

Tell Me What I Need to Hear

Ready:

One who rebukes a person will later find more favor than one who flatters with his tongue.—Proverbs 28:23

Set

As a young coach I was blessed with good players and quick success. Although people told me what a good coach I was, I considered the really great coach to be in the local junior high. Phil Hodson was the Wilbur Shooterfly (Hoosiers) of my day. He had an incredible knowledge of the game. One day after winning our seventh or eighth game in a row, he pulled me aside. I was expecting him to tell me I did a great job. Instead, he let me have it. He told me what I needed to hear, not what I wanted to hear.

Throughout Scripture we read about people who grew in the Lord when someone spoke truth to them. David had great success, but probably wouldn't have gotten as far if Nathan hadn't reminded him of what he was called to do. Jesus did this with His disciples. We enjoy hearing how great we are, but the saying, "flattery will get you everywhere" does not always ring true. Like David and Peter, we need to be told what we need to hear no matter how much it hurts.

Being a true friend means speaking the truth in love. Our relationship with Christ is that way. He always speaks the truth in love. It's how we grow in Him.

Go

1. Do you only listen to what you want to hear?
2. Do you have friends who will speak the truth to you in love?
3. How can you be the kind of friend who tells others what they need to hear?

Workout

Luke 17:3; Ephesians 4:15-16; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 12:5-6; Revelation 3:19

Overtime

Father, please place friends in my life who will tell me what I need to hear, not just what I want to hear. Help me to trust what they say. Also help me know how to speak the truth in kindness back to them, when needed. I love You and praise You. Amen.



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