

Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference
Workshop: "Get Out of the Boat!"
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Step out of the boat of political correctness and "walk on the water" of Spirit-led writing that expresses the truth of God's Word. Tackle sensitive subjects such as abortion and euthanasia, from a Biblical perspective. Motivate without manipulating people to make choices in line with Scripture.

"Get Out of the Boat" – Based Matthew 14:22-33.

- Peter requests permission to do the impossible—walk on the water to meet Jesus.
- When Peter *takes his eyes off Jesus*, he begins to sink, and Jesus has to save him.
- We should not criticize Peter for beginning to sink—he had the courage to "Get Out of the Boat."

"You cannot walk on water while still sitting in the boat!"

Which boat best describes the one you currently occupy?

- Political Correctness
 - Frustrated, lacking the courage to tackle sensitive subjects in accordance with God's Word
 - Afraid of ridicule, losing friends or income
 - Swayed by public opinion, news media, polling data
- Procrastinating Compromiser
 - Waiting for someone else to do it
 - Apathetic because the task seems insurmountable
 - Wallowing in apostasy and rebellion
- Purposeful Communicator
 - Fearlessly communicating God's opinion on sensitive issues
 - Writing under inspiration of the Holy Spirit
 - Pastors: Preaching/writing in agreement with Ordination Vows

Christian writers and pastors, face the challenge of addressing sensitive issues from a Biblical perspective.

- When watching the evening news, what pushes your buttons and vexes your spirit?
- What causes your blood pressure to rise or your nostrils to flare?
- What do you wish you could change?
- Therein is your summons to rise up in the power of the Holy Spirit and be heard.

Bible characters who faced "government versus God" situations courageously

- Prophet Jeremiah faced opposition, physical abuse and incarceration because he spoke God's truth.
- Hebrew midwives—Shiphrah and Puah did not kill male Hebrew babies as commanded by Pharaoh.
- Moses – Represented God in opposing Pharaoh repeatedly.
- Rahab – Hid the Hebrew spies and covered her tracks with the king's representatives.
- Esther – Risked her life by going before the king uninvited—"If I perish, I perish!" (Esther 4:15-16)

- Nehemiah – Called by God to rebuild Jerusalem wall, strongly opposed by enemies. (*Nehemiah 6:15-16*)
- Peter & John – Jailed, threatened, and commanded not to preach in Jesus’ name. “We ought to obey God rather than men.” (*Acts 5:29*).
- Apostle Paul – Falsely accused, stoned and left for dead, tried illegally, shipwrecked...
- These Bible characters defied their government—they got out of the boat of Political Correctness.
- They walked on tempestuous waves; they obeyed God and faced the consequences.

The Bible Warns Us that Hard Times Will Come:

- Jesus: “In the world, ye shall have tribulation.” (*John 16:33b*)
- Apostle Paul: “All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (*II Timothy 3:12*)
- Have the courage to “Get Out of the Boat” and “Write His Answer.”

Are you willing to “Get Out of the Boat” and address such issues as:.

- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Homosexuality/Lesbianism
- Transgenderism
- Heterosexual Immorality
- Crime and Violence
- Public Prayer and Religious Liberty
- “Religion of Tolerance”
- Israel and the Middle East
- God’s Design for Marriage and Sexual Expression

Challenges to Christian Writers:

- Willingness to stand for truth, even when it’s politically incorrect
- Refusal to compromise God’s Word for popularity or financial security
- Care not to label Biblical topics as “political” to avoid dealing with them

Challenge to Pastors: Honoring Ordination Vows

- Preaching not only on God’s love, His blessings, grace, mercy, etc., but also on the punitive aspects of God’s nature—His wrath, indignation and judgment of sin.
- My responsibility as a minister is my response to His ability through me.

Is There Hope?

- Responsibility to pray for elected officials
- Responsibility to “Vote Your Conscience”
- Responsibility to pray for pastors—may God send revival to the pulpits of America!”

This is a workshop, so let’s work now. I want you to keep your microphones muted, but watch for my signal. Your line will be: *“You cannot walk on water while still sitting in the boat!”*