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May the Words be a Guiding Light

I blindly follow in Jesus's words, knowing that each day is another opportunity to be better, learn more, speak kinder, grow softer. God exists beyond our physical world but exposes us to a Christian worldview steeped in religion, philosophy, morals and our experiences.

I know the teachings of my faith because of the written word; the Bible. Writing is a form of teaching, of sharing, of connecting, of growing. It is through my writing that I too can share my light with the world.

“Fundamental convictions about reality reside deep within the human heart where passions, affections, and motives are impossible to see, but these convictions visibly shape the ways people behave” (Waddell & Jibben, 2022). For me, these convictions include an unfounded belief in the concept that we are all God's creation, we are designed to govern the world through His foundation, and that God has sacrificed his son Jesus Christ to redeem us from our sins. These convictions are my NorthStar. They live in my thoughts, words and deeds. They guide my morals and beliefs.

My worldview has not always been as steadfast as it is now. I, of course, have always believed in God but at various times in my life I have questioned His path, His goodness. If God is good, why would He allow me to experience some of the angst, fear and sadness that I have

experienced throughout my life? Why would He allow my child to be born 12 weeks early? Why would He not have let me get to my dying father in time to say goodbye? Why would He have allowed my 14-month-old to experience anaphylaxis and need hospitalization? These questions and more have swirled through my mind throughout the years. At times, I have felt abandoned and dismayed that God is not with me. However, as my spirituality and faith has grown my worldview has matured. “He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever. And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid” (New International Version, Ezra 3:11). My God is faithful. His goodness and mercy are a constant light even when it feels dark.

This same light that God shows me in my daily life will be the foundation of how I approach my writing career. I too can use my words to form love, kindness and guidance. The greatest way to uphold my Christian worldview is through a strong ethical writing practice. Ethical writing is what virtuous writing is founded upon. “Ethical writing is the writing we do when we have consciously reflected on the meanings we are making, or the world we are representing” (Webb, 2016). When writing children’s books or novels, ethical writing will look like me using my words as a powerful and uplifting tool. I must be mindful that honesty and the responsibility to create and share the truth must always be at the forefront of my stories. My writing foundation will always be fashioned with the greatest hope and intent to better others.

Words are powerful. They have the ability to change lives. The written word can be evergreen; passed down through the pages of time. Stories can be told and re-told. Their infinite reach can sometimes never be measured. Their impact can be powerful. Though I would never claim to be able to impact the world as much as God’s word has; I can hope that by allowing His

influence to shape the words that I create and the good that I know exists will be found on the pages of my stories so that I may have a small part in bettering this world.

Works Cited

New International Version. Bible Gateway, <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Version-NIV-Bible/#booklist>. Accessed 6 August, 2023.

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Webb, Jen. *Ethics and Writing*. <https://theconversation.com/ethics-and-writing-63399>. Accessed on August 7, 2023.

