



THE ATTRIBUTES OF A CHRISTIAN WRITER

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INTRODUCTION:

Writing is an ancient art that has been perfected over a long period of time. *'To write'*, originally means to make marks that represent letters or words by using a tool held in the hand such as bird feathers or sharp-pointed sticks dipped in ink. However, writing now is more complex as it involves a great deal of thinking and record keeping. Writing now can then be defined as, *"to think of and record especially on paper"* (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English). From simple alphabets and numbers, complex words, expressions and figures have evolved.

God Himself is the first and best Writer of all times. He documented for us the story of the creation of man and beginning of life. He wrote the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone for Moses (Exodus 32: 15&16). His judgement to bring the reign of king Belshazar to an end was written on a wall in the palace at Babylon (Daniel 5: 1-31). The Lord Jesus Christ also stooped down to write on the floor with His finger while the accusers of the adulterous woman in John 8: 1-10 left one after the other. Since God is both the first and best Writer of all times, the challenge then to the Christian writer is to be like his Father and God.

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN WRITER?

A writer first of all is a person who puts down words or symbols in order to pass a message across for a particular reason (Christian Literature Mission of Nigeria). A Christian writer then, is a Christian who puts down words or symbols in order to pass a message across for a particular reason. According to Haron Wachira, *"A writer is an ordinary person with a drive to communicate and with an extra-ordinary amount of perseverance."* It can then be said that *"a Christian writer is only an ordinary Christian or believer with a drive to communicate the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in writing with an extra-ordinary amount of perseverance."*

ATTRIBUTES OF THE CHRISTIAN WRITER:

For the Christian writer to effectively communicate the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, he must have the following attributes.

A. Spiritual Attributes:

1. He must be born-again and Spirit-filled (Acts 6: 3; Ephesians 5: 18).
2. He must be growing spiritually (2Peter 3: 18).
3. He must be prayerful and given to fasting (so as to be able to draw inspiration from God (Isaiah 40: 30-31; Luke 18: 1; 1Thess.5: 17).
4. He must be sober and love quietness or solitude (Isaiah 30: 15).
5. He must be inspired and have a clear vision or motive for the message (Proverbs 29: 18).
6. He must be loving and compassionate (1Corinthians 13: 1-8).
7. He must be honest and truthful (Proverbs 14: 5).
8. He must be patient and longsuffering (Galatians 5: 22&23).
9. He must have a sound knowledge of the Bible and its theology (Joshua 1: 8; Colossians 3: 16; 1Timothy 2: 15).
10. He must be humble and teachable (Philippians 2: 5-11; James 4: 6).

B. Physical & Psychological Attributes:

1. He must be given to reading and read widely.
2. He must be given to taking notes and record-keeping.
3. He must be mentally alert and very observant.
4. He must be emotionally mature and stable.
5. He must have a good command of the work language.

6. He must have a sound knowledge of the subject-matter.
7. He must be familiar with his chosen target audience.
8. He must have a critical and analytical mind.
9. He must be given to research.
10. He must be well informed and current.
11. He must be creative and highly imaginative.
12. He must be objective and factual.
13. He must be self-controlled and organized.
14. He must be hard working and diligent.
15. He must be committed to his faith and course (i.e. writing), and be consistent.

C. Conclusion:

It is my view that any Christian who has a good number of these attributes mentioned and discussed will definitely make a good Christian writer. Such a person without doubt will communicate the gospel message effectively. God bless.