**Workshop – The Day I Wanted to Quit**

***Tackling the mind games that discourage and defeat us***

By Lori Hatcher (LoriAHatcher@gmail.com)

“We're going to have to let truth scream louder to oursouls than the lies that have infected us.”

~Beth Moore How do we tackle the mind games that discourage and defeat us?

**We exchange lies for Truth.**

**Comparison**

**Lies:**

**Truth:**

God has given each of us a unique set of life experiences, communication styles, and spheres of influence. He’s allowed our circumstances to use us for the specific audience he wants to impact through us.

If God has called you to write, He has called you to write not IN SPITE OF where you are, who you are, or what you’ve been through, but BECAUSE OF where you are, who you are, or what you’ve been through.

**Beth Moore – “Our greatest pain can become our greatest ministry.”**

**Insecurity Lies:**

**Truth:**

I AM that I AM

“Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say” (Ex. 4:12).

Instead of focusing on ourselves and the real or imagined inadequacies we have, we need to exchange our “I’s” for “He’s”

We must examine the valid and unwavering sources for our confidence—God’s calling, God’s empowering, and God’s Truth.

He who called you is faithful. (1 Cor. 1:9)

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (2 Cor. 4:7).

“I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand-- I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, 'You are my people'" (Isa. 51:16).

Jeremiah 1:5-9

**If you have an opportunity to write or speak, trust that this is from God. That He has chosen YOU, not someone more polished, more educated, or more well known.**

**Competitiveness Lies:**

**Truth:** 1 Corinthians 12 for writers

“Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15).

“Seek **first** the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33).

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38).

Give your writing away. Give your knowledge away. Give your platform away.

“Train your competition.” ~ Vonda Skelton

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). Let God exalt you.

# First Corinthians 12 for Writers

There are different kinds of writing gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of writing service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of writers’ work, but the same God works all of them in all writers.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of biblical wisdom, to another the message of publishing knowledge by means of the same

Spirit,

To another faithful blogging by the same Spirit, to another written words of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers of editing, to another publishing, to another distinguishing between commas, semi-colons, and colons, to another speaking in different kinds of social media languages, and to still another the interpretation of html codes. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

The writing body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether bloggers or novelists, contract or freelance—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Now the body of writers is not made up of one part but of many.

If the blogger should say, "Because I am not a novelist, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the editor should say, "Because I am not a devotion writer, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

If the whole writing body were social media experts, where would the copy editors be? If the whole writing body were non-fiction writers, where would the lyrical poetry be?

But in fact God has arranged the parts in the writing body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the writing body be?

As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The writer cannot say to the editor, "I don't need you!" And the proofreader cannot say to the publisher, "I don't need you!"

On the contrary, those parts of the writing body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

But God has combined the members of the writing body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers writer’s block, every part suffers with it; if one part is receives the Christy Award, every part rejoices with it.Now you are the writing body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Based with reverent respect on 1 Corinthians 12:4-27 © Lori Hatcher

**5-Step Personal Analysis and Mission Statement Exercise**

1. **What part of your message are you most passionate about?**

1. **Do you believe God has given this to you to share or keep to yourself?** (He who has been given a trust must prove faithful.)

1. **What unique life experiences has God allowed to prepare you to deliver this message?**

“Our greatest pain can become our greatest ministry.” ~ Beth Moore

“God allows what he hates to accomplish what he loves.” ~Joni Earekson Tada

1. **Who needs your message?** Write with them in mind. Let this person or audience drive and motivate you.

1. **What circles of influence do you have that no one else has?** Start close to home and work your way out. (Family, church, your children’s school, people you interact with on a daily basis, Facebook friends) What if your story touches one of those lives and changes it forever. Would it be worth it?

*When you write for God, and you really mean it . . . your work may never show up on the shelves at*

*Lifeway. It may never find its way into bound print at all. But when you write for God, when you write with the heart of a servant . . . you may find that your words are only meant for the guy sitting next to you. If you can accept this . . . live with it . . . then you can truly write for God. ~Alton Ganksy*

**My Personal Mission Statement**

I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I write to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(verb)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(to whom are you writing?) to/with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(purpose).

My \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(background, skills, interest,

knowledge, challenges) give(s) my words credibility and power, but, ultimately, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is responsible for the results.

I commit to be the best writer I can be for God’s glory and trust him to use my words to accomplish his purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date

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## Out of the Computer and into the World

**8 Steps to Launch your Writing**

Lori Hatcher (LoriAHatcher@gmail.com)

**Step 1. Brainstorm an article idea.**

**Step 2. Choose and research your publication.**

**Step 3. Write a query letter.**

4 Components:

1. Hook

1. Synopsis

1. Your qualifications

1. Friendly closing

**Step 4. Provide writing samples.**

**Step 5. Wait for a response.**

**Step 6. Prepare to be edited.**

**Step 7. Submit your invoice (if required).**

**Step 8. See your article in print.**

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**Query Letter Template:**

**Hook** – Something that grabs the editor’s attention and makes them want to read more

**Synopsis** – A brief summary of the article

This should include a sentence that states the word count, the rights you’re offering, potential audience, and when you can provide the finished piece.

**Bio** – Why YOU are the best person to write this article.

Include relevant professional and experiential qualifications. Choose relevant items these based on the magazine you’re pitching to.

**Friendly Closing**

**Sample Magazine Query Letter**

Dear Ms. Weber,

When my husband and I were newly married, we had the opportunity to host a young woman from the Philippines in our home for several months. Evangeline was my age, but was very child-like as she explored the many things we took for granted. Watching her enthusiastically embrace simple things like hot water and birthday cakes humbled and convicted me. Through her example I learned to exchange grumbling and entitlement for gratitude and contentment. “Struggling with Contentment? Try Gratitude” is a 700-word article about my experience. The article is complete, and I’m offering first rights. I’d be most honored if you’d consider it for inclusion in the June 2018 issue of *Purpose*. This is a simultaneous submission.

To tell you a little about myself, I’m a pastor’s wife and the editor of South Carolina’s *Reach Out, Columbia* magazine. I’ve authored two devotional books and contribute to various online and print resources including Crosswalk.com, *The Upper Room,* and *Today’s Christian Living*.

Thanks so much for your time. I look forward to talking more about this article.

With warm regards,

Lori Hatcher

**How to Write an Effective Bio**

1. Write in the third person and begin with your name.

1. Honor the submission guidelines.

1. Keep your audience (and the publication) in mind. Don’t use the same bio for every submission.

1. Craft bios of varying lengths.

1. Tell your audience where to read more.

1. Share a bit of personal information.

1. Mention your passion.

1. Don’t be afraid to use appropriate humor.

1. Keep a bio file.

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**How to Use the Christian Writers Market Guide to Advance Your Writing Career**

By Lori Hatcher ([www.LoriHatcher.com)](http://www.lorihatcher.com/)

DESCRIPTION: Do you have a cache of unpublished writing treasure languishing in your computer? *The Christian Writers Market Guide* is one of the best resources to help you find publication homes for your literary darlings. In this practical workshop, you’ll learn how to use the market guide to submit your stories, articles, devotions, and poems for publication in online and print publications.

Before You Begin:

1. Have a professional e-mail address.

NO: HoneyBearSnookums@hotmail.com

YES: LoriAHatcher@gmail.com

1. Add a signature line to your email. (Google it if unsure how to do it.) Include:
   1. Name
   2. Title of most current book with link
   3. Website address with link
   4. Two- or three-word description of your specialty (i.e. Writer, Speaker, Blogger)

1. Determine your purpose for submitting.
   1. To build your writing resume or CV (Curriculum vitae)
   2. To build your platform
   3. To find your audience
   4. To establish yourself as an expert
   5. To build your brand
   6. To develop relationships with editors/publishers
   7. To generate income
2. Know your article/story/poem.
   1. Fiction or non-fiction?
   2. Adult or childrens?
   3. Focus?
   4. Audience?
   5. Word count?
   6. Theological/Denominational leanings?
   7. Purpose? (Teaching, devotional, inspirational?)

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**Now You’re Ready to Begin Using the Christian Writers Market Guide**

1. Begin with Chapter 5, Periodical Publishers. Scan the lists for periodicals in your genre.
2. Highlight prospective magazines that are a good fit for your material. Note the following: a. Focus
   1. Audience
   2. Word Count
   3. Theological/Denominational Leaning
   4. Paid or Unpaid
   5. Rights (First, All, or Reprint)
3. If everything is a good fit for your piece, review the periodical’s submission guides online to confirm the information. Pay special attention to the editor’s name (and spelling).
4. Determine where and how to submit.
   1. Email?
   2. Online form?
   3. Attachment or in body of an email?
   4. What is the format? Query first?
   5. Who is the editor?
5. Write cover letter or query (needed w/ email submissions and online forms. A cover letter should include:
   1. Hook (an engaging intro w/ brief details about the article)
   2. Rights offered, and whether this is a simultaneous submission.
   3. Brief bio paragraph about yourself. Include relevant writing credits or professional experience.
   4. Friendly conclusion. “I look forward to talking with you more about this submission.”
6. Submit.
7. Pray.
8. Keep a record of your submissions. List:
   1. Title of Work
   2. Publication
   3. Date
   4. Response w/ date

Note: Be careful with rights. Some publications consider a piece “published” if it has appeared anywhere, even on your blog. Always be upfront. You can’t hide anything on the Internet.

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10 Ways to Charm an Editor

Lori Hatcher(LoriAHatcher@gmail.com)

**6 Things that Relate to Your Submission**

1. Your article fits the publication.

1. Your article follows the style guide or submission guidelines.

1. Your article fits the word count.

1. Your article is submitted on or before the deadline.

1. Your concept is fresh.

1. Your writing is natural instead of stilted or ostentatious.

### 4 Ways to Relate Positively to the Editor

1. You handle reference materials carefully.

1. You respond in a timely manner to the editor’s emails.

1. You remain teachable.

1. You resist getting defensive about edits and suggestions.

### 3 Reasons to Disagree (but Never Be Disagreeable) with an Editor

1. The change is incorrect.

1. The change alters your meaning.

1. The change significantly alters your voice.

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## 25 Advanced Editing Tips for Serious Writers

**By Lori Hatcher (LoriAHatcher@gmail.com)**

1. Steer clear of the “ing” trap
2. Cut long sentences in two
3. Replace negative with positive
4. Remove redundancies
5. Don’t use “start to”
6. Replace “thing” with a better word
7. Refer to people as “who” not “that”
8. Eliminate “there is” or “there are” at the beginning of sentences
9. Use contractions
10. Replace “over” with “more than” for numbers
11. Hyphenate modifiers
12. Know the difference between *this* and *that*
13. Remove uncertain language
14. Avoid repetitive phrases
15. Eliminate filler words
16. Remove weak “To Be” verbs
17. Remove weak adjectives
18. Eliminate unnecessary words.
19. Make paragraphs smaller and sentences shorter
20. Vary sentence length and structure
21. Ditch the passive voice
22. Show vs. Tell
23. Eliminate or replace all clichés, platitudes, qualifiers, jargon, and overdone words
24. Read your work aloud
25. Use AI tools such as ProWriting Aid, Grammerly,

**How to Write a Book—From Concept to Contract to**

**Completion, It’s Not as Hard**

**(or as Easy) as You Think**

**Lori Hatcher (LoriAHatcher@gmail.com)**

* 1. Brainstorm a concept
  2. Determine the book’s purpose and potential readers by connecting with and building your audience
  3. Fieldtest your concept
  4. Outline book chapters
  5. Write sample chapters
  6. Create a book proposal
  7. Attend a conference
  8. Gather a tribe of fellow authors to encourage and support you
  9. Meet agents/editors, pitch book(s)
  10. Receive an offer of representation
  11. Become a contracted author
  12. Agent submits proposal to publishing houses
  13. Receive responses from acquisition editors
  14. Proposal goes to Editorial Board
  15. Proposal goes to Pub. Board
  16. Editor extends verbal offer
  17. Publisher extends written contract
  18. Agent negotiates on writer’s behalf
  19. Publisher sends final contract to be signed by both parties
  20. Writer receives advance w/ signed copy of contract, usually half on receipt of signed contract and half on delivery of an acceptable manuscript
  21. Author submits completed manuscript BEFORE deadline
  22. Author starts working on the next book ☺
  23. Publisher solicits author’s input for title and cover
  24. Committee holds titling meeting
  25. Marketing team creates cover design
  26. Author receives developmental edits (2-6 months after receipt of manuscript)
  27. Author gathers endorsers
  28. Author receives 2nd round of edits (copy editing/line edits)
  29. Author reviews edits, accepts/makes changes, send back
  30. Author reviews galleys
  31. Manuscript goes to proofreader
  32. Author receives ARCs (Advance Review Copy)
  33. Author shares ARCs w/ influencers
  34. Author & publisher solicit early reviews
  35. Author & publisher prepare for book launch
  36. Author forms street team
  37. Author sets up interviews, guest posts, articles, podcast invites
  38. Author creates advance sales and marketing information packet – authors, friends, endorsers
  39. Author plans launch party (in person and/or FB live) 40. Author battles self-doubt/fear
  40. Book launch day!
  41. Repeat steps 1-39

**What is the average time for the traditional publishing process?**

1. From idea to book proposal to your literary agent: 1-3 months
2. From agent to editor and book contract offer: 2-5 months
3. From contract offer to first paycheck: 2-3 months
4. From contract to delivery of manuscript to editor: 3-9 months (sometimes longer)

(From delivery of manuscript to editor actually working on it: 2-5 months)

1. From editor to publication: 9-12 months

Total time from idea to print: approximately 2 years.

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