

### Week 3: Life-giver - *How can I speak life over those around me?*

#### My Story

When I was a young wife and mother, I found myself in a negative, frustrated frame of mind. With three toddlers and a husband that worked all the time, I was having to dig deep within, and did not like what I found in there. I came face to face with my selfishness! It was then that the Lord spoke to me and said, "Daughter, you are going to have to take ownership of the atmosphere in your home." He showed me that our words have the power of life and death, and I had to **choose** to speak life. I had to **find joy** in my circumstance, and relax into the season of life I was in.

But it was more than a learned response. It was a heart issue! In James 3:9-12, the Bible says, *With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.*

I learned that since *the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart*, (Luke 6:45) the most urgent need I had was to have a **new heart** for my family. I needed for God to pour his love out through me. Since that time, it has been my goal to live life as a Generous Woman; generous with my affirmation, encouragement, and support. God is so good!

*Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure - pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.* Luke 6:38

*Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.* 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

#### Questions to Ask Yourself

- Consider the scriptures above as they pertain to your relationships. How can you "give" in your most important relationships? And what seed can you sow generously?
- What does it mean to live your life as a generous woman?
- "My faith-filled words of encouragement will be building blocks, not empty compliments, but powerful, prophetic words that point to the fulfillment of potential." How can I apply this?

## Final Thoughts

God has given us as women such influence in our homes, whether we are single, newly married or a grandmother. We affect that atmosphere by what we speak and what we “sow” into others. Let us pray for a new awareness from the Holy Spirit of what we speak this week. If there seems to be a particular area of bitterness, resentment, hurt or disappointment that comes out of our mouth, ask Him to give you a healed, whole heart in that area. This will bless you and everyone around you!

Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 11:25

Fun examples of Life-Giving Words:

- “Thank you for being such a good kid. I’m so glad you were born!”
- “Thanks for your help. I’m so grateful for you!”
- “I am so glad you are here with me.”
- “You are the kind of person that changes things. I can’t wait to see what God is going to do through you.”
- “You can just relax and be yourself, because who you are is very special.”

*A wise woman builds her house, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands. Proverbs 14:1*