

devotion:

Psalm 45:1

APRIL

by Tony Guerrero

Like many songwriters, I struggle with lyrics. Christian music is sometimes more difficult because, unlike secular music, we aren't supposed to make things up! Theology must remain consistent and we try to simply find new and original ways to express the same ideas and thoughts that are already expressed in countless other songs. I believe God calls us to be creative, so this is a worthwhile effort, even though many people might just give up saying "It's already been said..." God wants us to express our own voice. He never tires of hearing our praises!

My friend Bill Cantos, a brilliant lyricist, gave me some great advice. We all know that the Bible itself is a great source of lyric ideas. He invited me to go one step further. Whatever the topic is of a song I'm working on, turn it into a Bible study! For instance, if I'm writing about forgiveness, go to Scripture and see what the whole Bible says about forgiveness, rather than just looking for occasional phrases and rhymes. This way, songwriting becomes a learning tool for me as well.

God's inspiration is available to us, but we need to go to Him and His Word. Psalm 45:1 states, "My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the King; my tongue is the pen of a skilled writer." The author isn't implying that he's some brilliant writer on his own, but that because he is trying to worship God, God is in turn inspiring him.

Use your next songwriting journey as a chance to grow closer to God through a more thorough understanding of His Word. You can take this one step further and use your song-topic as the basis for a new devotion series within your worship team.

*Father,
Thank you for this gift of music and for instilling me with my own sense of creativity. Help me to use it for your glory and not my own. Through the process, lead me to a deeper understanding of who you are as I study your word and seek to honor you over trying to write a great song.
Amen.*

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