

The Ideal Writing Life

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What is the ideal writing life? It's a place where we can focus, contemplate, and be inspired. Most writers prefer a home office or a writing space similar to the Writers Room, a nonprofit urban writers' colony in New York City. It is for writers of all genres looking for a dedicated space that is quiet without interruptions. At various desks in the giant loft space of the Writers Room, thousands of pages are written. With a dedicated place to go, especially one filled with other working writers, many writers find motivation to do their own work.

The importance of place varies among writers. Many writers choose libraries or spaces that are totally quiet and controlled, other writers find busy public places inspirational. Ben Franklin wrote in a bathtub, Jane Austin amid family life, Ernest Hemingway standing up. Mark Twain was a traveling correspondent who was inspired by his Mississippi steamboat excursions to write his novel, Huckleberry Finn.

Travel can provide a different kind of transitional space. Many writers find that the journey between places and an unanchored feeling of a foreign place will influence their storytelling. While on missionary journeys, Paul wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians in Corinth, Ephesus and Antioch, 1 Corinthians in Ephesus, 2 Corinthians in Macedonia, and Romans in Corinth. When Paul was in prison for two years in Rome, he penned Ephesians. Paul was writing letters to the early Christian church that went way beyond what he could ever imagine—touching millions of lives over 2,000 years.

Banished to the Aegean island of Patmos, Jesus' disciple John lived in a cave. John heard the Lord's voice and saw visions through a crack in the cave's ceiling that inspired him to dictate the Book of Revelation to his disciple, Prochorus. Today, thousands of pilgrims visit the Cave of the Apocalypse, where a worn rock shelf marks the place where John's scribe penned the last book of the Bible.

In the early 5th century, theologian, St. Augustine wrote The City of God, a book of Christian philosophy, while traveling from the Mediterranean coast of Africa to Italy. During his time in Ireland, British author C. S. Lewis was inspired to create the world of Narnia in his bestseller novel, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.

The ideal writing life is finding places that fuel our imagination and creativity. Whether it's in a cave, prison cell, a front porch rocking chair, a studio facing the sea, or a sidewalk café in Paris, as a writer, no matter where we are, our curiosity and reflection are met by God's guidance and anointing.

May His elegant grace pour through every word you write.

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A marketing travel copywriter for one of the largest tour operators in the U.S, Debra has published travel articles with Atlanta Intown Newspaper, as well as a 2013 featured piece on HLN/CNN TV's Weekends in America. Debra is the founding member of the Brookhaven, Georgia, chapter of Word Weavers. She lives in Atlanta with her dog Daisy and is a proud mom of two children and three grandchildren. Debra loves to travel and whether at home or abroad, she's on a quest to seek out places of adventure, inspiration, and faith. Visit her blog at <http://www.Sojourn4theSoul.com> (<http://www.Sojourn4theSoul.com>) or find her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/deb.bryant2941> (<https://www.facebook.com/deb.bryant2941>)

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