

## The Right Word At The Right Time

8-31-12

To honor her students, a teacher gave each a ribbon that stated, "Who I am makes a difference," and asked them to pass it along to someone who'd made a difference in their lives. One kid gave his to a young executive who helped him plan his career. He in turn gave it to his boss, who was hard to get along with. He told him how much he'd been influenced by his creativity, and asked him to give the ribbon to somebody he admired. That night the boss told his 14-year-old son, "I've thought about your grades and your messy bedroom. Tonight I want to let you know the difference you've made in my life. Besides your mother, you're the most important person I know, and I love you." Fighting back tears, the boy replied, "Earlier today I wrote a letter explaining why I'd taken my life, and asking you to forgive me. I was going to do it when everybody was asleep. I didn't think you'd care. I guess I won't need the letter now." Upstairs in his son's room the father found the anguish-filled note beside a loaded gun! God can help you to "speak a word in season to him who is weary" (~~Isaiah~~ <sup>Isaiah</sup> 50:4). Words change lives: "What you say can mean life or death, both physically and spiritually." So go out of your way today to speak words of endearment to someone you normally don't express yourself towards. Someone who might doubt your love for them. Someone who does all the consoling but is never consoled. Someone who's in prison!



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