Devoted to Devotions

Ava Pennington

Why write devos?

✓ Benefits to readers
  o
  o
  o

✓ Benefits to the writer
  o
  o
  o
  o
  o

Devotions ARE:

✓ Encouraging reflections ➔

✓ Fresh ➔

✓ Relevant ➔

✓ Have broad appeal ➔

✓ Focused ➔

✓ Gentle ➔

How to begin:

✓ Cultivate intimacy ➔

✓ Recognize you’re on the same spiritual journey ➔

✓ Collect ideas ➔
Tools
- Bible translations
- Concordance
- Bible dictionary AND English dictionary
- Christian Writers Manual of Style
- Christian Writers Market Guide
- Writers’ guidelines
- Sample publications

Critique Group
- Not just friends & family → objectivity
  e.g. Word Weavers

Components (various combinations of the following)

1. Limited word count →
   ✓ Tip:

2. Title →
   ✓ Tip:

3. Bible passage →
   ✓ Tip:

4. Key verse →
   ✓ Tip:

5. Body
   A. Beginning →
      ✓ Tip:

   B. Middle →
      ✓ Tip:

   C. End →
      ✓ Tip:
6. Summary statement →
   ✓ Tip:

7. Application/Challenge →
   ✓ Tip:

8. Prayer →
   ✓ Tip:

9. Organization →
   ✓ Tip:

Dos and Don’ts

Don’ts

1. Don’t Preach →

2. Don’t restate the entire Bible passage →

3. Don’t be superficial →

4. Don’t use Christianese or clichés

5. Don’t criticize →

6. Don’t make it about you →

7. Don’t overuse writing techniques →

8. Don’t mishandle Scripture →

9. Don’t be controversial →
Dos
1. Read what you write.
2. Know your audience
   ✓ Tip:
3. Follow the writer’s guidelines
4. Maintain continuity in formatting
5. Include a story/illustration
6. Permeate devo with excellent writing
7. Edit, edit, edit
8. Verify accuracy
9. Practice, practice, practice
10. Be true to yourself

Selling Your Devotions
✓ Market resource → Christian Writer’s Market Guide
✓ Markets →
✓ Writer’s guidelines →
✓ Submission process:
   o Website submission form
   o Query with attachment
   o Proposal