

Introduction

Psalm 139:14 "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."

My passion to discover God's unique plan for my life began after years of painfully trying to alter His perfect design. Although, being a strong willed independent young lady was acceptable when I was younger, once I was married I thought I was supposed to be different. Failing to be the agreeable, supportive and submissive wife, I hardly modeled the perfect Proverbs 31 woman. I was disappointed with myself and began to look dangerously similar to the Proverbs 21 wife (*Proverbs 21:19 "It is better to live alone in the desert than with a crabby complaining wife."*). I blamed my husband for all the problems of our marriage and my inability to let go of control. I felt that if he did things *right* (which was my way, of course) then I could be the way I was supposed to be and everything would be fine.

After nine years, I ended up walking out on my marriage as well as my relationship with the Lord. I let go of my Christian friendships and any healthy accountability that I had. I was compromising all of my beliefs, values, and morals. It wasn't until I had no one left to blame that I began to take responsibility for the mess my life had become. I was lost, confused, and discouraged in what I had created of my life.

One night in complete desperation I finally fell to my knees and cried out in total humility to God. I begged the Lord to rescue me and for the first time in my life I completely submitted myself to Him. I didn't realize it at that moment, but a new journey was about to begin. God was about to reveal why He created me and how His purpose for my life would bring me the joy and freedom I never found trying to do it on my own.

I started reading the Bible in a brand new way. I prayed differently and listened more closely to what He wanted me to know about Him, about me, and about others. For the first time I saw my gifts, talents, temperament, and behaviors in a new light. The person I was, from the very beginning was exactly who God created me to be. It was because of my pride that I had been using His design for my own glory and purpose, and yet I was still miserable. I began to realize that in order for me to become who He created me to be and live the abundant life He offered, I needed to embrace His gift of my unique personality and learn to submit to the way He intended in the first place.

In this study, my goal is to help you begin your own journey of discovering God's purpose and design in your life. To learn to accept and appreciate how God created you, and allow Him to continue to reveal all He has for you. As you read this book and begin to explore all God intends for you to be, my prayer is that you embrace and appreciate His workmanship in you. The journey of following Christ and the goal of becoming like Him is a lifelong voyage. Every step brings a new awareness we can't achieve without embracing all He created us to be.

I John 3:2 "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."