

Waiting for Inspiration

by Mike Tucker *

The artist Chuck Close once said, "Inspiration is for amateurs — the rest of us just show up and get to work."

Along the same lines, Tchaikovsky said, "a self-respecting artist must not fold his hands on the pretext that he is not in the mood."

E.B. White said it this way: "A writer who waits for ideal conditions under which to work will die without putting a word on paper."

The consensus among successful creative types is that, over the long haul, perspiration trumps inspiration.

I like what screenwriter Neil Gaiman said about writing on the *Nerdist Podcast*. In talking about a novelist's need to be consistent, he said (in summary), "You have to make your word count each day; those words won't wait for you. You have to write whether you're 'inspired' or not. And the weird thing is that six months from now, you'll look back, and you won't be able to remember which scenes you wrote when you were inspired and which scenes you wrote because they had to be written."

What does this have to do with living the Christian life? Quite a bit, actually.

In our work of ministry, we must learn to resist the temptation of waiting for inspiration before we get ready for a meeting or knock out a newsletter, or perform a required task. Also, we need to remember that the Christian life isn't lived by inspiration. We don't wait for the moment to arrive in which we feel like it doing right. We just need to do right, today and every day, whether we feel inspired or not.

Is there something you've been putting off while you wait for the right inspiration? *Try perspiration instead.*

Forget about how little you feel like doing the task at hand, and just do it. In six months -- or for the remainder of eternity -- it won't matter how inspired you felt at the time. It will only matter that you did what needed to be done.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.
(Colossians 3:23)

With love,
Mike

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