

Faithful Writer Resources

Compiled by Elizabeth H. Cottrell
Heartspoken.com and RiverwoodWriter.com

Writing about God – theology

Augustine (St. Augustine). *Confessions* and *City of God*

Benedict (St. Benedict). *The Rule of St. Benedict*

Bible, The

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*

Buechner, Frederick. *Buechner 101: Essays and Sermons by Frederick Buechner*

Bunyan, John, *Pilgrim's Progress*

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Kempis, Thomas à. *The Imitation of Christ*

Lawrence, Brother. *The Practice of the Presence of God*

Lewis, C.S. *Surprised by Joy*

Merton, Thomas. *The Seven Storey Mountain: An Autobiography*

Smith, Hannah Whithall. *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*

Writing for God – apologetics

Edwards, Jonathan. *Religious Affections*

Eldredge, John. *Epic* – inspiration for those who want to dedicate themselves to a call to write within the context of the Kingdom. Suggested by my friend and professor of religion at JMU, Dr. Julie Gochenour.

Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity* and other books by C.S. Lewis

Owen, John. *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*

Wright, N.T. *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*

Yancey, Philip and Paul Brand. *In the Likeness of God: The Dr. Paul Brand Tribute Edition of Fearfully and Wonderfully Made and In His Image*

Writing to God and writing with God - journaling

These two categories often overlap, so I have combined them here. A prayer journal is a true conversation with God and a recording of answers received. A spiritual journal may go beyond this strict conversational format to include reflections, questions, rants, and conclusions to the writer's seeking to know and understand God and God's will for him/her in the world. At its best, a spiritual journal is a tool for processing life through the lens of faith.

Augustine (St. Augustine). *Confessions* and *City of God*

Frank, Anne. *Diary of Anne Frank*

Gibson, Raymond E., ed. *Conversations with God: The Devotional Journals of Myrtie L. Elmer*

Kierkegaard, Søren. *The Journals of Søren Kierkegaard*

Livingstone, David. *Livingstone's Private Journals*

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *The Genesee Diary: Report from a Trappist Monastery*

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey Through Anguish to Freedom*

Pascal, Blaise. *Pensées*

Thielicke, Helmut. *African Diary: My Search for Understanding*

Walsh, Neale Donald. *Conversations with God: An Uncommon Dialogue*

Wesley, John. *The Journals of John Wesley*

Books about spirituality and spiritual seeking

Artress, Dr. Lauren. *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool*

Campbell, Joseph. *The Hero's Journey* and other titles by this author

Fields, Rick and multiple authors. *Chop Wood, Carry Water: A Guide to Finding Spiritual Fulfillment in Everyday life*

Frankl, Victor E. *A Man's Search for Meaning*

Gawain, Shakti. *Awakening: A Daily Guide to Conscious Living*

John O'Donohue. *Eternal Echoes: Celtic Reflections on Our Yearning to Belong* and other titles by this author

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Circle of Quiet*

McLaren, Brian. *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation* and other titles by this author

Mipham, Sakyong. *The Shambhala Principle: Discovering Humanity's Hidden Treasure* and other Shambhala publications

Moffatt, Bettyclare. *Soulwork*

Rain, Mary Summer. *Earthway: A Native American Visionary's Path to Total Mind, Body, and Spirit Health* and other titles by this author

Sams, Jamie. *Earth Medicine: Ancestor's Ways of Harmony for Many Moons*

St. James, Elaine. *Inner Simplicity*

Books about writing

Cameron, Julia. *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*

Cameron, Julia. *The Right to Write: An Invitation and Initiation into the Writing Life*

Clark, Roy Peter. *Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer*

Dillard, Annie. *The Writing Life*

Ellison, Edna and Linda Gilden. *Called to Writer: Seven Principles to Become a Writer on Mission*

Goins, Jeff. *You Are a Writer (So Start Acting Like One)*

Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*

King, Stephen. *On Writing: A Memoir Of The Craft*

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*

Lukeman, Noah. *A Dash of Style: The Art and Mastery of Punctuation*

Schneider, Pat. *Writing Alone and with others*

See, Carolyn. *Making a Literary Life*

Strunk, Jr., William and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*

Ueland, Brenda. *If You Want to Write*

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*

Some writing that has inspired me

Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker's Creek* first opened my eyes to the ways a writer can make the natural world come alive for readers.

The writings of Wendell Berry, noted American novelist, poet, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer, inspired me to incorporate my own passions into my writing.

John M. Barry's *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* is a powerful example of nonfiction that both educates and entertains.

The writings of Henri Nouwen are remarkable in their honesty, depth, and beauty. I've listed a couple of them among these resources.

Sister Joan Chittister has written beautifully—quite practically—about the Benedictine traditions and their application in today's world. I loved *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today*.

Hebridian Altars by Alistair Maclean is a collection of prayers, poems, sayings, and praises from the tradition of the simple fishermen of the Hebrides islands off the coast of Scotland. Their exquisite phrasing, steeped in an understanding of nature and natural cycles of life, are quite inspiring.

Blogs about writing, authoring

Amir, Nina – www.writtenonfictionnow.com

Goins, Jeff – www.goinswriter.com

Gray-Grant, Daphne – www.publicationcoach.com

Greene, Molly – www.molly-greene.com

Hitz, Shelley – www.ShelleyHitz.com

Lansky, D'vorah – www.bookmarketingmadeeasy.com

Luke, Ali - www.aliventures.com

Penn, Joanna - www.theCreativePenn.com

Walsh, Therese - www.writerunboxed.com

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<http://www.riverwoodwriter.com/> - my professional writer website

Facebook: www.facebook.com/elizabethcottrellbiz

Twitter: www.twitter.com/in/elizabethcottrell

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/elizcottrell

Instagram: www.instagram.com/riverwoodwriter