



## Exercises for Using Writing as an Expression of Faith

By Kristen Clark, 2010

[www.hiswitness.org](http://www.hiswitness.org)

So, you want to be a writer and you want to write for God's Kingdom. Good for you! We need more like you! My first piece of advice (not that you were asking) is *start writing and don't stop writing*. All the on-line classes, magazine tips and how-to books in the world won't make a bit of difference in anyone's writing ability if they don't pick up a pen (or strike a key) and participate in the act of writing.

My second piece of advice (again, completely unsolicited) is *write about God and His Kingdom*. It's nearly impossible to use writing as an expression of faith without writing about God, and that means spending time knowing God. All the painstaking hours and crumpled attempts at writing won't have a spiritual impact on others if writers don't stay in God's Word and in His Presence.

These are my keys for success - start writing and don't stop writing, and write about God and His Kingdom - neither of which is easily accomplished without some intentional discipline and fun writing exercises.

Thankfully, I found a great list of writing exercises in an old issue of *Poets & Writers Magazine* ([pw.org](http://pw.org), Nov/Dec 2008 issue, pg 103, "Ten Warm-Up Exercise to Complete Before Your Day's Real Work Begins"), and thought it would be helpful to bend some of those exercises to better suit my effort in using writing as an expression of faith. By tweaking the author's suggested exercises, I was able to create activities that allow me to practice writing and write about God's Kingdom.

My goal over the next few months is to share with you my recommended writing exercises. But, I also want to hear about how well they worked for you, or about how you tweaked my suggestions to better suit your personal and unique writing needs. Email me any time at [kristens@hiswitness.org](mailto:kristens@hiswitness.org) and tell me about your experience.

Here are my first two exercises:

- 1. Every day for one week read and meditate on verses John 3:19-21 and John 8:12.** Read different versions of these same scriptures, and read a study Bible to help understand the depth of these verses. Pray for God's divine wisdom and insight regarding these verses and write nothing (as it pertains to this exercise) for at least one week.
- 2. Starting one week later, each day for fifteen days spend five minutes listing every word you can think of that starts with a letter in the title, Light of the World.** Day 1, start with the letter L. Day 2, start with the letter I. Day 3, start with the letter G, and so on. For duplicate letters, avoid using the same word twice over the fifteen day period.

These two exercises should keep you busy until next month, at which time I'll share more exercises. Until then, have fun!