



Encouraging Words

with Darlene Sala

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INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT?

I would have knots in the pit of my stomach when I was headed to an event where I'd be making conversation with people I had never met before. What if I couldn't think of anything to talk about??

I had sweaty palms when I was about to address a group and saw professionals sitting in the audience. I had a terrible fear my mind would go blank.

Even as a child, when I had a part in the church Christmas program, I'd lose my dinner beforehand or get a raging headache. It didn't take me long to figure out I am an introvert.

As an adult, however, I realized that extroverts don't get a free ride either. Many an extrovert who was the life of the party has crawled into bed after an event only to be haunted with memories of things she said that would have been better left unsaid. "Why can't I just keep my mouth shut?" she asks herself.

One thing is for certain: God did not make us all alike, but He did create us for a purpose--His purpose. He gifted you with exactly the talents and abilities He wants you to have to accomplish that purpose. While each of us can work to improve, it is wrong to try to become someone we are not.

God gave you your temperament. He has plans for you. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). Your job is to give yourself to Him, asking Him to work out His purposes in your life. Is that scary for you? It doesn't need to be. Just remember that the One who wants to direct your life gave His life for you on an old rugged cross. He loves you more than anyone else could possibly love you. As you pursue His will, He will give you a life that is more fulfilling than you could ever find on your own.

Seek His will and refuse to be distracted by comparing yourself with others.