

Writers Refuse to Fear Even When Everything Has Gone Wrong

By Mark Littleton

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

Every day we live with fear. Fear about how God feels about us, fear about our salvation, even fear about whether we're really headed for heaven, can strike at any time. For writers, there are other fears: fear of being rejected, fear of getting bad reviews, fear of being ridiculed for something we thought was precious and valuable.

God never wants us to live like that.

Today's verse was spoken by Isaiah to calm a besieged people. What could produce more fear than the idea that a vicious army would soon approach your gates to exterminate your city? For thirty-nine chapters, Isaiah spewed judgment. But in chapter forty, he turns. His message from God announces comfort, hope and support. This gem from 41:10 sits in the middle of many encouraging words. God didn't want the nation of Judah to live in fear any more than he does you. He wanted them to know that he loved them and was ready to save them at any time.

We all know terrible things can happen in an instant. God does not promise to keep us from every moment of suffering and pain in this world. He doesn't say to us as writers that we will win the great prizes, make a fortune or become famous. But he does promise to be with us as we write and to get us to the destination as writers that he planned from the beginning. No matter how bad it looks out your office window, when you remember that earth is just a stopping point on the way to God's mansions in heaven, you extinguish fear. No one, nothing can touch you unless your almighty loving Father allows it to develop your spiritual life and muscles.