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**Chapter #1:**

**Why Did God Create You and Me?**

Eph 2:10 NIV)

**First Main Point**: **God created us because it was part of His plan.**

**Support A: God chose us before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1: 3-5 NIV)**

**Support B: Before creation, God chose Jesus to be the Redeemer of the world.**

**1 Pet 1: 18-20**

**Support C: God promise man eternal life before creation of the world.**

**Example:** God made the promise that if Jesus become the lamb of God. God promise eternal life before the beginning of time, the Father would grant eternal life to all who placed their trust in Him and God cannot lie. (tit 1:1-2)

**Second Main Point: God created us out of love.**

**Support A: God is love. God chose to create man before the creation because of the love He had for Jesus.**

**Example:** God loves man and desires a relationship with man

**“**See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” 1 John 3:1

**“**We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

**Example:** God wants us to love him

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV

**Example:** God wants us to love others

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7

**Support B: God created us in His image. (**Gen 1:27 NIV)

**Example:** Mental capacity: We have God’s intellect to think, reason, make decisions, invent, create

**Example:** Moral capacity: We have a conscience or “moral compass” that reflects God’s holiness. We know the difference between evil and good. We were created in righteousness and perfect innocence with the capability to be compassionate, respectful, empathetic, honest and have integrity.

**Example:** Social capacity: God created us with the intent to fellowship with others which reflects God’s triune nature and His love. In Gen 2:18, God says, “it is not good for the man to be alone” (NIV).

**Support C: Through Jesus all things were created**.

**Example:** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, powers, rulers, or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16 NIV

**Third Main Point**: **God created us for kingdom purpose.**

**Support A:** **To Glorify Him**

**Example:** We glorify God when we praise Him

**Example**: We glorify God when we obey His Word

**Example:** We glorify God when we produce fruit

**Support B: God created man proclaim His Truth**

**Example**: We proclaim His Truth by sharing the gospel

**Example**: We proclaim His Truth when we testify of who God is and what God has done

**Support C: God created man to rule the earth.**

**Example:** We rule the earth by serving **(**we “rule with a servant heart”) (Senator Shannon Grove)

**Example:** Being God’s gift to the earth, we rule by using our gifts, abilities, and talents

**Example:** We rule by reproducing and filling the earth

**Example:** We rule by taking charge. (**we** “lead with the heart of a king”(Senator Shannon Grove)

**Chapter 1: Conclusion**:

**Restate topic**: Created for Kingdom Purpose

God created everything with kingdom purpose. As His children, we are all called to glorify Him, proclaim His Truths and rule over the earth. We rule as servants and lead as kings using our unique gifts, abilities, and talents.

**Chapter #2:**

**God is Calling You**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

God is preparing you for everything He wants you to be at this point. He is preparing you for your destiny. “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.” Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

**First Main Point: Discover Your Call**

**Support A: Your Call is connected to your identity**.

**How does God see you.**

**Example:** God knows you better than we know yourselves (Psa 139)

**Example:** What does the Bible say about you

**Example:** You have destiny

**How do you see yourself**

**Example:** Do you know your talents, abilities, interest, passions, weaknesses, strengths

**Example**: You need to know your heart

“Within your heart you can make plans for your future, but the Lord chooses the steps you take to get there.” Proverbs 19:9 (TPT)

**Example:** You need to accept you and your life (experiences, crises)

**How do others see you**

**Example:** Are you known to be friendly?

**Example:** Are you know to be generous?

**Example:** Are you known to be a godly person?

**Support B: Your Call is connected to knowing God.** (2 Thess 1:11-12 NIV)

**Who is God (1 Cor 13:4-7)**

**Example:** How is God described in the Bible

**Example:** Who is God to you

What is God known for in the Bible.

**Examle:** What are God’s attributes

**Example:** What does God mean to you

**What has God done or is doing.**

**Example:** What did God do in the Bible

**Example:** What has God done foe you

**Support C: Your Call is connected to serving.**

**Purpose will find you…. Serve the purpose” (Steven Furtick)**

**Example:** Others may let you know how valuable you are in your service

**God prepares you through your involvement.**

**Example:** Getting involved allowed you to discover your gifts and abilities

**God may be calling you to serve in some unique way.**

**Example**: Helping in the church, or in your community or on your job allowed you to discover own way that you want to serve.

**Second Main Point: Embrace Your Call**

**Support A: Embrace Your Call Through Submission:** (your heart, mind and will)

**Give your whole heart to what God is establishing in your life.**

**Meditate on His Word and what He is showing you.**

**Example:** Think about what God’s Word says in connection to how He is leading you

**Example:** Think about the experiences andhow what you are being called to aligns with you interest, passions, gifts, talents, abilities

**Surrender your will to do His Will**

**Example:** Consider your motives for doing or not doing what you are being called to do

**Example:**  Bible Character discovered their purpose through surrendering

**Support B: Embrace the Call Through God Positioning You.**

**God may relocate you.**

**Example:** God may relocate to another city or another church to serve in some capacity

**God may allow you to be chosen for a specific task.**

**Example**: The pastor may ask you to work with the youth and the children are drawn to you and your leadership

**S God may allow you to be promoted.**

**Example:** God’s may relocate you to another city or allow you to be chosen for a task or allowing you to be promoted and you then find that you are very suited for that role.

**Third Main Point: Your Purpose is connected to your commitment to serve.**

**Support A: Are you willing to make an impact in the kingdom?**

**Example:** Will you sacrifice time, money, and energy?

**Support B: Will you use your gifts, talents, and abilities?**

Example: Will you teach, speak, preach, sing, dance, evangelize, etc.…?

**Support C: Will you help others?**

**Example**: Will you mentor or disciple?

**Example:** Will you give to meet someone else’s need

**Chapter 2: Conclusion**:

**Restate topic**: God is Calling You

God is the only one who can fulfill His purpose in you. The destiny that God had on my life was already being established during my childhood. God is the only one who can fulfill His purpose in you. We cannot walk in that purpose if we are not connected to the right sources. Our purpose is connected to knowing God, knowing ourselves and being committed to serve.

**A Prayer: God is Calling You**

**Chapter #3:**

**Persevering In the Call**

Confront the Challenges, Resist Temptations, Persevere through Trials

**First Main Point: Confront the Challenges: Personal, People, Unexpected Circumstance**

**Support A: Confront People**

**Example**: People can be critical and cause conflict, and treat you unfairly

**Example**: People can be resistant and be needed

**Support B: Confront Personal Issues**

**Example**: Insecurities of low confidence, fear of failure, being self-critical, etc.

**Example:** Health issues

**Example:** Misconceptions about how you think people view you such as controlling, self-centered

**Support C: Unexpected circumstances can hinder you.**

**Example**: Lacking or Limited resources

**Example**: Adjustment in time constraints

**Second Main Point: Resist and Avoid Temptations**

**Support A: Stand Firm when under spiritual attack.**

**Example:** 1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV – “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

**Example:** Do not entertain negative thoughts

**Support B: Be Content in all situations.**

**Example:** Do not become overburdened by the resources you do not have

**Example:** Do not compare yourself with others

**Support C: Put on the Armor of God**

**Example:** The Word of God

**Example:** Pray, Pray, Pray

**Example:** Rejoice: Praise and Worship God when you feel like it and when you do not

**Third Main Point: Persevere Through Trials**

**Support A: For God’s sake.**

**Example:** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5 NIV)

**Example:** For God’s sake: God’s purpose for creating us will not be fulfill if we do not do it. (to honor and glorify Him, to spread the Gospel, to serve in the kingdom)

**Support B: For our sake.**

**Example:** To fulfill our destiny

**Example:** God is equipping us with spiritual maturity

**Example:** God is helping us to become whole

**Support C: For the sake of others.**

**Example**: We want to leave a legacy

**Example:** We want to be a witness to others of what God is enabling you to do

**Example:** Example of Moses perseverance

Loss of joy and hope, despair

**Example:** We want to bear the fruit, spiritually and through multiplication: Others are drawn and want to follow God and your purpose by the fruit you bear spiritually (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) and through the work of what God has purpose you to do.

**Fourth Main Point: My Testimony of Persevering in Leading the Dance Ministry**

**Support A: The Challenges and Temptations that I faced.**

**Example:** Insecurities (myself or others), being a perfectionist, doubts

ministry

**Example:** Spiritual attacks (doubts, fears, rebelliousness, jealous, pride, competitiveness within the ministry)

**Example:** Health Issues: myself or others

**Support B: I was fixed on Jesus.**

**Example**: I fixed my eyes on Jesus by staying in the word

**Example:** I fixed my mind on Jesus by praying, meditating, and memorizing scripture

**Example:** I fixed my heart on Jesus by receiving His peace, comfort, and strength through the knowledge of his word and remembering the past experiences of His faithfulness

**Support C: I received the victory in Jesus** (Hebrews 12:2 NIV)

**Example:** Increase faith **-** My faith was increased to trust God through every trail and tribulation that I experience.

**Example:** Spiritual Growth **-** I was growing because I was learning from the trials and tribulation

**Example:** Renewed Strength - God continue to renew my strength

**Example:** Becoming more confident in my calling

**Chapter 3: Conclusion**:

**Restate topic**: Persevering in Your Purpose, Your Calling: Confront the Challenges, Resist Temptations, Persevere through Trials

No matter what obstacles arise, you must stay in the race and not give up on yourself, God, or His purpose for your life. You will not fulfill your kingdom purpose or glorify God or grow in spiritual maturity, if you allow people and personal issues and other circumstance to cause you to give up on your god given purpose. You must persevere through the challenges, feelings, and spiritual attacks. My testimony testifies of the challenges and temptations that I experience in the ministry of dance. What has helped me to stay the course is keeping my eyes, my mind and my heart fixed on Jesus. Jesus is where I and you will find the strength and the victory to overcome every obstacle.

**A Prayer for Persevering in Your Calling**

**Chapter 4: Conclusion**

**Restate topic**: My Story: How I Survived in Dance Ministry for 34 years

Just like you have experience challenges and temptation that have tried to hinder you in fulfilling God’s purpose in your life, I have experience challenges and temptations in the ministry of dance. What has helped me to stay the course is keeping my eyes, my mind and my heart fixed on Jesus. Jesus is where I and you will find the strength and the victory to overcome every obstacle.

**Prayer for Overcoming Challenges and Temptations**

**Chapter #4:**

**Thriving in Your Calling**

**First main point: God is Your Ultimate Partner in Ministry** (James 4:8 NKJV)

**Support A: Keep That Hunger for things of God.**

**Example:** Desire more of Him **(more t**ime in His presence, in prayer, in his word, in praise, in worship, in getting to know Him

**Example:** Listen for God’s voice. Intimacy with God should bring us to a place of hearing God. God speaks to us in unique ways (vision, thoughts, feelings, sensing, ….) (John 10:27-28 NIV)

**Example:** Trust God – “Before you do anything, put your trust totally in God and not in yourself. Then every plan you make will succeed.” Proverbs 16:8 (TPT)

**Support B: Stay Connected to the leading of the Holy Spirit**

**Example:** The Holy spirit will empower you with wisdom and revelation, and to speak and do things you could not do on your own.

**Example:** God will continue to establish you through the Holy Spirit(withdirection, guidance, teaching you His ways, interceding for you, and helping you fulfill the Will of God)

**Example:** You will bear fruit (Gal 5:22-23 NIV)

**Support C: Get Understanding, Knowledge, and Wisdom.**

**Example:** Grow in your biblical understanding of your purpose.

**Example:** Stand on biblical principles

**Example:** Allow God’s Word to be your inspiration and to keep you grounded.

**Second Main Point: Stay Connected to the Vision** (Habakkuk 2:2-3 NKJV)

**Support A: The kingdom is voice activated, how is God speaking to you.**

**Example:** God will give you a verse to stand on

**Example:** God can speak to you to continue to move toward the vision through people, through situations, through prayer, through dreams, etc.

**Example:** Create a vision board

**Support B: Continue to Enhance your vision as God takes you through seasons.**

**Example:** Take classes or read books to enhance your gift or skill or understanding

**Example:** Worship before Him

**Support C: Glean and connect with others of kindred spirit and purpose.**

**Example:** Pray and fellowship with others of kindred spirit to build a unified community

**Example:** Establish accountability partners or mentorship

**Example:** Learn from others

**Third Main Point**: **Walking Worthy of Your Calling**

**Support A:** **Be Confident**

**Example:** Your confidence comes from God

**Example**: (Phil 4:6-8 NKJV)

**Example**:(Phil 1:6 NIV)

**Support B: Be Thankful**

**Example:** Gives you Power

**Example:** Allows you to be content

**Example:** Christlike attitude (humble, peaceful, positive, joyful)

**Support C: Be Obedient**

**Example:** Trust God at His Word (Numbers 23:19 ESV)

**Example:** Obey His Word

**Example:** When God nudges you to do something, act on it

**Support D: Just Be**

**Example:** Wait on the Lord to answer prayer and work or your behalf Isa 40:31

**Example: Stop trying so hard and just trust God**

**Fourth Main Point: My Testimony: I thrived in the Dance Ministry for 34 Years**

**Support A: It was a faith journey.**

**Example:** I stayed prayerful and thankful. I sought God in prayer about everything (how to move, what song to choreography, how to choreograph, what to wear, who would be my helper, what age group to work with, etc.)

**Example:** I listened and obeyed God’s Voice as He spoke to me

**Example:** I submitted to God’s Will and saw how He established me in my purpose

**Support B**: **God continue to bless the ministry year after year** (Proverbs 18:16 NKJV)

**Example:** God increased my relationships with other dance ministers across the city of Chicago and then internationally

**Example**: I continue to acquire more knowledge, wisdom and understanding about the ministry of dance as I interacted with more dance ministers

**Support C: I kept the vision before me and testimonies of his blessings through the years within me.**

**Example:** I held on to God’s promises and commands (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV, John 4:23-24 NIV)

**Example:** I remembered the many ways that God had already blessed me and the ministry

**Example:** God kept renewing my strength and enhancing the vision.

**Chapter 4: Conclusion**

**Restate topic**: Thriving in Your Purpose

If you are to thrive in our purpose, you must stay connected to God. God will give you the eyes to see, ears to hear and the heart to receive from Him as you move in the purpose that He has called you to. You also must continue to stay connected to your purpose by keeping the vision in mind, developing your gifts and skills, and building positive relationships. You also must maintain a kingdom mindset by being optimistic, obedient, and emotionally stable. My testimony of thriving in dance ministry for 34 years was about a journey of faith. Through my faith I was able to follow the leading of God for when it was time to start the ministry and expand the ministry. Through my faith, God blessed the ministry and open many doors for building relationships with other dance ministers within my church and across Chicago and even internationally. I was able to teach beyond the church walls and grow in my biblical knowledge and in my skill of dancing for the Lord. After 34 years, I was able to pass the ministry on to another dance minister who I can assist her and watch the ministry continue to go from glory to glory.

**A Prayer for Thriving in Your Purpose**

**Chapter 5**

**“…for the joy set before you...”**

**First Main Point: Moving Forward in Joy** (James 1:2-4 NIV)

“Eyes that focus on what is beautiful bring joy to the heart and hearing a good report refresh.

and strengthens the inner being.” Proverbs 15:30 (TPT)

**Second Main Point: Moving Forward in Victory**

**Third Main Point: Wanting to hear, “Well Done Good and Faithful Servant”**

2 Tim 4:7 –**“**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (NIV)

Matthew 25:21 – “His lord said to him, ‘Well *done,* good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” (NKJV)

**Prayer to Move Forward**

**Conclusion**

**Introduction**

Imagine that you are at a music school for a dance recital, and it turns out to be more of a church service. You see female praise dancers positioned across the front of the auditorium dancing with sheer white scarves as the song says, "I feel seasons everywhere and I feel blessings in the air". These dancers are dressed in light blue bridal-like dresses adorned with sheer bell bottom sleeves with silver trim appearing very angelic in style. The dresses extend halfway below the knee where you can see white palazzo pants beneath. As the dancers turn, you can see the fluidness of the garment flaring out like the opening of an umbrella. Attached to the chests of the garments is a sparkling silver beaded cross symbolizing redemption (being set free from the guilt of sin through Jesus Christ who paid the price for all sin).

     At a certain point, the song says, “the wait is over, walk into your season”. The song continued to repeatedly say, “walk into your season" incorporated with adlibbing and the dancers, one by one, begin to walk through the veil which is positioned at the front of the center aisle of the auditorium. The veil is represented by two long white sheer flags which are held like curtains by two dancers. Each dancer individually walks through the veil, and then processions down the aisle flowing in movement as the spirit would lead them. As each dancer passes through the veil, you can hear people from the audience shouting, "Amen!”, Praise the Lord!", "Hallelujah!". As the last dancer walks through the veil, the song comes to an end. At the end of the song, you hear an uproar of praise. Some dancers are walking about and praising God with lifted hands and shouts of “Thank you Jesus!” and “Hallelujah!”. Other dancers are just standing and praising God with tears of joy. People from the audience are also praising God with shouts of praise and lifted hands.

   That experience was a reflection of God’s beauty and splendor moving through the ministry of an actual dance that took place at Dorolyn Academy School of Music in the year 2006. You could see a reflection of God’s beauty and splendor as the dancers move about gracefully with flowing scarves. You could see a reflection of God’s beauty and splendor as the dancers walked through the veil and as sounds of praise were released, hands lifted and people praising God while standing.

It was not man, but a move of God that made that church expereince possible. People were being ministered to on that day because of the willingness of the dance ministers to be used for God’s service. For God to use the dancer ministers, the dance ministers had to make themselves available to God’s calling. The dance ministers had to know their calling, had to embrace the calling, and be willing to fulfill their calling. As the dancers did their part, God did the equipping and the ministering in and through them.

Behind the scenes, the dance ministers had to prepare for ministry. They had to spend time praying, individually and corporately for strength, wisdom, and direction. As the choreographer, I had to seek God for the vision for the choreography, the vision for the dance attire and the prompting of the Holy Spirit to lead me to the right choice of song. I also had to have times of teaching the choreography to the dancers and times of leading devotions. Also, there had to be times of rehearsing the dance and times of exercising, learning dance techniques, and stretching. Lastly, there had to be times of sanctification and consecration to prepare our hearts and minds for ministry.

    What started out as a typical dance recital was a ministry to fulfill God’s purpose. God knew in advance those individuals that He would call to be dance ministers. God knew in advance that there would one day be a dance recital that would be use for kingdom purpose. God knew in advance that people would be blessed, touched, and encouraged at that recital. God already had this purpose in mind. God was able to fulfill His purpose upon that day because many individuals were willing to say “yes” to their calling and to His Will.

Do you know the purpose for which God has created you? Are you walking in that purpose? Do you know what gifts, talents, and abilities that God birthed in you? Why is knowing your purpose or knowing your gifts, talents, and abilities so important? Let me tell you why.

You are God’s gift to the earth. You have been given the hands, the feet, the mouth, the heart, and the mind of Jesus to do good work. Your gifts, talents and abilities are needed to make an impact in the kingdom of God, serving in a way that only you can. Before God created you, you were already predestined with a purpose. God has qualified you to serve. God has qualified you to live an abundant life in Him. You are valued in God’s kingdom.

In this book, you will see the word, ‘*kingdom’* or ‘*God’s kingdom*’ or ‘*kingdom of God’* used. Let’s take a moment to consider what these phrases mean. In the ESV Bible translation, the word, ‘*kingdom*’ is mentioned 126 times in the Gospels and thirty-four times in the rest of the New Testament**.1** The exact phrase, “*kingdom of God*” is not in the Old Testament. However, “*kingdom of the Lord*” is found in 2 Chronicles 12:8**.2** “The basic meaning of the word kingdom in the Bible is God’s kingly rule — his reign, his action, his lordship, his sovereign governance.” **1** In 2 Chronicles 20:6 (NIV), it says, “and said: “Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.”  “The “*kingdom of God”* is a spiritual kingdom, an eternal kingdom” not a physical place. “It is the realm of God's sovereignty, presence, and influence in our lives, where God reigns and rules over us with love, justice, mercy, and grace. In the kingdom, we find hope, peace, joy, and purpose that can only be found through living under God's rule.”**3**

God has a greater purpose for your life than what you could ever think or imagine. People have gone on to glory and never discovered or fulfilled the purpose God had for them. People have walked away from their purpose because they were tired of drowning in disappointment.

I am here to tell you that the time is now to pick yourself up again. There is an abundant life waiting for you. A kingdom life built around family, friendship, and fun. A kingdom life built on understanding of God and what God requires of us. A kingdom life built on experiencing all that God would have for you. God is not looking for spectators or participators, but movers, shakers, and life changers.

In the movie, “Never Give Up” which is based on true events, a professional deaf tennis player, Brad Minns had many reasons to give up on himself, his education, and on pursuing his dreams, but he did not. At the age of three, the doctor diagnosed Brad with 80 to 90 percent loss of hearing after experiencing an extremely high fever. Despite the challenges and the rejection that Brad experience throughout his life, He kept moving forward. At the age of twenty, Brad became the number one deaf tennis player in the nation after winning the 1985 Men’s Single Tennis Finals for the deaf. The odds of Brad winning were against him. Yet, Brad held the title of number one deaf tennis player in the nation for five consecutive years.

It was God who made it possible for Brad to win and become the number one deaf tennis player in the nation. Brad was a man of faith. He trusted God. God showed the world that He could work through Bran to do what seemed impossible because Brad believes in Him. God enabled Brad to become a very skilled tennis player. If Brad had given up on what God had gifted and purposed him to do, he would not have reached his destiny. Today, Brad serves as a tennis professional and personal trainer helping others to achieve their dreams. Brad also shares his testimony of living his life for Christ with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes group.

This endearing movie is a great reminder of overcoming obstacles, staying focus on your dreams, believing God for the impossible, believing in yourself and the value of community and persevering through tough situations. No matter what you experience, you cannot quit or give up because God has a purpose for your life. Brad did not give up on his purpose or give in to the temptations that he faced throughout his life.

It may seem easier to quit than to weather the storms. It may seem easier to become complacent or stick with what you know than to challenge yourself. It is easier to lean into your own insecurities than to lean into God. It may seem easier to believe in the lies that you hear and see around you, than to walk in faith. No matter how easy it may seem, you must pick yourself up and keep moving forward.

The title of this book, “Don’t Stop Dancing, You Got Purpose.,” is making an appeal to persevere, stay in the race, do not give up on yourself, do not give up on God and do not give up on the calling God has on your life. In other words, do not allow people, situations, or even views of yourself to stagnate you. Continue the work that God has begun in you. Know that you are not being called to run a sprint but a relay. God has passed the baton to you, and you must keep running until it is time to pass the baton to someone else. You are not alone in any of your endeavors because our heavenly Father is with you for every step, every lap, and every mile that you take.

If you do not know your purpose, then you cannot begin the race. Too many people have not invested time or energy in finding their purpose because the busyness of life is driving them or they have been hindered by rejection, church hurt, lack of confidence, age, or some other insecurity. It is the enemy that wants to infiltrate your heart and mind with negative thoughts, fears of failing, shame, or inhibit you from stepping out on faith.

Where is the drive and the zeal to do, to become, to seek and to find? This book is here to serve as a source of inspiration and remind you that God has a plan for your life. There are blessings in store for those who persevere in what God is calling them to do. God sees you, knows you, and most importantly, created you with a purpose. You are significant, your desires are significant and what you do are all significant to God. God wants to use you in the kingdom.

This book will take you on a soul-searching journey to help you understand your purpose or to revitalize you in fulfilling your purpose. It will take you back to the basics of understanding why God created you. In this book, I touch on aspects of finding your purpose, understanding how to embrace your purpose, and learning to persevere and thrive in your purpose. I also talk about how to overcome the challenges and temptations that can prevent you from fulfilling your purpose and continuing to flourish in your purpose.

There are people in the Bible who faced obstacles but did not give up in fulfilling God’s purpose. In Genesis 17: 4- 6 (TPT), God established a covenant with Abraham saying that he will be the father of many nations and that kings will come from his lineage. In Genesis 17: 17 (TPT), Abraham acknowledges the challenge, “Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety.” God did fulfill his promise and Sarah bore a son to Isaac in their old age. God provided for Abraham and Sarah and will provide for you so that you are able to persevere through challenging times.

As you read the chapters, I hope that you receive a word from the Lord that empowers you with new hope in this season of your life. The kingdom of God needs you. Let us make sure we are on the path that will enable us to become what God wants us to become so we can impact our life as well as the lives of others.

**Chapter #1**

**Why Did God Create You and Me?**

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph 2:10 NIV)

During my childhood, I was interested in the arts. I wanted to sing, play the violin, play the piano, write songs and attend modeling school. Most of all, I wanted to dance. My greatest passion of all the art forms that I pursued was to dance. Dancing was my joy, and it was something that I was good at doing. I kept abreast of all the latest dance trends. I do not know why I had such a passion for dancing. What I did know was that dancing brought me joy, a sense of satisfaction and a sense of belonging.

I knew of God did not know God personally during my childhood. As I have given it some thought, I realize that God did not have create me. He chose to create me. Why was it that I had an interest in the arts as a child? Why was it that I had a passion for dance? I have come to learn that God is the creator and Lord over all things. When God created me, He gave me certain interests, passions, and desires. My interests and passion were the beginning of the plan God had for my life. God has created everything, including you and me, with purpose and a plan. Consider a time when you created something. What motivated you to create? What motivated you to draw a picture, to make a cake, to choreograph a dance or author a book? You were motivated by a purpose.

One of my mentees, named Tatianna, loves designing clothes. Her mother started teaching her how to sew when she was a child. Tatianna says ‘I continue to sew because it’s not a talent for me, but a beautiful God-given gift. I enjoy being able to create something out of nothing and put my own spin on a modern thing”.

Over the course of five years, I have seen Tatianna find her purpose as a seamstress. She has started her own sewing business called Karisma Stitches. She has made praise dance garments, purses, bookbags, pants, dresses, gowns, tops and coats. She has even given names to some of her clothing calling her coat, “The coat of Many Cultures.” It has been a joy to see some of her final products and admire the beauty and creativity of her artistry. Just like Tatianna or any of us are pleased with the things that we create, God is pleased with all He created. In Genesis it says, “God surveyed all he had made and said, “I love it!” For it pleased him greatly. Evening gave way to morning – day six” (Genesis 1:31 TPT)

Before God created the world, He knew how He would create, why He would create, when He would create and what He would create. God is all knowing and knows the beginning and end of all things. God already had in mind the layout for the design of the world. God already had in mind that He would create you and me. He already knew what day, what time, what place and what person would bring us into the world. God already had in mind how He wanted to people to serve in His kingdom.

Even in all that God has done and planned, God still gives us free course. We have the freedom to live, to explore, to create and to grow on this earth as we choose. God did not create us as robots. He created us in His image with the intent to have a relationship with Him. Even before He created the world, God knew the purpose that He wanted us to fulfill. Some of us are born with talents that are connected to our purpose in God’s kingdom. Others of us grow into our purpose as we go through life embracing and developing those abilities that we have interest in or are passionate about. Unfortunately, some of us never find our purpose while here on earth because we do not pursue it. Without knowing our kingdom purpose, we will never feel complete as God would have for us to be in his kingdom.

Before the creation of the world, God predestined us with kingdom purpose. It was part of His plan. Even if you say that God did not have to create life, which is true, but He wanted to. God can do whatever He wants. Whatever you and I create is our choice, as well. We do not have to create but we want to because we know that our creation will bring satisfaction. joy, beauty and fulfillment to us, to God and similar feelings to others.

In understanding how our purpose is connected to God’s creation of the world, we will discuss these three aspects: God created us because it was part of His plan. God created us out of love and God created us for kingdom purpose.

**God created us because it was part of His plan.**

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. “(Isaiah 40:28 NIV)

God is everlasting. God has always existed “even before there was time, before there was space, before there was matter... there was God.” **5** So when Genesis 1:1 says,” In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”, this does not represent God’s beginning but the time when God started physically creating. God always existed. He is the beginning and the end.

Through Jesus, Paul, and Peter, we learn in scripture a little about God’s plan before creating the world. In Ephesians 1:4-5, we learn what God had us on His mind before the creation of the world. Paul says, “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, **5**having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,” (NKJV). God desired man before creating man. While man was chosen before creation to be holy and blameless, Peter lets us know in 1 Peter 1:18-20 (TLB) that Jesus was chosen as the one to make man holy and blameless. God created man knowing that man would sin and would need a Savior to redeem them from their sin. God already had in mind that Jesus would be the sacrificial lamb to redeem the world from sin. Jesus was chosen before the creation of the world to redeem man from sin by sacrificing his precious blood on the cross. In Titus 1: 1-2 (NIV), God promise eternal life before the creation of the world, to those who trust in Him. Being God, he cannot lie. Whatever He says, He will do and whatever He promises, He will fulfill. (Numbers 19:23 NIV)

**God created us out of love.**

God is love and he created you and me with love and care. God had us in His heart before the creation of the world. The Bible tells us that God’s love existed before time, and before humanity because God is love. Before the beginning of creation, there was love between God and Jesus (John 17:24b NIV). When the Bible refers to love in [1Co 13:4-7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%2013.4-7), it is referring to God. **5** It says, “Love (God) is patient, love (God) is kind. It (He) does not envy, it (He) does not boast, it is not proud. **5**It (He) does not dishonor others, it (He) is not self-seeking, it (He) is not easily angered, it (He) keeps no record of wrongs. **6**Love (God) does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7**It (He) always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (NIV) God’s love extends to man. (1 John 3:1 and John 3:16 NIV). Just as God loves us, He wants us to love Him (Deuteronomy 6:5) and love others (1 Joh 4:7-8 NIV). We can love because God first loved us. God is the author of love.

God loved us so much that He created us in His image. **(**Gen 1:27 NIV) We have God’s intellect to think, to reason, to make decisions, to invent, to create, and to operate with the mind of Christ. We have a conscience or “moral compass” that reflects God’s holiness. We know the difference between evil and good. We were created in righteousness and perfect innocence with the capability to be compassionate, respectful, empathetic, honest and have integrity. God also created us with the intent to for us to fellowship with others which reflects God’s triune nature and His love. In Gen 2:18, God says, “it is not good for the man to be alone” (NIV).

Without Jesus, the love of man, the creation of man, the forgiveness of man, God’s relationship with man and life eternal would not be possible. Colossians 1:16 says, “For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, powers, rulers, or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” (NIV)

**God Created Us for Kingdom Purpose.**

“Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.” God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God’s nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,” (Genesis 1:26-28 The Message MSG)

*God Created Us to Glorify Him*

The next time that you are outdoors, look around. Take note of the radiant sun, the blue skies, the swaying of the tree branches, and the blooming flowers. Listen to the chirping birds and feel the caress of the gentle fresh wind as it touches your face. What you are experiencing is the sights and sounds of God. You are experiencing God’s creations. God’s magnificence and splendor is being displayed as nature functions in the way that God purposed it to function. Psalms 148 (NIV) describes how God created all things to glorify Him or in other words, to honor Him with praise, admiration, or worship. When we see God’s glory in nature, we are seeing how amazing and wonderful He is. We are seeing His power and majestic beauty.

If God is glorified in nature, how much more is He glorified through humankind. Part of our kingdom purpose is to glorify God by praising and worshiping Him. Psalms 15:6 says, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.” (NIV) There is also a verse in bible that expresses that God inhabits the praises of His people. Whether we praise God in words, in song, in dance, by playing an instrument, by lifting our hands, or by some other means, God is present.

God values our praise. In God’s Word, Jesus says to the Pharisees, if the people keep quiet, that he would get the stones to praise him. (Luke 19:36 -40) As we praise and worship God, we are also being blessed. That time of praise and worship can end up being a time of deliverance for you. It can also be a time of revival or restoration bringing us to a place where we can hear God and God can work through us to renew your minds. God is desires to commune with us and is seeking those who will praise and worship Him. (Isaiah 43:21 & John 4:23-24 NIV)

We also glorify God when we obey His word. Obedience to God’s word is the way we grow personally and the way we draw closer to God. In 1 John 2:5, it says, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+2%3A5-6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30556a)]is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.” “God wants us to hear His Word, to know His Word, to trust His Word, and to keep His Word….We can only keep His Word if we trust His Word. We can only trust His Word if we hear His Word, for "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." And we can only keep His Word if we hear, know, and believe in our hearts ALL that God has said in and through His Holy WORD.”**12**

*God Created Man Proclaim His Truth*

God has not only given us the eyes to see His magnificence but the words to proclaim His Truth. “In the Bible, “proclaim” signifies making a public announcement or sharing the good news.” **15** We are all called to proclaim to others God’s Truth about sin, love, judgment, repentance, and salvation. When we talk about our faith to others, we are proclaiming God’s Truth. It is not only in spoken word but the songs that are song or danced to, proclaim the attributes and power of God. We use our gifts in such a way that God’s Truth is being proclaimed through us. In Luke 4: 18, it says “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to or the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,” (NIV).

We are to be an example of Christ through how we live our lives at home, on the job, at school and other places. In *Colossians 1:27*, it says we have the hope of His glory which is Christ in us. “Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16 NLT) When we are born again, the Spirit of God dwells in us which makes us love the way God loves and think the way god thinks. The Word says, “So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.” (2 Corinthians 3:18) “The weighty presence of God's goodness is released in us and remains in us.”**13**

The Holy spirit is doing the work of transforming us into the image of Christ who is the image of God. God’s glory is flowing through us. The glory will manifest in each believer differently. Some will preach, some will teach, some will love through giving and some will love through healing. It was because of a college student reflecting God’s glory that I came to know the Lord.

*“I receive Jesus Christ into my life and my life began to transform.”*

During my sophomore year at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Urbana, I signed up for a work study program where I was assigned a job working in the cafeteria of my dorm as a server during the breakfast shift. As I serve food every morning, there was one student that I was captivated by as he went through the food line. He was not your typical college student. Every day I saw college students that were grumpy, half sleep and speechless when they went through the food line in the morning, but this student was always pleasant, smiling, and saying, “Good Morning” every single day. I could not understand at that time why this student was always happy, but I am certain now that he was carrying the glory of God. There were not any other students that came through the food line in the morning that had a countenance and personality like his. I wanted to know why he was so nice and happy all the time.

One day I decided to ask this student named Micheal, why he was always so happy. Michael told me that he had received Jesus Christ into his life and if I were interested, he could have a female student share more details about what that meant. Through that female student, I came to accept Jesus Christ into my life. From that point on, my life was transformed. I was no longer investing so much time in attending parties, nor feeling the pressure to pledge a sorority, even though there was nothing wrong with pledging a sorority. I just wanted to graduate. I did start attending a Bible study and took dance classes but most of my time was dedicated to my studies so I could graduate.

Meeting Michael made a difference in my life and in the kingdom of God. Michael allowed God’s light to shine through him on a college campus. We are to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. We are to be living example of God’s love. We are to teach and admonish one another with God’s wisdom. We are to make disciples. We are to reflect God’s glory everywhere we go.

*God Created Man to Rule the Earth.*

“Your Kingdom purpose is the service God has gifted you to perform, that has eternal value. More specifically, your Kingdom purpose is that thing you do, that you do not do – but that God does through you.”**8**

*Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth!*

Genesis 1:28 says, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;” (NKJV) gave the responsibility to Adam and Eve to rule over the earth. God intended for mankind to be fruitful and to multiply. Both fruitful and multiply denotes increase. Multiply is to increase in number and fruitfulness denotes growth both physically and spiritually. Being fruitful signifies the propagation of mankind as well as the result of the Holy Spirit transforming our hearts so that we are bearing fruit in our lives through righteous deeds and a flourishing relationship with God. “Fill the earth” is about overseeing and managing earth’s resources with wisdom, respect, and care.

*Take Charge!*

In Genesis 1:28, God commands Adam and Eve God to subdue the earth which also means to take charge or conquer. God has given them the authority to take control of, to exercise power over and to dominate the earth. In other words, God has called us to serve. I once heard Senator Sharon Grove say,“rule with a servant heart” and “lead with the heart of a king,”(Senator Shannon Grove) Serving should not be a chore but a privilege for us. As we serve, we are utilizing our gifts, talents, and abilities to be a gift to someone else. We are giving from what God has given us. Nothing is really ours; it all belongs to us but to God. We belong to God. We were created by God and in the image of God. Our character, our gifts, our bodily makeup have all been designed by God in love. God has put something in each of us that we need to act upon and not allow the desires to lay dormant within us. We need to take pleasure in it so we can be blessed and share it with others so they can be blessed.

When I have held on to my gifts or abilities, I have felt a void. I do not feel complete nor satisfied with my life. It is not until I share with others that I come into full circle as to why God has made me a certain way and why I am the one to carry the mantle He gave me to carry. It is through using my gifts that I understand the importance of my gifts and that I am given eyes to see certain needs in people that otherwise, I would not be able to see.

God has called us to lead or take charge. Man is to serve as the king of the earth. What do kings do? They lead. They rule. They govern. They make life-changing decisions. They are problem solvers, providers, overseers, and inventors, to say the least. They hold responsibility for the lives of others. In the kingdom, we serve as kings with compassion and out of love.

What we accomplish on earth is what we put into action and what God allows us to accomplish. God has given us free reign to do, to see, to think, to become as He leads us.

God is preparing you for everything He wants you to be at this point. He is preparing you for your destiny. “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.” Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

**Chapter 1: Conclusion**:

Created for Kingdom Purpose

God created everything with kingdom purpose. As His children, we are all called to glorify Him, proclaim His Truths and rule over the earth. We rule as servants and lead as kings using our unique gifts, abilities, and talents.

**Chapter #2:**

**God is Calling You**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Who would have ever thought that God would or could use me as a dance minister. As a child, I had no clue that I would one day be dancing for the Lord. All I knew was that I wanted to dance. I wanted to pursue all genres of dancing. In fact, my dream as a child was to be like Debbie Allen and pursue dance in the performing arts. At the age of sixteen, I worked a summer job and paid for my first ballet class at Malcolm X College. I had no experience with ballet other than what I saw on television. That ballet class really made me question my abilities as a dancer. I thought I could be like Debbie Allen, but I came to the realization that I didn’t have enough experience, knowledge nor exposure to dance in the performing arts. I did not know or understand ballet terminology like jetes or ton ‘dues. I did not know how intense a dance class could be. In my discouragement, I walked away from dancing in the performing arts but not from secular dancing. However, I was able to find another pathway to the performing arts in joining a marching band called O’ Quinn Royal Gladiators Drum and Bugle Corps where I learned how to twirl a rifle or carry and twirl a flag.

Upon entering college at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, I decided to make another attempt at taking dance classes. I was not a dance major, but I took dance classes every semester including ballet, jazz, and modern dance. I felt a need to continue to pursue my interest in dancing. I also joined a dance company called the Omnimov Dance company which was an African dance company. My dean could not tell from my college transcript if I was an engineering major or a dance major. All he knew was that I really enjoyed dancing, but he encouraged me to continue to take dance classes as an outlet from my studies.

After graduating from U of I, I returned to Chicago. Desiring to continue my walk with the Lord, I joined a church called Rock of Our Salvation Evangelical Free church located on the west side of Chicago. As my faith grew, I began to question whether I should be doing secular or any type of dancing. Although I had invested so much of my life to dancing, I was willing to give it all up in order to pleasing to God. When I shared my concern about giving up dance with my worship leader, Paul Grant, he then said to me, “My sister, you don’t have to stop dancing, you just need to change partners.”

What my worship leader said to me that day was profound and a relief. What I heard was that God did not want me to stop dancing but to start dancing for Him. I also was hearing that God was the creator of all, even the dance belongs to Him. So, God was my new dance partner. I did know what dancing for God would look like or consist of but I knew I was ready to say yes to the call.

***1st Point: Discover You Call***

I am thankful that God uses people, experiences, and places to speak into our lives. God used my worship leader to let me know that I did not have to stop dancing but change partners. When I said yes to the call, I was also saying yes to a faith journey that would entail learning more about the way that God sees me, learning more about God and learning more about ministry. As I found my calling, I was finding strength, confidence, hope, wisdom, revelation, understanding and all the other blessings that are found and needed when you serve in God’s kingdom. In the process, God was transforming my heart. No longer was my life just about living for me, but about living for Him and serving others. Ultimately, it is your choice to accept God’s call, but when you do, you too will see how your call is connected to your knowing you, knowing God and having a servant heart.

*Your Call is Connected to Your Identity*

How do you see yourself? Do you know your talents, abilities, interest, passions, weaknesses, strengths? How does God see you? What does the Bible say about you?

How many times have you said or thought, “I have a destiny”? How do others perceive you? Do they see you as generous or helpful or witty? Whether you were able to answer the questions or not, you are in the right place now because you are reading this book.

Let me first say that your identity is in Christ. God knows you better than you know yourself as expressed in Psalms 139:1-16. God knows you because he made you and, in His image, you were made. God’s word says this about you: You were fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psa 139:14), You are more valuable than many sparrows. (Matt 10:31), You are children of God, heirs of God. (Romans 8:16-17), He loves you as a perfect Father ( 1 John 3:1), God has crowned you with glory and honor as the pinnacle and final act of the six days of creation (Psa 8:5), You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession (1 Pet 2:9)

If God has not forgotten about the sparrow, He definitely has not forgotten about you. Although we may not be able to tell one sparrow from the next, God knows each one intimately and provides for them all. How much more consideration does God gives to each of us. Knowing your interest, abilities, likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses is important because it is shaping you into the person that God designed you to be and enabling you to function with the purpose that God has uniquely place you in the kingdom to accomplish. Believe in you and how God has made you and how God see you and the gifts He has given you. Because your call first starts with what’s God has placed inside of you.

*Your Call is Connected to Knowing God*

“So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.”

(1 Thess 1:11 NLT)

Your call is also connected to knowing God. For example, you can’t serve as a waiter or waitress in a restaurant without first knowing about the restaurant and how customers are to be treated. Similarly, you cannot operate in your calling without first knowing about the one who has called you. When we come to know God, we become more connected in seeing the way He see things and hearing the way He hears and receiving with the way He receives. We become familiar with the heart of God.

to be continued

**Example:** How is God described in the Bible

**Example:** Who is God to you

What is God known for in the Bible.

**Examle:** What are God’s attributes

**Example:** What does God mean to you

**What has God done or is doing.**

**Example:** What did God do in the Bible

**Example:** What has God done foe you

*Your Call is Connected to Serving*

It was once said by a guest speaker on Moody Bible Institute radio station that “Christianity works best when it is an action.” God has not just called us to just be known as a Christian but to serve in the kingdom.James 2:14-26 says, “What good is it, my brothers, and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

to be continued

**Purpose will find you…. Serve the purpose” (Steven Furtick)**

**Example:** Others may let you know how valuable you are in your service

**God prepares you through your involvement.**

**Example:** Getting involved allowed you to discover your gifts and abilities

**God may be calling you to serve in some unique way.**

**Example**: Helping in the church, or in your community or on your job allowed you to discover own way that you want to serve.

**2nd Point: Embrace Your Calling**

(Psalms 138:8 ESV)

to be continued

I begin to seek God on how to dance for Him. It has been a time of seeking God and developing a relationship with Him. It has been a time of learning to trust him, to walk in faith and to surrender to Him as I ministered through the platform of dance. God used the ministry of dance to draw me to Himself and this has been a spiritual experience with Him that goes beyond what I could ever imagine. As God has worked through me through the ministry of dance, I began to pour into others. The dance ministry team was being used by Him to impact the church with messages from the songs and movements to express His love, His power, His hope and His salvation. As I was finding my place in ministry, I also found my identity as a person. I was learning of my spiritual gifts of creativity, administration, teaching, compassion, and encouragement. I was learning how to hear God’s voice when it came to choreography songs.

I remember at the age of fourteen saying that I would never become a teacher.

Imagine a life that consisted of a weekly routine of working from 8am to 4pm, Monday house, doing laundry and running errands on Saturday followed by attending church, eating out and watching a movie on Sunday. After doing this week after week, month after month, year after year, I think you would agree that there must be more to life than this and you should. That longing for more is rooted in how God has created us. God has created all of us for His purpose.

There are desires and interest have God placed in you. There is something that brings you pleasure. There is something that you enjoy doing. What did you do for enjoyment as a child? What are you skillful at doing now or interested in becoming skillful at doing? Is there anything you feel a strong need to do even though you are not obligated? Whatever that thing is, that brings you pleasure, that you are interested in becoming more skillful in doing or you feel that you must do, is connected to your purpose. God has created us all with purpose.

When I started dancing for the Lord, I started as a soloist but eventually started leading a dance ministry. I had no idea that God was going to use me to lead a dance ministry at my church. Initially, I started the ministry for children but eventually, I branched out and started working with adults and teenagers, as well. I never knew that I would be teaching dance and spiritually pouring into the lives of others. I never knew but God knew**.** In fact, all my interest that I had as a child, was now being used for God’s purpose.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Rom 8:28 NIV)

**3rd Point: Stay Committed to your calling**

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**(to be continued)**

**Chapter 2: Conclusion**:

God is Calling You

He created in us interests, talents, abilities, gifts, likes and dislikes, etc, to bring joy to us and to Him. He uses those things to help mold our character. What God has already created inside of you will begin to help you discover your calling. Your interests, talents, abilities, likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses will help you to connect to your purpose. God wants to work in and through you in ways you cannot imagine but you can only experience when you learn more about your identity, who God is and being committed to serving in the His kingdom.

**A Prayer: God is Calling You**

**(to be continued)**

**Chapter #3**

**Persevering In Your Calling**

Confronting the Challenges, Resisting Temptations, Persevering through Trials

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.” (Psa 138: 7-8 ESV)

**First Main Point: Confront the Challenges: Personal, People, Unexpected Circumstance**

**Second Main Point: Resist and Avoid Temptations**

**Third Main Point: Persevere Through Trials**

**Fourth Main Point: My Testimony of Persevering in the Dance Ministry**

Hebrews 12:2 – “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (NIV)

Even through God’s provisions and how He was continuing to guide and bless me through the many years of ministering through the dance, there has been times where I have taken a sabbatical and even felt like quitting. During those times, I was reminded that God was with me. I also remember the covenant that I establish with God after I was once told by my worship leader, ‘Do not stop dancing, just change partners. So, through the years, through the hurts, through the insecurities, through the aging, through the spiritual attacks, through the loneliness, and through health issues and other challenges, I stayed in the race. As a result, God has taken me from glory to glory through the platform of dance ministry.

**(to be continued)**

**Chapter #4:**

**Thriving in Your Calling**

**First main point: God is Your Ultimate Partner in Ministry** (James 4:8 NKJV)

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**Second Main Point: Stay Connected to the Vision** (Habakkuk 2:2-3 NKJV)

**Third Main Point**: **Walking Worthy of Your Calling**

**Fourth Main Point: My Testimony: Thriving in the Dance Ministry for 34 Years**

**Chapter 5**

**“…for the joy set before you...”**

**Conclusion**

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**Bible Versions**

* King James Version – KJV
* English Standard Version – ESV
* The Message (MSG)
* New International Version - NIV
* New King James Version – NKJV
* The Passion Translation (TPT)

Resources

1. What is the Kingdom of God? <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-the-kingdom-of-god>
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