

## ***Teacher Devotional***

### ***PURSUE THE POSITIVE***

*Consider this thought: “Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate and see as little as possible of their errors and failings.” (White, Ministry and Healing, 491)*

How often do you find yourself thinking about a negative quality in a child and before you know it, your tone or the content of your speech does not reflect a Godly teacher? It has happened to the best of teachers at one time or another. Simply put, it is the focusing on things that brings them into clearer vision. For example, consider the perspective illusion pictures that require you to fixate on positions for periods of time as your eyes refocus they begin to take in more information and before you know it you can see a beautiful picture hidden behind. Similarly, when we find ourselves dwelling on minute negative aspects in our children’s character, we draw into focus negativity instead of the positive.

Do you ever stop and really evaluate if your words are uplifting and encouraging to your students? Teachers have the awesome responsibility of cultivating a spiritual climate in the classroom that reflects the fruit of the spirit. Students will often have you under close observation to ensure that you are modeling the behavior that they are encouraged to demonstrate daily. It can become quite challenging to maintain a calm and God-like demeanor when dealing with the student who insists on being disruptive and non-compliant. It may even be a challenge finding something positive to say about a student’s “F” paper when you know that very little or no preparation has gone into studying. Remember, ‘cultivate the habit of speaking well of others’.

Your goal in God’s school is to lead souls to Christ. Let your light shine so that Christ is always illuminated through you. God has entrusted you to ‘see as little as possible of their errors and failings’ and find something positive to focus on.