

INSTALL SSL ON WORDPRESS

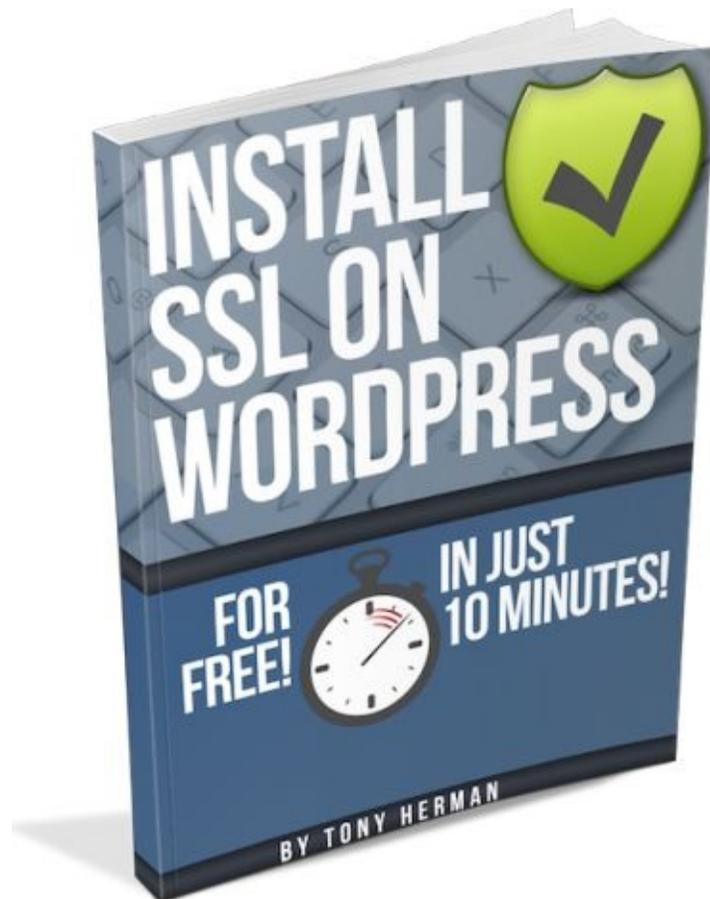


**FOR
FREE!**

**IN JUST
10 MINUTES!**

BY TONY HERMAN

Install SSL on WordPress For FREE - In Just 10 Minutes!



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www.TonyHerman.com

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Version 1.1

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Introduction

Every website should be using SSL encryption for every page. This is now the standard. At my website design company, we've been doing this a while now and I realize this book will soon become outdated but as I write this, some websites still have not made this change.

I saw a course recently where they said you could get your website secure and it was a 3 hour course. I just thought that was too long, so I wrote this book on how to do it in far less time because it really shouldn't take that long.

I won't waste your time with too much intro stuff here but I wanted to mention a few things.

It's now easier than ever to get your website running securely. Doing this does not mean your website is secure and safe from hackers – that's another kind of security. With making pages secure with an SSL certificate, you're just encrypting the communication between the server where the website is hosted and the computer/device accessing it.

The Internet is open and anyone can see what traffic is passing them if they want. When you use SSL, you set up an encrypted stream of communication that only your computer and the server it's coming from can understand. To anyone else in the middle, it looks like gibberish. So this is what we're doing.

You can get free SSL certificates now from Let's Encrypt (letsencrypt.org) and I'll show you how to do this. This means you don't have to buy one from your host or another place unless you need a stronger certificate.

This book assumes you have a WordPress website, you know how to login to it and it'll be helpful to know what FTP is. The resources section of this book gives you some more guides on how to do this – one guide following steps on a website and another is a video guide to setting up SSL (I created both).

Why Do You Need an SSL Certificate?

What SSL does is encrypt the information from your website (web server) to the website visitor's computer (or phone). The data being sent between the two will be encrypted so that it cannot be intercepted. This is different from securing your website from hackers (which I explained previously) – this is network security. Google also wants every website to be secure and they give you a little SEO boost for doing it. Every new website being developed now forces SSL on every page. It also increases trust, which is good for your company and brand. Previously, only pages like credit card forms or forms with sensitive information were secured but now all pages are. The good thing is that it's now easier than ever. The two hurdles that used to be in the way of doing this were that first, a dedicated IP address was needed (versus a shared IP address) and that cost some money per month (usually) from your host. Secondly, SSL certificates used to be a little bit expensive.

Now, you can get them for free and that is what we're going to do here.

The process to do this is simple and you don't need much – just a free plugin and another website that's out there.

Maybe You Already Have SSL

First, before I explain all the steps and the process, check your hosting control panel. This is where all the settings are for your website hosting. You're able to work with the database, sometimes set up email accounts... that kind of thing. It's usually called cPanel or Plesk or it may be integrated with where you registered your domain name – like with GoDaddy, for example.

Login and look for SSL settings. You may have something called “Let's Encrypt” already installed or your website host might already be giving you a free SSL certificate from this service.

Maybe your host already has an SSL certificate set up for you. This is highly possible. To test this, go to your website and right click on an image or two. Either look for the “Copy Image Address” option or the “View Image” option or maybe it says “Properties” as an option. What you want to do it just view one image on your website.

If you copy the image address, then paste that address (URL) into the address bar of your web browser. It might look like this:

<http://www.tonyherman.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/tonyherman-dot-com.png>

You'll see just the image appearing in your web browser.

To do this test, just change the “http” to “https” in the address bar and hit enter.

With the example here, it'll change to this:

<https://www.tonyherman.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/tonyherman-dot-com.png>

You will then see the image again with a lock symbol in the address bar or your browser will give you a warning. If you see the lock symbol, then you have an SSL certificate already installed. If you get a warning, then you don't.



If you have it installed already, then skip to the “Force All Pages to Load Securely” section of this book.

If you don't have one installed yet, then read on.

Option in cPanel

If you see an option in your hosting control panel for “Let's Encrypt” (or sometimes called “AutoSSL”) then you may be able to get your SSL certificate that way. This method is preferable since, in many cases, the website hosting

control panel will renew your certificate for free every month or two – versus you having to do it manually. Explore this option if you have it.

Create Your SSL Certificate for Free

Head over to the SSLForFree.com website. You don't need an account but I find it's convenient to create one because they help you keep track of when they expire and so forth, so create an account.

Once you've created an account and logged in, go back to their home page and enter your website's domain. You can enter the "www" version of your domain or the "non-www" version. This website will actually create an SSL certificate that works with both, so it doesn't matter which one you enter.



Next, click on the "Create Free SSL Certificate" button and you're given 3 options:

- Automatic FTP Verification
- Manual Verification Upload
- Manual Verification (DNS)

I prefer the Manual Verification Upload because it's easy to do, so let's do that. Click on that option.

SSL FOR FREE Certificates Logout Need Help?

Free SSL Certificate Validation for "helpwithfb.com, www.helpwithfb.com"

[\(Add / Edit Domains | Regenerate Account\)](#)

Verify that you own the domain through your web server or if your domain is not yet on a web server then verify it through the DNS. This prevents other people from getting an *SSL certificate* for your domain. By continuing you agree to the [Lets Encrypt service agreement](#). You may need to whitelist 66.133.109.36 if your website is behind a firewall. **If you receive a 504 Gateway timeout and cannot connect anymore then open another incognito/private browser or a different browser to connect again.** If you have your own CSR use manual verification and input it after generating domain verification files. If you use IIS on Windows you may have to do **additional steps**.

Automatic FTP Verification
Enter FTP information to automatically verify the domain

Manual Verification
Upload verification files manually to your domain to verify ownership.

Manual Verification (DNS)
Use this if you cannot verify through a web server or cannot use port 80 or 443. You will be adding a TXT record to your DNS server.

It'll explain that you're going to use FTP, so click on "Manually Verify Domain" button – that's all you have to do to keep going.

Automatic FTP Verification
Enter FTP information to automatically verify the domain

Manual Verification
Upload verification files manually to your domain to verify ownership.

Manual Verification (DNS)
Use this if you cannot verify through a web server or cannot use port 80 or 443. You will be adding a TXT record to your DNS server.

Manually Verify Domain (HTTP Server)

If you do not have your FTP information then follow the following steps to verify domain ownership manually. The server will need to be on port 80 if HTTP or 443 if HTTPS.

1. Get domain verification files by clicking the button below
2. Upload domain verification files to domain ([Need help?](#))
3. Download your **free ssl certificate**

Manually Verify Domain

Next, it's giving you files to download and upload to a certain folder on your website using FTP. Click on the files to download them to your computer. You'll need to upload them to your website using FTP. So use your FTP software to go into your website and create a folder called:

.well-known

It must be exactly like that with the dot at the beginning and the dash.

If you don't know what FTP software is, then here's an article explaining it for you:

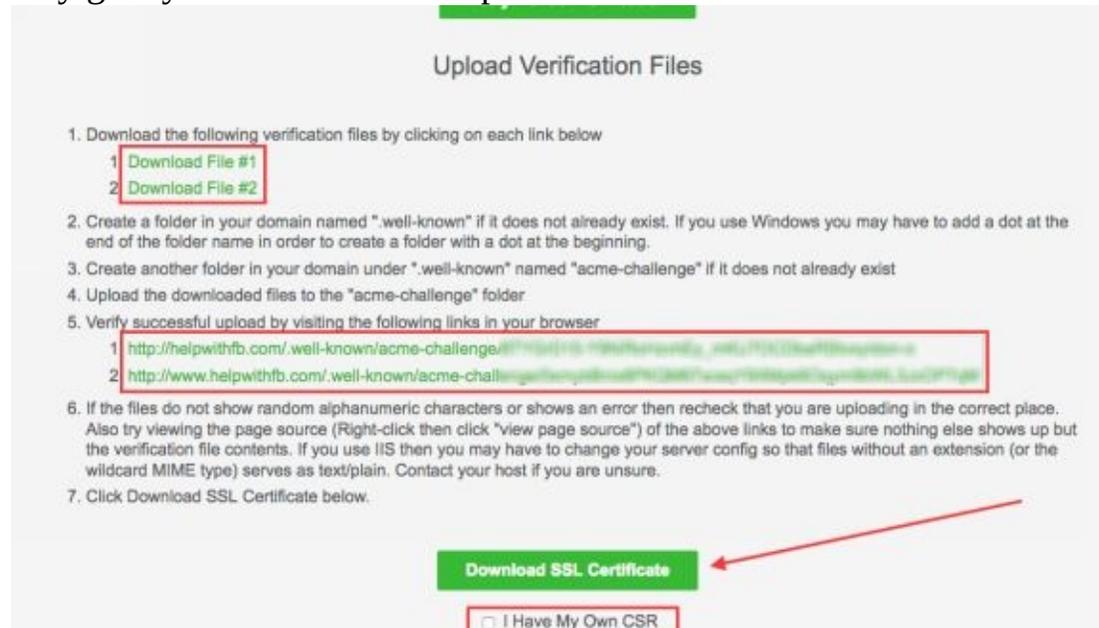
<https://www.tonyherman.com/what-is-ftp/>

Next, go into the “.well-known” folder and create another one called:
acme-challenge

There isn't a dot in front of this one.

And then go into that folder and upload the two files – both of them. The files have long names that look like gibberish but don't change the file names.

You can test that it's working and that you did it right by clicking on the links they give you. Each link will open in a new tab.



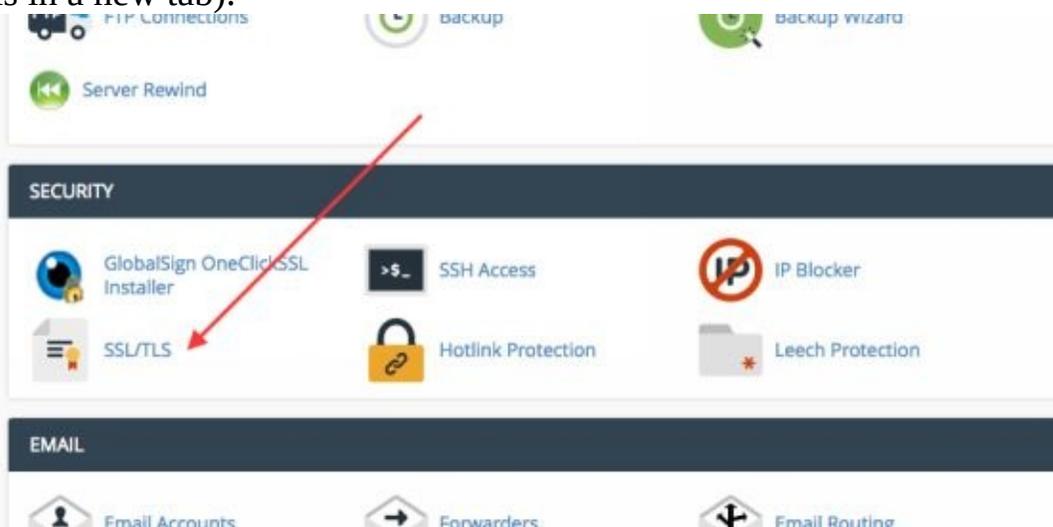
The screenshot shows a page titled "Upload Verification Files" with a list of instructions. A green bar highlights the title. A red box highlights the first two instructions: "1. Download File #1" and "2. Download File #2". Another red box highlights the verification links in instruction 5: "1. http://helpwithfb.com/.well-known/acme-challenge/..." and "2. http://www.helpwithfb.com/.well-known/acme-challenge/...". A red arrow points to the "Download SSL Certificate" button. Below it, the "I Have My Own CSR" checkbox is highlighted with a red box.

If you see a plain white page with text on it, then each one works. If you get a 404 error, then you didn't upload the files to the right place, so try again.

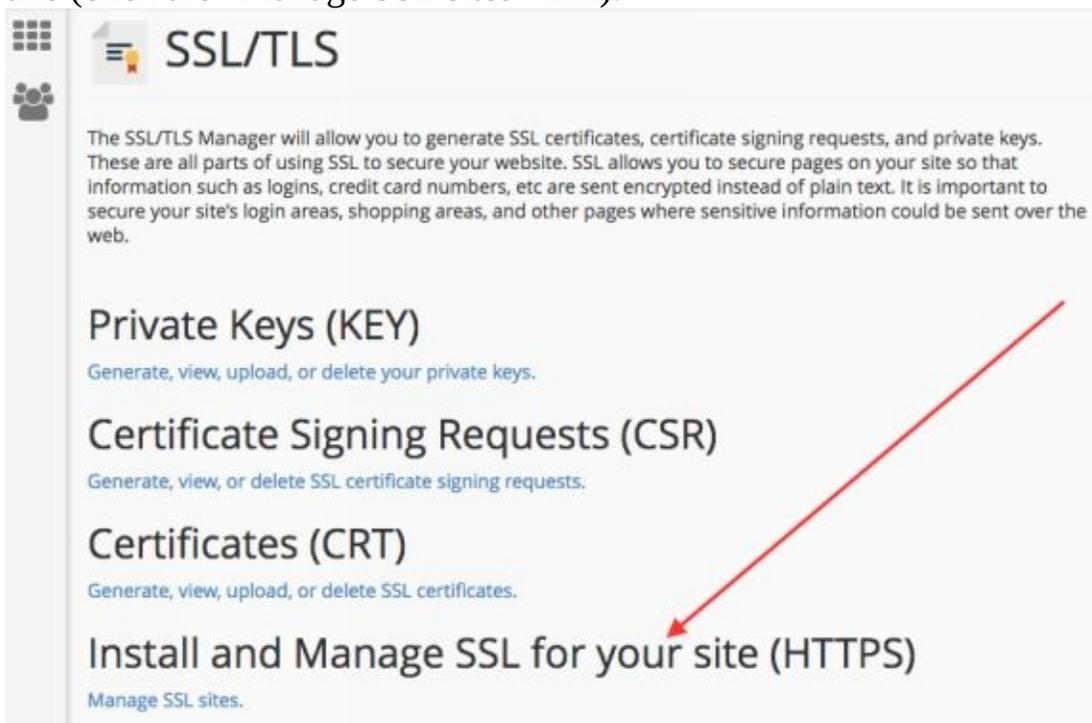
The next step is to click on the “Download SSL Certificate” button. Make sure you leave the “I Have My Own CSR” check box unchecked. We're not providing one (this way is a lot easier if you use cPanel).

Connect the SSL Certificate With Your Hosting

Next, go into your hosting control panel (cPanel) and go into the SSL section (do this in a new tab).



Next, go to “Install and Manage SSL for your site (HTTPS)” – which looks like this (click the “Manage SSL sites” link).



Scroll down on this page until you get to the “Install an SSL Website” section. Choose your domain from the list.

You’ll notice these 3 areas:

- Certificate: (CRT)
- Private Key (KEY)

- Certificate Authority Bundle: (CABUNDLE)

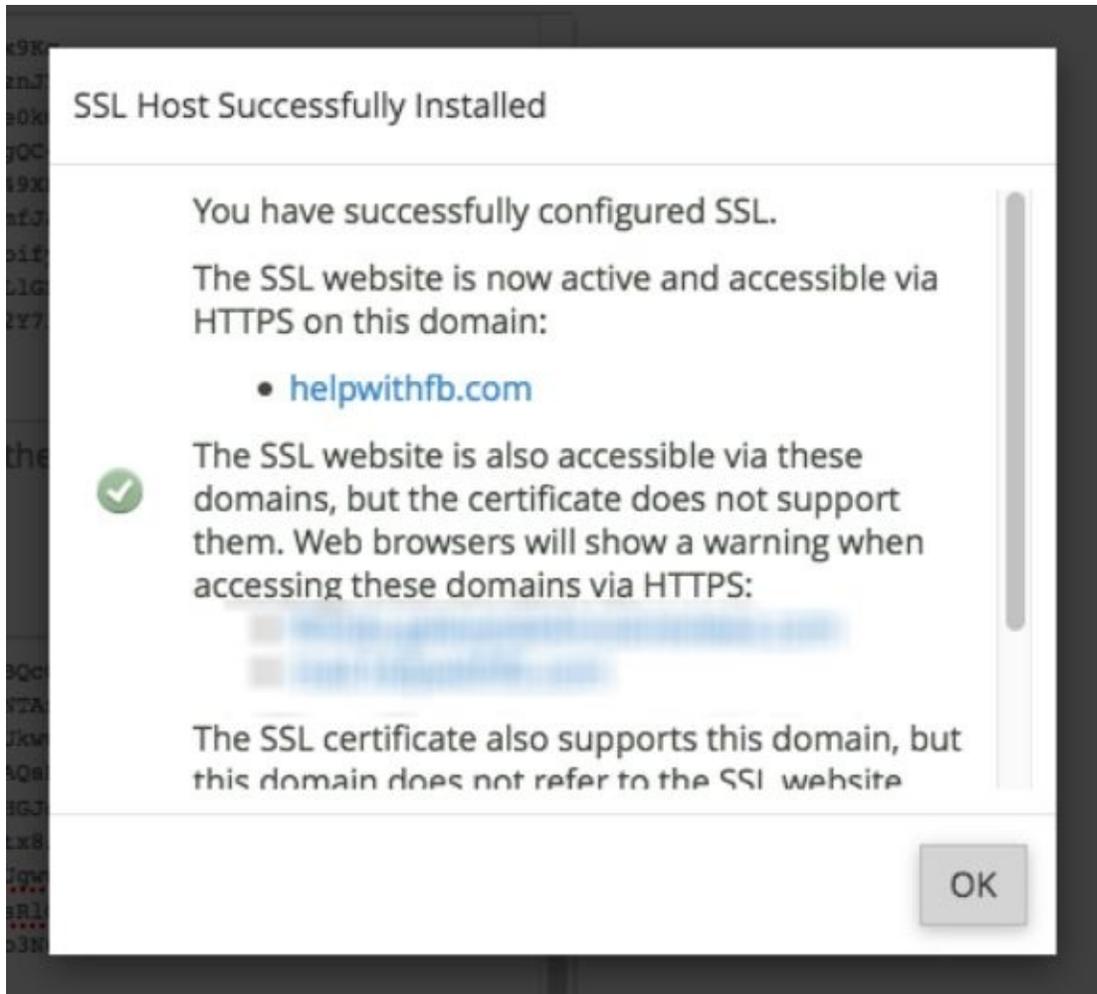
And if you go back to your browser tab with the SSL for Free website, you'll notice these 3 areas:

- Certificate
- Private Key
- CA Bundle

As luck would have it, they match up!

All you do here is copy from one page to the corresponding place on the other page. I like to do a Control-A to select all, then Control-C to copy and Control-V to paste (or the Command key on a Mac). You should select all of the text there – even the “—BEGIN CERTIFICATE—” type text you see at the beginning and end of each.

The private key is important. You do not want to share that with anyone or let anyone see it.



This part is done. You have SSL set up on your domain and we'll now force all pages to load securely.

Force All Pages to Load Securely

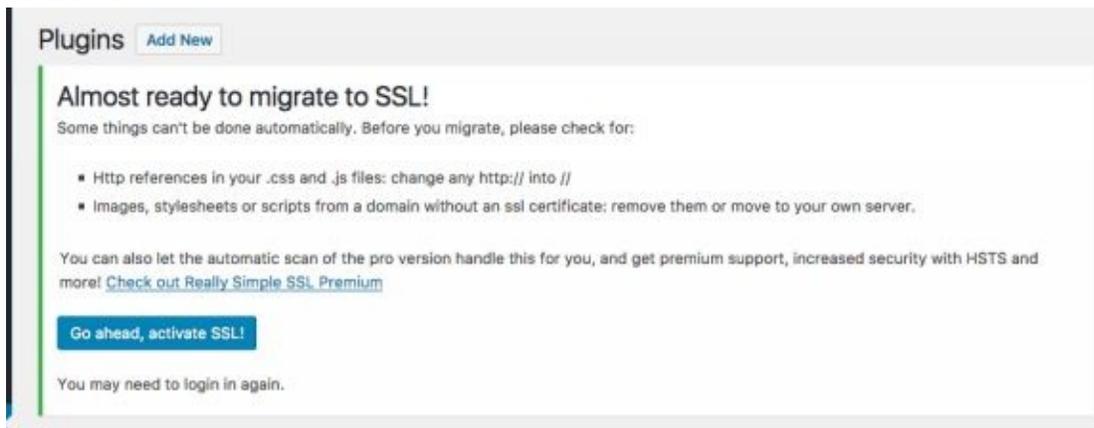
First, before you make any changes to your website, I highly suggest you have a backup copy of both your website files and database. What we're doing is pretty low risk but you never know... stuff happens, right?

Next, go into the Dashboard of your WordPress website and install the Really Simple SSL plugin:

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/really-simple-ssl/>

Just search for "Really Simple SSL" and it should show up.

Activate it and you should see a message saying you're almost ready to migrate to SSL.



If you don't know how to install plugins on WordPress, here's a video explaining how to do that:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drIkSludGSg>

All you'll need to do now is click the "Go ahead, activate SSL!" button and your website will be set up, forcing SSL on all pages.

Next, you'll need to re-login to your website using the "https://" version of your WordPress Dashboard login URL.

Try going to the non-HTTPS version of your website to double check that it forwards you over to the HTTPS version of it. You should see a green lock symbol next to the URL.

You're done!

If you want to add an SSL badge to the bottom your website to make your website look even more secure and trustworthy, here's a free one you can download and use:

<https://www.tonyherman.com/free-website-ssl-badge-seal/>

Test and Set Up Google Search Console

If you are using Google Search Console (formerly known as Google Webmaster Tools), make sure you go there and set up a new property with the https version of your URL:

<https://www.google.com/webmasters/tools/>

Help / Website Maintenance

You need to do your part of security and keep your version of WordPress up to date.

Not only do you need to do the core WordPress software updates but you need to keep ALL your plugins and your theme up to date. This needs to be done weekly – at least.

Your website is only as strong as its weakest link – just like a chain.

Your website host should encourage you to keep your software up to date but it's your job to do it since you installed the software on your website.

If you need help with your website, contact the [Maintenance Department at Webstix](#), which is there to help WordPress website owners. It's my company and we provide very good service. There's even an offer for new customers.

Resources

Install WP Guide – Get the Same Steps in this Book Here:

<https://installwpguide.com/#wordpress-free-ssl>

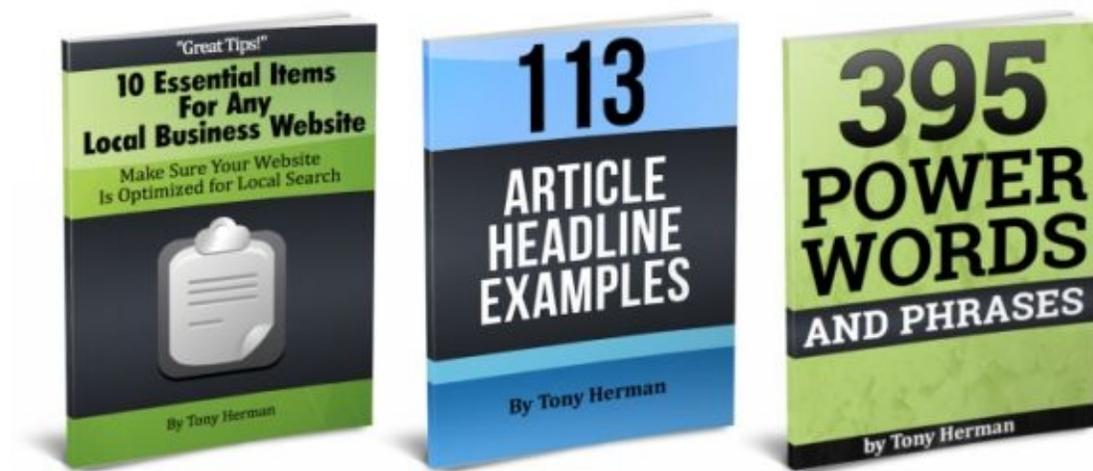
Video Tutorial – How to Install SSL for Free:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fR-6L30OgJE>

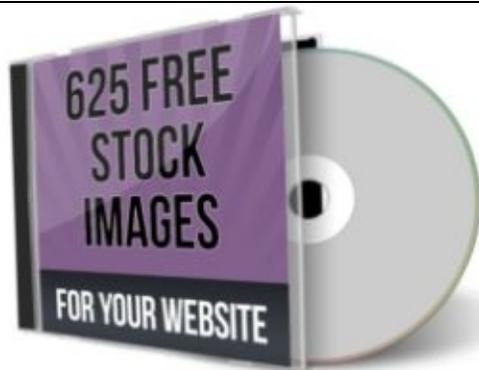
Bonuses

Here are some more things you may be interested in:

These books are the perfect companion to this book Get *113 Article Headline Examples*, *395 Power Words* book and *10 Essential Items for Any Local Business Website*.



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