

FOREWORD BY DR. GARY SMALLEY

JESUS SPEAKS

"I'm so excited about this beautiful book, *Jesus Speaks*. The words of Jesus chase away stress and fear and offer hope and encouragement as nothing else can!"

—ROMA DOWNEY



365 Days of Daily Guidance and Encouragement,
Straight from the Words of Christ

STEVEN K. SCOTT

AUTHOR OF *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken*

Praise for
Jesus Speaks

“Jesus’ words can replace stress with peace, sadness with joy, confusion with guidance, and fear with faith. That’s why *Jesus Speaks* will not only change your day, but it can also change your life, your relationships, and your eternity!”

—CHRISTINE CAINE, best-selling author of *Unstoppable*;
founder of The A21 Campaign and Propel Women

“There is absolutely nothing more important for the growing child of God than spending time daily in His Word and presence, and Steve Scott’s inspiring new devotional book, *Jesus Speaks*, helps us do just that. Mr. Scott’s personal application of Scripture and impressive understanding of Jesus’ heart for His people are evident on every page. I’m certain readers will be blessed and challenged and will grow in their intimate relationship with the Father as they focus on Jesus’ words daily through Mr. Scott’s profound and encouraging writing.”

—DR. CHARLES STANLEY, senior pastor of First Baptist Church,
Atlanta; founder and president of In Touch Ministries

“Jesus promised that if we abide in Him and His words abide in us, our prayers will be answered, and we will bear much fruit. *Jesus Speaks* provides an amazing springboard for any believer to abide in His words as never before.”

—TOMMY BARNETT, senior pastor of Phoenix First Assembly of God

“A treasure-trove of comfort, encouragement, and wisdom. Scott expounds on Jesus’ own words in a daily format that is easy to incorporate into a habit. The devotions are short, but the impact will be far reaching. True intimacy with Christ is achievable. *Jesus Speaks* can be your first step every morning into His presence.”

—DR. ED YOUNG, senior pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston

“I absolutely love *Jesus Speaks*! I am coming to love Jesus more and more as I gain a deeper understanding of who He is through what He says in His own words!”

—SANDI PATTY, Grammy Award–winning Christian artist

“*Jesus Speaks* is like reading a daily love letter from our Lord and Savior. Steve Scott has focused on the spoken words of Christ in one of the most powerful, clarifying ways possible. Based entirely on Scripture, this devotional will transform readers’ lives as it unites their hearts with God’s will day by day.”

—CHRIS HODGES, senior pastor of Church of the Highlands,
Alabama; author of *Fresh Air* and *Four Cups*

“On every page of *Jesus Speaks*, Steve Scott takes the spoken words of Jesus from the Bible and unfolds a conversation Jesus might have had with you, one on one. I guarantee that in reading this book you will learn to listen to the voice of Jesus more closely.”

—PERRY NOBLE, senior pastor of NewSpring Church, South Carolina;
author of *Unleash!* and *Overwhelmed*

“When books surface that open the human heart to the magnitude, magnificence, and depth of God’s timeless Word to us, I’m keen to lean in. *Jesus Speaks* will give you an eternal perspective and will bring Christ’s stunning teaching, perspective, and heart into your everyday experience.”

—BOBBIE HOUSTON, Hillsong Church, Sydney, Australia

“Jesus’ words are the key to growing your faith, following Him, becoming His disciple, and knowing the truth. They are the only way to infuse His life, spirit, peace, and joy into our lives. With *Jesus Speaks* you can immerse your mind, heart, and soul in His words every day!”

—JOSH D. McDOWELL, author and speaker

“We express God’s love language when we hear His Son’s words and obey them. That’s why *Jesus Speaks* can be so transformational for those who want true intimacy with God.”

—DR. GARY CHAPMAN, author of *The Five Love Languages*

“With 365 daily teachings centered exclusively on the statements of Christ, *Jesus Speaks* can help every believer experience the heart and mind of our dear Savior.”

—RICH WILKERSON, senior pastor of Trinity Church, Miami;
founder of Peacemakers

JESUS
SPEAKS

BOOKS BY STEVEN K. SCOTT

The Greatest Words Ever Spoken

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived

The Richest Man Who Ever Lived

The Jesus Mission

Unfinished

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JESUS SPEAKS



STEVEN K. SCOTT



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JESUS SPEAKS

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To the Lord Jesus Christ:

*Everything I have that I value, You have given me.
Lord Jesus, I know the Father because of You.
I have forgiveness of my sins because of You.
I have eternal life because of You.
I stand amazed by Your life, Your words,
and Your amazing grace every day.*

To my heavenly Father:

*How can You love me, a sinner so deserving of Your disdain?
I marvel at Your mercy.
Oh Father, thank You for sending Your dear Son.
Oh, what a Savior! I love You, I love You, I love You!*

To my grandchildren:

*Maddy, Julia, Melody, Ian, Colin, Harrison, Ettie,
and those yet to be born—
Jesus is alive and loves you more than anyone
on this earth loves you.
He wants you to intimately know Him and your Father in heaven.
Oh, how He loves you!
Grandpa's prayer for you is that you come to know
Him as He really is.
The more you get to know Him, the more you will love Him.
I love each of you so very much!*

To my children:

*Mark, Carol, Zach, Devin, Ryan, Sean, and Hallie Rose.
I love you so much—more than you will know in this life.
And yet my love is but a minuscule, dull reflection of His.
Oh, may you come to know and love Him more and more
each day for the rest of your lives on this earth.
There is none like Him!*

To my precious wife:

*My sweet Shannon, you are my daily example
of how God wants me to be.
The love of Christ flows out of your heart so freely
in ways far too numerous to expound.
I am amazed by your kindness, generosity, compassion,
patience, and forgiveness of this unworthy soul.
I love you so much.*

*To my dear friends who by their example
have taught me to love Christ:*

*Gary Smalley, Jim Shaughnessy, Herb and Helen Selby,
Wayne and Mary Shuart, Dave and Sandy Heinze
and your amazing family,
Elmer Lappen, Dr. Jim Borrer,
and, of course, my mom and her godly family.*

➤ FOREWORD ◀

AN IMPORTANT WORD FROM DR. GARY SMALLEY

*I*n a week of reading, I had more reality and intimacy with Jesus than I had ever known.

Is it possible to have a relationship with Jesus Christ that is as real as your most treasured earthly relationship? The answer is absolutely yes! In fact, your relationship with Christ can be more fulfilling and more intimate than any relationship you have ever known. But the question is how. How can you experience that level of daily reality and intimacy with Jesus?

Steve Scott, one of my dearest friends, has introduced me to a level of intimacy with Christ that is greater than I have had at any other time in my life. Steve showed me what Jesus Himself revealed to His disciples two thousand years ago as they shared a meal in the upper room the night before Jesus' crucifixion.

On that night Jesus said, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and *I will love him and manifest Myself to him*" (John 14:21, NKJV). What an amazing promise.

If you will discover and do what He tells you, He and the Father will love you in a special way. And there is more: He will *manifest, or reveal, Himself to you! That* is intimacy.

But He didn't stop there. He went on to say, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and *My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him*" (verse 23, NKJV). Can you imagine the Father and Son taking up residence with *you*? The only condition is that you begin to discover and to do what Jesus said.

Years ago Steve Scott did something that no one had done before. He organized by topic all nineteen hundred statements of Jesus that are recorded in the New Testament. His work was published as *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken: Everything Jesus Said About You, Your Life, and Everything Else*. In the two years it took Steve to do this, and in the years that have followed, he has become more transformed and even more passionate about the teachings of Christ. Before I knew it, he had infected me with this same passion.

The result is that Jesus' words have become the lenses through which I see everything in life. I see the Father through Jesus' words about the Father. I see life on earth through His words about life. I see every opportunity and every trial through the lenses of His words. I see Him everywhere I look. And when my mind and heart are thinking about His words, I experience His presence in a way that is greater than I had ever known before.

In this daily devotional you are going to receive 365 personal messages from the teachings of Jesus. The devotional entries are focused 100 percent on *His* words, and every thought expressed flows wholly from the recorded words of Christ. Jesus promised that if you and I would abide, or dwell, in His words, we would become His true disciples. He said if we would *build* our lives on hearing His words and doing them, our lives would be like houses built upon the rock. By dwelling in His words, we can withstand all the storms of life as well as God's judgment. It is foolish not to live this way. Jesus said those who hear His words but choose not to act on them are like a foolish person who built his house on sand. The house was completely destroyed.

The more you come to know Jesus, the more you will fall in love with Him. I am convinced that *Jesus Speaks* will help you come to know Him in a greater way than you have ever imagined possible.

Oh, what a Savior. There is none like Him!

➤ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ◀

Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible joy of Your words and the spirit and life they bring to my soul. Thank You for Your patience and kindness to me during the writing of this book.

To my wonderful editor, Ron Lee, thank you for your sensitivity to the Spirit as you labored over these words. I'm so grateful!

Thanks to Alex Field, Laura Barker, Carol Bartley, and all the wonderful folks at WaterBrook who made this book possible.

To Jan Miller and Lacy Lynch, thank you for your belief and dedication to see this book become a reality. I love you both and the entire Dupree/Miller family!



What I whisper in your ear,
shout from the housetops for all to hear!

—Matthew 10:27, NLT

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, PLEASE READ THIS

This devotional is written to followers of Christ and those who want to follow Him.

Jesus is alive and wants to have an intimate relationship with every one of His followers. He prayed to His Father, “And *this* is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3, NKJV). Jesus made nearly two thousand statements that are recorded in the New Testament. He said, “My words are spirit and life” (see John 6:63). His words can infuse *His* Spirit and life into your spirit and your life. When your spirit becomes full of His Spirit, your fears and despair are replaced with faith, hope, and courage—as well as with the love of Christ.

Jesus gave us more than one hundred conditional promises, *life-changing* promises. If we meet the conditions of those promises, He will fulfill them.

He also gave us more than one hundred commands—commands that don’t weigh us down but lift us up! They *empower* us to see everything in life from God’s point of view. They turn on His light in the dark world that surrounds us. They reveal everything God values and everything He detests. They make His will clear in every situation we encounter and in every choice we face.

Beyond that, Jesus’ commands empower us with the grace and faith we need to do God’s will in every situation. When we obey His commands, the act of obedience increases our faith. And perhaps best of all, obeying His commands provides the means for us to love God the way *He* wants to be loved.

Listening to the words of Jesus with the desire to obey and love God will change your life. Your faith will be strengthened, you will

know God's desires for your life, and your doubts and fears will evaporate. That is why this book is based *entirely* on the words of Jesus.

The red-letter statements on every page are direct quotes of Jesus.

Each daily devotional is a paraphrase of the teachings of Christ. The devotionals do *not* carry the weight of inspiration, which is reserved exclusively for Scripture. However, each entry begins with a red-letter statement of Jesus, followed by text written as if in the voice of Christ. The first-person usage—such as I, Me, My, and Mine—refers to Christ. At the bottom of each page, you will see topics and page numbers listed. These direct you to *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken*, where you can read *everything* Jesus said on the day's topic.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS DEVOTIONAL

1. Each day read and think about the red-letter statement at the top *before* you read the entry that follows.
2. After you have read the day's entry, set aside time to read *everything* Jesus said about that day's topic by reading the referenced topics in *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken* (noted at the bottom of each page).

There is no problem you face, no important question you can ask, that Jesus hasn't answered. The more you get to know Him, the more you will love Him. May God bless you in your growing intimacy with our dear Savior.

→ JANUARY 1 ←

Come into the Moment

Do you not say, “There are still four months and then comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

John 4:35, NKJV

My dear child, why do you keep focusing on the future? Whether your mind drifts five minutes into the future or five months, dwelling in the future prevents you from experiencing My presence. You can know My nearness *only* when your mind is fully in the moment. All stresses and fears enter your mind when you are thinking about the future. And all regrets and bitterness come into your mind when you are focusing on the past. But when you come into the moment, you will not only experience My presence, but you also will become sensitive to the needs of those around you. Only when your mind is in the moment will My love, compassion, and kindness flow through you to those who share the moment with you. They will see Me in you, and you and I will make a difference in their day that can impact their lives for eternity. Today dedicate your time and attention to living with Me in the moment.

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:34

→ *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken*, Living in the Present (pp. 277–78)

→ JANUARY 2 ←

Don't Let Your Work Keep You from the Work That Matters Most

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. John 6:27

When I dined in the home of Martha and her sister, Mary, Martha worked hard preparing our meal while Mary sat at My feet listening intently to every word I spoke. Martha was upset that she was doing all the work and Mary seemed to be doing nothing. Truly, the food Martha was working so hard to prepare would last only a few minutes, but the food Mary was receiving from Me would last a lifetime. My words were preparing Mary for eternal life. Like Martha, *you* often spend so much time working on things that matter so little. I want you to spend more of your time feasting on My words. You will become more intimate with Me, and My words will transform your day and empower you to make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Prayerfully feast on My words today and every day. If you will do that, My Father and I will make Our home with you, and I will continually reveal Myself to you.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

→ *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken*, Spiritual Priorities (pp. 328–37)

→ JANUARY 3 ←

Take Control of Your Heart and Trust My Father and Me

Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. John 14:1, NLT

My disciples witnessed every miracle I performed. They saw Me calm a stormy sea, heal the sick, give sight to the blind, and even raise the dead. And yet they still found it hard to take control of their troubled hearts and trust Me and My Father. Their unbelief didn't stop Me from loving them, but it kept them from experiencing the joy, peace, and power of My presence. The same is true with you. Whenever you find yourself stressed or worrying, realize that you are *choosing* to withhold your heart from Me. You are choosing *not* to trust Me or your heavenly Father, who loves you so. You are not hearing My words or obeying them. If you will begin to spend more time listening to My words and thinking about them throughout your day, your faith will grow and even soar. And as you obey My teachings, you will experience a new level of intimacy with Me and with My Father. Your love, faith, and power will grow beyond anything you have ever imagined. I promise.

Don't be afraid; just believe. Mark 5:36

→ *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken, Anxiety, Worry, and Fear* (pp. 190–93)

→ JANUARY 4 ←

Love My Father and Me the Way *We* Want to Be Loved

Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them. . . . All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. John 14:21, 23, NLT

Have you ever wondered how My Father and I want to be loved? The love *We* desire is obedience. I have always expressed My love for the Father through obedience, and it is the way *We* want you to express your love for Me. When you love Me by obeying My teachings, you will experience true intimacy with Me. The Father and I will come to you and will make *Our* home with you. I also promise to reveal Myself to you. Although *We* delight in your worship and praise, it is your obedience that truly expresses your faith in *Us* and your love for *Us*. It brings you to a place where *We* can shower *Our* love upon you. My commands will not weigh you down but will lift you up. They reveal the Father's will for every situation and empower you with the grace and faith to *do* His will in each situation.

He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. John 14:24

→ *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken*, Loving Christ (p. 280); Commands of Christ (pp. 206–17)

→ JANUARY 5 ←

If You Truly Abide in Me, You Will Bear Much Fruit

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5, NKJV

The value of a branch is not measured by its height or width but by the amount and quality of the fruit it bears. The same is true of My followers. You were not created simply to exist. You are not here merely to do that which entertains you and gratifies your desires. My Father is glorified when you bear much fruit and show yourself to be My disciple. Fruit that is eternal flows out of a heart that is being continually transformed by the washing and regenerating power of My words. This can happen only as you abide in Me. And you abide in Me when you spend time reading, studying, and prayerfully meditating on My teachings. As you do this, you will discover My promises and commands. As you step out in faith, believing My promises and obeying My commands, you will begin to bear much fruit in your life and the lives of those I bring into your path. Set aside time today to pour My words, My life, and My Spirit into your mind and heart. Let Me show you My heart and My desires for you.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. John 15:16

→ *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken*, Fruitbearing (pp. 257–60); Following Christ (pp. 245–53)