

## **The Life Devotionals Guidelines 2022**

### **When you write The Life devotionals, you will:**

- Inspire and challenge readers to live passionately for God by grace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, continually submitting every aspect of their lives to Christ's rule and trusting him for the strength to obey;
- Encourage readers to explore various spiritual disciplines (sacred pathways or temperaments). ([See this PDF by Gary Thomas concerning these pathways](#))
- Motivate believers to participate as fully as possible in the mission Jesus has entrusted to his Church, thereby becoming multiplying disciples.

### **When writing, we recommend that you:**

- **Write as if you were writing to encourage a friend.** Be empathetic. Seek to understand what they go through.
- Offer a humble, honest description of your spiritual journey in this situation.
- Help readers understand how walking in the Spirit by faith every day is central to all of life. Focus on living out our identity in Christ.
- **Help people see the beauty of God and everything he is.** You want them to understand the crucial role he is playing or has played in this area of your life.
- **Focus on grace. Avoid dos and don'ts.** Focus on God's gracious provision of all we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:1-4).

### **Keep in mind:**

- Our readership is international and both male and female. Avoid writing to a specific gender or culture.
- Avoid words and expressions only Christians understand.

**The text will be edited to ensure theological, syntactical, and semantic clarity. All comments of a national, racial, or political nature will be removed in order to ensure that our devotionals remain as universally relevant as possible.**

**As you prayerfully write your devotional, please adhere to the following guidelines:**

**Name:** Please include your name in the document, as it will facilitate processing.

**Title (6 words or less):** Grab your reader's attention and pique their interest. Keep it short.

**Teaser (10 words or less):** Intrigue the reader

- It can be a sentence in your devotional that really brings home the point. Ask yourself, "would this make my friend want to read on?"
- It can be a question, but not an accusatory or guilt-inducing one such as "Have you sinned today?"

**Passage:**

- Post the full reference in your devotional, text included. Only indicate the version when not using the NIV or ESV (our recommended versions).

**Hook (1-2 short paragraphs in length):**

- Online, you have about 5 seconds to grab your reader's attention. Keep this in mind. Seek to quickly intrigue or entertain your reader in order to 'hook' them in, so you can inform them about how Jesus transforms life.
- Be creative: you can share a personal or a fictional story (clearly indicated as fictional, if so) — either yours or that of someone who has given you permission to do so — bring up a struggle we all face or a question we've probably all pondered, use a thought-provoking quote, or retell the story of the passage in a fresh way. A good hook should have one main point that clearly connects to the truth you are highlighting in the passage.
- **\*new\*** You are also welcome to include poetry or song lyrics in your devotional, when relevant. If you quote another author's work, please credit them properly.

**One Key Pertinent Biblical Truth:**

- Unpack one key truth from the passage you've chosen that can be applied to life. Address cultural/historical background only to the extent needed to explain your point.

**Remember:** if you have not made the passage relevant, you have not written a devotional.

**Application:**

- Paint a precise picture of how our lives or communities would change if we lived out this truth by faith, in the power of the Spirit.

**Prayer:**

- Use the first-person singular (I, me) to help readers personalize it.

**Throughout This Day:**

- Offer a concrete suggestion to apply throughout the day. You can suggest a song on YouTube, worshipful artwork, a specific reading to meditate on, an article to read, an action to take, a prayer to offer, etc. Be as creative as you wish.

**Word Count:** The full devotional, excluding the passage, teaser, prayer, and *Throughout This Day*, should not exceed 500 words, and can be as short as 250 words.

*These guidelines are not meant to hinder your creativity or your freedom in Christ. Rather, they are meant to facilitate your task and to ensure consistency with other articles on our site. If you have any concerns or questions concerning these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact us at [editor@thelife.com](mailto:editor@thelife.com).*

*Updated July 14, 2022*