



GRACENOTE

MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS AUXILIARY



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The Power of Words

“Sticks and stones may break my bones; but words can never hurt me.” How many of us have been duped by those thirteen words? Let’s be perfectly clear, words have power. They have power to hurt or heal, to bind or loose, and to build up or tear down.

Music, comprised of melodies, harmonies, rhythms, tempos, and many other factors, can center, calm, and charge us. When lyrics are layered upon the chord progressions and melodic patterns of a song, its influence often increases. The words amplify the impact of the composition. Consider pop music, for example. Surely you can recall the lyrics to some of the songs that were popular during your younger years, songs that your elders might have considered inappropriate. If you’re like me, you can sing some of them on cue right now: The Closer I Get to You; She’s a Brick House; The Clean Up Woman; If You Can’t Be with the One You Love; Fire; Me & Mrs. Jones and on and on. Remarkably, these words had power over many people back in the day.

Beloved, the Scriptures are sacred reminders of the power that words possess. Consider the Psalms. These ancient songs still comfort and convict us. They focus and fortify us, as well as instruct and inspire us. The Israelites used them in times of worship and war.

God has used many composers over the centuries to pen songs that edify the saints and exalt the Savior. Here are a few examples: ‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus; Thou, My Everlasting Portion; You Thought I was Worth Saving; What a Mighty God We Serve; and Jesus, You’re the Center of My Joy.” These words offer something that transcends the melodies, no matter how beautiful. The words seem to penetrate the heart.

In music, the grace note embellishes the principal note, and adds an unanticipated pleantry to the melody. So was the life of Christ, the Word made flesh (Jn. 1:14). Like a grace note He never intended to draw attention to Himself for Himself, but only and always to accentuate the glory of the Father.

So, it is with a timely word (Prov. 25:11). It holds power to uplift and uphold the hearer. Grace Notes, articles prepared by our Convention's Music and Worship Arts Auxiliary, are designed to minister grace to its readers by shifting their attention to Jesus. Amid the chaos, confusion, and calamities of our personal and global spaces, such a shift can make all the difference in one's day, week, or life.

Finally, brothers and sisters, privileged to represent Christ and His Kingdom, let us remember the power of words. May we conclude that words matter, whether accompanied by music or sheer emotion, whether audible or visual. Indeed, death and life are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21). Let's see to it that our words always are seasoned with grace (Col. 4:6). May they confirm our profession of faith in Christ, our connection as the body of Christ, and our commitment to the witness of Christ, each day.

Grace to You!!

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