

Words of Encouragement

(Teenagers, ages 13-17)

From Sister Callie R Gavin

"Become a Thermostat, Not a Thermometer"

When people look at your life, make sure they see:

- ◆ Someone constantly dying to Jesus
- ◆ A person of integrity who will put her life on the line for the gospel
- ◆ A teen with a sincere heart – not a young lady hiding behind a mask

Be real with God and others. Often times many teens mistakenly believe that God doesn't want them to be honest about their lives. But, God does not want you to be *superficial* in your relationship with Him, with others, or in your own life.

Be honest about any pain you experience, confusion, or doubt – even with people you are trying to reach with the gospel. You aren't expected to have all the answers – **just a committed, searching heart.**

The fact is, God desires truth and honesty at the deepest level and wants you to experience his *love, forgiveness, and power* in all areas of your life.

You need to be **real.**

Become a thermostat, not a thermometer. A thermometer only reflects the climate around it. If the crowd is hot, the teen is hot, if the crowd is cold, the teen is cold. A thermostat, on the other hand, is independent. *It sets the temperature and has the final say in how the climate will be this type of teenager has set her dial – and has set out to influence her surrounding.*