

Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS



A product of Celebrate Change Ministries
www.CelebrateChange.org

A NEW GROWTH EXPERIENCE

Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery | June 8, 2016



Thinking back on a time early in my marriage, I went to the market with the intent of purchasing fresh fish and grilling it for my husband to enjoy. Disappointment hit my heart when it turned out the type of fish I purchased was one he did not like. Of course I was hurt and wanted to tell him, "From now on cook your own meals that way you can be sure to like it." I did not do that, praise God. Instead, I allowed the Holy Spirit to restrain my mouth. I ate the fish and fixed him something to his liking. It was quickly obvious to me my thoughts stemmed from being disappointed that my plan to do something nice for him didn't go so well.

I did not ask him in advance about the fish he would prefer, but assumed since he loves fish it would be a good choice. I learned not to do that again. It's best to ask him if he likes something before I purchase and cook it. If I want to do surprise meals, it's best to stick to what I know he likes.

At the end of that same week I received a call from a family member who was hurt because they thought they were doing something kind for their spouse and the spouse didn't want what was provided. The family member shared their hurt and decision to not to do acts of kindness again since it's not appreciated. I shared with the family member what had happened to me and indicated we should not hold a grudge with our spouse because what we did was not liked. We must appreciate that they are entitled to their preferences and respect that. I also told the family member I was tempted to take that same attitude and the Lord let me know it was wrong. Of course the family member chuckled and agreed.

It's amazing how the Holy Spirit directs our lives through an experience to help us grow and then allows us to share it with someone who needs to be encouraged in that same area. It isn't because we are perfect that we can help one another. However, the Spirit of God is perfect and desires to perfect all of us. My mind reflected on the scripture in 2 Corinthians 4:7 (Message Bible) that says, "*If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in unadorned pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us.*"

As we change in life through our new growth experiences, it behooves us to consider we may sooner or later share that experience with someone else to lead them to change through their new growth experience. The beauty of this is none of us are perfect, but our Perfect God knows how to use our imperfections to help each other, thereby revealing How Great He is!!!!

Residing in Los Angeles, CA, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the Emeritus Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles, is 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. For more information, CelebrateChange.org | Info@CelebrateChange.org | 310-436-6336 x216

Be sure to LIKE us at [Facebook.com/CelebrateChangeMinistries](https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateChangeMinistries)