

CHRISTIAN HAIKU

The 17-Syllable Devotional



By Clark Osborn

Inspiration

Haiku is a Japanese poetry form that consists of just three lines, the first and last containing just five syllables and the middle one seven. Two years ago, I had never even heard of Haiku. Our son Josh brought it home from school as a homework assignment. Once he explained what it was and how it worked, I was hooked. A wordsmith at heart with a penchant for being more than just a tad verbose, Haiku forced me to get my thoughts out in just 17-syllables. While my early efforts were more of a secular and comedic nature, God quickly showed me that this was something He had given me to do for Him. To borrow a line from the movie “Chariots of Fire”, I feel God’s pleasure when I write.

Of course I’m really not writing anything that hasn’t already been written, I’m just writing it a little different. To be certain, it is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit which have provided any and all inspiration in the following pages.

Acknowledgements

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Thanks also to the many of you who committed to supporting this project, giving me the confidence and the resources to pursue getting “Christian Haiku” into print.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to Jesus, my wife Julie, my two sons Joshua and Timothy and to the memories of Arthur, Amy, Nancy, Ted & Donna.

NAVIGATION



*Life navigation
If you can't take direction
You're gonna' get lost*

I know, God, that mere mortals can't run their own lives, That
men and women don't have what it takes to take charge of life.
So correct us, God, as you see best. Don't lose your temper.
That would be the end of us.

Jeremiah 10:23-24 (MSG)

Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow.
Psalm 25:4 (NLT)

Your teacher will be right there, local and on the job, urging you
on whenever you wander left or right: "This is the right road.
Walk down this road."

Isaiah 30:21 (MSG)

Train me, God, to walk straight; then I'll follow your true path.
Psalm 86:11a (MSG)

PERSPECTIVE



*I see my failures
The me I'm going to be
That is who God sees*

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 (NASB)

'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB)

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Micah 7:18-19

HOLY SPIRIT



*Holy Spirit come
To be the me I'm to be
I need more of You*

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing—you're at least decent to your own children. And don't you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?"

Luke 11:10-13 (MSG)

VESSELS



*How can God use you?
Endless possibilities!
Beyond conception*

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
Ephesians 3:20

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!" The Lord said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

Judges 6:14-16 (NLT)

PREPARATION



*Seat belt lights are on
Turbulence awaits us all
Will you be shaken?*

So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time. "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

Mark 13:23-27

I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalms 16:8

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*Quiet time with God
If you're not intentional
It just won't happen*

Our Heavenly Father longs to spend time with us. He longs to impart love, joy, peace, comfort, wisdom, counsel, guidance, direction... to those who would seek Him in relationship and as in any good relationship, doing so requires our proximity and our time.

The battle for our time has never been more intense and the enemy of our souls will do anything he can to keep us from being with God. He knows that everything we need is found in God and that together with God, we can do anything. I pray that for you, this book is at least some small help in the battle.

In Him, Through Him, For Him

