

War With Words by Amy Wallace

Ever feel at war with the clock? So much to do and not enough time to get it done. Opening lines and character arcs must sparkle to command the attention of an editor. Endings must sing to maintain interest and get a response. So we pour over our words and send them out. But are they ready? Is anything missing?

The Write Start—A Covering of Prayer.

What do you pray for? My writing day used to start with asking for the Lord's direction in writing for His glory. After that, I hustled about between the opening line and that wonderful phrase "The End." Until one day when I reached a chapter on prayer in Marlene Bagnall's *Write His Answer*. Her challenge to pray the spiritual armor over my manuscripts stopped me cold.

The Battle Plan.

I grabbed my Bible and read through the scriptures. "Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued." (Ephesians 6:12-13 The Message)

What if I started my day not only seeking God's heart for my work, but also preparing my mind for battle? His Word never returns void. Even more, in praying God's Word the focus switches from my writing plans to where the focus needs to stay... on God.

Warring with the Word of God as I write keeps me focused on His ability to win the biggest battle in writing. One even bigger than the race against the clock. The most important battle is writing your story for His glory.

Add the prayer below to your writing routine and start the battle "write."

The Full Armor of God for Writers

Put on God's whole armor, the armor of a heavy-armed soldier, which God supplies, that you may be able successfully to stand up against all the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

Lord, as I am on the frontline, writing for Your glory, protect me with the armor You supply.

Stand therefore, hold your ground, having tightened the belt of truth around your loins...

Lord, help me recognize the enemy's lies about my life and my writing and refuse to believe them. Let me see instead that You have called me with a holy calling, not according to my works, but according to Your own purpose and plan. I wrap Your truth around me and stand firm in You.

Having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God...

Lord, protect my heart. Because of who You are and who I am in You, I can come boldly to Your throne and ask for the grace I need today. Help me not live by feelings, but by faith. Yet, at the same time, help me write the truth and put all the emotions necessary into my writing that will draw people to You. I wear Your righteousness, holiness, and purity today.

And having shod your feet in preparation to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news of the Gospel of peace.

Lord, show me the big picture today. Help me see what You created me for and how today is a part of my story to glorify You. Write Your gospel through my words. Help me tell Your story. Lead me into worshipping You as I work, that all I do honors You. Show me the adventure that awaits us today, Daddy. Help me rest, at peace in You. I strap Your gospel to my feet. Take me where You will today.

Lift up over all the covering shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked one.

Lord, help me believe that You are good and that You have good plans for me. Help me not look to contracts as evidence of Your favor. Help me instead see that You are the giver of all good gifts in Your perfect time. And the best gift of all is basking in Your awesome presence and enjoying You forever. I lift up the covering shield of saving faith, fully protected in You

And take the helmet of salvation...

Lord, protect my mind. Enable me to live in Your grace and extend that grace to others. Write that grace into all I type and speak. Help me to know and rely on Your love and share it with all I come in contact with today. I put on Your head covering of salvation. Thank You, Jesus for saving me!

And the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

Lord, I trust that You will fight for me, for the battle is Yours. Wield the Word of God in my heart and enable me to listen and learn. And then proclaim Your truth in all I write and say. Thank You for saving me and daily making me more like Christ. Enable me to counter the whispers of the enemy with Your holy and awesome Truth. I hold out the Word of God as a sword to go before me everywhere I go.

Pray at all times on every occasion, in every season, in the Spirit, with all manner of prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints, God's consecrated people.

Lord, I keep in step with You as I focus on You today. In all I write and all I say, let me pray without stopping. Help me remember that I fight best when I fight in prayer. Let me encourage

my brothers and sisters today as I lift them up to You. Keep me alert and willing to sacrifice my schedule to join You where You are. I love You, Lord.

Amen

Author Biography

Amy Wallace is a wife, mommy to three amazing daughters, and writer living in Atlanta, Georgia. She writes to encourage women in the painful yet rewarding privilege of motherhood. Her recent credits include The Hope Ridge series, Multnomah Publishers romantic suspense, contributing author in *God Answers Mom's Prayers*, *The Choices Teens Make*, *A Cup of Comfort for Expectant Moms*, and *Chicken Soup Healthy Living: Diabetes*.