

FROM JOURNAL TO BLOG TO BOOK

Benefits of keeping a journal:

- Allows you to go beneath the surface to examine and record your thoughts.
- Helps you notice and pay attention to what God is doing around you.
- Offers a legacy of faith to the next generation.
- Safe place to identify ways you've been wounded – cathartic and healing.
- Gives clarity and direction in times of transition, loss, and achievement.

The book of Habakkuk offers a beautiful blueprint to “write His answer” -- *I will take my stand at my watch post and station myself on the tower and look out to see what He will say to me. And the Lord's answer was to write it down, make it plain on tablets, so he who reads it can run and tell others. Habakkuk 2: 1,2*

- Get still and invite God into your space - begin with prayer.
- Make it plain. Don't censor or critique – not about grammar/ logic.
- Be motivated so it can encourage others.

Creative journaling ideas to bring out your story:

- Choose a verse of scripture - write how it relates to you.
- Choose a word – write on it in a personal way.
- Write about pivotal points in your life.
- Go deeper than recording events – express your reaction.
- Get honest. Write a letter to God - be truthful rather than nice. Tell Him where you are right now in your journey.
- Notice the holy in the ordinary. See evidence of God in the-every-day.

Journal writing is different than blog writing which is different than book writing.

Why Blog?

Write a mission statement to keep you focused.

Turning content into a blog:

- Simple steps to get started
- Choose blogging software.
- Choose host/self-hosted.
- Choose and register domain name.
- Choose theme and tagline.

Create your blog:

- Content/Conversational/Consistent
- Don't exceed 350 words/ readable font/ white space
- Strong key words
- Be original/unique voice
- Catchy title that includes key
- Image
- Sharing buttons (Pinterest/Twitter/Linkedin/Google+)
- Comments to encourage response

Format:

- Create Tabs
- Home/Welcome/About/Contact/etc
- Sidebar (uncluttered)
- Subscribe
- Copyright (symbol/name/year)

RESOURCES:

Wordpress.com

Blogger.com

Images/google.com

Stockfreeimages.com

Turning content into a book:

- Know the difference – an autobiography is a story about your whole life – a memoir is about pieces of life. The book is not your journal – it's your work.
- Identify the message. Re-read your journals looking for things that are relevant to the specific topic. (a journey of cancer, divorce, life-changing event etc)
- Consider the audience. With journaling, you're writing for yourself. This will be a published forum – what parts are important to the reader?
- Sharing your story is a form of creative non-fiction – a true story using fiction writer skills.

RESOURCES:

Createspace.com

Lightningsource.com

Bookbaby.com

Bookemon.com

Blurb.com

Lulu.com

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