

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

Lord, Speak to Me

by Frances Havergal 1872

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone;
as thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where,
until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone;
as thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.

Matthew 10:19b-20 *"You will be given the right words at the right time. For it won't be you doing the talking – it will be the Spirit of the heavenly Father speaking through you."*

The Living Bible¹

1 Corinthians 1:18 *"I know very well how foolish it sounds to those who are lost, when they hear that Jesus died to save them. But we who are saved recognize this message as the very power of God."*

The Living Bible¹

Have you ever had the experience of feeling lost and hearing of God's love, feeling the power? Describe how that felt to you.

Have you ever been the one speaking to someone lost? Had the words they needed to hear given to you? Describe that situation.

O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4 *“What a wonderful God we have – he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass onto them this same help and comfort God has given us.”*

The Living Bible¹

Have you received the comfort of God? How does that feel? Has it impacted your life? How?

Have you ever had the opportunity to come alongside someone who is facing something you’ve dealt with and been able to offer them the kind of comfort you’ve received?

Describe that experience. How does it make you feel to have been God’s voice/hands/feet for someone who was troubled?

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

Matthew 11:28-29 *“Then Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’”* New Living Testament

Colossians 1:27-29 *“God decided to let his people know just how rich and glorious that truth is. That secret truth, which is for all people, is that Christ lives in you, his people. He is our hope for glory. So we continue to tell people about Christ. We use all wisdom to counsel every person and teach every person. We are trying to bring everyone before God as people who have grown to be spiritually mature in Christ. To do this, I work and struggle using the great strength that Christ gives me. That strength is working in my life.”* Easy to Read Version²

What words have you shared to help someone understand “the precious things” Christ readily shares with all of us?

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in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

Romans 5:3-5 *“There’s more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In an alert expectancy such as this, we’re never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary – we can’t round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit.”* The Message³

Where is your focus – on the feeling “hemmed in with troubles” or on “everything God generously pours” into your life? Why do you focus there? How does that effect your daily life?

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where,
until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

Acts 20:22-24 *“But there is another urgency before me now, I feel compelled to go to Jerusalem. I am completely in the dark about what will happen when I get there. I do know that it won’t be any picnic, for the Holy Spirit has let me know repeatedly and clearly that there are hard times and imprisonment ahead. But that matters little. What matters most to me is to finish what God started: the job the Master Jesus gave me of letting everyone I meet know all about this incredibly extravagant generosity of God.”* The Message³

Romans 14:7-9 *“The truth is that we neither live nor die as self-contained units. At every turn life links us to God, and when we die we come face to face with him. In life or death we are in the hands of God. Christ lived and died that he might be the Lord in both life and death.”* Phillips⁴

Have you ever experienced what Paul described in Acts – the urgency to do something even if you don’t know exactly why, or what will happen? Describe that time. Paul reminds the Romans, and us, that “In life or death we are in the hands of God.” Do you believe this? Why? What does Paul’s statement “The truth is that we neither live nor die as self-contained units” mean to you?

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Can you pray this verse, asking God to use you?

If you can, spend some time praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance in how to move forward in God's call on your life.

If you can't pray these words, spend some time sharing your hesitations with God.

This song was written 150 years ago. The way we speak has changed, but the core issues this song speaks to haven't. Why do you think this is the case?

“Speak to me”... “strengthen me”... “teach me”... “fill me”... “use me”...

Why do you think author included all these steps? Do you believe they're all necessary? Why?

What about the order? Does that matter to you? Why?

Do you think these steps are a one-and-done thing? Or does God need to get our attention again and again?

Do we need to be reminded to rely on God's strength more than once? Why?

What do you need Jesus to teach you?

Do you need your spiritual tank refilled? How do you do that? Is it working for you? Do you need a new way to be spiritually fed?

Do you doubt that God can “use even me”? Why? What can help you combat that feeling? Follow Jesus' example and bring these things – your needs, your efforts, your doubts – to God. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help to hear and respond to God's call on your life right now. Then follow that call to the best of your ability – leaning on God's strength and Jesus' lessons as you go, knowing that you will share in Jesus' joy and rest when your journey is over.

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