



2Live2Give
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Writing Guidelines and Procedures for Devotionals

Congratulations, you are embarking on a great adventure with a new online community, 2Live2Give. As a devotional author, you will contribute to the spiritual lives of hundreds of readers. You will guide them into a deeper understanding of God, His will, and His Word in regards to stewardship. The goal of 2Live2Give is to encourage its members and prospective members that God has a place in our finances and daily Bible reading, reflection, and prayer can play a key role in achieving that goal.

Your writing will be published on 2Live2Give's website, www.2live2give.org, and it will also be emailed to the online community's members. It may be used in other ways, but this is the primary means of publishing your work at this time. You will be asked to sign a contract upon acceptance of your work for publication.

Below are guidelines to writing an effective devotional that readers will want to read.

Logistics:

1. Before you send it in:

- a. Read, review, and revise.
- b. Include your name as you would like it to appear, your city and state, a short bio (25 words or less!), and two books you have written or would highly recommend. You may attach a personal digital photo file (high resolution) or send us a hard copy at the address below. However, we will not be able to return the photo to you.
- c. Submit your devotional(s) and supporting information to:

2Live2Give
Attention: Greta Kidd
P.O. Box 11112
Richmond, VA 23230

OR you can email it to Greta Kidd at the following email address
info@2live2give.org

*You will receive an email or note acknowledging receipt of your material.

- d. 2Live2Give reserves the right to edit the piece for length and content should it be chosen.

Guidelines of Devotional:

2. **Prepare the writer before the writing.** Jesus said, “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. Good people bring good things out of the good stored up in them...” (Matthew 12:34b-35a, τινί). Your own walk with God will produce insights God can use to draw others closer to him.
3. **Develop a single theme for each devotional.** The following are suggested themes and supporting scriptures for your writing. We ask that you use the New International Version (NIV) when providing the supporting scripture for your devotional.

Background: 2Live2Give’s primary goal is to encourage its members to be good stewards with all that God has blessed them with. If you wish to write on a different stewardship theme and/or use different supporting scripture, we welcome this.

Stewardship Themes:

- How we handle money impacts our relationship with the Lord.
 - supporting scripture: Isaiah 55:8-9 / Luke 16:11
- God is owner of everything.
 - supporting scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 / Psalm 135:6
- Debt is slavery.
 - supporting scripture: Proverbs 22:7/ Romans 13:8/ 1 Corinthians 7:23
- A wise person seeks advice.
 - Supporting scripture: Proverbs 12:15/ Proverbs 13:10/ Proverbs 15:22
- God’s standard is absolute.
 - supporting scripture: Leviticus 19:11/ Deuteronomy 25: 13-16/ Ephesians 4:25/ 1 Peter 1:15-16
- Giving is blessed.
 - supporting scripture: Acts 20:35/ Proverbs 11:24-25/ Matthew 6:20/ Luke 12:34/ 1 Timothy 6:18-19
- Work diligently as unto the Lord.

- Supporting scripture: Colossians 3:23-24/ Ephesians 6:5-9/ 1 Peter 2:18
- Consistently save.
 - supporting scripture: Proverbs 21:5/ Proverbs 24:27/ Proverbs 27:23-24/ Ecclesiastes 3:1/ Ecclesiastes 11:2
- Exercise wisdom when you spend.
 - supporting scripture: Phillipians 4:11-13/ 1 Timothy 6:6-8
- All will give an account.
 - Supporting scripture: Mark 8:36

4. Style matters. Consider carefully form, vocabulary, and voice.

- a. Begin with a strong lead-in sentence.** Draw the reader into your devotional with a sentence that intrigues, invites, or encourages them to continue. Give them a reason to want to read it.
- b. Avoid use of the passive voice.** The active voice emphasizes the doer of an action (“The boy walked the dog.”). The passive voice can introduce confusion and take more words (“The dog was being walked by the boy.”)
- c. Be careful of TMI, “Too Much ‘I’.”** The devotional should focus on God and His Word, not the author. Also, please be careful of the second person “you,” it can sound preachy.
- d. Document all quotes.** Scripture quotes should be word-for-word, punctuation-for-punctuation. Be sure to include book, chapter, verse, and version. If you use your own translation please note it. All other quotations need to be clearly documented. If you can’t document it you probably shouldn’t use it.
- e. Watch your word count.** Each devotional must be 150-200 words. If you don’t want your golden prose cut stay within the limit! Remember that multiple paragraph breaks and bulleted lists will reduce your available word count.
- f. End where you began.** Write a closing sentence that “ties a bow” on the devotional. Never leave your reader in doubt of what you were writing about.
- g. Title your work.** Try to avoid using more than three or four words. Longer titles will reduce substantially the space for your devotional. A good title should refer to the devotional theme.