

TNT Ministries

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"An Impact In Faith"

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TNT Ministries

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Greetings everyone! It's been awhile since our last newsletter and we hope you are doing well in your daily walk with God.

Recently, we saw Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of Christ". What a profound movie! We were seated next to five teenage boys who were munching on their popcorn, drinking their sodas and laughing. Once the movie started, they became quiet along with everyone else. During the movie you could hear people softly sobbing and nothing else but the movie. When it was over people didn't know how to act. Many of them sat there in deep thought soaking in the movie.

A girl from work who went with us told me that she drove home about 100 miles an hour and couldn't think of anything else. Ty and I drove in separate vehicles and we both said that we hadn't listened to the radio but just thought about the movie. I asked Ty what was the one thing that stuck out to him and he said "it was the torture and pain that Christ went through especially knowing He went through that for me. It played an impact on me."

Several things went through my mind as I watched the movie. First, I'd have to agree with Ty. Just seeing the pain and torture that Christ went through was unbelievable. He could have said to heck with these people, I tried my best but they don't care but He didn't. As He said to Peter after he cut the soldier's ear "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" *{NIV Matt 26:53-54}*

The other thing I thought of was a mother's love for her son. Mary knew her son was The Messiah. In Luke 2:19 it says "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." You know she remembered Simeon's words to her in the temple when Jesus was just eight days old "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thought of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." *{NIV Luke 2:34-35}*

Lastly, I thought of a verse in my bible "He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified." *{NIV Mark 15:15}* It reads so simple but the magnitude of this is so great. Mel Gibson's film touches on the pain and torture Christ went through as realistically as possible. The most realistic thing for me is the knowledge that this depiction was only a glimpse of what Jesus went through. Those days were very cruel and barbaric.

The Oxford American Dictionary says flogged is “to be beat severely with a rod or a whip as punishment.”¹ Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary² describes the whip used to flog Jesus: “The whip used for this type of punishment consisted of a handle to which one or more leather cords or thongs were attached. Sometimes these cords were knotted or weighted with pieces of metal or bone to make the whip more effective as a flesh-cutting instrument.” Isaiah 53:5 says “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities”. *{NIV}*

Seeing this movie made me think of God’s love for us and how we don’t realize the importance of what He did. It also reminded me of the many people who were criticizing Mel Gibson and doubting Jesus. 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 says “Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: A stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jew and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.” *{NIV}*

All I know is that Jesus is the Son of God. He is The Messiah and He is true. He fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies. Some of the mathematicians decided to see what kind of odds we had here. Here are a couple of findings:

“George Heron, a French mathematician, calculated that the odds of one man fulfilling 40 of those prophecies are 1 in 10 to the power of 157. That is a 1 followed by 157 zeros.”

Dr. Peter S. Ruckman, claims the odds of fulfilling 60 of them by Christ who claimed to be the Son of God, who died on a "tree" on Calvary, and who rose on the 3rd day are astronomical!... not just one in one trillion, but one out of ten to the 895th power. That is a one over a one followed by 895 zeros.³

So as we enter the Lenten season and the Resurrection of Christ, reflect on Him. Reflect on his love for you. He made a huge sacrifice for each of us, thank Him every day and try to imitate Christ in your daily walk. You’ll find the old you wearing off and the new you, the Christ in you shining through.

God Bless you all. We hope you enjoy this quarter’s newsletter. Let us know what you think of it and anything else you’d like us to talk about.

With Christ’s Love,

Pastors Ty & Tina McGehee

¹ *The New, Recommended Oxford American Dictionary*, copyright 1980 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

² *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, copyright 1995, 1986 by Thomas Nelson Publishers

³ <http://biblia.com/jesusible/prophecies.htm>



Something for our dear ladies

Remember your worth!

By the time the God made woman, he was into the second week of working overtime. An angel appeared and said, "Why are you spending so much time on this one?"

And the God answered, "Have you seen My spec sheet on her? She has to be able to run on diet Pepsi, leftovers, have a kiss that can cure anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart. She heals herself when she is sick

AND can work 18 hour days."

The angel then noticed something, and reaching out, touched the woman's cheek. "Oops, it looks like you have a leak in this model," the angel said. "I think you're trying to put too much into this one."

"That's not a leak," God corrected, "that's a tear. The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her pain, her disappointment, her love, her loneliness, her grief and her pride."

"Woman is truly amazing."

"And she is! Women have strengths that amaze men. They bear hardships and they carry burdens, but they hold happiness, love and joy. They smile when they want to scream. They sing when they want to cry. They cry when they are happy and laugh when they are nervous. They fight for what they believe in. They stand up to injustice. They don't take 'no' for an answer when they believe there is a better solution. They go without so others can have. They go to the doctor with a frightened friend. They love unconditionally. They cry when their children excel and cheer when their friends get awards. They are happy when they hear about a birth or a wedding. Their hearts break when a friend dies. They grieve at the loss of a family member, yet they are strong when they think there is no strength left.

"They know that a hug and a kiss can help to heal a broken heart. Women come in all sizes, in all colors and shapes. They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you to show how much they care about you. The heart of a woman is what makes the world keep turning! They bring joy and hope. They have compassion and ideals. They give moral support to their family and friends. Women have vital things to say and everything to give.

"Are there no flaws?" the angel said.

"Of course, because nothing can be perfect, each woman will have her unique flaws. But there's one they all have in common. I've tried to get it out of the model, but not even I can seem to fix it."

"What's that?"

"They all tend to forget their worth."

Power In The Words We Speak
By
Pastor Ty McGehee

Many people do not realize the power of the tongue, the words that we speak, and the impact that it has on our lives and the lives of those around us. In the book of Proverbs, we are told that words can bring life or death to us.

“A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruits of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” *(NKJV Proverbs 18:20-21)*

What comes out of our mouth will affect us, or other people, either positively or negatively. It is a scientifically proven fact that our bodies respond to what we tell it to do. If we say that we cannot do something then our bodies began to respond and act according to what we tell it. Science is only backing what God has revealed to us in scripture. So, if are filled, spiritually and physically, by what comes out of our mouths then we as Christians must be very careful of what we say about ourselves and other people. The Apostle Paul tells us that we are to encourage and edify the body of Christ, that is lift it up and make it stronger.

We must be conscious about what is being fed to us in our daily lives. There is an old saying that goes, “Garbage in, garbage out!” If we are taking in bad or unholy things into our lives then these are the fruits that we will be feeding others and ourselves. By focusing on the Word of God and bringing it into our life daily our hearts are being taught the truths and promises of God which will influence our speech and our conduct. We can live a good life, an overcoming life, a victorious life, by proclaiming God’s Word into our lives by our mouths and manners.

“The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips. Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.” *(NKJV Proverbs 16:23-24)*

Because of the impact that our words have in our lives, it is imperative that we begin to take control of this area of our lives. If we speak positive words concerning our situations and ourselves then we are speaking good things into our life and in to the lives of others. An example of speaking Godly words into your life would be, “Through Christ I can do all things.” The same applies when speaking over other people. If you are speaking Godly words into their lives then you are speaking blessings upon them.

On the other hand, if we are speaking negative words concerning our situations and ourselves then we speaking bad things and death into our life and into the lives of others. An example of speaking negative words into your life would be, “I can not do this,” or “It will never happen.” The same applies when speaking over other people, such as, “You

will never amount to anything,” or “You will never be able to accomplish that.” We must learn to recognize when we are speaking negative words into our lives and the lives of others. Ask God to bring into light the times that you are speaking negatively into your life and to help you in changing your speech patterns. We must not expect the changes to happen overnight, the patterns that a person has learned were not learned over night, and it may not be an easy task. Although, do not become discouraged by this, keep your focus on God and He will bring about the changes. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

As we begin to be watchful of our speech patterns and take control of what we are allowing into lives, those things that influence our thinking and speech, and begin speaking the Word of God into our lives then we are opening the door to receive the blessings that God has stored up for us.



Bible Trivia

1. What Old Testament Patriarch was called a “friend of God”?
2. What Roman official was accused by a Jewish mob of not being Caesar’s friend?
3. Who was “a” friend of the tax collector and sinners?
4. What friend of Jesus was so beloved that Jesus raised him from the dead?
5. Who spoke to God face to face, “as a man speaketh to his friend?”
6. What king of Israel was accused of loving his enemies and hating his friends?
7. What suffering man received little comfort from his three talkative friends?
8. Which Old Testament book claims that “there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother”?
9. What two military men are the most famous friends in the Bible {and possibly the most famous male friends in the world}?
10. What two unscrupulous rulers became friends after they both met Jesus?





Tina's Time

Many of you have asked me "Are there any good men out there?" The answer is yes. Like a lot of you, I was in an abusive first marriage. My ex-husband was verbally abusive and towards the end became physically abusive. One minute he was angry with me and the next he was angry with someone else. Literally, for 13 years I felt like I was on a roller coaster. I would try to make him happy. I did everything I could but the harder I tried, the worse he became.

Some people asked me "why did it take you so long to leave this man?" Just as I told them, I'm telling you. I grew up in a very strict Roman Catholic background. The thought of divorce was unacceptable. Then again, no one in my family had a marriage like mine. I would look my cousins and their wives and all of them were genuinely happy with each other. I'd compare my marriage and I would cry inside, I felt so disgusted not to mention lonely and sad.

I never let anyone see the true inner me. People at work didn't know how miserable I was. I was ashamed that I had sunk so low. My career was taking off and here I was - a successful career woman with an alcoholic husband and an abusive marriage. This whole concept was foreign to me because I never grew up with abuse. In fact, I was very spoiled and content. My parents treated me like a princess. So how did this happen? He intrigued me. He was different than anything I was used to and once I agreed to marry him, I was determined to make my marriage work. I knew I would make a difference in this man's life. Famous last words...

As my life became more and more miserable, I would pray and pray for God to change this man. Nothing would happen. In fact, he was drinking heavier than before and becoming uglier with each passing day.

I'll never forget the night I watched him sleep in his drunken stupor and I could feel the anger rising within me. Literally, I saw the baseball bat in the corner and thought, "Oh, how I wish I could hit him over and over again. Then, maybe the pain would go away."

Common sense stepped in and I realized how far the anger had seeped into my bones. Never in my life did I think I could feel such violence and hate towards another human being. Honestly, it scared me. I couldn't get down on my knees fast enough to pray.

I asked God to forgive me for my thoughts and to help me. That's when I heard His voice "You will see his fruits and by his fruits you will know my answer."

What did that mean? God was always speaking to me in parables and I hated that because I didn't understand Him. I wanted to hear Him say "Tina, go ahead and leave this man."

Later that day I had a business meeting. While there, our president was speaking about the principles in her marriage and how they applied to her life and business. She began to say that they had 6 principles they lived by. They were: 1) Love 2) Friendship 3) Trust 4) Respect 5) Honor and 6) Obedience.

I went down the list in my marriage. 1) Love - yes there was love albeit not much but there was love. 2) Friendship - yes, we were friends. In fact, we were better friends than lovers. 3) Trust - None. I absolutely didn't trust him. He lied so much half the time I never knew what to believe. 4) Respect - I lost all respect for this man. He definitely didn't respect me so how could I show him respect if I didn't get any? 5) Honor and 6) Obedience - You had to be kidding!!

I remember telling God "I see what you mean" and I heard "that is not a true marriage. A marriage sanctioned by me is one where the two of you are equally yoked. Today, you will see more."

I remembered thinking "equally yoked? What does that mean?" Being a Roman Catholic, I read my bible but I never really studied it so I didn't understand the concept of "equally yoked." Then, I thought about God's last words to me "Today, you will see more." What did that mean? I began to tremble with fear of the unknown.

About 3:30 PM, I received a call from my ex-husband telling me he was in a car accident. The car was totaled and "to come get him" When I pulled up to the accident scene, I saw the police were taking him away to jail on a DUI. About 5 hours later, he was released and the first words to me were "You were the last person I wanted to see" proceeded by every filthy word imaginable.

When we got home I grabbed my cats and dog and locked us in the bedroom. I put a chair under the knob because he was so angry I wasn't sure what he was going to do. I began to pray. I heard God's voice again "Those are his fruits and they do not come from me. A marriage blessed by me is not one of abuse." I felt such relief flood out. I knew then if I got a divorce God would be okay with me. He would forgive me.

Now, don't get me wrong. I don't condone divorce and I'm not saying that God says it is okay to divorce just because you want to. Marriage is very hard and you have to work at it every day. The Hebrews frowned upon wife battering. The Jewish ideal was that a wife was a man's crown, the queen of her home and a treasure to be defended at all costs. *{Prov. 12:4; 31:10-31}*

People today give up too easily on their marriages and that is not right. You have to make every effort to make your marriage work before giving up. However, when one is suffering abuse and their life is in jeopardy, God understands and forgives. Psalm 34:17-18 says,

"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

This is why the concept of being "equally yoked" is very important. If you are not "equally yoked" with someone you are going to have a hard time of it. This is why you must not settle for less especially if you are a believer. You need to be bonded with another believer to truly be blessed by God.

After my divorce I didn't want to have anything more to do with marriage. I figured I'd have a boyfriend who had his house and I had mine. We'd see each other a couple of days during the week and on the weekends we'd do stuff. My mind was concentrating on work, family, friends, travel and God. See where I put God? Last on my list.

Well, God had other plans. He put a long-time friend in my life who was also going through a divorce. This man is a wonderful person and a very Godly man. He helped to open my mind to the scriptures and to the principles that God teaches. He knew I was searching because I wasn't content at my church so he invited me to his church. I loved his church because of the closeness of the congregation and the wonderful presence of the Holy Spirit in the sanctuary. The people there were so reverent and it reminded me of the old-time Catholic Church where we would speak in Latin with the various rituals like the incense burning, etc. It brought back a time to my mind where I was a little child - very peaceful and calm.

I began attending this church and studied their doctrines but I also saw something that I didn't like - legalism and judgmental spirits. Of course at the time I didn't realize what that was but I knew something wasn't right. I prayed to God to help me find a "parish" where I would feel His love for people and where I could grow. Little did I know that God was waiting for me to ask that! This is also how I know God has a sense of humor: I had asked Him to send me to another "parish" and instead, He sent me to a Pentecostal church in Tempe. I knew my family would flip out but I didn't care. I knew God wanted me at this church. A church where the Pastor was so cool and the people were loving. They sang beautiful songs and more than anything else - they lived the scriptures as Jesus taught us to.

I got involved in the church and met my present husband. He was looking for a church and God led him to this one. In fact, the first day Ty came to this church was the first day we met. We shook hands and we both felt the electricity shoot through us. Little did we know that a year and a half later we'd be walking down the aisle as man and wife and "equally yoked."

What is this man like? First of all, he is a Godly man who puts God first - even before me. He is kind, compassionate, intelligent, hard working and fun. He is someone that I can share my innermost feelings with - a concept I never did with anyone in my life until this man. I marvel at the fact that I trust him like I've never trusted anyone else except my parents.

My family loves him and he loves them. He takes care of me and I always know that when I go home he will be there with loving, open arms. It doesn't matter how stressful my day was

- when I get home I know that I will find peace and calmness with him. Now, I can say I truly enjoy going home.

What makes this man different than my ex-husband? He is a man who believes. He puts God first and lives by the scriptures. He is human and at times, he will get frustrated or upset with life but never does he abandon his faith. Let me also say this, Ty has been to hell and back. He has seen the ravages of drug abuse and violence. He's seen many sides to life that I can't even imagine but through it all, God had him in his little pocket. God knew exactly what was right for Ty and he knew what was right for me. *(See also Jeremiah 1:5 & 29:11-14)*

When I look back at how God has worked in my life, I just marvel. He shows me how much He loves me over and over. Until I gave my life to Christ in July, 2000, I never understood the concept of being born again. In fact, I used to laugh and say to my born-again friends "when was I lost?" I really believed that because I knew Jesus was my Savior I was never lost. Boy, I was wrong! Sure, I knew Jesus was my Savior but I never understood the scriptures, I didn't have the spiritual discernment that I now have and more than anything else - I didn't have the joy in my heart that I have. I think that is the one thing that makes you realize how different it is - to have that joy is a very precious thing.

Now, I look at my ex-husband and I feel love for him. Don't misunderstand me. I don't love him the same way I love Ty. I love him in the Christian way of love. I want the best for his life and I want him to become delivered from all his bondage because I know he would be a happier person. I also know that God gives every man free will and until he decides to make that commitment on his own, he will still be wrapped up in chains of anger and frustration.

So at this point, the answer to your question is yes. Yes, there are good men out there. Yes, you can have a beautiful life with a wonderful man. But first, you have to rely on God and allow Him to work on you. Many of you have gone through a lot of abuse and suffering through no fault of your own. Give it to God, let Him take it from you. Jesus says "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." *{Matt 11:28-30}* When you give it all over to Him, you'll experience a release you've not known. The joy in your heart will become so powerful that you'll wonder why it took you so long to do this.

I hope you'll be able to draw some strength from my experience. I hope that God's love and forgiveness shows through and that you too will be able to find peace. God wants us to be filled with his peace because He loves us so.

Keep in touch with me.

God Bless you all,

Pastor Tina McGehee

Answers to Bible Trivia Questions

1. Abraham {2 Chronicles 20:7 & James 2:23}
2. Pilate, who was jeered by the Jews who wanted Christ crucified {John 19:12}
3. Jesus {Luke 7:34}
4. Lazarus {John 11}
5. Moses {Exodus 33:11}
6. David, who was so accused because of the grief he showed over his rebellious son, Absalom {2 Samuel 19:6}
7. Job, whose friends were Zophar, Eliphaz and Bildad {Job}
8. Proverbs 18:24
9. David & Jonathan, whose deep friendship is recounted in 1st & 2nd Samuel and; considered David's lament for the dead Jonathan "thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women" 2nd Samuel 1:26
10. Herod and Pilate {Luke 23:12}



Current Ministry News

Bible Program

For those that are in need of a Bible we have Bibles that we will provide to you free of charge. Just contact us and we will send you one.

Attention

It has recently come to our attention that in the "ADOC-PV-Santa Cruz Orientation Packet" our address is incorrect. Please inform those that are seeking to contact us of our correct address. Thank you. We are working on getting this corrected for the next printing of the orientation packet.

Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests or simply want us to stand in agreement you in prayer, please feel free to contact us with your request. You can be assured that we pray over each and every request that we receive.

Newsletter & Website Content

We are looking for new content for our newsletters and website. We like to receive testimonies, Godly inspired poems, and prose that we can put on our website and in our newsletters. Remember this ministry belongs to all God's saints.