

# Chapter-Building Tips for Devotionals, Memoirs & Nonfiction Books

Compiled by C. Ruth Taylor – The Authorpreneur Secret\$™ Coach

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## Before You Begin

- Don't stress about **word count** — focus on getting your **ideas and message** out first.
- Think about:
  -  The **main message** of your book
  -  Your **target audience**
  -  The **pain points or problems** you're addressing
  -  The **prescription or solution** you're offering

Once you know these, you can map your book effectively.

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## Writing Devotionals

### Step 1: Decide the Format

- 10-day, 21-day, 30-day, 40-day, 52-week, 90-day, or 365-day devotional?
- The number of days = the number of chapters or devotionals.

### Step 2: Use a Consistent Structure

Each devotional entry should include:

- **Topic/Title:** The central idea
  - **Scripture:** Supporting verse(s)
  - **Explanation:** Insight or teaching
  - **Story:** Personal or biblical illustration
  - **Reflection Questions:** (optional)
  - **Prayer/Action Point:** (optional)
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## Writing Memoirs & Personal Stories

### Step 1: Map Your Story

- Decide on the **scope** of your story — your whole life (autobiography) or a **specific season** (memoir).
- Ask: What key message or transformation do I want to convey?

## Step 2: Plan the Flow

- Go **chronologically** (childhood → adulthood), or by **themes or lessons learned**.
- Choose how many chapters fit your journey:
  - Example: 12 key life lessons, 21 reflections, or even 60 chapters for a milestone birthday story!

## Step 3: Build Each Chapter

Include:

- A **central idea or theme**
- A **story** (before, during, after the event)
- An **aha moment** or lesson learned
- A brief **takeaway** for the reader

### Memoir Tip:

Not everything in your life belongs in the book.

“Not everything good fi eat, good fi talk.”

Include only what serves your message.

## Writing General Nonfiction

### Step 1: Create an Outline

- Brainstorm potential **topics or lessons**.
- Think of it as your **table of contents in draft form**.

### Step 2: Choose Your Model

-  **Seminar Model:**  
Imagine your book as a 4–6 hour seminar.
  - What’s the **main theme** (book title)?
  - What would each **session topic** be? (those are your chapters!)
-  **Blog Series Model:**  
Think of your book as a **series of articles** on related topics.
-  **TED Talk Model:**
  - Begin with a **story or question**
  - Present your **core idea**
  - Provide **evidence, examples, and explanation**
  - End with a **powerful takeaway or activity**

## Building Each Chapter

Use the **P.E.E.L. / C.I.E.L. Technique**  
(*Point → Example → Explanation → Link*)

Each chapter should include:

1. **Central Idea / Topic**
2. **Example or Story**
3. **Explanation / Evidence / Statistics**
4. **Learning Activity or Link to Chapter topic or Next Chapter**

💡 “Seal it” by closing with a reflection or bridge to the next idea.

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## Writing Process Tips

- **Brainstorm first**, then write freely. Don’t edit as you go.
- Use a **timer (30–60 minutes)** to stay focused.
- Once done, **edit later** for flow and clarity.
- **Quotes** and **scripture verses** add depth and reader engagement.
- **Structure can change** as you write — that’s okay!
- Get feedback or a **structural edit** when your draft is done.

💖 “Write with the heart, edit with the head.”

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## Bonus Tip: Use AI as Your Writing Buddy

When stuck:

- Tell ChatGPT your topic, key points, and tone.
  - Ask it to help **expand ideas, find examples, or suggest statistics**.  
Then review and **personalize** what it gives you.
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## Final Thoughts

- Your goal is **progress, not perfection**.
- Once your ideas are on paper, editing and structure will refine it.
- Remember:

“Of making many books there is no end — so go pen it, tune it, and dominate authorpreneurship!”