

## WORDS

There is power in words. Words can destroy a child's worth, words can build us up and lift our spirits, words can destroy and incite violence, words are a weapon, words can heal. I loved Literature classes in High School. I loved how the writers took words and used them. I especially liked satire. There was a student that was having difficulty with the writings of Shakespeare. He could not see the double meaning of the words. He was failing the class. Without it he would not graduate. I was asked to tutor him by the teacher. I of course said yes. It didn't hurt that he was the best-looking boy in the class. He passed and he was happy, the teacher was happy, and I was pleased to have been able to know him better. When we met years later, he introduced me to his wife as the girl who had helped him graduate from High School. Recently my granddaughter asked her 2-year-old little boy what his favorite word was, he replied, "Daddy." I thought that was so telling because the bond between them is obvious. In that one word was love, trust, admiration, and reliance. Our greatest source of words of comfort and words of help come from the bible. Love is mentioned 551 times in the NIV, (New International Version). "You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." And "now these three remain, Faith, Hope and Love, and the greatest of these is love." Words to comfort, words to live by words to savor.

Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.

Lord, thank you for the words of comfort and strength you have given us. May the words we say to others be uplifting and forgiving. Be with those who are grieving, those who are sick, be with the lost and the hopeless. May we be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. Be with those in Haiti who suffer once again the ravages of an earthquake, give them your comfort and strength. May we respond to their needs, guide us as we seek to do your will. Be with those in Afghanistan as they suffer the destruction and pain of a war. We pray for the lives lost and the lives forever changed both there and in our own country. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family, guide and protect them. Be with our Staff and Leaders, may they have your guidance and direction. Lord, we thank you for each day and the blessings of another chance to do your will. In Jesus name, Amen

Grace Epperson