

BASS Convention 2016

Speak the Word: Spoken Word Poetry as Creative Arts Ministry

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Why Spoken Word?

- A tool of The Great Commission
- An obligation to steward His gifts - The Parable of the Talents

What is Spoken Word?

- **Spoken word poetry** is poetry that is written on a page but performed for an audience. , focuses on **word play** and **story-telling**.
- Biblical basis for Spoken Word: Poetry in bible is noted by structure of verses as well as the specific 'titling as songs or chants'
 - Commonly cited examples include:
 - **Exodus 15:1-19** and **Numbers 21:17-20**; Psalms, Lamentations, Songs of Solomon, Ecclesiastes.
- Examples of different types of Biblical Poetry
 - Poems that Deal with Events: e.g. - Hannah's song of praise (1 Sam 2:1-10) -
 - Didactic- appealing to reason: e.g. Psalms 49, 73; compare Psalms 16, 56, 60- showing the just nature of God
 - Lyrics- based on personal experience
 - Poems that urge action: e.g. the blessing of **Aaron** (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Craft of Spoken Word

- Elements of Spoken Poetry
 - Delivery
 - *1 Peter 4: 10 - 11 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen*
 - Keys
 - Projection
 - Passion
 - Personality
 - Annunciation
 - Rhythm
 - Metaphor: comparison using two unlike things NOT using like or as
 - Personification: attributing human characteristics to non-human/inanimate objects

- Symbolism: style using symbolic images and indirect suggestion to express ideas, emotions, and states of mind.
- Allegory: a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.

Growing in Your Craft

2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV) *6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

- Have a Routine
 - Time to read & write
 - Time to brainstorm
 - Time with your thoughts
- Keep it Simple- Read, Write, Watch and Listen to Poetry a lot
 - The Word is always a great resource- choose favorite passages, connect it back to your life and use it as inspiration.
 - Use your favorite poets
 - Go online for examples of spoken word poetry
- Engage in Exercises (*ask about exercises*)
 - Practice elements of poetry
 - Try Haikus
- Writing Circles
 - Engage in collaborative writing sessions (spark ideas in one other, speak to experiences of collaborative poetry)
 - Engage in sharing
 - Lyrical Opposition in SF
- Originality
 - If you have sensitivity about whether you can be original, think about this quote from C.S. Lewis
 - *Even in literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original: whereas if you simply try to tell the truth (without caring twopence how often it has been told before) you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever having noticed it. C. S. Lewis*

Church Ministry

- Youth Engagement- Spoken Word can be included in programming that highlights their talents, youth workshops can be used to engage with the gospel, fellowship with one another, and grow their relationship with God.
- Worship Service- Poetry that aligns with service/program themes can be incorporated into worship services; it can also be combined to complement the choir (bring up Juneteenth) or even praise dance

- It's Universal:
- It's Great to Align the Message/Theme
- It captures attention
- Brevity
- In Lieu of your choir (especially for service) - travels well, can be a recorded presentation.

Spoken Word Evangelism

- Unique because it can be done in both secular and sacred spaces.
- You, your network, or members of your church can evangelize through sharing spoken word poetry at:
 - SLAM Poetry events
 - Open Mics
 - Social Media (create a YouTube channel, share on your church's)
 - Meetups (go to poetry meetups)
 - Prison Ministry (incorporate it into Bible study)
 - Convalescent Homes (share with seniors)
 - Battered Women's Shelters (give words of encouragement)
 - Youth Workshops (organize and involve youth)

"The world does not need more Christian literature. What it needs is more Christians writing good literature."

-C.S. Lewis

Resources to listen to more poetry:

P4CM.COM

chaseGodTV

Book Recommendation

If You Want to Write: A Book about Art, Independence and Spirit by Brenda Euland

Poetry Game

Simlie Game: <http://www.jacarandapress.org/writing/poetry/simile.shtml>