



Write/Right from God

Chapter 9 Excerpt 1

The following author stories are meant as inspirational accounts of the successes of many writers who sought and achieved literary notoriety by stubbornly following their inward callings. Several of these stories tell the tale of well-known writers, many of whom sit atop the literary canon. Their personal stories reflect a long period of failure and disappointment before persevering and eventually finding their “big shot.” A few of the stories show that the publishing world has changed dramatically in recent years. Gone are the days of an elite few publishing houses, refusing to publish lesser known works or “no name” writers. Many authors now self-publish or find their way into the market through smaller publishing companies.

As you begin on your own journey stay open and flexible as you and your book move onto the stage of publication.

Jane Austen

Jane Austen wrote her masterpiece *First Impressions* in 1797. Initially deemed unworthy of being read, that slight actually may have contributed directly to the book’s eventual literary greatness. Austen revised and then re-titled the book *Pride and Prejudice*, refusing to give up on it for sixteen years. *Pride and Prejudice* rose to the literary significance it deserved despite all of the unfair criticism it received. Austen rose along with it, becoming recognized as one of the greatest authors in history.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* set the literary world on fire. Hailed as a great critical success, T.S. Eliot claimed it as “the first step that American fiction has taken since Henry James.” (Eliot, Valerie and Hugh Haughton, eds. *The Letters of T.S. Eliot: Volume 2: 1923-1925*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011), 813.) So great was the influence of *The Great Gatsby*, decades after Fitzgerald’s passing, the book was eventually converted into an award-winning movie featuring Leonardo DiCaprio. Initially, Fitzgerald’s work was not met any acclaim, to the point that publishing icon Charles Scribner said of *The Great Gatsby* he “could not stomach it at all.” The Word of God always seeks trend-setters and life changers; it always wins out despite any attempt by shortsightedness of the human ego to stop its release into the world. In Fitzgerald’s case, it took fourteen hard years of rejection for his own personal Word of God to win over the world. But when it did it won it over big, his influence carrying on decades beyond his passing. To this day, *The Great Gatsby* remains one of the most read books at the high school and college level.

Ernest Hemingway

Speaking of Fitzgerald... It wasn’t until Fitzgerald contacted legendary editor Maxwell Perkins *about* Ernest Hemingway that the soon-to-be icon was even noticed. Perkins had actually rejected the great Fitzgerald in his younger days. The divine author in Fitzgerald recognized the brilliance of the divine author in Hemingway. At its core, it is the very same author writing through the voice of a different human being with different experiences. If, as is commonly believed, there are no mistakes and everything does indeed happen for a reason, could your life like all of the authors mentioned in this section be providing you with the necessary points of reference you need for the backdrop your stories? That was certainly the case with Hemingway, who used his wealth of life experiences and situations as backdrops for the stories he would write. Those stories would go on to change the world and lend him as the future winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Maybe all the years that these authors spent toiling in their crafts were not a waste. Maybe they were just building up understanding of their own individual points of view. Through these, they would then be able to reach their readers, when the divine timing for the release of their books was just right. Could that possibly be true in your life, as well?