

Songwriting Article for October

Country Gospel Connection

I have struggled for several days to write this article and decided that today had to be it. As most of you know, my songwriting partner and best friend, Keith Caldwell, is very ill and still in ICU at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston. I wondered how I could write about songwriting, which seemed so trivial in comparison with what Keith had been going through. He has been fighting for his very life and the Devil very nearly got his wish to get rid of Keith at least twice this past few weeks. Songwriting didn't seem very important at the moment, and yet I knew that it was.

The calling that God places on your life is always important, no matter the circumstances surrounding you at the moment. Keith has been so sick and there have been so many praying for him that his condition seemed to be the focus of the entire world right now. Writing a song seemed to be a waste of time under the circumstances. God; however, knew differently. The calling He places on your life is never secondary to what's going on around you, rather it is the primary focus of what's going on around you at the time. God is constantly refining us and our ministry. Who wants anything that is stagnant? I realized as I was furiously writing a new song to sing in my church that was in reference to the pastor's sermon, that all of what I was experiencing and witnessing with Keith was going to change the way I thought and wrote about things; this was going to magnify my understanding of God and His Word.

Then it hit me like a ton of bricks. All of the trials and drama and worry of the past few weeks was simply a chapter in a life, a new verse in an old song. I was doing what God had called me to do. Be faithful and use my gift where He needed it and live my life while doing so. That doesn't mean that the two are not connected, rather it means that one does not exist without the other. Who you are in Christ and what you are called to do is one and the same to God. My life is not dependent upon anyone but God and yet my life is extremely dependent on every other Christian brother and sister in the world. Without them, my ministry is meaningless, without me, their experience and understanding would not be what it is with my influence. It's all connected, interdependent, necessary to the work of God. We ARE the body, the veins the backbone, the body of Christ on this earth. What we do matters. The circumstances surrounding what we do may change, but what we do is basically given to us to do by God's design and when we live in His plan, circumstances become irrelevant. What becomes totally necessary is dependence upon God. Do I believe God inflicted Keith for my edification? Absolutely not! Rather, He used a circumstance that Keith went through to remind me of what my calling was and how much it had been blessed by Keith's calling overlapping it. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee..... Thanks for the reminder. Keep on writing Christians, no matter the circumstance. It is what we are called and equipped to do.