



Devotional & Article Writing Starters

Topic: "Letters"

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Greetings, My Friend!

Greetings are how we greet someone in a letter.

- Greetings don't ignore people. They make them feel included.
 - God included us.
 - "Whosoever" believeth (John 3:16)
- Greetings are welcoming. They are encouraging.
 - God encourages us.
 - Joshua 1:9
 - John 16:33
- Greetings are a way of recognition. It shows we know someone.
 - God know us.
 - John 10:14
 - Luke 12:7
 - Psalm 139

Personal Greetings

A greeting is that "hello" or opening at the beginning of a letter. All through the New Testament we see the greetings in the letters (epistles).

Greetings are a personal thing.

Look how John wanted his friends greeted through one of his letters.

- He wanted them greeted *by name*.
- ... *Greet the friends by name.* (1 John 1:14)

Look at some of the Christians the Apostle Paul greeted just in Romans alone.

- Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3)
- Mary (Romans 16:6)
- Amplias (Romans 16:8)
- *household* of Narcissus (Romans 16:11)

Look what we are instructed to do.

- Greet each other with a holy kiss (1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12)
- Greet each other with a kiss of charity (1 Peter 5:14)

Greetings are personal, and we have a personal God.

- Salvation is personal so we have a personal relationship with God if we have accepted His Son.
- John 14:6

"Dear" Loved One

Ever think about why most letters start out with "dear"? Sometimes it is a sign of respect as in a business letter or to an acquaintance. On the other hand, it can be because those people we are writing to are *dear* to us. They are loved and cherished. They are "dear".

Who is dear to us?

- God
- Family
- Friends
- Others

What is dear to us?

- God's Word
- Prayer
- Worship
- Ministry
- Home
- Other (events, possessions, time, etc.)

When we think about who and what is "dear" to us, we begin to think about who and what is important to us. Who and what really matters?

Hitting "Send"

Today most people don't write actual letters anymore, but they do communicate through emails, texts, and social media platforms. That "send" will *send* your thoughts to another person within seconds usually.

- Rushing send
 - Are you thinking about what you type?
 - Are you using wisdom in your words?
 - James 1:19
 - Proverbs 29:20
- Type of words being sent
 - Are they kind?
 - Are they encouraging?
 - Proverbs 15:4

- Proverbs 15:23
- Proverbs 16:24
- Words that should be sent or not sent
 - Are you saying things that should be left unsaid?
 - Are those words your own business? (being a busybody)
 - Ephesians 4:29
 - Proverbs 16:28

We must be very careful before hitting "send". "Send" is the equivalent of opening our mouth!

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. Proverbs 21:23 (KJV)

Permission Details for "Starters" & Writing Prompts:

You may not reproduce the "starters" or writing prompts as is. You must add and contribute to the content and make your own devotional/article with them before sharing. The end result should be your own thoughts done with your own words. The "starters" and writing prompts are offered as an outline/skeleton base to build upon with your own writing on top of the "starter". Think of them as a "starter" for bread. Your loaf will always turn out a little differently even if others use the same starter as you. Be creative and bake your own loaf!