

The Gate of Summer

Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.
Lead me in Your truth and teach me.
For You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.
Psalm 25:4-5



Life-Speak

Declaring the Living Word of God



© Vicki Lynn Bustos, July 2025
Photos provided by Family and Friends.

Welcome to the Gate of Summer
21 Devotions on the subject
“Life-Speak,” Declaring the Living Word of God.

Words are powerful. The Bible says that ***“death and life are in the power of the tongue.”*** Proverbs 18:21a. The Word of God describes itself as ***“living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword.”*** Hebrews 4:12 With all that is said about the tongue and the fruit that comes from words, it is a worthwhile journey to pause along the path and open wide the gate to this subject.

In your 21 devotionals, you will find the following daily helps ...

Devotion Title
An Introductory Scripture
A Devotional Story
Prayer
Study Scriptures
A Scripture Declaration
A Worship Song (search on You Tube)
An Action Step—Transformation

In addition, there are journal pages at the end of each week.

You are encouraged to utilize this devotion as it fits your needs. Some folks do one devotion each day; others spread the devotions over two or three days. Whatever works for you.

One suggestion we will make:
for continuity sake, perhaps read through the entire Daily devotion in one sitting to gain the big picture. Then if you prefer, return to dig more deeply into the Scriptures.

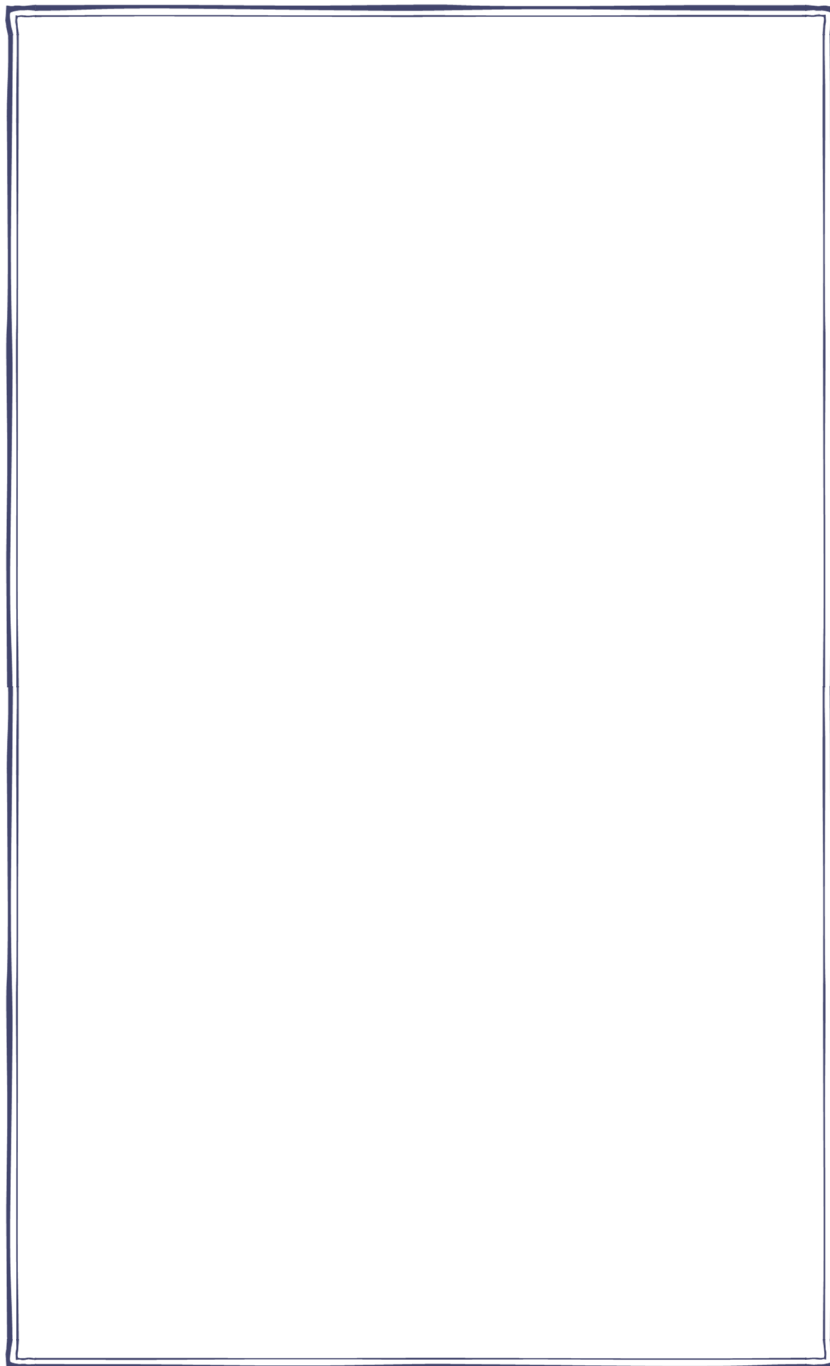
One other encouragement: speak your declarations of God’s Word out loud. The Bible teaches that ***“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word Of God.”*** Romans 10:17 Even you can speak into your own hearing and build your faith with God’s Word. Plus, you will begin to feel more comfortable speaking God’s Word aloud if you begin doing so privately.

One sidebar—as we authored this devotion, we recognize that all of us are on this journey to steward our words in alignment with God’s love and purposes. We are glad to be students alongside of you.

There was so much more that could have been said on this topic. We pray that what you glean will strengthen your communication and bring truth and joy to you and your hearers. Amen. May God meet you and travel with you along your pathway of exploring **Life-Speak**.



A gift painted especially for Open Book Ministries
“Gate of Summer”
by Artist, Terry C. Jaramillo, May 2025
Original Photo: Childhood home of Brian Kram



Sidebar Notes...

Resources

◆ Both this devotion and the suggested worship music is available on our Open Book Ministries website under the “Resources” page. **www.openbookministries.net**

◆ Permission is granted to you to print the pdf for personal use or share the pdf with individuals. On our OBMin Resources Page, click “Gate of Summer, 2025 Life-Speak.”

◆ These 21 devotionals can benefit women, men, and teenagers.

◆ If you benefit from journaling, consider purchasing a notebook or journal to record your insights, questions, and thoughts. Journal pages are also provided at the end of each week.

◆ Additional Encouragement: Connect with others and discuss what you are learning from “Life-Speak.”

Participate in acts of service.
Look for beauty, God’s handiwork.
Praise God!



Now ... let’s begin!

Spiritual Disciplines



From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised!
Psalm 113:3

For many of us, the phrase “spiritual disciplines” evokes a picture of an unruly child being corrected or disciplined for their poor behavior. To the contrary, “spiritual disciplines” are a holy opportunity where God plows and plants His love, truth, and guidance into the field of our lives!



Photographer Barb Kram
Munich, ND May 2025

Spiritual Disciplines are the intentional actions we engage in which help us draw near to the Lord. Some refer to these disciplines with a different name: “Spiritual ... *practices, rhythms, development.*”

Spiritual Disciplines are not solely a morning or evening endeavor, but instead a way of life. Yes, the intentional pause with the Lord is a life-changing practice when the sun rises and sets. But what if we carried the morning and evening whispers and insights from our time with the Lord into each aspect and encounter of our day? What kind of fruit might come forth from our lives for God’s glory, for the good of others, and for the joy of our own soul?
Surely it will be fruit that remains!

“*Come away my beloved*” was King Solomon’s invitation to his bride; it is our invitation from our Divine Bridegroom. “*Follow Me*” was Jesus’ invitation to His disciples. We too are invited to follow Him.

Come away my beloved ... follow Me. When combined, these two determined pursuits can and will transform us and those who God connects us with. Spiritual disciplines are a gift.

The old, familiar song, “In the Garden,” captures the beautiful benefits of spiritual disciplines.

♪ *I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear ... the song of God discloses.*

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me.
And He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share
As we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

*He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing.
And the melody that He gave to me within my heart is ringing.*

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me.
And He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share
As we tarry there, none other has ever known.* ♪

C. Austin Miles, 1912

Spiritual Disciplines are an open gate to being intentionally in God’s presence.
Yes ... He is waiting for you and anticipating His time with you.

Record your own initial thoughts, hopes,
and prayer as you begin this special journey.



Index Days 1-7

Life-Speak Declaring the Living Word of God

- ☐ Day 1 ♦ Life-Speak
- ☐ Day 2 ♦ Study & Store
- ☐ Day 3 ♦ God's Will
- ☐ Day 4 ♦ Tangible, Texture, Truth
- ☐ Day 5 ♦ Eyes Wide Open
- ☐ Day 6 ♦ Echo
- ☐ Day 7 ♦ Silent Presence



Considerations

In this private retreat series, it is our hope that each of us will learn to

“Life-Speak.”

We want to connect with God and His Word in ways that truly tap into His heart of grace, the genuine application of His truth, and an accurate understanding and faith in God’s sovereign outcomes.

What **“Life-Speak”** is *not* ...

It is not grabbing a familiar scripture, quoting it aloud, and watching at a distance to see what might happen.

Life-Speak runs much deeper.

Specific goals in Life-Speak retreats ...

- Open the gate of thoughtful, prayerful, and Holy Spirit led action regarding how to speak God’s Word in a fruitful, meaningful way that brings life.
- Encouragement and help to linger in scripture until it pulsates with life in our soul. God’s words are life-giving words.
- Explore the impact our words, beliefs, and heart meditations have on how we process and respond to God’s Word.
- Caution *not* to approach our or other’s real life circumstances dismissively. Life-Speak is more than a slogan.

The **“Life-Speak”** path is one that each of us most likely are currently walking and will perpetually travel. Learning to speak life as God does is life changing ... for us and for others. And God-honoring.



Gate Key

Life-Speak

Speak God’s Word Aloud ...

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouth,
but only such as is good for building up,
as fits the occasion,
that it may give grace to those who hear.

The Apostle Paul Instructs the Ephesian Believers ♦ Ephesians 4:29 esv



Prayer

Lord, I desire to be taught by Your Holy Spirit how to **“Life-Speak.”** I do not want to be frivolous or presumptuous as I speak Your holy Word. Lead me to understand the deeper truths of what Your Word says and then speak and apply the Bible appropriately and sincerely. Amen.



The Scriptures

Seek God’s Wisdom

The Knowledge of God
Proverbs 2:1-9

Spiritually Discerned
1 Corinthians chapter 2

A Declaration Proverbs 2:1-2

I will receive Your words, Lord, and treasure Your commands within me. I will incline my ear to wisdom, and apply my heart to understanding.



Worship in Song

“The Word”

by Sara Groves (Lyric Video)



God’s Word Transforms

Choose one of your special scriptures and study it in context. Let God shine His light on it for you in a deeper, more personal way. Record your heart meditation.



Considerations

Therefore, when He [Jesus] came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings & sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me, to do Your will, O God."

Hebrews 10:5-7

Jesus, our Messiah, quoted from Psalm chapter 40, verses 6-8. These scriptures are a clear pronouncement of His personal mission. Jesus understood the depth of these verses and the application in His life. His example teaches us that declarations are to be thoughtful, prayerful, & understood. The Holy Spirit can cause God's word to pulsate with life in our soul as we present ourselves as students of God and His Word. Imagine ... a one room schoolhouse, you at a desk, and God Almighty teaching you!

During His public ministry, Jesus frequently referred to stories and people from the Tenakh (the Hebrew Bible) and quoted Scripture about 78 times. Does it touch the core of your heart that Jesus, God's Son, squeezed Himself into a human body and then studied and stored the very scriptures that testified about Himself? The value of His devotion to Scripture was evident during His public ministry when He needed a ready response; He declared God's Word from the treasure chest of His studies and memorization. Shall we do as He did?



Gate Key

Study & Store

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Apostle Paul Instructs Timothy ♦ 2 Timothy 2:15 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, help me to hide Your Word in my mind and heart. I want to be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks me about the reason for my hope. Above all, I want to do as Jesus did. I want to study and grasp deeply the truth of what Your Word says and speak it boldly and tenderly. Amen



The Scriptures

Saturated With God's Word

"An Acrostic in Praise of the Scriptures"

(A quote from the title to Psalm 119 in The Open Bible, the longest chapter in the Bible exalting God's Word.)

Psalm 119

A Declaration

Psalm 119:15-16

I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word.



Worship in Song

"Ancient Words"

by Michael W. Smith (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Select at least three specific scriptures in Psalm 119 that you will study and store in your heart to pray to the Lord, declare aloud to yourself, and teach others. Ask God to teach you deeper truth from your verses.



Considerations

It was the genesis of my Christian walk.

Young in my faith, I was learning to navigate in my Bible and I wanted to be a good student of the things of the Lord. After all, I had entered into new life and wanted to discover all I could about how to live this new life. One teaching dealt with declarations and decrees, faith speaking. I listened and explored about the power of words. I heard stories from people who had received answers that they attributed to “speaking it into existence.” Yet some things did not set right with me, perhaps because of inaccurate teaching or my own youthful misinterpretation. Ultimately, declaring and decreeing evolved into a hindrance to my faith. Why? One reason was that I observed misuse by prominent individuals who boasted about receiving what they had declared. These “gifts,” their answered declarations resulted in a prosperity that, on the surface was dressed as spiritual, but had an undergarment of carnality. I was confused. I thought faith was about a relationship with God, His purpose, and His people ... not stuff. Over the years I functioned with caution regarding declaring and decreeing.

As time passed, the Lord invited me to explore this topic again. One vital lesson has been to verbally agree with verses the

Lord shines a spotlight on in His Word and makes alive in my heart. Declarations about Him, His promises, presence, glory, & care for us are declarations of His will.



Gate Key

God's Will

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

God's Message Through the Prophet Jeremiah ♦ Jeremiah 29:11-13



Prayer

Father God, Your Son taught, *“In this manner, therefore, pray to our Father in Heaven ... Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”* Help me, Lord, to comprehend, pray, declare, and decree Your will. Amen



The Scriptures

Declaring God's Will

Knowing God's Will

1 Timothy 2:3-6 ♦ John chapter 17

Position Myself to Discern and Speak God's Will
Colossians 3:16 ♦ Hebrews 4:12-13 ♦ Romans 12:1-2

A Declaration

Colossians 3:1a

I will seek the things that are above where Christ is seated ...

Worship in Song

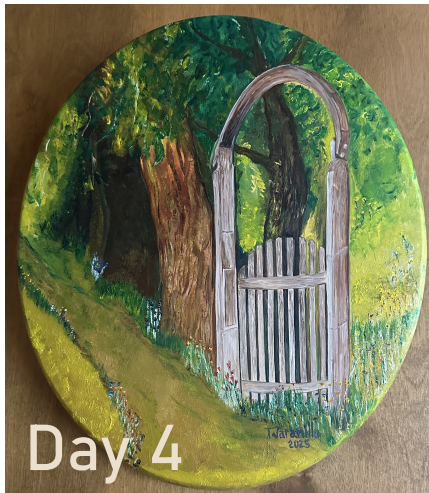
“God I Look To You”

by Jenn Johnson (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Have you explored the subject of *declaring* and *decreeing*; perhaps even *proclaiming*? What did you learn or experience? How might this phrase pertain to you if you've had a difficult or hindering spiritual experience? *“Glance Back, Gaze Forward.”* Ask the Lord to help you glean from yesterday and press forward to **Life-Speak** His Word.



Insights

In my earlier days of reading novels, I had a habit of reading the final pages of the story before beginning chapter 1. Sometimes it negatively impacted my joy as I read the story because I knew the outcome, but other times it served as a catalyst to connect all of the dots. This I knew, though...the last paragraphs were not the story, only the period at the end.

In our Bible, the Book of Job is one that contains wonderful closing chapters.

I think it is worth reading the end before starting the beginning!

Despite all of the unthinkable losses, devastation, and disappointment Job experienced, he clung in faith to what He had heard and experienced about God. In the latter chapters of the Book of Job, after multiple conversations with his “friends” regarding the “whys” of Job’s suffering, the Bible says this:

“Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind ...” Job 38:1

In Job chapters 38-41, God reveals His own magnificence and power. The Lord took Job beyond only hearing to comprehending more of God’s glory.

This encounter would have certainly wiped out any platitudes Job may have spoken in his prosperous times. Suffering and revelation changed his speech. If we desire our words to be truly life giving, we need our faith to become tangible, full of texture and truth. We can search for God’s magnificence as we read our Bible. Our Life-Speak will change.



Gate Key

Tangible, Texture, Truth

Declare God’s Word Aloud ...

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ... I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You.

Job’s Response to God ♦ Job 42:3 & 5 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, I want my faith and my speech to be tangible, full of texture and truth. No platitudes. Guide me through Your Word to make my speech real, beautiful, and beneficial. Amen.



The Scriptures

Job’s “End of the Book” Story

Job’s Response to God ♦ Job Chapter 42

The Fuller Story; God Speaks to Job ♦ Job Chapters 38-41

A Declaration

Psalm 63:1a

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You;
my soul thirsts for You...



Worship in Song

“Speak O Lord” by Keith & Kristyn Getty



God’s Word Transforms

Look up the definition of “platitude.” Is there a scripture you have quoted often that has become cliché to you? Ask Holy Spirit to make this scripture fresh, alive again. Consider creating a “Declarations/Proclamation Journal” and write your scripture declarations in it’s pages.



Insights

The Bible records several encounters that Jesus had with blind men. Bartimaeus was a blind beggar who occupied a place alongside the road near Jericho,

Mark 10:46-52 and there were the two blind men whom He healed. Matthew 9:27-31

There was also the man who was blind from his birth. John 9 In the instances of Bartimaeus and the two blind men, the first thing they saw when they received their sight was the face of Jesus. But not so for the man born blind. In John 9:11, before he saw, he obeyed the voice of Jesus. He went to the Pool of Siloam as Jesus had instructed where he did as he was told; he washed away the mixture of clay and saliva Jesus had put on his eyes.

Miracle of miracles! He could see!

When interrogated by the religious hierarchy about who it was that healed him, the man who had been born blind said that he did not know.

He had not seen Jesus ... not yet.

Yesterday we read about Job who had said that he had heard of God with the hearing of the ear but after his encounter with the Living Word, he saw Him with his eyes. That literally became true for the man born blind. Job's opened "eyes" were the eyes of his understanding. The man born blind received a double miracle of sight...he actually saw the face of Jesus *and* his understanding was opened. Oh how we long to see Jesus' face, but today we can be blessed with the eyes of our understanding opened wide.



Gate Key

Eyes Wide Open

Declare God's Word Aloud ...

... after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling ...

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesian Church ♦ Ephesians 1:15b, 16, 18



Prayer

Lord God, even when I do not yet see answers to my prayers, I look to You in Your Word and obey what You say. May my obedience lead me to see and speak Your wisdom, counsel, and might. Amen



The Scriptures

Eyes Opened

The Man Born Blind ♦ John Chapter 9

The Apostle Paul's Prayer for Us
Ephesians Chapter 1, especially verses 15-23

A Declaration

John 9:38

Lord, I believe!



Worship in Song

"Open the Eyes of My Heart (I Want to See You)"
by Paul Baloche | Worship Circle



God's Word Transforms

After the man born blind was kicked out of the synagogue, Jesus searched for him and found him. Jesus spoke with him and he gained sight beyond his physical vision. John 9:35-41 records two encounters, the blind man and the Pharisees. What difference do you see between them? What has transformed your ability to see beyond the physical?



Considerations

There are some unnamed individuals in the Bible, but it is probable that they contributed much to God's will being done on earth. Their voice may have been the voice of encouragement that propelled God's will forward. Consider Noah's wife. In Genesis 6, we are told that humanity was fully perverted.

"So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth."

Genesis 6:12

There was, however, one man who had not corrupted himself.

"... Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations; Noah walked with God."

Genesis 6:9b

In this familiar story, we see that God gave humanity a space of 120 years to repent. Genesis 6:3 Simultaneously, He also gave Noah a plan to preserve the lives of his family, the beasts, and the birds. Noah and his family began the daunting work to build the massive ark God designed. The work consumed their lives. In those years, there was not (nor ever had been) rain. Noah and his family were surely ostracized. They pressed on.

Do you wonder if in those 120 years Noah ever questioned if he had heard from God? Did he or the family consider giving up? Is it possible that his wife motivated him onward with declarations of faith, words of life? Perhaps she echoed back to Noah the words He heard from God more than 100 years prior.



Gate Key

Echo

Declare God's Word Aloud ...

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Admonishment to the Hebrew Church ♦ Hebrews 10:24-25 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, help me to be attentive to the scriptures others speak. Help me to hear and rejoice with them when their dreams come true and to echo what they have known to be true from Your Word when life is hard and they face a crisis of faith. Amen



The Scriptures

Encouraging One Another

Paul's Exhortation to Unity ♦ Ephesians Chapter 4

History Story: Noah ♦ Genesis Chapters 6-9

A Declaration

Romans 15:2 (Amplified)

I will make it a practice to please (make happy) my neighbor for their good and for their true welfare, to edify them—strengthen and build them up spiritually.



Worship in Song

"Voice of Truth" by Casting Crowns



God's Word Transforms

Who do you know that needs to hear an encouraging word at this time in their life? Can you set a time to take a walk with them, share an act of service, sit down at a meal ... simply be present with them? Prayerfully prepare some Life-Speak scriptures that may bless them as the opportunity arises.



Considerations

What do we say on the day when someone we know receives news that makes the earth feel as though it has stopped spinning on its axis, feared news that has become a reality? What Life-Speak words do we say?

None. At least not yet.

Life-Speak words spoken out of season will pour salt into the fresh soul wounds.

My friend, Marsha, taught me about the importance of silent presence. She calls it “sitting together on the mourning bench.”

What is it? A time when we sit with the one who is grieving, pray silently, and are simply present to comfort or cry. In the Bible, after Job’s severe losses of his children, possessions, livelihood, and health, his friends sat with him in silence for seven days. In a recent loss of my own, Marsha and Cathy met with me.

They waited patiently until I was ready to talk. They each gently offered encouragement from their hearts and God’s Word, a tender thoughtful sharing of God’s truth.

At times, words are not helpful.

Proverbs 25:20 restrains us ...

“Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, and like vinegar on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.”

Do not sing songs to a heavy heart.

Silence is the recognition of the gravity or holiness of a moment.

Silence leaves space for God’s voice.

There is a time to be silent. Ecclesiastes 3:7b We “Life-Speak” even when we’re silent.



Gate Key

Silent Presence

Speak God’s Word Aloud ...

A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is ... A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

King Solomon’s Instruction About Words: Proverbs 15:23 & 25:11 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, no matter the loss faced by another, whether through the death of a loved one or a significant personal loss, guide me by Your Holy Spirit to speak appropriate words at the right time and to honor the silence. Amen



The Scriptures

Silent Moments

Peter Silenced by God the Father ♦ **Matthew 17:1-13**

Jesus—the Silent Lamb ♦ **Isaiah 53 (note verse 7)**

30 Minutes of Silence ♦ **Revelation 8:1-5**

A Declaration

Psalm 46:10

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!



Worship in Song

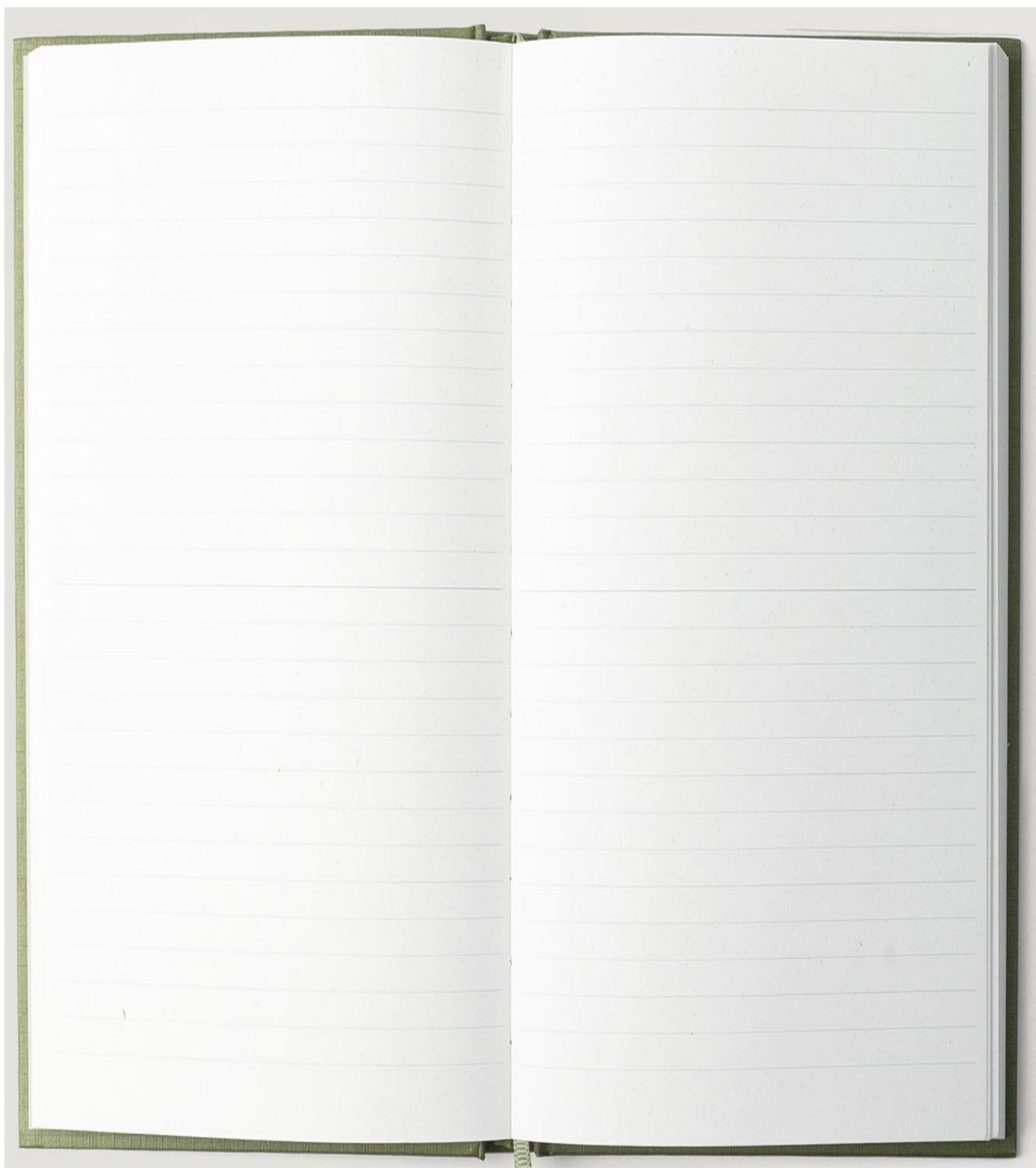
“When You Speak”

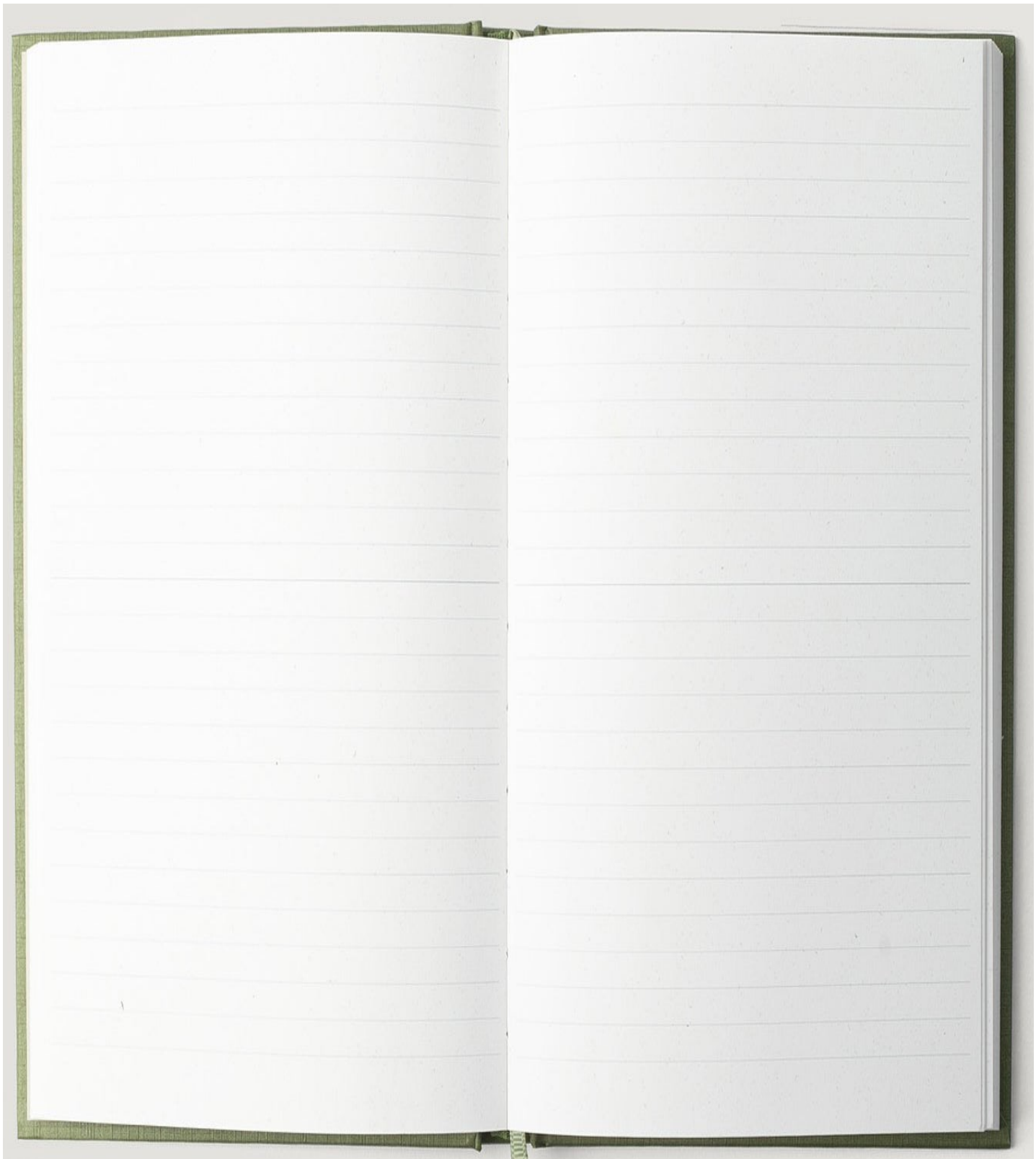
By VOUS|Music Meets Heaven (Lyric Video)



God’s Word Transforms

King Solomon wrote: *“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”* Ecclesiastes 3:1 You can Life-Speak God’s Word over someone who is suffering even in your silence. Select scriptures and meditate on them to declare in times of loss or grief. When you are near, if speaking is inappropriate, pray the verses silently. If away, declare aloud.







Index Days 8-14

Life-Speak Declaring the Living Word of God

☐ Day 8 ♦ Light of the World

☐ Day 9 ♦ Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs

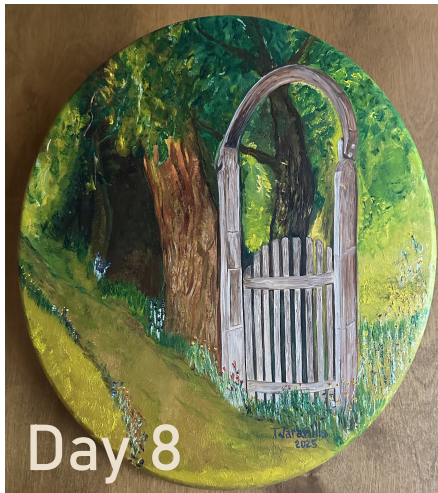
☐ Day 10 ♦ Generations

☐ Day 11 ♦ The Book

☐ Day 12 ♦ Master Swordsman

☐ Day 13 ♦ High Regard

☐ Day 14 ♦ The Kiss



Considerations

Most likely our eternal God spoke thousands, trillions - an immeasurable number of words before His first recorded words in our Bible: ***“Let there be light.”***

And there was light. *Genesis 1:3*

Light sustains life on earth.

Without light, nothing else that God spoke into existence could survive.

No vegetation would exist to provide food for humans and animals because plant life in soil is dependent on light.

Even fish need some light to visually orient and establish a healthy life rhythm.

Eternal life is also dependent on Light.

When you look at the order of creation, do you find it interesting that the sun was not created until day four, *Genesis 1:14-19*

but God spoke light over the earth on day one? Centuries after creation, when Jesus walked the earth, He proclaimed: ***“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*** *John 8:12*

**Light came before the sun;
the Son came before the created light.**

John 1:1-5, 14

Your confession of your faith in Jesus, the Light of the World, is your first and foremost declaration.

Knowing what you believe and why helps you to share about your faith lovingly and clearly. Today is a good day to refresh your soul with declarations that anchor your faith and magnify the beautiful work God is perfecting in you.



Gate Key

Light of the World

Speak God’s Word Aloud ...

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul’s Declaration About Jesus: 2 Corinthians 4:6 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, help me to know and share my story of how
Your light dispelled the darkness in my life.
Grant me boldness and tenderness to walk through
the gate of opportunity to tell others about You. Amen



The Scriptures

Foremost Declarations

Psalm 27:1 *God’s Light in Me*

Psalm 62: 5-7 *God’s Salvation in Me*

Ephesians 2:4-10 *God’s Great Grace in Me*

A Declaration

1 John 1:5b & 7 ♦ Hebrews 7:25a

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. I walk in the light as He is in the light. I am a testament that Jesus is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him ...



Worship in Song

“Light of the World”
by Lauren Daigle (Lyric Video)



God’s Word Transforms

Select scriptures that describe how God brought you into relationship with Him or how He is working to bring you in.

Write your verses; review and remember how He did or is shining His light into your heart. Ask the Lord to reveal deeper insights into your scriptures. Record your salvation journey using your verses. Rehearse it aloud with someone you trust.



Insights

The Book of Psalms is a compilation of poetry, songs, and prayers—150 in all. The authors are a variety of people from different periods in Israel's history. Readers often assume that King David wrote the full book of Psalms, but in actuality he authored about half, only seventy-three of the 150 poems.

The Psalms speak to the human experience ... the grappling with trauma, thankfulness, trouble, triumph...life. The Psalms are where the rubber meets the road. They teach us to be raw and truthful with God. The 150 chapters provide an incredible array of pre-written declarations.

The Psalms are also instructive. For example, David wrote about how he dealt with anger and insomnia in Psalm 4.

In verses 4-5, he provides four specific steps he followed so he would

"be angry, and sin not." Ephesians 4:26

✓Meditate within your heart on your bed.
(Ponder God's highest will.)

✓Be still.

(Verbal/mental/emotional/physical stillness.)

✓Offer the sacrifices of righteousness.
(Do as the Holy Spirit directs you.)

✓Put your trust in the Lord.

(Lean on, be confident in the Lord.)

David concluded Psalm 4 with a powerful declaration of trust in God. Perhaps you will declare this over you and yours:

*"I will both lie down in peace,
and sleep; for You alone, O Lord,
make me dwell in safety."*



Gate Key

Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

...Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's Instruction to the Ephesian Church ♦ Ephesians 5:19-20 nkjv



Prayer

How grateful I am that King David and other authors poured their hearts out on paper. Lord, connect me with specific Psalms that You want me to grasp and grapple with. Help me to pray and declare Your Word. Amen



The Scriptures

A Declaration to My Soul

A Declaration about the Works and Words of God

Psalm 19

A Declaration to My Soul ♦ Psalm 103

A Declaration

Psalm 147:1

*Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.*



Worship in Song

"Gratitude"

by Brandon Lake (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

The Psalms offer a vast selection of scripture declarations. Select a specific Psalm and specific verses within that Psalm. Convert them into first person declarations. For example:

"The law of the Lord is perfect; it converts my soul."

Psalm 19:7 Study how the law of the Lord converts your soul.



Insights

My husband and I have been given the gift of seeing and knowing our children's children. We have been granted the pleasure of babysitting two of our Littles on Wednesdays most weeks.

The incredible honor is that we know our great grandchildren and are known by them. One Wednesday when our 4 year old was about 14 months old, she was seated in her high chair and I was facing her, helping her as she ate lunch with her cute toddler hands. Background music was playing and Kari Jobe's voice began to sing "The Blessing." As I listened to the lyrics while gazing into the lovely eyes of our posterity, Adalee Rose ... three generations younger than myself ...

I was suddenly overwhelmed with the emotion and reality of God's faithfulness and goodness.

♪ **"May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations, and your family and your children, and their children, and their children."** ♪

I could agree with Kari Jobe's musical declaration because her words were in agreement with God's Word.

Music can be a beautiful source for faith declarations, but not all music is equal or holy. The caution is this ... do not be captured by the rhythm, the tune, the musicality in lieu of a careful examination of the lyrics. When we sing along, in essence we make declarations. **May our declarations be mindful and bless the generations for God's glory.**



Gate Key

Generations

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

...This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord... The children of Your servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before You.

Declaration Over Future Generations ♦ Psalm 102:18 & 28 nkjv



Prayer

Let my mouth be filled with Your praise, Lord God, and with Your glory all the day. I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever. Amen *Psalm 71:8 & 45:17*



The Scriptures

Future Generations

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 ♦ Command to teach next generation

Psalm 78:2-7 ♦ A declaration of commitment

Joel 2:28-29 ♦ Promise of Holy Spirit to all generations

Psalm 71:17-18 ♦ Testimony we hope for all generations

A Declaration

Psalm 135:2 & 13

Praise the name of the Lord; praise Him, O you servants of the Lord! Your name, O Lord, endures forever, Your fame, O Lord, throughout all generations.



Worship in Song

"The Blessing"

by Kari Jobe & Cody Carnes (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Jesus said: ***let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*** Matthew 19:14 Your life and words are a testimony to the generations. Whether or not you have children of your own, be aware that eyes are watching and ears are listening.



Insights

Kay Arthur. Douglas McKelvey.
Stormie Omartian. Derek Prince.
Kenneth Boa. Patricia A. Miller.
Germaine Copeland.

Each of these authors discovered the strength and power of Bible based declarations and prayers. Kay Arthur wrote a book entitled, *"Prayers To Bless Your Marriage"* and Stormie Omartian devoted time to researching and Writing prayer books with the titles, *"The Power of a Praying _____ (woman, parent, grandparent, wife.)"* Douglas McKelvey gave us two volumes of beautiful liturgies that touch a variety of aspects of life: *Every Moment Holy*. Kenneth Boa has provided a selection of *"Face to Face"* daily prayer devotions to teach us how to pray the Scriptures for spiritual growth. Patricia A. Miller compiled several books of *"Quick Scripture References for Counseling"* which are packed with Bible verses by topic. Derek Prince gave us his beneficial book, *"Prayers and Proclamations."* I'm sure other books exist I've not mentioned.

Praying and declaring God's Word is certainly not new. Some who have gone before us have engaged in Life-Speak. Even Jesus quoted, declared, and prayed the Scriptures. I'm certain each of us desires to effectively know and speak God's Word. We are blessed to have access to a myriad of books. We are most blessed to have access to THE BOOK.



Gate Key

The Book

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

Jesus said to them, Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

Jesus to His Disciples After Teaching Parables ♦ Matthew 13:51-52 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, help me to pause in Your presence and nearness. Cause me to delight in You and Your Word and to make it my meditation day and night. Saturate my soul with Your Book so my Life- Speak flows from Your wellspring. Amen



The Scriptures

Cherishing God's Word

Psalms 1:1-3 ♦ *Delighting in the Law of the Lord*

Psalms 119:97-104 ♦ *Loving God's Law*

Luke 10:38-42 ♦ *Choosing to Sit at Jesus' Feet*

2 Timothy 4:2-5 ♦ *Arise and Life-Speak the Good News*

A Declaration

Proverbs 7:1-3 (excerpt)

Keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye...write them on the tablet of your heart.



Worship in Song

"Not In A Hurry"
by Will Reagan (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Your Bible is the first source of information from the Lord and for your declarations. Supplemental materials are beneficial to increase understanding. However, keeping the main thing the main thing is vital—the Bible! Locate a secondary resource that helps you compile and Life-Speak God's Word.



Insights

Allen Huth, president of the Ezra Project comments about Hebrews 4:12:

“Where is the place between your soul and your spirit? Where is the place between the thoughts and intents of the heart? I don’t know, but this verse tells me the Word of God will go there, and I want to put it there every day of my life. I want something between my day and the world, and that’s the Word of God.

It is living. It is active. It lives between my soul and spirit and between the thoughts and intents of my heart.

That’s why I read it everyday.

Application number 2: allow the Word of God daily to pierce between your soul and your spirit and your thoughts and intentions. Let it be a barrier between your life and the world around you.”

Quote used by permission; Allen J. Huth, The Ezra Project. Day by Day Through The Bible, The Writings of Mark, Peter, James, Jude, and Hebrews; page 80. www.ezraproject.net

How can the Word of the Lord be a barrier between us and the world? One way is it reveals the stark contrast between the heart of man and the heart of God. The Word reveals how short we come and how marvelous God’s love and plan is. **He wants us to know the depth of all He has freely given through Jesus Christ His Son.** As we read and study our Bible, we search for truth & submit to the piercing of God’s sword of the Spirit. After all, He is the Master Swordsman.



Gate Key

Master Swordsman

Speak God’s Word Aloud ...

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Insight About God’s Word ♦ Hebrews 4:12 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, only You know the dividing place of the soul & spirit, joints & marrow. Help me to be diligent to seek & receive your revelation because I have searched with all my heart. Let my search always begin & end in Your living Word. Amen



The Scriptures

Holy Spirit Revelation

1 Corinthians 2 ♦ *How spiritual truth is revealed*

Deuteronomy 29:29 ♦ *The secret things*

John 6:60-69 ♦ *Jesus’ spoken words are spirit and life*

A Declaration

1 Corinthians 2:12

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.



Worship in Song

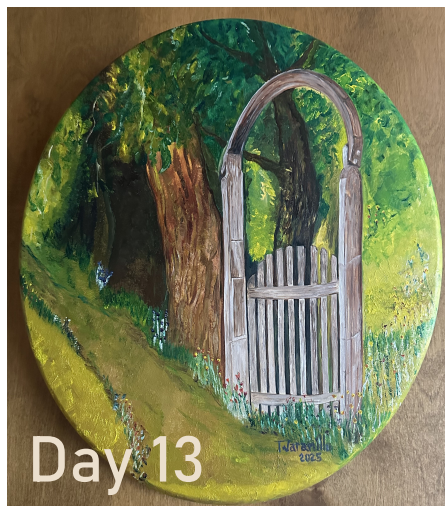
“Speak O Lord”

by Keith & Kristyn Getty (Lyric Video)



God’s Word Transforms

In Matthew 13:1-23, Jesus compares the living and active Word of God to seed because it is a living organism that can produce abundant life. As you Life-Speak God’s Word, you are planting eternal seed. Be attentive to the condition of the “soil,” the person you speak into. Pray the soil of their life is good ground.



Insights

Jesus, the Messiah-God ...

He spoke of John the Baptist with high regard. Here is His summary of His cousin, the baptizer, preacher, servant, witness, and forerunner ...

Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’ Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist ... all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.”

Matthew 11:7-14 (excerpts)

Jesus used His words to clarify John’s ministry and honored his devotion.

Although John was human and most likely had shortcomings, the only record in the Word of God about John highlights his faithfulness to the call to be **“the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”** Isaiah 40:3

Like Jesus, we can Life-Speak about others by magnifying their faithfulness and praying silently about their flaws.



Gate Key

High Regard

Speak God’s Word Aloud ...

Strength and honor are her clothing;
she shall rejoice in time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

King Solomon Describes Characteristics of Virtue ♦ Proverbs 31:25-26



Prayer

Holy Spirit, You understand my every thought and are acquainted with all my ways. There is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. Pull the root of negative speech from my soul. Amen Psalm 139:1-4



The Scriptures

John the Baptist

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 ♦ John’s Beginnings

John 1:6-8, 19-34, Matthew 3 ♦ John’s ministry

Matthew 11:1-15 ♦ Jesus’ Testimony About John

Malachi 3:1, 4:5; Matthew 17:9-13; Luke 1:17

The spirit and power of Elijah

A Declaration

1 John 4:7 ♦ 1 Corinthians 13:5b

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God;
and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
Love does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil.*



Worship in Song

“Known”

by Tauren Wells (Lyric Video)



God’s Word Transforms

It is a common fault of humanity to misuse our tongue. If we want to Life-Speak, we must address any tendency to disparage another. Study James chapter 3; evaluate all 18 verses. John the Baptist’s message resonates still today: **“bear fruits worthy of repentance.”** John 3:8 God’s grace helps us to make it right.



Insights

Three brothers came together to write their prayers and declarations. These composers of inspired scripture seem like an unlikely group. Their names were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph. *Exodus 6:24* They were the sons of Korah, the same Korah who led a rebellion against Moses in the wilderness and was swallowed up when God opened the earth in judgment. Clearly the sons chose to side with Moses and the congregation of Israel instead of their own rebellious earthly father. It is they who became the authors of eleven of the Psalms including the “Prayer for Revival.”

Psalms 85 contains beautiful prayer requests and declarations. As we pray for revival in our lives and land, Psalm 85 gives us thirteen incredible verses that speak directly to the yearning of our hearts. Among these verses is a beautiful portrait of what seems like an unlikely alliance. Verse 10 ...

***Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed.***

Can you see it? Mercy, which we correlate with forgiveness and truth which we parallel with justice. Can these two co-exist? When they do, the result is righteousness and peace. In our difficult world, we see too little of this comradery. However, we can be agents of mercy and truth, righteousness and peace. We can Life-Speak with a right heart.



Gate Key

The Kiss

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. And so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.

King Solomon's "Benefits of Wisdom" Chapter ♦ Proverbs 3:3-4 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, I live in a land of tremendous dissension and rebellion. Families & neighbors contend with one another, even loathe one another. Hate-filled words fuel division's fire. Help me to have a different heart, to Life-Speak mercy & truth. Amen



The Scriptures

Mercy and Truth

Numbers 16:1-40 ♦ Korah's rebellion.

Psalms 85 ♦ Prayer for revival.

Psalms 25:10, Micah 6:8 ♦ We are called to be like God.

A Declaration

Micah 6:8

*You have shown me what is good;
and what does the Lord require of me? But to do justly,
to love mercy, and to walk humbly with my God?*



Worship in Song

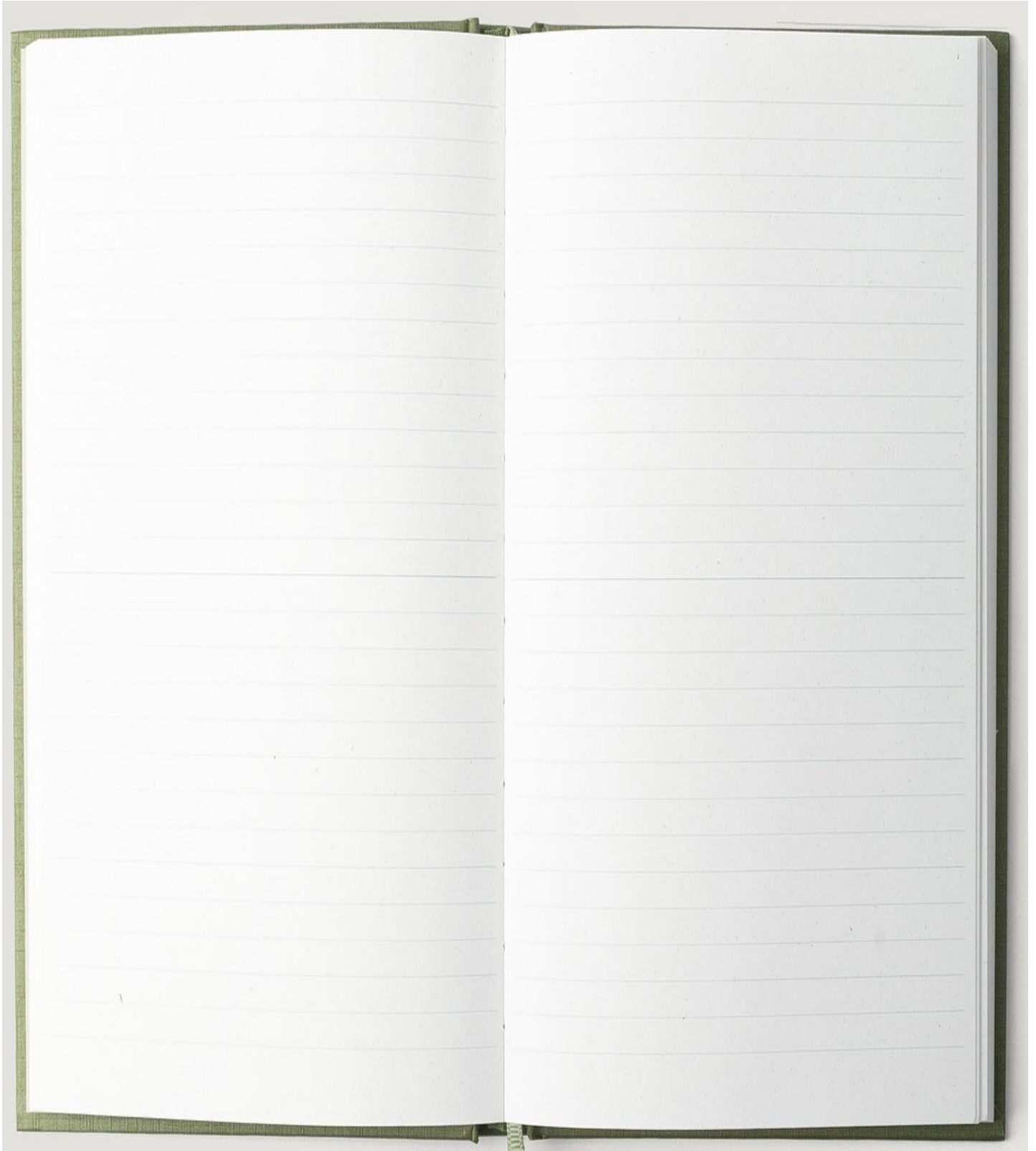
“Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly”
by Pat Barrett (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Korah did not do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with his God. But his sons did. Study each word in Micah 6:8; search for the depth of meaning for “justly,” “mercy,” and “humbly.”

Do a personal inventory. Is there a change Holy Spirit is nudging you to make? Pray first, then do. Obedience gives life.







Index Days 15-21

Life-Speak Declaring the Living Word of God

☐ Day 15 ♦ Unwavering

☐ Day 16 ♦ Prepare & Declare

☐ Day 17 ♦ Heart Matters

☐ Day 18 ♦ The Path of Peace

☐ Day 19 ♦ Influence

☐ Day 20 ♦ Family

☐ Day 21 ♦ Isn't It Bootiful?



Insights

Define “Unwavering”

*It means steady, resolute, unrelenting.
To continue in a strong, unaltered way.
Constant. Steadfast. Faithful.*

**Do you know anyone that fits
this description perfectly?**

2 Timothy 2:13 gives us a clear hint:
*If we are faithless, He remains faithful;
He [God] cannot deny Himself.*

What do you think about the phrase in
2 Timothy 2:13, “*He cannot deny
Himself.*”? Is it probable this speaks of
the core of Who God is, His inherent
nature? He is unrelenting in His promises.
He is steadfast in His character. He is
resolute to His new covenant with His
people, both Israel and we who are
grafted in. Romans 11:11-36, esp vss 17-20

The new covenant is a non-negotiable.
The price to secure it is immeasurable:
the blood of Jesus, the Son of God ...
God Himself.

This new covenant is a promise secured
by the ultimate Promise Keeper ...
God Himself.

Even when we face battles and struggles
in our lives, we can remember and declare
the new covenant which is established by
the unwavering One. He truly remains
faithful even if we are faithless.

As you meditate upon and make your
declaration of the covenant God has
established with you, ponder this truth:
God fought for you—faithfully.



Gate Key

Unwavering

Speak God’s Word Aloud ...

Then the Lord met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth,
and said, “Go back to Balak, and thus you shall speak.” ...

Then he took up his oracle and said: “Rise up, Balak, and hear!
Listen to me, son of Zippor! God is not a man, that He should lie,
nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will
He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

Words of the Prophet Balaam ♦ Numbers 23:16, 18-19 nkjv



Prayer

Covenant-Keeping God ... You are my All in All. Your new
covenant secures all that I will ever need. Despite the changing
world in which I dwell, You never change. I’m safe. Amen



The Scriptures

New Covenant

Hebrews chapters 8 & 9 ♦ The New Covenant
Jeremiah 31:31-34, Luke 22:14-20, Hebrews 12:22-24
The New Covenant sealed in Jesus’ holy blood
Romans 8:31-39 ♦ God’s faithfulness to us.

A Declaration

Jeremiah 31:33b-34, Hebrews 8:10-12

I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more
shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother,
saying “Know the Lord,” for they all shall know Me, from the
least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will
forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”



Worship in Song

“Found a Love”
by 7 Hills Worship (Lyric Video)



God’s Word Transforms

The Lord said “I do” to you. When you reciprocated with your
faith “I do”, you entered covenant with Him. Explore in your
Bible the steps of loving obedience you can take to bless your
covenant-making, covenant-keeping God. Post the new
covenant in a place where you can Life-Speak it each day,



Insights

Life-Speak Declarations

O Sovereign Lord, You are God!
Your words are true,
and You Have promised
good things to Your servant.
2 Samuel 7:28

You, O Lord, are the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.
2 Corinthians 3:17

You are the righteous God.
You search my heart
and secret thoughts.
Psalm 7:9

Whom have I in heaven but You?
And there is nothing on earth
I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but You, O God, are the strength of
my heart and my portion forever.
Psalm 73:25-26

**Write your own declaration based on
any of the following scriptures or your
own selection of verses.**

Matthew 7:24-25

Romans 8:1-2

1 John 3:1-3



Gate Key

Prepare & Declare

Declare God's Word Aloud ...

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

The Declaration of King David. ♦ Psalm 19:14 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, You are my portion; I have said that I would keep Your
words. I entreated your favor with my whole heart; be merciful
to me according to Your word. The earth, O Lord, is full of
Your mercy; teach me your statutes. Amen Psalm 119:57-58, 64



The Scriptures

Jesus Words as Declarations

Matthew 5:1-16 ♦ *Jesus' Beatitudes as declarations.*

Revelation 22:12-13 ♦ *Jesus' promise as a declaration.*

A Declaration

Psalm 119:159-160

*Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O Lord, accord-
ing to Your lovingkindness. The entirety of Your word is truth,
and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*



Worship in Song

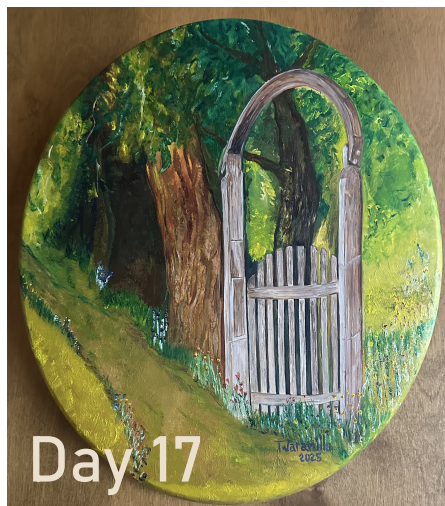
"Word of God Speak"

by Jessie Black (Piano Arrangement with Printed Lyrics)
Consider reading and Life-Speaking the lyrics aloud



God's Word Transforms

Creating your own declarations can be done in a journal,
or perhaps online in your computer. The intention is to
place your selected scripture declarations where you
can read, review, and Life-Speak often.



Insights

John chapter 6 gives us a glimpse of two days in Jesus' life. On day 1 he taught a large multitude—5000 men plus women and children—possibly 10,000 or more people (and that without a microphone!) Then he fed them using just five barley loaves and two fish. That night, He walked on the surface of a stormy sea and encouraged His disciples not to fear.

Day 2—the crowds discovered his location and followed Him to Capernaum.

This day, however, the teaching was not as palatable to them. He pinpointed their motivation for following him:

“... you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life ...”

John 6:27a

Jesus proceeds to take the conversation to a topic that their ears could neither comprehend or tolerate.

“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”

John 6:56

The Bible implies that Jesus' words emptied out the synagogue.

“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.” John 6:66

This came as no surprise to our Lord. *“Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe...”*

John 6:64b Sometimes Life-Speak exposes what is hidden in the heart... and that matters to God!



Gate Key

Heart Matters

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Peter's Confession of Faith ♦ John 6:67-69 nkjv



Prayer

Thank You Lord that You know my heart and yet You keep me close. You speak truth to Me and correct me when needed. Even if I am confused by Your silence, Your words, or an unwanted turn, You draw me near and don't let go. Amen



The Scriptures

Foundation of Faith

John 6 ♦ *Jesus' busy two days.*

Proverbs 4:23, 21:2, 27:19 ♦ *Heart health.*

John 14 ♦ *Holy Spirit comforts and leads into truth.*

A Declaration

2 Timothy 1:12b

I know Whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.



Worship in Song

“Even If”

by MercyMe (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

“The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom though it cost all you have, get understanding.” Proverbs 4:7 Pay the price to obtain wisdom and understanding. You may not understand all that God says, does, or doesn't do, but God's promise is that Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth. Life-Speak John 14. Do what you can; God will do what He does.



Insights

Inclination

Vicki L. Bustos ♦ 7-15-15

**I'm inclined to let it be;
to not confront, to wait and see
just how the Lord will work it out;
to hide behind a silent mouth.**

**And sometimes that can be the best,
but there are moments when my test
is to step up to the plate;
to speak the truth without delay.**

**So grant your non-confronting girl
wisdom, boldness, confident peace.**

**Golden apples in silver pics,
timely words well-received.**

Proverbs 25:11

Life-Speak may mean we must speak even when we do not want to. Whatever the reason ... a broken relationship, an on-the-job challenge, correcting an untruth...any number of circumstances, sometimes we simply must open wide our mouth. The goal? God's peace.

Confrontation with another need not be contentious. If our heart can be cleansed of contention beforehand, the chances of a verbal brawl will be reduced by at least 50%. Careful preparation may include fasting and prayer. In that place, the Holy Spirit can correct us where we may be in error. We can also pray for the other person. In addition, the Lord can point out scriptures for us to put before our eyes and into our hearts so that we Life-Speak instead of death-speak when we meet.



Gate Key

The Path of Peace

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

Repay no one evil for evil.
Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.
If it is possible, as much as depends on you,
live peaceably with all men.

Apostle Paul's Instruction to the Roman Church ♦ Romans 12:17-18 nkjv



Prayer

Lord help me to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, I will let my requests be made known to You; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard my heart and mind through Christ Jesus. Amen. Philippians 4:6-7



The Scriptures

Complimentary Virtues—Humility/Boldness

Proverbs 11:2, 15:33, 29:23, Micah 6:8

Humility

Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 6:18-20, Proverbs 28:1

Boldness

A Declaration

1 Peter 3:10 & 12 (excerpts)

He who would love life and see good days...let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers...



Worship in Song

“Peace”

by Bethel Music featuring We The Kingdom (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

The path to peace may be through the gate of confrontation.

If you do not are not equipped to confront,
consider seeking guidance on the matter
or engaging someone to serve as a mediator.
By all means, pursue peace.



Insights

It is a very old cliché
"Do as I say, not as I do."

The bottom line, however, is if I cannot follow in your footsteps, I won't hear your words. This is true for all of us.

Integrity opens the gate to influence.

Paul had proven his integrity and was able to influence new believers, both male and female, along with young pastors such as Timothy and Titus. When Paul instructed

Titus to *"speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine..."*

he had first learned the lesson himself. And not only learned it, but lived it.

Should we excuse ourselves when we use our words in ways that cause another to do a double take? Does my conversation evoke a comment or thought in my hearer such as: *"I thought she/he was a Christian."* or perhaps a disparage upon the power of God to transform our life.

Is it okay to smile and say,
"I love the Lord but I cuss a little."
 Influence is a fickle friend.

The prayer, scriptures, declaration, worship song, and transformation sections on this page may provide you inspiration and guidance on protecting the influence

God has entrusted to you. May you protect the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart. God bless you in this portion of your Life-Speak journey.



Gate Key

Influence

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine ... in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned ...

Paul's Advice to the Young Pastor, Titus ♦ Titus 2:1, 7-8a



Prayer

Lord, I truly want my speech to always be with grace and seasoned with salt, that I may know how I ought to answer each one. Jesus, You taught that Your people are the salt of the earth. Help me to never lose my saltiness. Amen



The Scriptures

The Tongue

Colossians 4:6, Matthew 5:13 ♦ Be appropriately salty.

1 Peter 3:8-17 ♦ Sanctified tongue.

James 3 ♦ Faith Controls the Tongue

A Declaration

Ephesians 4:29

I choose to honor You, Lord, as Your blood bought child. I will not permit any corrupting talk come out of my mouth, but only such as is good for building up to give grace to those who hear.



Worship in Song

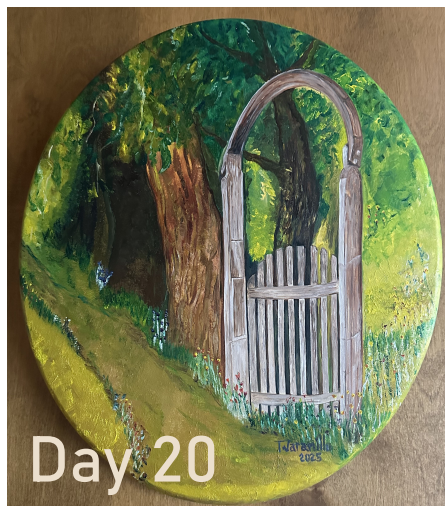
"Different"

by Micah Tyler (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

A powerful scripture to keep at the forefront of our eyes and mind is Psalm 141:3... *"Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips."* Cooperate with the convicting nudges of the Holy Spirit so your Life-Speak will be mightily influential for God's glory and the good of others.



Insights

There are so many wonderful, life changing passages of scripture to read and explore in our Bible! Where does one begin? The more we read it, the more vistas open up. The more we search for God in its pages, the more we see His heart and understand His ways.

The thirteen verses in Isaiah chapter 55 are truly Life-Speak scriptures. And then if we glance above to the previous chapter, we will find scriptures such as *"Enlarge the place of your tent, & let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, & strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right & to the left."* ...". *Isaiah 54:2-3a*

Our Bible is wealth indeed.

Isaiah 55 is the *Messiah's Invitation to the World* to become family to the Lord. This chapter is truly inclusive in the best way.

As you read it, formulate declarations from the verses; consider doing the same with chapter 54. These can become declarations which you refer to for yourself & which you use to invite others to *"seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."* *Isaiah 55:6*

The Lord truly wants us to
*"go out with joy,
and be led out with peace."*
Isaiah 55:12a

He wants to satisfy our every thirst.
Shall we meet him by the still waters?



Gate Key

Family

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void. But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

The Prophet Isaiah Speaking on Behalf of God ♦ *Isaiah 55:10-11*



Prayer

I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart. Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will keep Your Word right in front of me, relying on it to light the path that I take. Amen *Psalms 40:8, 119:105*



The Scriptures

Holy Spirit Revelation

Isaiah 55 ♦ *Messiah's Invitation to the World*
Revelation 21:1-7 ♦ *Water of Life*
Job 23:10-12 ♦ *Treasured Words*

A Declaration Luke 8:21

*Jesus answered and said to them,
"My mother and My brothers are these
who hear the word of God and do it."*



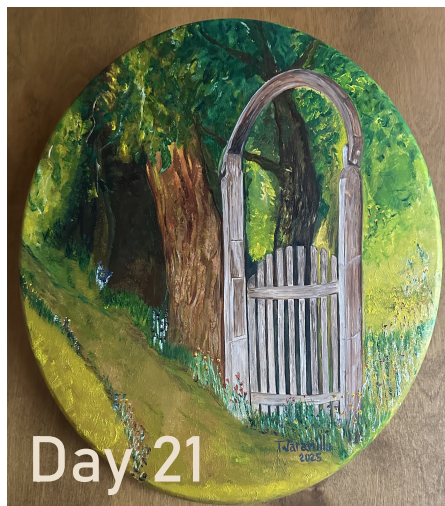
Worship in Song

"Come To The Table"
by Sidewalk Prophets (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Luke 8:21 could be a concluding verse in Isaiah 55. Jesus calls those "family" who accepts Messiah's invitation, hears the Word of God and does it. Is it you? I'm sure it must be. Life-Speak to yourself and others about your relationship with God.



Insights

On the evenings when clouds have gathered in the sky, the Colorado sunsets are breathtaking. It is as though God takes

His paint brush and masterfully swipes various hues of yellow, orange, pink, and lavender on each fluffy cloud leaving a blue sky background. He then dips into the yellows and oranges and swipes with

His brush and...voila...sunrays shoot down upon the layered Rocky Mountains.

We have often said that the sky is God's blank canvas and each evening He creates a uniquely new painting for us.

Our favorite 4th-born grandson, Cody Wade, has been a lover of beauty since his youngest days. At a family gathering in our home when he was about 3 years old, he came rushing into the kitchen and frantically pulled on his Pa's hand. "Pa, you've got to come see this!" Up the stairs my husband followed, led by our charming little man. Out on the upper deck, he crawled up on a chair, leaned on the railing, and focused his attention on the sunset. In his sweet voice, he turned to Chuck and said: "Isn't it bootiful Pa?"

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.



Gate Key

Isn't It Bootiful?

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

... because what may be known of God is manifest among them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse...

Paul's Insight About the Voice of God's Creation ♦ Romans 1:19-20 nkjv



Prayer

Lord, thank You for declaring Yourself for all the world's inhabitants through Your Son Jesus and the magnificence of Your creation. There is not a soul upon this earth who cannot hear and understand the voice of Your handiwork. Amen



The Scriptures

Magnificent Creator

Genesis chapter 1 ♦ God creates.

Psalm 104 ♦ Psalm rehearsing creation.

Psalm 113:1-3 ♦ Sunrise to sunset.

Revelation 22:7 ♦ Blessed

A Declaration

Psalm 33:4, 6a, 8b

For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth... By the word of the Lord the heavens were made ... Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.



Worship in Song

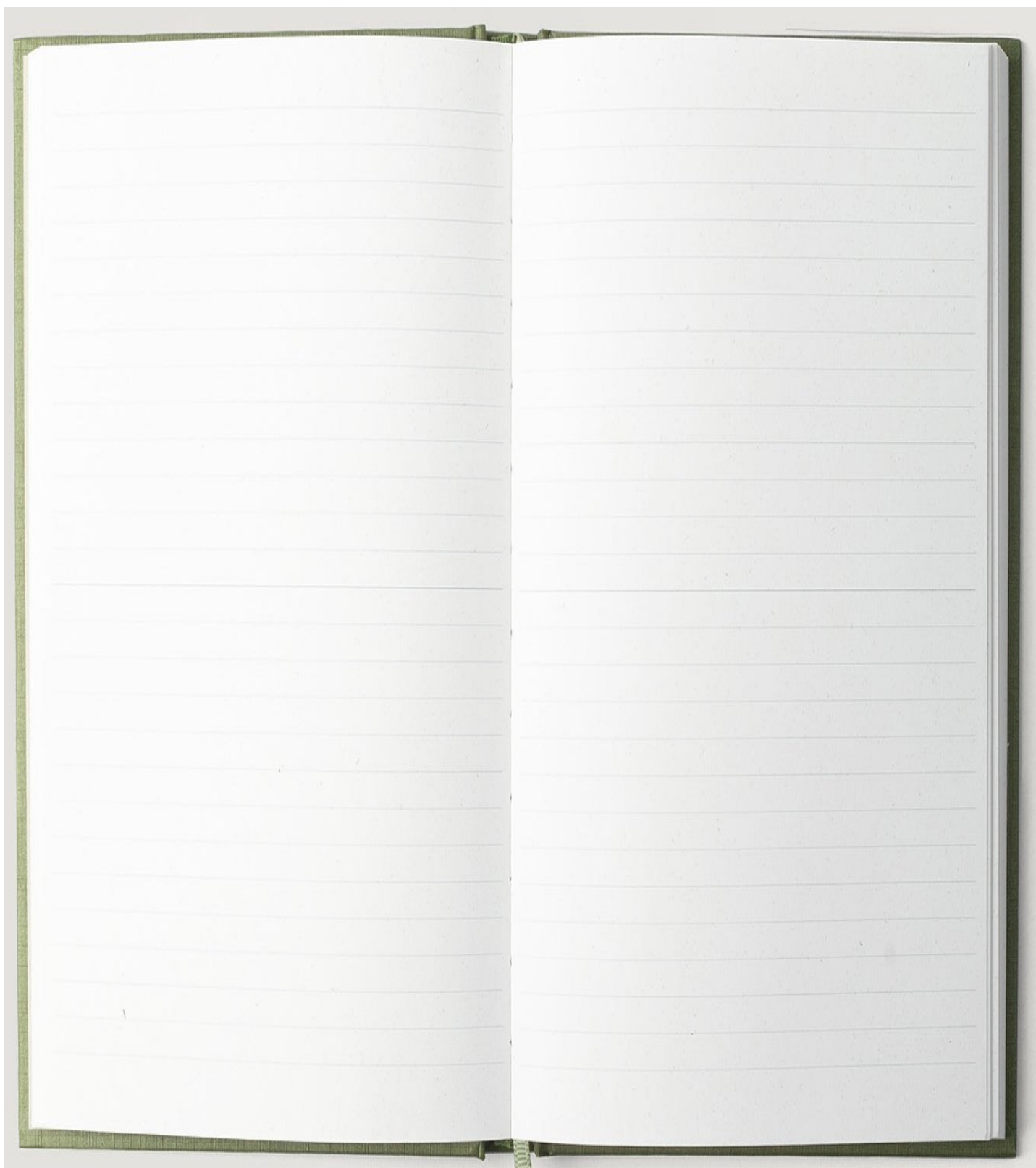
"Indescribable"

by Chris Tomlin (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

This concludes our 21 Devotions about *Life-Speak, Declaring the Living Word of God*. Truly, it is a launch pad for us to be excellent stewards of the Word of Life God entrusted to us. So, let's read our Bible, hide it in our heart, and declare it aloud! Let's be used by God to change the world with His Word.





My Notes



The Gate of Summer



21 Devotions on the Subject of Life-Speak
Declaring the Living Word of God

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