

KIND WORDS

I was at an event recently, and at its conclusion, I was approached by a man I had never met. He was an elderly gentleman wearing a silver cross on a chain hanging around his neck. He took my hand and spoke the most kind and affirming words into my life. They were not only unsolicited but completely unexpected. However, they were exactly what I needed to hear.

James teaches us that the tongue is a very powerful part of our body. While it is small, it can destroy lives and inflame conflict. Unless it is yielded to the power of God and obedient to His wisdom, it cannot truly bless. However, under the power of the Spirit, it can become an instrument of kindness (Gal. 5:22). Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:29 that our mouths should be used for "building up."

Proverbs 16:24

Gracious words are like a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Kindness is a byproduct of love (1 Cor. 13:4), and as children of God, we must pursue it and put it on (Col. 3:12) to find life (Pro. 21:21). It is wholly what God is.

Psalms 145:17

The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

I can attest to the blessing it is to be the beneficiary of that kindness as it pours forth from God's people. But, with that, I must ask a critical question.

When was the last time I spoke genuine kindness into the life of another?

Psalms 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

The challenge for all of us is this: Go speak loving words of kindness into the life of someone you come into contact with this week to share God's love with them through sincere kindness.

Go forth and be kind!

Shalom,
Ryan