

Lyrical Inspiration - The Word in Song

Here are a few tips that will help you write lyrics that incorporate the Scriptures in an effective way.

1. Obviously, you must read the Bible on a regular basis in order to write lyrics that are biblically inspired. If you've never read the entire Bible, both Testaments, please make it your goal to do so - not just once, but again and again throughout your life. Much of the writing process is intuitive, but you can't draw on the Scriptures intuitively if you don't know them.
2. Be a lifelong student of the Scriptures, not just for great song material, but so you can apply them to your life! True worship obeys. If you are honestly trying to live a life pleasing to God, then the fruit of your efforts will show up in your writing. Your deepest cries will become songs that other believers can identify with, and there will be an integrity to your lyrics that won't come any other way.
3. One way of grounding your songs in the Scriptures is, of course, is to write directly from them, or even to paraphrase them. Worshipers warm quickly to songs that use the imagery and phrasing of Scripture verses that they know and love. Don't forget the Psalms: THE worship songbook of all time! Use a modern language translation to help keep your lyrics from sounding archaic.
4. Write songs around specific promises from God, especially those that you are trying to apprehend for your own life. If the song strengthens and encourages you personally, it will be more likely to bless others.
5. Pictures speak the language of the heart, so fill your imagination with biblical imagery and the wonders of creation. Study the parables that Jesus taught. Study the shadows and types found in the OT that are fulfilled in the NT. You will better understand the heavenly scenes described in the book of Revelation, for example, if you have knowledge of the tabernacle described in Exodus.

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