

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



A gift painted especially for
Open Book Ministries, "Gate of Summer"
by Artist, Terry C. Jaramillo, May 2025



Greetings ...

*It is our desire that we share a mutual path with you as we open 21 gates of **Life-Speak**. These 21 devotions offer ponderings from Biblical stories and personal testimonies related to the topic of “speaking life.”*

*Proverbs 18:21 gives us a profound insight:
“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”*

We are aware that much has been taught and written on this subject. It is our hope that these 21 “gates” will present a perspective that adds to the good lessons you have already learned and live based on Proverbs 18:21.

*What do we know? We know that most of us, from time to time, need to remember the Proverb that gives this instruction: **“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”** Proverbs 4:23 Actions and words flow from our thoughts and beliefs.*

What do we anticipate? We anticipate the Holy Spirit will help each of us to learn to be the best stewards of our words. In so doing, we will honor the Lord and benefit those He died for.

And here is one more thought ...

*Life often feels “academic.” Even our spiritual growth can be distorted into academia instead of relationship. Sometimes it feels like we are in school where we are expected to learn and apply so we can graduate and accomplish. Although we will always be learning from the Lord, we pray that your time in **“Life-Speak”** does not translate into a mere “learn and apply” devotional, rather instead permeates your soul and becomes a seamless and joyful weaving in the fabric of your life.*

*Each time we devote ourselves to searching His Word ... no matter the topic ... it opens a gate for us to know, really know, God. This is the best outcome because in the knowing, we will certainly love Him...how can we not? His love transforms us.
When we see Him as He is, we will be like Him. **1 John 3:2***

*It is our genuine hope these 21 **Life-Speaks** will be a springboard into deeper thought about how to steward our words. Ultimately, our hope is that we will all know and love our Lord more intimately... the best outcome indeed!*

Life-Speak is a lifetime journey we all must travel. Shall we go together?



Now Let's Begin!



*Welcome to 21 “Gates” on the Topic,
“Life-Speak”
Declaring the Living Word of God*

Included

Topic Title ♦ Life-Speak Scripture ♦ Teaching Consideration
Prayer ♦ Study Scriptures ♦ Scripture Declaration
Worship Song (search on You Tube)
Application-God’s Word Transforms ♦ Journal Page

How to use the Gate of Summer

- ✦ Utilize this devotion as it fits your needs.
Some folks do one devotion each day.
Others spread the devotions over two days.
- ✦ Most important is that you glean from the Lord and His Word that which He is trying to teach you, so linger if you need to.
- ✦ For continuity sake, read through the entire daily devotion in one sitting to gain the big picture.

Speak God’s Word

- ✦ Speak your declarations of God’s Living Word out loud.
The Bible teaches that *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* Romans 10:17 Your spoken words enter your own hearing and will build your faith.
- ✦ By speaking God’s Word aloud privately, you will increase your confidence to speak God’s Word aloud publicly.

So Much More!

There was so much more that could have been said and written on this topic. We trust you will pursue broader and deeper truths about **Life-Speak** beyond these pages, and you will speak God’s Holy Word tenderly and boldly into your world!

A Prayer for You ...

May the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart be acceptable and pleasing to your Lord. *May you glean* strength in your communication and bring truth and joy to yourself and your hearers. *May God meet you* and travel with you as you open new gates along the path of exploring **Life-Speak**. *May you pause* at every gate of opportunity to grow in intimacy with the Lord God. *He awaits you!*



Amen!

Sidebar Notes...

Resources

- ♦ These 21 **Life-Speaks** can benefit women, men, and teenagers.
- ♦ This devotional is available in a pdf format on our Open Book Ministries website under the “Resources” page. Links to the suggested worship music is also available under “Open Book Favorites—YouTube Playlist.”
www.openbookministries.net
- ♦ Permission is granted to you to print the pdf for personal use from our OBMin Resources page, or you can contact us to purchase printed copies of The Gate of Summer. On the website, click “Gate of Summer, 2025, Life-Speak” or send a message from the website to purchase. If you would be so kind, please notify us if you print the pdf and if you share it.
- ♦ 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 and applying from **“Life-Speak.”**
 - Participate in acts of service.
 - Intentionally **Life-Speak** to yourself and others.
 - Bless the Lord with your words.

Spiritual Disciplines

Helpers in our Life-Speak Journey



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 bring transformation for us and others. 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.
Alone with the Lord is the foundational spiritual discipline.
Don’t become weary in well-doing ... intentionally come away with Him.

TODAY WILL NEVER COME AGAIN.

Be *a blessing*. Be *a friend*.

Encourage someone.

Take time to care.

Let your words heal and not wound.

Life-Speak!

Speak Life!



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Life-Speak

Declaring the Living Word of God

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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



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 ...

- Open the gate of thoughtful, prayerful, action regarding how to speak God's Word and our words 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 on us and others based on our words, beliefs, and heart meditations as 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 certainly walk and will perpetually travel. Learning to speak life as God does is transforming ... for us and for others. And God-honoring.



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 Your Word and to speak and apply the Bible appropriately and sincerely. Amen.



The Scriptures

Seek God's Wisdom

The Quest

Proverbs 2:1-11 (see Amplified Version)

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

Write one of your “go-to” scriptures, a scripture you often refer to and declare at various times in your life. Look it up in another version, perhaps a paraphrased version such as The Message or The Passion Translation. Ask the Lord to deepen your understanding of this verse and how it applies to your life and others.



My Notes



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



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 has two volumes of insightful liturgies: *Every Moment Holy*.

Kenneth Boa wrote a selection of *"Face to Face"* daily prayer devotions to teach us how to pray the Scriptures for spiritual growth. Patricia Miller compiled several quotable books of *"Quick Scripture References for Counseling,"* Germaine Copeland's *"Prayers That Avail Much"* series, and Derek Prince's *"Prayers and Proclamations"* each provide thoughtful Biblical declarations. I'm sure many additional resources exist.

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.



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, the Bible, so my **Life-Speak** flows from Your wellspring of love, hope, kindness, peace, truth. 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 First Sit at Jesus' Feet*

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:1-5 ♦ *Arise, Speak the Good News*

A Declaration

Proverbs 7:1-3 (excerpt)

*I will keep God's words and store up His commands within me.
I will keep God's commands and live. I will guard God's teachings as the apple of my eye and write them on the tablet of my heart.*



Worship in Song

"Not In A Hurry"

by Will Reagan (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Your Bible is God's Word to and for you, the first source of information for your declarations. Supplemental materials are beneficial. However, keeping the main book the main book—your Bible—is like putting gasoline or an electrical charge into your vehicle. Without it, the vehicle has no power. Locate a *secondary* resource that helps you compile and Life-Speak God's Word.



My Notes



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



Considerations

Perhaps 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 existed 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 the One in Whom you believe and why helps you to share about your faith lovingly and clearly. Refresh your soul today with insights and declarations that anchor your faith and magnify the beautiful work God is perfecting in you.



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

Faith Confession 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*

Galatians 2:20 *Christ Lives in Me*

Colossians 1:27 *Christ in Me, My Hope of Glory*

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

If you are born again, reflect on your “coming to Jesus” story and rehearse it with a friend. Record the details of how God shone His light into your heart and drew you to Himself. If you are on the journey towards a relationship with Jesus, consider Nicodemus’ story in John 3:1-21 and the lessons in Romans 3:23, 5:8 & 9, 6:23, 8:1, and 10:9. Write and declare the verses that touch your heart.



My Notes



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, your private teacher!

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 of Him? He highly valued Scripture and it was clearly evident during His public ministry. He often needed a ready response and 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"
(Quote from the title to Psalm 119 in *The Open Bible*.
Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible.
It is focused on God's Word.)

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

A well-known and much quoted scripture from Psalm 119 is verse 105:
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Select three scriptures in Psalm 119
that can serve as "a lamp to your feet, and a light to your path."
Do as Jesus did: study and store these scriptures in your mind and heart.



My Notes



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



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. 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.



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, decree only Your will. Amen



The Scriptures

Declaring God's Will

Knowing God's Will

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 ♦ Proverbs 3:5-6

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

Explore the verses listed in the "Scriptures" section on the previous page pertaining to God's will. What do you think is the importance of seeking to know God's heart and will before declaring? Why is this important? 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 gaze forward.



My Notes



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 book because I knew the outcome, but other times it served as a catalyst to connect all of the dots. This I knew ... the last paragraphs were not the story, only the final 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” speculating about 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. As we search for God’s magnificence in His Word, even in our trials, 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, rooted fully in the knowledge of Your holy heart. 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 19:14

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

Psalm 19:14



Worship in Song

“Speak O Lord”

by Keith & Kristyn Getty



God's Word Transforms

The definition of “platitude” is a remark or statement with a moral content that has been used too often to be interesting and thoughtful. Clichés have the same effect as platitudes. Is there a scripture you have quoted often that you would like to see in a broader or deeper context? Ask Holy Spirit to make that verse alive again to you. Record how God gave new texture to a familiar scripture.



My Notes



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 Jesus 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 His Healer ... 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 **Life-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 the blind man gained sight beyond his physical vision. Do you relate to this man? In what way? What experiences have you had in gaining spiritual sight? Record the three statements Jesus spoke in John 9:35-39. Declare your personal answer to Jesus' question.



My Notes



***“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said,
out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”***

Jesus’ words, recorded in John 7:37b-38



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Life-Speak

Declaring the Living Word of God

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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



Considerations

There are unnamed individuals in the Bible who may have contributed much to God's will being done on earth.

Their voice may have been a voice of encouragement. 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 blueprint and plan to preserve the lives of his family, the beasts, and the birds. Noah and his family began the daunting task 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 by their neighbors.

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.



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

Historical 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

There are those whose story you know (or at least some of their story.) You have done life with them or are blessed to be doing life with them today. You know some (or all) of their dreams, experiences, the insights God has given to them. If there is an individual in your life who needs encouragement, recall their story and record appropriate scriptures to share with them if the moment arises.



My Notes



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



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?

What **Life-Speak** words should we say when feared news becomes reality?

None. At least not yet.

Life-Speak words spoken out of season will pour salt into the fresh 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 holiness or emotional gravity 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.



Prayer

Lord, in 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. Help me not to interrupt 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 left us this message: “*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.*” Ecclesiastes 3:1 You can Life-Speak God's Word with someone who is suffering. Write out appropriate scriptures, meditate on these, and memorize them; prepare for sacred moments when you share the mourning bench. Use caution though: do not interrupt the silence.



My Notes



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



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, perhaps 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.

(Patiently trust the Lord's outcome.)

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."*



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 in psalms and also in hymns and spiritual songs. Raise up more modern-day "David's," men and women musicians, who compose music that help us worship You in song. Amen



The Scriptures

Personal Reminder Declarations

The Works and Words of God

Psalm 19

Remember God's Goodness ♦ 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 Search out scriptures that describe how God's law, His Word, converts your soul. Record your discoveries and speak your discoveries as declarations.



My Notes



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



Insights

My husband and I have been given the gift of seeing and knowing our children's 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.**



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 it is your own children or grandchildren or someone else's, live in the awareness that little eyes are watching and young ears are always listening. Write a prayer for the next generation.



My Notes



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



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 if we are falling short or if we are in rhythm with the heart of God. It reveals 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.**

Let us search for truth and submit to the piercing of the Master Swordsman.



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.

Help me to yield to Your skilled swordsmanship, to trust You to pierce so You can heal me. Help me stand fast in the liberty in which You set me free. (Galatians 5:1) I want to serve You and others from that place of liberation. 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

A two-edged sword cuts both ways. A modern-day definition is that a double-edged sword can have a positive or negative effect. In scripture, it means the Word of God will fully accomplish what it is sent to do: cut away, purify, guide. (Isaiah 55:10-11) Think deeply how God has pierced you in the past or recently. How has He or is He healing you? What scripture (sword) describes your experience?



My Notes



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" ♦ Proverbs 3:3-4 nkjv



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 remarkable 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 breathtaking portrait of what seems to be 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? God's Word says "yes." 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 & truth, righteousness & peace...the kiss.



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, Psalm 51:10-13 ♦ Prayer for revival. (nkjv)

Proverbs 3:1-6, Micah 6:8 ♦ Live, speak mercy & truth.

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. Pride will always cloud justice, mercy, and humility. Revisit Micah 6:8; search for and record the depth of meaning for each of these words: “justly, mercy, humbly.” (New King James Version) Do a personal inventory. Is there a change Holy Spirit is nudging you to make? Pray first, then do.



My Notes



Gate Key

High Regard

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

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.

Jesus Speaking About John the Baptist ♦ Matthew 11:11 & 14



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 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.



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. Give me eyes to see that which You proclaim as good in others and words to affirm and agree with You. Amen Psalm 139:1-4



The Scriptures

Preparations to be a Verbal Encourager

2 Peter 3:18, Philippians 3:7-8

Pursue Knowing God's Heart and Ways

Luke 6:39-49, Proverbs 21:23, James 3

Follow Jesus' Instructions and the Bible's Warnings

Proverbs 4:20-25, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Philippians 4:8

Guard Our Thought Life

A Declaration

Proverbs 16:24

I will speak pleasant words that are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.



Worship in Song

"I Speak Jesus"

by Charity Gayle (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

John the Baptist's message resonates today: "*bear fruits worthy of repentance.*" John 3:8 If you have spoken bitter words about someone (most people have,) apply the guidance of the scriptures, asking forgiveness from God (and if appropriate, from the individual.) Follow the path of God's mercy in the relationship. Study Ephesians 4:25-32 and glean truth on how to impart grace through words.



My Notes



Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is **true**,
whatever is **noble**,
whatever is **right**,
whatever is **pure**,
whatever is **lovely**,
whatever is **admirable**—
if anything is **excellent**
or **praiseworthy**—
think about such things.

Philippians 4:8



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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 Prayer of King David. ♦ Psalm 19:14 nkjv



Insights

*Precept upon precept, line upon line,
here a little, there a little. Isaiah 28:10*
May God build your faith each time
you **Life-Speak** His Word. Amen

Life-Speak Declarations (Suggestions)

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



Prayer

Lord, You are my portion; I have said that I would keep
Your words ... teach me Your statutes. I will study so I may
accurately understand and speak Your Scripture. Help me
prepare my mind, heart, and words to **Life-Speak**. Amen
Psalm 119:57 & 64; 2 Timothy 2:15



The Scriptures

Jesus Words as Declarations

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

John 10:27-30 ♦ *Jesus, our Shepherd as a declaration.*

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, according 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

You can create your own declarations. Consider recording them for reference sake in a journal, whether handwritten or online, or perhaps an audio recording. Write them on a post-it note or 3 x 5 card to display for review. The intention is to place your selected scripture declarations where you can read, review, and Life-Speak often. Study corresponding scriptures that clarify your declaration.



My Notes



Life-Speak Gate 16



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 speak on a topic their ears could not comprehend and their hearts would not 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 hearts. And sometimes rejection follows.



Gate Key

Rejected

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

Lord, help me to remember that Your word will never return void; it will accomplish what You please. May Your truth continue to work in the heart of the one who hears, even if they disagree or reject You and me.

You have not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind. Amen Isaiah 55:11, 2 Timothy 1:7



The Scriptures

Firm Foundation—God's Truth

John 6 ♦ Jesus' two busy days.

Psalms 119:129-136 ♦ God's truth assures.

Psalms 125:1-2, Hebrews 12:25-29 ♦ Unshakeable words.

A Declaration

John 6:67-69

Jesus asked His twelve disciples if they wanted to go away as the crowd had done. I declare Peter's response:

“Lord, to whom shall I go? You have the words of eternal life. I have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”



Worship in Song

“It Is Well With My Soul”

by Reawaken Hymns (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Entering into the sufferings of Christ (Philippians 3:10-11) may include experiencing rejection. Ponder and pray about the possibility of rejection when you Life-Speak. Consider how you might manage this if it happens. Are you willing to take the risk? If not, ask the Holy Spirit for boldness and help. Write out and ponder these scriptures: John 1:11 ♦ Isaiah 53:3 ♦ 2 Corinthians 12:9



My Notes



Gate Key

Family

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, but and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ... Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.

The Prophet Isaiah Speaking on Behalf of God ♦ Isaiah 55:1 & 2b



Insights

There are many 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 first 13 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 join Him in His family. 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 are declarations which you may refer to for yourself and an invitation you can speak and pray for 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. He wants to fill our mouth with spiritual nourishment for family members, both current and future!



Prayer

Thank You Lord for extending Your invitation to me to become Your family member. You are my Father, my good Father. You provide for every need I have. I long to please your Abba heart with my words and deeds. I want to share the bounty of Your truth with others. I love you. Amen



The Scriptures

Father-God's Provision

Isaiah 55 ♦ *Messiah's Invitation to the World*

John 6:47-51 ♦ *Jesus the Bread of Life*

Revelation 21:1-7 ♦ *Water of Life*

Romans 1:16-17 ♦ *Response: Share the Bread & Water of Life*

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 to Isaiah 55. Jesus calls those “family” who accepts Messiah’s invitation, hears the Word of God, and does it. Consider 1 John 3:2—“*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*” This verse sparks anticipation! Life-Speak it.



My Notes



Gate Key

Faithfully Unwavering

Speak God's Word Aloud ...

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 23:19 nkjv



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 us ... those who
are grafted in. **Romans 11:11-36, vs 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 never wavered.
He fought for you—faithfully.



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 8 & 9 ♦ The New Covenant-Big Picture

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, Lamentations 3:22-23

Thank You Lord that You have put Your law in my mind
and written it on my heart. You are my God and I am counted
among Your people. Your mercies and compassions fail not;
they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!



Worship in Song

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

by Cece Winans (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

The Lord said to you at Calvary, "I do." When you reciprocated with your faith-filled "I do," you entered covenant with Him. The New Testament unfolds layer by layer the vast truth about the new covenant spoken of in the Old Testament passage in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Write out verse 33 and ponder it today. Post the new covenant in a location where you can see it and Life-Speak it each day.



My Notes



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



Insights

Inclination

Vicki L. Bustos ♦ 7-15-25

**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, hopefully 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 glory, restoration, reconciliation, peace.

Confrontation need not be contentious.

This may be easier said than done. If our heart is cleansed of anger and pride beforehand, the chances of a verbal brawl will be reduced. Our motivation must be love so we must carefully prepare our soul through fasting, prayer, and the Word. In these disciplines, Holy Spirit can correct us in advance so we don't sideswipe someone or be in attack mode. **Life-Speak** don't death-speak. Begin by controlling the narrative in your own soul.



Prayer

Lord help me to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, 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

Romans 12:9-21

The Hoped-For Outcome: Live Peaceably With All Men

A Declaration

1 Peter 3:10-12 (excerpts)

He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit ...

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

Confrontation can be a slippery slope. Knowing if it is truly our place to confront or recognizing if God is already working in lives or circumstances so that our voice may become a hindrance are two important aspects. God's glory, restoration, reconciliation, and peace is always the hope. How can we "live peaceably with all men" and "speak the truth in love?" Seek guidance or training on this topic.



My Notes



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



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 someone's footsteps, I won't hear their 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."* Perhaps, without realizing it, our words disparage the power of God to transform our life.

We must ask if it is okay to smile and say, *"I love the Lord but I cuss a little."*

Influence is a fickle friend.

More so, God's ears are always open.

In the 1997 movie, "What the Deaf Man Heard," the people who lived in Sammy's small town thought he was a deaf-mute.

Instead he had taken a vow of silence.

He was privy to every spoken word even though the townspeople did not realize it. Sometimes we treat God like "Sammy."



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 diligently guard my saltiness. Amen

Colossians 4:6 • Matthew 5:13



The Scriptures

Influence and Outcome of Their Words ...

Joshua 1:1-9 ♦ God's Commission of Joshua

Outcome: Joshua led the children of Israel into promised land

1 Kings 1:11-31 ♦ Bathsheba Intercedes

Outcome: She heeds the prophet Nathan's advice and her son Solomon is installed as King over Israel, successor of David.

Acts 2:1-41 ♦ Apostle Peter Preaches

Outcome: Peter's first sermon after Jesus' resurrection and the infilling of the Holy Spirit; 3000 saved.

A Declaration

1 Peter 1:15-16, 1 Corinthians 6:20

I look to You, Lord, to help me be holy in all of my conduct and words because You are holy. I have been bought with the price of Jesus' blood; I am not my own. Therefore, I will steward this body and my tongue for Your honor and glory.



Worship in Song

"Different"

by Micah Tyler (Lyric Video)



God's Word Transforms

Let us join the Lord in guarding our mouths and keeping a watch over the door of our lips.

Psalms 141:3 List the nine fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. How can we apply each of these to our speech? For example, how can we apply kindness to our words? How will this application help us to be a positive influence for God's glory? Write out the instructions in Galatians 5:16, 22-25.



My Notes



Life-Speak Gate 21



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 rainbow colors on each fluffy cloud leaving a blue sky background. He then dips into the yellows, oranges, and brilliant whites 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 ♦ Rehearsing Creation

Psalm 113:1-3 ♦ Sunrise to Sunset

Revelation 22:7, 12-13, 16, 20

Jesus' Final Life-Speak Words in the Bible

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

Bless God's heart by Life-Speaking Psalm 19. Note that even the heavens "Life-Speak" about Him!

This concludes our journey through 21 Life-Speak Gates, *Declaring the Living Word of God*.

This has been a launch pad for us to be excellent stewards of the Word of Life God entrusted to us. Let's read our Bible, hide it in our soul, and declare it aloud! Let's change the world with His Word.



My Notes

Life-Speak—21 Gates ♦ A Summary

Gates 1-14

Declaring the Living Word of God

Gate 1 ♦ Life-Speak ♦ Ephesians 4:29

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.

Gate 2 ♦ The Book ♦ Matthew 13:51-52

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."

Gate 3 ♦ Light of the World ♦ 2 Corinthians 4:6

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.

Gate 4 ♦ Study and Store ♦ 2 Timothy 2:15

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

Gate 5 ♦ God's Will ♦ Jeremiah 29:11-13

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.

Gate 6 ♦ Tangible, Texture, Truth ♦ Job 42:2 & 5

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.

Gate 7 ♦ Eyes Wide Open ♦ Ephesians 1:15b, 16, 18

... 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 ...

Gate 8 ♦ Echo ♦ Hebrews 10:24-25

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.

Gate 9 ♦ Silent Presence ♦ Proverbs 15:23 & 25:11

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.

Gate 10 ♦ Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs ♦ Ephesians 5:19-20

...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.

Gate 11 ♦ Generations ♦ Psalm 102:18 & 28

...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.

Gate 12 ♦ Master Swordsman ♦ Hebrews 4:12

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.

Gate 13 ♦ The Kiss ♦ Proverbs 3:3-4

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.

Gate 14 ♦ High Regard ♦ Matthew 11:11 & 14

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.

Life-Speak—21 Gates ♦ A Summary

Gates 15-21

Declaring the Living Word of God

Gate 15 ♦ Prepare & Declare ♦ Psalm 19:14

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

Gate 16 ♦ Rejected ♦ John 6:67-69

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.”

Gate 17 ♦ Rejected ♦ Isaiah 55:1 & 2b

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ... Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.

Gate 18 ♦ Faithfully Unwavering ♦ Numbers 23:19

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?

Gate 19 ♦ The Path of Peace ♦ Romans 12:17-18

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.

Gate 20 ♦ Influence ♦ Titus 2:1, 7-8a

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 ...

Gate 21 ♦ Isn't It Bootiful? ♦ Romans 1:19-20

... 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...



*Igniting a passion and imparting a pursuit of
intentional intimacy with God Almighty.*

The Gate of Summer



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

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Website: openbookministries.net

Email: openbookministries@yahoo.com

USPS: Post Office Box 351671 ♦ Westminster, Colorado ♦ 80035

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