

## EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

This page has been created to assist writers in creating posts for Chronic Joy. The guidelines provided are not the only or best guidelines but are the ones used as we edit submissions. As you write for Chronic Joy, review your words with these ideas in mind:

1. Scripture references:
  - a. Should be included by italicizing the words. If a quote is within the reference (*Jesus said, "Take my yoke ...,"* e.g.), those phrases can be appropriately set apart with additional or original quotation marks.
  - b. Avoid centering scripture quotations. Mobile devices, tablets, and computers – each display text differently, and centered text often only looks good on one but not on others.
  - c. Linking scripture references to an online source is a solid and helpful practice. We prefer Bible Gateway, but other respected sources are acceptable.
  - d. References should not be abbreviated. The version used should be included, if not including a link.
2. When creating reflection statements, use a question format. Questions are good thought-starters and, carefully phrased, can inspire the reader to move in a new direction.
3. Names of medical conditions are lowercase. Capitalization is appropriate only if a person's name is in the condition's name (e.g., Hashimoto's disease).
4. Characteristics of God (peace, comfort, presence) are best-left lowercase so that the actual names of God receive precedence.
5. The use of "own" with "my," "his," and "their" (although sometimes helpful) is unnecessary since the two words mean the same thing. We use the word combo often when speaking, but it can be redundant in written prose.
6. Beginning a sentence or paragraph with a conjunction like "and" or "but" (although VERY common in contemporary writing, especially on blogs) is less than desirable. If the thought beginning with a conjunction IS closely related to the preceding thought, it can be connected with proper punctuation. There is nothing wrong with a longer, complex sentence – which is read by the reader with ease and understanding.
7. Adverbial and adjective phrases should be near the verb or noun they modify. For example, "When we moved to Tennessee, God became more evident to me" should be "God became more evident to me when we moved to Tennessee," or "Beautiful and radiant, I saw the bride walk down the aisle" is more correct as "I saw the beautiful and radiant bride walk down the aisle."
8. Strong nouns and verbs create more meaningful content. Limit the use of adjectives and adverbs, as many will be removed.
9. Ending a sentence with a preposition is okay in casual and informal writing, but please avoid ending sentences with prepositions in articles/posts submitted for publication.