



Start Right Where You Are

The Daily Grind

Dear God,

The daily grind has got my Spirit by the neck.

There are too many things to do, and I am exhausted down to my bones.

Even the things I like to do feel like a chore, and in all this ordinary chaos, there is no room for me to make art.

But I hear you whisper that I was not created in your image to run errands.

And that a year from now, no one will remember the imperfect nutritional value of tonight's dinner, but everyone will remember the piece I create.

So, just for today, I will claim some time — ironclad, nonnegotiable, uncompromising, turn-off-the-phone time — to do the work that you designed me to do.

That is my promise to you, so that I might fulfill your promise of me.

Love,
Me



Start Right Where You Are

All I Have

Dear God,

All I have I submit to you.

All I am is created by you.

All I will be I dedicate to you.

I humble my heart to walk your path.

I submit gracefully to your will.

I feel your hand on my shoulder, your breath in my breath.

My trust in you is absolute.

Help me hear you – every little whisper.

Love,
Me.



Start Right Where You Are

Another Person

Dear God,

I have worked myself into a lather.

I am sharing my work with another person soon, and it's causing me to lose my center. I feel jumpy.

I feel worried that I will fail, that I will blow this chance. I feel terrified that I might succeed and my life will change in ways I'm not comfortable with. And I'm most concerned that nothing will happen at all.

I'm making myself miserable by living in an imaginary future, God.
Help me to live in the present moment.

As I put my hand on my heart, let me feel the soft, quiet peace that is your now. Let me be filled with the certainty that if I stay connected to you,
I will see what is fun, funny and joyful about this.,
I will quit making nightmares in my mind,
I will focus my attention on this now right now.

Our one and only now.

Love,
Me.

Start Right Where You Are

The Desert

Dear God,

I honestly thought I knew what I was doing.

Clearly, I've been mistaken.

I was so confident that what I was doing was right . . . I mean, everyone else seemed to believe it was right, too. They all nodded and smiled encouragingly. Or maybe I just thought they did.

But my willful path has led me straight into the desert.

So here I am . . . hot and bothered. Lost.

I can't even tell which direction is which.

Even my path to here has been erased by shifting sands.

So.

Here we are.

Without all that success and approval that I was so desperate for,

I can feel only you.

I can only sit quietly and feel your loving presence amid my frustrations and failures and crushing disappointment.

I imagine you whispering to me, reminding me of the truth of who I am: your favorite child, the Beloved of God.

And I sigh into myself.

Just a person, alone and not alone.

I will rest now, and give thanks. I will nourish myself now, and give thanks.

I will play in the sand and watch the sky and the clouds and feel the sun and the wind and give thanks.

And, when you and I are so moved, I might get up and start walking.

Or we might wait and let the world come to us.

We'll see.

Love,

Me.

Start Right Where You Are

Too Much

Dear God,

My whole life I feel I have been told that I cannot be the person that I am.

Too sensitive.

Too colorful.

Too loud.

Too quiet.

Too much and somehow not enough.

Today, with your strength, I claim myself.

I inhale and allow my body to know its own strength; I exhale and feel my spirit glow.

I'm stepping out of the shadows into your bright, loving, all-seeing light.

Thank you for keeping the light on.

Love,

Me.



Start Right Where You Are

Not Exactly What I had Planned

Dear God,

I have a story in my head about how my career was supposed to go.

I really thought my life would be different from this.
I mean, for a while there it was looking so promising, you know?
Frankly, I'm disappointed.

But I get it that to be disappointed is to be ungrateful.
And, come to think of it, faithless.
Ouch.

Okay. I am going to focus on the beauty of this life that you and I have created together.
And it is beautiful.
Especially without my story of "failure" or "not good enough" or "should be more successful" burying my joy.

Let's unearth all the joy we can.

And God, thank you for shining your light on my (brilliant) life that is unfolding (perfectly) in your divine time.

Love,
Me.

Start Right Where You Are

The Talent Box

Dear God,

It has been so long, I'm not sure I still have any talent at all.

I remember I used to be good at it.

I was good at it before I knew it was a talent. (I just thought everyone could do it.)

It came naturally to me. It was fun.

But that talent has been sitting in box on a high shelf in the back of the closet for so long, I'm afraid it's no good anymore.

I'm afraid I'll look like a fool if I try.

I'm afraid I'll die without ever sharing my talent.

Being caught in between fear and fear, I am paralyzed.

Be still, you say, and know that I am God.

Okay, not paralyzed, but still. Stillness. Still.

In stillness I remember that you gave me this talent to begin with.

In stillness, I can reach up, blow the dust off of my talent and maybe just start to play around with it.

Just to experiment.

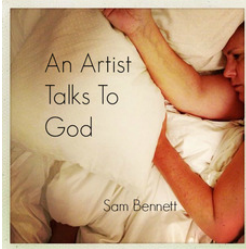
You know, God — this could be really fun.

Love,

Me.

Start Right Where You Are

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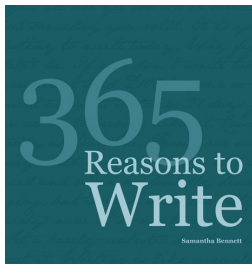
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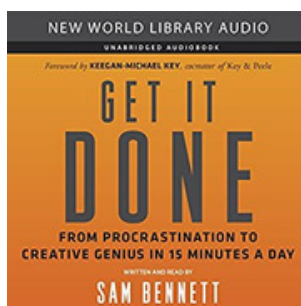
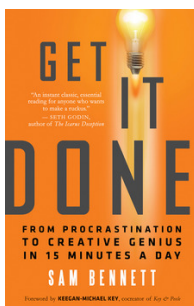
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