WHEN IT FEELS LIKE IT'S ALL BEEN WRITTEN BEFORE:

10 Ways To Reignite Your Writing Inspiration

Every day we are bombarded with content online. One swipe on our Instagram feed or a scroll through Facebook leaves us flooded with content from others who appear to be doing similar things to what we're doing — and maybe seem to be doing it better. As a result, it's all too easy to feel a lack of motivation to put the hard work into our writing and social media posting simply because it feels like everything has already been said or done by somebody else. And to top it all off, we don't know where to find the inspiration to write at all.

This happens to all writers and can be especially prevalent at the beginning of a new year, when it seems everyone is off to a great start with an attitude of excitement, fresh anticipation and inspiration with lots of news ideas. Everybody except you, that is.

A lack of inspiration causes us to struggle with inner thoughts like: *Is there a place for me in this writing world? Does my story really matter? Has everything already been done? Do I measure up to all the other writers and social media gurus in the world? Another week has passed, and I still haven't written a word — did I hear God wrong? Should I even keep trying to be a writer?*

So what can a writer do when she's lacking motivation and can't find the inspiration to write a single word? When she longs to reignite her passion for writing but doesn't know how? Or when she knows in her heart God gave her a message to share, but she can't seem to take consistent action or come up with strong ideas to make it happen?

If this describes you, *friend,* you've come to the *right place.*
What you *need* is a big spoonful of *inspiration.*

HERE ARE 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU REIGNITE YOUR PASSION FOR WRITING AND KEEP PURSUING YOUR WRITING DREAMS — *plus 10 inspirational moves you can make to generate writing ideas you're excited about today.*

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1. Glean inspiration from those who have inspiration.

Instead of envying the woman who has the ideas and energy to write meaningful posts every day on social media or boast about how many words she wrote in her manuscript, let her be your inspiration to step up to the plate. If she can do it, so can you! Sometimes it helps to watch someone else's motivation and let it inspire you to put in the hard work to do the same.

Inspirational Move:

Reach out to three people whose success you want to mimic, and ask them how they did it or what inspires them to keep going. You might be surprised at what you learn and how their inspiration becomes your own.

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2. Shift from goal setting to habit setting.

A new year always screams for new lofty goals, yet sometimes trying to set year-long goals can become a hindrance instead of a help to our writing motivation and inspiration. But setting habits trumps goals every time. A habit requires simply showing up, and when we show up, work gets done. After a few weeks of consistency, you'll feel more and more inspired and realize you're capable of more creativity than you thought!

Inspirational Move:

Make a list of five to 10 fresh ideas you can write about, and then start with setting a tiny goal, such as writing for 10 minutes a day or 500 words a month. Whether you're writing a manuscript or a blog post, or just journaling your thoughts, you'll build momentum each day and fuel inspiration to keep going.



3. Identify your "why."

Why did you start writing in the first place? What did it feel like when you first felt God calling you to share your story? It's easy to get so caught up in the task of writing that we forget why we started writing in the first place. And feeling buried in the mundane or feeling obligated to get perfectly crafted words on paper can stifle creativity, inspiration and motivation. Allowing our minds to float back in time and focus on the reason we do what we do can make our hearts swell with a renewed sense of purpose, passion and inspiration.

Inspirational Move:

What was your "why" when you first began writing? Consider what you were passionate about and write down five reasons why that "why" still matters. Ask yourself if your "why" is still what is motivating you today or if you need to revisit the reason you do what you do.

4. Remember how far you've come.

When you first started writing, your writing was good or maybe just OK. But as you have continued to hone your craft, your writing skills have surely improved. You've gained insight, tips and strategies from other authors, which you now incorporate into your own writing. Find confidence in how far you've come, and let that inspire you to keep continually learning.

Inspirational Move:

Pull out an old piece of writing and consider how far you've come in your talent. List five things you've learned about writing so far.



5. Remember to read, not just write.

It's a known fact that good writers are also avid readers. There are beautiful messages tucked within songs, poems, essays, memoirs and even fiction books that can spark ideas and creativity. Reading helps us grasp the art of language and appreciate how someone else writes.

Inspirational Move:

Make a commitment to read at least one new thing every day this week. As you read, jot down any thoughts, ideas, personal stories or memories that come to mind. Let someone else's words inspire you to craft your own.

6. Write for one, not all.

A major lack of inspiration can set in when we not only forget why we are writing but who we are writing for. Yes, we are all writing for the glory of God, but our words are the vessel God wants to use to impact the hearts of others. Remember to keep in mind who you are writing for and how you want your story to change her life.

Inspirational Move:

Write a description of one woman, including her hair and eye color, her height, her demeanor, her pain, her feelings and her joys. What might she love or hate? What are her fears? Or cut a picture out of a magazine and frame it, and look at that woman each time you sit down to write words that can heal or give hope to her through your stories.



7. Be a content curator.

How great would it feel to have a whole library of stories, quotes, inspiring ideas, memes, etc. to be able to sift through when you're feeling uninspired and void of any meaningful topics to write about? Every day we see things online and in books or magazines that we can save for a rainy day of writing when inspiration to write feels as absent as the sunshine from the sky.

Inspirational Move:

For the next few weeks or months, create a museum of ideas on your computer, on a notepad, or in a journal or scrapbook. Write down every inspirational thing you see or read — a quote, story, poem, piece of artwork, experience, meaningful interaction with someone, or a place you visit. Refer back to this collection of ideas when you need some motivation to write.

8. Interview yourself.

Instead of only looking to others for inspiration, consider your own story, and interview yourself. You may be surprised by the stories you can see when you look in your own rearview mirror. We've all had good and bad experiences in our lives, or experiences where we saw God mightily at work, many of which taught us lessons we could share with others. Your memories can inspire you to start writing words you may not have thought of writing before.

Inspirational Move:

Ask yourself a few of these questions to jump-start your self-interview: When did you realize you wanted to be a writer? Who was your favorite teacher and how did they impact you? What was a defining event in your life? Who is your favorite author and why? What is the most important lesson you've ever learned? What's the best/worst thing that has ever happened to you? What is your most memorable dream? What is your biggest fear and how does faith help you overcome it? What has been your greatest success or triumph?



9. Just be yourself.

Striving to accomplish the same successes someone else has? Changing your natural writing style because you're trying to mirror another author you admire? When we try to be anything other than ourselves, the gifts God has given us often get pushed aside, and burnout can set in when we feel like we're not succeeding. Stop trying to sound like someone else and just be yourself. Write with your own voice, tone and personality. The more you allow *you* to write, instead of the "you" trying to mimic another author, the more easily words will flow.

Inspirational Move:

Simply write from the heart. Have fun. Don't worry about editing, how things sound and whether or not what you're writing makes sense. Just be yourself — don't take things too seriously, and allow your creativity to flourish.

10. Don't try to be a lone writer.

Just as people need people, writers need other writers. Writing can be an isolating career, but it doesn't have to be. Being around others who are in the same boat as you makes the often unsettling waters of writing feel a little less scary and hopeless. Walking this writing journey with other writers helps everyone involved feel more inspired to keep up the good work.

Inspirational Move:

Join a community of fellow writers online who share the same passions, hardships, and even lack of inspiration and motivation, at times, as you. Seek opportunities to collaborate, talk, share feelings, share writing pieces and hold each other accountable. (At COMPEL, you can join private support groups on Facebook with thousands of writers just like you who have a desire to stay inspired and motivated in pursuing their publishing dreams!)