

A decorative background featuring a repeating pattern of stylized, light pink leaves and stems. The leaves are teardrop-shaped and arranged in clusters along thin, curving stems. The overall aesthetic is soft and elegant.

# 21 Days of Purpose

DEVOTIONAL DOWNLOAD

KAREN CONRAD

# Day 1

## You Were Made For a Purpose

'Then the Lord said to Moses, "Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft!' (Exodus 31:1-5 NLT)

A great example of being purposely designed and called can be found in Exodus. God anointed Bezalel as a skilled craftsman with a purpose. Moses received the instructions to build the Tabernacle, but God gave Bezalel the purpose to do the work. That is incredible. God had already placed the gifts of creativity and beauty into Bezalel. Through his life he trained and practiced to become a master craftsman. When the Lord filled him with the Spirit of God, he was fully equipped for his purpose. Walking in your purpose is part of God's good works He has prepared for you.

God has pre-arranged a good life for you. He has not planned a disastrous but an abundant life. He has provided everything you need to live the life He has made ready for you. He thinks very highly of you, He sees great things in you, and He gave you gifts because He trusts you. God has so much He wants to do through you. He loves you so much, and He has a beautiful life designed specifically for you. He wants you to enjoy your time on Earth and participate in having His kingdom come and His will be done in your life.

### Activation:

What are some things you have been fascinated by since you were a child?

Journal about a time you felt your gifts were being fully utilized. This may not be something related to your current job or career.

### Declaration:

The Lord has placed in me the gifts and talents to fulfill the purpose He designed for me. I am fully equipped to step into my destiny.



# Day 2

## *Purpose Starts With a Heart-to-Heart Connection*

'I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!' Philippians 3:10-11 (NLT)

Paul said his determined purpose was to know God. That rocked my world. Paul recognized that his determined purpose in life was to know God personally and intimately, which is the foundational purpose in all our lives. With that as a foundation, he went on to accomplish amazing things through his own unique purpose, but he knew how to keep first things first.

The starting point for understanding the purpose for your life is to have a heart-to-heart connection and relationship with God. In that relationship, you will learn to understand the real you, based on who you are in Jesus. Your particular purpose is revealed in your personal relationship with God. Everything springboards from there.

How do you develop this kind of relationship? I had been taught to spend time in my "prayer closet," which, to be candid, did not sound very appealing to me. As I began to spend real time (not in the closet), praying, studying the Word, and talking with God as if He was sitting on the couch with me, I quickly discovered He wasn't anything like I thought. Once I let go of old religious ideas and became aware that He is in me and with me, I felt as though I had a new best friend!

### **Activation:**

What does your time with the Lord look and feel like? Do you dread it or look forward to it? Do you need a change of perspective?

Journal some thoughts on how to change your perspective. Then ask the Lord what He would like to do during your time together.

### **Declaration:**

I want to know Christ and the power that raised Him from the dead. I will make my personal time with the Lord a priority. I will purposely develop a heart to heart connection with the Lord.



# Day 3

## *Purpose Starts With a Heart-to-Heart Connection*

'And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.' John 17:3-4 (NKJV)

Jesus demonstrated a heart to heart relationship with the Father while He was on earth. He was presence driven and purpose shaped. Your priority is to have an intimate relationship with God, and out of that comes your life's accomplishments. Jesus revealed this in the above scripture which is a conversation He had with His Father a short time before He was arrested and taken into custody by Roman soldiers.

A bit of translation from the Greek language will provide some further understanding. The word life is zoe, and it means "the quality of life that is possessed by the one who gives it." Jesus is offering to everyone the same quality of life He enjoys with the heavenly Father, which includes the same love, closeness, acceptance, anointing, authority, and so forth. He referenced this same word, life (zoe), earlier in John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (NKJV). To know God is to know His character and we learn much about His character through Jesus. The suffering Messiah, the children's champion, the leader of men and the teller of stories. These and so much more are hints of the character of God and help in our ability to know Him.

### **Activation:**

What are some attributes you associate with God? What are some attributes you associate with Jesus? Are they interchangeable in your mind?

Journal some different ways you can begin to know God better. Look for verses that specifically speak about the character of God.

### **Declaration:**

Knowing the God of the universe is totally possible for me. I have the same quality of life that Jesus had. I am going to walk in it.



## Day 4

# Purpose Lived Out in Scripture

'And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all.' Mark 6:41 (ESV)

'He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' Luke 4:18b-19 (ESV)  
Jesus faced challenges while living out His purpose and learned to choose God's view and opinion over His own. To do that, He exalted the eyes of His heart over His natural view. That strategy provided the capability to access unlimited resources to meet every need, and you have that same capability. In the above verse the original language reads, "He looked into heaven and recovered His sight." That phrase, recovered sight, is the same in the next verse, "recovering of sight to the blind". Jesus saw the need in the natural and understood His limitation, so He looked to the Father. He recovered His ability to see the unlimited resources of the kingdom of heaven, then activated the miracle of multiplying food. Jesus teaches us to take the limits off our situation and see the opportunities and resources available to fulfill our purpose.

Jesus learned to activate grace for empowerment and timing in walking out His purpose. In John 7 when the Jews tried to kill Him, He said it was not yet His time. He knew it was His purpose to die for each of us, but He wanted God's perfect plan which included the right time. God provides for every part of your purpose, you never need to spend time guessing what He means. He will tell you His plans when you ask.

### Activation:

Realizing that even Jesus stopped to hear from God before acting, do you feel empowered to stop and ask for guidance before making snap decisions?

Journal about a time you got the timing on a word from God exactly right. Are there also times you have gotten the timing wrong? Ask the Lord to show you the best method.

### Declaration:

By following Jesus' example, I will consult the Lord before making decisions and taking actions. I will trust God to open my eyes to His unlimited resources.



## Day 5

# Purpose Lived Out in Scripture

'But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.' Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV)

Jesus was fully man and fully God, and without His Father's empowerment, the cross would have been impossible to face. Jesus tasted death for every man by the grace of God. It was through communication with the Father that He received the grace to carry the cross, become sin, and endure the devastating separation. In becoming sin, He took on the curse of the law and allowed God's grace to work in you, making it possible to do what you can't do in your own strength or ability.

There are many more examples of Jesus living His purpose that you can learn and grow from. Jesus came to reveal the Father and to show people what God was really like. He said that if people knew Him, they would have known the Father (John 8:19). In the end Jesus commissioned His disciples with the same tasks the Father had given Him. In the same way the Father had sent Him, Jesus was sending them.

You have the privilege and honor to reveal your heavenly Father to the world and be a problem solver who influences society. The way to do that is to live out your God-given purpose trusting He has given you the gifts and the grace to fulfill it.

### Activation:

Are you able to reveal God to the people around you? Does your life speak of the glory of God even if you are not able to speak openly?

Journal your gratitude when you think about Jesus tasting death for you. He was human (fully man). Does that change the image you hold in your mind of Him?

### Declaration:

I am immeasurably grateful for the price Jesus paid for me. I will live my life honoring the Father to the world.



## Day 6

# *Fear Not, On Purpose*

'Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.' Proverbs 28:14 (ESV)

Fearing the Lord doesn't mean to be afraid of Him. Not at all. We have all grown up with our own concept of the fear of God and if you are like me, it was not a positive one. I had the thought that God may become upset and "bonk" me over the head when I made a mistake or did something wrong. Studies show that a person's greatest fear is that of the unknown. It makes sense that if you're not quite sure of God's character or His love for you, it would open the door for fear to have a place in your life.

The word fear in the Old Testament carries the idea of awe, respect, and love that results in worship. God wants you to have an awe of Him that results in worship, not fear. The fear of the Lord is not a negative concept or reason for concern; it is just misunderstood. It is not a contradiction in the Word when you see commands to fear not, and commands to fear God. The Old Testament describes the covenant nature of God where He tells people not to fear. Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection and told them not to fear. God does not want you to have fear in your heart. He does want you to have a personal relationship with Him and trust His Word, knowing you are loved and accepted.

### **Activation:**

Do you understand the difference between the fear, awe, respect and reverence for God and His command to fear not?

Journal about your concept of the fear of God. Have you been afraid of God rather than in awe of Him? Ask Him to show you the difference.

### **Declaration:**

I am blessed because I respect and love the Lord God. I will not harden my heart but I will trust God's Word.



## Day 7

# *Fear Not, On Purpose*

'You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.' John 8:44 (NKJV)

Fear is defeated in the mind. Fear is thinking about something that could happen but isn't actually happening and may never happen. If you logically examine what is causing you fear, worry, and anxiety, it's almost a 100 percent guarantee that it is based in your mind. This means that between your ears, you have created a world based in non-reality, like playing a movie in your mind. It's a ploy of the enemy to get you to believe a lie and stop you from fulfilling your purpose. This is not something to be condemned about but to learn from, so you can take the Word of God as truth and trust Him completely.

Developing a process to filter your thoughts begins with identifying a lie and understanding the source of fear and lies. John 10:10 tells us, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]" (AMP). Which camp are your thoughts in? There is one camp that will eventually steal, kill, or destroy you, which is the enemy's camp. Then there is the camp of "life more abundant," which is Jesus' camp. The enemy has no truth in him, so thoughts from him can only be lies. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, so thoughts from Him can only bring peace.

### **Activation:**

What camp are your thoughts in? Do you allow fear to create movies in your mind? Take time to list some of your thoughts for one day. Determine if your thoughts are in the enemy's camp or Jesus' camp.

### **Declaration:**

My life is solidly based in the camp of the Prince of Peace. This day I will walk in peace, putting aside all thoughts from the enemy.





## Day 8

# *Glass Ceilings Shattered On Purpose*

'Out of my deep anguish and pain I prayed, and God, you helped me as a father. You came to my rescue and broke open the way into a beautiful and broad place. Now I know, Lord, that you are for me, and I will never fear what man can do to me. For you stand beside me as my hero who rescues me. I've seen with my own eyes the defeat of my enemies. I've triumphed over them all! Lord, it is so much better to trust in you to save me than to put my confidence in someone else.' Psalms 118:5-8 (TPT)

A glass ceiling is an invisible hindrance that you're not fully aware of, intended to limit your success. It is another tool the enemy uses to distract or derail you from fulfilling your purpose. Limitations can be placed on you from the outside, but more often they come from the inside. Much of what affects your life begins in your mind, similar to fear. Daily learning to see yourself as God sees you and remembering the value He places on you will give you the courage to push through any glass ceiling you face. He sent Jesus to pay your ransom, wash you clean as new fallen snow, and open up endless opportunities to you.

Life is full of experiences—some good and some bad—which mold your future. There are times you may carry those past experiences into new parts of your life. Good experiences can bring joy, hope, and life with them, but bad experiences bring fear, pain, and lies. The latter can impose limits that you unconsciously submit to. No matter where limitations come from, God is the One who removes them. He rescues you and fights for you as a father and a hero. He is on your side and wants the best for you.

### **Activation:**

Are you aware of any glass ceilings in your life? Have you been fighting and railing against them or have you decided life is just that way?

As the Lord reveals limitations to you, make a list and watch Him rescue you each time.

### **Declaration:**

God is my Hero and He will defeat my enemies. Limitations will no longer keep me from breaking through to a beautiful and broad place.



## Day 9

# Glass Ceilings Shattered On Purpose

'When pride comes [boiling up with an arrogant attitude of self-importance], then comes dishonor and shame, But with the humble [the teachable who have been chiseled by trial and who have learned to walk humbly with God] there is wisdom and soundness of mind.' Proverbs 11:2 (AMP)

Typically, we think of pride as magnifying ourselves and boasting of our strengths, which can be an issue. But what's more of a problem and causes more of a glass ceiling is exalting our abilities, or lack of them, over what Jesus did. If I took a test but didn't do very well, I might decide not to take that test again. My emotions say, I can't do it because I didn't pass it last time. I'm just not that smart. But the Word of God says I have the mind of Christ. Which is true? Without pride I can set aside my shortcomings, my past experience, and my natural limitations, and believe what God says. Pride can mean believing your own limitations or what's only possible in the natural instead of believing what God says about the situation.

No matter your situation, you need to know that you can't overcome without the Lord. Give it the best you have, but rely on the Lord to complete it and bring success. Stop looking at your own ability. People who depend on themselves come quickly to the end of themselves. I don't want to have a glass ceiling that stops at my own natural talents and abilities. I want to honor God by receiving all He has for my life. A big part of that is seeing myself the way He sees me, but also knowing there are no limits on my life because He is near. When I don't depend on myself for results, there is peace and courage.

### Activation:

Is your self-talk continually speaking negative, discouraging thoughts? Do you give up on things because of how you feel?

Journal about a time when you were tempted to give up. Whether you did or not, ask the Lord to speak to you about that situation.

### Declaration:

I will no longer submit to pride and allow my limitations to win the day. I will do my very best and rely on God to bring the results.



## Day 10

# Discovering Your Purpose

'And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.' Romans 8:28 (AMP)

'It is God's privilege to conceal things and the king's privilege to discover them.' Proverbs 25:2 (NLT)

It's encouraging to learn that God has designed you with a unique purpose and destiny, but just knowing it's "out there" isn't enough. It's your privilege to get with God to discover your purpose. He designed your purpose specifically for you, and He already knows what it is. Get Him involved, and together you can uncover and discover your purpose.

When the temptation comes to feel that you have wasted years and too many careers without knowing your purpose, remember (Romans 8:28). What a comfort it is to have the confidence that He'll make all things work together for good. Be encouraged! You can look back on your life, remove the things you know weren't from God, and see how He cared for you and led you through the years when you didn't realize it. It's a beautiful thread God has sewn through your life to get you where you are today, ready to step into your destiny. Look back and see how God was leading you, and pay attention to the things you learned. They are going to be valuable in discovering your purpose.

### Activation:

When looking at your life, what activities or jobs made you feel the most "alive" and successful? Take time to write out your dreams, and your hopes. Pray over them and discuss them with someone who believes in you.

### Declaration:

I am called according to His purpose. God is causing all things to work together for my good.



## Day 11

# Discovering Your Purpose

'A man's gift [given in love or courtesy] makes room for him And brings him before great men.'  
Proverbs 18:16 (AMP)

'Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights [the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens], in whom there is no variation [no rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [for He is perfect and never changes].' James 1:17 (AMP)

Your gift is the special endowment and grace that God has given you. For instance, it may be easy for you to look at a complex problem and immediately see how to solve it. It may be you have a beautiful voice, while there are others of us who can't carry a tune. Learn to recognize the gifts and talents God has given you, and be aware that your purpose is probably tied to those gifts. It's part of the uniqueness that is "the you" created by God. You will likely have many gifts on your list, and He promises to give you even more. However, only a few will stand out as the core reason you do the things you do.

God thinks bigger than you do. He says His ways are not your ways but we can renew our mind to see what He sees. Thankfully our steps are ordered by the Lord (Psalms 37:23) which gives me confidence. Sometimes things in life don't make sense. You need confidence that He has it all under control. God knows what is ahead of you, and He's already there, ordering your steps. As a child of God, you are able to seek Him and follow His voice and know that He has your whole path laid out. Isn't this good?

### Activation:

What are you able to accomplish easily but is often difficult for others? Under what circumstances do you quickly see solutions and feel compelled to take action?

List what you feel are your core gifts in your notes, and begin asking the Lord how He can use them in your life.

### Declaration:

My gifts will make room for me and bring me before great men. My steps are ordered by God.



## Day 12

# Promises for Reaching Your Destiny

'And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.' Genesis 12:2 (ESV)

I love this because God says He has made me to be a blessing. Any time I don't feel like a blessing I can adjust my heart, knowing what He says about me. One of the things I hear particularly from women—whether single, divorced, or widowed—is they don't want to be a bother to anyone. Can you relate? I can't tell you how many conversations I have been in similar to the one I had with a friend the other day. She was helping with my hair and makeup and said, "Karen, anytime you need help, please let me know." I heard myself say, "I just don't want to be a bother." But I need to stop thinking that way and understand that I'm not a bother; I'm a blessing. When you feel like a bother, you walk timidly into a room, you don't call people for help, and you don't want to disturb anyone. God doesn't want that for you. He wants you to understand that even in a crowd, He's already declared you to be a blessing.

Try walking into your workplace with this understanding. I had some small, challenging things come up over the last few days at work, and I can tell you that I wasn't feeling like a blessing. I know when I start to work or interact with people feeling that I'm a bother and not a blessing, my actions unconsciously follow my feelings. Declare today that you are a blessing because He made you to be a blessing, which includes prosperity and great favor.

### Activation:

Do you know that you are a blessing or do you feel like a bother to those around you?

Journal about the interactions of one day. Determine if you felt like a blessing in each interaction and why.

### Declaration:

I am a blessing. I was made to be a blessing to those around me through the promises of God. I will walk into every situation knowing I bring blessing with me.



## Day 13

# Promises for Reaching Your Destiny

'I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' Genesis 12:3 (ESV)

When people help me, bless me, speak good things about me, give me gifts, or spend time with me, God says He will bless them in return. I thank God that because they chose to bless me, He is going to bless them. I love this because it shares the heart of God. He rewards people who bless His children. God is looking to bless all those around us.

You are not under the curse, and God is not in the cursing business, but there's something here that shows God is looking out for you. If someone says or does something unkind, you can know that He cares about it, and He takes it personally. You can go to Him and trust Him to get you through difficult times.

All the families of the earth are going to be blessed through those who belong to Jesus Christ. God has a plan on the earth to expand His kingdom through your family. His influence will spread to the ends of the earth through your family.

### Activation:

God is always looking for a way to bless. Are there ways you can bless others as you go through your day? Even in casual interactions?

Set one day aside to bless as many people as you come in contact with. Journal your feelings, reactions and results.

### Declaration:

All the families of the earth will be blessed through my family. I trust God to walk me through difficult times with blessing.



## Day 14

# Tools To Fulfill Your Purpose

'And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.' Galatians 6:9-10 (ESV)

Principles for success, whether personal or business related, can ultimately be traced back to the Bible. You will find that God is very invested in your success, and He provides you with all the tools, talents, and grace you need. Some of those tools are good habits you can develop to strengthen your character.

Have you ever had enthusiastic teachers or colleagues change the atmosphere in the room because their passion for the subject or confidence in the team became contagious? Scripture indicates that it all starts with delighting in the Lord and His Word. (Ps. 112 AMP read the whole chapter). As leader of an organization, team, or family, if you approach the office, a Zoom call, or a meeting with a lack of enthusiasm, how can you expect the people around you to be encouraged or upbeat? With enthusiasm, you can overcome obstacles that would otherwise feel impossible. I want to encourage you to come with enthusiasm to your leadership role, whether of your family or your colleagues. When you do, you will find other people enjoy being around you and an enthusiastic attitude is contagious.

### Activation:

Do you remember a time when you knew the atmosphere needed to change in your office? Were you able to help with that change?

Journal about a day with lots of meetings, whether in person or online. Include your thoughts on how each meeting could have gone differently with a little enthusiasm.

### Declaration:

I will not grow weary of doing well. I will influence and attract others with enthusiasm. I will be a change maker in my sphere.



## Day 15

# Tools To Fulfill Your Purpose

'Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.' Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV)

Be prepared to pay the full price for excellence, and count the cost. I have to work at this one pretty consistently, and I will tell you why. I like to get things done and done quickly. Excellence usually requires extra time and extra effort, but the result is worth it in every area. Good examples of this are proofing what you write before you send it, pausing and not rushing an emotional response, or checking grammar when documenting a written process. All these things can help assure you're going to develop the best opportunity for excellence. I like to surround myself with people who love details. You can utilize these tools, but you don't have to accomplish all of them yourself. By being aware of them, you can surround yourself with a team or put processes in place to help leverage these principles. In the areas where you're not as strong, you can find a team member who is.

Long-term, you're always going to be happier doing things with excellence. Pull the gifts and talents out of those in your family, your spouse, and your colleagues at work. Hire people who can fill gaps for you. The spirit of excellence is something that pleases God because it reflects His Spirit.

### Activation:

Have you made a personal commitment to excellence? Does your work environment value excellence?

List the people and the projects you think about when you hear the word excellence. Ask the Lord if there are areas in your life that need a spirit of excellence.

### Declaration:

I will work heartily for the Lord and develop a spirit of excellence in my life. I will look for others around me who do things with excellence and learn from them.





# Day 16

## How - To Tips to Reach Your Destiny

'The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.' Luke 6:45 (ESV)

How can you be ready any time to articulate and communicate effectively? Jesus had ready answers for true seekers, as well as hostile opponents. He set the precedent for His followers. You need to be ready to speak truth and wisdom at any given moment. Matthew 22:15-21 describes a scene when the Pharisees intended to trap Jesus, but He turned it around with a ready answer full of wisdom. And Paul, one of the great champions of the faith, mastered the art of persuasion; he was always ready to debate, articulate, defend, and communicate effectively to lead people to truth.

It isn't wise to talk or do a speech about something you don't know or haven't experienced personally. I've learned throughout the years to position myself in areas where I'm experienced. If I go to do a job or consult or teach, I develop my knowledge and experience in those areas to a level where, even if I don't know the exact answers, I know enough about the subject to converse knowledgeably and know where I can find more details if needed. If you're prepared to be an effective communicator on the spot, you will have an edge wherever you are. Fill your heart with God's Word so it effortlessly overflows from your speech, and become masterful in your trade. You will be well equipped with a ready answer.

### Activation:

Are you required often or rarely to stand up before others and report or speak? Do you feel you are prepared?

Write down some ideas on how you can be better prepared when you are asked to speak. Ask the Lord for some strategies.

### Declaration:

Out of the abundance of my heart I will speak words of kindness and encouragement today. I am well equipped to stand before my peers.



# Day 17

## *How - To Tips to Reach Your Destiny*

'A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.' Proverbs 15:1-4 (NKJV)

Your emotions are not good or bad, they just are. Don't let them rule your life, decision making, or relationships. Emotions are given by God so you know there's a positive side to them. After all, happy is an emotion! And sometimes when you have emotions of anger or hurt, they are clues that you need to pay attention to and grab hold of the underlying root of those feelings. When you learn to handle negative emotions, your life becomes smoother.

In emotional situations it helps to back up, soften things, even stop yourself, and ask, "What is the worst thing that can happen with this?" Emotions can cause you to see things much bigger, worse, or more impactful than they really are. When you learn to handle your emotions, it helps you understand why you're feeling the way you are. If you're to become eligible for more responsibility, a larger organization, or more people reporting to you, one of the things required is to keep your emotions intact. Unhealthy emotions can cause issues but healthy emotions are a joy and make tasks easier to handle.

### **Activation:**

Name a situation where you let your emotions run away? How did it go?  
Think of a time when you thought, I wish I hadn't said that. Write down what you could have changed. Ask the Lord what you could have changed.

### **Declaration:**

My emotions will not control me. I will submit my feelings to the Lord and ask for wisdom in understanding and dealing with them.



## Day 18

# Becoming Purposeful

'For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.' Philippians 2:13 (AMP)

When Dave and I got married, we took time to talk about and document our vision as a couple for the upcoming year. We discussed our priorities, things we wanted to accomplish, and goals we wanted to attain. Two items from the list of things that we agreed were important to us as a couple were staying fit and praying together. We knew that if we just listed our goals without making a realistic, actionable plan to accomplish them in our everyday lives, the year would pass, and we would not attain those goals.

We designed and committed to a daily schedule of exercise each morning—taking a walk together one day and doing a form of Pilates the next. Then, on Pilates day, we chose a scripture from Grandma Esther's prayer box, talked about it, and prayed together based on that scripture at the end of our workout. Even when we travel, we follow this schedule. At this point, it's a way of life. We have attained our goal of staying fit and praying together by being purposeful in how we start our day. God is at work in us to fulfill our purpose for His good pleasure. We just need to work His plan.

### Activation:

Do you have goals you are struggling to achieve? Have you tried breaking those goals into actionable steps?

Write down one goal you have in your heart. Ask the Lord to give you some doable steps to begin rolling toward that goal.

### Declaration:

God is at work strengthening and energizing me for His good pleasure. I am destined for success.



## Day 19

# Becoming Purposeful

'Before disaster the heart of a man is haughty and filled with self-importance, But humility comes before honor. He who answers before he hears [the facts]– It is folly and shame to him.' Proverbs 18:12-13 (AMP)

Ask questions and be a lifelong learner. Jesus is the best example of asking questions and leading the situation. Surround yourself with people who are smarter than you. To be a good leader you need to surround yourself with people who know more about their particular subject than you do. Asking questions such as, "What do you think? What are your thoughts about this? What do you think is best?" is an excellent way to end a conversation or email.

Jesus was a master of asking questions. As a matter of fact, when you spend time with Him, He asks lots of questions: "What are you thinking here? How could you have responded differently? What does My Word say?" He helps me know what I'm thinking when I'm not sure. If you seek to understand, you are able to move forward and be a positive, proactive influence in whatever it is you are called to do. It's important to be willing to hear opinions that don't match your own. Sometimes as a leader that can be difficult, because we think we need to be right. When you allow people to offer input and then ask them questions, you open up an opportunity to teach and expand their knowledge as well as yours. Humility comes before honor. Humble yourself and ask questions.

### Activation:

Are you good at asking questions and seeking feedback from your team, colleagues or family? Why or why not?

List the number of times you ask questions in one day. Are there a lot or only a few? Ask the Lord how to become a learner.

### Declaration:

I will not answer before I hear the facts, but I will humbly ask for wisdom and guidance from those around me.



## Day 20

# Living Out Your Purpose Today

'For the lovers of God may suffer adversity and stumble seven times, but they will continue to rise over and over again. But the unrighteous are brought down by just one calamity and will never be able to rise again.' Proverbs 24:16 (TPT)

I've come to realize that every opportunity for success I'm presented with also has the risk of failure. The Father doesn't protect us from risk automatically because it would hinder us from the opportunity to be successful. He understands that we will make mistakes as we learn to walk in belief and trust, but He causes those mistakes to bring about growth. Despite failures, you are still loved and accepted by God. Hebrews 10:38 encourages us not to pull back or shrink in fear. And Ephesians 1:6 says that you are made accepted in Jesus. You can rest assured that His love for you doesn't change with your successes or failures.

The Bible gives us the definition of success and failure. Success is persistence to accomplish a desired outcome no matter how long it takes. And failure is quitting before the desired outcome is reached. It doesn't say that you do not fall. God looks on your heart, and when you persist in believing and acting upon His Word, you build on His sure foundation. In Hebrews, the writer says that Abraham was counted as righteous because he believed, even though at first he quit holding on to God's promise. Keep in mind on your way to becoming successful, you will likely experience some failures, but don't quit or give up!

### Activation:

Have you looked at failure as ultimate defeat or as a stepping stone to success?

Journal through your thoughts on success and failure. Ask the Lord to show you how He sees success and failure.

### Declaration:

By the grace of God I will rise over and over again. My mistakes will not be my downfall but will be a step into wisdom and growth.



## Day 21

# Living Out Your Purpose Today

'If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him.' James 1:5 (AMP)

When God gives you a big assignment, you're going to have to work to gain knowledge and skills to carry it out. This applies at home, in your family and in your business. Sometimes you can gain knowledge in a supernatural way, where God gives you a hidden talent. Through being obedient in accepting the assignment, that new talent begins to show, and you end up with wisdom and abilities you didn't know you had. You'll receive knowledge that you didn't go to school to achieve. People around you may begin to ask, "How did you see this? How do you know to do this?" And you realize that your ability isn't something everyone has but it is from God.

Other times you can ask God for wisdom and He grants it either through His Word or His Spirit. Then there are times when you grow in knowledge through good old-fashioned study and hard work. In business for instance, you'll need to learn how much you should charge, what your costs will be, if you need to staff people, and so forth. You'll need to develop this type of practical knowledge in order to be successful in your purpose, whether it is business, ministry, or home. Educate yourself to become a master in your field, whatever it is He has given you. His wisdom and knowledge are valuable in every area of your life.

### Activation:

Do you lack wisdom in an area of your life today? Do you spend your energy trudging toward an answer or do you ask the Lord quickly?

Journal about a time you realized something about you was not common to everyone, but was special about you. Ask the Lord for more.

### Declaration:

God has wisdom available for me in generous, overflowing amounts. I will commit myself to learning and growing wiser in my purpose.

