



PRAISE & WORSHIP FOR CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

by Nan Allen

"SPEAK LIFE"

Read Exodus 4:1-12. This is the account of what happened when God told Moses to be His mouthpiece to His people. Notice the argument that happens. But finally, in verse 12, what does God tell Moses to do?

What does God promise Moses?

Now read Ephesians 6:18-20. Paul had some of the same fears that you may have about sharing the gospel. Pray, as Paul did, to speak boldly about the Lord. Make a list of people with whom you should share your testimony and the plan of salvation. Pray for boldness as you speak to them.

"THE LION AND THE LAMB"

Read John 1:29. This is where Jesus' public ministry began. What did John the apostle record John the Baptist calling Jesus? Now read Revelation 5:5. This is John the apostle again, calling Jesus by another name. What do you think these two names for Jesus mean? Write your response below.

If you don't have an answer, ask God to reveal a new insight.

"PRAISE GOD"

Psalm 96 is perhaps one of the best-loved praise songs ever written. Read it and write down the directives the psalmist gives us. (Hint: Sing, proclaim...)

James 1:17 gives us a reason to praise God. What does it say? What good and perfect gifts can you think of that have come to you from God? Thank Him for those and for the ones you haven't even thought of.

"GREAT ARE YOU, LORD"

Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet, writes his book in a sort of dialogue form. He writes what God says, and then Jeremiah records what he speaks back to God. Read Jeremiah 10:6-7. Can *you* say this to God?

"FIX MY EYES"

I love Chapters 11 and 12 of Hebrews, but especially the first two verses of Hebrews 12. Read them. What modern-day event does it make you think of? In any race, there is a goal on which you must keep your eyes fixed. In times of weariness and frustration, remember these verses to remind you how to keep going in your work for the Lord.

"ONE STEP AWAY"

The theme of a race or athletic competition is also used as a metaphor in Paul's writings to the Philippians. Read Chapter 3, verses 12-14. What does he remind us to do? If you're struggling to leave your past sins behind, ask God to help you. He will forgive you. Read (and claim) that promise in 1 John 1:9.

"THE RIVER"

What do you think "the river" means in this song? What can you do at the river? Swim? Drink? Wash? Read Psalm 51:7, John 7:38, Jeremiah 31:25, and Psalm 23:1-3. These verses might help you understand what the song's lyrics mean. Pray that God will renew, refresh, and restore you.

"TRUST IN YOU"

It's hard to trust sometimes, especially when a person you trusted has hurt you. But God does not abandon or hurt you. He is trustworthy ... completely. Read the following verses about trust. Memorize them whenever you doubt God or wonder if He can be trusted.

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- 1 Corinthians 3:11
- Isaiah 25:9
- Psalm 91:2

"JESUS, BE NEAR TO ME"

with "I Need Thee Every Hour"

Sometimes God can seem far away, but He is always near. Read Psalm 22:11, Ephesians 2:13, and James 4:8. Now read Jeremiah 29:12 and discover just how near God is. Call on Him, and He will listen and reassure you of His presence.

"MIGHTY REDEEMER"

Do you know what *redeem* means? Look it up in a dictionary. How is it defined? Compare that definition with the words of Job in Job 19:25, in Psalm 19:14, and Galatians 3:13. Now does the idea of Jesus being our Redeemer make more sense and have more impact? Ask God to help you understand.

"NO LONGER SLAVES"

Slavery is a bad thing. It is illegal (and evil) for one person to own another. But a human can become enslaved by something other than another person. Sin is a slave master. Read Romans 6. What does Paul say about slavery to sin?

Read Titus 1:1 and James 1:1. What do Paul and James claim to be? In this case, is slavery bad or evil? Why or why not?

Remember that whatever or whomever you let control you becomes your master and you become its slave. Pray for God to reveal to you the truth about your own bondage and how you can surrender to Him.

"SOUL ON FIRE"

Revival. It sounds old-fashioned. It might remind us of a generation ago when "revival" meetings were held. Though those meetings aren't as popular as they used to be, the idea of revival is still something we need to seek. Psalm 80:17-19 is a cry out to God for revival. The psalmist is asking for renewal by asking God to shine His face once again upon the people. If your "light" for Him has grown dim, ask Him to let it shine brightly for Him once more. Read Matthew 5:16 and remember why your light of salvation shines in the first place.