

Writing Devotionals

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Here are a few questions to perhaps ask before/during devotional writing. They are by no means prescriptive or exhaustive, and of course you might like to add your own, but these are things that have helped me.

What am I trying to communicate?

What one thing would I like my reader to take from this devotional reading?

Is my writing accessible?

If devotional writing is convoluted and complicated, it may well lead to the reader reaching for a dictionary rather than their bible. So I try and keep my writing simple and to the point.

Is my writing do-able?

I like to keep daily devotional readings not too wordy. I know it can be quite discouraging to embark on a daily-reading plan, only to find the length of it is prohibitive to managing day by day. Do-able not demoralising; that's what I prefer.

Am I excited or challenged by what I'm writing?

Devotional writing speaks to hearts; both of writer and readers. Let God bless you and stir your heart as you write. Take time to pause and reflect. Allow yourself space.

Will my writing draw people closer to God?

Of course we can't predict the answer to that, but it's a good aim and prayer to have accompanying us as we write.

Who holds the pen (or keyboard!)?

Psalm 19:14 'May the words of my mouth – and the words that I write - and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.'

Keep bringing God into your writing. Am I writing what God wants me to write?

How's my relationship with God?

Don't neglect personal time with God outside your writing. Spend time being renewed and refreshed by Him. Grow in Him. Nothing is more important than that.

Give yourself a break

Writing can be a difficult journey. Any time you think it is always easy for everyone but you, feel free to think of me! Because I am saying that I don't always find it easy. I always find it worthwhile, though. Writing – devotionally and otherwise – is a privilege.