

= Spoken For =

Spoken For is the second studio album by Christian rock band MercyMe . Released on October 1 , 2002 , Spoken For sold 28 @, @ 000 copies in its first week , debuting at number 41 on the Billboard 200 ; it also peaked at number two on the Christian Albums chart and number six on the Top Pop Catalog Albums chart . The album received a generally positive reception from critics , some of whom praised the album as being both a lyrical and musical progression from their debut album Almost There . Several critics also noted a shift in sound from Almost There , describing Spoken For as having a roots rock sound . At the 34th GMA Dove Awards , Spoken For was nominated for Pop / Contemporary Album of the Year ; the album was certified Gold by the RIAA in October 2003 .

Three singles were released in promotion of Spoken For . The lead single and title track , " Spoken For " , peaked at number one on the Radio & Records Christian AC and INSCO charts . The second single from the album , " Word of God Speak " , spent a record 23 weeks at the top of the Billboard Christian Songs chart , and also topped the Billboard Hot Christian AC chart and the Radio & Records Christian AC and INSCO charts . " The Change Inside of Me " was released as the final single from the album , and peaked at number eight on the Radio & Records Christian CHR chart .

= = Background and recording = =

All songs on the album were written and composed by MercyMe personnel , Bart Millard , Jim Bryson , Robby Shaffer , Mike Scheuchzer , Nathan Cochran , and Pete Kipley . Mark Stuart also contributed to " All the Above " .

Discussing the progression from MercyMe 's first album Almost There to the songs on Spoken For , MercyMe 's lead singer Bart Millard said in an interview : " Our goal early on was to make sure our songs were ' singable ' and make sure they fit on power point because we wanted to write songs for corporate worship . Spoken For is filled with songs that I pray the church will use . " He added that this album leaned more toward rock than Almost There . Millard said of the origin of the album title : " Over the last year I ? ve been consumed with the idea that God is so crazy in love with us ? just knowing that we are part of something bigger and we worship a God who ? s in complete control no matter how good or bad things get . The phrase " spoken for " really stuck with me . "

Spoken For was recorded in several locations : Luminous Sound in Dallas , Texas , The Sound Kitchen in Franklin , Tennessee , Indigo Room in Franklin , Tennessee , HydeAway Sound Lab in Jeckyll Island , Georgia , The Scwoodio in Greenville , Texas , Mountain View Recorders in Glorieta , New Mexico , and Playground Recording in Wylie , Texas . It was mastered by Richard Dodd at Vital Recordings , and mixed by F. Reid Shippen at Recording Arts in Nashville , Tennessee , with the exceptions of " All Because of This " , " Word of God Speak , and " Love of God " , (which were mixed at Salvo Mix by Salvo) , and " Go " (which was mixed by J. R. McNeely) .

= = Composition = =

MercyMe had considered themselves a rock band when they started out . On Spoken For they have progressed to sound " like a solid roots rock band " while retaining an " inspirational adult contemporary sound . " Several critics described the overall sound of the album as roots rock , also regarding Spoken For as a progression or shift beyond the sound of Almost There . The lyrical content has been described as ' refreshingly deep ' and ' thoughtful ' . The instrumentation on Spoken For includes electric guitar , acoustic guitar , bass guitar , and keyboard ; string instruments are also present . The songs on Spoken For are generally guitar @-@ driven , although " Word of God Speak " features only piano and strings over Millard 's vocals .

" Spoken For " , the title track , " offers a look at Jesus recognizing His children at heaven ? s gate " and has been referred to as ' worshipful ' . Among the individual tracks on the album , " The Change Inside of Me " has been described as " firmly on the pop side of adult contemporary music " , as well as " upbeat pop / rock " . " All The Above " has also been described as ' pop ' ; lyrically , it describes " the elation that rang through the heavens when we became children of God " . " Your Glory Goes

On " is also an upbeat pop / rock song . " Crazy " is described as a driving ballad " which explores the merits of heaven over earth " , with its opening bars sounding " a little like a slower version of The Police 's " Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic " . " Come One , Come All " sounds like a cross between the sounds of Sonicflood and John Mellencamp .

= = Singles = =

" Spoken For " was released as the lead single from Spoken For ; it peaked at number one on the Radio & Records Christian AC and INSPO charts , spending seven and six weeks respectively at the top of the charts . It also peaked at number six on the Radio & Records Christian CHR chart . " Word of God Speak " was released as the second single from the album , and peaked at number one on the Billboard Christian Songs and Hot Christian AC charts , as well as at number one Radio & Records Christian AC and INSPO charts , and at number 25 on the Radio & Records Christian CHR chart . " Word of God Speak " spent 23 weeks atop the Christian Songs chart , a record for that chart . A third and final single , " The Change Inside pf Me " , peaked at number eight on the Christian CHR chart .

= = Release = =

Spoken For was released on October 1 , 2002 . It sold 23 @, @ 000 copies in its first week , debuting at number 41 on the Billboard 200 and number two on the Christian Albums chart and at number six on the Top Pop Catalog Albums chart . Spoken For ranked at number ten on the 2003 year @- @ end Christian Albums chart , and at number 20 on the 2004 year @- @ end Christian Albums chart . It also ranked at number 46 on the 2000s decade @- @ end Christian Albums chart . The RIAA certified Spoken For Gold in 2003 , signifying shipments of over 500 @, @ 000 copies .

= = Critical reception = =

Critical reception to Spoken For was generally positive . Kevin McNeese of NewReleaseTuesday gave the album four out of five stars , comparing the album favorably to MercyMe 's previous material . Marcia Bartenhagen of CCM Magazine gave the album a positive review , noting a progression in musical focus , songwriting , and vocals . Russ Breimeier of Christianity Today praised the album for its cohesiveness , and found the album an improvement upon the band 's debut album Almost There in its songwriting ; he also praised what he regarded as a shift to a roots rock musical style . Tony Cummings of Cross Rhythms gave the album seven out of ten stars , praising the songs as being " beautifully crafted " . Wendy Lee Nentwig of Crosswalk.com praised the band 's musical and lyrical growth since their debut effort , as well as the " passionate intensity and emotion " of lead singer Bart Millard 's vocals .

Marcia Bartenhagen of CCM Magazine concluded : " While not a perfect sophomore effort , as the group occasionally sways to the triteness so often found on AC / pop projects , MercyMe has progressed in musical focus , songwriting and vocals . "

Spoken For was nominated for Pop / Contemporary Album of the Year at the 34th GMA Dove Awards .

= = Track listing = =

(Credits lifted from the album liner notes)

= = Personnel = =

(Credits lifted from the album liner notes)

= = Charts and certifications = =

