



## **Devotional & Article Writing Starters**

### **Topic: “Winter Endurance”**

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Take the ideas and build upon them to make them your own. Add in your own points, illustrations, explanations, and relating Bible verses.

#### **Mittens & Meltdowns**

Cold seems to instigate those meltdowns that we sometimes have.

- Wear gloves (or mittens)
- Warm hands will help your body warm up.
- We must use our hands to do all those good deeds that help warm our hearts.
  - Galatians 6:9
  - Colossians 3:17
  - James 4:17
  - Hebrews 10:24
  - Matthew 5:17

- When you start getting "cold" and feel a mental meltdown coming on, put your mittens on! Do something for others!

### **Keeping Your Faith When the Sun is Hidden**

It's so hard to practice our faith when we don't see any light at the end of the tunnel at all. Some circumstances just leave us hopeless. They are dark, bleak, and dreary. It's then we must keep our faith.

- Know it will be hard.
- Know we don't always see the light automatically even when we do trust God. It isn't always His will.
- Know we can endure the dark when we have such a great God.
- Strengthen yourself with Bible verses.
  - Romans 8:28
  - John 16:33
  - James 1:2-4
- Pray.
  - Philippians 4:6-7
  - 1 Peter 5:7
- Trust in God.
  - Isaiah 41:10
  - Philippians 4:13

### **Living Beyond Defeat**

You may have recently had a defeat in your life. Maybe your faith wavered. Maybe you just can't get past a defeat from your past that haunts you.

- We can't live in the past or it will throw wrenches in our future.

- Philippians 3:13-14 *...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark... (KJV)*
- Remember that old line on ABC's *Wide World of Sports* where they would show the skier gliding down and then crashing?  
"The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat".
- We must concentrate on pressing toward that "thrill of victory" by moving past our defeats in life.

**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!