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Hope
Prevails

6 Tips for When Writing is Hard!

Let's face it...sometimes writing is just plain hard. So why do we do it? Some consider it a hobby or a passion, while others know it's their calling. Over the years of honing my craft as an author, six things helped me keep my focus on what's most important and continue to enjoy the process.

- 1. We write out of obedience to God's call.** When God calls us to write, He should be our focus - our "Audience of One." It's important to keep our reader in mind when we write, but, ultimately, write for the glory of God. When we are obedient to God, He will ultimately provide the audience who needs to hear our message.
 - 2. If things get tough, it probably means you're doing something right!** The enemy doesn't bother with those who aren't a threat. According to Bishop Ryle, "The very fact that the devil has pinpointed you as his opponent should fill your mind with hope. For to be at peace with the world, the flesh and the devil is to be at enmity with God."
 - 3. Often our best writing comes from our personal experiences/trials, where with our readers, we can say "Me too."** Frequently, our worst messes become our biggest opportunities for ministry. Two weeks after I agreed to write *Hope Prevails*, I became deathly ill. That illness led to the dark night of my soul as depression infiltrated my mind which subsequently led to a reworking of *Hope Prevails*.
- Scripture says we "defeat the enemy by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony" (Revelation 12:11). The enemy wanted to divert me from my calling to write, but now, I write out of my experience in order to encourage others.
- 4. Instead of asking God to get you out of a situation, ask Him what He wants you to learn in that situation.** God's ways are higher than our ways, and what the enemy intended to harm us, God will turn around for good: "*You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good*" (Genesis 50:20). Instead of destroying me with illness and depression, God uses my message to encourage others who are going through similar difficulties.
 - 5. Resist the urge to compare yourself and your call to others.** According to Theodore Roosevelt, "Comparison is the thief of joy." When we compare ourselves and our call to others, we take our focus off what God is doing in and for and through us, and focus on what He is doing in, through, and for others, and ultimately lose our joy.
 - 6. You are responsible for sowing—God is responsible for the harvest.** If we remain steadfast and obedient, God will do more than we can ask or imagine. Writing is a journey that is ever changing as we grow personally and in our craft. It's unrealistic to expect immediate success, but it is reasonable to look at each article, blog post, newsletter, or book as a stepping stone to the ultimate place for which God is preparing us.

Writing is a privilege and an opportunity to positively impact others beyond what we might ever expect. Know your motivation for writing, then stick with it, trusting that it will serve a greater purpose at the right time.

DrMichelleBengtson.com

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