

*So is my word that comes from my mouth; it does not return to me empty.
Instead, it does what I want and accomplishes what I intend.*

Isaiah 55:11 (CEB)

God's Unexpected Gifts Series CREATIVE WORDS and MOTHER'S BLESSINGS

The TALK I had planned for last week was obviously not planned at all. In fact, the more I tried to work on it to email to Deanna, the more the words seemed to stick to my fingertips. With the determination to resume where I left off in 2023, the results led me to writing words about *Words* today. It has been a long-held personal belief that my words were and are to be building blocks for the good I want to establish in my life, and the lives of college freshmen and others. Somewhere in the translation I dream you will find some comfort or vision in your life. As I give love and light to words, they become the foundation for my experience of fullness, good will, and success. I pray the same for you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

My prayers include giving thanks for the little bit of creative power that can flow into a weekly TALK to share. I know I can call it forward when my thoughts and feelings are centered on God. Infusing thoughts and words with God driven and Jesus inspired messages eases the anxiety as it is sent to Deanna and the Martin news. I know I must remain vigilant in keeping thoughts and words encouraging and constructive. Only then do I use my limited creative power to affirm each week: God is my source of love and wisdom. From Him, my good is internally created. I am wise, enthusiastic, jubilant, and unrestricted.

Wondering where the thoughts and words come from when creating a TALK leads me back to one single and powerful source... BERTIE!! For those of you who do not have a translation of the word just emphasized, I'll let you know Bertie is my mother. The word "mother" recalls loving, nurturing and gentle compassion. It also brings out discipline, and a multitude of axioms that guided my life. Phrases like "Can't never did anything" "You're like a bull in a china closet" "Idleness gets you nowhere" among others not mentionable remain strong influencers in my life.

Words that come from my mouth and mind are often repeats of the short, but notable, phrases she would say to me from elementary through high school. I think she felt I knew all the important quips and seldom gave advice from college years forward. Each time I think of Bertie I remember she taught me the power of love, gentleness and about the strength gained from giving support, encouragement, and love to others. Above all, she taught me pray, love God, and believe Jesus, be true to myself, and to lead by example rather than force.

*Peace Always,
Ted*