

Melinda Means Coaching, LLC

My Writing Coaching Philosophy

I have been a writer for as far back as I can remember.



Since I was a little girl, I dreamed of books with my name on them lining bookstore shelves. I wanted my words to matter. I wanted to impact people. I wanted people to know my name.

And then it happened. **I co-authored my first book in 2015. I squealed when I went to the local Books-A-Million and found my book on the bookshelf.** I had a growing blog that was reaching more than 30,000 people a month. But it never felt like enough. I needed to do more. I needed to be more. I wanted to get to the next level. Or it would all go away. I was miserable.

I remember telling God one day, "If this is how ministry has to be done, if this is what it means to be a writer, I'm out. Show me a different way."

And He said, "Let it go." What? "Let it go?!" But I had worked so hard. Really? Let it go?

Slowly He worked on my heart. When I finally "let it go," He took my ministry in a completely different direction. I let go of the blog that was reaching thousands. I let go of my long-held dream of future traditional publication. I let go of trying to be the darling of the Internet.

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Today, I have a blog I adore, but with a smaller audience. I self-published my latest book: *Invisible Wounds: Hope While You're Hurting*. I'm no longer a slave to social media.

And I'm loving writing again.

God is bringing me to a deeper place in my relationship with Him. He is using my words. **I'm not called to try to get millions to "Like" me.** My job is to simply follow God's leading and love and encourage the ones He puts in front of me. He's teaching me to follow, wherever that leads.

Your journey is going to look different than mine.

He may have you churning out *New York Times* Bestsellers and using you to build a mammoth following. Praise God! That is awesome. What's amazing about God is that He is so creative in how He uses and leads each one of us.

My concern is that we so often look to webinars and experts. We try to follow models of success that worked for others. We measure our worth and impact in terms of followers and comments.

Can God use all those things? Absolutely. Is it wrong to use them? No, of course not. I still do in smaller doses. But I no longer believe they're the key to being a writer who makes an impact. *He is.* God was getting His message out and accomplishing His purposes for centuries and all without the help of the "experts," webinars or social media.

He is not limited by our ability to be engaging, appealing, witty or "Share-worthy."

Paul didn't have to have a Facebook page to change lives. The Proverbs 31 woman didn't need Pinterest for people to take notice of her skills. The disciples and other writers of the Bible didn't have a book deal. They just followed the Holy Spirit's leading and He used their obedience to change the world.

My question is this: What would it look like for us if we quit chasing and started following?

What if we quit trying so hard to gain followers and began following the lead of history's greatest Storyteller? *Whatever that means. Wherever that takes us.*

This perspective and philosophy is the entire foundation of my writing coaching.

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Whether you're an author, blogger or business owner, I will challenge you to dig deep to find, develop and/or refine your unique story or message. The one only you can tell. I'll guide you as you search to discover the path God has for your writing or business. I'll encourage you to follow God's leading.

Together, we'll find your message and purpose. All we have to do is follow.