

CHRISTIAN LIVING

What Is It For?

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INTRODUCTION

Uncovering the purpose for what you already have.

Dear Reader,

As a mother of three, and having walked with Jesus for 46 years, I am compiling a list of all of the things I wish I had known a long time ago. I have missed some wonderful opportunities by not knowing what I had or what any of it was for. My hope is that this book will help you to recognize more of what you currently have and to know what it is for. God has wonderful purposes for each of us and can use even the terrible events in our lives to encourage, inspire, and educate others so they can find the courage to keep going and never give up. May each one of us walk in divine purpose and the hope that passes all understanding.

In The Overwhelming Love of the Father,

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CHAPTER ONE

Discovering What It's For.

As a believer, you have the incredible privilege of spreading the gifts that God has given you into the world around you to make it a better place for all of us. This opportunity allows you to shape not only your life but also the world around you positively. As you seek to walk with God every day, you will have moments of uncertainty or even the feeling that maybe there is something He is calling you to. There may even be some blessings hidden in the most mysterious places, places you would never imagine.

Let's start by making a list of things that you know right now.

TALENTS AND SPIRITUAL GIFT EXERCISE

Use this space to list anything Holy Spirit brings to mind.

Narrow it down to your top 5:

What are you currently doing with this?

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 1. |> |
| 2. |> |
| 3. |> |
| 4. |> |
| 5. |> |

Now that you have done that, I would like to tell you a little story. One day I was on my way to work. I was feeling stressed and really lacking energy. I really wanted to stop by a store and pick up my favorite drinks for the day. I immediately felt guilty at the cost. Then I heard the Lord remind me that I had a \$10 bill in my purse. I thought about it and dismissed the idea as excessive. How could God want me to waste that money? Then I heard Him say in that still small voice, "That is what it's for." I started crying right then that God would care about me wanting a drink. I realized that I had fallen into a trap of believing that God didn't want to bless and take care of me. So I headed into the store and bought my drinks. Then as the woman handed the money back to me,

I heard, "And the rest is for her." So I gave her the money so she could get a drink too. By then it was not even \$4. You would think that I had handed her a \$100 bill. She was so shocked and so clearly blessed that I began to rethink all I knew about how God really wants to work in my life and the lives of those around me.

Maybe it's not what you think

What if all of this time, I was trying to be responsible and missing opportunities? It goes so much further than a \$10 bill in my pocket. God began to show me all of the things that He has given me that I didn't even realize could be used for His purposes. He even began to show me spiritual gifts that I had overlooked as strangeness or even dismissed as bad vibes.

It was around this time, that the idea to write it down came to me at 3am. Never underestimate those 3am ideas. It's in those moments that the noise of the cares of this world falls away and we can really focus on the faith that can move mountains. You were made to move mountains.

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”
2 Chron. 16:9 NKJV

Chapter Two

WHAT IT'S FOR

Envisioning What It's For.

An important part this view is to know that God can turn everything that happens in our life for our good and that He wants to. This idea began to bloom in my mind after hearing a sermon on the open hand. Often as Christians, people see us with a closed fist. We grab onto the gifts, money, or talents that God gifts us with and we hold on as tight as we can. In fact, Sundays are often the worst day to work in food service where tipping is the norm because Christians are notorious for not tipping or tipping less than other people. What this pastor said about this really began to play over and over in my mind. He said that if we keep our hands open then God can continue to put more in. Instead of worrying about lack, we can open ourselves up for more to share with the world around us.

This is true of more than just money. It can be energy, talents, stuff, time, and community. Even revelations from God can be like this. I can remember when I started noticing major accounts reposting my comments as their main posts. I was shocked and then I worried a bit. I prayed, "But God, now when I say those things people will think that I am just parroting someone else." You know what He said? "That's ok, they weren't your ideas anyway. I'll give you more." Mic drop.

Freely you have recieved, freely give.

Matthew 10:8

VISION EXERCISE

Reflect on some of the things you are good at that other people have commented on

Now, hold out your hands as ask the Lord, what is for?

It's important to remember that God also wants to bless you. As you become a partner in the kingdom of God, it's important to remember that you are a loved son or daughter. Some of the money, stuff, community, etc. that you are holding right now lightly in your hands is God's loving gift to you, just because you are His delight.

As I journey through this life, I have been so blessed by knowing “what it’s for.” This is true for me with extra time, money, communities, even influence or skills. Sometimes the Holy Spirit just wants to me to feel the love of the Father wash over my heart, but other times I find the things in my hands right now are actually to be a part of making the world around me a better place.

One day, I asked the Lord for ways that I could bless my community. I felt like he was leading me to tip \$5 whenever I went to the gas station. I live in Oregon and gas attendants still pump your gas here. Gas was over \$5 per gallon and this felt a little hard at the time, but I am working on fast obedience so I did it. When I told another Christian about this, I was told I had to tell them about God whenever I did it. I quickly noticed that this made the people feel irritated. When I asked God about it, He told me that He just wants people to be blessed. I didn’t need to force anything. So I went back to just showing gratitude and tipping.

I began to notice that the gas attendants stayed near my car while my gas was pumping so I was able to talk to them a little. I usually just asked about their day. One day, I noticed one man was having a bad day. I told him that I would pray that God would turn that situation completely around to him getting a raise. He laughed and said that he was going to hell so not to bother. I was able to share all about the love of God that day. When I left, he was smiling and I knew this is “what it was for.”

Are there any ways, that you can bless your family or community that God is bringing to mind right now? Even the smallest things can make a big difference. God delights in our smiles and our joy. Even as you attempt to bless the people around you, you will notice that blessings are contagious. You cannot bless people without getting blessed right back. I know because I keep trying. When I bring flowers to businesses, I have to bring them after I pay or else they try to give me free food. 😄

Can you think of any times that you tried to bless someone and got blessed in return?

CHAPTER THREE

What's Your Story?

What is in a story? The beauty of the Christian life is that we are not called to give what we do not have. As we walk with Jesus, and experience His love and goodness, we build a beautiful tapestry of a life lived in Him.

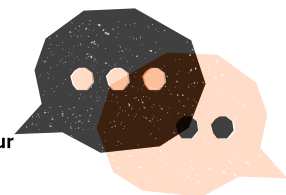
YOUR STORY EXERCISE PART ONE

When did you first meet Jesus?

**What was going on in
your life before?**

How did it feel?

**Can you identify key
moments that led up to your
first God encounter?**



**How has this decision
effected your life?**

How have your values changed?

**How has this impacted your
relationship with other people?**

Take some time right now to write out your story of how you met Jesus. You need to know what you have before you can give it away.

YOUR STORY EXERCISE PART TWO

What are some areas that God has healed in your heart since inviting the Holy Spirit in?

1.

2.

3.

Now write a short list of the ways that God has been changing your life and heart. for example, have you been led to forgive people, felt like He wants you change how you talk to people, or felt less guilt or shame for past mistakes?

Ask Him now if there's more "God moments" where He has been working in your life even when you didn't realize it.

Are there any areas in your life that God is nudging you to shift how you live?

SHARING WITH THOSE IN NEED

Reflect

CHAPTER FOUR

Positioning yourself into a Kingdom mindset.

STORY EXERCISE

Reflect on the story you explored in Chapter Three and consider the different seasons of your life and how many things God has turned for your good. Begin by listing what He brings to mind, then envision what the journey could have been like without His guiding hand.

	Low Moments	God Moments	Redemption	Future Good

CHAPTER FOUR

REFLECTION

This exercise should deepen your understanding of what all God has given you

What unique aspects of your story has God used to bless you? Which events did you feel like God did not come through, but now you see His hand was there all along?

CHAPTER FIVE

Developing a consistent purpose

MESSAGING EXERCISE

Emphasise the key ways that you can bless people. (i.e. hugs, smiles, hope, peace, gifts, art...etc.
I bring.....

Highlight the ways God has blessed you with these

Take time to thank God for each event He has redeemed for you.

Here are some verses to hold on to if you are in one of these dark times now.

- **Isaiah 41:10** – “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
- **Psalms 34:18** – “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”
- **Deuteronomy 31:8** – “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

How can knowing the purpose of what you are involved in or experiencing help you to focus on all the ways that God can use everything for good. (note: God is not the author of evil, but He is so good at redeeming everything in our lives that it can sometimes feel that way.)

Putting it all together.

You should now be able to fill out this page rather swiftly.

GIFTS, TALENTS, AND PROVISIONS	PURPOSE
UNIQUE GIFTS	WAYS THIS CAN BLESS PEOPLE

CHAPTER SIX

What Are Your Passions?

Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4.

Have you ever wondered how to know God's will for your life? This verse has been one of the guiding verses for me. Day by day, God has been showing me that as I seek Him with all of my heart, my desires match up with His so well! One day while on a walk, I asked Him, "But how will I know it's from you?" Here's what I heard.

"Does the enemy want you to pray for people? Does He want you to delight in me or live aware of my love for you?" Well, no. We know from scripture that the enemy comes to kill and destroy. I felt stirred in my heart that I can go after the God given desires of my heart and He will show up for me. It won't always be perfect. I may not always make the best choice, but I can trust Him that He is so good that even if I miss it, He can turn everything for my good. This freed me so much from having to wonder or worry if I am doing the right thing. Any time I struggle, I can just ask.

What does this have to do with passion? Have you ever noticed that you can see many things in the world that need to be different, but every now and then something comes up and then you feel passionate that it needs to change? That's a passion. It's like a road sign on the path of faith. What if your passion is Manga? or movies? or photography? Those can also be wonderful tools to reach people with the love of God. What if what you are creating doesn't have the gospel on every page? Can you imagine how amazing it would be for parents if they could allow their kids to wonder over to the Manga aisle at the local bookstore without being assaulted by demonic content? What if it was full of wholesome, good content that was uplifting and full of positive messages? Never underestimate what God can do. We need whatever God has put in your heart to do.

What if I just love growing flowers? Can you bring some to a local nursing home to bless the people there? Can you bring some to a local business just to be a light?

¹ "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created."

James 1:17-18 (NIV)

What are your passions or interests? What creative endeavors give you joy just thinking about it?

PASSIONS	HOW COULD THIS GLORIFY GOD?
PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD I WANT TO SOLVE	IDEAS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS AREA

**KEEP GOING! THIS
WORLD NEEDS
YOU.**

Jessica Hunter

