

## Encouraging Words

“Could I speak to the manager?”

My friend’s sudden query to our waitress startled me.

Our dinner at a popular pizza restaurant had seemed uneventful, and I wondered what Eileen was up to.

The manager appeared at our table a few minutes later. “What can I do for you?” she asked hesitantly, as if she were expecting yet another reprimand from an angry customer.

“I just wanted you to know that our waitress tonight has really been exceptional,” Eileen began. Then she described several things our server had done that impressed her.

The manager was obviously relieved - and delighted. So was

the waitress, who was standing nearby.

The four of us laughed and chatted for a few minutes. Eileen had made the day of two hard-working women...and left an indelible impression on me of the power of positive words.

When we think about our words, it’s easy to focus on the ones we’d like to retrieve. Fortunately, however, there are certain phrases that are almost always the right thing to say - words that communicate love and encouragement. Here are a few:

“You do that really well.”

“May I pray?”

“What you said helped me.”

“Thanks for ...”

“What can I do to help?”

“Tell me about your day.”

“We missed you.”



## The Lamplighter

As a young man, the lamplighter led a tough, wayward life. Some years after becoming a Christian, a former friend taunted him about his new lifestyle. The lamplighter finally said, “The only way I can explain it is this; as I go down the street snuffing out the lamps, and I turn around, I see that it’s all dark. That is how it was before I met Christ. However, when I continue down the street, the lamps before me light my path - that is how it is with Christ.”

The man asked, “And how is it when you’ve snuffed out *all* the lamps?”

The lamplighter replied, “The day is coming.”

## A Member?

Are you an active member  
The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the services  
And mingle with the flock?  
Or do you stay at home  
And criticize and knock?

Do you ever visit  
A member who is sick?  
Or leave the work for just a few  
Or talk about the clique?

Come to the service often  
And help with hand and heart;  
Don’t be just a member  
But take an active part.

Think this over member,  
You know right from wrong.  
Are you an active member  
Or do you just belong?



## The Recipe

*She didn’t have potatoes,  
So she used 8ozs. of rice,  
She couldn’t find paprika,  
So she used some other spice.  
Tomatoes weren’t in season,  
So she used tomato paste.  
The WHOLE can, not 8 ozs., dear.  
She couldn’t bear to waste.  
And now she isn’t speaking.  
She’s convinced I pulled a fast one.  
So don’t ask for my recipe.  
That one was the last one.*



A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both legs. With the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, the preacher prayed: “O Lord, I’m so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish - make a Christian out of that bear that’s coming at me!” At that very moment the bear skidded to a halt, fell to its knees, clasped its paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher’s feet: “Dear God, please bless this food I am about to receive.”