

Back to the Garden
The Woman, The Purpose

Hope D. Blackwell

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to women everywhere who desire to be like Jesus Christ and are willing to position themselves to destroy the kingdom of darkness by taking authority over the flesh, the world systems, and the devil, thus building the Kingdom of God for the glorious return of Christ.

Acknowledgements

Thank You, my most precious and beloved Holy Spirit. Thank You for being my Daddy, Husband, Big Brother, Best Friend, Keeper, Comforter, Fortress, Shield, and my Peace in the midst of it all. Thank You, Father, for the awesome threesome, the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I worship You because of who You are. Your awesomeness is overwhelming, and I could sing of Your love forever. My ears had heard of You, but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.

Thank You, Father, for my enemies. They pushed me closer to You, deeper in Your Word, and deeper in Your presence. Thank You, Father, for every trial, every test, and every time You brought me through. In the midst of it all, I am becoming who You want me to be.

Thank you, my anointed, appointed, and supportive children, mother, sisters, brothers, friends, and mentors. You watched me repeatedly go through the fire and you had the faith to believe I was always in the capable hands of God. Thank you, for the Ladies on Satan's most wanted hit list, my Holy Ghost filled Power Puff Girls! *"Let's kick some devil butt!"*

Thanks be to God, Satan loses again!

THANK YOU READERS! OUR BEST IS YET TO COME.

Preface

We are entering into a season of a greater release of wisdom, power, and resources to the people of God. Although the enemy is waging war on the people and things of God, there is a move of God, by which greater evangelistic and teaching ministries are being established, ineffective traditions of men are being broken, and more lives are being transformed. A remnant of end time, radical for Christ, saints are winning souls to Christ like never before. There is no more room for church as usual. God is pressing on the hearts of His elect to minister to the unbelievers with love and compassion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the community of believers are working in unity to break racial, social, political, and denominational barriers. God is taking the wealth of the wicked and releasing it into the hand of His people who will do His will, and accomplish His mission of reaching the lost, throughout the Earth.

I challenge you to walk in the purpose, the power, and the predestined places that God has appointed for you.

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Introduction

From the Shadow of Eve to the Type of the Holy Spirit

In order to effectively walk with God, and be used by Him, you must first understand who He is and who you are in Him. You must uncover and understand the deeply rooted hindrances that have impeded your path to purpose. As you read this book, and study the first several chapters in the book of Genesis, you will explore deep truths that will reveal your identity and purpose in God. You will discover who you are, why you were created, what God expects of you, how to give and receive true love and respect, and how to walk in power and victory in your purpose as a Woman of God. You will understand what the Word of God says concerning you as a woman. While reading this book, and studying the scriptures, you will also be taught how to walk in the fullness of your calling as a Woman of God, operating in the spirit as a tree of life to all. You will grasp the awesomeness of God, and the power and wisdom with which He has equipped you to do His work on Earth, while crushing the head (*authority*) of the enemy.

In our society, we are bombarded with ways to quench the thirst of our flesh. Women are depicted as strong and independent, yet, in reality, are damaged and lacking the understanding of the purpose for which God created them. Varied strongholds, coupled with the lack of holy, victorious-living examples, have left many of us damaged and broken, and in need of healing by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

This book will help us identify and break the many societal and self-imposed barriers that can hinder us from reaching our destiny in Christ. We will better understand the flesh, the enemy, and how to overcome them both. The flesh should be submitted to the spirit but in most cases, the Spirit is enslaved by the flesh.

As we look at the powerful revelations found in the early chapters of Genesis, we will learn how to walk in the will of the God. Moreover, we will better understand how every action Satan launches against us is only allowed as an opportunity to exercise our victory through Jesus Christ. When we come to the realization that through Christ we have full authority over Satan, we will live a more victorious life.

Before we begin to explore the truths contained in this book, we take authority over the messages that the enemy uses to fill the minds of God's people, and those designed to destroy the women that God is raising up in the Earth today. We loose the wonder-working power and anointing that comes from the Trinity. We declare, by the Word of God and the power of Jesus Christ, that we reclaim the daughters of Christ who are burdened and deceived by these subtle, yet deadly, demonic connotations that come to destroy them before they can walk in the fullness of God.

It is also my prayer, that as we embark on our *transformation in the garden*, we will be challenged, motivated, and encouraged to be what God has created us to be. I pray that we will be empowered to be the wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, teachers, preachers, leaders, and examples, who are walking in our potential as God's Spirit Women in the Earth.

Chapter One

The Creation: Understanding Your Name, Your Design, and Your Purpose

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:27 KJV)

“It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make him an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:18 KJV)

“And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from the man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said this is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man.” (Genesis 2:22,23KJV)

To understand the creation of the woman, we must examine these key areas: (1) Name, (2) Design, and (3) Purpose.

Name

To begin our study, we must read and embrace the Word of God which clearly states that we were made in the image of God (*Gen 1:27*). We must also believe that God patterned us after Himself. These are irrefutable facts. Our difficulty breaking through our flesh (*carnal sin nature*) causes us to lack the characteristics, likenesses, similarities and ways of God, making it difficult to grasp the idea that we are made in His image.

In Genesis 2:18, we will examine the first of the three areas of study in this chapter, which is to understand our name – *who we are*. Merriam-Webster defines *name* as *a title or word by which someone or something is known*. The KJV refers to the Woman as a “help meet.” The NIV version of this phrase *help meet* is “a helper suitable.”

The Greek word for helper is *ezer*, which means *to support, aid, or protect*. In several passages in Scripture, the word *helper* is used to describe the Holy Spirit. Those same passages,

in the Greek text contain the word *ezer* as the translation for both –the woman and the Holy Spirit. Throughout Scripture, many of the characteristics attributed to the woman parallel those of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our paraclete – our protector, our support to lean on for guidance into truth. *Paraclete* is a Greek noun-meaning *comforter* or *advocate*. The verb paraclete means *a calling to one's side or one who comes alongside*.

Proverbs 31:11-12 reads, “The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil [death or rotting]. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.” (KJV) This speaks to the comforting, supporting, and secure life giving qualities found in the woman – qualities which mirror those of the Holy Spirit. These qualities should also influence the lives of her entire family, friends, and all those with whom she interacts. These qualities are so influential that the mistreatment of women has an effect on the quantity and quality of the life of others within her circle.

Merriam-Webster defines the word *suitable* as *comparable or equivalent to; to meet the requirements of; or sound mentally and physically*. The word *comparable* is defined as *to speak of or represent as equal to*. Again, we see the importance of the words *suitable* or *comparable* helper. God created the woman to be a suitable or comparable helper to the man. She was made his equal; however, with a protective and supportive quality to provide the necessary assistance and balance to him in his roles, responsibilities, and purpose on Earth.

Let's examine a scripture that is often misunderstood and incorrectly taught. 1 Peter 3:7 reads, “Likewise ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and being heirs together of the grace of life that your prayers be unhindered.” (KJV) In this scripture, Peter was not referring to the spiritual, emotional, or mental state of women, in his reference to them as weaker; he was instructing men to recognize and protect women due to their weaker physical frame and their often being the target of attack, abuse, and mistreatment. Peter further states, “dwell with them according to knowledge.” His instructions are for men to have an understanding or knowledge of what the women are subject to, and to deal with them accordingly with honor, respect, love, and kindness. Peter also includes, “that your prayers go unhindered.” Simply stated, to directly disobey these instructions could cause the husband to have a hindered prayer life. This Scripture is rarely taught in any depth in churches today. We must have a true understanding of the Scriptures to effectively live, and to convey the Word of God to equip His people to live victorious Christian lives.

Let us further study the truths revealed by the name given to the woman. The name, *Eve*, was given to her – interpreted to mean *giver of life*. Of course, we know that to be appropriate as she was the first mother recorded in Scripture. However, her name, *Eve*, meant more than life giver in the natural sense of the word. It was a foreshadow of what was to come – women as givers of life through their spirit, actions, words, and deeds. We must be reminded that we have a God given ability to prophetically speak life into people, surroundings, and situations. God is calling us to be life givers — the helpers, protectors, and women of wisdom in our daily living, speaking life into our spouses, families, and others, as well as their visions and ideas. We must also speak life into our own spirit in times when the flesh (*carnal sin nature*) is strong, overpowering, and needs to be brought under submission.

The Bible states in Proverbs 3:18, “she is a tree of life to them who lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.” (*KJV*) God expects us to be women who can give life, despite the times when it seems the life is almost sucked out of us. We must ask ourselves the questions, are we giving life to anyone? When people leave our presence, have they received hope in their situation or has life’s difficult circumstances caused us to become hard women without compassion or love? We must be discerning enough to know when to be assertive, and when to minister with a balance of grace, love, and compassion, as Christ did. In the Word of God, there were occasions when Jesus was fed up with folks; however, the times He ministered with patience, compassion, and love, greatly outweighed the times He had to judge, correct, and rebuke. Jesus always walked in a healthy balance – the example we are to follow. I’ve often told my kids, “Jesus was so together, laid back, and relaxed – a cool guy to be like!” He could destroy a negative or demonic spirit and give life all in one statement without breaking a sweat. If we are discerning and led of God, we, too, can walk as Christ.

Eve’s name reveals another life changing truth, which is found in the timing that her name was first introduced in Scripture. Her name is first recorded as *Eve* in Genesis 3:20. There she is called *the mother of all living*. The next Scripture, where her name is recorded, is Genesis 4:1, where we discover the couple’s intimate relations and the conception and birth of their son. Note that Eve was referred to as “woman” throughout the Scripture until their intimate time. We must examine what this truth reveals, which is that we are identified by whom or what we become intimate with. Many of us have been identified or labeled based on our decisions to become intimate with the wrong people, places, and things. This relates to physical, emotional,

and spiritual intimacies. Merriam-Webster defines *intimacy* as *a close and personal association with someone and/or something*. Whenever there is intimacy, something is produced. We must be cautious of who and what we entertain, associate with, and become intimate with. We want to be givers of life and produce life-giving seed. We do not want to produce seeds of lust, confusion, discord, or death by having the wrong relationships and affiliations. This hinders the fulfillment of purpose and aborts God's wonderful plan for our lives and the lives of others.

Design

In reviewing Genesis 2:22, 23, we will explore the second of the three key areas of study in understanding the creation of the woman, which is the design by which she was formed. This will also further validate our study of the helper and her life giving attributes.

As detailed in Scripture, we know the woman was fashioned from the rib, which was taken out of the man. Let's examine the significance of the rib. The Home Health Medical Dictionary describes *rib* as *one of the paired, curved rods that support the body. It protects, or acts as a shield to the vital organs, wrapped around them enclosing them from harm*. Webster's Dictionary describes the *rib* as *to protect or keep alive*. In each case, the purpose of the rib is to protect, which is the same protective quality intended in the design of woman. Unfortunately, if the rib is injured or damaged, it adversely affects the entire body, making it almost impossible to function. If the rib breaks due to severe damage or force, it could, subsequently, pierce one of the organs that it is designed to protect. This presents a deadly situation.

There are times when the blows of life and the consequences of decisions damage and sometimes break us. Consequently, if we remain broken and unhealed in those times, we will become a deadly vice to the people and things we are designed to protect and support.

How often have you started out with the best intentions to help, protect, and assist, but through some misunderstanding, offense, or minor miscommunication you somehow turned into a source of pain as opposed to a healthy support system? The supportive quality within us is a gift from God, but we must learn to manage our gifts accordingly and be led by the Spirit. We must not be led by our emotions, desires, and lusts. We must always determine who or what we are fighting for or protecting, in light of God's directions for whom or what we should be protecting. Many times, we are so busy trying to protect and fight for ourselves that we miss the mark where it concerns our spouse, family, or other brothers and sisters in Christ.

Here is a common example of what I call a “rib puncture”:

You consider yourself helping your husband or another individual be a better person (*so you think*) by “sharing” your feelings and ideas. Because they may not agree, fail to change, or respond differently than you wanted, (*which was probably a little unrealistic*) you resort to nagging, complaining, and fussing about his poor communication, lack of understanding and childish behavior. You are still communicating, but from a broken and bruised condition. So instead of protecting, supporting, and nurturing, you are inflicting unwarranted injury, pain, and damage. In this case, you must carefully examine yourself. Who and what are you really trying to protect? What does God say about your actions and motives?

Let’s further study the truth exposed through this scenario. When pain and frustration cause our feelings and emotions to rise up, we should, at that point, stop what we consider helping or “ministering” to the individual. Quite honestly, at that point, we cease being a helper and become the one in need of correction – change – healing. When we feel we have had our last nerve plucked, (out of all 120 trillion of them,) we must temporarily cease all attempts to be the helper and support. In that state we become a snare instead of a supporter or protector, causing damage to the individual and the entire relationship. We allow ourselves to get outside of our purpose, simply because we do not get the response that we want, and resort to operating in the flesh (*carnal sin nature*), which causes us to shift from building up to tearing down. We should truthfully deal with our feelings and emotions, and then repent, asking God to give us the wisdom, patience, and strength necessary to protect and to give life even in difficult times.

There is a prophetic anointing on women to speak and extend life. As with any authority, when misused it can have a devastating effect which, as in the above scenario, is damaging. The Bible declares in Proverbs 12:4, “a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but she that maketh him ashamed is like rottenness to his bones.” (*KJV*) This scripture compares the woman to a crown. A crown is worn on the head. The Bible teaches us that the husband is the head. Most head coverings are designed to enhance or protect the head. This scripture further validates the

calling of the woman. When walking in purpose, we can envelop those we love, enhancing, protecting, and supporting them.

Consider how often our flesh (*carnal sin nature*), emotions, mind, and will cause us to become unforgiving, aggressive, critical, judgmental, uptight, stuck-up, and yes...quite un-Christ-like! Again, we must recognize our life-giving attributes as a gift, while understanding there is a price to operating in the fullness of this call. That price is death to the flesh (*carnal sin nature*) and life to the spirit and the things of God. Paul teaches that those who live according to the flesh (*sinful nature*) have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live according to the spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires and to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Romans 8:5-6 *NIV*) We must stay spiritually minded to be the support system and life-giver we are designed to be.

Purpose

As we begin studying the third and final key area necessary to understand the creation of the woman, we will define and understand the difference between identity and purpose.

Identity is who we are –how we are defined and identified. Merriam-Webster defines *identity* as the *state of being of a specific person or thing recognized as such*. Though identity and purpose are not interchangeable, one does not operate independent of the other. Identity can help or hinder the fulfillment of purpose. The Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words list one of the common Hebrew interpretations for the word *purpose* as *protithemae*, which means *a setting forth or to have set before*. The Greek interpretation for *purpose* is *gnome*, which means *to be; to become or an expected end*. *Purpose* is defined by Webster as *a desired goal or an intention, or an aim to oneself set up as an end to be*.

An interesting fact about purpose is that it is fully revealed with time. Identity, in some form, is established – it's recognizable – seen in the natural; however, purpose, especially God's purpose, is revealed through time, prayer, and obedience to His commands. Identity is determined by both God and man, and both usually differ greatly. We, as individuals, often assume false identities concerning ourselves and others. However, who we really are is eventually revealed or exposed. Again, purpose is realized and achieved through time, growth, and intimacy with God. Purpose is established by God, not based upon what man sees or feels, but based on what God knows. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "I know the thoughts that I think toward

you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (*KJV*) The *NIV* translation of the same passage is, “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Satan often attempts to destroy purpose by altering circumstances in our lives, but he has no authority or power over purpose. Often, we allow the blows of life, poor decision-making, and Satan’s schemes to plunge us into a hole of depression and hopelessness; after which, of course, is the pity party. We follow this course, not realizing there are some things that Satan has been allowed to do to thrust us even farther into purpose. Anything that he does, concerning us, must be approved by God, which limits his power against us.

Job 1:6-8 reads, “One day the angels came to present themselves to the Lord and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the Lord, ‘From roaming the Earth going back and forth in it.’ The Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on Earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.’” (*NIV*) This conversation between Satan and the Lord reveals the limitations placed on Satan concerning God’s people. In the last chapter of the same book, Job finally replies to the Lord, “I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know... My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.” (Job 42:1-6) The book concludes with the declaration of the blessings that God lavished on Job. The latter part of Job’s life was blessed more than the former. Job’s life is a testimony of God’s omnipotence, Sovereignty, uncommon ways, and wisdom. This account teaches us how God’s magnificent plan unfolded and His intent to bless and prosper Job came to pass as Job continued to walk in his purpose as a man of God. In the end the greater glory of God was seen.

So often, we, like Job, cannot understand or even imagine why God would allow certain things to occur in our lives. As Christians, we pray and cry out to God “not my will, but Thy will”, and “use me Lord”, but when adversity comes, we are quick to rebuke the assignment, without considering it could be a God approved and God ordained test, whereby He will be glorified and we will receive His richest blessings if we “faint not”. Our faith sometimes wanes and we forget the awesomeness and Sovereignty of God. We must realistically deal with our natural man – the flesh part of us, but learn to quickly resort to the mindset Job had. He resolves,

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb and naked I will depart. The Lord giveth and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” (Job 1:20-22 *NIV*)

Isaiah 54:16 states, “Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work: and I have created the waster to destroy.” (KJV) The *NIV* version states ... “and it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc.” Consider that the enemy’s job is to destroy waste by working havoc in your life. There are many things in us and in our lives that are of no use to God – simply put it is waste. That is the only thing that the enemy is permitted by God to destroy. He cannot destroy us or pluck us out the hand of God unless we yield to him or to our flesh.

Trials and test aid in us reaching our potential and purpose in God. In these instances of attack or adversities, we must lose our sorrow and shame and allow God to have His perfect work. We are concerned and consumed with many of the small things in life that do not aid God in His purpose. We would probably be stunned at the number of things that we do or say that are not inspired by God or even important to Him. Although God desires for us to prosper and be in good health; however, absolutely everything in us or in our lives that can hinder His purpose must be eliminated. Remember, purpose is established by God. Again, the enemy cannot change or alter our God ordained purpose. I must reiterate this point: Satan does many things to hinder our fulfillment of purpose; however, we must be reminded—and I stress this point – that anything God allows Satan to do is for the His glory and our elevation in Him. God knows the outcome of these things and we must live holy and blameless, totally trusting Him. Actually, when we learn to take advantage of his attempts to defeat us, they will serve to destroy the waste that is useless for God’s purpose and His glory. Satan’s ploys, once understood and overcome, only serve to better equip us to do God’s will, operate in a greater anointing, and receive God’s blessings – pushing us higher and higher. Talk about making your enemy your footstool!

There are times when we make decisions, apart from God’s instruction, that can take us off the course which leads to purpose. Things occur which are not a part of our plans; however, may be a part of God’s plan for us. In Proverbs 16:1, we find these words, “to a man belongs the plan of the heart but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue.” (*NIV*) As Christian women, we need to seek God in all things and rely on His omnipotence and omniscience. Too often, we fail to see God’s intervention in situations and circumstances because we put Him in what I call a

“*God box*”. This is where we sometimes put God when our failure to understand His ways causes us to limit Him to our ways and our understanding.

Consider this very poignant example:

One parent has borne the responsibility of raising his/her child alone due to the other parent’s absence. Because of the situation, they carry the weight of bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness and project that toward the other parent and even toward God. They resent the situation, which in turn, contributes to their inability to effectively parent the child. In similar circumstances, many parents develop the “why me” approach to life and give God, their children, and everyone involved with them less than God desires or requires, consequently, hindering their own progress and purpose in God. Due to their failure to grasp the Sovereignty and providence of God, they never consider the absence of the other parent to work in God’s design to fulfill purpose based on the God ordained destiny of the child; even so, a way of achieving God’s purpose and destiny for their own life. This same scenario proves true, in many cases, regarding the parent who has been removed or has separated from the child, and family, for whatever reason. To walk in the fullness of God, we must understand and accept that God is the Sovereign Lord of all and His providence is limitless. Proverbs 19:21 states, “many are the plans of a man’s heart but the purpose of the Lord shall prevail.” (NIV) This is a powerful testament to the Sovereignty of our God. For too long, we have put God in a box. Who are we to propose to know the plans of God? Isaiah 55:8 reads “for my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways”, declares the Lord. (NIV)

In keeping with understanding purpose as it relates to the creation of the woman, we will explore the virtue of wisdom. Women’s identity and purpose are directly linked to her wisdom. Throughout Scripture, wisdom is portrayed with characteristics which parallel those of a woman. Throughout Scripture, when God speaks of wisdom, His references are written using the female gender. Let’s study several of the passages which illustrate these comparisons.

In Proverbs 31:10 states, “Who can find a virtuous woman? For *her* price is far above rubies”. (KJV) He is clearly speaking of the virtuous woman described in detail in Proverbs 31. Moreover, Proverbs 3:13-15 reads, “Happy is the man that findeth *wisdom*, and the man that getteth understanding for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than *rubies*: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be *compared to her*.” (KJV) Furthermore, Proverbs 31:25 reads, “strength and *honor*

are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in the time to come.”(KJV) Proverbs 3:16 reads, “Length of days is in her right hand: and in her left hand *riches and honor*.” (KJV) Proverbs 4: 6-10 reads, forsake her not and she shall preserve thee: love her and she shall keep thee. *Wisdom* is the principal thing; therefore get *wisdom* and with all thy getting, get understanding. *Exalt her and she shall promote thee*: she shall bring thee to *honor*, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.” (KJV) God is clearly speaking about wisdom in this scripture; however, consider what He says in Proverbs 12: 4, a virtuous *woman is a crown to her husband*; but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.” (KJV) Again, we see a parallel in the characteristics of woman to that of wisdom in scripture.

I do not believe in biblical coincidence. Everything God says and does has a purpose. When God places emphasis on specific things in His Word, they require our attention. We were created by the wisdom of God to do great and mighty things in His Kingdom for His glory. We must remember that God *formed* Adam, but He *made* Eve. Adam was a “form” which needed to be “filled-in” or “filled-full” Genesis 2:7 states, “*he was formed from the dust of the ground*.” Genesis 2:22 states, “*the Lord made a woman from the rib He took out of the man and then brought her to the man*”. The term “made” speaks to God’s depositing into Eve what He knew she needed to bring “fulfillment” to Adam. This reveals the presence of wisdom when God made Eve.

Proverbs 8: 22-31 declares, “The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, ... then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his world and delighting in mankind.”

God requires us to walk as women of wisdom. We have an awesome purpose, as a collective creation and individually, which is linked to so many facets of the Kingdom of God. To effectively walk in purpose, we must live uncompromising lives and develop a deeply

intimate relationship with God. We must fast and pray, die to our flesh, (*carnal sin nature*) and become spiritually mature. We must allow God to destroy everything in us, and in our lives, that block His will and purpose from being manifested in our lives.

When we take hold of the life changing truths revealed in the Word of God concerning our name, our design, and our purpose, we will walk in a new power and become the ambassadors for Christ and godly examples to others that we were made to be. Our lives will exalt Christ and cause others to be effectively transformed and won to the Kingdom of God. In your experience back to the garden, you will discover how to walk in your purpose as a woman of God as you uncover the deep truths found in His Word.

Here are some key points to remember from Chapter One, The Creation.

1. Exercise your protective, supportive, and life giving qualities. As you crucify the flesh, you will increase your ability to walk in the full potential destined for you.
2. You were designed to aid, protect, and assist. Remember that a bruised or damaged rib can be the source of death to what it was designed to protect. Healing is essential. Until you have let go of the past, and healed of hurts and disappointments, you will be unable to help, support, or protect anyone else.
3. You are a life giver. No matter how negative the situation or the person may be, you are to convey hope and life. This is not communicated by how nice, phony, or how many “words” you give. It only comes from the Holy Spirit. You will need to communicate with Him on a level where you can receive what He is revealing – what to say, when to say it, and how to say it. It requires a greater level of maturity in your walk with God.
4. Whatever or whoever you become intimate with (*closely associate with*) will influence your identity and produce similar seeds. Associate and bond with the things of God and people of God in a healthy manner.
5. Identity speaks to who you are based on man’s perception; while purpose and destiny is determined and ordained by God. Purpose is revealed by prayer, intimacy with God, and the study of His Word. You must seek Him to identify and understand His plan for your life.
6. When the fires of adversity come, don’t be discouraged; resolve that God’s purpose is to burn off everything that He cannot use for His purpose in your life. Remember Jeremiah 29:11 where God declares His intentions for you.

Chapter Two

The Crime: Doubt, Deception, Diversion, and Defeat

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, ‘hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’ And the woman said unto the serpent, ‘we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden but of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it lest you surely die.’ The serpent said unto the woman, ‘ye shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day ye eat thereof then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as Gods knowing good from evil.’ And when the woman saw the tree was good for food and it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her and he did eat.” (Genesis 3: 1- 6 KJV)

In this chapter, we will examine the crime that occurred in the garden, the affect it had on the destiny of Adam and Eve, and its affect on mankind. In our study, we will reveal four components of the crime which led to the fall of man. They are: (1) *doubt*, (2) *deception*, (3) *diversion*, and (4) *defeat*.

Women of God, if we re-examine some of the poor choices, unwise decisions, and impulsive actions we have made, we will find these four elements existed in most instances. We need to understand that our choices, decisions, and actions lead to victory or defeat. Often, we are blinded by our emotions, wants, needs, and desires, which cause us to make poor impulsive decisions without taking time to fast, pray, hear the Spirit, or seek the Word of God. When we submit to our desires and self-will, we impede God’s will being performed in or through us. We also fail to consider the possible long term effect that our decision has on our destiny as well as the destiny of those around us. In this study, we will unveil some of the enemy’s tricks, which he

uses in his attempt to hinder our path to purpose. We will discover how feeble and defeated he really is and become victorious in more of life's situations.

Doubt

Let's examine the first component – doubt. Notice in Genesis 3, the first thing the serpent did was to question Eve concerning God's instructions.

This was his attempt to communicate with Eve – to establish a relationship and build rapport with her. Genesis 3:1 begins by revealing that the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field that God had made. Merriam-Webster defines *subtle* as *delicate, restrained, elusive, crafty* and *the opposite of obvious*. This is not quite like the depictions many of us remember from a children's book of Bible bedtime stories, of a snake dangling from a tree having a chat with Eve. The word subtle indicates he was laid back, suave, and mysterious; his appearance was probably much different than that depicted by man. We can imagine that in his original state, he probably stood upright since one of God's curses was for him to roam around on his belly for the duration of his existence. Additionally, it was this curse, found in Genesis 3:14, which led to our associating the serpent with the appearance of a snake. I imagine him to have been an attractive, intriguing creature that could obviously speak. The serpent observed that Eve might be won by conversation and attention. This was his opportunity of a lifetime, literally.

Women of God, we must be aware that the enemy is checking us out and he is waiting for the opportunity to set the stage for our defeat. The serpent knew Eve was no dummy. He knew he had to be subtle and crafty. What better way than to appeal to her perceived needs. Like many of us, she may not have received the attention from Adam that she desired and the serpent's conversation apparently satisfied a need – consequently creating a greater desire.

We must spend the time communicating with God and worshipping Him so that there will be no room for the subtle tricks of the enemy to work against us. Many of our poor choices are made simply because we do not have two-way communication with God. We do all the talking and fail to take the time to hear what He is saying. We miss the blessing of being intimate with God. We let our needs, desires, and thoughts open the door for the enemy to infuse our mind with doubt. Let's further explore the crime.

Many women, today, are doing exactly what Eve did. Not only did she answer the serpent's question (*which could have been a simple "yes" or "no",*) she repeated exactly God

said to her concerning the garden and the Tree of Life, and did so giving an overview of the dialogue! Revealing more information to the serpent than he needed opened the door for his attack on her. This same error is apparent in the biblical account of Joseph found in Genesis 37. Joseph shared his dreams and vision with his brothers. Out of jealousy, they attempted to take his life by throwing him into a pit. Although God had a purpose for Joseph, which prevailed in spite of the pit, it caused him to go through a very unproductive place and time (at least in the natural.) Sharing the things of God with the wrong people at the wrong time is often costly, it can take you off the path to purpose. One of the tricks of the enemy is to get you to bare all – to expose and uncover everything. The more information you give the more opportunity there is for him to probe into your emotions, desires, and carnal nature, which is what he always appeals to. Each time we share or operate outside of God’s will or timing, this process follows:

1. We question, or allow someone else to question, what we know to be the truth of God.
2. This opens the door for dialogue with the enemy.
3. The enemy challenges the Word of God and makes an appeal to our flesh (*our emotions, ungodly desires, and carnal nature*)
4. Our flesh is aroused and we began to doubt and/or ignore the truth of God’s Word.
5. Doubting God’s Word demonstrates a lack of faith and disbelief, resulting in our making poor choices and decisions.

In the series of events that lead to the crime in the garden, doubt is the beginning of every defeat. When we doubt God’s Word, or His, instructions we are actually saying to Him, we don’t really believe and are not willing to exercise faith.

We also are putting our desires and needs before His will being done in our lives. Women of God, we must guard our minds and our hearts against doubt. We are to be mindful and discerning of what we share with others, particularly when God has given us specific directives concerning an issue. As we previously learned, the enemy has no power over the purpose of God for our lives; although, he does roam around looking for an opportunity to hijack the purpose. We must build ourselves up through prayer, study of God’s Word, and maintaining a godly lifestyle. As we strengthen our spirit, we will be equipped to overcome our fleshly desires when the enemy attempts to attack us in those areas.

Deception and Diversion

Let's examine the second and third components – deception and diversion. In Genesis 3:1-4, notice how the serpent (1) questions God's instructions, (2) listens to Eve's reiterate God's instructions, then (3) disputes what God told Eve, proposing it to be false. God told Eve that they would *surely* die if they ate of the fruit of the tree. Satan told her the opposite, "*you will not surely die*". As we discussed previously, this caused Eve to question and doubt the validity of God's Word. Once she entered into a verbal exchange with the serpent, he deceived her and diverted her attention from God's instructions by making an appeal to her flesh (*carnal sin nature*); more specifically, the appeal was to a desire to have something she thought she was deprived of (the benefit of all the fruit) and to attain something that she thought she should have (knowledge like God's).

We must expose the root of this deception and how it occurred. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *deception* as *an attempt to deceive*. *Deceived* is defined as *to ensnare; a caper to take something, or to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid*. The Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Reference Library Edition) defines *deceive* as the Greek noun *apatao*, commonly used in the Old Testament, which is *to cheat or beguile; that which gives false impression*. That same source further states, "lusts are excited by deceit and although the lusts aren't deceitful in themselves, deceit is the source of their strength."

Genesis 3:5-6 reads, "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing good and evil. When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate." (NIV) All Eve needed was already provided for her in the garden by God; moreover, she also had Him. However, her dialogue with the serpent led her to doubt God and believe him, when he told her that she would be like God knowing good and evil. The thought of that ability appealed to Eve and she then desired the power she believed she could attain. Eve became so convinced by the serpent's lie about how the fruit could benefit her that she disregarded what God said about the death that eating the fruit would bring.

It is vital that we understand the war that rages between our flesh (*carnal sin nature*) and our Spirit (*longing after the things of God*). If we are not continually focused on God and led by the Holy Spirit, the flesh will win over our spirit every time. In Romans, Paul instructs us to not live according to the sinful nature. Romans 8:13 reads, "If you live according to the sinful nature

you will die, but if you live according to the Spirit you will put to death the deeds of the body and you will live.” (NIV)

Genesis 3:6 reads, “when the woman saw the tree was good for food, and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom...” Let us examine the areas of Eve’s vulnerability in this verse:

1. Natural sight as opposed to spiritual insight (*saw that the tree was good*) — this speaks to Eve’s inability to see in the spirit. When Eve looked at the tree, after doubt and deception set in, she no longer avoided it for fear of consequence as she previously had. Becoming separated from God, and operating in her carnality, caused her to have a distorted view of the tree. She saw it as something to attain – something good and desirable.
2. Security (*good for food*) — this reveals a woman’s natural need for security and fulfillment. The desire to know all of our needs are met. This is still a carnal desire. When deception set in, Eve’s security seemed inadequate and a desire for more was aroused. She saw this, in the natural, as another resource for them.
3. Lust and desire (*and pleasing to the eye and also desirable*) — this reveals Eve’s natural satisfaction and desires. Webster’s Dictionary defines *desire* as *a conscious impulse towards something that promises enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment*.
4. Pursuit of wisdom and power (*desirable for gaining wisdom*) – Remember, Eve was designed by the wisdom of God. She was equipped with all that she needed. However, she was deceived into believing that she could be even wiser, knowing good and evil as God. All that Adam and Eve knew was good. It’s hard to imagine why Eve would have even wanted to know evil. Perhaps it was that evil, in and of itself, aroused her curiosity, as it was unknown to her. However, the attainment was not worth the loss.

Giving in to ungodly desires and the lusts of our flesh fuel the passions of our sinful nature. The more we yield to them, other areas of carnality are awakened. This is why we must be careful to judge all things by the Spirit. Our desires will change when we put God first in everything and spend time with Him. Imagine how it could have been if Eve had walked throughout the garden worshipping and communing with God daily. Psalms 37:4 reads, “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” (KJV) When you delight yourself in the Lord, He can give you the desires of your heart because as you spend time with Him your desires become centered on Him – they become the same as His. They are no longer the foolish things of the flesh (*carnal sin nature*) or things that have no real meaning or significance. Paul teaches us that if the Spirit of God lives in us we should not be controlled by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, and if Christ lives within us, our flesh is dead, yet our spirit is alive. (*Romans 8: 9-11 KJV*)

Defeat

Let us examine the last and most impacting component of the crime in the garden, which was *defeat*. Defeat was the seventh step in the series of occurrences that led to the fall.

Note the following 7-D's to Defeat:

- 1.) **Detection** – when weakness is observed by the enemy
- 2.) **Dialogue** – to participate in a conversation with the enemy, or to consider his suggests
- 3.) **Doubt** – to question God's instructions
- 4.) **Deceived** – to accept a lie as the truth
- 5.) **Diversion** – to be distracted or taken off course
- 6.) **Disobedience** – to disobey God's instructions
- 7.) **Defeat** – inevitable after steps 1-6.

Genesis 2:17 records the following words of God, “you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” (NIV) We know that God spared them from physical death; however, they suffered defeat by the enemy. They were defeated because they allowed themselves to be deceived and led astray by their own desires,

directly disobeying what God commanded. In Paul's instructions to the church at Galatia, he teaches us to live by the Spirit and not to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. He teaches us that our sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are constantly in conflict with one another; therefore, we must learn that we cannot trust our feelings and cannot do all that we feel.

In order for you to see yourself in Eve, I must address an unfortunate, but real life situation that occurs in the life of many single, Christian women. Consider this scenario:

You have a close walk with God as a single woman, and are not dating anyone. You are clearly aware of what the Word of God says concerning relationships, fornication, and your body. You also have an understanding of the kind of man the Lord has said you should have. He has given you direct instructions to follow in your singleness. You meet a handsome, single, saved man. You began to converse with him, unprayerfully, revealing too much information about yourself. You reveal your weaknesses, your heartaches, your accomplishments, your strengths, etc. The conversations lead to dating which, in turn, leads to the arousal of sensual desires (*which in a relationship at this stage is your carnal sin nature*). Which direction do you take or which direction have you taken? Unfortunately, at this stage, many Christian women engage in sexual encounters and even go as far as to live with their "friend". That is a fast track to defeat and the death of purpose. Like Eve, you become consumed with satisfying your own perceived needs and desires. Your unstable emotions and ungodly desires are exposed and your innermost yearnings are now the motivation of your decision-making. Like Eve, you disregard the validity of God's Word, and rationalize the relationship, continuing to walk in disobedience. This is why God instructs us not to awaken love before it is time. (Song of Solomon 8:4 KJV) Those women who remain devoted to God, and are led by Him, fail to resort to such behavior, and do not awaken or allow those desires to be aroused. During that time of waiting, these desires are in what I call the "sleep mode". The desire to please and honor God is their discipline. Walking in the spirit keeps them from fulfilling the desires of the flesh.

In most cases, you have entered into a relationship under one or more of the following conditions:

1. You did not earnestly pray about the person.
2. You were not at a level of wholeness and intimacy with God that you should be to even entertain a relationship.
3. You know the person is not God's choice for you.
4. You are giving more to the relationship than you are giving to God. (*creating an unhealthy imbalance*)

In allowing any of these conditions, you compromise the anointing of God and His purpose for your life, and give the enemy success in diverting you from your set course. You are blind to the enemy's involvement in the situation because you are focused on only yourself and your "friend" (although he really isn't your friend). Regretfully, in my many encounters with Christian women, of varied social status, I have found that countless are so deficient in the area of intimacy with God, and in the discipline of daily Bible study (or at least reading), that most men can effortlessly divert them from a path of righteousness—and many do. I would be remiss in my assignment if I did not communicate to you that in our society, the lust of women for other women has become increasingly prevalent. Don't be deceived, the penalty for the crime and the course of defeat is the same, whether the desire is for a man or a woman.

As with Eve, you go on to entertain the enemy's questions and suggestions, which further incite compromise and doubt. The suggestions come in the form of deceiving rationale such as, "God knows our hearts", "We really love each other and are planning to get married anyway", and "I'm only going to be with him once". The most ridiculous rationale, which was once seemingly exclusive to men, but is increasingly the mindset of women, is "I have needs; God gave me these desires — they're natural". Granted the needs are natural – naturally carnal and sinful when not controlled and disciplined by the Spirit and the Word of God.

Women of God, we must get to the place where we are not so easily defeated by others, our enemy (Satan), or ourselves. Remember, according to the Word of God, we have three enemies – the world, the flesh (*carnal sin nature*), and Satan (the devil). In most cases, our

enemy, Satan, has no need to engage in attacking us because we are already being attacked, and defeated, by our flesh. It is vital for us to strengthen our spirit by staying focused on the things of God. What are you reading? What are you listening to? What are you watching? What are you meditating on? Do these things strengthen the flesh (*carnal sin nature*) or the spirit? How you answer those questions, reveal whether you are walking in the agony defeat or the joy of victory.

Here are some key points to remember from Chapter Two, the Crime.

1. Do not allow yourself to share intimate things in conversations or with others unless the Spirit of God directs you to do so. If you do not use caution, you will share too much with the wrong people and find yourself in a trap set by the enemy.
2. Do not doubt, or compromise, concerning the Word of God or His instructions to you. Do not allow anyone to cause you to question what you have resolved concerning God's Word.
3. Do not let the desires of your flesh (*carnal sin nature*) dictate your decision-making. Spend time in prayer and develop an intimate relationship with God, so that you will be led by the Holy Spirit.
4. Constantly nurture your spirit in the things of God. Meditate on His Word. Listen to hymns, worship songs, and other spiritual messages and teaching. Do not constantly read, watch, and listen to things that feed the flesh and sensual desires such as: soap operas, indecent cable shows, and Lifetime channel and other "R" or "X" rated movies; gossip or gossip columns, idle chatter, and other things that are a waste of the precious time God has given you.
5. Rebuke the enemy when he comes. Shut him down. Become mature in the things of God so that regardless of how subtle, crafty, or beautifully he appears, you can see in the Spirit what is really happening.
6. Set standards for yourself and do not deviate. Learn the Word of God and what God desires for you. Do not compromise or settle for anything less.
7. Delight yourself in the Lord so that He can give you the desires of your heart.

Chapter Three

The Consequences of Misdirected Emotions

“... she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her and he did eat. And the eyes of them were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.” Genesis 3: 6-8 (KJV)

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over you.” Genesis 3: 16 (KJV)

“Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubims and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life.” Genesis 3:23, 24 (KJV)

There are always consequences to every act of disobedience. We have suffered consequences for disobeying from our childhood, throughout our adult lives, as well as in our lives as Christians. As we discussed in Chapter Two, when we are led astray by our emotions, desires, and the lusts of our flesh, disobedience is inevitable. Although, the reality of our emotions exists, and we need not pretend they do not, we must channel them towards God in order to develop the heart and mind of Christ. We have to curse the “follow your heart” attitude of dealing with life. Jeremiah 17:9 reads, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure, who can understand it?” (NIV) The same verse in the *King James Version* asks, “who can trust in it?” The book of Psalms records David’s pleas to God for a new heart. In Psalms 86:11

he requests “an undivided heart”; in Psalms 51:10, “a pure heart”; and in Psalms 51:17 he requests “a broken and contrite heart.”(*all NIV references*)

When God prophesied to Israel, in the book of Ezekiel, He declared that after He had cleansed and purified the people, He would then give them a new heart and a new spirit. We must submit our hearts to God for purification and cleansing. Instead of following our own heart, we should follow God’s commands and the leading of the Holy Spirit. At times when our emotions and desires are not appropriately addressed and satisfied by the Word and things of God, they become misdirected and a consequential danger to our fulfillment of purpose by producing sin. We know the consequence of sin is death. (*Romans 6:23*) In 1 Peter 2:11, Peter urges us to abstain from sinful desires because these things war against the things of the Spirit.

In Eve’s case, if she was in closer communion with God, through the praise and worship of Him, and consistently sharing in dialogue with Him, she would have been more protective of not only herself, but her husband as well. She would have been unshakeable in her resolve concerning the instructions God gave concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She would have been more discerning and less likely to fall for the beguiling serpent. Unfortunately for us all, after she was deceived and led astray by her desires, it caused more havoc in the garden, and for the course of mankind, than she could have every imagined. It is vital that we explore the consequences of her yielding to her desires, emotions, and flesh.

After being deceived in her thinking, she believed the tree to possess a benefit rather than be the detriment God said it would be. She immediately wanted to share this wonderfully, beneficial fruit with her husband. I do not believe that Eve intentionally desired, in any way, to destroy Adam. Consider what we learned in Chapter One. Eve was created to be his helper, protector, and a giver of life. She was a woman made by the wisdom of God to complement Adam. Reflect on what we learned, in the previous chapter, concerning the broken or damaged rib. It could actually destroy or cause death to that which it is designed to protect. Eve was so deceived by the enemy, and her own desires, that she was attempting to be a help (at least she thought so) but in a damaged state, destroying the fulfillment of purpose for Adam, who was the one she was created to help and protect. She never considered the consequence of her actions, because she was operating totally in the flesh, apart from the Spirit.

Women of God, I am not saying that Eve was solely responsible for the crime that caused the fall of man. There is an element that Adam was guilty of perpetrating. You must read [Back to](#)

the Garden, The Man, The Purpose to understand his role in this unsurpassed crime. However, we are responsible, and must accept responsibility, when we allow ourselves to be led astray and robbed of purpose right before our eyes. Although, all things do work together for good to those of us who love God, and are faithfully trying to fulfill His purpose, God never ordains our surrender to the enemy's attempts to rob us of purpose. Submission to his tactics occur when we are not fasting, praying, studying the Word of God, and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us.

After disobedience, sin emerges and innocence departs. Genesis 3:7 reads, "The eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons." Webster's Dictionary defines *naked* as *devoid of covering; lacking confirmation or support*. Adam and Eve knew they were naked – without covering. In this passage, it is revealed that after we have committed sin, we become mentally and spiritually aware that we have moved out from under the safety and comfort of God (our ultimate spiritual covering).

When we overtly disobey God, and remain in that state, we forfeit the His protection as it relates to our area of disobedience. We are not protected from His judgment or the consequences of our actions. Consider the number of issues in our lives that are consequences to our disobedience; not circumstances prompted by God, the devil, our enemies, or society, but simply due to choices we have made based on misdirected emotions and poor decisions. There are many areas that are affected by the consequences of our sin— areas that we could have walked victoriously in if we were obedient to God's commands, operated in the Spirit of God, and stayed under His covering. These are areas such as: relationships and marriage, parenting, health and fitness, financial fitness, spiritual maturity, and countless other areas in our lives.

Just as Adam and Eve made natural coverings for themselves after they discovered they were naked, we, too, are often guilty of this same attempt to cover up when have fallen into disobedience and sin. Many of us use the church as a "covering", or in this case "cover-up", by our participation in church activities, committees, and other programs as a means of masking our sin and disobedience. We are not ready to repent and obey, so we remain unrepentant. Regrettably, as perpetrators of fraud, we give the false appearance that we are right in the middle of God's protection and order; when in actuality, we are unable to come clean with God, because, willful disobedience produces an inability to face God. Like Adam and Eve, we avoid speaking to God, or intimacy with Him, hoping that He somehow will overlook our sin while we

continue on without repenting (a turning away from sin and dedication to the amendment of one's life.) This pulls us farther away from God. The continuation of "church as usual" in the midst of sinful behavior leads to self-deceit and a hypocritical lifestyle. We are unable to worship the Father in spirit and in truth— thus nullifying any attempt at worship.

Moreover, Genesis 3:8 states, "they hid themselves from the presence of God and got amongst the trees in the garden." This reveals additional consequences of sin and disobedience, which are guilt, shame, and fear. Sin causes us to feel naked and exposed resulting in our desire to hide. Because this desire is prompted by our flesh (*carnal sin nature*), it instinctively opposes the need to repent.

Having been created in the image of God, Who is love, Adam and Eve were, no doubt, filled with love for God and the things of God. However, after their disobedience, they became aware that their once perfect relationship with God no longer existed, as they knew it. Their eyes had become opened to good and evil. They became aware of the absence of God's Spirit within them (separated by sin), which led to feelings of guilt, shame, and fear which caused them to attempt to hide from God. The desire to hide is evidence of sin's ability to keep us separated from God, which leads to spiritual death. Adam and Eve were so stained by sin that they feared approaching God; they knew that He was (*and is*) the Light that reveals all truth. Because darkness (produced by sin) and light are opposed to one another, our communion with God is hindered. Moreover, continuing in sin strains other relationships and limits the opportunity for ministry.

Another reason we want to hide is that we think when the Spirit of Truth exposes our sin, we will be embarrassed and disgraced. This is a trick of the enemy, and a result of not knowing and/or trusting God's promise to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, when we confess to Him. We must bring light to the darkness of sin by revealing the sinful activity and repenting (*turning away from sin and be dedicated to amendment of one's life.*)

We have examined some of the consequences of the sin resulting from misdirected emotions and disobedience. Now, let us further explore and understand how we as women are affected by the consequences of God's judgment, which were a result of Eve's decisions.

Many physicians do a wonderful job in explaining the many wondrous processes that are exclusive to women; however, the most accurate and true explanation is found in the scriptural

accounts of the events that took place in the Garden of Eden. There we can uncover the natural cause and effect of God's judgment imposed on Eve, as well as its spiritual ramifications.

In Genesis 3:16 we find the pronouncement of God's judgment on Eve as a result of her sin. We will study the sentence imposed on Eve in two parts. This is the first part of her punishment, as declared by God, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children."

Women of God, throughout generations we have witnessed the manifestation of this declaration in both the natural, as well as the spiritual. We, somehow, always seem to remember, when we, or some other dear sisters, are in the delivery room trying to endure the pain and discomfort of childbirth, that Eve was responsible for, what we call "this curse". We must begin by exploring the natural application of this passage in order to receive the spiritual revelation found in the text.

In our examination of this scripture, we find that pain and sorrow is promised throughout the entire child-bearing process. We have always considered this process limited to conception through birth, however, in actuality, it begins prior to the nine-month window. It actually begins at puberty when the female body undergoes a transformation, which enables the production of the egg necessary for the conception of a child. After the initiation of this process, it becomes a regular cycle on a monthly basis, whether we conceive or not. Now many of us really do consider this a curse; and we do so because of the physical distress, hygienic concerns, emotional instability, and oftentimes, downright painful process that our body endures to prepare itself for conception. Personally, I consider it quite sorrowful, just as the scripture promised. The truth to note is whether we ever conceive or not, we are still recipients of the judgment imposed on Eve.

The next progression in this process is the sorrow experienced after conception. The intimacy between the husband and his wife progresses to a physical exchange necessary for conception. The traditional and most God honoring process for this exchange is time spent together, between a man and his wife, cultivating love, adoration, caring, and communication. This level of intimacy leads them to share their spirit, soul, and body; the latter being the process by which the seed of the man fertilizes the egg, that is within the womb of the woman, and a life is conceived. After a period of growth, development, and nurturing, the body is ready to birth (deliver) new life. Throughout this stage, the body has been stretched, pulled, cramped, kicked (from the inside), disfigured, and greatly inflated. Up to this point, as many of us can attest to,

this is not a pleasant experience by a long shot – with the worst still ahead. Inevitably, the stage of delivery comes and this is the ultimate point of sorrow coupled with the pain as God declared in the garden. Nevertheless, after a successful delivery, the blessing birthed out of the pain is larger than life, with the potential to change, impact and affect the lives of countless others.

After examining, with much detail, the birthing process, and the sorrow and pain associated with it, from a natural viewpoint, let us compare it with the same process in the spiritual realm. Deeply consider this as preparation for the transformation about to take place in your life as a result of where we are about to go in this study. God is renewing your spirit and realigning your thinking regarding the things of God. He has a purpose and a plan for you. This can be referred to as a seed of promise. (*Luke 8:11 “... the seed is the word of God.”*) (NIV)

As in the natural, our spirit experiences changes which cause discomfort, challenges, pain, and occasional sorrow, as we prepare to receive the seed of promise or the Word of God. There are similar changes and preparation for this conception just as in the natural. There is a level of intimacy that is necessary prior to conception. It requires the same in the spirit as it does in the natural. We must engage Christ in the level of intimacy necessary to lead to conception. This level of intimacy can only be achieved when we spend time with Him in praise, worship, prayer, and study. Only then can we be impregnated with promise, purpose, and vision.

Once you become a woman of God through salvation, like the natural body, your spirit begins a transformation process whereby it, too, is prepared to receive a seed of promise for the conception and birth of your purpose and destiny in God. As in the natural, this process can be difficult; it is sometimes extremely challenging, stretching our faith, draining our emotions, and painful to our flesh. However, just as was declared in the garden for the natural, it is ordained to be so in the spirit. This process is required to prepare us for our expected end. The seed of promise, placed within our spirit during our time of intimacy with God, requires growth, development, and maturity. As in the natural, at the appointed time, the birth (delivery) of the purpose is inevitable. Also, as in the natural, this process can be painful and challenging, but again, after a successful delivery, the blessings birthed out of the pain are larger than life, with the potential to change, impact, and affect countless others.

Women of God, we must consider the blessing on the other side of the consequences, the light at the end of the tunnel, the healing after the breaking. If Mary’s alabaster box had never been broken, the sweet fragrance that anointed and blessed our Lord would never have been

released. As with the child produced from natural childbirth, God's promise and its blessing makes the struggle and the pain more than worth it.

Let us examine another consequence that we, as women, must understand clearly. It is found in the second part of the judgment God pronounced on Eve in Genesis 3:16, "and thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over you." (KJV) We must define three key words in the text: desire, husband, and rule. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *desire* as *a conscious impulse towards something that promises enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment*. In the Vine's Expository of Old and New Testament Words the Greek noun for *desire* is *epithumia*, which means *a craving, longing, passion, or turning towards something or someone*. Interestingly enough, the word used for *husband*, in this particular passage, is the Hebrew word *ish*, which simply means *man*. The verb *rule*, is defined by Webster's Dictionary, as *to exert control, direction, or influence on or over*. In the Vine's Expository of Old and New Testament Words it is translated as the Greek verb, *proistemi*, which means *to stand before, to lead, to attend to, and to guide*.

As a result of God's pronouncement on Eve, women have a natural *urge or turning* toward man. Her heart, which was originally created for the purest, most innocent love and pursuit of God was turned toward man, as a result, so is ours.

This is one reason why the role of the father is so critical in a girl's formative years. There is an innermost craving and longing for the approval of a man, and in childhood, it is fulfilled by a healthy, Godly relationship with her father. Girls without a godly father present in their lives tend to be more vulnerable to promiscuity, abuse, and low self-esteem. They have a greater struggling with misdirected emotions. Generally, these girls grow up to be women who often remain in unhealthy, abusive relationships. They feel a need to constantly be in a relationship with a man, and, consequently, settle for much less than what they should when they decide to marry.

Have you associated with a woman who feels she has to have a man? Could you, perhaps, be one of them? These are some of the characteristics of this woman: She is in a continual searching for a relationship – one after another. Her relationships are often filled with "drama". She is often in a marriage that obviously indicates she settled for less than what God desires for her. These are all examples of misdirected emotions. This is the woman whom we often judge as a "needy" woman, and perhaps it is true. However, the result of Eve's judgment made us all

“needy” in that regard. The thing that sets her apart from those, who by the grace of God, operate differently regarding relationships is that she has not fulfilled her innermost longing with a true and intimate relationship with God.

You may not be quite as needy as the woman we described. You may be just one who instead of spending more quality time studying, praying, worshipping, and becoming a strong, anointed woman of God, is wine and dine, engaging in sexual encounters outside of marriage with “your friend”, or simply just hanging out with someone who is not your husband and has no intentions of becoming such. Maybe you can’t identify with this woman either.

Perhaps, you are the strong woman of God, living holy, but because of your need for a man, continually believe and declare that God has shown you “your husband”, who is a different man every year.

The point is, in any case, we must examine ourselves and uncover the truth about our behavior. We have a need, an urge, a longing, and a turning toward man, which we must redirect toward God – replace our desire for man with an intimate relationship with God. He is more than able to fulfill our deepest needs. We must understand that this natural desire or turning toward man is born of the flesh; therefore, as with other fleshly strongholds and vices, we must fight to correct it, overcome it, and walk in victory. The correction is the conscience decision to change; the effort is what is required to overcome and to put God in His proper place as Leader, Lord, and King. We have to direct our longings, desires, and passion toward more of our Father in Heaven and we will bring the judgment of the flesh under subjection to the Spirit. When we turn toward God, and accept His Lordship, He fills the emptiness that appears to exist when we are without a man in our life and we can enjoy victory over misdirected emotions. We must realize that all of the power, authority, and ability that is being revealed in our revisit to the garden is null and void if our hearts are not turned totally back toward God.

This leads us to the final area in this chapter. Let’s take a look at Genesis 3:23-24 which reveals one of the saddest truths regarding the consequences of misdirected emotions.

“Therefore the Lord God sent him [Adam] forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the *man*; and he placed at the east of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life.” (*KJV*)

This scripture reveals something very important about women. Please note that God never required Eve to leave the garden. After God said Adam must not be allowed to take and eat from the tree of life, He dispelled him from the garden. Not only did He drive Adam out, He placed an angel and a flaming sword to guard the tree of life.

In Genesis 4:1 you find Eve with her husband, having been pregnant and birthed a son. There is no account of God allowing Adam to come back into the garden to lay with Eve, nor is there any account of Eve being sent out of the garden as established in the preceding verses. This was the first manifestation of God's judgment on Eve – to have a desire (turning or craving) for her husband, and that he would rule over her. Remember *rule*, the Greek verb *proistemi*, means *to stand before, to lead, to attend to, and to guide*. In this particular account, Adam was not functioning in the capacity of a leader; therefore, Eve was functioning based on her desire for Adam, not Adam's role as a leader.

We know that God, ultimately, had a purpose and a plan in the midst of these occurrences. However, to realize that Eve could and did leave God's presence to be with her husband is a valuable lesson for us, as woman. Eve actually lived in the presence of the Almighty God, something that we can't even imagine with any accuracy, nonetheless, could abandon His greatness for the futility of Adam (in comparison).

This is a poignant illustration of the power of God's judgment and its impact on women throughout time. We are doing the same as Eve on a daily basis. When we desire man in exchanging for our opportunity and privilege to be with God more intimately, we are following Adam right out of the garden. Many of us are still following men who are restricted from the garden due to their disobedience and sin; men whom God put out of His very own presence, just as Adam. This truth so confirms our need, as women of God, to get back to the garden and in the presence of God, to stop suffering the consequences of misdirected emotions, and allow Him to heal us and make us whole. If we maintain our place with God, we will receive the teaching, instructions, and healing that God desires to give us before we make life-altering decisions.

Women of God, when we can walk consistently in this awesome knowledge, we will become better women, mothers, sisters, and examples, imparting this healthy and victorious attitude and lifestyle to our children and generations to come.

Here are some key points to remember from Chapter Three, The Consequences of Misdirected Emotions.

1. Deal with the reality of your emotions, not pretending they do not exist; however, direct them toward God to develop the heart and mind of Christ. Curse the “follow your heart” mentality to life.
2. Spend quality time with God, praising, worshipping, communicating, and sharing with Him. You will be more protective of yourself, others, and the instructions and things of God. You will be more discerning and less likely to fall for the beguiling tricks of the enemy.
3. Do not give in to the desire to hide or cover up sin. Expose it and repent (*turn away from sin and be dedicated to the amendment of your life*). The enemy desires for us to stay separated from God, which leads to spiritual death.
4. Understand that this natural desire or turning toward man is born of the flesh; therefore, as with other fleshly strongholds and vices, we must fight to correct it, overcome it, and walk in victory. The correction is the conscience decision to change; the effort is what is required to overcome and to put God in His proper place as Leader, Lord, and King. We have to direct our longings, desires, and passion toward more of our Father in Heaven and we will bring the judgment of the flesh under subjection to the Spirit
5. Get back to the garden, in the presence of God, to be made whole. If you stay in the presence of God you will be equipped with the teaching, instructions, and healing that God desires for you.

Chapter Four

Claim Your Healing, Pursue Your Purpose!

After achieving a greater understanding of who we are, why we do what we do, and the consequences of our actions, we are ready to claim our purpose. However, before we can do this we must (1) claim our healing, and (2) pursue our purpose.

Claim Your Healing!

In the progressive church, today, we are inundated with more knowledge, revelation, and teaching than we have ever had. We have been loosed from the strongholds of various bondages; however, many of us have failed to be fully delivered. It is time we understand how to shake off the broken shackles, claim our healing, and walk in wholeness. We need to understand there are different types of healing, but God declares, “For I am the Lord who heals thee.” (Exo. 15:26 *NIV*) God can heal every area of your heart, soul, and spirit.

Meditate on these promises of healing:

Isaiah 57: 18, 19, “I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him also and restore comfort unto him and his mourners. I create the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him.” (KJV)

Psalms 23: 4, “Yeah though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou are with me: thy rod and they staff comfort me” (KJV)

Psalms 73: 26, “My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.”

Some of us need physical healing, some emotional healing, some spiritual healing, and some may need mental healing. In every case, healing is essential to victorious living. We, often, fail to receive healing. For the most part, it is not because we lack faith, or doubt God's ability to heal. In many cases, particularly regarding emotional, mental, and spiritual healing, there are some essential steps that we fail to accomplish in order to receive our healing and deliverance. Let us further explore this.

In order to *be* healed, we must first acknowledge that we *need* healing. This means that we must face the reality that we and/or our situation is distressed, and we are suffering. Too often, we fail to acknowledge the reality of our condition; consequently, not admitting or speaking the truth about the need for healing or deliverance in the situation. We make positive confessions about situations and areas in our lives that, in actuality, are a mess. We use these idioms and expressions, and due to a lack of teaching and understanding, we even misuse the scriptures. We make statements such as:

- (1) *"Well, I'm not going to put my mouth on it."*
- (2) *"There is life and death in the power of the tongue."*
- (3) *"I'm not going to speak it into existence."*

Although these are valid declarations, we have to realize they must be applied appropriately and be relevant to your specific condition.

My instruction concerning the above statements and scriptures, when they are used as clichés are:

- (1) *If the situation is real, acknowledge it.*
- (2) *Because there is life and death in the power of the tongue, use your tongue to confess the truth about what has occurred and then profess what the Word of God declares about the situation.*
- (3) *You can't speak into existence what already exist. If the situation is already bad, it's already a bad situation. If you are already sick, you're sick.*

We must learn to not be so “spiritual” that we operate in “spare rituals”, (*functioning in a lot of spiritual form and fashion but lacking power—being so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good.*) In confessing the reality of our situation, we are not doubting God, but actually seeing Him as our Source, acknowledging our need, and expecting Him to satisfy the area of our need.

Our healing process begins when we acknowledge the situation. The affirmation that the problem exists releases the power of God to work in the situation. He then touches hearts, minds, and spirits on our behalf. As long as we go on pretending the hurts, pains, and other ailments don't exist, we hinder God's work in our situation. As we study the many miracles Jesus performed throughout His earthly ministry, in more specific cases, we find that He required an acknowledgement of the need.

The following scenario is an illustration of how we handle physical wounds.

Your little boy suffers a very deep cut on his knee. You cover the wound with a bandage and tell him, “It's going to be okay.” After a couple of days, the area is still very tender and bleeds when it is touched or bumped. You know it should be healing faster. You are told by someone, more experienced with wound care, to uncover the wound to expose the cut. You then cleanse it with peroxide and apply an antiseptic. (This is always better when done by someone the child can trust and who loves and cares for him.) By the next day, the cut has developed a scab. The same wound care is given again and within another day or so, a new layer of healthy skin has covered the area. Your son can go on as if the cut never happened.

When it comes to physical injuries, we, spontaneously, do whatever is necessary to bring relief and healing. However, it is not the case, in our treatment of the emotional, mental, and spiritual injuries we sustain, although, the same intervention is required. When we are first hurt, it seems so much easier to just bandage it up, scurry on our way, as if “it will be okay.” We often do this believing the pain of confronting the problem will be greater than the pain caused by the problem. Many of us hate confrontation. We feel that confronting issues will

result in unchristian behavior or perhaps, feelings we have bottled up for years will come bursting out. We would much better respond with “I’ll pray about it” or “everything will be alright, in time”. We don’t realize that the situation will actually worsen with time, and perhaps with detrimental consequences. As Christians, we need to understand that confrontation is inevitable. We must learning to express our concerns, and deal with issues, in an appropriate way to bring healing and resolution to problems and situations.

When we remove the bandage from our area of pain, by confession and exposure, we then can allow Jesus to apply the cleansing agent, which is His Word. Because He loves and cares for us, we can trust Him to cleanse and renew us. In most cases, when we are careful not to allow the area to be irritated too soon after healing, we will be made whole and experience true victory and restoration in that area.

It is time for women of God to walk in wholeness and healing. For too long, we have remained damaged and weak after emotional hurts. The enemy desires to keep you from your healing because he knows you will not walk victoriously without it. Many of us are in bondage due to unforgiveness, jealousy, pride, hatred, envy, and other offenses, for which we blame other people or circumstances. These sinful emotions and attitudes are the center of our pain and we must be freed from them. We accomplish this by our confession of the sins. The Bible declares, in 1 John 1:9, “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (*KJV*) Furthermore, we must expose the pain of past disappointments, relationships, financial failure, mistreatment, abuse, hurts, and death. Whatever the source of the pain, it must be acknowledged as the area that needs healing, then embrace the love and healing power of God. You can then begin to live as healthy women of God, without the baggage of the past. We have all endured some type of pain resulting from a hurtful or distressing situation and needed healing and restoration. No one is exempt from the need for healing at some point in his or her life, and no one should feel ashamed because of it. God’s power will completely heal, renew, and restore you, if you allow Him.

God is a healer and deliverer. We must declare David’s prayer, in Psalms 40 12-17, which reads:

“For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of

mine head; therefore my heart faileth me. Be pleased O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord make haste to help me. Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil. Let them be desolate for a reward of their shame that say unto me Aha, aha. Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified. But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me; thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.” (KJV)

Pursue Your Purpose!

Every person created by God has a purpose. In understanding the pursuit of purpose, four things are foundational requirements. It is vital that they be incorporated in your daily life in order to identify and fulfill your God ordained purpose. They are:

1. Praise
2. Worship
3. Prayer and Communication
4. Study of God's Word

We must fully understand the importance giving God praise. In Psalms 150:6, we are commanded, “Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.”(KJV) Praise changes our atmosphere. During praise to God, we shift our focus on Him; therefore, minimizing the attention given to the circumstances, people, and the enemy. Subsequently, we prepare the atmosphere for God's blessing. We often say, “when the praises go up, the blessings come down”; although it is not actually found in a scripture, it is, nonetheless, true. The Bible does declare that God inhabits the praises of His people. So, when we praise God, He actually dwells in our praise, which is with us. No matter who you are, what you do, or what you have done, saint or sinner, He deserves the praise, He has a right to be praised, and He accepts the praise because of who He is. His command to praise is not restrictive. He said “all who have breath”. Unfortunately, many praise Him only for what He has done. To praise Him opens the door to His presence. However, a major obstacle to fulfilling purpose is that after we have gained access to

Him by our praise that is as far as we get. When we stop at praise, we stop the pursuit of purpose because our breakthrough and change occurs in praise and worship. Praise is the first step in our pursuit and it should guide us into the second step, which is worship.

Worship is a quite different experience. Everyone is commanded to give God praise – which is the acknowledgement and affirmation of His greatness. However, the Bible cautions us in John 4:24, that “they that worship Him **must** worship Him in spirit and in truth.” When we worship God, it is not linked to a blessing, a praise report, a song or an emotional gesture. It is the understanding of the Sovereignty of God and Who He is in all of His glory. When we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (*1 Chronicles 16:30*), we get to know Him in a deeper, more intimate way. To worship God in spirit and in truth is to first recognize that our spirit was created to worship God, and it longs to accomplish that. Moreover, it is imperative that we fully understand that we cannot worship Him with falsehood and deceit. Unlike praise, which draws God to our atmosphere, worship escorts us into His presence—His realm where every lie, unholy thought, attitude, emotion, and unacceptable spirit within us is exposed. When you worship, there is a deeper experience with God that takes place. In praise, your atmosphere changes at that time, with worship you (personally) begin to change. This happens as a result of being in the presence of the perfect, holy, all wise, and all knowing God. As praise guides us into worship, worship escorts us into a deeper level of prayer and communication with God.

In the pursuit of purpose, prayer is the key that unlocks doors in our lives and the lives of others. When we utter prayers of thanksgiving, professions of faith in God’s promises, and confidently make known our request, God opens His more than sufficient hand to us as answer to those prayers. Matthew 16:19 states, “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Prayer allows you to exercise your God given authority to speak change to lives and situations in the Earth. Genesis 1:26-27 indicates, God gave man, dominion over all of the Earth, everything in it, and everything associated with it. When we pray, we invite God into our affairs, knowing that apart from Him, we become powerless and we cannot do anything. We must do as Paul instructs in Philippians 4:6, “be anxious for nothing, but in all things through prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make your request known unto God.” We must have two-way communication with God, whereby we listen to Him as He responds to our prayer. He responds, primarily, through His Word (the Bible), through other people, and through

circumstances. We must be real with God in our prayers. Proverbs 15:8 states, “the sacrifice of the wicked is hateful and exceedingly offensive to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.” (*The Amplified Bible*) God had a purpose for you even before the time of your conception. Prayer, communication, and diligently seeking God is critical to your pursuit of this purpose. Consider the scripture in Jeremiah 29:11-12, which so beautifully sums up our study.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for me with all your heart.”

Prayer and communication go hand-in-hand with the study of the Word of God. John 15:7 states, “if you abide in me and my word abides in you, ask what you will and it shall be done unto you.” (*KJV*) This leads us to the fourth step in the pursuit of purpose, which is the study of the Word of God.

If we fail to study the Word, we will be ignorant of the necessary weapons to destroy our enemies, the flesh, the devil, and the world systems. The Bible instructs us in 2 Timothy 2:15, “to study to show [ourselves] approved unto God.” It further indicates that a workman, who correctly handles God’s Word, need not be ashamed. We must constantly feed our spirit the Word in order to be strong enough to combat the lusts of the flesh (*carnal sin nature*). Like David, we must hide God’s Word in our hearts so that we will not sin against Him.

Women of God, we must claim our healing and then, consistently, walk in our healing. That is a major component in the pursuit of your purpose. I challenge you to seize the purpose of God for your life.

Here are several key points to remember from Chapter Four, Claiming Your Healing and Pursuing Your Purpose!.

1. In order to *be* healed, we must first acknowledge that we *need* healing. This means that we must face the reality that we and/or our situation is distressed, and we are suffering. Too often, we fail to acknowledge the reality of our condition; consequently, not admitting or speaking the truth about the need for healing or deliverance in the situation.
2. Many of us are in bondage due to unforgiveness, jealousy, pride, hatred, envy, and other offenses, for which we blame other people or circumstances. These sinful emotions and attitudes are the center of our pain and we must be freed from them. We accomplish this by our confession of the sins. The Bible declares, in 1 John 1:9, “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
(KJV)
3. We must ask God for the healing and deliverance we need through earnest prayer and communication with Him. We must release those people or circumstances associated with our pain and claim our healing.
4. Pursue your purpose by praise and worship to God, prayer, and studying God’s Word. This will get you to a place where you can know, understand, and live the purpose of God for your life.

Chapter Five

The Calling of Conqueror

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he shall crush your head and you shall strike his heel.” Genesis 3:14 (NIV)

In this chapter, we will uncover simple “garden” truths that, once established in your spirit, will usher you into your predestined place as a conqueror. Within you rest three areas that once awakened and pursued will give you victory over every work of the enemy. These areas are:

1. The Hatred Within
2. The Promise
3. The Prophetic Word to You

The Hatred Within

The first portion of our reference passage, found in Genesis 3:14 reads, “... *and I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers...*” The Webster’s Dictionary defines *enmity* as *mutual hatred or ill will; ill will and vindictiveness that threaten to kindle hostility*. The Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words defines the Hebrew word for *enmity* as *echthra*, meaning *hostility or opposition*. It is vital that we understand the purpose for this intense opposition that was initiated by God.

It is important that we do not forget the affect that our trials and test have on us. In the garden, Eve attempted to deal with the enemy head on. Although, she was deceived, she possessed the ability to recognize such, as well as identify the serpent as a deceiver. When we have encounters with the enemy, and identify and rebuke demonic spirits, our discernment is sharpened and our ability to expose him has increased — like exercising a spiritual or physical muscle. Once we have fallen prey to the enemy and fought for our deliverance or freedom, we develop a greater hatred for the enemy and the bondage that once held us captive. The enemy

knows whether or not we truly hate him, or will entertain him. When enmity was placed between the serpent and the woman, it was mutual – it was not one sided, as we have lulled into thinking. Wake up! We are to hate the enemy as much as he hates us. Our hatred is intended to be the fuel that will fire us up enough to identify, expose, and destroy Satan and his demons. This is why it is essential to get back to the garden, claim our healing and deliverance, and turn our hearts back to God. We must develop a love for the things of God and the people of God, so much that a hatred for Satan will be natural. We must constantly be ready for battle – in a ready, aim, and fire mode.

If we are not tuned in to Christ, and led by the Spirit of God, we will take the hatred and opposition created within us to be used against Satan, and fire it against people, instead of the demons it is intended to destroy. Without the spiritual training and development, through prayer, worship, and study, we have distorted and imprecise spiritual insight which impairs our ability to see and causes us to identify the wrong targets, therefore, firing inaccurately.

God has uniquely designed the woman for battle naturally as well as spiritually. Although we are physically designed to be more fragile than men, we have the ability to endure more challenges, changes, discomfort, and pain in frequency and intensity. We can imagine that Adam, the heard, may have walked throughout the garden never even being aware that there was an enemy lurking about. In the scriptures, God uses the female gender concerning warfare. We have to understand the enemy hates us — He knows who we are, and Who we represent.

The following scripture passages, in the book of Revelation, not only validate this enmity, they also inform us of our predestined victory in God:

Revelation 12: 1, 2, 4 “*And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered...and his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them down to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*”

Revelation 12:13 *and when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.*

Revelation 12:17 and the dragon was wrath with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

We accept that Satan is after us; however, as with any war or “mutual opposition”, we should pursue him just as aggressively. We must fight with spiritual weapons. The Bible instructs us in 2 Corinthians 10: 3-6, “...though we live in the world we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have the divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.” (NIV) We must operate in faith and put on the whole armor of God, (Ephesians 6: 10-20) that we may be victorious in battle. We have to understand this is a war filled with hatred and opposition, but the Word of God promises us victory.

The Promise

The second portion of our reference passage, found in Genesis 3:14 reads, “...*he shall crush your head and you shall strike his heel.*” Again, Woman of God, be reminded, the promise is victory. From the book of Genesis through Revelation, God has promised us victory in every battle. Our previous scripture passage described the war and our promised victory through Christ Jesus. Consider that God loves us so much that despite the crime committed against Him in the garden, He still had a great and mighty plan predestined for us. Although, the enemy used us – mankind, as the vehicle by which sin came into the world; God, in His omnipotence, grace, mercy, and compassion, used the same vehicle to rectify sin, which is Jesus Christ. In the midst of God’s judgment and curse, He extended the opportunity whereby our relationship to Him could be re-established, knowing that our reconciliation would be vital in our war with Satan. Even with our imperfections, God desires that we walk in the power and anointing of being more than conquerors. What an awesome God we serve. Glory to His Name!

Let’s examine what God is saying to us through our reference passage, “...*he shall crush your head and you shall strike his heel.*” The “he” whom God is referring to is the Seed of the

woman, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ, the enemy's head, (*which speaks to the authority*) shall be crushed – *or destroyed*. The only recourse that the enemy has is permission to strike His (*Christ's*) heel – *or walk*. This simply speaks to Satan's ability to affect Jesus only in His earthly walk; however, not in any way to destroy Him. This refers not only to Christ, the Seed of the woman, but the woman as well.

Women of God, you have been given the power to crush the head *or authority* of the enemy in this Earth; which includes your life, the lives of others, businesses, governments, and world systems – all that is on this Earth. The most damage the enemy is permitted to cause is to strike your heel, which speaks to an occasional stumble or temporary limp. A strike to the heel may slow you down but doesn't rule you out. He does not have the approval of God to keep you down, knock you out, or destroy you. As we recall from Chapter One, he is only allowed to eat dust. (*flesh, carnality*) He is only given more authority when you open the door to sin, which invites him into your life. Romans 8: 36, 37 states, "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Even when we feel that we are being slaughtered, the promise of God is that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ.

If we examine a few other scriptural passages, found in the Revelation, another remarkable fact is revealed. As we have examined the hatred and the war; let's now study the promises revealed in the following passages:

Revelation 12: 6 "... *the woman fled into the wilderness where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*"

Revelation 12:11 "*And they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.*"

Revelation 12:14 "*And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time from the face of the serpent.*"

These scriptures are the revelation of things to come in the war between God and Satan. In verse 6, this wilderness represents a place of refuge and protection (unlike most other references to the wilderness throughout scripture.) This fleeing into the wilderness, God's prepared place, is His place of security, which He promises to all true believers. God is not promising that Satan will not attack us by "striking our heel" as we studied, but He has promised to nurture and protect our soul.

The verse 11 passage proclaims that the victory is won by the blood of the slain Lamb, Jesus Christ. This was the deadly blow to Satan. However, our fight against Satan requires our claiming and testifying to the cleansing and redeeming power of the blood, testifying to Christ's power, and being willing to sacrifice our earthly lives.

In verse 14, Satan was sent back to Earth. This was his time to rule for a "short time". Nonetheless, scripture states that the woman was given two wings of a great eagle (this speaks to swiftness) that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, and she would be taken care of and out of the serpents reach. Again, we see God's promise to take care of His true believers, during this period, totally out of the enemy's reach.

Today many church leaders avoid exploring the truths found in the Revelation. This is terribly unfortunate, as there are countless declarations made by God of victory and protection for His true believers. Woman of God, to be a beneficiary of these promises, you must ensure that your relationship with God is true and intact. I pray that you will walk in the power and victory already established for you, taking full advantage of all the promises of God for your life.

The Prophetic Word to You

I exercise my ability, as a woman of God, to speak these words prophetically into your spirit at this moment.

I declare that you are more than a conqueror, by the power of Jesus Christ. I cast down the strongholds of every situation that the enemy expected to result in defeat, depression, doom, confusion, and hopelessness, to you and those you influence. I use my God given, Holy Ghost power via these written words to cause a change in your soul, which speaks to the mind, will, and emotions. I impart the Word of the Lord to your spirit, which declares you are not defeated, the devil is.

You are not the tail, the devil is. You are not beneath, the devil is. You are not sick and weighted down, the devil is. You are an overcomer, you are a fighter, you are the head, you are above, and you are healed, in Jesus Name. I curse the strongholds produced by rejection, fear, and ignorance due to the lack of or erroneous teaching. I loose the Spirit of the comforter, love, peace, and truth in your life.

It is important that you understand that the enemy believed he had you bound and that he had, in some way, altered God's plan for you. Do not feel discouraged; you are in good company, because he also thought the same thing about Jesus. Due to the enemy's lack of foresight, he thought that the death of Christ was the end of everything. He was unaware, at the time that he had ignited the power of Christ so much that His power was no longer restricted to Him alone, but multiplied to all who would accept and believe in Him.

The same is occurring in your life right now. The enemy thought the divorce was your end, or the wayward child was your end, or the crazy "ex" was your end, or the crack pipe was your end, or the adulterous affair was your end, or the promiscuity and fornication was your end, or maybe just the form of godliness was your end. I declare to you, and him, that it was only the beginning! Not only did it ignite the desire to be set free and serve Christ, it detonated the drive and the anointing to snatch everyone else bound by your same former demons, and demand that Satan loose his hold on them as well!

There are some God given dreams, hopes, visions, and aspirations that you thought had died and become only a memory in your past, but you must understand that you serve the God of resurrection. I declare that He has come to resurrect your dead situations. I call, out of the tomb of your mind, all of your God inspired visions, passions, and missions; and I breathe the breath of life back into them. We must remember that Jesus' most powerful miracles were demonstrated through dead situations and dead people.

All praise and glory be to God, for you and your situation. I declare that all things, (not only the new things, good things or holy things) but all things (the good, the bad, and the ugly) shall work together for your good as you love God and line up with His purpose for your life, my sisters in Christ, for we are truly more than conquerors.

Here are several key points to remember from Chapter Five, The Calling of Conqueror.

1. We accept that Satan is after us; however, as with any war or “mutual opposition”, we should pursue him just as aggressively. We must fight with spiritual weapons.
2. From the book of Genesis through the Revelation, God has promised us victory in every battle we incur. Even in our imperfections, God desires that we walk in the power and anointing of being more than a conqueror.
3. We must constantly be ready for battle – in a ready, aim, and fire mode. If we are not tuned in to Christ, and led by the Spirit of God, we will take the hatred and opposition created within us to be used against Satan, and fire it against people, instead of the demons it is intended to destroy. Without the spiritual training and development, through prayer, worship, and study, we have distorted and imprecise spiritual insight which impairs our ability to see and causes us to destroy the wrong enemies.
4. There are some God given dreams, hopes, visions, and aspirations that you thought had died and become only a memory in your past, but you must understand that you serve the God of resurrection. I declare that he has come to resurrect your dead situations.

Chapter Six

The Importance of the Spirit Woman

There is a need for the presence of the *Spirit Woman*. That simply means a woman who functions and behaves, consistently, under the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit, not merely by her womanly intuitions, inner or outer beauty, or even physical presence, but as a true Christian leader and example. Without the presence of such a woman, there is an increased opportunity for misdirection, confusion, perversions, and utter chaos in the lives of those who need her.

We must be spirit women, despite the enemy's desire to destroy our lives and our testimonies so that our words will be empty and powerless. Proverbs 31:26 states, "The virtuous woman speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is in her tongue." (*NIV*) The example we set has crucial ramifications for not only our families but also the entire world.

To the married women – you should be the support, balance, and protection to your husband and your household. As we studied in Chapter Two, you should be the giver of life, breathing life into his visions, hopes, dreams, and aspirations. You also should be providing an atmosphere of peace and encouragement. Peter's instructions to wives include, "in like manner [of the man], be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives." (1 Peter 3:1, 2 *NIV*) Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, you have great power and influence. You can guide your husband directly into the presence of God and have no concern for security issues, knowing that whatever he is instructed to do is of God.

For our daughters we have a three-fold ministry. We should be (1) an example of what God expects, walking in His Spirit leading a pure and healthy lifestyle, (2) a godly mother, and (3) a loving wife.

In early childhood, daughters aspire to be like their mothers so much that they memorize and imitate their gestures, comments, ideas, opinions, and beliefs. Although, we think that this is adorable, we must realize the seriousness of this observational learning. (*learning that occurs through watching the behavior of others*) The years of early childhood development are the time when children are most impressionable. It is vital that we be aware of what our children hear us

say and see us do. We must not allow our children to see us passively deal with the critical issues coming against our beliefs and our values. As women of God, we cannot condone music, videos, literature, video games, internet sites and television media which glamorize sex and promiscuity, fornication and adultery, degrading and seductive styles of dress, obscene and vulgar language, and inappropriate dance and behavior. We must realize those things devalue our morals and Christian values and robs our children of the sense of purpose in God. We must help them understand that God created music so there are various styles as it relates to sound; however, lyrics that are contrary to and in opposition of the Word of God will not be condoned or tolerated. Introduce them to the Christian alternatives to the unhealthy rock, rap, videos, and help them discover and create ways to have healthy teenage fun.

Even our “old school” and “slow jams” must be scrutinized. These too, have sensual and sexually provocative lyrics. Our passivity and indiscretions send the wrong messages to our children. It teaches them a diluted faith, void of the examples of truth; therefore having no power or real meaning in their lives. When we do this, we not only devalue them but we also devalue God and the things of God. Too often, we set our children up for failure by preaching one thing, and doing another. When our children become overtaken by the things of the world, we are quick to ask, “How did this happen? Why did you do this ...after all I’ve taught you!” What are we really teaching? We must ensure they are receiving the message we are intending to send.

Adolescent daughters are being shaped to be future mothers. We must be sure that we are communicating love, affection, value, self-esteem, and discipline. We have to be careful to maintain a balanced relationship with all of our children. We should value their thoughts, ideas, and opinions; but never allow them to usurp our authority. We must look for opportunities to teach spiritual principles in life’s daily situations. When we function without the Spirit of God, we leave them as prey for the world to feed on – lambs thrown among wolves.

Our sons need protection, nurturing, and security. Daughters seek the security of their fathers; however, our sons find security in their mothers. Generally, boys who feel deprived of the security of their mother become interested in girls earlier during adolescence. A longing for the approval and security that should come from a godly mother causes this. The feeling of deprivation is worsened where there is also no father present, and the effects can be devastating. Homosexuality, promiscuity, rebellion, crime, and gang associations are just a few of the dangers which afflict children who lack both parents. If our sons receive teaching, love, attention, and a

sense of belonging at home, they will be more likely to be confident, make wiser decisions, choose healthy relationships, and choose an appropriate mate with characteristics of his godly spirit-woman mom! He will also be more likely to honor women, treating them with respect and value.

We must be mindful that children will pick up our habits and our issues, and in most cases, exhibit some of the same behaviors. If we exhibit low self-esteem, our children may do so as well. If we are abusive or tolerate abuse, our children are more likely to do so also. If we are sexually promiscuous, our children may also adapt that behavior or lifestyle. As we studied in Chapter Five, we must claim and receive our healing to prohibit the impartation of our mess to our children.

Unfortunately, in our society, many parents have been replaced by the TV stars, musicians, rock stars, sports figures, and thugs, who have become the primary role models for our youth. These insufficient replacements further warp the minds of our children by distorted depictions of true success and prosperity. Women of God, it's time to run back to the garden where your Father waits to restore your identity and purpose. It is there repentance, instruction, and healing can take place. It is time to embrace all of the promises and plans of God for your life and walk in your full potential as a godly spirit woman. It is time to take your relationship with God to a higher level, where you can find peace, wisdom, and power.

The enemy uses many lies to hinder women from developing an intimacy with God. God wants His women to be free from all self-created concepts and philosophies; many of which have been the keys that have locked the doors of bondage. For too long, women of God have been categorized and labeled according to the world's standards based on size, shape, height, complexion, hair type and length, family status, education, occupation, and financial status. These, as well as many listed below, are some of the most common diversions and misconceptions that have caused many women to walk in error. As you replace these ideologies and falsehoods with the truth of the Word of God, you will become empowered to walk in the freedom and authority that pleases God.

Examples:

False: It takes a woman to do a man's job.

Truth: *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it. Genesis 2:15(NIV)*

False: A woman's place is in the kitchen and the bedroom.

Truth: *"She selects wool and flax and works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her task. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers... She makes fine linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. Give her the reward she has earned and let her own works bring her praise at the city gates. Proverbs 31:13-19, 24, 31(NIV)*

False: It's okay to have sex as long as you love each other.

Truth: *"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NIV)*

False: You have to use what you've got to get what you want.

Truth: *"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord shall be praised" Proverbs 31:30(KJV)*

False: Women are beneath men.

Truth: *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created he him; male and female he created them" Genesis 1:27 (KJV)*

False: You need a man for security.

Truth: *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19 (KJV)*

False: A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Truth: *"We live by faith and not by sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)*

False: You're no good.

Truth: *"For everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated with the Word of God and prayer." 1 Timothy 4:4 (NIV)*

False: I'm not attractive enough.

Truth: *"...instead it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful." 1 Peter 3:4, 5 (NIV)*

These are only a few of the lies that have been imbedded in the minds of people and perpetuated throughout generations. They have misguided men and women in their walk with God, even after salvation.

Most important in the life of a spirit woman is prayer. Prayer is the key to all of our successes. When we pray, we are inviting God into the situation to change it for His glory. By way of prayer, we provide coverage for our families, brothers and sisters in Christ, sinners, the world, and the church. The effectual fervent prayers of the righteous avail much.

Woman of God, regardless of your current situation, whether good or bad, God is calling you into a place in Him where you can know the truth and the truth will make you free. He desires great things for you. He also desires that you take your assigned position in the mission of tearing down the kingdom of darkness and building up the Kingdom of God.

Again, remember Jeremiah 29:11-12, which states,

"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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I bring you back to the place from which I carried you." (NIV)

Where Eve failed, you can succeed because you now have God's Word, Jesus' example, the Holy Spirit's presence and power, and delegated authority. You are called to be the head and not the tail – to be above and not beneath. God is so in love with you, that in the midst of Eve's failure, He made a way for your redemption. He wants you to walk in the fullness of His love where peace, prosperity, and victory overtake you. God needs you, other women need you,

children need you, and this dying world needs you. God is looking for some spirit women who will go when and where He instructs you.

It is my prayer that the move of God, which is overtaking the body of Christ, would also overtake you and escort you into your destiny in Christ. Also, I pray that through these God inspired words you have been taught, challenged, encouraged, inspired, and greatly provoked to further walk out the Word of God and the Will of God for your life, as a woman of God.

I call the supernatural blessings of God to overtake and every woman of God who has decided to walk in the full purpose of God. I call every crooked area of their past to be made straight in their future for the glory of God. I pray that they would meditate on the revelations and Word of God.

In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, Who is the Christ.

Hallelujah! Thine the glory!

Most wise and glorious God,

I honor You, worship You, and adore You. Your creations sing Your praises and I welcome You in the place of my heart. I praise You not only for what You have done but also for who You are. I see You as God Almighty, high and lifted up, on the throne of righteousness.

Lord I repent. I turn away from every way that is not like You. I ask You to release the bondage of every false authority that has kept me from Your authority and presence. Lord, I want to be like Jesus. I ask Your forgiveness of both sins of commission and omission. I turn away from it all as I turn to You and face the purpose that You have for my life.

Lord, I thank You for Your forgiveness. Thank You for removing the guilt of sin. Thank You for my salvation, Thank You for an opportunity for a higher level of intimacy in my relationship with you. Lord, as I walk in faith and believe on Your promises, I ask that You supply my needs of the spirit, the emotions, my relations with others, and of my physical nature as well. Meet every need in accordance with Your will for my life in Your way and in your timing. I fully trust You, Lord.

In the all knowing, saving, delivering, powerful and perfect name of Jesus,

Amen