



Visionwriting: 101



*An Introduction and Orientation to
Written Dialogue with God*

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A WORD FROM JAQUE

If you are like me, you are beginning this journey with a gnawing ache to know if God is, in fact, *personal* and therefore *willing* to involve Himself in the everyday affairs of life through heartfelt communication.

From the moment that we first *believe*, there is untold treasure buried in the field on which we are standing. How long will we wait to uncover it? When we believe God exists, we begin to act differently, for something new now must be done. Not believing God exists allows us to act as if He isn't watching—as though He doesn't care about what we do. Unbelief is the void inside us; it is the ache of a silent God.

When my doubts were transformed into knowing, I began to ask God what *I* was supposed to do about the fact that He exists. I ached to hear and follow His voice, and so I implored God for what I needed to do. He spoke within and led me to Matthew 6:33:

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”

The very next question I needed addressed was *how*? “*How* do you want me to seek your kingdom first?” Then another word came: “Jaque, I want you to **journalize**, that is, write the vision from Me on paper. I will speak with you personally as you come to meet with Me every day. My written Word will become your context for living. I will lead you to scripture and you will write down the personal words you hear Me saying to you from each verse.”

I'd never before heard the word **journalize** before; people were journaling, not *journalizing*. And they were journaling their thoughts, not a personal dialogue.

“Well, now I'm *really* crazy” I thought. Maybe God *isn't* real after all, because if He was, He'd surely know how to spell.” I looked up *journalize* in the dictionary. There it was; in 1975 the word *journaling* was not found in any of my three dictionaries!

So I began to journalize as instructed, and the rest is history. I started by gathering Scriptures on topics He assigned and arranged them into courses that I could journalize; then I *studied* each course with the Holy Spirit as my newfound Teacher.

What is written in my journals has directed the living of my life. It has proven true from journal to journal and year to year. Even now, I continue to journalize and receive fresh visions and instructions from God. Years later the book of Habakkuk inspired a name change from

journalizing to visionwriting. Today, many believers are experiencing a profound connection with the Lord as they journalize His Word or, “Write the Vision” of Christ in their own life.

Jesus *is* Lord. That fact will never change, no matter how history chooses to record it, or whether or not it is always believed, but His Lordship is in hearts, not buildings.

The day I allowed myself to believe that God was real and that *I* could hear Him speak was the day my *real* life began. Little had I known that the reality I was searching for was my own. God can't be real until we are real with Him, and we can't be real with Him until we let ourselves believe He exists for us *personally*.

One way or the other, we need to *do* something about God. I often ask people, “God *is*, what are you going to *do* about it?” Without exception, that's everybody's life question. Now what about you? What are you going to do about God? Do you want Him as a reality in your life or as a mere acquaintance? Have you outgrown the initial thrill of your salvation enough to take your life to the next level with Him? If your answer is *yes*, then I invite you to get involved in Visionwriters and learn *how* to eliminate from your world the ache of a silent God.

Jaque (Banas) Shank



CHAPTER ONE

VISIONWRITE TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE

Visionwriting is a writing tool that accelerates our transformation into the life, mind and heart of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:12-16). The idea of writing down conversations with the Holy Spirit is a new idea to some even though it is evidenced in scripture. Many can't fathom the power of their own written word until they obey God and do it.

Divine frustration is often that which readies us to try something new. Often we have read much, attended church, and looked to man for answers, and still come up empty. Perhaps Visionwriters is a last ditch effort to find answers. If so, God will meet our determination with the challenge to visionwrite His Word. Over time our life delivers the *proof* that He is giving us the details of His plan for us in writing. The outcome is a people who are filled with confidence and joy.

At Visionwriters, visionwriting is the action behind our vision and the feet beneath our mission. We have a passion to link others to God until they realize a personal and direct connection with Him.

I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith."

HABAKKUK 2:1-4 (NKJV)

Visionwriting is not our goal—God is. Surrendered to His Spirit we are scribes of His anointed word. "And the just shall live by faith," means we believe we are on the path to knowing Him. We believe that He *is*, and that He will repeatedly reward us with personal revelations of Himself. (Hebrews 11:6) We know Him as the God who ever delights in giving Himself away.

This inner *heart work* is our *highest* work. Since the Holy Spirit came to *convict the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment* (John 16:8), we come to our daily journal with sur-

rendered hearts to learn, obey, and be cleansed from the false sense of self, the world, and the flesh with all of its man-pleasing. With this cleansing we become people who are pure enough to be *for* others.

Visionwriting by faith, God gets our heartfelt attention and thus, more easily convicts us. We *journalize to internalize* His word and to realize He is writing Christ, His will, on our hearts.

If no one had recorded anything God did or said, Scripture would not exist. But now we have a firm record (2 Peter 1:19) and without adding to or taking away from it, God's Spirit continues, in our own penmanship, to expound and use it to transform our lives. (Revelation 22:18-21).

"All this," David said, "I have in writing from the hand of the LORD upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan."

1 CHRONICLES 28:19 (NIV)

“What we hear with our ears will be forgotten,
what we see with our eyes may be remembered,
but what is continuously written on our hearts will
become our heartfelt connection with God!”

Jaque (Banas) Shank



CHAPTER TWO VISIONWRITE WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Our hearts are soil for God's word; this is where His Kingdom grows. Before anything can take root in this ground God first prepares it by tilling, mixing, and cultivating it. God, the Master Farmer, sows seed by speaking His word into our heart. Eventually a seed becomes a tree and produces more and more fruit for God. This process continues throughout our lives; God weeds, prunes, waters and feeds us so we can *keep producing* His Kingdom on the earth. Jesus chose the gardening illustration to help us understand how God and His word works. Here's what He said in Mark 4:13-20.

But if you can't understand this simple illustration, what will you do about all the others I am going to tell? The farmer I talked about is anyone who brings God's message to others, trying to plant good seed within their lives. The hard pathway, where some of the seed fell, represents the hard hearts of some of those who hear God's message; Satan comes at once to try to make them forget it. The rocky soil represents the hearts of those who hear the message with joy, but, like young plants in such soil, their roots don't go very deep, and though at first they get along fine, as soon as persecution begins, they wilt. The thorny ground represents the hearts of people who listen to the Good News and receive it, but all too quickly the attractions of this world and the delights of wealth, and the search for success and lure of nice things come in and crowd out God's message from their hearts, so that no crop is produced. But the good soil represents the hearts of those who truly accept God's message and produce a plentiful harvest for God--thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as was planted in their hearts.

MARK 4:13-20 (TLB)

Visionwriting with all our heart is a guaranteed way to receive God's message so it can produce fruit. We take God seriously, knowing His message must go deep and be tended *daily*. This means we *choose* this work to acquire a profound understanding and belief. We write the vision with intention, understanding that if we don't, it's because we've allowed other things to choke God's word from our lives. Hearing Him consistently, reality sinks in and we surrender with all our heart. In time we understand that *abiding* will lead to *abandonment*.

If there is a rock of stubborn resistance inside causing us to fear or rebel we can still bring our hearts to God in the journal. He can change the condition of this ground. He *wants* to and He *will*. We've all known hardness of heart, but as we surrender it to God He will locate, expose and expel the hardness; visionwriting aids our surrender to the process.

Is not my word like fire [that consumes all that cannot endure the test]? says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks in pieces the rock [of most stubborn resistance]?

JEREMIAH 23:29 (AMP)

Visionwriting speeds up the process. As one student beautifully put it, "Visionwriting is like using a chainsaw instead of a pocket knife to cut down a tree ."

"If you want to go deeper sooner—put your
heart into visionwriting God's word."

Jaque (Banas) Shank



CHAPTER THREE VISIONWRITE TO RENEW YOUR MIND

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:2 (NIV)

In the Bible the word “heart” is more a matter of understanding than of feeling. In this verse the renewing of the mind is the renewing of our understanding, for this is where head and heart meet and work together. Our heart work is to bring our body as a living sacrifice to God’s word and to allow the Holy Spirit to write His thoughts in us until our lives are transformed by them.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

ISAIAH 55:8-9 (ASV)

In the journal, the Holy Spirit takes what is God’s and uses it to reinterpret the meaning of our lives. He weaves God’s word, the outcome of God’s thoughts, into our past, present and future and changes the significance of things until we see them differently. This new outlook means new actions, and new actions change lives.

Visionwriting God’s word into our hearts may seem a laborious road when most of us would prefer to find a shortcut. But God doesn’t offer quick fixes; He offers deep healing from an unfathomable fall. We have no idea of the kind of inner healing we need, nor of the healing Jesus Christ has provided for every wound known to man.

Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention.

MATTHEW 7:13-14 (THE MESSAGE)

God tells us to work out our own salvation. This means that no one else can do that for us. Each one has to pursue his or her own personal relationship with God to receive meaning and instruction for their lives. Those who are remiss to do so are missing much of their true lives.

When we were in school we were given homework that was required to be handed in on paper, written in ink. Think of those days as groundwork for what we are doing here. The school we attended never healed our heart or taught us how to live. We have the opportunity of a lifetime to benefit from having learned how to read and write. Let go of your ideas of what visionwriting does or doesn't mean and give God the time to teach you what you wish you'd learned in school.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13 (NIV)

“Visionwrite your heart work and end up, not
with degrees and diplomas, but with
deep rejoicing over your true life.”

Jaque (Banas) Shank



CHAPTER FOUR VISIONWRITE TO RECEIVE FATHER'S LOVE

My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and punishes everyone he accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. We have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

HEBREWS 12:5-13 (NIV)

There are two kinds of people; those who hate correction and those who love it. Those who have the true fear of the Lord love it, for they know the Lord corrects those He loves. *Loving* correction doesn't mean it won't hurt—it just means we understand that goodness is at the root of the pain, and His goodness heals and changes our hearts. God speaks tenderly in our journals, bringing encouragement and comfort that is firm and secure. If we will let the *real God* speak to the *real us*, every room in our heart will be open to His inspection, holding nothing back from His love. We will know His safety even in those times when His voice thunders, leaving no doubt He means business with us.

Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal.

JOB 5:17-18 (NIV)

God loves us too much to let us remain in sin, so He exposes hidden rebellion and alleviates confusion and anxiety by bringing us to repentance. Where lines are crooked, He makes them straight. If a shade is too gray, He makes a distinction between black and white. We make

level paths for our feet by running to the Father's love in our journal to receive correction. Nothing is hidden from God's sight. He knows it all, loves us in spite of all He knows, and uses all of it to heal us.

The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

HEBREWS 4:12-13 (NIV)

Conviction is the precursor to repentance. God's word is like a flashlight that finds dark hidden caves. What He shows us grieves us, but He uses our pain to convict us of ignorance or denial. Each conviction leads to renewed repentance where we again turn back to God to love Him with all our heart. Although truth sometimes has a heavy hand, it relentlessly loves us and is determined to set us free.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

1 JOHN 1:6-10 (NIV)

“Repentance is not just returning to God's light,
it is submitting our madness to the
Father's love for cleansing.”

Jaque (Banas) Shank



CHAPTER FIVE VISIONWRITE FROM AN OBEDIENT HEART

I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me."

HOSEA 6:6 (TLB)

Understanding is a process; it takes time. Understanding can wait, *obedience* can't. Obedience will prove God's reality to us quicker than a lifetime of theological discussions. We will not understand much about God until we *obey* Him. Holding to our favorite doctrines doesn't require obedience, but every true revelation of God will always *follow* obedience.

What do we want? A revelation of the real God? Or a false understanding that allows us to keep God in our mental cubicle? Unfortunately many Christians invent God the way *they* want Him to be. They talk a good talk but their walk is defective. They obey the commands they like but ignore the ones that seem too expensive. They allow time for God's word when it's convenient, or read the Bible but withhold forgiveness, or perhaps they attend church but won't tithe. Partial obedience is not obedience. Saul tried to give God partial obedience and God tore the kingdom from his hands.

Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.' Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?" "But I did obey the Lord," Saul said. "I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal." But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

1 SAMUEL 15:17-23 (NIV)

True believers write the vision from the bottom of their hearts to hear *everything* God has to say *and* to obey Him. We write to understand *exactly* what God intends for us to do. We will not deny His meaning, for here it is, recorded *in our own hand-writing!* However, if we don't *want* to obey we can feign visionwriting and still look good to our classmates; we can fool everyone *but Him*.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his [Saul's] appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 SAMUEL 16:7 (NIV)

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men."

ISAIAH 29:13 (NIV)

Why would we come this close to God and still withhold our heart? We are here to remind each other of what visionwriting means to God. It is worship for the heart...not the hand.

Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll wholeheartedly obey. Make me walk along the right paths, for I know how delightful they really are.

PSALMS 119:33-35 (TLB)

“ We please God by what we *do* and not
by what we *say* we believe.”

Jaque (Banas) Shank



CHAPTER SIX

VISIONWRITE CHRIST: WRITTEN ON OUR HEART

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

HEBREWS 8:10 (NKJV)

Our faith accepts Christ who is the Law fulfilled and written on our hearts. Our hands are holding the pen but the Holy Spirit is inspiring the writing. The Scripture is His; He is the one interpreting it and etching it on our hearts so that we will no longer sin against God. In the journal God preserves us through commands for repentance and obedience which are the fundamental pillars of the New Testament. What God wills is engraved into our own *willing*.

...continue to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purposes.

PHILIPPIANS 2:12 (NIV)

God is serious about writing Christ, His Word, on our hearts. He would have us never forget His commands, so much so that He says He will carve their meaning into our hearts that we should hope them, think them, talk them, write them and obey them. We will love His words so much, we would even hang signs and pictures about them on our walls.

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 (NASB77)

God's word immerses our hearts in His love. This is how we connect with His Spirit as it bears witness with our spirits. Our spirit and God's Spirit are profoundly joined as one.

Although we are *not God* we live in continual self-surrender to Him. We give up the *illusion* of a separate self, the one thing we can choose to keep or give up. When we surrender the self to God, He gives it back to us in a way that it is no longer a problem to us. Made in the image of God the problem of what to do with ourselves is finally solved by self-surrender. We no longer know our lives as we once did because now Christ lives in us *as us*. We have emptied the room of all lesser loves so He can take residence. God writes Christ into His new home and we enjoy *His life right here...right now*.

God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

COLOSSIANS 1:27 (NIV)

Outside of Christ the concept of self is nothing but death, but the moment it is placed in Christ it becomes Life, spelled with a capital "L," for it is total. This is Eternal Life, to know Him and be eternally connected to *Life*.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GALATIANS 2:20 (NIV)

“Visionwriting with all your heart is a
continual surrendering to *Life*.”

Jaque (Banas) Shank



CHAPTER SEVEN VISIONWRITE TO INHERIT THE PROMISE

*Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person **submits** to this original creation—the 'wind hovering over the water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom.*

JOHN 3:5 (TMB)

One last mention; at Visionwriters we visionwrite to submit our hearts to God. Once submitted we inherit all that He promises. A promise is a “legally binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act.” God promises to make us completely new inside by writing His will (Christ) on our hearts, that there we may know Him and so enter into the joy of His kingdom.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

ISAIAH 43:18-19 (NIV)

Jesus Christ is the way God made in the desert; He is the stream of life in the midst of the wasteland all around us. Christ *in* us is God's new thing! The new creation is the promised land offered to those who enter His rest. What is God's rest? It is pure, childlike trust realized through surrender. Surrender is intense warfare against the egocentric false self and it is hard work. Nevertheless, when we yield to God He binds the strongman (self) so we can favor Jesus more than it. He increases, we decrease. This is freedom. In union with Christ we escape the chains of selfishness.

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

HEBREWS 4:9-11 (NIV)

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

ISAIAH 30:15 (NIV)

It helps to understand how much the strongman hates words like *submit* and *surrender*. His proud ego understands these words to mean he will “lose something.” (True, he will lose his pretended life). He prefers words like “overcome, conquer, win and succeed.” However a new creation has no problem with words like “yield, submit, obey, embrace and let go” because the true self has no problem identifying with Christ. It knows this is the key to inheriting God’s promises.

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

HEBREWS 4:1-2 (NIV)

It takes faith to surrender. Faith is rest, rest is obedience, obedience is trust, trust is confidence, confidence is peace, and peace is true joy. We visionwrite the words of our surrender onto ink stained pages to show that our hearts will consistently keep covenant with God.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18 (NIV)

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

REVELATION 21:5 (NIV)

“To write God’s will,
to feel God’s will, to understand God’s will,
to surrender to God’s will *is* to inherit His Kingdom.“

Jaque (Banas) Shank



CHAPTER EIGHT VISIONWRITE FOR PREDICTABLE RESULTS

What began as a vision to listen to God and write down what we hear is actually God's plan for revealing Christ in us. The real us is meeting the real God and we are discovering Him as He is, not necessarily as we *perceived* Him to be. The Bible is full of references for writing down God's will for our life. In a concordance find the word "write" and see how many times throughout history God instructed His people to write down what He was saying.

Enjoy the following list of the predictable results that occur as we press into writing the vision the way we do it here.

VISIONWRITING...

- ❖ makes God our goal
- ❖ is true heart-work
- ❖ is internalizing Christ
- ❖ increases our awareness of God
- ❖ plants God's seed (word) deep in our hearts
- ❖ is an accelerated way to receive His Message
- ❖ leads to abiding which leads to abandonment
- ❖ speeds up the process of softening our hearts
- ❖ reveals and exposes hidden sin
- ❖ is worship for the heart, not the hand
- ❖ is writing to understand God's will so we know *what* to do.
- ❖ makes God's thoughts higher than our own
- ❖ helps us focus and fine tune our ears to His voice
- ❖ writes the vision clearly, thus helping us find Christ as our true selves
- ❖ allows the Lord to prioritize our lives
- ❖ is the string that holds the pearls of insight together
- ❖ is making God first "on purpose"
- ❖ is receiving commands so the new creation can emerge through obedience
- ❖ teaches us to receive correction as "love"

- ❖ is a routine that paves the path for spontaneity
- ❖ brings great refreshing through the conviction it engenders
- ❖ shows us the boundaries God has set for us
- ❖ imposes “maturity” on anyone who continues to listen and obey
- ❖ helps us see how free we are to love others
- ❖ imparts the discipline that works in spite of our weakness



CHAPTER NINE THE VISIONWRITER'S WAY

The Holy Spirit will use visionwriting to change our lives. Our reactions to Christ's Lordship (and life in general) are filled with a wide range of fears, absurdities, and emotional outbursts. God's presence will stabilize your emotions as you allow His Word to be written as personal dialogue to you. At its core, journalizing will:

- ❖ Lead you to trust God's action in you.
- ❖ Show you over and over again the nature of His heart.
- ❖ Show you your heart and its desire to please God.
- ❖ Reveal the grace that causes you to obey.
- ❖ Guide you toward maturity through a daily disciplined plan of action.

When you are ready to start, come with a sense of expectation, trusting that God wants to reveal Himself even *more* than you want Him to do so. Remember, too, that your "ability" to see God rests with Him. This isn't about how good *you* can hear, it's about *His* ability to speak and to make Himself known to you. In other words, when you feel as if you just can't hear, shift your focus *off* yourself and *onto* Him by reminding yourself that *He* is God and your part is simply to surrender your willingness to hear.

Visionwriting is similar to eavesdropping on a conversation already in progress and then recording what you hear. As you write, some things may sound strange, but you must write them anyway in the moment you hear them. Keep writing without stopping the flow. Don't judge what you're writing; allow yourself to be spontaneous. The Holy Spirit will sift it and will teach you what it means later. Accumulate thoughts, not judgments. Later you will check one verse against another to see if what you are hearing is accurate. For now, get it on the page. If you are willing to keep writing, you will be unblocked from fear and condemnation; you won't know exactly when or how it happened, but you will know that Jesus is narrating salvation into your heart.

Hopefully, the previous chapters have provided encouragement to start visionwriting. I can assure your Christian journey will produce more joy than ever before as you practice His presence in written dialogue. Your goal is to hear His heart; visionwriting will help you listen to the Holy Spirit's every reminder of His word and His character.

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

JOHN 14:26 (NIV)

As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him.

I JOHN 2:27 (NIV)

Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, “Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book.”

JEREMIAH 30:2 (NAS)

All this the Lord made me understand by the writing by His hand upon me, all the work to be done according to the plan.

1 CHRONICLES 28:19 (AMP)

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

When taking a Visionwriter’s course (locally or online) we outline daily scriptures that apply to the subject of study. Read the current day’s lesson and the assigned verses in your favorite version of the Bible. We believe some of the most reliable study versions are: NAS, NIV, AMP, NCV, and the NKJV. The Message is an enjoyable version for reading.

Through many translations and interpretations the truth prevails because Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be the Teacher so that His anointing (truth) would be in us no matter what version of the Bible we use. The Holy Spirit sorts it out and won’t let us miss its essence because our genuine love and intention is to hear through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is in the midst of every sincere Visionwriter making the vision plain so that on the day we are ready to run, we can run.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE READING

It would be good if you planned on reading your Bible once a year as a basis for receiving above and beyond what each lesson prescribes. Since God’s Word is always the final authority, a good working knowledge of it will help keep us from taking it out of context, and deeply enrich our capacity for vision.

Without a vision the people perish.

PROVERBS 29:18 KJV

A true vision recognizes and accepts reality for what it is; it is given to the pure in heart so they can see God. God is the real deal, and without Him people perish. God intends spiritual people to grow on spiritual food. Unless people eat and properly digest enough of it, their growth will be stunted and incomplete. A tree without water and sunshine shrivels and is bent by the winds of time, and so are un-watered and unfed believers. God wants to deliver, heal and mature us with multiple visions of Christ.

VISIONWRITING OUR COURSES

Use any paper, journal book, or computer program for writing down your daily conversation with the Lord. In your study manual the lessons are outlined, one lesson per week. Each lesson gives seven daily reading and visionwriting assignments from Scripture. If, for example, you begin your study on Monday, then begin by making Monday 'Day One'. Read the verses and roll them over in your mind. Meditate and listen to what they speak to you. Take your time. As you wait, offer praise to God and expect the Holy Spirit to make the truth revelatory. Some lessons will give you words to define in a dictionary, concordance or synonym finder; by investing time to do this you are giving the Holy Spirit more to work with, and thusly, your studies will be greatly enhanced.

For instance, when I received the instruction to "visionwrite" it came originally from God as the word "journalize." I intuitively understood God wanted me to record a portion of our daily dialogue using Scripture as my Textbook. But I had never heard the word "journalize." In those days people used the word "journaling" to describe a practice of writing down their thoughts. Wanting to make sure "journalize" was actually a word God was speaking I looked it up in several dictionaries. Sure enough, "journalize" was the word, and "journaling" was not in the dictionary in those days. By looking up the word I gave the Holy Spirit ammunition to supply the confidence I needed to continue. Later when God spoke to me from Habakkuk 2:2, I knew I was to call this ministry "Visionwriters International" and to introduce *journalizing*, according to the way we do it here, as *visionwriting*.

DAILY STEPS OF WRITING THE VISION

1. Select a quiet place to settle down and be with Him.

I've made myself available to those who haven't bothered to ask. I'm here, ready to be found by those who haven't bothered to look. I kept saying 'I'm here, I'm right here'...

ISAIAH 65:1 THE MESSAGE

2. **Read the assigned text and any additional texts you've chosen.** Meditate to the marrow, and then ask for what you need.

Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

JEREMIAH 33:3 NKJV

Listen for His voice as you ponder the verse or verses that resonate within you. Take your time. The Bible presents the Good News in written form; it is a text of saving truth, and because it is inspired by the Holy Spirit it has a language all its own. The Bible is, as a whole, Christ-centered, and in every respect points to Christ. In other words, everything written in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation presumes the Cross of Christ as its central theme; it is therefore impossible to correctly interpret the Biblical text without centralizing this fact. You will learn its language as you complete your lessons and visionwrite the meaning you receive from God who confirms the verses within you. As you become more comfortable with this language, more truth will open to you. Write it in today's vernacular—in other words, your own lingo. Look up words you don't fully understand; this will help you to better understand what God is saying to you. Slow down and interact with the passage. What is it saying to you? How will it affect the life you are living today?

If by this time you feel your heart still hasn't come to silence, you may need to spill out your guts to God. This is what the men on the road to Emmaus did before they recognized Jesus in their midst. They poured their hearts out to Him and shared their concerns with a man they, at that time, considered to be a stranger. Never mind; Jesus didn't proclaim Himself at that point, He listened and just let them talk.

Jesus listens! That's what He is like. And He will listen to you, for He knows you need to empty yourself of everything that concerns you. So talk in writing, write down your concerns and tell Him all about it. Write until the bucket of words inside you is empty, and don't judge what you're feeling or writing. Just write. When you are finished writing you should have a renewed sense of God's presence; now you can hear His voice.

3. **Write the vision. What is He saying? Write it down. Draw a word picture. This is your vision for today.** Envision the changes you want to see in your life. Visualize yourself and your life as God sees it—then as faith opens the eyes of your heart to receive, *receive*. Reflect until you have His heart; though it tarries, wait, for it will come.

Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

HABAKKUK 2:2-3 NKJV

God, Himself like a foreign language [too great for infinite minds to comprehend], has translated Himself into humanity through Jesus. Jesus is the revelation of God. The God who wants a personal relationship with you first presents Himself with skin, hair, toenails and eyelashes. A Person you can know, now, by His Spirit dwelling in you, speaks to you. Following is an excerpt from John 15 written exactly as taken from Scripture. Insert your name at the asterisk (*).

(), "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You, (*), are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit, (*), unless you remain in me.*

Paraphrasing Scripture can help when you are just beginning, but when you are comfortable enough to let it become personal, it may sound more like this:

(), unless you remain in Me you won't bear lasting fruit—the reason behind your current frustration. (*), I'm here for you; I'm the only revelation you need. Focus your attention on Me; stay with Me. Be consistent in faith and acknowledge that the words I have already spoken are the truth; they just need to be received with fresh awareness. My words will clear your thoughts (*), and keep you bearing fruit. Remain in Me, keep renewing your mind with My words. Then the fruit in your life will last. Stay with Me (*), for you can't do anything without Me.*

As you continue to visionwrite your prayers to God, the possibilities will be endless. You will hear and write things that will amaze you, for He is, indeed, your amazing God! Write down everything that's in your heart to write.

Finish writing, then return to the words you just wrote. Savor them. If you haven't done so, write down what you plan to do with this vision. Re-read it, re-draft if necessary, and put it in a nutshell. A good idea might be to craft "My Favorite Book of Nutshells" that you can return to. Remember that you own the truth you most rehearse, re-visit, and obey.

- 4. Respond with your heart back to God.** If you fail to do whatever He asks you to do with what He reveals, your prayers and desires will be, to the same extent, untruthful and unfruitful. Although you don't need to make a 'perfect' response, you will only reach God's heart with sincere intention.

"It is not what you are nor what you have been that God sees with his all-merciful eyes, but what you desire to be... St. Gregory declares that "all holy desires heighten in intensity with the delay of fulfillment, and desire which fades with delay was never holy desire at all.""

Return your love to God as you write, or give verbal expressions of praise and adoration back to Him. Remember that every interaction with God's word intends a change or conversion of your mind back to Christ. The response you give Him is not only your repentance and love; when it comes from your heart, it is the greatest gift you have to give.

Like the desire of the roe for the water-streams, so is my soul's desire for you, O God.

PSALM 42:1 BBE

As you continue loving God you will actually begin to "fall in love" with Him. More and more you will realize He is the center of your life, and soon you will understand that He is taking over.

Offer: What if the way we do it here opened your eyes to fundamental points you have missed about God's love and how to recognize the 'you' He originally created you to be? Would you study, listen, show up, and apply the knowledge, at least until you reach the point of making your own enlightened decision about it? It's your choice, and only you can see if it works for you or not, but I offer this promise: If you truly and objectively apply our courses, structure, tools, and strategy, it will change the way you see God and yourself forever.

Disclaimer: You don't need to be a good writer to be a Visionwriter. The motive isn't to become a better writer but a truer person—true to who God says you already are. Please remember that the kingdom of God belongs to simple people. Please don't complicate the process by being religious or legalistic with it. If you don't want to write every day, don't. You still belong. Never try to force God to speak; you'll hear Him when it's time. Don't pretend. God didn't bring Visionwriters on the scene to build an empire of visionwriters; Visionwriters is simply an aid to help you connect to God, but God Himself is the real deal. Be open and willing; God will employ what He wants to employ when He is ready to employ it. Our structure exists to serve God's purpose, period. Whether or not you write every day or complete every assignment found within our courses, you always belong to God and one another, so show up and rest in Him, no matter what, and trust Him to take care of the rest.

**Please visit our website if you'd like more information
about Visionwriters International.**

www.visionwriters.com



APPENDIX A TESTIMONY OF OTHER VISIONWRITERS

“Visionwriting is a means for *seeing* the transformation that is happening in me! The activity I’m accountable for is the pursuit of my identity in Christ! I hear His voice and must follow! Many changes have occurred in my perceptions of life and I’m more comfortable in my role as a “host” for something so grand as our Lord.”

Bruce H., California

“I see God’s plan through visionwriting. God had a plan, and because He is a Planner He did not forget or leave anything out. His strategy for gaining our trust is complete. His plan even included me! More than “me out of bondage” - He wants “bondage out of me.” He has promised me wholeness but there will be no “quick fixes.” He and I will walk it through.”

Zoe D., Kentucky

“As I began to visionwrite I saw that I had never had a *real* relationship with my heavenly Father. I attended a Visionwriter’s class to find out more about Him and in finding Him, *I also found Doret*. I realized I had never known *myself* at all. I will stay in this process because the truth is sustaining me on a *daily* basis. I have found my family and my Father here.”

Doret L., California

“More than life-changing, visionwriting is life-revealing! I see the truth of who I am and Who the Life in me is! Visionwriting dumps the perfect fertilizer and shines the perfect “grow-light” on my seedling of faith. It has been spring in my faith after a very long and cold winter! It is the difference between receiving a form letter and a personal, hand-written note. The first gets the job done, but the second gets the job done *and* fills me with the joy of living.”

Lee B., Pennsylvania

“I wanted to see the difference as I repeated the courses each year. I wondered if I’d have the same thoughts in my journals but I saw the truths He confronted me with last year had sunk into my belief pool, renewing my mind on a deeper level. This year I can stand on them, so I’m free to learn even more. I’m in a different place spiritually than I was last time, so He can show me new things. This journey won’t end as long as I am in this body!”

Sara M., California

“Visionwriting is one of the few ways a man has to express his deepest emotions to the only One Who can do something about them. God has become my best friend through this avenue of communication. To hear from God on a daily basis brings new meaning to the word relationship. Visionwriting takes me beyond what *I think* into what *God knows*. The added heart work assignments are like a profit and loss statement that give me an exact accounting of where I am. They call me to the accountability of what these courses are all about.”

Chuck B., California

“I am seeing the Word in a whole new light. In the past, fear cast a shadow over my ability to hear Him. In the journal He’s shown me that my heart is only able to receive the truth to the degree that I will search for it. His life in me is crying out to be manifested. I have nothing to fear. He’s used all my failures to bring me to this point of surrender. My prayer is that those in other places that He will call to Visionwriters will find each other and form community.”

Norma I., California

“I would not have the growth I’ve experienced if this work had not been required of me. This program causes a person to really think about what they are learning. Even though I have difficulty expressing myself with written words, visionwriting has become a pivotal point for learning. I like sharing what God has revealed to me. I now *want* to do this, and I know it came as a result of staying faithful to Him *in the process*.”

Michael M., New Mexico

“I’m witnessing a remarkable change in my countenance and a quickening in my journals. I see faith increasing, and confidence in my capacity to hear God. Order, consistency, discipline, right relationships, and Godly character are being born. I am daily equipped with a fresh word to assist me and have a strong sense of community, knowing that there are others on this journey with me.”

Shirri H., California



APPENDIX B

ADDITIONAL INSIGHT REGARDING FAITH

Don't fear your doubts; faith is built on true doubt, for doubt asks questions: "Is this God speaking or just me having my own thoughts? I'm not sure." If we never wondered, we'd never know for sure, and we'd never ask the questions faith was born to answer. Without doubt faith would have no reason to surface; the best of faith comes from the worst of doubt.

Faith is not opinion. It's not conviction based on rational thought. It's not a feeling that God exists, nor the fruit of scientific evidence. Faith puts the intellect of the heart in possession of truth where reason alone can't grasp it. Faith is the true connection to the One and only God, the God who is vitally alive, the God who is over all the living.

Our hearts and minds give assent to truth only because God's own authority authors and reveals it. Faith is an act of love, whereby the intellect of the heart is content to accept God on His own terms. Faith reaches beyond words and formulas to bring us the light of God Himself. Faith opens the eyes of the heart and fills it with God's divine presence. This is faith in its highest service, keeping the heart pointed and opened to God, with no other end in view.

If we rest not in God but in our formula or strategy, it is small wonder that our faith doesn't lead to a higher revelation of God but to endless controversy and division. Any formula or strategy that serves itself is just that: self-serving. It is doomed to fail, but a formula that serves the goal of contemplation is a wonderful means to a perfect end.

Know and accept by faith that you hear God. Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice." Don't just read your Bible, listen for God. We hear Him in His word, not because we're good listeners but because we are His sheep. Because His kingdom is within us, we hear inwardly but differently, because each of us is different. Because we hear Him in our own lingo we should not try to hear Him in someone else's lingo. Be yourself, listen, take notes, and write down His message so you can remember and revisit it when you need to.

You hear God in many other ways and places too. Most of us hear Him in countless circumstances, in nature, songs, art, music, books and so on. As our listening skills deepen, the forms in which we hear multiply as well. In the meantime it is always wise to practice our listening skills by taking divine counsel from the Bible.

Some people think it is dangerous or insane to tell people they can and should hear God's voice. Yes, it's wild and dangerous to the hordes of hell, but I'm asking you to do it anyway, because God wants you to.

How will you know what you hear is not just you having your own thoughts? You will know by the motive of your heart. Do you want to hear your own voice? Of course not. Since you know in your heart you want to hear God—then settle it once for all. Don't condemn your heart, but hold fast to faith. You want to hear God, so accept that it's God you're hearing and trust that God is waiting to speak to you.

Can you hear wrong? Certainly. Can a young child trying to take his first steps fall down? Yes. And most likely he'll fall several times before his steps are sure, but should he quit trying to walk because of a few tumbles? Should his parents be discouraged and conclude, "Johnny fell down; now he'll never learn to walk." No, they encourage the child to keep trying, and from taking encouragement the child walks. Be encouraged that with trial and effort hearing His voice will come.

Sometimes you may want direction for your life so badly that you will take a tumble by presuming upon God.

Therefore speak to them and say to them, "Thus says the Lord God: Every man of the house of Israel who takes his idols [of self-will and unsubmitiveness] into his heart and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity [idols of silver and gold] before his face, and yet comes to the prophet [to inquire of him], I the Lord will answer him, answer him according to the multitude of his idols,"

EZEKIEL 14:4 AMP

Hearing God through a multitude of illusions or idols, you might be tempted to manipulate a word or instruction in your journal that is not from God. You might hear or write something like, "take the job, marry the girl, or, use the money for..." or any number of specific alternatives from a self-serving motive. This doesn't mean this kind of word never comes from God, but each matter concerns the true motive of your heart and not the validity of God's voice. For a Scriptural example read the account of Balaam beginning in Numbers chapter 22. If, or when, you take such a tumble, though you reel, you will stand and regain your balance after you see and admit your error and return your heart to God. Many of us have taken such spills. Don't give up. When you are willing to face any truth about yourself, God can cleanse your heart. Simply receive His forgiveness, and move on. If in the end you still believe the word came from God, I suggest you release it back to Him, for you will fare far better. Allow Him to

reveal the meaning when He is ready, and keep your heart open to Him, no matter what.

Since you want to experience your personal relationship with God, understand there are no quick fixes here. Be grateful that God forgives every failure and encourages you to keep walking. These are humbling experiences that will help build stronger support for wobbly feet still learning to walk and stand on firm ground. Return your attention to the true purpose of visionwriting—to know and experience God in the way He chooses to reveal Himself to you. Dig deep to discover the most intimate wishes of your heart, for this is where you are truly connected; this is where He placed your most profound desires.

So will your delight be in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

PSALM 37:4 BBE

You can hear God. Keep taking the steps and learn to listen. Ninety-nine percent of prayer is listening with an ‘expectant’ ear. Learn to be quiet inside, learn to love silence, and learn to listen, for silence is a place in you from which God speaks. “Be still and know that I am God.” In silence you’ll know you’re hearing God.

When you hear Him, follow Him. Do what His voice tells you to do. You ask, “But what if I miss it?” Do you want to do the will of God? Then you will know it, and you know you will. Your heart loves Him, you hear His voice, and you will do what His voice tells you to do. That’s faith.

