

The image features a vibrant, multi-colored grid background. A central horizontal black bar spans across the middle, containing the word "TESTING" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The grid consists of several colored squares: yellow, cyan, green, magenta, red, black, and blue. The word "TESTING" is centered within the black bar.

TESTING

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Mermaids, Unicorns, and Christian Writers

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What is a Christian writer?

- a) Anyone who writes on Christian subjects.
- b) A Christian who writes on Christian Subjects
- c) A Christian who writes on any subject
- d) A and B but not C
- e) $A + (B - C) = D^2$

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I told her if she is truly and deeply a Christian, what she writes is going to be Christian whether she mentions Jesus or not.



And if she is not in the most profound sense Christian what she writes is not going to be Christian no matter how many times she evokes the name of the Lord.

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Christian is not an adjective you can slap on any organization or ministry.

Organizations and ministries are filled with people who are more like Christ, less like Christ, or not Christ-followers at all.

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Only God's human creations can
bear the title of Christian!

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Good writing is good writing,
whether you're a pastor,
politician or pornographer.

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There *are* followers of Christ
who live out their lives with
Christian love and godly living.

“The Christian shoemaker does his duty, not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes.” Martin Luther

Identity: Christian writer or Christian who writes?

“Make the Lord and his immense love for you constitute your personal worth. Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. God’s love for you and his choice of you constitute your worth.
Brennen Manning

Motivation: Driven or Called?

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**"Driven" writers are motivated
by the urgent, the temporary.**

**"Called" writers by the
important, the eternal.**

1. Urgent
Important

3. Urgent
Not Important

2. Not Urgent
Important

4. Not Urgent
Not Important

1. Urgent
Important

3. Urgent
Not Important

2. Not Urgent
Important

4. Not Urgent
Not Important

“Driven” writers are motivated by fads, hot issues.

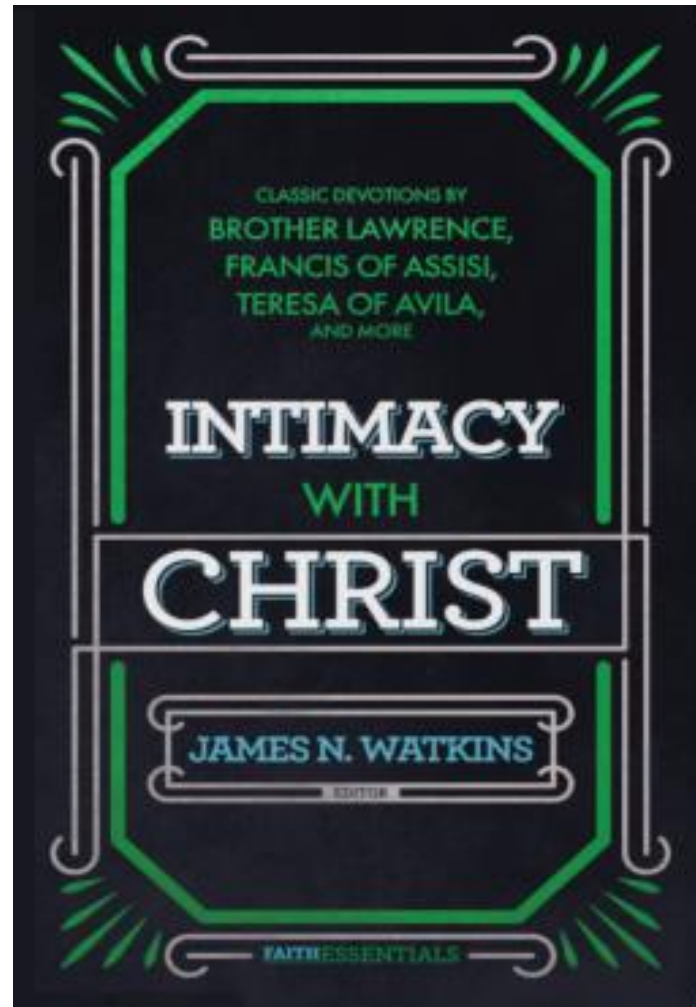
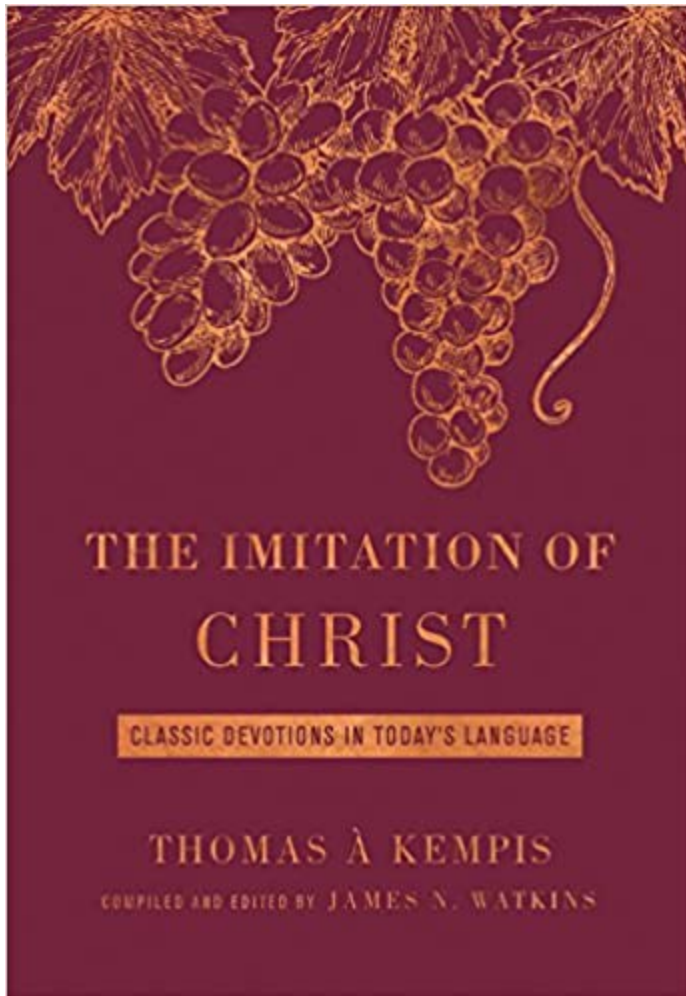
“Called” writers by **eternal** issues

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but **what is unseen is eternal.**

2 Corinthians 4:18

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“Driven” writers’ lives are
chaotic, overcommitted

“Called” writers’ lives are
peaceful, purposeful,
well-paced.

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Y Z > A R = C

amount of zeal > area of responsibility=composure

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C=RA>ZY!

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Giving up one hour of TV each day
will give you:

6 hours a week

336 hours or more a year!

**Nearly eight and a half 40-hour
work weeks!**

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Mission statement:

To lift up Christ and his followers

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If you don't have a call, other
people will have a call for you!

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“Driven” writers are impatient,
frustrated.

“Called” writers are patient and
submissive.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion [writing]? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

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I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (MSG)

Trust in the Lord with all your
heart

and lean not on your own
understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will direct . . . your writing
career! (Proverbs 3:5–6 JWV)

Goal: Success or Excellence?

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“Success” doesn’t equal
excellence!

I can't control success, but I can control "excellence"

I can't . . .

I can . . .

Talent

Training

Timing

Timelessness

Contracts

Excellence

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Titles/Cover Tactful
suggestions

Awards/reviews Quality

Sales Platform

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“Success is what others give you,
excellence is what you give
others.” Virginia Muir

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I can strive for excellence.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true . . . noble . . . right
. . . pure . . . lovely . . . admirable . . .
excellent or **praiseworthy**, . I can
strive for **excellence**—write about
such things.

*Philippians 4:8 Watkins Paraphrased Version for
Writers*

Whatever you do, **do well**
(Ecclesiastes 9:10) .

Whatever you do . . . do it all so as
to bring glory to God (1 Corinthians
10:31).

Whatever you do [whatever your task may be] work from the soul [that is, **put in your very best effort**], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23 (AMP)).

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. **Be a good worker**, one who does not need to be ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15).

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Desire: Marketplace or ministry?

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“We may not achieve the dreams of our youth, but we can be sure God will bring us into *the dreams he has for us.*” Dallas Willard

Recognition addiction

[rek-*ugh*-nish-uhn] (n.) The craving for public recognition or affirmation which when not satisfied, leads to agitation, frustration and attention-seeking behavior.

**Are you a Christian writer or
a Christian who writes?**

What is your . . .

Identity?

Motivation?

Goal?

Desire?

Love is patient in accepting God's timing of our writing career. Love is not jealous of other writers' successes, neither boastful nor proud of our own. Love does not demand its own way with editors. It is not irritable with requests for revisions, and it keeps no record of

being wronged by anyone in publishing. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every publisher's rejection or even in royalty statement with negative numbers.

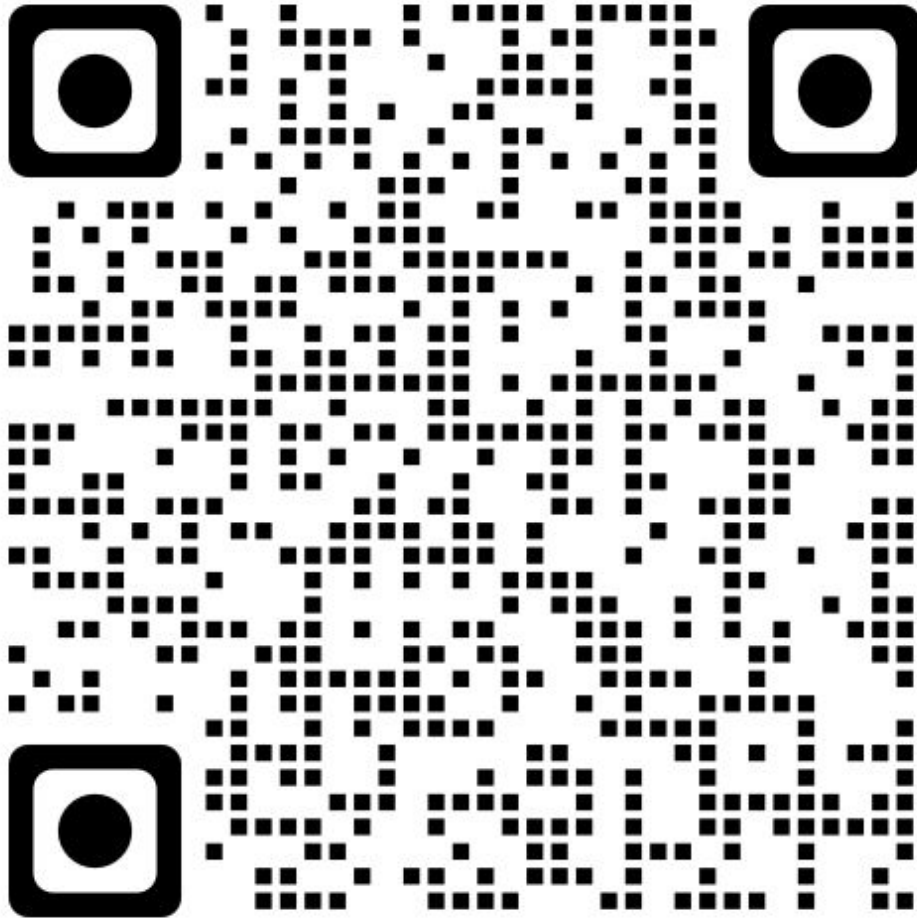
When we were beginning writers, we thought and wrote as a child. But when we grew, we put away childish ideals and accepted the adult realities of the writing world. Now we see things imperfectly in how God is using our writing . . .

like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see with perfect clarity how God lovingly orchestrated every step on our publishing path. All that we know now is partial and incomplete, but then we will know everything completely, just as God now . . .

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Knows us completely as his
beloved child. 1 Corinthians 13 *Watkins*
Paraphrased Version for Writers



Simply point
your phone's
camera at the
code, and a link
will open to my
**Writer's
resources**