

November 2008—“Being Women of Encouragement”

Webster’s definition of **communication** is “*an exchange of ideas and information by **speech, gestures, or writing.***” This short study of Scripture will give us a taste of God’s definition, and how we can use communication as either a means of encouragement or discouragement. The choice is up to us.

COMMUNICATING THROUGH WORDS IS POWERFUL!

James 3:1-13 gives us many truths regarding the tongue and the power of it.

- Do not use our words to judge or censure others.
- Controlling our tongue is proof that we are mature Christians in that we also have control over our actions.
- An unruly tongue is one of the greatest evils.
- It is very difficult to control our tongue (without supernatural grace and assistance.)
- Our tongue can be used in the service of God if we so choose.

Eph 4:25-32 describes the type of words we are to speak.

- Words of Truth.
- Not angry words.
- Words of encouragement and healing.
- Kind words.
- Words of forgiveness.
- Speak with a purpose and with a great deal of caution.

COMMUNICATION THROUGH LISTENING.

- “. . . *Swift to hear, slow to speak. . .*” (James 1:20)
- “*He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.*” (Prov. 11:12)
- “*He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.*” (Prov. 18:13)
- “*Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him.*” (Prov. 29:20)

Elizabeth George wrote regarding women of encouragement: “Their hearts are always welcoming. Their arms are always open. Their love is always overflowing. Their ears are ever ready to listen. And their lips are there to be used to not only affirm, but to give wise counsel and encouragement in the Lord.”

By God’s grace may we be that kind of a woman.

—Terri