

Arise Daily
Contribution Guidelines

Purpose Statement:

The *Arise Daily* devotional is designed to bring biblical truth, hope and encouragement to readers, as we mentor them to deepen their relationship with God.

Jesus calls us to make disciples. While on earth, He gave a wonderful example of what that means. He spent three years teaching truth and training His followers through practicing life together. AWSA sisters are already working to develop that kind of relationship with those within the sphere of their influence. *Arise Daily* is a key opportunity for even more interaction and influence: a further chance to do life together with disciples of Jesus Christ.

Devotional Content:

The goal of each devotional piece is to share what God has taught us, then flesh that principle out in practical application for our readers. We want to reveal God in each piece, because a greater knowledge of Him is the path to growth and ultimately transformation.

Articles that will best fit *Arise Daily* will include:

- Share your stories as well as your heart. Both mentors and disciples are traveling the same path. Rather than preach, we want to share insight with those who share the journey. Be **honest and authentic**. Some of our best lessons come through the humility and weakness we experience in a struggle. A transparent accounting of all our interactions with God is crucial in having an impact on readers. (Avoid the word “you” as much as possible!)
- A clear message from Scripture. That is where the power lies, after all. **Begin or end your devotional with a verse or verses** that have driven your own understanding. Please be sure that **at least one paragraph is a teaching from the Bible**. While personal story is helpful to the reader in being able to relate to the author, the power in our message is the Word of God. He uses His Word to transform (Isaiah 55:10-11). We are merely messengers of His truth!
- **One main idea**. We’re aiming at delivering one simple, clear thought readers can take away. Make anything you include in you piece work toward that purpose. Don’t try to do too much in a single devotional.
- Encourage our readers. Paul wrote that our spiritual gifts are to be used to build up the body. Our greatest source of encouragement is in keeping our focus on Jesus. **Point them to God** as their light, inspiration, and strength. He is the reason for our hope, the answer to our questions.
- Inspiration. Self-help blogs have a place, but **this is not one of them**. We’re not looking for 3 steps to improving our lives. We are looking to inspire readers to keep their focus on the author and finisher of our faith.

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- Non-divisive content. There are many important social, theological, and cultural issues in our day that are controversial within the body of Christ. This is not the place to promote or debate them. We want this blog to **minister to the Church at large** and avoid the divisive issues in the body of Christ. Below you will find an example of what a typical devotional will look like in Arise Daily.
- Articles should have a maximum count of **600 words**. This count is for content only. It does not include your Scripture passage, title, bio, etc.
- Keep your **format consistent** with the example devotional below. We want continuity in our readers' daily devotional experience.
- When quoting Scripture, please **give the reference including the translation version** you are quoting.
- In sending your submission, you are giving permission to have your work edited to fit our needs in both quality and message.
- Be sure your full name and email address is on each page of your submission.
- Please include a **picture** of yourself as well as a **short bio** (3 or so sentences) with your devotional that includes a link to your website and books you have written. While we cannot pay for submissions, we do want to promote you and your ministry! (At this writing, the AWSA magazine *Leading Hearts* has a readership of 150,000. This is a chance to share that platform.)
- Send submissions to contact@AriseDaily.com

We are excited for this new beginning and how God can use us as a collective group to build up His Church! We have such a wealth of talent, experience, and knowledge of God in our AWSA community. Let's join together to make *Arise Daily* something that will impact the world for God's glory!

Sincerely,

Julie Coleman, Managing Editor
Arise Daily

Linda Evans Shepherd, Publisher
Arise Daily

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Recipe for Success *Julie Coleman*

As a young bride, I determined to be an excellent cook. I began by collecting recipes from my family and friends, magazines, and potluck dinners. There were a few disasters early on: my husband still remembers with fondness a certain tuna casserole we had to choke down! Eventually I got brave enough to abandon my recipe cards and create my own concoctions. It's always a little scary when I do that, however; I worry until I take that first bite. I guess I will always be more comfortable following the rules-- I'm a checklist kind of girl.

That tendency spills over into other areas of my life and can even affect my relationship with God. *Just tell me what to do, Lord. I want to get the job done and check it off my list.* And hope that in my effort I have somehow earned His favor.

But God doesn't want our relationship with Him to be about achievements or obligations. Our relationship with Him began with grace: *undeserved* favor. "For by grace you have been saved, and that not of yourselves..." (Ephesians 2:8) And since the day of our salvation, our standing with Him continues to be based on nothing but His grace alone.

Jesus gave us a recipe to follow when He identified the most important command: "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind." Fellow rule lovers will note nothing specific enough in that command to accomplish and check off; it's really more of a statement on what a healthy relationship with God will look like. We must leave our ideas of earning His love, of proving ourselves worthy of His attention, of somehow making ourselves acceptable to Him, behind. All of that has already been accomplished on the cross, when Jesus bore the wrath of God for every one of our sins.

When we believe in Him, we are given the righteousness of Christ. We wear it like a uniform, with all of His awards and accomplishments pinned to its front. We are accepted. We are unconditionally loved. We don't need to prove anything to God. Christ has earned God's approval for us.

How can we cultivate the kind of love for God that Jesus commanded? When it comes to God, the old adage is true: to know Him is to love Him. The more we learn about God, His nature, His character, and His kind intentions toward us, the more we fall in love. This in turn stirs a desire to please Him, to respond in gratitude to what He has done. Rather than working a checklist, our actions will merely be a reflection of His abundant grace.

So put down the checklist and pick up your Bible. Get to know and love the God of the Universe. He gave everything for you. All He wants in return is for you to love Him back.

"The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely his." 2 Chronicles 16:9