

DEVOTIONS FOR FATHERS

Speak, Lord



Brian King

The Power of Words

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

GENESIS 1:1-4

It doesn't matter how long ago you became a father: it's likely that you remember that day when your child started to speak! You'd been waiting for it, encouraging it. You became a forensic expert at deciphering the babbling and the nonsense syllables, listening closely for an utterance that you could recognize.

Your child speaks because her parents speak. Your baby started to use words because he heard *your* words.

God's first act of creation was to speak. “Light! Water! Land! Plants! Animals!” His words *were* action. Then with special care, he formed man and woman—not with words—but through action, that they would be the unique aspect of his creation. God would be able to walk and talk with them in a special way.

The same God speaks light into your life, inviting you to follow his Son Jesus, “the true light, which enlightens everyone” (John 1:9).

And now God gives you the power to speak. God invites you to speak back words to him in prayer. God also calls fathers to speak words of truth, grace and blessing upon their children. And just as our own children learned, we can speak because we've heard the true and gracious Word from our own Heavenly Father.

**Dear God, keep me connected to your Word
so that I reflect your character to my own
children. Amen.**



A Powerful Name

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

EXODUS 3:13-14

How did you pick out your children’s names? Parents apply all kinds of different criteria. For example, my dad preferred names that didn’t have a nickname and names that (for some reason) contained an “r.” So we were Brian and Laura.

Whatever criteria you used to choose a name, names are powerful. You spoke the names you chose for them upon your children and these names became a core part of who they are and how they’re known. These names became precious because the children these names referred to were precious.

God also wanted his people to know him through his name and his actions. So he spoke this name to Moses: “I AM WHO I AM.” It was a seemingly strange name but a powerful one. This God wasn’t defined by a power (harvest, rain, sun) like the Egyptian gods. Rather, God’s name defines everything else around him: He is the God who “is,” the name through which everything else gains meaning! Jesus, the second Person in the Godhead whom Moses encountered at the burning bush, would be the “name that is above every other name” (Philippians 2:9).

When you face challenges as a father, take comfort in this: The Heavenly Father knows your name and calls you by your name. And even more significantly, God wants to define you according to his name. He calls you his child through the work of Jesus. He calls you by a precious name.

Lord, remind me that you have placed your name on me. I am your child through your Son Jesus. Amen.

Throughout our lives, we have been blessed by the advice and wisdom of fathers. On Father's Day, receive the gift of God the Father's words, spoken to you in Scripture along with the reflections of a faithful father in this modern-day world, seeking direction on what to speak to his children. May your words, in turn, bring blessing to your children.

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