

A Kind Word in Due Season How Sweet it Is

04-10-2025 for the Daily News

This April morning it was Joyce Meyer, preaching again on her favorite subject, the power of words. Her message seemed so timely and relevant that I decided to jot down the gist of it, because I felt perhaps I've neglected to stress the importance of our "setting a watch over our mouths, so as not to sow discord among our friends.

God himself utilized words a lot for, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the hosts that dwell therein." If he spoke the universe into existence, it follows that His children, we, created in His image, can create things with words too, and so we can: The whisper that there was gold around Sutter's Mill unleashed a stampede that peopled California.

Psalm 119:103 cites these words. How sweet are thy words to my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth." Quoting this from Solomon's 'Song of Songs,' the words are deeply poetic.

But "sweet to my taste" reminds me of another key scripture: "Taste and see that the Lord is good, Call ye upon Him while he is near." (Psl 34:8)

A song using that scripture for its lyric, ushered in a powerful anointing back in 93 when Rodney Howard-Browne, a South African evangelist, sang it as a praise and worship selection at the Gospel Tabernacle in Breckenridge. The Presence of God's Spirit moved so powerfully that many people were "slain in the spirit" and ended up "stuck to the floor," weighed down by the awesome weightiness of God's Presence.

I'll quote John 6:63 just once more. That was the first scripture that actually spoke to the "ears" of my heart. When a scripture gets past the cluttered "battlefield of the mind" and speaks to one's heart, it becomes an unforgettable

revelation: “It is the Spirit that quickens, the flesh profits little. The words I speak unto you are Spirit, and they are life.”

Once that’s understood, we begin to realize that just spending time reading the Bible , causes the reader’s own spirit to be “quickened” or made alive. But that only happens if one has invited the Holy Spirit to make his home in our hearts. Then He becomes the teacher and the “quickener.” Before I did that, I found reading the Bible to be a challenge. I could enjoy familiar passages, but the thieving evil spirits would quickly find a way to distract, and sedate, me into weariness, so I’d quit reading.

But one of the truly great ways to get the medicine of God’s word into our hearts is through hearing it in beautiful music. And that’s what gives the grand old standards their timeless power to inspire.

Fannie Crosby of the 1800’s had a gift for powerfully putting scripture to music: “Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord/ Let the earth hear His voice!/ Praise the Lord praise the Lord/ Let the people rejoice. Oh come to the father through Jesus His son/ And give him the Glory, great things he has done.”

St. Francis of Assisi gave us this one: “All creatures of our God and King/ Lift up your voice and with us sing,/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia etc” And Handel took that single praise word “Hallelujah” and repeated it through nearly all of his masterpiece, “The Hallelujah Chorus.”

Some worship songs get overly complicated and that hurts spontaneity. It’s said, “familiarity breeds contempt,” but that’s not so with worship songs; the more scripture-filled and familiar they are, the more power they have to give life to, “quicken,” the congregation into joining in worship. That’s because “God inhabits the praises of his people,” Psl 22:3 making that praise powerful.