech is something many of us don't often think about. As Christians we all should change our speech to avoid profanity, and that's a given (at least I hope so...smiles). I am referring to our choice of words when dialoguing with someone on a day to day basis. The wrong choice of words can often glide off our tongue so quickly. Afterward feelings of regret may arise. More times than I wish to recall words were spoken that I wanted to recapture. My father taught me that it is impossible to deposit words and then withdraw them. It makes me shiver sometimes when I read Jesus' words in Matthew 12:36 (NKJV), "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment." This should govern us to limit speaking and definitely be apt to speak a good word.

I propose we consider speaking a good word to those who need to hear it and speak less negative words into the atmosphere. This way when the Lord assesses our words it reflects a positive change into the lives of others. Proverbs 15:23 (NKJV) says, "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" It is profitable when our words are used to assist friends, family, co-workers and even a stranger who needs encouragement, direction or wisdom. If our mouth is filled with the word of God we can speak words of life, now that's speaking a 'good word!'

Proverbs 12:25 says, "Anxiety in the heart of a man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad." Our good word may be the very thing that lifts the heart of a depressed person. Have you noticed on TV there are more ads promoting drugs to help people deal with depression? This condition is afflicting believers and unbelievers and it could be the people of God do not speak a good word often enough to counter this negative factor.

Prayer: 'Lord, please teach me to speak a good word daily into the ears of those whose lives I touch. Replace the negative thoughts in my mind with the beauty of Your word so this is what is expressed to others. I want to remember 'how sweet are Your words to my taste' and in sharing a good word it will sweeten my life as well as others. Thank you for making this change in me, In Jesus name, Amen. '

*"You have it easily in your power to increase the sum total of this world's happiness now. How? By giving a few words of sincere appreciation to someone who is lonely or discouraged. Perhaps you will forget tomorrow the kind words you say today, but the recipient may cherish them over a lifetime." - Dale Carnegie*

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