

Designing Your
Own School Program

1

WHAT is the Voice?



A "True Education" Voice Series

“Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him:
talk ye of all His wondrous works.”

Psalm 105:2



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Table of Contents

Teacher Section

Pages 1-12

Student Section

Pages 1-8

Research

The Human Voice	Page 1
Vocal Cords	Page 1
Training	Page 2
Quality	Page 2
Vibrations	Page 3
Differences	Page 4
Illustrations	Page 4
Obstructions	Page 5
A Talent	Page 5
Reinforce	Page 6
Remind	Page 6
“The Voice” – Poem	Page 7
Review	Page 8



“God
With
Us”

Student Section



WHAT is the Voice?



Research



The Human Voice

The human voice is a living musical instrument. It was created to praise God and to tell others of His wonderful love.

Sing AND Talk



“Sing unto Him,
sing psalms unto Him:
talk ye of all
His wondrous works.”

Psalm 105:2



THE Holy Spirit CAN Inspire OUR UtterANCES

Vocal Cords

The musical instrument of the body is located in the windpipe at the point called the “Adam’s Apple.” It is operated by the breath passing over the vocal cords as it rises from the lungs. This can remind us how the Spirit, also called breath in the Bible, is to inspire our words. The vocal cords consist of extensions of thin membrane from the sides of the windpipe. Muscles can tighten or loosen this membrane, making it vibrate like a reed as the air passes over it. The human musical instrument is like a combination of both a reed instrument and a stringed instrument. It is like a reed instrument since it requires air to operate it; and it is like a stringed instrument since the cords being loosened and tightened change the pitch.

Training

Our voice is the result of a complex arrangement of structures and tissues. In order to bring it to a state of perfection, much effort and time must necessarily be spent. It is not enough to have a sweet-toned piano or a delicately strung violin in the house; one must know how to use it. So with the voice. Nature has endowed us with a beautiful pipe organ; but it requires training to obtain sweet tones from it. We must have “*God with us,*” dwelling in our hearts and minds in order to have the kind of **loving** and spiritually powerful voice that God meant for each of us to have.

The voice is capable of being improved, the same as the mind or any other gift of nature. God desires for us to have beautiful voices and characters.

“LET ME SEE
thy countenance,
let me HEAR thy voice;
for SWEET is thy voice,
AND thy countenance
is comely.”

Song of Solomon 2:14



WE CAN RECOGNIZE
THE VOICE OF A FRIEND
FROM WHOM WE HAVE BEEN
SEPARATED FOR YEARS
BY THE VOICE'S PITCH,
POWER, AND TONE.

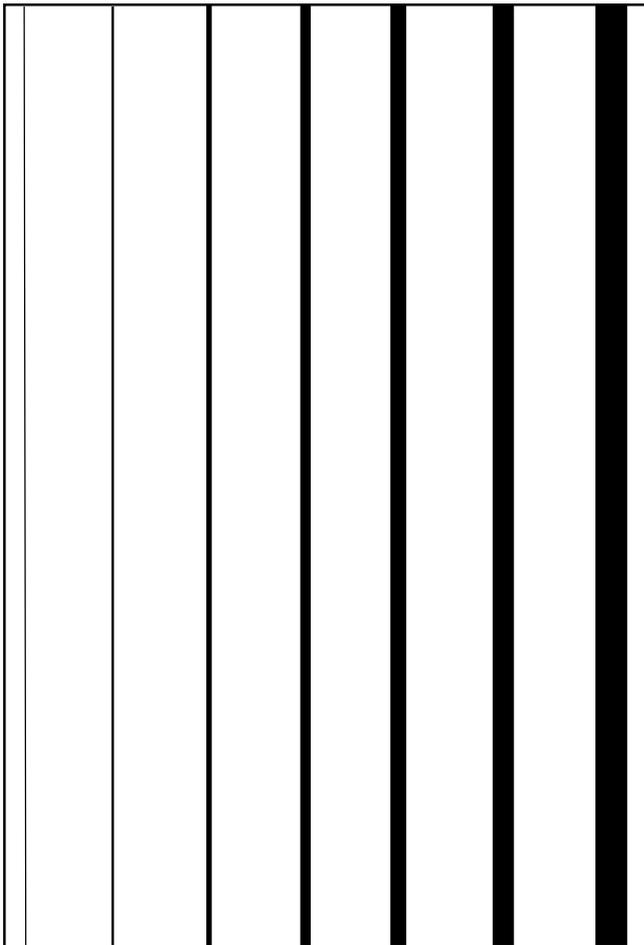
Quality

Every voice has a peculiar quality, an individuality, that cannot be changed. This is distinct from the pitch, or power, of the tone; it is distinct from the sweetness, richness, mellowness, or harshness, as such; it is simply the individuality. By it we recognize the voice of a friend from whom we have been separated for years. This peculiarity of tone is always present. It can remind us about the peculiar quality of God's “*still small voice,*” and how important it is that we become familiar enough with it to be able to tell the difference between it and the voice of self or the world.

Vibrations

You may ask, “what causes this peculiarity of tone in a person’s voice?” It results from a combination of natural causes. In one person the vocal cords may be thick and short. This arrangement produces a different tone from one in which the vocal cords are thin, broad, and long, just as a thick, short wire stretched between two points produces a tone differing from the vibration of a fine, long wire. The differences in voices are only differences in the number and character of vibrations.

The differences in the vibrations of voices can remind us of the different way each soul vibrates in response to the Holy Spirit. Our souls are like harps which are to be tuned to God, and yet the unique experience of each person enables them to proclaim God’s **loving** character in a different way than anyone else. What a beautiful symphony there will be when all of God’s people come together in the courts above and sing their part in the song of God’s **love**.



“And I HEARD
A VOICE FROM HEAVEN,
AS THE VOICE
of MANY WATERS,
AND AS THE VOICE
of A GREAT THUNDER:
AND I HEARD THE VOICE
of HARPERS HARPING
with THEIR HARPS:
And they sung
AS IT WERE
A NEW SONG
before the throne...”

Revelation 14:2-3

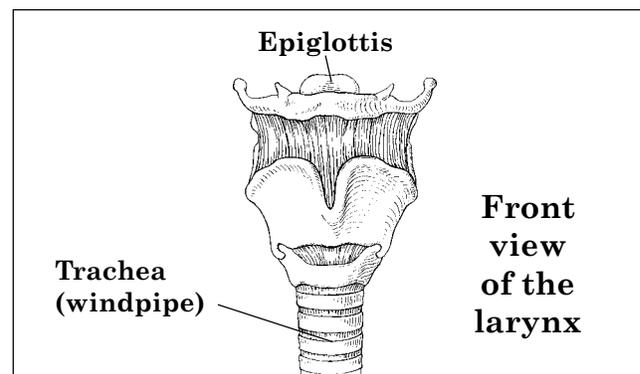
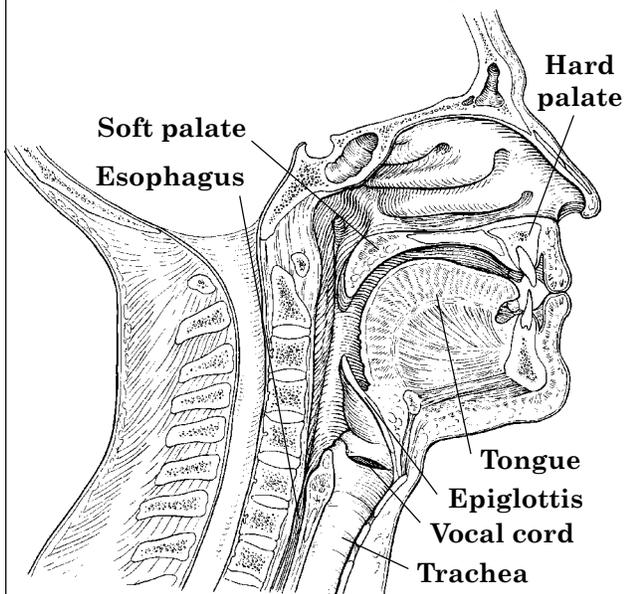
Differences

Many causes tend to modify the vibration, and hence alter the voice. No two individuals have the same sized larynx (the upper part of the windpipe that contains the vocal cords) or pharynx (the space behind the mouth into which the nostrils, gullet, and windpipe open), and more than any two faces are exactly alike. In one the pharynx may be long; in another it may be broad. Some people have a high arch in the roof of their mouth; in others, it is low and flat. All these conditions affect the tone of the voice in speaking and singing.

There are other conditions, also, that have an important bearing upon the quality of tones produced by the vocal organs. Just back of the mouth is a bone called the "sphenoid bone." The central portion of this bone is not solid, but hollow, and is made up of many little cells. These vary considerably in size and form in different individuals. In the cheekbones, also, are large spaces (cavities). In all cases, these cavities in the bones are lined with a mucous membrane. As the tones produced by the vocal cords strike against these different hollow bones, the number of vibrations is increased, and their character is modified by the degree of thickness of the bone and the size of the cells within. By striking a solid body, a dull sound is produced; but striking a hollow body results in a different note. The same principle holds good in the formation of vocal tones. It can remind us how a solid faith will ring differently than a hollow pretense.

Illustrations

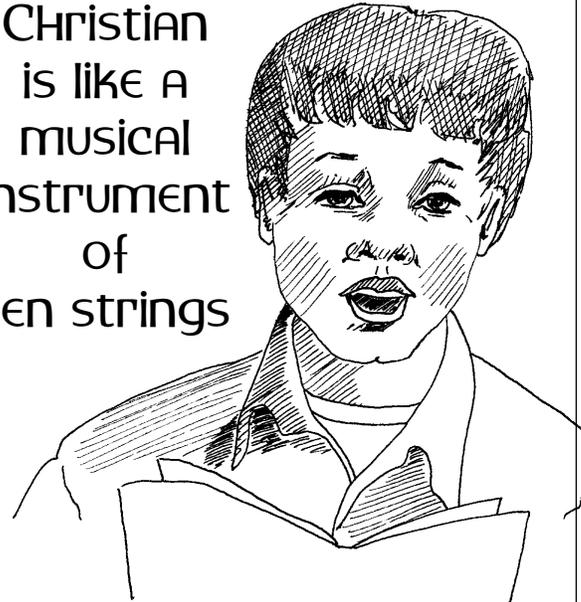
Side view of the head and neck showing the mouth, the pharynx and the side wall of the nasal cavity.



Obstructions

If there is not a free passage between the back part of the nasal cavity and the pharynx, the voice is affected, and this gives rise to the so-called “nasal tone,” or “talking through the nose.” This condition often results from an inflamed condition of the lining membrane which causes too much mucous to be made. If the tonsils are very large, it is difficult either to talk or to sing with freedom.

A
Christian
is like a
musical
instrument
of
ten strings



A Talent

Thus we see that quality of tone depends upon many conditions; and that, with the exception of the last two conditions mentioned, we cannot change the structures that combine to produce a good voice. All cannot become equally good singers; but all can improve. All are not born with the natural talent of professional singers, any more than all possess the genius of Edison; but this should not discourage anyone. Real genius is a capacity for hard work, and a diligent determination to succeed. Continual striving brings success. Thankfully, all can:

“MAKE A joyful noise
unto the Lord.”
Psalm 100:1

If our voices leave something to be desired, this need not be so with our characters. A Christian is like a musical instrument of ten strings—with each of the Ten Commandments being a string or key. Maybe the sweet psalmist of Israel had this in mind when he wrote in Psalm 33:2, “*Praise the lord with ... an instrument of ten strings.*” The sweetest music in all the world is the music of a life in harmony with God’s law of **love**.*

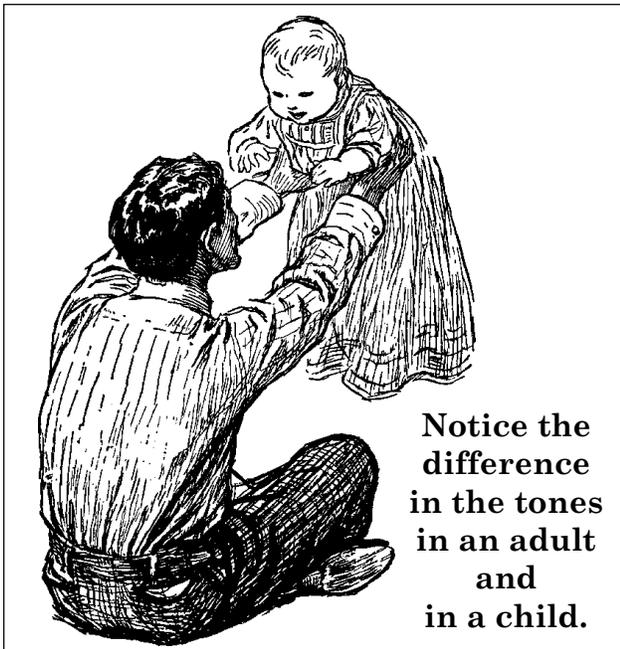
“PRAISE THE lord with...
AN instrument
of ten strings.”

Psalm 33:2

*Adapted from F. M. Rossiter, M.D.

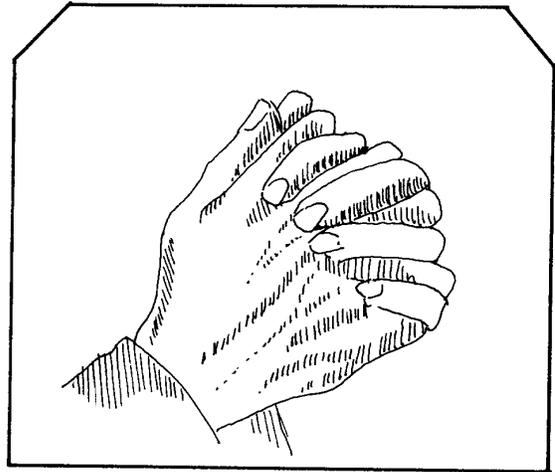
Reinforce

1. When singing or talking feel your throat to feel the vibrations of the vocal cord.
2. Look at reed and string musical instruments and realize the human voice is a musical instrument.
3. Listen to several different people speak and notice the pitch and tone of their voices.
4. Note the differences in how each member of your family speaks.
6. Have you ever had a cold and sounded like you were talking through your nose? Demonstrate this for your teacher.
7. Read the poem, "The Voice."



Notice the difference in the tones in an adult and in a child.

Remind



1. Think before speaking. Make sure the Holy Spirit is directing your thoughts and words.
2. When tying string around a package be reminded that the vocal cords change the pitch of the human voice. It can depend on if they are loose or tight.
3. As you play the piano think how you need to learn how to use it, just like you need to learn how to use the human voice.
4. If you see different sizes of wire consider how the vocal cords may be thick or thin.
5. Remember, our souls are like harps which are to be tuned to God.
6. Let our voices always speak in tones of **love**.

THE VOICE

Oh the music and the beauty
Of a soft and gentle voice!
How it fills the soul with sunshine!
How it makes the heart rejoice!
How the merry laugh of childhood
Seems to banish every care,
As it echoes through the wildwood,
In and out and everywhere!

Ah! 'tis sweeter than the music
Of earth's famous organs grand,
Than the singing of the worldly
And their rude discordant band.
Oh the music and the beauty
Of a soft and gentle voice!
How it fills the soul with sunshine!
How it makes the heart rejoice!

—Adapted from Mrs. L.D. Avery-Suttle



Review

Place II- III

1. What are two important uses for the voice?

6. Can all become equally good singers if they just practice enough?

2. Where is the musical instrument of the human body located?

7. List four things about a person's body that affect the tone of their voice.

3. What are the membranes extending from the sides of the wind-pipe called?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

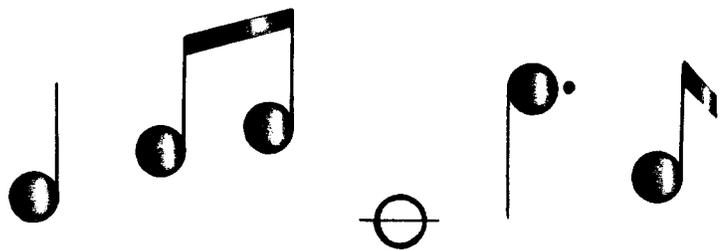
4. _____ can tighten or loosen this membrane, making it vibrate like a _____ as the _____ passes over it.

8. What causes a "nasal tone" of voice?

5. The human voice is like a combination of two musical instruments. What are they? How is the voice like each of them?

9. What is the sweetest music in all the world?

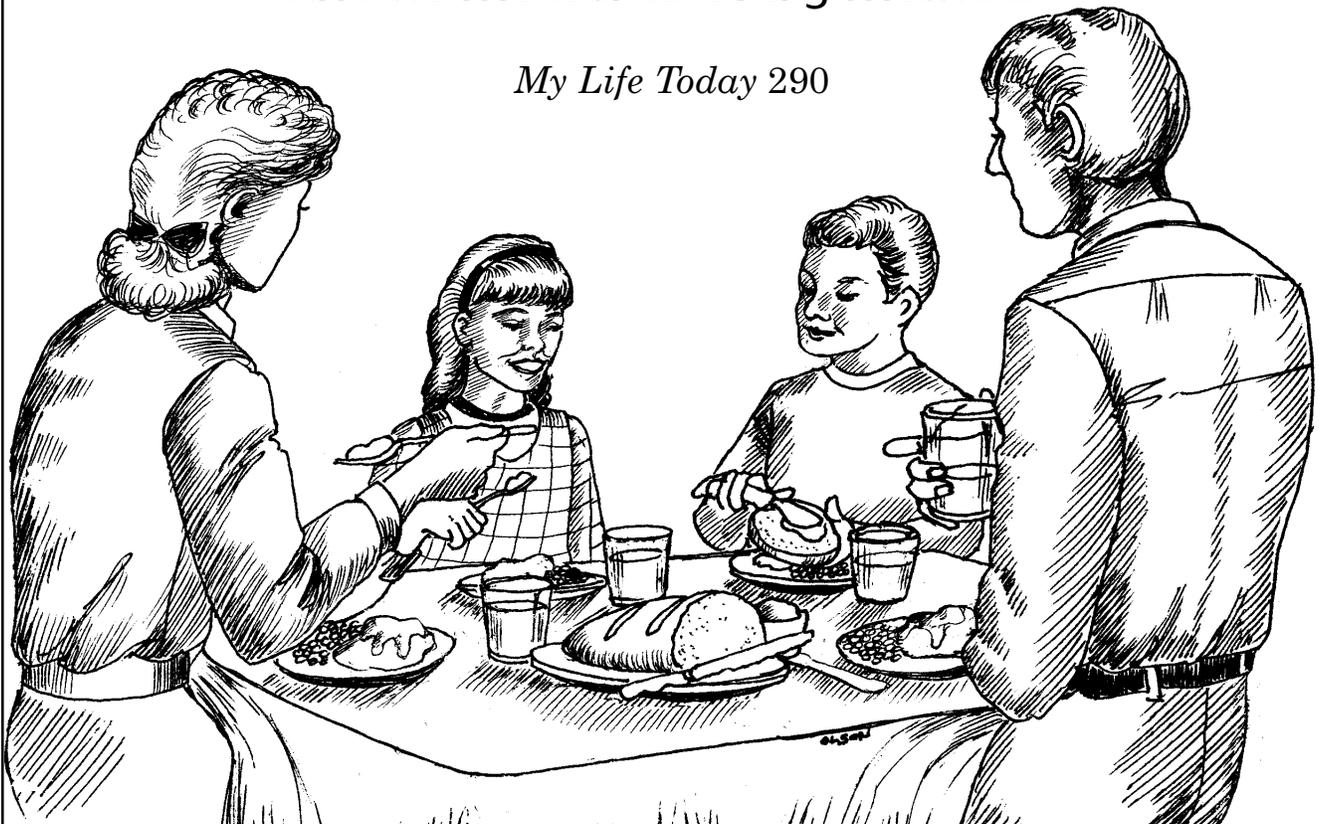
THE HUMAN VOICE
WAS CREATED
TO PRAISE GOD
AND TO TELL OTHERS
OF HIS WONDERFUL LOVE.



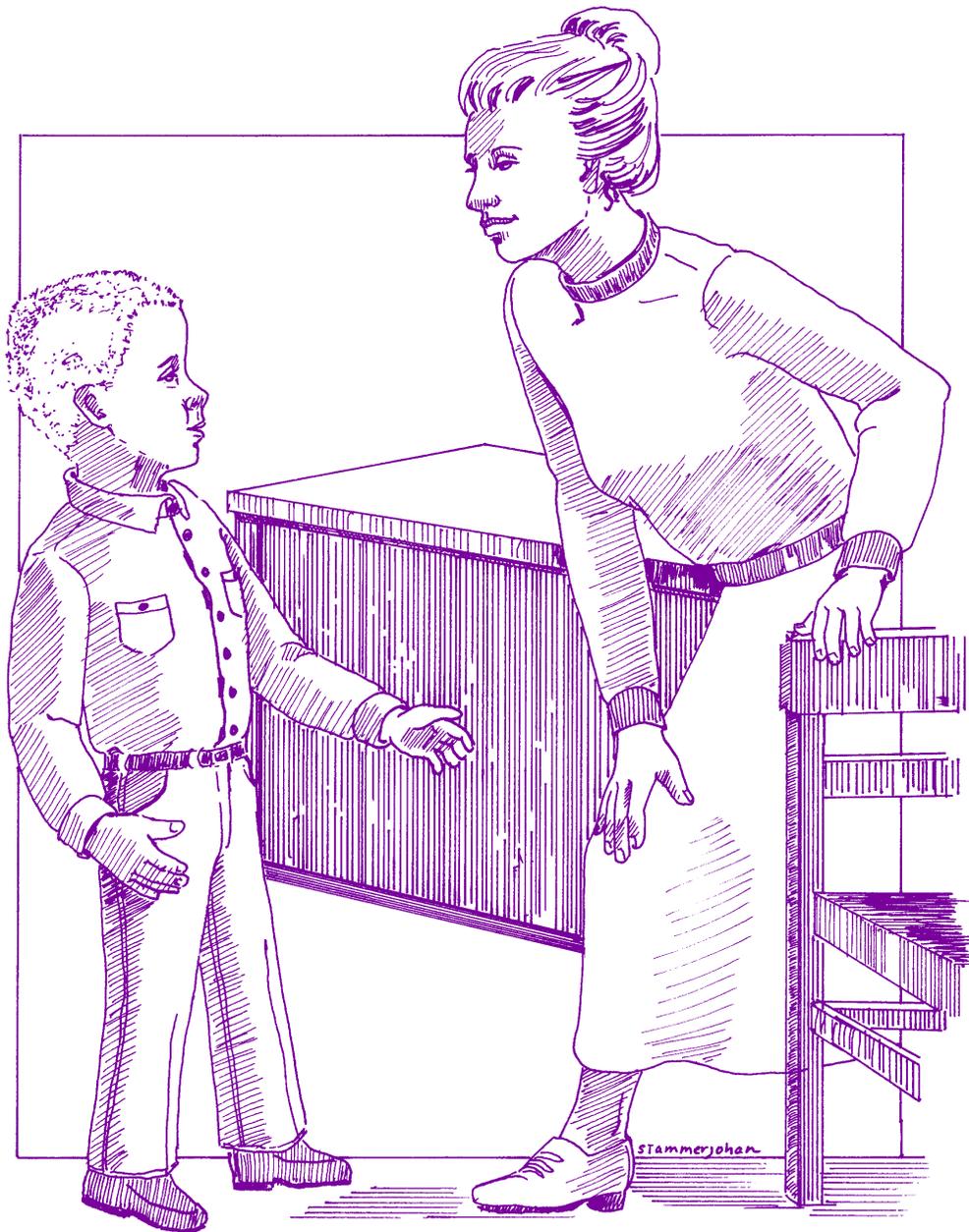
“God With Us”

“CHRIST SOUGHT TO TEACH THE GRAND TRUTH
SO NEEDFUL FOR US TO LEARN,
THAT GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US,
AN INMATE OF EVERY DWELLING,
THAT HE IS ACQUAINTED
WITH EVERY ACTION PERFORMED ON EARTH.
HE KNOWS THE THOUGHTS THAT ARE FRAMED IN THE MIND
AND ENDORSED BY THE SOUL.
HE HEARS EVERY WORD
THAT FALLS FROM THE LIPS OF HUMAN BEINGS.
HE IS WALKING AND WORKING IN THE MIDST
OF ALL OUR TRANSACTIONS IN LIFE.
HE KNOWS EVERY PLAN,
AND HE MEASURES EVERY METHOD.”

My Life Today 290



“...Let me see thy countenance,
let me hear thy voice;
for sweet is thy voice,
and thy countenance is comely.”
Song of Solomon 2:14



Each booklet in the series,
“Designing Your Own School Program,”
is planned for a family to study together
for their homeschool curriculum;
yet versatile enough to be used
in the conventional classroom.

Learn the principles
of the subject matter from the Scriptures;
discover more academic information;
then apply it to your daily life.

Other titles in the voice series are available
in the following subjects:

- 1 – WHAT is the Voice?
- 2 – CARE of the Voice
- 3 – VOICE Culture
- 4 – THE Principle of BREATHING
- 5 – MUSCLES and BREATHING
- 6 – THE VOCAL Cords
- 7 – CORRECT Bodily Alignment
- 8 – RESONATING Chamber, RESONANCE
- 9 – GROWING Voice
- 10 – VOICE in Communication



Mark 4:29