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The Right Words

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The Right Words

We can, with little reflection, type words in text and in email messages which convey the basic information we wish to send. But when we have something important to communicate, or to set down for ourselves, we want to carefully choose the right word or words. We do the same in speech: selecting our words carefully, according to the concern we have for the possible effects of what we will say. When we write, we can pause for more consideration and reflection than when we speak, and we can even try several possibilities before deciding on the words which best represent our thoughts and feelings at the time.

When we pause even for a moment, we allow for, even encourage, the reception of insights and inspirations. The guiding and helpful thoughts that come to mind might have their source beyond us, but we experience them within, and they contain or express our truth, not someone else's. In making efforts to select words, we bring our values to bear more consciously than when we merely say or write whatever first comes to mind. Also, whenever we make it our task to find the words that increase rather than diminish our sense of integrity, we are engaged in active discernment; we exercise our spirituality.

Most of us would prefer receiving specific directions to a destination rather than "It's over there, somewhere." When we have and make use of the words that better express our truth than the others that occur to us, we have the particular directions we need, enabling us to move from uncertainty in our thinking to clarity of purpose and intention.

We know that, in trying to find the right words, we are not thinking in absolute terms, for there might be more than one right word. Or the word that fits in one relationship might not do so in another. But every word we decide upon is "right" when it represents our truth well enough to serve as a guide for thinking, speaking and acting. Our honest search for the appropriate word or words in each situation is not about mere ideas or about completing a fine literary passage. Rather, our intention is to well identify the meaning, with the help of words, so that we can move with confidence in one direction rather than another, whether in terms of our interior attitudes and beliefs only, or through our immediate actions.

Most of us take pleasure in the sometimes surprising manner in which the right words – those that meet our present needs – arise not from intense focus and arduous mental activity, but openness to, and expectation of, receiving whatever really helps us to fulfill our worthy intentions. Implicitly, we might be following the Scriptural advice: "Say only the good things

people need to hear.” (Eph. 4:29) For honesty in the service of love is so important for our welfare and that of all the people with whom we interact, that our good intention is like a personal invitation to God to move freely, yet without force, within our minds and hearts.

Choosing the right words makes us who we are.