

20th September 2021

Voice

**"Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone:
as you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children, lost and lone."**

Frances Ridley Havergal, Lord, speak to me

Frances Ridley Havergal, the 19th century English poet and hymn-writer, turns in the hymn quoted above to the age-old question: How might I best discern the voice of God? She pleads: "Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone." This is our search for the will and purpose of God, so that we might be able to speak, serve and live to God's glory.

Where is God's voice for me? If we confine God's voice to the spoken word, or any words, then we limit God. The hymn below is my attempt to give substance to this thought. It's entitled "Your Word of Life." **

*You speak in words, so that my ears might hear
Your Word of Life, in language sure and clear.*

*You speak in signs, so that my eyes might see
Your Word of Life in beauty given to me.*

*You speak in thoughts, so that my heart might know
Your Word of Life, that on in faith I'll go.*

*You speak in stillness, blessing me once more,
Your Word of Life poured out from heaven's store.*

*You speak in sounds, in music for my soul,
Your Word of Life, to heal and make me whole.*

*You speak in silence, brushing noise away,
Your Word of Life, enough for each new day.*

*You speak in ways I may not realise.
Your Word of Life can take me by surprise.*

*You speak to me no matter what I do –
Your Word of Life, Your truth forever new.
You speak to me ... so help me comprehend
Your Word of Life, and glory without end.*

A prayer for today

"The voice of God goes out to all the world; his glory speaks across the universe."

Luke Cunningham

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** Your Word of Life is written to be sung to the tune, "Stockport" by John Wainwright (1728-1768)