

Continuing Class: The Writing Life

- Nurturing your first love -and I'm not talking about writing!
- Finding God's will for your writing
- Growing your writing prayer life
- Balancing "real" life with your writing life
- Guarding against the enemy's lies
- Persevering through dry times
- Time management
- Stepping out in faith to fulfill our calling
- Trusting God's timing

Session 1A: Nurturing Your First Love on a Biblical Foundation

Case study: Revelation 2:1-7

So what does it mean to nurture our first love?

- **identifying areas of** _____ **&** _____ **and** _____
- _____ **to the** _____.
- **remembering how much you are** _____ **by** _____:

Song of Solomon 2:10 & 13

1 John 3:1

- **remembering how in** _____ **with the** _____ **you were the first time**

**Our focus is not the manuscript we are creating.
Our focus is the One for whom we are creating it.**

Session 1B: Finding God's Will for Your Writing

What is *your* will for your writing?

What is *God's* will for your writing? *Do we really want to know?*

Psalm 25:9, 12

The key to discovering God's will is to _____ it _____.

We can know for certain that God's will is for:

- Isaiah 43:7 –
- 2 Timothy 2:4 –
- 1 Thess. 4:3-7 –
- Romans 12:1-2 –

How can we learn God's will for our own writing?

1. Prayer

Psalm 32:8

2. God's Word

3. Circumstances

John 8:44

4. Counsel

- Word Weavers Intl, (www.word-weavers.com)
- **teachable spirit.**

5. Confirmation

Session 2: Growing Your Writing Prayer Life:

What do you pray for your *writing*?

What might **God** want us to pray for our writing?

1. _____ to be _____.

- Colossians 3:17 –
- 1 Cor. 10:31 –

2. Our own _____.

Philippians 4:7 –

Before we begin writing:

- Clear our thoughts
- Enable us to focus on the message God wants us to write
- Position our heart and spirit in submission to the Holy Spirit

4. The _____ of our readers

5. Timing

We belong to ***El Olam*** – the _____.

Job 13:15 –

6. When We Receive _____.

7. For our _____.

8. For _____.

Session 3: Time Management and Balancing Writing with our Real Life

If we feel God wants us to write, should we spend all our time writing?

Two foundational changes in perspective:

1. Shift your perspective from _____
to _____.

2. View yourself as a _____.

Priorities:

Every good thing I'm doing is not necessarily the God-thing God called me to do.

Planning and Goal setting

The widow's offering (Mark 12:41-44)

Obstacles to wise stewardship of our time:

- Tyranny of the _____:
 - Lack of planning :
 - Procrastination :
 - Lack of Accountability:
 - Vague goals:

SMART Goals:

Are your goals SMART?

S – _____:

M – _____:

A – _____:

R – _____:

T – _____:

Identify Time Thieves

1. Limit _____.
2. Check your _____ no more than twice a day (morning & afternoon).
3. restrict _____ to a specific scheduled time.
4. Don't take _____ during your scheduled writing time.
5. **Learn to say** _____:
 - Identify your ministry, goals, values, calling, and focus.
 - Say yes to those things!
 - Eliminate activities that don't support these things.
6. **Turn off the** _____.
7. Control _____ **&** _____:

Work Smarter, Not Harder:

A. Be aware of your own _____.

- How are you wired?
- Are you an extrovert who is easily distracted by other people?
- Are you a moody introvert who trouble getting motivated?
- Are you a perfectionist who can't move on to the next page until you've edited the current page to death?
- What motivates you?

B. Keep a _____ for 1-2 weeks recording how you spend your time in 15 - 30-minute increments. Be honest! You'll be surprised at how much time is wasted.

C. Delegate:

D. Invest in _____

E. Trade off _____ (babysitting, carpool line, etc. with another mom).

F. Type on a laptop that's NOT connected to the _____.

G. Use a kitchen timer (NOT your phone)!

H. _____!

- Create a file for each book project you're working on or want to work on
- Sub-folders for research, character development, correspondence with your agent/editor
- Could even have a separate sub-folder for each chapter.
- Dated digital files of each version of your manuscript
- Hard-copy of research articles, references, contact info for sources, etc.

Distractions

Nehemiah 6

Session 4: Writing Through Obstacles***Life's not fair!*****Persevering**

WD-40

God has a "better" plan.

How does God define "better"?

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 –
- Romans 8:28-29 –

The Enemy's lies mixed with _____.

- You're not good enough.
- You'll never achieve your goals.
- If you're going to succeed in this business, you need to look out for #1.

Ephesians :1-7

- v. 3
- v. 4
- v. 5
- v. 7

Jealousy: the green-eyed monster.

Community

“Train your replacement”

Rejection

Rejection will chew you up and spit you out unless you:

- **Remember _____ experiences rejection.**
- **Don't take it _____.**
- There are only two options to responding to rejection: **run from it or learn from it.** We can put down our pens and unplug the computer. Or we can hone our craft and learn from constructive feedback, and keep writing. Again and again.

Negative self-talk

- Prov. 18:21 –
- Prov. 15:4 –

Regret

- Phil 3:13 –
- Joel 2:25 –
- Isaiah 43:18-19 –

Your actions are not powerful enough to stop God's sovereign plans and purposes for you. Regret can paralyze us – and that's exactly where the enemy wants us to be.

Writer's Block

Session 5A: Calling

Ephesians 2:10 –

How to identify what God has called you to do?

- In what activities do you especially feel God's pleasure?
- What motivates you?
- What talents and abilities do you enjoy using?
- What are your spiritual gifts?
- What do you hope to be remembered for?
- What affirmations have you received from others regarding ministry, service, or abilities?
- What would you attempt for God if you knew you could not fail?

Success or Significance?

Think about the account of Joseph in the Book of Genesis.

- Genesis 39:3
- Gen. 39: 23

People-pleasing compromising

Ezekiel 13:10-11 –

Comparison

Haggai 2:3 –

Why do you write?

Session 5B: Trusting God's Timing

Trusting God includes trusting His timing.

- Acts 3:1-10 –
- Acts 4:1-4 –

Small writings

Impatience

Nehemiah 2 –

Traditional Publishing vs. Self-publishing vs. Hybrid Publishing:

Okay, so when should you pursue an alternative to traditional publishing? Let's review the reasons you should and should not pursue this option:

Wrong reasons to pursue self- or partnership publishing:

- **Self-righteousness:**
- **Impatience:**
- **More impatience:**
- **Pride:**

Right reasons to pursue self- or partnership publishing:

- **Time-sensitivity:**
- **Niche-market:**
- **Distribution/sales opportunities:**

Close:

Philippians 1:6 –