

Five Things DeWard Publishing Wants from a Prospective Author

1. A book that is marketable. DeWard Publishing Company is a for-profit business. As such, we want to publish books that people will buy.

2. A book that complements the company. This does not mean that we must agree on every point of doctrine or scriptural interpretation in order to enter a business relationship. It does mean that we cannot have completely conflicting approaches to Scripture or one's relationship with God. These and other points will be judged by conversations with potential authors and reading submitted manuscripts, not by a checklist or questionnaire posted on this site.

3. A small ego from the author. We understand that you have your own vision for your book; we will seek to honor that vision as much as possible. But you must also understand that contracting with a publisher means you are giving up some control of that vision.

a. DeWard has its own style guide for its publications. If your book is published with us, it will be published by those guidelines. This will ensure consistency throughout the book and a professional look to the text. The author must be prepared for both edits to content and stylistic changes.

b. Publication of your book is not an overnight process, nor will your book automatically jump to the top of our priority list. Expect at least six months from signing the contract to publication of your book. We will let you know if more (or less) time than this will be required.

4. A polished manuscript. While DeWard does engage in the editing process, we do not want to undertake a complete overhaul of a manuscript. Our Content Manager suggests that each prospective author share his manuscript with at least two or three people—each with a different specialty (*e.g.*, a grammarian, a preacher, an “Average Joe,” *etc.*)—before submitting it for our review. Demand that your readers be brutally honest and then brace yourself for it. This process will both improve the quality of your manuscript and expedite the publication process.

5. A complete manuscript. While we may begin discussions about your book prior to its completion, no firm deals or other commitments will be reached until your manuscript is complete. Part of a manuscript being complete is the proper documentation of any quoted works. DeWard prefers the Chicago/Turabian style of footnotes for documenting quoted works. See *The Chicago Manual of Style* website for details on properly citing your sources: www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.