



Jewels

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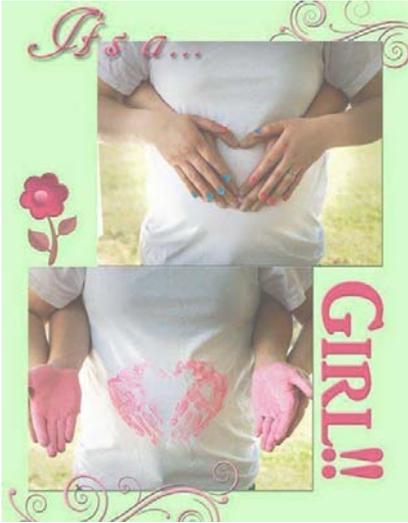
His

Crown



*A periodical for Christian Young Ladies*

*October-December 2015*



## *Family Moments*

We are excited to announce to you all that our daughter, Elisabeth and her husband, Garry Wright, are expecting their first baby! If you have not guessed yet, it is a girl! We are all very excited for Garry and Elisabeth and thankful to the Lord that everything seems to be going well. This will be our eleventh grandchild and we love them one and all! We appreciate your prayers for a safe delivery in January.

Our annual Fall meeting was the 9th of October, which was our first big meeting in our new building. We are looking forward to many good days of fellowship here at Straight Paths, as the Lord wills. The Lord has blessed us with a few visitors in the past few months and even a baptising! Please pray for us as we seek God's will in the work of His Kingdom. ~T. Miller

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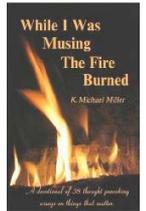
Subscription is free.  
Donations for publication are appreciated.

## *Our Book Store*

We still have two books available, "As The Days Go By", a collection of poems by Teresa S. Miller. The book is a 68-page paperback edition of original poetry. The cost is \$5.95 shipped free.

Also available, "While I Was Musing, The Fire Burned", a book of devotions written by K. Michael Miller, which many have already found a great blessing. The cost is \$8.95 plus free shipping. Order both for \$12!

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(Note: These are now also available through Amazon to order or to download on your Kindle device. When searching, type in name and author, please.)

*Let the*  
**words**  
*of my mouth, ...*  
*be acceptable*  
*in thy sight,*  
**O LORD.**

Psalms 19:14

Your words and the manner in which you speak are critical to harmonious relationships. As you learn to speak the truth in love, you must also determine when to speak, how to speak in an edifying manner, and to whom you should speak. The power of your words is enormous, and they also show the condition of your heart.

John Broger



A corrupt and unholy heart eventually will be exposed by corrupt and unholy speech... If the tongue is not controlled by God, it is a sure indicator that the heart is not, either.

John MacArthur

before you speak,

**THINK**

- T** Is it true?
- H** Is it helpful?
- I** Is it inspiring?
- N** Is it necessary?
- K** Is it kind?

God has a higher standard for our speech than simply **“not swearing.”**

What does He want from us?

Is it acceptable to use

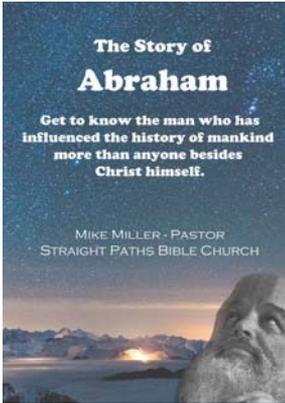
**slang**

that substitutes euphemisms for profanity?

John Younts



**Knowing God and understanding his heart is the first step to living a holy and separated life. God gave us "the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I have come to know more about the God that I love and serve through these messages and I highly recommend that you, too, listen to them. They will bless your life.**

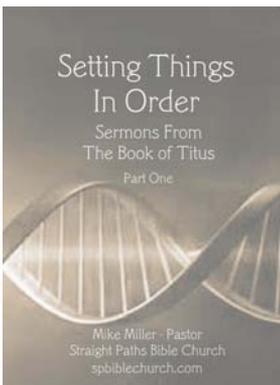
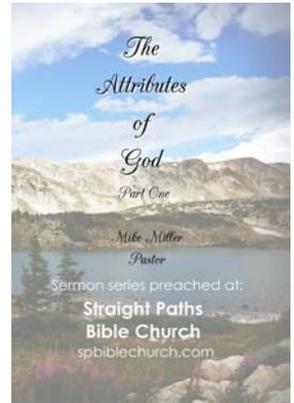


## *The Story of Abraham*

Fourteen messages on twelve separate CDs in a convenient album case that covers the life of Abraham (Genesis 12-Genesis 24). Precious insight into the life of the man that everyone knew as the "friend of God", these messages have already been a great blessing to many others. You may purchase the entire set for \$20, or you can buy all the messages on one MP3 for only \$10. Both come in plastic cases and are perfect for gift-giving.

## *The Attributes of God*

Sixteen messages are gathered into two separate albums in this wonderful study of the attributes and character of our blessed Creator, such as "God is Holy," "God is Patient," and "God is Omnipotent." This set, which comes in two separate albums (part one and part two) can be purchased for \$20 in the CD form, or for \$10 with all the messages on one MP3. Each message will be a blessing to you and your family and is easy to understand.



## *Setting Things in Order*

This set of sixteen messages is taken from the book of Titus. Our God is a God of order which is clearly seen in all of his creation. There is nothing left to question in the way that he expects us to live in this present day, and God blesses those who seek to live according to his statutes. These two albums may be purchased for \$20 in the CD form, or they are also available in an MP3 format for \$10.

(Note: All proceeds go back into our CD ministry.)

# Words

*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. Psalms 19:14*

Everyone wants to be identified in one way or another. There are clubs and cliques in every tribe of humanity. Some people will claim their identity with the clothes that they wear, donning black trench coats, black clothing and dark glasses, others wearing bright team t-shirts and tight jeans, while yet others will not even care to change out of their pajamas to come to town. Some will seek their identity with tattoos or in various piercings all over themselves, while others will cut and style their hair in outlandish ways and in outlandish colors. (Odd how they do not care to group themselves into nationalities anymore.) Everyone will identify with one group or another, either in a good way or an evil.

There is a group going around today that is very disturbing, however. They call themselves "Christians" but they use foul language and profane words. There are times that I will find the name of someone on Facebook, whether it is someone whom I know (or once knew) or sometimes it is just someone that I am dealing with in a transaction while selling something. This happened just the other day. A person had asked about the item I was trying to sell and out of curiosity, I went to their Facebook page to see who they were and how far they would have to come if they bought the item. The first few posts were good, talking of the blessings of God and seeming to be good people. About the fourth post down, however, was a post with a very profane word in it. The next post down was another with filthy words. Needless to say, I stopped looking. So, what kind of people would you think them to be? Would you call them Christians? Or would you call them profane?

Not only do I hear this kind of identification from worldly sources but I also hear these kind of things from the people I know, even from my own loved ones. Some of them even claim to be born again, have been baptized and go to church regularly, but there are times that words come from their mouths that should not be there. What words am I speaking of? Words that describe things that happen in bathrooms, talking loosely about body parts, minced oaths that sound almost like the curse word but...not quite (so that makes it ok?), using "God" and "Jesus" or "Lord" loosely. They say words that were curse words when I was younger and would have gotten my mouth washed out with soap. But now is it just common language that is accepted as "normal" in our Christian circles. Acceptable to whom? And where does it all come from?

It is a known fact that what you put into your heart through your ears and eyes will eventually come out of your mouth. *"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matthew 12:34 "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." Matthew 15:11* So, what you put in will be coming out of your mouth at one time or another. I know some people

whom you would never hear a bad word from, but if you listen to what others say of them and how they talk around someone else, you would wonder if they were speaking of the same person. *"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" James 3:10-11* Someone who can be one way with one crowd of people and another way with another crowd of people is not a Christian but a hypocrite. It is the very reason that there are so many people who know nothing of Christ and do not care to know anything about him. You can not win people to the Lord and a holier life if you are not living it yourself. If the only Bible that this world has to read is what they see in you, what are you preaching to them with your life and words?

Simon Peter was one of the most outspoken of Jesus' disciples. He seemed always to be the first to speak, go, and do the Master's will. But while he was yet young in the faith, he was very apt to say things that were out of order. When Jesus asked who they thought he was, Peter was the one who claimed him as the Son of God, but then later said things that made the Lord have to rebuke him. Before Jesus' death, Peter claimed that he would go with the Lord even to death, but Jesus looked at him and said, *"this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."* *Matthew 26:34* Peter even went to the extreme as to curse and swear so that the people standing around in the courtyard where they had taken Jesus would not think him to be one of Jesus' disciples. (Mark 14:71) Why did he curse and swear? So that he would not be identified with Jesus!

Where do these habits of speaking come from? Media today is running rampant. We are either on a cell phone, tablet, Kindle or computer, reading, looking, and hearing everything that the world has to offer. We see it, we hear it, we live with it everywhere that we go: in the store, at work, at school,...everywhere! Our minds are continually bombarded with filth and profanity. Some of the sources can be controlled but not all of them. You hear your family and friends talk that way and use those words and before you know it, one of them will come out of your own mouth. You think at first, "Oh, I should not have said that!" But later, you find yourself saying it again! You know you should not say those things but find that it is nearly impossible not to. Before his death, Jesus gave us an example of what would help us in this filthy, ungodly world that we live in; he washed the disciples feet. Peter, at first, did not want Christ to do such a menial thing to him, but Jesus said, *"If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."* *John 13:8* What did he mean? What Jesus was trying to teach his disciples? That we walk in a world that is profane and does not regard God, and just as we need to bathe our bodies every day or we will begin to stink, we need to bathe our heart and soul as well...every day! *"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."* *John 15:3-5* The Word of God, the Bible, is what helps us to stay clean. *"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word," Ephesians 5:26*

It really all depends on how much you love the Lord Jesus Christ. It is out of love that we do things that please him. If you love someone there is nothing you would not do to make them happy, and you would go out of your way so as not to offend them. So why would we not do all that we can to please the Lord? Do we expect him to be pleased with us when we will not regard his word and live as we please? He will not tie a rope around your neck and make you do anything, but there are consequences to our actions that will eventually come to light. *"These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes."* Psalms 50:21

But are our words so important? Do the things we say every day really matter all that much? Jesus said, *"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."* Matthew 12:37 So our words do not only please the Lord or bring him shame, they will also be our judge when we stand before God. *"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."* Matthew 12:36 And what is the definition of "idle words"? It could be described as "drama" or "foolishness", being extreme and showy when speaking to others, using excessive descriptive words to make more of an impression than is necessary. The Bible describes it this way: *"Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."* Ephesians 5:4 Children should be taught to listen more, to be quiet and thoughtful of others, not interrupting and talking while others are trying to have a conversation. Children want to be heard and seen and will speak loudly, interrupt the conversations of others and talk of nonsense just to be heard. The world teaches that they should have their rights and we should let them do as they please. But which type of child is more acceptable to others around them? Would you enjoy the company of children who were raised in the way of the world, to say anything that came to their mind at any time and anywhere? Or would it be more pleasing to everyone if children were taught to think more and speak less? Have you ever noticed how much more you are acceptable to others when you are more courteous with your words?

So, identify yourself! The things you say do matter. How much you say does matter. God's word instructs in the way we should go so that our lives will be better, not boring. If you feel that living for God has too many restrictions and not enough liberty, then you have never known the true life that God has to offer. Our reputation and how other people treat us is based on what we say and do, and if we love the Lord Jesus, we will want to live in a way that would please him. To follow the ways of the Lord will only make you a person who is pleasant to be around and one in which others will have confidence. *"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."* Proverbs 22:1 So, make your words sweet, pure, and few that they may be a blessing to those around you and so you may honor and identify with your dear Lord.

# Words

A careless word may kindle strife;

A cruel word may wreck a life;

A bitter word may hate instill;

A brutal word may smite and kill;

A gracious word may smooth the way;

A joyous word may light the day;

A timely word may lessen stress;

A loving word may heal and bless.

Ellen stood deep in thought one Sunday evening as she prepared for bed, mulling over the pastor's words that would not leave her mind. "Our words are spirits that we walk with and by which others know us. If our words are loose, coarse, filthy or profane, these are the spirits that will exemplify our character to others." Ellen had recently given her life to Christ and wanted to please the Lord and be a good example to others, but she knew that there were old habits that she needed to change, and one of those habits was some of the words that she used. Though not curse words, they were words that identified her with the other girls, words that were closely related to curse words and she knew they were not good to say if you were a Christian. But she wondered as she lay down on her pillow and stared at the stars out her window, "Can I do that? Can I risk being called names and being mocked because I change? And what of my friends? I can't hang around them if they talk that way. What should I do?"

As she drifted off to sleep, she saw in a dream that she was in the foyer of the church with her friends. Around them were ugly little demons. When an older Christian would pass by them, the demons would hide behind the girls' legs quietly until they were past, then they would make faces at the person while giving each other wicked, smirking looks. As Ellen walked up, the little demons looked up at her and scurried away to hide, peeking out from behind her friends. One of the girls looked at Ellen and said, "Well, here's Ellen, the new little Christian. So, how's your soul today, girl-friend?" This mocking greeting made the girls smile a bit, but the little demons were laughing, slapping each other and rolling on the floor. Ellen just stood quietly by, not wanting to leave her group but not really enjoying their conversation, either. She had never noticed before how flirty, forward, and filthy their words and actions were until now and it made her uneasy. "But I can't just walk away. I can't treat them that way." Just then, one of the little demons slipped up beside her and tried to touch her. Trying to jerk away, she found that the little imp would not let her go, and as she stood there, more and more of them were gathering around her, pulling her in closer and whispering thoughts in her ears that she did not want to think. Suddenly, she pulled away, kicking and screaming, "No! No, I will not stay here!" She turned quickly and ran out of the foyer door, hearing her mother gently calling her name, "Ellen! Ellen!"

She woke to feel her mother touching her face and calling her name softly as she sat beside her on the bed. "It's alright, honey, it's just a dream. Are you all right?"

Ellen sat up slowly as she looked into her mother's worried eyes. "I'm ok. I was just dreaming about my friends and how demons were hanging around them because of the things they were doing and saying. Mom, I never realized that my words and actions brought on such spirits. Is that true? Do demons hang around you when you are that way?"

Her mother smiled softly as she looked down for a second and prayed for a wise answer. "Yes, Ellen, there are spirits that will be your companions when you let them, and the way they feel welcome is when your actions and your words are worldly and vulgar. Even though those spirits can't be seen, they are very evident in a person's life."

"But, Mom, I want to please Jesus. I want my life to be different. He gave me forgiveness for my sins and a love that I am just beginning to understand. But how do I just walk away from my friends? I don't want to be a spiritual prude or have a better-than-thou spirit, either. What do I do?"

"Ellen, how is it that you became a Christian? What was it about Jesus that made you want to follow him?"

Ellen thought for a moment, looked up into her mother's smiling face and said, "His love for me. When I realized that he loved me in spite of my self, I couldn't resist such love."

"Ellen, you must love people, but you must be careful not to subject yourself to worldly influences for they will weaken your walk with the Lord. You can love the girls without hanging around with them. Pray for them and be the good example that Jesus wants you to be. We all must seek the Lord by reading the Bible and prayer so that we can walk circumspectly with Jesus. That is the way to be a good example."

"Thank you, Mom," she said, smiling, "I will."

# Crafts

*Chalkboards are handy, versatile and fun! There are many ways to use the paint to make anything chalkable! (Is that a word?) Here are a few ideas I found:*

First, you can either purchase chalkboard paint ready to use, and even in spray form, or you can use this recipe to make any color you like (and more for your money!):

## **Chalkboard Paint DIY**

Ingredients:

1 cup paint, water-based, any color

2 tablespoons Non-Sanded Tile Grout

Foam brush, to stir with and paint with, too

In a pint jar (make sure you have a lid), spoon grout; then pour in paint and stir until all the dry lumps are gone. You can purchase the tile grout in about any hardware store for around \$4-\$5, and will make a bunch!

***Now Get Creative! You can paint anything, just be sure to ask permission before you do. Here are just a few ideas:***

You can paint:

- bottles
- jar lables
- small table tops
- spice jar lids
- cabinet drawers
- cabinet doors
- different size tins
- picture frames
- serving trays
- gift tags
- even entire walls!



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# Recipes

## **BBQ Chicken Ranch Casserole**

### Ingredients:

- 2 chicken breasts (about 1 lb)
- ½ lb dry pasta
- 1 cup sweet corn
- 3 Roma tomatoes, chopped
- ⅓ cup red onion, diced
- 1½ cup grated Monterrey Jack cheese
- 1 cup grated Monterrey Jack cheese for topping
- salt
- fresh cracked peppercorns
- 1½ cups ranch dressing
- ¾ cup BBQ sauce

### Instructions:

1. Cook pasta just until it is nearly done but do not overcook. Set aside.
2. Cook chicken with a little salt until completely done. Let cool until it can be handled, chop and set aside.
3. Preheat oven to 350 and lightly grease a casserole dish.
4. In a large mixing bowl, combine diced tomatoes, diced onion, corn, cooked pasta and chopped chicken. Add some salt and cracked peppercorn, mix well.
5. Whisk ranch and BBQ together and add it to the mixing bowl. Mix until evenly distributed. Add 1½ cups of Monterrey Jack cheese and mix well.
6. Transfer the mixture into the casserole dish and spread it evenly. Top with remaining cheese all over and bake for 15-20 minutes.



## **Pumpkin Cream Cheese Dump Cake** (Pictured above.)

### Ingredients

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 8 oz. cream cheese             | 1 1/4 C. sugar                           |
| 3/4 C. powdered sugar          | 1 tsp. salt                              |
| 2 tsp. milk                    | 1 Tbsp. pumpkin pie spice                |
| 1 can (29 oz.) pumpkin puree   | 1 yellow cake mix (dry)                  |
| 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk | 1/2 C. butter, melted                    |
| 3 eggs                         | 1 Tbsp. cinnamon sugar mixture, optional |
|                                | whipped cream                            |

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9 X 14 pan.
2. Using a mixer, combine cream cheese, powdered sugar and milk until smooth. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl, combine pumpkin puree, evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, salt, and pumpkin pie spice. Pour into prepared pan.
4. Put cream cheese filling into a small ZipLock bag, and snip off the tip to make a mini piping bag. Then pipe over the pumpkin filling.
5. Pour the dry cake mix over the cream cheese layer then poke holes using the end of a wooden spoon or a table knife through the cake mix until you hit the filling (not to the bottom of the pan).
6. Pour melted butter over the dry cake mix.
7. Sprinkle cinnamon sugar over the entire cake for extra flavor and crunch.
8. Bake for 40-50 minutes or until the top is browned and an inserted knife comes out clean.
9. Let cool and serve with whipped cream! (Store in fridge)

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