

POSITIONED FOR MORE



LIVE ON PURPOSE
GOD'S PLAN, MY PURSUIT

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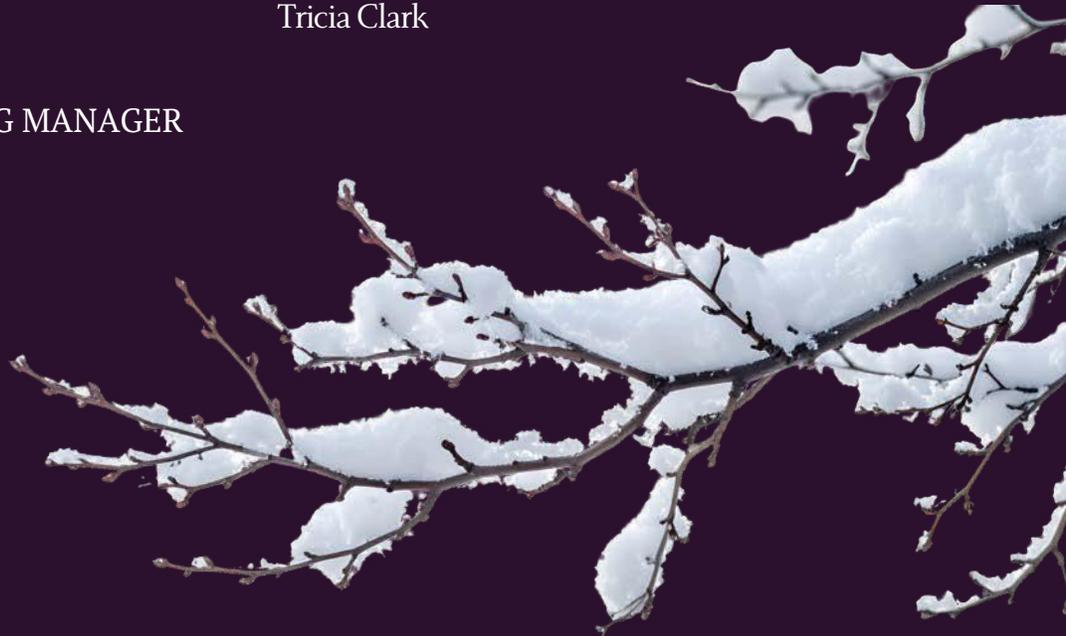
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From the Editor

2026.

I don't know if I've embraced a new year with more excitement and expectation than I have this one for as long as I can remember. Why? Because I truly believe that God is on the precipice of bringing into fulfillment the very purposes He planned in advance—in my life and in this ministry—more than ever before.

The journey hasn't been easy.

I can't tell you how many times I wanted to give up. I fought discouragement. There was a season when I fell into the trap of striving—believing that if I just did more in this ministry and in my life, then surely that would be the thing that grew it. That is, until I Martha'd my way into a position that left me overwhelmed, tired, and stressed. But as God always does, that's where He met me... and that's where I laid it all down.

When we think about positioning ourselves for more, we often get confused and assume it means doing more—when in reality, it usually means doing less. To position ourselves means we make the choice to live in the resting place God longs for us to live in. As Psalm 91:1 reminds us, when we dwell in the shelter of the Most High and rest in the shadow of the Almighty, we find the place where He can do what He wants to do—because we've finally gotten out of the way.

So this year, may I offer an encouraging challenge, wherever you may be:

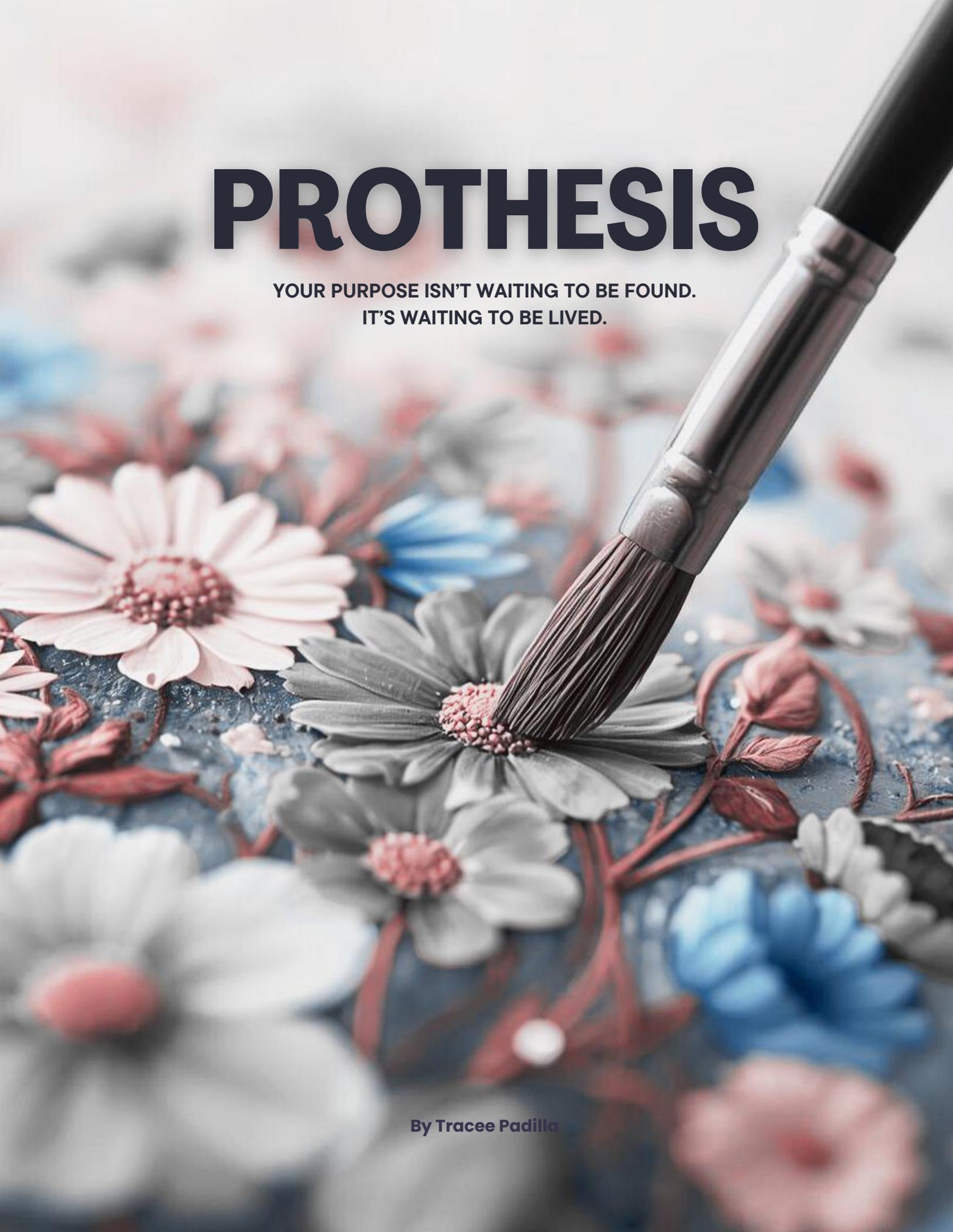
Do less.

And let God do the rest.

My prayer is that this edition helps you walk through the beautiful revelation that God has a purpose for your life—one He planned in advance before you were ever born. And that as you trust Him more fully, you'll discover what it truly means to be positioned for more by trusting in what He's so beautifully planted in you.

Tracee L. Padilla
Editor-in-Chief

PROTHESIS



YOUR PURPOSE ISN'T WAITING TO BE FOUND.
IT'S WAITING TO BE LIVED.

By Tracee Padilla

EPHESIANS 1:11 NLT

Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.



Let's go, Holy Spirit!

Those were the words that came out of my mouth as I sat down to write one morning — and I couldn't help but smile. I'm more than thankful for this gift the Lord has given us, that we never walk alone. We don't have to navigate our faith walk guessing which way to turn or hoping we hear God clearly enough. We have the leading and power of the Holy Spirit living within us, direct access to Jesus, and a full relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The entire Trinity.

Honestly, I don't think we stop and think about that often enough. I know I don't. And if we really grasped what that means — truly grasped it — *we'd realize there is no reason we cannot live fully engaged in the life and purpose God planned for us in advance.*

Yes. In advance.

Sit with that for a moment.

PURPOSE WAS NEVER AN ACCIDENT

The word advance means to move forward or make progress. It's both a verb and a noun — action and movement, a step taken ahead of where you were before.

Now let's pair that with Ephesians 1:11:

“Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for **He chose us in advance**, and He makes everything work out according to His plan.” (NLT)

Before you ever took your first breath —
before your parents ever met —
before your story even had a chapter one —

God chose you in advance.

You were not an “uh-oh.”

You were not created by accident.

You were not a backup plan, an afterthought, or a mistake.

You were created on purpose, with purpose, for a purpose God already intended. And Scripture says He makes everything work according to His plan.

I don't know about you, but that makes me want to jump out of my chair and shout hallelujah.

PAUL CAN'T CATCH HIS BREATH

If you continue reading in Ephesians 1:13–14 closely, you'll notice something crazy amazing.

In the original Greek, it was written like one long non-stop sentence. There's no pause. No breath. Just revelation after revelation spilling out in one long run-on sentence .

I can picture Paul so overwhelmed by what God is showing him that he can't even stop to breathe. It's cascade after cascade of what God did before time, in Christ, and through the Spirit.

Not only did He prepare us in advance, but it goes on to say in verse 13..."And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believe in Christ, HE IDENTIFIED YOU AS HIS OWN **by giving you** the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago." And just when you think that was off the chart, lets read verse 14, "The Spirit is God's GUARANTEE that he WILL GIVE US the inheritance he promised and that he has PURCHASED US to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him."

Come on now!

The Holy Spirit that the Lord has given us is our GUARANTEE that He will give us what He promised. It's mind boggling to truly grasp the depth of these verses, honestly. But if you stop and not skim through and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the depth of what God is speaking through Paul's word is a life changing paradigm shift of understanding.

So, the only way to truly dig into these waters is to go deeper, so let's do this together. You might want to grab a Kleenex too if you're a crier, cuz this will surely hit that button with what we're about to peel back.

PURPOSE SET IN MOTION BEFORE TIME

The phrase Paul uses here ‘**planned** in advance’ is rooted in the Greek word **PROTHESIS** (pronounced, proy-they-sis) - which you already know means purpose set forth, plan laid out, intention placed ahead of time.

But here is another piece to this beautiful woven masterpiece:



Chose us **in advance** = **proorizō**

In advance means: *to determine BEFOREHAND, to mark out AHEAD of time, to set boundaries around a purpose BEFORE it even begins.*

Do you see those three words standing out like wildfire: beforehand, ahead of time, before.

If you ever wondered if you mattered, if God truly cared about you, If He had a plan and purpose for your life - this is your answer. YES! God lovingly mapped out YOUR DESTINY before your body even entered the womb.

Your purpose was already spoken before there was DNA, there was divine intention.

Your purpose didn't begin at birth - only your body did. Your purpose started in the mind of God from the beginning of time.



He makes everything **work** out according to His plan = **energeō**

The word WORK here means: *God is actively working, moving things in alignment, energizing what He planned, orchestrating.*

God didn't just set a purpose for your life; He energizes the steps that bring it to fulfillment. It makes you realize that the purpose that drives you, or the purpose you're just discovering was gifted to you by your Heavenly Father all along. You didn't create it. You didn't stir it up. It came from the Lord. What a gift! And I am a full believer that each and every one of us is to live out that purpose - God's plan, my pursuit.



He **identified you** as His own = **sphragizō**

Get ready because this is a HUGE REVELATION!

It means: *to seal, to mark ownership, to authenticate.*

Think about this:

A royal seal pressed into hot wax, a king's signature that proves something is official, a mark that cannot be forged.

When you believed, God didn't say, "Well, let's see how she does."

He said, "Mine, Marked, Sealed!" Or shall we go there: "Sign, sealed, delivered....we're His!" I know, I couldn't help myself there. And I just saw my adult kids roll their eyes at their mom. But here is our reality that we don't think of often enough - God has a legal mark of ownership, identity, and belonging when He chose YOU!



The Spirit of **God's guarantee = arrabōn**

Guarantee means: *down payment, first installment, pledge, earnest money, proof the rest is coming!*

If we were to put this in today's terms it would kind of sound like, "The Holy Spirit is the first installment of your eternal inheritance - the preview, the receipt, the evidence that God will finish everything He promised." The Spirit is not just here as our comforter, but He is also our confirmation! And with His presence in our daily life is the strongest, most secure promise you'll ever receive: What God began, God WILL complete. That's Romans 8:28!!

WHY PAUL STACKS IT ALL TOGETHER

There is something beautifully weighty in why the Lord gave us this revelation of His eternal purpose for our life that we need to remind ourselves of daily and it's this. **We were chosen before time, purposed in advanced, aligned by God's power, sealed as His own, guaranteed by His Spirit.** That's quite a resume to carry around, right! This is an identity shaking revelation that should help us get the shackles off our feet and get up and shout our praise to the Lord!

And even greater, for every lie the enemy has ever tried to speak into your life I want to remind you that God's word DISMANTLES every single lie from - you're late, you missed it, you're too old, you messed up, you aren't good enough, your purpose is behind you.....

NO. God set your purpose IN ADVANCE and He is the one bringing it into fruition this very moment. You might be saying, "Well, I'm 72 years old and never truly realized this..." That's OK! Because you know it now so go live out the rest of your days knowing this powerful truth! If you haven't figured it out by now, God never looks at age - David was a teenager, Abraham and Sara were OLD!. His purpose doesn't see the number, it sees your God-given destiny.

GOD'S PLAN. MY PURSUIT.

Every step you take is inside a plan designed by the Father, secured by Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

You are more covered than you realize.

So let's head back to Ephesians 1:11-14:

- **The Father planned your purpose.**
- **The Son purchased your purpose.**
- **The Spirit empowers and guarantees your purpose.**

That's the whole picture. This is the unveiling that God Himself has wrapped all of heaven around your calling.

Your purpose.

Living on Purpose is all about God's Plan He put into action in advance, and that is what becomes our pursuit!





ALL THAT'S REQUIRED IS YES, LORD.

So if you're wondering what to do with all of this, let me make it simple.

You don't have to try and make purpose happen.

You don't have to go chasing after it.

And you don't have to force the next step.

So then the next question becomes... what do you do then?

You rest in the truth that your life is already surrounded by God — planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, and empowered by the Spirit. Prothesis means this: your purpose was never waiting on you to get it right. It was waiting for you to trust that God already did.

And when you live from that place — not from fear, not from outside pressure, not from comparison (come on now) — but from trusting in the Lord - obedience becomes lighter, your faith grows stronger, and purpose begins to unfold naturally.

God's plan is already in motion.

It's simply learning how to step into His footsteps with obedience — the ones already moving ahead of you. And now, it becomes your pursuit.

When I was young, I knew I was called to sing and to write. I knew that much. I just thought I was going to be the next Amy Grant and travel the world. I walked in the steps of being a musician, a singer-songwriter — and honestly, I wasn't wrong.

But the deeper I went in my walk with God, the doors that started opening weren't concert halls... they were church doors.

Leading worship.

And while it came naturally to me, it wasn't what I wanted at first. But opportunity after opportunity kept opening — one right after the other. Then in 2001, as I was thanking God for everything He was doing, I realized I was still holding tightly to what I thought my ultimate purpose was: being a professional singer.

One afternoon, I finally asked Him, "Lord, why do these worship opportunities keep coming when I never wanted to be a worship leader?"

And His answer was simple.

"Tracee, it was never about what you wanted. It's about obedience. This is what I want."

Obedience.

That's part of finding God's footsteps — walking in motion with what He wants and what He purposed for your life all along. It may not line up exactly with what you imagined, but often you're closer than you think. I knew I was supposed to sing — the Lord just helped me find the path He intended me to walk in all along.

That day, my yes became easy.

I would rather obey the Lord and follow the path He purposed than ever try to walk it out on my own. I'll just say this — that has never once worked out for me. Lesson learned.

So as you continue turning the pages of this edition, know this: each writer is going to add another layer to what Positioned for More really means. You'll see how purpose unfolds, how obedience takes shape, and how saying yes to what God has purposed your life to be becomes one beautiful journey.

And in the end, all that's required...is your yes.

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POSITIONED FOR MORE

WHEN THE GROUND BENEATH
YOU STARTS TO SHIFT



by Janice Conyers

There's a unique tension that comes with being in a place you didn't fight to escape but no longer feel fully settled in either. You may even know, deep down, that God placed you here. There was peace when you arrived. Clarity. A sense of "this fits." And yet lately, something feels different. The rhythms are off. The joy feels thinner. You're still showing up, but part of you wonders if heaven is quietly rearranging the furniture.

This kind of season can be confusing because it doesn't look like failure. It looks like faithfulness. You're doing what you're supposed to do. You're planted. You're committed. But you also feel unseen, misunderstood, underutilized, or unheard. You're not desperate to leave; just aware that something is shifting.

And the question hums beneath the surface: Should I stay planted, or is it time to move?

Scripture reminds us that God often positions His people in places that don't fully make sense until later. Consider David after he was anointed king. The oil had barely dried before he was sent right back to the fields. No crown. No announcement. Just sheep, solitude, and the same responsibilities he'd always had. From the outside, it looked like nothing had changed. From the inside, everything had.

That in-between season had purpose.

Psalm 78:70-72 (NLT) says, "He chose his servant David, calling him from the sheep pens. He took David from tending the ewes and lambs and made him the shepherd of Jacob's descendants... David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them." What's striking is that the integrity and skill came before the public appointment. The hidden season wasn't wasted; it was preparation.

Sometimes God keeps us in a place not because it's permanent, but because it's formative.

Transition often begins quietly. It starts as restlessness without rebellion. Questions without answers. Faithfulness mixed with fatigue. You might still enjoy where you are, but you sense you're being stretched, or restrained, in new ways. And when you feel overlooked or unheard, it's tempting to assume that means you've stayed too long. But Scripture cautions us not to confuse discomfort with disobedience.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NLT) reminds us, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." Not every season ends because something is wrong. Some end because something more is being prepared.

The challenge is discerning whether God is asking you to remain rooted, or to loosen your grip.

Remaining doesn't mean stagnation. It can mean deepening. Staying teachable. Continuing to show up when you'd rather pull back. Sometimes the "more" God is positioning you for requires one final layer of humility, obedience, or trust. Colossians 3:23 (NLT) encourages us, "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." That posture matters most when people don't notice your effort, but God does.

At the same time, staying planted doesn't mean ignoring God's prompting. There are moments when holy dissatisfaction is an invitation. When the season has done its work and God begins to stir your heart toward what's next.

Isaiah 43:19 (NLT) says, "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?"

Sometimes the unease you feel is not a warning but a whisper.

If you're in that space right now, resist the urge to rush. Ask God what this season is producing in you. Ask what obedience looks like today, not five steps ahead. Whether He calls you to stay a little longer or prepares you to move, trust that you are not forgotten. You are not misplaced. You are positioned on purpose for more.

And when the shift becomes clear, you'll realize this season wasn't holding you back. It was holding you steady until you were ready.



Janice Conyers

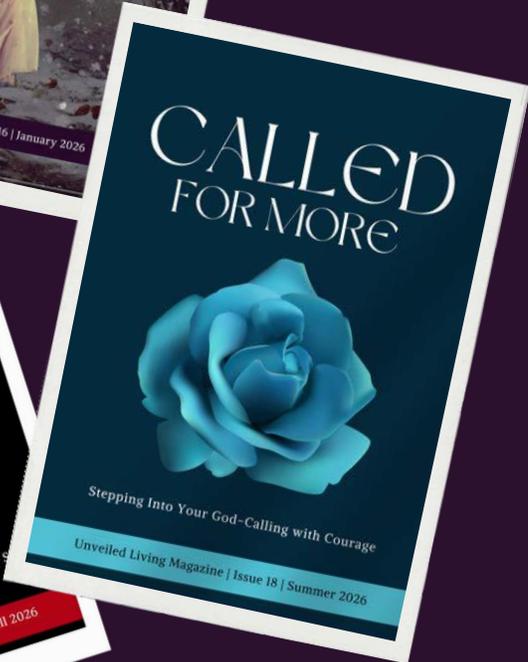
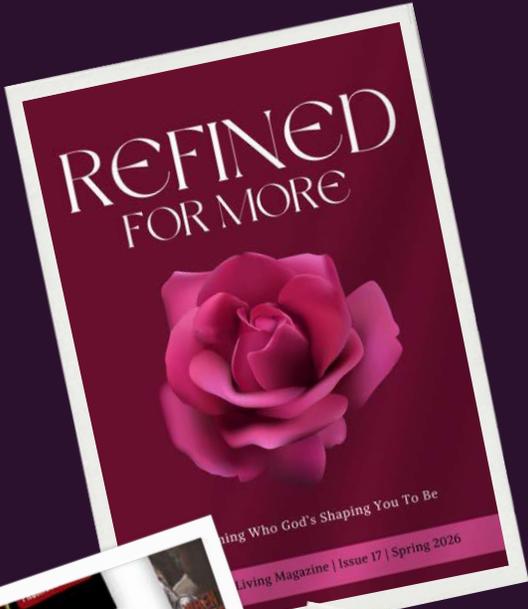
Janice resides in New Hampshire with her husband, William, and their dog Mia. She is a proud mamma of two adult children, Jonathan, and Lydia, and new mom-in-law to Michael.

She is often referred to as "Jan-of-all-trades" by her colleagues and friends. In addition to being an office and event manager with 20+ years' experience, Janice is passionate about furthering God's kingdom by creating meaningful experiences through events, and inspiring readers with engaging and informative content.

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Prothesis = Purpose

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purposes for them.

Romans 8:28

FINDING PURPOSE



IN THE ORDINARY

After Seasons of Rain

by Cendrine Hosoda





Winter is usually a season where everything looks still, quiet, and even barren. But we all know from watching spring arrive year after year that God does beautiful work in the unseen places. Under cold soil, in what looks lifeless, He is preparing blooms we haven't imagined yet.

I'll be honest, winter has never been my favorite. What often gets me through is remembering the joy of seeing those first little primroses pop up in yellow, pink, and purple. They remind me that winter doesn't last forever... and neither do the winter seasons of our lives.

Today I want to share one simple practice that helped me hold on to hope when my life felt stripped down to nothing. It became a way to find purpose in the most ordinary days, when all I had was grief, rubble, and God's presence holding me together.

I've been in a long winter season for a few years now. And much like winter has phases (early frost, deep cold, lingering gray) my own winter had layers to it. What made it especially painful was how suddenly it hit. I knew something was coming, but not this level of devastation... and definitely not the long aftermath that followed.

There was a moment when I realized that everything I had sacrificed for and poured myself into for twenty years was gone. It felt like part of me had been amputated. The grief that followed came in waves I never expected, affecting my thoughts, my feelings, and my everyday functioning. I wasn't suicidal, but I also wouldn't have been upset if I'd been one of the COVID casualties. My life truly felt like a warzone — rubble, craters, emptiness, and shame.

I wondered did I do something wrong? Did I cause this? Did I miss God?

But God, in His gentleness, kept reassuring me that this winter wasn't caused by my disobedience, failure, or lack. It was simply devastation.

Even with that reassurance, the ordinary days still felt heavy. Every moment felt like it was pulling me downward no matter how hard I tried to rebuild.

In those long hours of journaling and sitting with God, He nudged me away from the "why?" question and toward a different one: "How do I position myself for God's goodness in this winter?"

He reminded me of the faithful choices I had made, the ways I had honored Him, and the people I had cared deeply for.



Most of my spiritual growth in that season didn't come from clarity. It came from tiny, clumsy steps of willingness. Just choosing to keep going. Just choosing to believe that God grows us even in dust and ashes.

Eventually, God nudged me into a practice that became profoundly transformational for my faith.

I opened a document and wrote down each painful event individually. For each one, I talked honestly with God about what had happened. Then, before seeing a single sign of redemption, I thanked Him in advance for how He would work it for my good.

Every few weeks, I revisited the list. And whenever I noticed even the tiniest sprout of goodness coming from a specific painful event, I added it underneath.

This practice changed everything. My ordinary days became holy, little pockets of trust, anticipation, and worship. I started looking for goodness. I started recognizing growth opportunities. My heart slowly re-engaged with the process of living.

That helped me step away from self-doubt and lean into the truth of His character: God remains faithful even when destruction is self-imposed, and especially when it's not.

I even asked Him, "What if I did cause some of this and I just can't see it?" And He met me with steady reassurance. "Even if you don't see clearly, I will still be faithful. You can depend on Me."

That truth gave me permission to stop spiraling and start positioning my heart for growth even in ashes.

As I waded through what felt like the ruins of my life, God kept bringing Romans 8:28 to mind — that He works all things together for the good of those who love Him. Not some things. All things.

I didn't know how He was going to do it, so I began with the only thing I knew: worship. I thanked Him before seeing anything redeemed, for the good I couldn't yet imagine (Ephesians 3:20). I felt a bit like Job, clinging to God in the dark, choosing to trust His goodness when everything around me felt shattered.

Most of my spiritual growth in that season didn't come from clarity. It came from tiny, clumsy steps of willingness.



Some sprouts were tiny. Some were significant. All were undeniably God's fingerprints.

Many of my journal entries sounded like: "If x hadn't happened, I never would've started y, which led to growth in z, which then blessed so-and-so."

Right there in the rubble, God was already planting new life.

A lot of pain is still present. Rubble still surrounds some areas of my life. The "big reveal" of what God is ultimately doing hasn't arrived yet. But fruit is growing anyway.

I'm learning to live in the tension between the not yet and the already, trusting that God is faithful in both.

God has used this journey to grow me in ways I never expected:

- deeper compassion
- richer wisdom
- new skills
- expanded confidence
- people blessed along the way
- a strengthened faith in His goodness

Growth is still scary and sometimes disappointing. But it's also become deeply exciting. Looking back at the sprouts He's already brought forth gives me courage to take the next step, even when I don't know where it leads.

In a season where purpose feels elusive, I'm learning to rest in the truth that I was made for growth. And growth, though ordinary, is incredibly purposeful.

If you've been in a desperate winter, or still feel stuck in the aftermath, you're not alone.

Here is the invitation I want to offer you.



Holy Habits for Hard Seasons

Take honest stock of what has gone wrong and thank God repeatedly for how He is already working it for your good and His glory.

Here's one way to do this:

List the painful pieces individually.

Bring each one before God with honesty; no pretending, no bypassing.

Thank Him before you see healing, simply because His character never changes.

Revisit this list weekly or monthly.

Record every little sprout of goodness that grow out of the rubble.





This habit will shape your heart to see God in the ordinary and position you for more than you imagined.

The enemy may have left a crater, but God will always have the last word. He doesn't waste a single tear. Not a single broken piece. Not a single quiet, ordinary day that feels like nothing is happening.

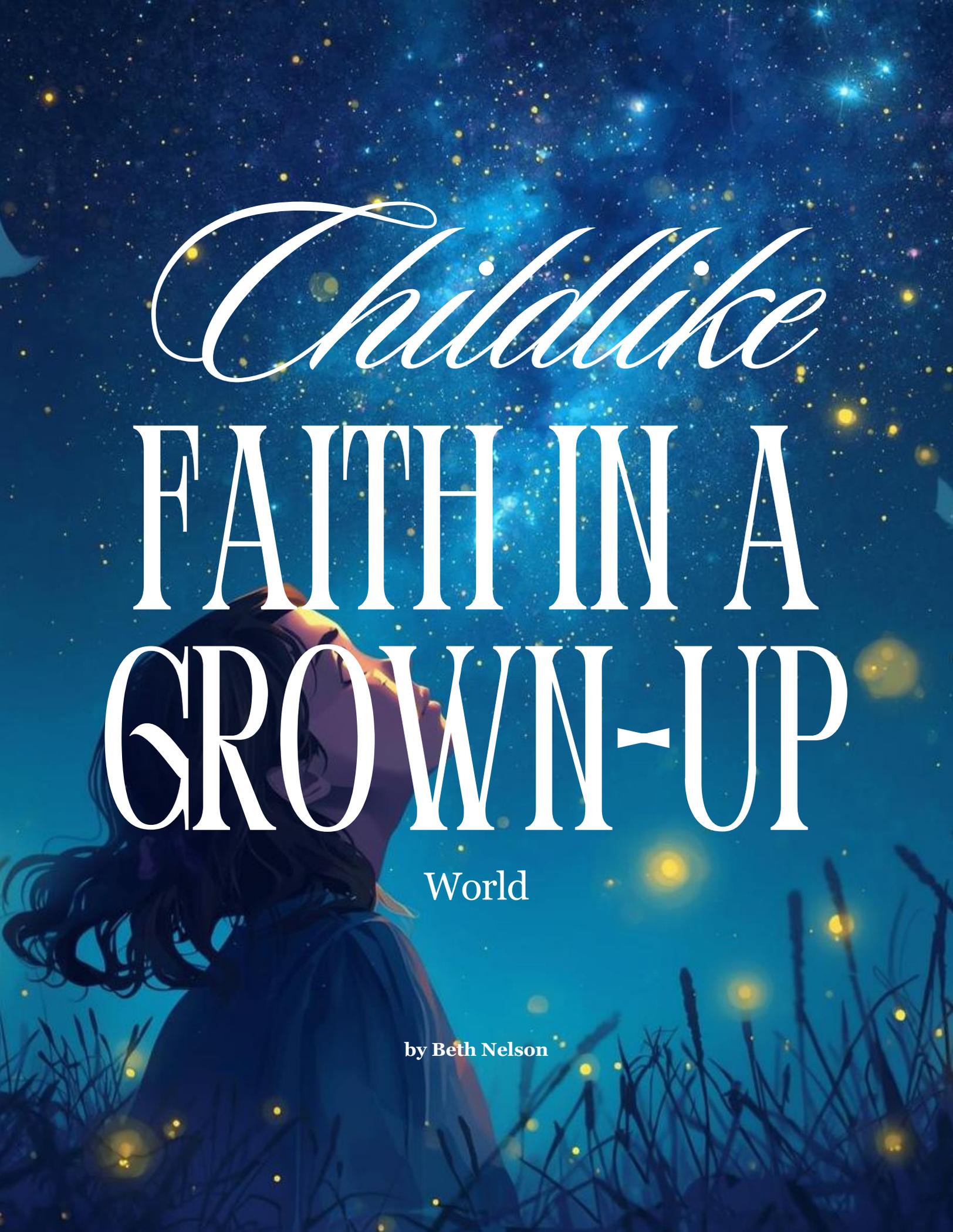
Co-create with Him by stepping into His sufficiency in your lack and choosing continual growth.

Expect goodness — small and big — to break through. Because God always finishes what He starts.



Cendrine Hosoda is a dedicated learner with a focus on holistic health and spiritual nourishment. With a background in nutrition and Bible studies, she shares her journey of overcoming health challenges on her blog. A devoted wife and experienced homeschool mother of two teenagers, she enjoys expressing creativity through writing and playing the pan flute. Born in Switzerland and residing in the States for over 25 years, Cendrine's mission is to inspire, encourage, and motivate others in their walk with God.

www.pursuingwholesomehealth.com

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair is shown in profile, looking upwards towards a starry night sky. The sky is filled with numerous bright stars and glowing yellow fireflies. The woman's face is partially obscured by the large text. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Childlike
FAITH IN A
GROWN-UP

World

by Beth Nelson

“...Allow the children to come to Me, and do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.”

Luke 18:16-17

That verse came alive for me recently when my daughter sent a video of her little ones discovering where “Mr. Elf” was hiding for the day. Their sparkling eyes and excited little voices made me giggle. While I’m thankful Elf on the Shelf wasn’t around when my kids were small (I’d never have kept up!), I admit, it’s fun watching parents create these magical moments. Whether or not we buy into the Elf or Santa traditions, there’s something sacred in seeing that simple childlike belief.

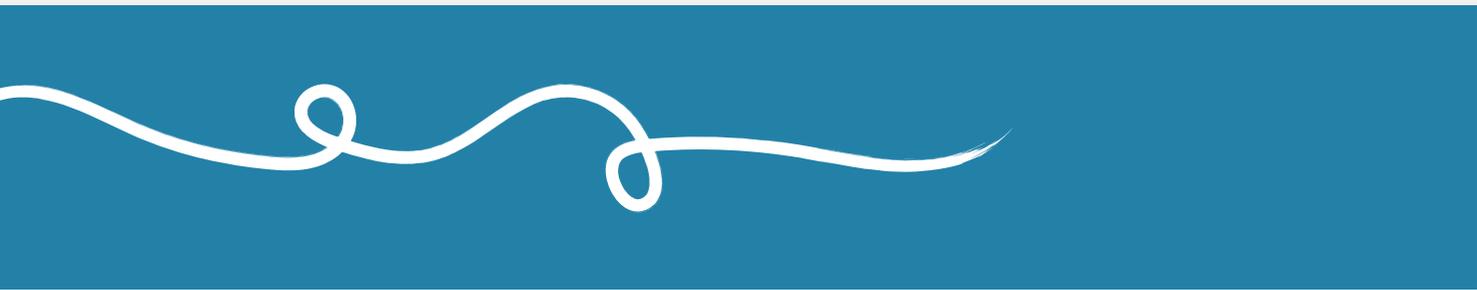
Jesus' own proclamation tells us that whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all. He is clear about what he's saying here. We are expected to approach our beliefs about Him and all of His mysterious wonders with childlike faith. Somewhere along the way, as we mature, our childlike beliefs wane - and often our understanding of God's kingdom fades with them.

That idea of childlike wonder surfaced again when I recently read in Mark Batterson's Circle Maker - the idea of circling big prayers around big dreams. Batterson points back to James 4:2 "You don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it." This isn't about magic or wishful thinking or sitting on Santa's lap requesting a gift. It's about a relationship with God that includes a childlike faith.

In my own life I've noticed that as I draw closer to God, something beautiful happens: He molds me from the inside out. Things I once chased start to lose their shine and new, Spirit-influenced desires come to the surface. He hasn't smashed my desires or stifled my dreams, He is purifying them to align with His will. If I slow down and allow Him to do the work, and I maintain a posture that's open to Him, I feel a deep internal peace, steady joy and a strength that helps carry those God-shaped desires into reality.

*In my own life I've noticed that
as I draw closer to God,
something beautiful happens:
He molds me from the inside
out.*





Here are some ideas how you might shift your posture and attention to God so you can grow a more intimate relationship with Him.

1. Practice daily quiet. Even 5 minutes is a start. Use this time simply for connection-stop, sit in peace and listen. There are several places you can find daily devotions for free on the internet.
2. Grasp scripture. It's one of God's primary ways of speaking to us. His Word provides direction, wisdom, and a lens through which we see life from His perspective rather than the world's.
3. Pray boldly and specifically. Invite God into everything. He longs to be your friend, confidant, and helper-and he often shows up in unexpected ways, at the most unexpected times and through unexpected people. Your childlike beliefs get an opportunity to reignite your life.

As you begin to make this a practice in your life, you will see His hand in everything that is happening. Your trust will deepen and your desires soften, confidence strengthens and your relationship evolves from a mystical thought to a true experience.

God's invitation remains the same: "Draw near to Me, and I will draw near to you" (James 4:8). He never asks for perfection - only a willing heart. As you grow in daily closeness with Him, your dreams, desires, and direction find their security in His presence. With each step, bold prayers are no longer risky or hesitant; they become a natural response of a heart that trusts Him, one step at a time.



ABOUT BETH NELSON

Beth brings a mix of farm life grit, leadership insight, and laugh-out-loud honesty. With a knack for finding humor in life's messiest moments, she describes herself as somewhere between hot mess and train wreck—but always chasing truth. Through her own journey with family trauma, spiritual warfare, and tough relationships, she shares how faith and Spirit-led leadership can carry you through.

Right Where She Was

By Tracee Padilla

She didn't feel positioned for anything.

Most days, she felt tucked away—folding laundry that never stayed folded, answering emails no one replied to, showing up to the same quiet routines that rarely got noticed. Her life didn't look impressive. There were no big announcements, no visible milestones, no clear next step.

If anything, it felt like she was waiting.

She used to believe purpose arrived loudly—like a door swinging open or a moment that changed everything at once. She thought one day she'd know. Instead, life had become steady, predictable, and painfully ordinary.

And yet...something kept her there.

Every morning, she opened her Bible before the house woke up. It was the only place she felt anchored. She didn't read looking for answers anymore. She read just to be near Him. To dwell. To breathe.

One afternoon, while standing at the kitchen sink, she realized something had shifted. Nothing around her had changed—but she had. She wasn't striving the way she used to. She wasn't chasing clarity or forcing doors open. Somewhere along the way, she had stopped asking, "What am I supposed to do next?" and started asking, "Who am I becoming right here?"

That's when it dawned on her. Maybe she wasn't waiting at all.

Maybe she was being positioned. Positioned for faithfulness. Positioned in obedience. Positioned in a place where trust mattered more than visibility.

The thought settled in her spirit like peace. What if purpose wasn't ahead of her, but already surrounding her? What if God wasn't withholding direction—but forming something deeper first?

She didn't suddenly receive a plan. She didn't hear an audible voice. Life stayed mostly the same.

But now, she moved differently.

With less urgency.
With more confidence.
With the quiet assurance that God knew exactly where she was.

And if He had her here, in this season, in this place—then maybe this wasn't a delay. Maybe this was more.





BY BREANA WILSON

SILENCE

**CAN BECOME A
BEAUTIFUL SOUND**

I, Breana, was about six years old.

My mom and dad sat on the couch, waiting for their daughter to begin the show. I got everyone quiet. With a fake microphone in hand, I performed the song with all my heart and soul. This was not something out of the ordinary in that season of life. I said with such belief and boldness, "I'm going to be a singer when I grow up!"

As the years passed, that little girl and her concerts disappeared. Soon, the only time you would see her sing and dance her little heart out was most likely under the influence of some sort of substance. She became ashamed of her singing voice, completely convinced there was no beauty to it. No one in particular told her that she didn't sound pleasant — it just came sort of "naturally."

My voice had been shut down by the lies of the enemy and trauma from the past. Communicating a need, emotion, or thought was often met with a harsh tone, yelling, and verbal put-downs in my home. I learned how to live in an almost constant state of survival mode. I knew how to quietly walk on eggshells. I became keenly aware of any emotional changes in that unstable atmosphere. Does this sound familiar to you?

My parents did not know any different. At that time, they too were bound by the lies of the enemy and trauma from the past.

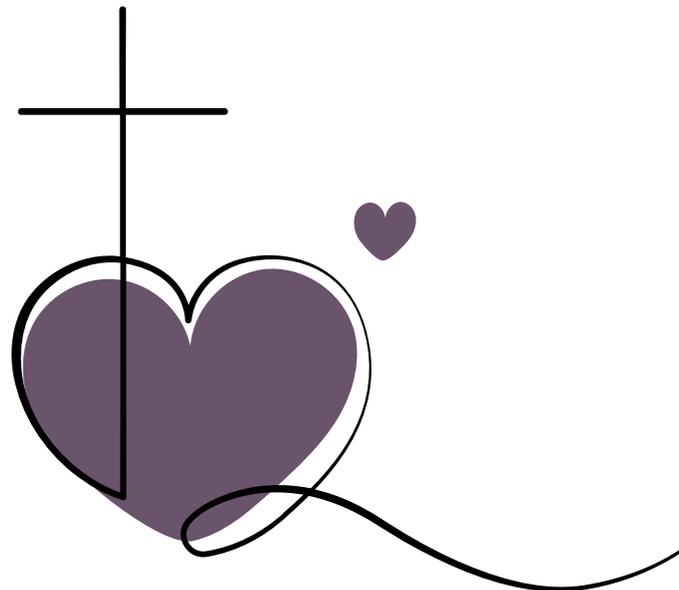
"My voice had been shut down by the lies of the enemy and trauma from the past."



A child who learned to stay silent became a teenager who didn't know how to use her voice. The years of pain, anger, and abuse began to manifest in an ugly way. The thirteen-year-old young girl didn't fully realize what was happening. However, she was able to recognize that the urge to rebel, live numb, and run was becoming overwhelmingly strong. When peer pressure came, she went with the flow and didn't speak up much. Eventually, she made very poor and dangerous decisions.

The strongholds the enemy already had on her mind wrapped even tighter, like a constricting python. Trauma followed – one after another. Blow after blow to the heart, mind, and soul. With no way of knowing how to cope, drugs, alcohol, sex, adrenaline, and other desires of the flesh slowly but surely consumed her life. The God of the Bible, her first love, became a distant memory.

At seventeen years old, she hit rock bottom. The lifestyle that promised to fulfill every desire of the heart only left her more and more broken. With nowhere else to turn, she ran back to the feet of Jesus. He began a deep healing work in her heart, mending broken places no one even knew existed. The prodigal daughter became familiar with the miraculous, restorative, and redemptive power of Jesus.





With a change of heart came a change of scenery. About a year after returning to the Lord, she found a powerful church to call home. A few months into attending, a memory began to flood her mind every day for three months straight. In this memory, she stood in front of her parents as they sat on the couch. She grabbed her fake microphone and put on a concert for them. As bold as a lion, the little girl roared and declared, "I am going to be a singer one day."

One day, she finally sat still and prayed, intentionally listening for His voice. The woman knew the Lord was placing it on her heart to join the worship team. Worries, anxious thoughts, and fears tried to seep in. The same enemy who stole her voice as a young child came back with a vengeance. However, God gave her victory over these attacks.

She prayed, "Lord, if You want me to do this, I need You to show me a sign." And He did — not one, but two — speaking through the mouths of His people prophetically. She stopped running from the calling, surrendered, and obeyed His leading. Through this obedience, the young lady has been able to witness and experience many people moved by the Spirit of God through this ministry. No wonder war had been waged against this calling since she was a child!

Is there a gift, talent, idea, or desire that the enemy has been after in your life — especially since a young age? What things has he tried to bury in you that God wants to call forth? How can you take a step toward obedience concerning the plans and purposes God has for you?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



A time for everything.

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NLT



Breana Wilson

I am follower of Jesus, a wife, soon to be first time momma, owner of Rooted In The Rock & worship minister. I love to go outdoors, spend time with family, eat a good meal & check out something new!

TRUST GOD AND STEP OUT INTO THE WINEPRESS



BY KATHLEEN KNAPP

Do you ever have days when you feel like hiding away from the world? I do. Sometimes, I want to pull the covers over my head and stay in bed all day, even when I know God has called me to take action.

In the Old Testament, Gideon felt the same way. The Israelites were under occupation by the Midianites, who were very cruel, terrorizing them by stealing livestock and crops. Often, the Israelites hid in mountains, caves, and strongholds. One day, Gideon was hiding inside a winepress threshing wheat when an angel of the Lord came, telling him to rise against the Midianites and defeat them. Gideon doubted and was afraid. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valour." (Judges 6:12 ESV) Despite the reassurance, Gideon tested the angel's word several times before finally agreeing to comply.

In the end, Gideon led the Israelites against the Midianites in a whopping victory, outnumbered by thousands, with only 300 men. God proved the victory was possible, even though it looked hopeless to man; Gideon just

needed to be willing and trust. Gideon felt God calling him for a purpose, but he didn't feel worthy or qualified. He was also afraid. But God called him a mighty man of valor before the victory because he knew the story's ending. God didn't need Gideon's qualifications; he needed his obedience.



I get it; sometimes, I'm afraid of the future dreams God has laid in my heart. I don't feel worthy or qualified. Sometimes, I'm unsure about the "call" and test God's word. But he is always faithful. I need to be willing.

God doesn't ask us to do it alone. He will lead, equip, and support us on the path he has called us to. God asks for our willingness and obedience to follow him. Once Gideon accepted the calling, he was victorious, not by his own strength or power but by God's strength.

Like Gideon, we need to trust that God will be with us on the journey, especially if he calls us to the task. We don't need to worry about feeling worthy or qualified because God qualifies us as we step out in faith. In our weakness, he is strong!

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Are you feeling a call from God to do something outside your comfort zone? Are you feeling unworthy or unqualified? God has called you because of your unique ability to partner with him to get the job done. No task is too big or small; he asks you to be willing and obedient and trust him to be with you in the battle. Step out of the winepress today and say: "Here I am, Lord, use me."

“
God didn't need
Gideon's
qualifications; he
needed his
obedience.
”



Receive ~ Prayer

Thank you, God, for seeing my potential, even when I don't feel worthy of the tasks you've given me. Please give me the strength and courage to step out of the shadows into the light of your promise. Thank you for being with me on the journey.

Remember - Scripture

And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valour." (Judges 6:12 ESV)

Remember - Scripture

Where is God calling you to trust him today? Step into what he has prepared for you.





This devotion is an excerpt from my new book, “Come to the Table - Pursuing God & Joy Through Grace & Mercy.” A 31-Day Devotional with companion journal now available on Amazon.

Kathy Knapp is an author and speaker. You can find more about her and her writing on her website, www.Psalm139Promises.com, Facebook, Instagram, and view her published books on Amazon.



WHAT'S IN
YOUR
HAND

BY CARMEN CHASE

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV

As the sun coaxed another trickle of sweat from the edge of my clown wig, I paused for a moment to straighten my spine and glanced at two wiggly lines of excited kids. We had the longest queues of any booth in the town square. I rinsed my #4 paintbrush and reloaded while my husband bantered with the child in front of him, drawing a few giggles from the crowd. I marveled at the power of motor muscle memory as he deftly twisted sections of a skinny lime green balloon into a turtle bracelet.

Back to the task at hand, I anchored my pinky on the child's strawberry side curls and swept my brush from the corner of her eye to her forehead, attempting to mirror the swirly butterfly wing I'd just painted over her opposite eye. Success. She was sitting pretty still for a preschooler. (Bless you my child!) Now for the butterfly body. Just a swift paintstroke down her nose. I held my breath and went for it.

Alas, my tickly brush got the best of her. Her face jerked left as my brush finished its stroke, and instantly her butterfly grew an unnaturally thick appendage from its abdomen. Whoops! Her mom and I both had a chuckle as I amputated the unwanted insect limb with a baby wipe. Just a dusting of iridescent glitter over the pink and purple wings and my masterpiece was complete.

MY MASTERPIECE WAS COMPLETE.....

“WHATEVER YOUR HAND FINDS TO DO....”

I thanked the sparkly winged creature and her mother for coming and directed them to the mirror as her freckled brother climbed up to take her place. What would you like? Spiderman! I smiled and hoped he wasn't as ticklish as his sister...

I never aspired to be a face painter. Never took classes or went to school for it. My husband didn't dream of sculpting balloon animals. We were pastors, not artists. Certainly not professional clowns. So what prompted us to launch a family entertainment business? Need. And God.

We were pastors, not artists. Certainly not professional clowns.

When we moved to North Carolina, infant and preschooler in tow, we had no home, no job and no income. Only faith, and the call of God to start a church. A few dear friends committed to support us monthly for a season, but we knew we needed a supply of income that didn't hinder our ability to give our time and attention to our fledgling congregation.

When my husband asked God what to do, he distinctly heard the Father say, “Whatever your hand finds to do...”. His brain chewed on that for a bit and what rose to the surface was, “Well, we both know how to be clowns...”

...UNTIL GOD REVEALED HE MEANT IT FOR MORE

We were kids pastors, so we each had a few zany characters we'd resurrect at times for special events like vacation Bible school. Mine was a grandma clown that sported a silk flower hat, fake balloon bosoms and an extra fluffy derriere made possible by a throw pillow safety-pinned into a pair of shorts. She'd strut into our kids' services swinging her extra-long strand of "Pentecostal pearls" to a thumping rendition of "Power in the Blood" and sing just a little off key.

My husband immediately jumped from concept to action. "OK honey, dress up in your clown outfit and we'll drive to a bunch of restaurants in town to see if we can get you hired. Maybe they'll have a kids night."

"A restaurant? What am I going to do for them?"

"Hmmm. You could paint kids' faces!"

"But I've never done that."

"Oh, you'll be great! Just paint some flowers and balloons on some paper to show the managers what you can do."

I'd loved art since I could remember. But painting was never more than a hobby...until God revealed He meant it for more. Much more.

Thanks to dissatisfaction with their current clown, Golden Corral hired me on the spot. Soon my husband landed his own restaurant with his

ALL OF THAT BIRTHED FROM THE SIMPLE IDEA.....

“Sheriff Loopy” character, starting with the few balloon animals he’d learned in Bible college. We each honed our skills and within months we were booking birthday parties and corporate events.

The big surprise was not the flexible income for our family, but the ministry opportunity it opened in our community. Parents were always looking for something healthy and fun for their families. So when we’d offer face painting and balloons for free at community events, they’d all line up. When parents found out we were kids pastors, they were intrigued. Some began attending our church. It helped us start conversations and build relationships with people we’d otherwise never meet.

Our popularity grew so much that we began coaching others to help handle the crowds. I developed training videos that incorporated an easy way to tell kids about Jesus while they were being painted, and for a few years I traveled to conventions to share the technique with others. Materials were translated into Spanish and French and used by missionaries in a few pockets around the globe.

All of that birthed from the simple idea, “Whatever your hand finds to do...”

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED WHERE IT TAKES YOU

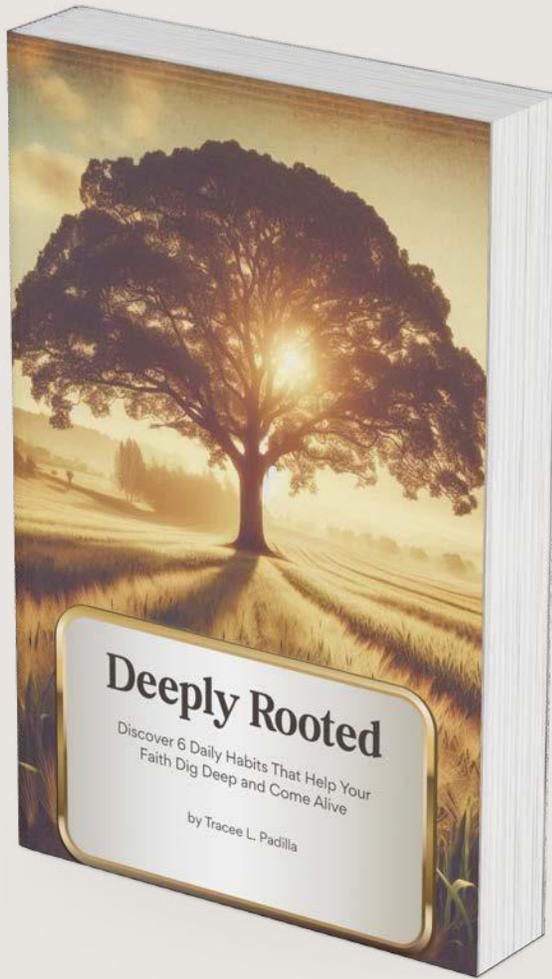
What's in your hand? What did you enjoy as a child or teen that could be reactivated in a fresh way? What skills could you share with others that would build a bridge toward friendship that leads to Christ? Is your hobby the key to unlocking something new the Lord wants to do? It might seem small or insignificant now, but if God is in it, well...you might just be surprised where it takes you!



Carmen Chase

Carmen Chase is a worship pastor in coastal North Carolina. While some know her best as a professional clown, face paint artist, musician or teacher, her favorite title is wife to her husband, Jimmy, and mom to her two grown children. A suspenseful book in her lap (in the shade!) at the beach may be a top pick for a day off, but a deep-dive study of the Bible—with coffee and dark chocolate nearby—is her go-to on any given day.

[Social Media](#)

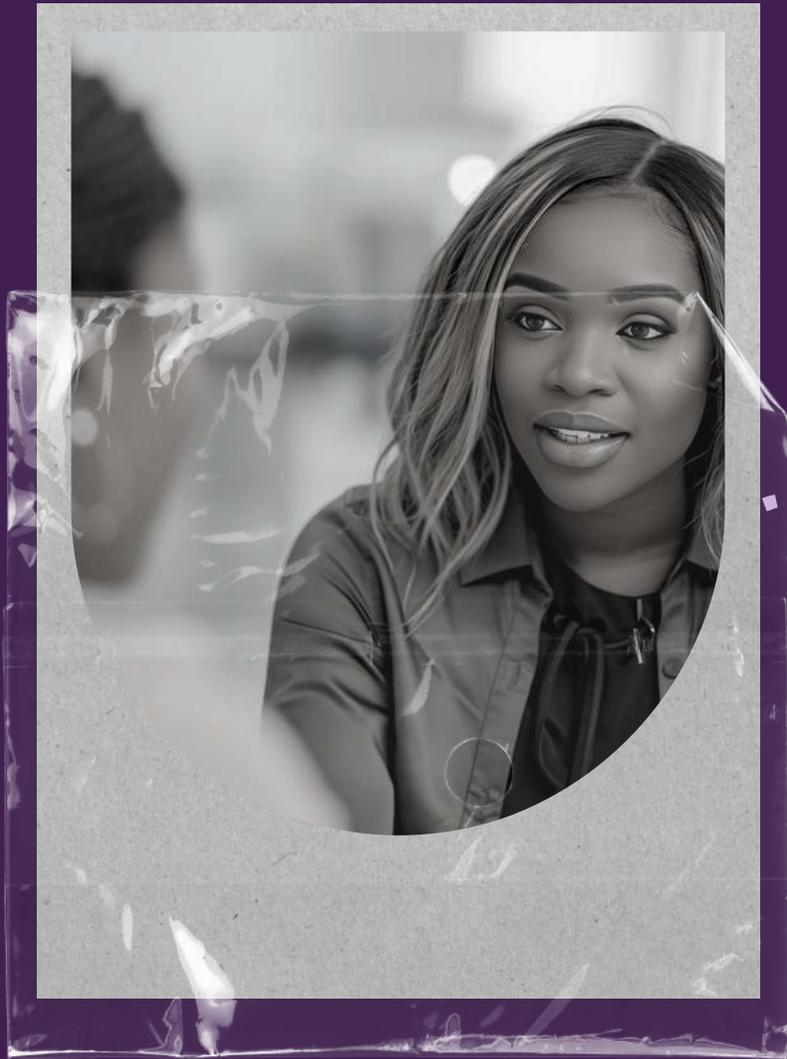


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This 6-week study is an invitation to dig in—not just on Sundays, but in the everyday moments that shape who you’re becoming.

Rooted in Colossians 2:6–7, it walks you through what it means to live grounded in God through His Word, prayer, worship, active faith, and a heart of gratitude. When your roots go deep, your faith stands strong.



POSITIONED FOR SOMEONE ELSE

How God Multiplies Obedience Into More Than You Imagined

by Janice Conyers

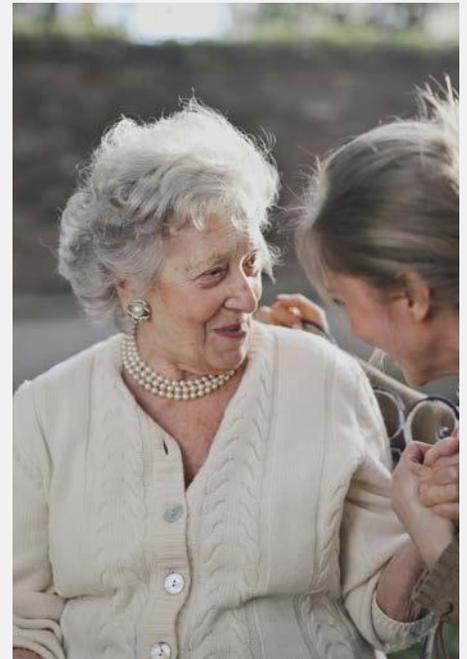
There are days when obedience feels heroic, and days when it feels exhausting.

You know the ones. The kind of day where nothing goes right. You spill the coffee, the schedule falls apart, conversations drain you, and by the time evening rolls around, all you want is to go home, shut the door, and be done. And yet... you made a commitment. You said yes. You're on the schedule. People are expecting you.

So, you go anyway.

You show up to church to volunteer, not because you're feeling spiritual or strong, but because you're faithful. Because somewhere along the way, you learned that obedience isn't always fueled by emotion; sometimes it's fueled by trust. You whisper a quiet prayer in the car or the hallway: "Lord, I don't have much tonight. Please give me enough strength to get through this lesson." If you're honest, if it weren't for the commitment you made, you wouldn't even be there.





And then... God shows up.

Not necessarily in you but through you.

This is the holy surprise of being positioned for someone else.

Scripture is full of moments where God places people exactly where they don't want to be, not for their own breakthrough, but for someone else's. One of the clearest examples is found in the story of Philip. In Acts 8, Philip is experiencing incredible fruit in Samaria; people are listening, responding, and being healed. It's working. It makes sense. And then God tells him to leave.

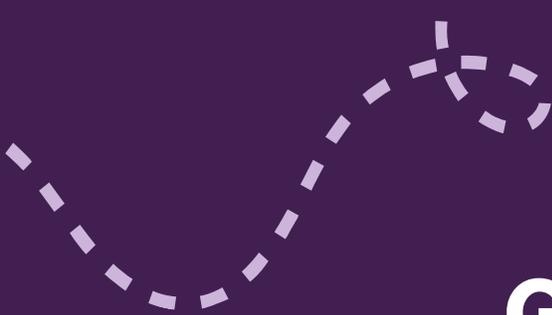
Acts 8:26 (NLT) says, "As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, 'Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.'" A desert road. No crowds. No momentum. No explanation. Philip obeys anyway.

That obedience places him directly in the path of an Ethiopian official who is searching, confused, and hungry for truth. Philip doesn't know it when he starts walking, but his assignment isn't about his comfort or visibility, it's about one man's encounter with God. Because Philip shows up, Scripture is explained, faith is ignited, and a life is changed.

Sometimes we assume God is using us most when we feel our best. But more often, He uses us when we simply show up.

You see it when you stand in front of a room, feeling empty, and suddenly a question is asked, or a prayer request is shared, and the atmosphere shifts. You realize someone needed this space tonight. Someone needed to be seen, heard, or reminded that God is near. And you were the one assigned to be there.





GALATIANS 6:9

GENTLY REMINDS US, "SO LET'S NOT GET TIRED OF DOING WHAT IS GOOD. AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST OF BLESSING IF WE DON'T GIVE UP." THAT HARVEST DOESN'T ALWAYS COME IN THE FORM OF PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT. SOMETIMES IT COMES IN THE FORM OF WATCHING GOD RESTORE, SOFTEN, OR AWAKEN SOMEONE ELSE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

Those moments are humbling.

You realize your exhaustion didn't disqualify you. Your bad day didn't cancel God's plan. Your willingness mattered more than your energy. And suddenly it becomes clear: this night wasn't about you feeling capable, it was about you being available.

Jesus Himself modeled this again and again. Interrupted. Pulled aside. Tired. Yet still attentive. Mark 6:34 (NLT) tells us, "Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd."

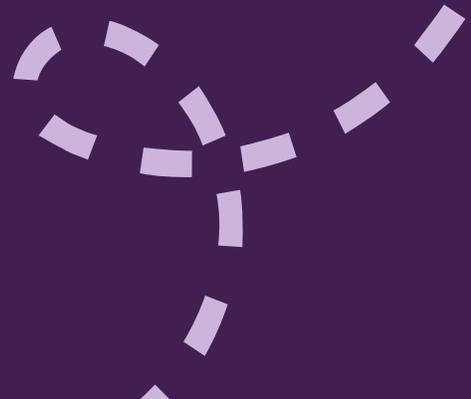
Compassion compelled Him to stay, even when rest would have made sense.

When you show up on the hard days, you mirror that same compassion.

So, if you've ever walked away from a night like that, quietly undone, deeply aware that God moved despite your weakness, hold onto it. That's the sacred reminder that obedience has ripple effects. That sometimes you're not just positioned for growth, or clarity, or endurance. Sometimes, you're positioned for someone else's breakthrough.

And God trusted you enough to show up anyway.

Written by Janice Conyers



FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH. YOU WILL FILL ME WITH JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE. I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS SO THAT MY JOY MAYBE IN YOUR AND THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE L



UNVEILED
Living

the JOY revolution

CONFERENCE



CARMEN



JANICE



AMANDA



TRACEE

CARMEN CHASE
6:30PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

JANICE CONYERS 9:00 AM
AMANDA CRABB 6:30PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

TRACEE PADILLA
9:00AM

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Joy Revolution Conference



If you're anywhere near North Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach, or Wilmington, pay attention — because something powerful is happening just down the coast.

Joy Revolution is a three-day, Holy Spirit-led gathering in Ocean Isle Beach created for women who are done surviving and ready for strength to rise again. This isn't a feel-good weekend or a surface-level conference. It's a holy disruption— where joy is restored, heaviness breaks, and God reminds us that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Featuring Amanda Crabb as the main event speaker, along with Spirit-filled worship and anointed speakers, this weekend is marked for real encounters, real freedom, and real joy.

Come weary.
Leave stronger.

Joy is about to interrupt some things.

✨ Tickets are available now. Seating is limited.

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NEW!!

episode

What's In Your Hand?



What to Do While You're Waiting on
the Vision



What's In Your Hand?

The entire month of January, I focused on DWELL—what it means to make God's presence the place we live, not just the place we visit. Rooted in Psalm 91, this series invited us to slow down, listen, and learn how dwelling with the Lord shapes how we wait, trust, and move forward. (If you missed any of the episodes, you can catch them all here.

I wrapped up the series with What's In Your Hand, sharing a personal story from my childhood growing up on the mission field in Zaragoza.

It's a story about vision, obedience, and trusting God in the in-between—when the vision is clear, but provision hasn't shown up yet.

Because dwelling doesn't rush the process.
It teaches us how to wait...
and how to be faithful with what's already
in our hands while we trust God with what's next.

SCAN ME



Unveiled Living

KIDZ KORNER



Kidz Korner

MIGHTY

MOUSE



BY MICHELLE A. BALTS

How do you see yourself?
What thoughts have you believed about yourself that maybe aren't true at all?
And how would you know?

The way you think about yourself has everything to do with how you receive from your Abba Father.

In the fable The Lion and the Mouse there was a mouse that unintentionally scurried across a lion hoping to get away alive. The mouse promised to help the lion someday for letting him live which the lion found quite amusing. How could a small mouse ever aid a lion? Surprisingly, the lion let the mouse go free.

As the fable continues, the lion found himself in need of help after falling prey to a hunter's trap. It just so happened that the mouse heard his cry for help and quickly came running as fast as his little feet could take him. He chewed and chewed until finally the mouse wore down the rope that had entangled the king of the jungle. The lion experienced how a small thing can help something greater than himself.

How can we think right thoughts about others and especially about ourselves? It requires renewing our minds to how our Abba Father thinks about us. In the Amplified Bible Classic Edition Jeremiah 29:11 states, For I know the thoughts and plans I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

The mouse obviously thought well enough of himself to confidently think he could later help the lion. We could say he dwelled on thoughts that agree with Philippians 4:8 in the NIV version that says to think on things that are noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable-anything that's excellent or praiseworthy. So you can be small and think big thoughts.



But let me insert here that we'll also need to wean our minds of thoughts such as always trying to figure out everything, giving up easily when something is difficult, only thinking about ourselves, feeling sorry for ourselves, thinking prideful, judgmental thoughts. All of these things will lead to feelings of anxiety or worry and leave us without peace in our hearts and minds.

We can start this new year by making declarations about ourselves. Here are a few to get us going in the right direction: I am so loved by my Abba Father and fully accepted in the Beloved. I am a new creation in Christ. The old nature is gone and all things have become new. I am made the righteousness of God in Christ. So I have right-standing with my Abba Father because I believe on the name of His Son and that he died for me. And like the mouse in our fable we can say, I am given mighty inner strengthening of the Holy Spirit out of Abba Father's glorious unlimited resources.



MICHELLE A. BALTS

Michelle is the sister of Tracee, friend, school teacher with over 30+ years of teaching in the Christian School Sector and having spent the past 16 years homeschooling her daughter. She has been married 23 years. In her spare time, she enjoys sewing, quilting, hand-stitching, drawing, painting, and walking on the beach.

She is a deep lover of the Word of God and has been on a continual pursuit of spiritual growth in her life that beautifully seeps into everything she does.

She is very creative storyteller and a regular contributor for our Kids Corner - writing stories specifically for our kids to help them grow in their faith and walk with God.

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**Prothesis: Live
ON Purpose**



**Holy Habits:
It Start with
Showing Up**



Don't Rush Into Purpose



**If You Did Any of
These This Week....
You Might Be a Martha**



**Purpose Doesn't
Start with a Plan**



**Who Told You
Joy Wasn't Allowed?**



Holy Habits

IT STARTS WITH SHOWING UP

In my journey with the Lord, there's been a deeper realization He's been pressing on my heart about the importance of holy habits. Not habits rooted in striving—but habits rooted in presence. It's felt like discovering a deeper well... one I knew I had access to but wasn't quite willing to make the sacrifice in my younger years. Or, that's how it felt.

But once I started activating this in my life, something unexpected happened.

I walked through one of the greatest spiritual attacks I've ever experienced.

I'm not saying that to scare you. I'm actually praying it does the opposite—because if you're feeling stirred to go deeper with God, you need to know this: resistance doesn't mean you're doing something wrong. Often, it means you're finally moving in the right direction.

Scripture reminds us in John that the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy—but Jesus came so that we may have life, and life abundantly. So it's no surprise that when we decide to press in deeper with God, there's an enemy who will throw every possible distraction, delay, and detour in our path.

Why?

Because if he can keep us at a surface-level walk with God—doing just enough to feel spiritual, but still carrying battles God never meant us to carry—then he's content.

But the moment we decide to go deeper...to step into the fuller, richer, more intimate life God offers...that's when the pushback comes.

And yet, Scripture also reminds us: No weapon formed against you will prosper. The weapon may form—but it will not prevail. Why? Because the deeper we go with God, the greater His covering becomes. Just read [Psalm 91](#).

Something powerful happens when we shift our lives away from the constant go-go-go this world defines as success. We don't always realize it, but busyness—even "doing things for God"—can quietly validate our egos with a false thinking that "we're living a good Christian life" while still starving our souls. Ouch. I know. That one stings.

But when we truly choose to shift—when we move from striving to dwelling—something changes. It's beautiful. It's deep. It's life-altering.

The atmosphere of your heart begins to change.
Your mind begins to settle.
Your life begins to realign.

And once you've tasted that depth with God, you realize—you don't want to go back, ever.

You see, the river of God is contagious. And I believe in the days we're living in, choosing this depth isn't optional—it's vital.

Let me say this gently but honestly:
If we have time for social media...
If we have time to binge a show...
Then we do have time to go deeper with God.

And I know some of you might say, "But Tracee, I don't even do those things—and I still don't have time."

My encouragement is simple: make time.
We can't afford not to.

I spent enough of my younger years pursuing God a few days a week—doing all the "right" things. I was in ministry, leading worship, staying active... but I lacked deeply rooted holy habits. And I truly believe some seasons I walked through could have been different had I gone deeper sooner.

Here's why this matters.

If you struggle with anxiety, insecurity, feeling unloved, abandoned, rejected...
If you carry guilt or shame...
If your faith feels fragile or inconsistent...and that's not naming the entire list...

Developing holy habits isn't the answer to fixing those things—it's the way Jesus begins to fill the spaces where those things once tried to live, with His truth. And the more God's truth takes root in you, the more those old things lose their place or positioning. They simply can't remain.

I call this the great exchange.

As you dig into His Word, something begins to shift. You start exchanging your doubts for faith—the kind of faith that believes in the impossible. You begin exchanging anxiety for a peace that truly surpasses all understanding. And for some, you begin exchanging years of mourning, loss, and heaviness for what Scripture calls the oil of joy.

To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion—to give them an ornament (a garland or diadem) of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit—that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.
Isaiah 61:3 AMP (Classic)



This is what happens when Jesus fills your life. He doesn't force things out—He gently crowds out what was never meant to stay. His Word renews your mind, reshapes your thinking, and transforms how you see, how you speak, and how you live.

It reminds me of this scripture:
So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17 (ESV)

What activates our faith to believe is hearing God's Word! Getting it into your DNA is what turns your entire world upside down because God's word is ALIVE!! And where His word is allowed to reside, the atmosphere always changes.

And it all begins with the most foundational holy habit of all: showing up daily with Jesus.

Because it's all about one thing: relationship.

You wouldn't go a day without speaking to the person you love most. Imagine waking up and never saying a word to your spouse. Eventually, the silence would speak louder than words.

Our walk with God is no different.

When we consistently choose not to commune with Him, it's as if we're saying, "Lord, I love You—but I don't have time for You." And from that silence, we begin carrying weights we were never meant to hold.

So here's my invitation.

There's no end date to this. No finale planned. I'm simply being obedient to what I sense the Holy Spirit leading me to share—weekly holy habits you can begin thinking about and gently but powerfully applying to your everyday life.

And one more thing—this is not about becoming perfect.

Give yourself grace because the Lord does.
If you miss a day... start again.
If you mess up... keep going.

God is not in heaven with folded arms and a disappointed look shaking His head. He's kind. He's patient. He's tender. He's loving. And He's ecstatic that you're choosing to go deeper. And get this, you're given the promise that'll He'll meet you every step of the way.

Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. John 15:4 (AMPC)

So just keep showing up—daily, faithfully, honestly.

Because the beauty is this: God has already given us everything we need to live a beautiful life.

And it starts today.

This article was written by Tracee Padilla - taken from Unfiltered Faith - bi-weekly blog newsletter. Holy Habit Series drops every Thursday.

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WHEN YOUR WILDERNESS

LEADS YOU TO GOD'S PURPOSE

by Tricia Clark





*FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A
SEASON, AND A TIME FOR EVERY
MATTER UNDER HEAVEN.
ECCLISIASTES 3:1 ESV*

I'll never forget the heaviness that Sunday morning in February, as I sat in the pew alone for the first time. The same pew my husband and I had sat together a week or two before---second row, center aisle, closest to the right.

And I will never forget the compassion my pastor's wife showed as she rose from her usual spot that Sunday morning in February to sit beside me in the second row, center aisle, closest to the right. I felt God's love in that moment as she wrapped her arms around a devastated girl who, somehow, found the courage to show up and sit alone with a battle-worn heart still dripping with despair over the loss of her marriage.

This season would fill my heart with uncertainty: Had I made the right decision? Should I have stayed? Maybe I could have fought harder for the marriage and overlooked the abuse?

Exodus 2:23 describes the Israelites' story in Egypt as one of hardship. Their hearts longed for God to rescue them. Yet when God answered their prayer and released them from their bondage, it wasn't long before they wondered if it might be better to return from where they had come; at least they knew what to expect, even if it was painful.

I felt God's love in that moment.....

They did not understand the purpose of the wilderness, and why they couldn't head straight for the Promised Land God was giving them. Wilderness living is not enjoyable. It requires

reflection, growth, and healing. In a Chick-fil-A world, we want to skip the waiting and jump straight to the promises. The Israelite's thought once they left their struggles behind in Egypt, the Promised Land was their next stop.

I knew in the depths of my spirit if I had stayed, I would never be more than a puppet locked

inside a cage, longing to be a real girl, but the wilderness was the space I needed to take back my life.

When God reconciles the battle between our heart and our mind, our purpose becomes clear.

After many years of seeking God's direction, counsel, and covering my marriage in prayer, He released me so He could restore me, and heal His little girl; He removed me so I could be hope and light to women drowning under the lie that their marriage matters more to God than their wellness.

Just like the Israelite's, we need time in the wilderness to decompress from what we have experienced in Egypt. The wilderness offers us that space and freedom to learn and grow before God brings us to our purpose in the Promised Land: Our hopes and dreams fulfilled.

Just like my Pastor's wife who had compassion on me that Sunday morning in February---second pew, center aisle, closest to the right--- God shows compassion throughout our wilderness seasons. He teaches and guides us in preparation for what He has called us to do next.

So, if God seems to have left you in the wilderness longer than you ever wanted or expected, seek Him and trust Him in the waiting. Your purpose-filled Promised Land is coming.

Take a moment to be still. Breathe in and out slowly. Let God's presence fill you as you think about these three questions:

- Is your heart and mind still enslaved in Egypt?
- What do you sense God showing you in the wilderness?
- Can you envision the hopes and dreams God has given you in the Promised Land?

God knows the best way to prepare us for our purpose; He will not waste your wilderness experience.



About Tricia Clark

After walking through the heartbreak of divorce, Tricia Clark discovered that healing is possible and freedom is real. Today, she uses her story to help others recognize unhealthy patterns, find their voice again, and begin their own journey toward wholeness. Her heart is to remind you that your story isn't over—it's just beginning.

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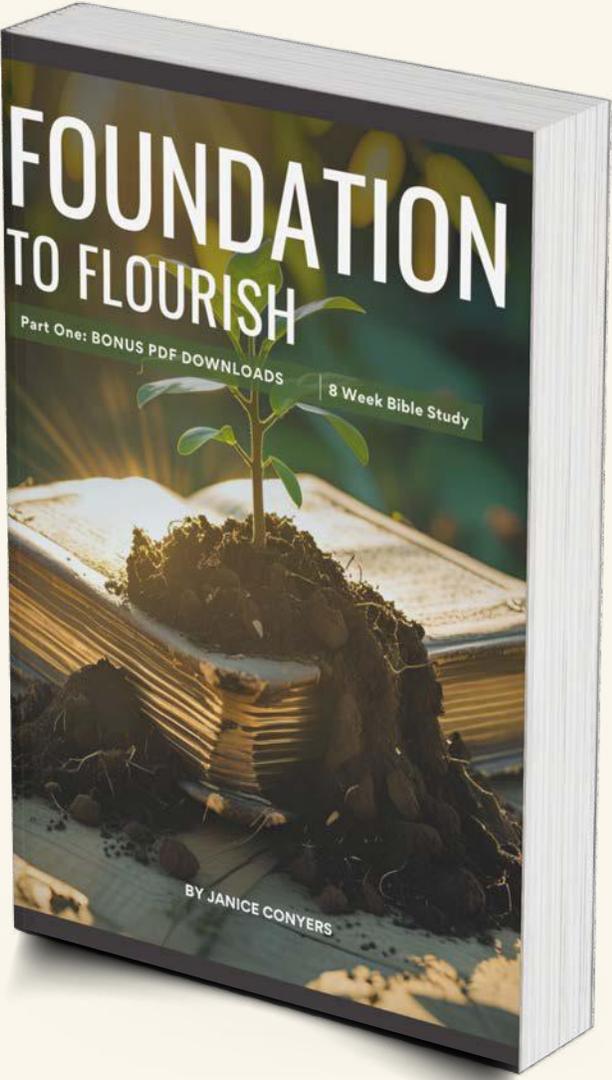
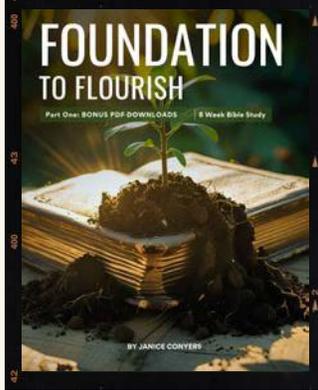
The noise of the world, the pressure to do more, the constant mental clutter—these things choke out our ability to hear from God. Silence is how we fight back. It's how we mentally and spiritually recalibrate, and it is so necessary. Silence grounds us and reminds us that our identity is found not in what we do but in who we belong to.

Silence is where we stop striving and start listening. Silence is not a luxury. It's a lifeline.

Because we're constantly being pulled away, in silence, we learn to know God, not just know about Him. You begin to hear His heart. We allow His love to reshape our identity. We step off the treadmill of productivity and remember that we are loved for who we are, not what we do.

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ORDER NOW 

around you. It's declaring with faith: "Even here, even now, God is good."

Whether you're in a season of joy or one of struggle, gratitude will anchor you to the unchanging character of God. It will help you hold onto hope, and it will transform your heart one moment at a time.

Winning the War in Your Mind Starts Here

- When we choose to be grateful, we choose to fight.
- We reject the fear that God is distant.
- We refuse the voice that says nothing good is happening.
- We remind our hearts that we are loved, even surrounded by our pain.

You don't need to wait for your circumstances to change to start seeing God.

You just need to start looking for Him. And a heart of gratitude will help you do exactly that.

That's the heart behind this Study and 30-Day Challenge: to renew your thoughts by intentionally recording the goodness of God, one day at a time. As you do, you'll build spiritual resilience, renew your mindset, and discover new treasures for God's kingdom in the everyday.




respects its original differences. He restores his work through the spirit with humility. We shift the narrative from fear to faith.

"We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ."
—1 Corinthians 10:5 ESV

Prayer journaling is a tool for spiritual warfare. It's a daily practice that strengthens your ability to stay focused on what is good, noble, and true (Philippians 4:8).

Some days, your journal may be a flood of emotions. Other days, it might just be a sentence or a single Scripture. There's no wrong way to come to God honestly.

The most important thing is that you come.

And here's the best part—God meets you there. As you begin to write out your prayers, you'll start to hear His voice more clearly. You'll begin to recognize His responses and sense His presence in everyday moments. Over time, your prayer journal becomes a sacred record of intimacy with God—a history of faith, healing, and transformation.



It's time to clear out what's been holding you back and build the kind of foundation that lasts. This 8-week (part 1) study lays the groundwork for spiritual growth with Scripture-based teaching, reflection, and space to grow stronger in God. Spiral-bound study. 120 pages.

Available now at unveiledliving.org/studies



We want to hear from you!

It's my hope and prayer that this magazine has blessed you, inspired you, and gave you hope. God truly has beautiful things in store for your life. If you'd like to share a story, testimony or a way we can pray for you, please let us know here. We'd love to hear from you - fill out our form today. (Some testimonies may be selected for production through our podcast)

Tracee Padilla - Unveiled Living

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