



Dipping the Quill

Writing News from Author J.D. Winger

Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2019

The New Year brings new resolutions, goals, and challenges.

Like most, in the days leading up to the New Year, I focus on two things. First, I review the previous year. Second, I establish new goals for the coming year. Grateful for 2018; I accomplished many of my goals. There were articles and devotionals published and I contributed to a published book (this time as a contributing author and not ghostwriter). I also researched and submitted my first ever book proposal. I'm still waiting to hear on that last one. The publishing industry sometimes moves at a snail's pace.

As I think most authors are apt to do, I too believe my submitted manuscripts are perfect and ready for publication upon their initial submittal. Then reality arrives. I realize that as hard as I worked on them, as much as I may have prayed over them, *one size does not fit all*. Different editors have different worldviews. They often have different ideas about how to approach a topic, what readers (and more importantly book purchasers) want, and how something I've written reads and may sell. Having written all kinds of documents for the past forty years, beyond the Bible, the perfect document does not exist.

So what do I plan to accomplish in the coming year? There are standard things; such as increasing my "God time", becoming a better testimony for God's grace, becoming a better husband, son, and friend. Then, more specific, tangible things I can measure and check off my list a year from now. At the top of my professional list for 2019 is getting on contract for a book.

I hope a traditional publisher picks up *The Chrysalis of Christ* (working title) in the coming year. I am convinced of the need for this book in today's world. There are many, besides myself, who struggle with their faith and understanding how their personal relationship with Christ can make their journey more enjoyable. This book may not cause every dour, doubting Christian to change instantly upon its reading, but its lessons can help make our journey of sanctification easier.

I have also started a new manuscript, based on the many lessons my wife, dad, and I are learning since my dad moved into our home. It will be a 31-day devotional, focusing on how God's love can help us transition into life as a caregiver for our adult parents or loved ones. Part devotional, part Bible study, part journal, I am praying this book helps lessen the struggle all sides have during this difficult season of life. In the past six months, I learned that all the love and respect in the world can do nothing to help a loved one. We need God's guidance and help to grow into the role.

Another writing goal for this year is to attend at least two writer's conferences. My first, over a year ago, a Christian Leaders, Authors, and Speakers Seminars (CLASSEminars) event proved an amazing opportunity to learn and grow. I grew not only as a writer, but as a Christian. The fellowship, learning, and networking opportunities of these conferences allow me to extend my knowledge and my reach into the publishing industry. I've learned that in this industry, who you know is as important as what you know.

Like each of you, I have dreams, aspirations, and goals. Also like each of you, I hope, I pray for God's guidance to help me achieve those goals in His will and not of my selfish desire. There are other (minor) goals for my writing this year, but I've focused on what I can control and to let God handle the rest. As far as my professional/career goals go, I am praying for a little

more consulting work to help fund my writing journey. God always has, and always will, provide for my family's needs. When I maintain a right relationship with Him, I have nothing to worry about.

I pray your 2019 brings you great joy, satisfaction, and a closer walk with our Lord and Savior.

God's Blessings...



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