



RAY EDWARDS

LIVE WITH JOY LEAD WITH PASSION PROSPER WITH PURPOSE

Write Faster, Write Better

Hi, this is Frank Viola from the Christ Is All podcast at FrankViola.org and you're listening to the Ray Edwards Show with my good friend, Ray Edwards

Welcome my friends, to the show that never ends... episode 129... so glad to be here with you. For the longest time, when asked how quickly as a freelance direct response copywriter I could turn around a writing project, my answer was... *"I can write better than anybody who can write faster and I can write faster than anybody who can write better."* It usually got a chuckle and it often got me the job.

I knew somebody else had said it but I could never track down who, but finally, I invested in an extensive Google search and discovered the person who originally penned that phrase, it was American Journalist A.J. Liebling, who primarily wrote for The New Yorker. The reason that I think this quote rings true for many of us writers is actually a secret of our trade. Writing faster makes you a better writer. I believe that's true and in this week's episode I'll prove that to you.

One thing I'd like to note is how much I appreciate those who have taken the time and the effort to subscribe to the podcast in iTunes. I don't take that for granted. I know that to subscribe to a podcast is a commitment, it doesn't cost you anything but it is a commitment. It downloads to your iPhone or podcast player and there's a silent pressure that you have episodes to listen to and I know because I subscribe to podcasts and I feel that same feeling. So I want to say thank you so much if you've taken the time to subscribe, it means the world to me.

It helps other people discover the show, because there are ways we get more exposure, new listeners and one is, when you subscribe in iTunes it raises us up in the rankings and the other way is if you rank the podcast, press the star button and give it the appropriate rating you feel it deserves. Another way is when you actually write a review.

So I'm asking a favor, just like Thomas Overton did this past week. He subscribed, wrote a review and gave us a five star rating. Thank you Thomas, I appreciate that very much. Our friends at SuccessForNurses.com thank you for your rating and review. I'm asking you, as a favor, to subscribe to the podcast in iTunes and also if you would give us a star rating. I'd love a five star rating, but whatever you feel is honest and true and if you would actually write a review of the podcast and why you think it's helpful or might be helpful to other folks. I would consider it an honor and a privilege. It's how we promote the podcast. It is our marketing budget for the podcast... word of mouth.

If you've already done that you have my gratitude from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much.

Tip of the Week

By now I'm a big fan of Scrivener, which is a tool for organizing your writing and I'm working on a novel these days, as well as a couple non-fiction books so I have a lot of writing to do and it begs for lots of organization and Scrivener is the perfect tool for that. Actually, I'm not here to sell you on Scrivener this week, what I'm here to do is share with you the best training I've found on how to use Scrivener effectively.

Here's the thing about Scrivener... it is a powerful tool for writers, and many writers that you and I mutually admire like Jeff Goins, Michael Hyatt and others, use Scrivener for their writing, but what most people don't know is that Scrivener has a bit of a learning curve. It's not the most intuitive easy to use software in the world, not if you want to unlock all of its power.

Well, I've made a new friend named Joseph Michael and he has taken the title of Scrivener coach. He has a learning/training program called Learn Scrivener Fast, and I've done lots of searching for tutorials about Scrivener, as well as blog posts and how people use it. I've done lots of reading about different methods and techniques, but the best training I have come across is this training by Joseph. There is a link in the show notes that if you'll click on it will take you to the page that describes the training. Go to RayEdwards.com/129 and click on the link to find out about the Learn Scrivener Fast training program.

If you want to learn how to use Scrivener, if you want to learn it quickly and learn how to use it effectively to help you write better and faster, I believe this is for you.

Spiritual Foundations

There is a lot of spooky stuff going on in the world these days, and I don't know if you've been keeping up with the news, I don't normally consume lots of news but it's hard to avoid hearing about ISIS and some of the weirdness that's happened here in the U.S. with racial rioting, just bad things happening around the world. It's easy when you're exposed to messages about these things to think that everything has gone to heck in a hand basket, and not only that but there are plenty of people who say God is judging us. He's unleashing his judgment on humanity, because of these things that are happening.

Probably the most frightening of these kinds of refrains are the ones that come from people who like to quote the book of Revelation and other prophetic books in the Bible and say, these are the end times. This is what was predicted that there would be wars and rumors of wars. Look at all the headlines and how they match what's in the book of Revelation. Well, I honestly don't think the book of Revelation was meant to be read that way.

If you're using it that way, and some may be offended by what I'm about to say, but I think using it that way to try to compare the book of Revelation in the Bible to the headlines of today and try to make sense of what matches and what doesn't is a little bit like using horoscopes or the i-ching. It's just vague enough that you could apply nearly any current headlines to what's happening in the book of Revelation, and the reason I can say that is that book was written as a letter that was circulated among churches when they were being persecuted in ancient Rome, and it was written in code.

The code is the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible, so Christians who read the book of Revelation would have recognized all of the references to the ancient Hebrew prophecies and they would have understood what the writer was writing about. That's why the author of the book of

Revelation, the Apostle John frequently said things like, let those who can hear understand, let the reader understand, because the message was a more serious version of wink-wink, nudge-nudge, you know what I'm saying. But we don't know because most of us don't have that cultural background, so it sounds spooky and mysterious to us and can really scare you if you're listening to the interpretation of people who say the book of Revelation is a roadmap to the end of all things, to the apocalypse, the end of the world.

The apocalypse, by the way, the meaning of that word, the apocalypse of St. John which is the book of Revelation, it's the unveiling of Jesus Christ, not the unveiling of the anti-Christ. There's a point to bringing this up... if you're hearing messages, maybe you listen to Christian radio or Christian podcasts and I love my Christian brothers and sisters and we can disagree on things and still love one another, but this kind of teaching and preaching about this scary, spooky end of the world, the world is just getting worse and worse until Satan takes over, I just don't believe it's biblical.

This is not a new problem, it happened even in the first century of the church. In fact, the same guy who wrote the book of Revelation wrote letters to various churches, John the Apostle, correcting some wrong ideas that were circulating and one letter he wrote is called 1 John. It's not the gospel of John or the book of Revelation it's a letter he wrote to churches that were under his care. It's the first letter of John and it was about a response to some wrong teaching that was circulating, some false prophets that had arisen. John was responding to those false prophecies, which were basically not that dissimilar than things that are passing around today frightening people and messing them up.

I want to reassure you that I don't believe God is judging the world. I don't believe that the apocalypse is just around the corner, that Armageddon is soon to come or that any of these end of the world scenarios that you may have been hearing about are going to happen. John, in the letter I'm referring to... I'm just going to read a substantial paragraph or two because I want you to hear what John is saying to the churches.

He says, 'beloved do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the spirit of God. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-Christ, which you have heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than He who is in the world. They are from the world, therefore, they speak from the world and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.'

So what John is saying here is that there are false prophets who are speaking falsely of Jesus and that his little children, his beloved, the believers, the followers of Christ are from God and then he makes it all inclusive and says that we, who are from God, everyone listens to us who knows God and whoever is not from God does not listen to us and this is how we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. How is that?

'He goes on to say beloved, let us love one another. For love is from God and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. If in this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also

ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God. If we love one another God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.'

I know this is a long passage for me to read and I don't normally read this must scripture in the podcast, but I'm rolling up to the point that John makes, which I believe will give you some clarity when you start hearing these end of the world, Armageddon, left behind scenarios that are biblically inaccurate.

John says, by this we know that we abide in him and He in us; because He has given us of his spirit and we have seen and testified that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.

So we have come to know and believe the love that God has for us. God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. I think it was important for John to drive this point home. God is love and if we believe in God than He is living in us and we are living in him. John then goes on to say *'by this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the Day of Judgment, because as He is, so also are we in this world.*

This is really important, he's talking about Jesus here and he's talking about how we need to have confidence for the Day of Judgment. What is he speaking about? John is saying if you are in God, if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you can have confidence that the judgment is not for you. You are not being judged. Jesus is the payment for your sins, because as He is... and how is Jesus at this point and time when John writes this letter? He has risen and been glorified with his Father, so as Jesus is risen and glorified with his Father, seated in Heavenly places, so are we in this world.

Then John goes on to make this super powerful statement... *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, for fear has to do with punishment and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*

This should blow your mind. I have three big takeaways I want you to get from this and I'll tie it together so you'll see why I brought it up in relation to the Armageddon, end of the world people.

1. God is love (1 John 4:8)
2. There is no fear in love (1 John 4:18)

What this means is, if God is love and we are in him and He is in us, there's no fear that we'll be punished, that we'll be judged and that we'll suffer end of the world cataclysmic events that people tell us about.

How can we test the spirits, the prophets to know who represents Gods heart when they're talking about these things? Because, we can listen to preachers and teachers, read books and get all stirred up, fearful and freaked out about what's about to happen according to these guys, but we need to remember that we can test the spirits and John has given us the formula. If what they're preaching and teaching brings us a sense of love and confidence in Christ it's from God and if what they're teaching brings us fear and particularly fear of punishment and suffering, according to the Apostle John, that is not from God.

Feature Presentation

Let's talk about writing now and why writing faster will help you write better. That's what I believe. The practice of writing faster is frowned upon by a lot of people because it feels like if I'm going to write fast than it must be sloppy and messy and I'm going to make mistakes. And the answer to all of that is yes, glorious yes, that's exactly what's going to happen, but when you can allow yourself to write fast and write more volume because you can write fast and make mistakes and not edit as you go along, you unleash the creative beast inside you.

You can write some things that will astound you later and I know this to be true because I've done it myself. Sometimes these things astound me because they're astoundingly bad and sometimes they astound me because they're astonishingly good. Both are instructive.

Here are 5 reasons why writing faster can make you a better writer.

Before I get to that let me say this... your question at this point may be, how do I write faster? Let me give you thoughts on how to do that and then I'll share with you the 5 reasons why doing it can make you a better writer.

First, don't edit as you write. Don't correct spelling mistakes. If you're a touch typist, for Heaven sake, don't look at what you're writing just keep typing and if you're writing by hand then keep writing. Keep the pen moving or your fingers moving on the keyboard. If you're dictating then just keep talking and don't think too much about whether you're being sloppy or messy or making mistakes or even making sense.

I have found that when you plug into the passion of your message and what you're trying to communicate the right words will flow and you will write good stuff. It may need editing and cleaning up later, and in fact, it will and if it doesn't then you're not doing it right you're writing very slowly. So let yourself go. I have a very colorful analogy that I use sometimes and I refer to the first draft of anything I write as the vomit draft. I'm just going to vomit these ideas onto the page and not worry about it. I'll clean it up later, and some of you may be totally turned off by that, I apologize but it's a vivid image and it's striking and it gets the point across.

Whatever's inside me is going to come out when I write the first draft. So, let yourself have the freedom to write and the easiest way to do this is to sit in front of your keyboard or with a pen and pad and give yourself a time period. Set aside 45 minutes or whatever works for you and do nothing but write. The rule is not to stop writing, even if you have to write... I now don't know what to write so I'm just writing words because I was told not to stop writing so I'm going to keep writing until I think of something else to write. Keep the pen or fingers moving.

Now, here are 5 reasons why writing faster and continuously like this can make you a better writer.

1. You'll write more.

Stephen King says it in his book on writing... *'The two keys to becoming a better writer are to read a lot and write a lot.'* If you say I don't have time to read than King goes on to say that you are not a writer, because writers read.

I read an enormous amount of material. I'm not able to read as much as I want to. I carry books with me on my Kindle and phone and I carry physical books with me and I read in some places that people might consider rude, like standing in line at the post office or at the grocery store and

I've sometimes been chastised for reading at the dinner table so I try not to do that anymore, but I'm looking for those opportunities to fill in the gaps and read when I have time. I was in line at Subway the other day while getting a chicken salad and I was reading on my Kindle. I know people thought that was weird, but I want to squeeze in as much reading as possible.

I want to squeeze in as much writing as possible too, because it's by actually doing the writing that we get better, so writing more is good and that's reason number one. If you write faster it only makes sense that you'll write more.

2. Your skill level will improve.

Anything we do a lot over a period of time we will naturally get better at. Our skill level will improve, it's practice right, so it only makes sense that if you're writing faster and writing more that means your skill level will improve with time and if you're writing faster and writing more then that means your skill level will improve faster. Would you rather be a better writer a year from now or a month from now? I think most of us would say a month from now. Well, the way to do that is to write more than you had planned in the next month.

3. Writing fast turns off the self-editor and inner critic.

I've already alluded to this, but if you're writing quickly and you don't stop the writing process to go back and analyze what you've just written to correct it and pretty it up, than you're turning off the internal dialogue that wants to edit what we're writing, the inner critic that tells you what you just wrote is stupid. You may have that thought fly through your head but you've got to keep writing so you just continue and it doesn't stop you or slow you down.

This is good because when that stuff starts coming out of you, much of which your inner editor/critic will say no to, when you just let it flow you will go back and read what you wrote later and you will discover flashes of brilliance that would not have been produced otherwise. But because you allowed your creative dog to get off the chain, it was able to run and play.

4. The 10,000 hour rule works in your favor.

You may have read or heard about this rule that says true mastery of a subject is attained through 10k hours of practice, so if you want to be the world's best violinist or the master of a subject than you must play the violin for 10k and obviously this is arbitrary. There is no scientific data that says it takes exactly 10k hours to master violin playing or brain surgery or writing blog articles or basket weaving. For some people it may take 10k hours, whereas for other people it may only take 1000 hours.

For some skills and some people it may take a dozen hours or three dozen, but the point is, however long it takes you to master the thing that you're doing i.e., writing, than the more you do it and the faster you do it the quicker you will achieve your 10k hours, or whatever that number actually is for you. It works in your favor when you're writing faster.

I believe the final reason to be the most powerful of all the reasons. When you write faster your writing will be imperfect. It will be flawed. It will be sloppy, messy and risky. Sometimes it'll just be plain flat out bad. Certainly it'll be imperfect.

5. Imperfect practice is better than perfect intentions.

Let me illustrate this with the novel I'm working on right now.

I have had the basic idea for this story that I'm writing for a long time, years even, and I've enjoyed the prospect of thinking about it and thinking of different variations of how the story might go and how I might build it and in my mind it has always been perfect. I was just perfecting and tinkering with it, but I realized one day that I was scratching the itch to write the thing by fantasizing about it and that was satisfying my need to write it and once I realized that I realized that's not good enough.

I actually need to get it written. So I've been working on it and I've discovered that when you actually start working on your outline and writing the text of the novel, it's imperfect. When you go back and review yesterday's work you discover that you could have written it so much better, that it's not perfect like it was when I was dreaming and fantasizing about it in my head. Even though the practice of writing this book is imperfect, it is better than the perfect intentions I had up until now. Another way of putting it is that you may look at my writing in my blog and in my books and say you're not really that great a writer, and in fact, some have said that.

I'm okay with that that's your opinion and you're entitled to it, but in most cases I could if I wished, reply by saying well, my bad book is 100% better than the book you don't have. Something to think about.

What level of output are you truly capable of as a writer?

What to Do Now

The question for this week's episode is... How fast do you write?

I'd love it if you'd leave a comment at RayEdwards.com/129 and let us know how fast you write and what techniques might you employ after hearing this week's episode that will have you write faster. Are you going to write faster so that you can write better?

Next week our episode topic will be 10 Ways to Unbusy Yourself. Do you ever feel like you're so busy you can't get anything done?

Transcripts of these podcasts are available by clicking the link in the show notes. Transcripts are provided by our friends at SuccessTranscripts.com, a great solution if you need your podcast, sermon, speech or other audio/video transcribed.

Until next time, I pray that God blesses you with crazy good favor, simply because He loves you!