

PRAISE FOR  
LETTERS FROM THE MOUNTAIN

“From a passionate father’s heart to encourage and equip his daughter to love and pursue writing, we have *Letters from the Mountain*. In the interest of full disclosure, though, the lessons are for all writers, young and old, and in reality, not just for writers but for each of us who daily go out into the world to write our own stories as living epistles. While the book addresses the essence of writing, the wisdom and insights Palpant communicates in his lessons are universal. As an “old” writer, I was blessed and inspired to keep climbing my mountain and to leave some trail markers along the way for others to follow. I wish I had this book thirty years ago. I love it.”

—Cynthia Heald, author of *Becoming a Woman of Simplicity*

“Writing is a form of communication but it ultimately seeks to become a form of communion—between hearts and minds and between the generations. If you seek a wise and generous guide to how communication—through love, prayer, and the mastery of craft—can grow into communion, *Letters from the Mountain* is a wonderful place to start.”

—Gregory Wolfe, author of *Beauty Will Save the World*

“This book is a beautiful work of grace, bound by love and fueled by art, a blessing in every sense to the reader. I enjoyed every word.”

—Jeff Goins, author of *The Art of Work*

“In the beautiful epistolary tradition evocative of Rilke, Ben Palpant examines what it means to be an attentive writer of faith, and to pass the creative commending of God’s mighty works to a future generation.”

—Carolyn Weber, author of *Surprised by Oxford*

“Sometimes you can read just one sentence and know that the writer has a gift. Ben Palpant is one of those people. This book on writing, framed as a series of letters to his daughter, is a window into his big, generous, and pastoral soul. There’s a lot of wisdom here, and I’m grateful for the way Palpant is using his gift to give it away.”

—Andrew Peterson, singer/songwriter,  
author of *The Wingfeather Saga*

# LETTERS FROM THE MOUNTAIN

**OTHER BOOKS by BEN PALPANT**

**POETRY**

*Sojourner Songs*

*The Stranger: Meditations on the Christ*

**NON-FICTION**

*A Small Cup of Light*

*Honey from the Lion's Mouth*

**CHILDREN'S STORIES**

*Pepin and the Magician*



**LETTERS**  
FROM THE  
**MOUNTAIN**

B E N P A L P A N T



RABBIT ROOM  
— P R E S S —





## FURTHER READING

### CHAPTER 1: THE MOUNTAIN BECKON $\delta$

*Wind, Sand and Stars*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

*Adorning the Dark*, by Andrew Peterson

*Art + Faith*, by Makoto Fujimura

### CHAPTER 2: THE WRITING LIFE

*Culture Care*, by Makoto Fujimura

*Letters & Life*, by Bret Lott

*Letters to a Young Poet*, by Rainer Maria Rilke

*Culture Making*, by Andy Crouch

*For the Beauty of the Church*, edited by W. David O. Taylor

### CHAPTER 3: THE $\delta$ ANCTIFIED IMAGINATION

*Ironies of Faith*, by Anthony M. Esolen

*You Are What You Love*, by James K. A. Smith

*A Grace Revealed*, by Jerry Sittser

*Chance or the Dance?* by Thomas Howard

*Surprised by Joy*, by C. S. Lewis

### CHAPTER 4: GRATUITOUS BEAUTY

*Beauty Will Save The World*, by Gregory Wolfe

*Seeing the Form*, by Hans Urs von Balthasar

*Notes From The Tilt-A-Whirl*, by N. D. Wilson

*Awe*, by Paul David Tripp

### CHAPTER 5: THE CRAFT $\delta$ MAN'S WAY

*Mystery and Manners*, by Flannery O'Connor

*Second Thoughts*, by François Mauriac

*Wordsmithy*, by Douglas Wilson

*Zen in the Art of Writing*, by Ray Bradbury



CHAPTER 6: LEARNING TO REST

*Why We Sleep*, by Matthew Walker, PhD

*The Intellectual Life*, by Antonin Sertillanges

CHAPTER 7: LISTEN

*Book of Hours: Love Poems to God*, by Rainer Maria Rilke

*The Peregrine*, by J. A. Baker

*Wisdom of the Sands*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

CHAPTER 8: BALLAST

*The Confessions*, by St. Augustine

*Systematic Theology*, by John M. Frame

*Simply Jesus*, by N. T. Wright

*Knowing God*, by J. I. Packer

CHAPTER 9: CONDUIT OF LIFE

*The Pursuit of God*, by A. W. Tozer

*Mere Christianity*, by C. S. Lewis

CHAPTER 10: CONTENTMENT AND AMBITION

*The Whole Christ*, by Sinclair Ferguson

*The War of Art*, by Steven Pressfield

*A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, by Eugene Peterson

CHAPTER 11: TIME

*Do More Better*, by Tim Challies

*The Screwtape Letters*, by C. S. Lewis

CHAPTER 12: THE GIFT OF THE MUNDANE

*A Theology of the Ordinary*, by Julie Canlis

*The Supper of the Lamb*, by Robert Farrar Capon

*Chance or the Dance*, by Thomas Howard

CHAPTER 13: COMMUNITY AND SOLITUDE

*Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

CHAPTER 14: ANXIETY

*Art and Fear*, by David Bayles and Ted Orland

*Guilt and Grace*, by Paul Tournier

*Gentle and Lowly*, by Dane Ortlund

CHAPTER 15: SUFFERING

*A Grief Observed*, by C. S. Lewis

*A Small Cup of Light*, by Ben Palpant

*A Grace Disguised*, by Jerry Sittser

CHAPTER 16: HANDLING CRITICISM

*Markings*, by Dag Hammarskjöld

CHAPTER 17: THE ARCHITECTURE OF GOOD WRITING

*On the Art of Writing*, by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch

*How to Grow a Novel*, by Sol Stein

*On Writing*, by Stephen King

CHAPTER 18: SELF-DOUBT

*Walking on Water*, by Madeleine L'Engle

*Prayer*, by O. Hallesby

CHAPTER 19: BENEDICTION

*The Return of the Prodigal*, by Henri Nouwen