

BIRTHED FOR PURPOSE!

by APOSTLE SONJA D. NEWBY-THEODORE
Updated Edition



Birtherd For Purpose!

Dedication

This work is dedicated to my Lord, Savior, and King
Jesus, The Exalted Christ.

To my parents,
Deacon Henry E. and Overseer Flora L. Newby, whom God had
chosen before the eons of time, as chosen earthen vessels, to
birth me for purpose.

To my Pastor and First Lady,
Bishop Alvin J. and Elder Lisa M. McCoy, who were very
instrumental in helping me to understand my purpose in the
body of Christ, pushing me into it, and encouraging me to be
strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

To my husband, Apostle Jason A. Theodore,
a strong, courageous man of God who encourages me to be all
that I can be in the kingdom of God, who does not try to abort
God's purpose for my life.

Last, but not least,
To my children, Elder Taneesha and Youth Pastor Richard
Williams, whom God has given me the awesome responsibility of
birthing out for purpose, both naturally and spiritually.

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I would like to acknowledge some special people that God have used to also push me into purpose, who caused me to realize that my purpose is just as important as anyone else.

My niece and nephew

Evette Harris and the late Kellen Newby

My Church Family

Greater New and Living Way
Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ

My Dear Friends and Confidantes

Asst. Pastor Cynthia Wood
The late Evangelist Davada Rager
Elder Sheila Anderson
Elder Deborah McNeal
Apostle Jennifer L. Perry

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Introduction

This book was written, under divine inspiration, to enlighten God's people concerning the purpose of their existence. God wants us to understand that we were not merely accidents waiting to happen as some were told, but purposed by Him, to be released in the earth at a specific moment in time.

Apostle Sonja D. Theodore

Est. 2009

You were
birthed for a
divine purpose!

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Prayer

Dear Lord,

I pray this book will aid individuals who are trying to figure out what his or her purpose is in life and assist one in realizing that God has already equipped him or her with all he or she will need for the journey. All one has to do is humble oneself, submit, obey and walk out the steps designed specifically and especially for your purpose.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen!

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When purpose is
not known
Abuse is inevitable.

~Author unknown~

Birthed For Purpose!

Birthed¹

A bursting forth of a new ministry, pushed into view, from within the womb of the church.

Someone, who was hidden in the body of Christ unnoticed, unrecognized, ignored and covered by the hand of God; waiting, with expectation, to be exposed, unveiled and released into his or her purpose.

Purpose²

A divine idea, concept or theory created for the sole intention of producing a specific outcome to correct a spiritual dilemma.

I.
Provoked for
Purpose!

Because you don't know and others do not care to know, God "will" actually allow your enemy to provoke you, to push you into purpose!

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I Samuel Chapters 1-3

In I Samuel, there was a situation going on between a man and his two wives. One wife was named Penninah and the other named Hannah. Penninah was able to conceive and bare children; but unfortunately, Hannah was not, the Lord had shut up her womb. Instead of Penninah being considerate of Hannah's pain produced from the inability to conceive, she tormented and mocked her relentlessly, causing Hannah to feel depressed, useless and cursed.

In the Hebrew culture, it was considered a reproach or an embarrassment not to be able to conceive or bare children. So, if you were barren, in their mind, it could possibly be because you were cursed by God³! Penninah could care less why Hannah's womb was shut; all she was concerned about was making her life miserable. Although it appeared that Hannah was barren and could not conceive for Elkanah, he still had a special love for Hannah and that angered Penninah.

The author of I Samuel considered Penninah to be an adversary or enemy of Hannah. The scripture says, "AND HER ADVERSARY ALSO PROVOKED HER SORE, FOR TO MAKE HER FRET, *because the Lord had shut up her womb.*" I would imagine that only an evil spirit could inspire Penninah to tease and mock Hannah in the manner in which she tormented her, however; *what her adversary meant for evil, GOD used it for her good!*

Because of the affection and fondness Elkanah showed towards Hannah, his actions stimulated the envy and jealousy that was hidden in the heart of Penninah.

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For example, when the time came for Elkanah to offer up his peace offerings to Jehovah, leaving behind the breast and right shoulder for the priest⁴, he took the rest home to his family, giving Penninah, her sons and daughters a portion, but to Hannah, he would give a worthy or double portion; for the scripture says, “He Loved Hannah!”

Only the Levites, the poor, the widows, and the orphans were permitted or privileged to receive such a worthy portion.⁵

The fact that Hannah could not conceive did not matter to Elkanah, but to Hannah, not being able to conceive mattered greatly.

This deeply infuriated Penninah, motivating her to harass and provoke Hannah, trying to make her frantic and possibly blame Elkanah for her condition; instead, Hannah cried endlessly and *refused to eat for days*. Could it be that Penninah was also trying to cause Hannah to provoke Elkanah with her frustration and depression; hoping it would cause Elkanah to despise Hannah and put her away? No one knew why Penninah did what she did, except Penninah!

Penninah was not aware she was being used by Satan, as Hannah’s adversary, to try and abort God’s purpose through her relentless torment and harassment; nonetheless, Hannah was to conceive, but in God’s timing.

The bible says, “The Lord give thee seed...” What Hannah did not understand was that God had a man-child, in the spirit of his mind, waiting to be deposited into the loins of her husband. God purposed him to be carried and nurtured in the womb of Hannah and not Penninah, but, first things first!

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Hannah had to understand what her mission (or purpose) was to be in the life of this child. God was preparing her to be used as a vessel to deliver a special man of God, but she had to be willing to release him, when the time was right. Once she delivered the child into the hands of God's priest, God had a greater blessing in store for her.

God permitted the taunting, knowing that it would bring about an anticipated end. Only God knew what He had in store for Hannah, if she obeyed. Yes, *Penninah intended the torment for evil, but GOD preordained it for Hannah's good.* Hannah needed to understand that *to everything there is a purpose under the heaven.*⁶

Yes, Hannah was barren, but it was because of God's divine providence. Keep in mind that the scripture says, "*...The Lord had shut up her womb.*" Just because Hannah was delayed in conceiving, she was not denied by God.

Penninah aggravating actions caused Hannah to begin seriously seeking God for an answer to her prayer. Her hurting comments made Hannah more determined to press through her sorrowful and depressed spirit - not letting go until the Lord blessed her.

Too many times we become impatient and weary while waiting on an answer from the Lord. If He does not answer us right away, we begin to faint, seek advice from unqualified people, leave the church, or become angry and move out of God's timing.

We need to learn how to wait on the Lord with great expectations. He has already revealed to us, through His word, that His thoughts towards us are of peace and not of evil and to give us an expected or anticipated end.⁷

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We serve a God that cannot lie! The scripture says *“God is not a man that He should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”*⁸ This was spoken prophetically, by God, to give us the strength to wait and be of good courage! He said, *“No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.”*⁹ So wait on him with expectancy!

We need to put into action what King David declared, *“Wait on the Lord and be of good courage...”*¹⁰ We are to be single-minded - not doubting, knowing that God is able to do whatever we ask of Him as long as it is in accordance with HIS will!¹¹ Wait!

*Hannah had to wait until GOD
was ready to move!*

“And Eli said unto her, “how long wilt thou be drunken?” Hannah had made her way to the temple and while fervently praying, Eli the priest accused her of being drunk. Because of Eli’s disobedience to God in disciplining his sons, he was not in right standing or relationship with God; therefore, he could not discern whether or not she was drunk or depressed. His discernment had become distorted and unclear. IER 1:17-19

Yes, He saw her lips moving, but he heard not a word. She was pouring her soul out to God inwardly, but yet quietly, vowing that if He gave her a son, she would give him back all the days of his life and a razor would not touch his head. Est. 2009

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, He heareth us...and we know that we will have the petitions that we desired of Him. ¹² Hannah was praying according to His will, unaware!

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What God wanted Hannah to understand was, in this case, being barren was not a curse, but an opportunity for God to use her as a catalyst to bless the nation. If Hannah had given birth to Samuel at the time she desired, would she have given him up freely for the Lord's work?

I believe God was waiting for Hannah to get desperate enough to where the mocking and teasing as well as the anger and bitterness, she felt for Penninah, would be the very **"things"** that would provoke and push Hannah into purpose!

*And we know that all **things** work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His **purpose**.*¹³

God's purpose was for Hannah to give birth to a servant of God. He would be faithful and obedient and do according to that which was in God's heart and not the heart of man. After Priest Eli approached Hannah and assessed the situation, he asked her a question and she spoke what was in her heart. Priest Eli responded with, *"Go in peace and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition."*

The scripture says when Elkanah returned to their home in Ramah, he knew Hannah, which meant he was intimate with his wife and the Lord remembered her. The Lord opened her womb and she conceived. Nine months later the Prophet Samuel was born. Hannah said, *"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord."*

After Samuel was weaned from his mother, Elkanah and Hannah delivered him to the house of the Lord.

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Priest Eli then blessed her and her husband saying, “The Lord give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the Lord.”

I could just imagine how Hannah felt. All these years she was unable to conceive and now she has given birth to a man child who seed was deposited into the loins of her husband, by God, to be birthed out through her. God will make your impossibility - His possibility!

Hannah's rejoicing was not merely because she gave birth, but that the lord had opened her womb!

Because Hannah kept the vow she made to the Lord and did not postpone it, He visited her once again enabling her to conceive at five different times, giving birth to three sons and two daughters.

Hannah was incapable of conceiving because it was not in God's timing! *Do not allow anyone to speak something into the heart of your spirit that did not come from through mouth nor the mind of God.* It was important for Samuel to be birthed at the right time and in the right season due to the transition that was to take place after the death of Priest Eli and his sons.

Priest Eli was very old and his sons were corrupt priests. They caused the people of God to transgress against God and He was not pleased. In response to their actions, God replied, *“I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord said, Be it far from me; for them that honour me, I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.”*

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In other words, God turned His back on the priest and his sons for rejecting and disobeying His commandments and because Priest Eli chose to ignore what his sons were doing, honoring them above God! As a result, God brought judgment upon the house of Eli and performed all that He had vowed concerning him and his sons. *Samuel continued to grow and the Lord was with him and did not let any of his words fall to the ground.*

The provoking that Hannah received pushed her into purpose, preparing her to be the vessel that God had chosen to give birth to one of the greatest prophets ever known!

Everyone that has been birthed into this world has been birthed for purpose, whether for good or for bad. The bible says to everything there are seasons and times to every purpose under heaven.¹⁴ WE JUST NEED TO WAIT ON GOD'S TIMING!

*Hannah's divine purpose was to give birth to
Prophet Samuel!*

JER 1:17-19

Apostle Sonja D. Theodore

Provoked into purpose!

God will allow whatever it takes to provoke you into purpose!

Birthed For Purpose!

Sometimes people will not move unless there is a provoking, so God will allow individuals to aggravate or incite one by way of jealousy, anger or torment; remember Joseph? On the other hand; there are those who do not want to answer the call, so they run from it and others who cannot conceive them being called, so they ignore it. It still does not change the fact that we were birthed for purpose!

Then there are times when immature ministers will boast and brag about being called out to preach or share revelations that God has revealed to them, causing a stirring in those who are in the womb waiting to be released, so the ones waiting in the womb begin to spew out statements like:

- God speaks to me too!
- People call on me just like they call on you; I just don't answer!
- They get on my nerves always talking about the messages that God gave them, He gives me messages too!
- I can preach or teach just as well as they can, I just don't want to!

The enemy, unknowingly, will use your peers to provoke you into purpose. Because you are stubborn and rebellious, in regard to answering the call of God, God will permit the enemies' vessels to provoke "you" into purpose.

We must understand that we were not birthed for our own enjoyment, to move only when we are ready to move. We were birthed for the satisfaction of God to move through and in us, as He desires!

And it is God that is in us which worketh us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.¹⁵

Birthed For Purpose!

If you would only submit to the will of God for your life, you would not have to be provoked into purpose. God will impart in you the desire to obey and the power to do what pleases Him. Hannah's provoking was for the sole purpose of getting her ready to accept the will of God for her son's life and that was to give him back to God, for ministry.

Many times we focused on the Prophet Samuel and that was understandable; he was only one of the most famous prophets ever known, but what about his mother? What would have happened had she not carried out her vow to the Lord?

Priest Eli was on his way out because of his disobedience to God and his laid back attitude toward his two sons. So, God prepared a man, which was to be placed in position, at the death of Priest Eli and his sons - That man was Samuel!

Yes, we know that God could have gotten someone else to replace Priest Eli, but that would not have been in His perfect will. Therefore, God had to make ready a woman who was able to carry, nurture, and release when it was time - That woman was Hannah!

What if she had decided to keep him? Consider; she was trying for so long to conceive, finally, God opened her womb, and the child she prayed so desperately for, she had to give back. She could have said, *"I changed my mind, I made this decision without consulting my husband!"* Or *"I was not thinking clear when I made that vow."*

There were so many excuses she could have used, nevertheless; she didn't. Hannah honored her vow to the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

Birthed For Purpose!

"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you..."¹⁶

God has men and women, held in the spirit of his mind that He has placed in the womb of the church. He has handpicked certain pastors and first ladies to bear and nurture, to go through labor with and feed spiritually until the appointed time of delivery. After the birthing process has taken place - you are now released for your assignment in the earth!

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II.

Rescued for
Purpose!

Although we understand it is the
enemy forming weapons against us;
God assured us his weapons
will not prosper!

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Revelation 12

In the 12th chapter of Revelation, the pregnant woman is a type and shadow of so many in ministries today. They are nine months pregnant with ministry and are ready to deliver, but there is a dragon waiting to devour the infant ministry as soon as it comes forth.

That is why it is so important to be in the right church, a.k.a. the delivery room, at the right time. Every pastor and first lady is not equipped to be midwives and doctors to every spiritually pregnant minister. As my pastor, Bishop Alvin J. McCoy boldly says, “This job is only for Specialists!”

And the Lord added to the church daily!¹⁷

The people of God need to understand that it is God who places in the church, as He desires. He knows His people and what it would take to bring them to that place, in ministry, which will position them to be birthed out for purpose. That is why it is a necessity to go where the spirit of God is directing you and not where “your” spirit is leading you!

Many times we run away from the very church that God’s spirit drew us to only because of our own personal issues and not because the Lord said it was time to go. We give excuses like, “*They’re too strict, it doesn’t take all of that to prepare for ministry*” Or we say, “*Too much mess is going on in that church, those people are hypocrites; what will they teach me?*”

Stop running away because you can’t have your way - Stay Put!!!

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If Hannah had run away from the temple because of the false accusation and rebuke she received from Priest Eli, would she have received the answer to her prayer, to her plight? I am quite sure she heard about the evil deeds of the priest sons against God and his people.

They were worthless and wicked - corrupt and evil. *Their sins were great and they knew not the Lord. They lay with the women who served at the door of the tent meetings and they caused the people of God to transgress by taking sacrifices that were to be offered up to the Lord, on their behalf.*

*If any man refused, their servants were instructed to take it by force;*¹⁸ nevertheless, she did not allow what was going on in the temple to cause her not to trust God, to give up, or reconsider the vow she made to Him.

She also did not allow the wickedness that was going on under the leadership of Priest Eli, to hinder her from going to the temple. Hannah was focused and determined! I believe she understood that what was going on in the temple had nothing to do with her relationship with God nor did their wicked deeds hinder the movement of God.

Some, out of ignorance, have said, *“How could she leave her child there for Priest Eli to train, to be committed and faithful in the things of God when his own sons were disloyal and indifferent?”* Although God was angry with Priest Eli because of the lack of authority he exhibited in his sons’ lives, He still had use for Priest Eli in Prophet Samuel’s life.

Priest Eli’s sons could not be rescued out of the hands of an angry God because the sins were deliberately committed against God!

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There were many infant ministries that were birthed for God's purpose, only to be snatched away by the dragon because of the spiritual father's disobedience to God and/or lack of knowledge concerning the type of ministry that is to come forth. In addition to the haughtiness and the *"You can't tell me about my ministry because God has already revealed it to me"* attitude from the one who gave birth to it. *"When purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable!"*

Notice in the 12th chapter of revelation, after she gave birth to the man-child, he was "caught up" unto God for protection against the dragon. The woman recognized her inability to protect or safeguard her child; therefore, she did not strive nor debate with God when he was "caught up." She understood the importance of his ministry on earth and willingly let go. The bible says the child in *Revelation was to rule the nation with a rod of iron.*

Just like Hannah, her divine purpose was to be the womb to carry the child in; after the delivery process, give him back to God, by way of the church.

This is a good example of what saints, who God has impregnated with His ministry, should do. After the birthing process, entrust your ministry into the hands of your spiritual leaders to protect the baby against the attacks of the enemy or spiritual counterfeits trying to prostitute the ministry, bringing glory to themselves and not God!

After the nurturing process is over, ministers need to allow their ministry to be caught up into the hands of God to use as He pleases and not for their financial gain! If we put it in the hands of God, we will not have to worry about financial stability – God will provide!

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On the other hand; ministers, do not try to take the ministry out of the house just because you think it is time for you to go. Or, you feel that your ministry has out grown your spiritual leader as well as the church that God has placed you in!

There is a predestinated time for you to step out of the womb and into your God designed destiny. Please wait on Him; don't allow false labor pains to deceive you into pushing before time.

Rescued for what?

In Revelation 12, God predestined this man-child to rule all nations with a rod of iron and a scepter of truth. The dragon did not like that! He tried to dispose of him as soon as he stepped out of the womb, but God snatched him up first!

Just like today! God has supernaturally deposited, into the spiritual wombs of His ministers, a revealed word to deliver his people out of bondage and to free those who are in captivity; but Satan is trying to use certain leaders, in ministry, to abort the prophetic word by using tools of jealousy, fear, and intimidation!

Some leaders are jealous because they do not possess the type of anointing, boldness and authority given to deliver His word, as was given to an individual in the custody of his or her ministry. On the other hand, there are those who are fearful of the spiritual sons and daughters out growing or superseding them in ministry.

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Whatever the reasons, the enemy will use it to try and abort whatever God has in store for his people; however, God has risen up faithful servants that will not succumb to pressure, fear, or spiritual bullying!

Ministers:

- *Who will deliver the unadulterated truth in the power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost!*
- *Who will not bow down to Baal nor give into man!*
- *Who will not compromise with nor conform to the world!*
- *Who will not deny the power of God nor have an appearance of godliness!*
- *Who will walk alone, if they have to!*
- *Who understand their purpose and will not deliver before time!*

*God has ministers that will obey -
No matter what the cost!*

Premature Labor Pains!

Revelation 12:2 says, “And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.” The labor pains were so intense that she began positioning herself to give birth, while crying out in agony.

There are times when the labor pains of birthing out a new ministry are so strong and the persecution is so great, you feel like aborting the baby or delivering it before time.

Birthed For Purpose!

You can actually feel the baby kicking in your spiritual womb, feeling like it wants to come out; however, it is just false labor and you still have some time to go before releasing!

Just like in the natural. For some women, when it comes time to give birth, at first, the labor pains are easy and tolerable, but later on they become strong and unbearable. After a few hours of labor pains at home, some begin to pack their bags and head to the hospital only to be told that they still have a few more hours to go. Normally, women who are experiencing this type of pain do not want to hear that; they want the baby out ~ NOW!

This is exactly what is going on in ministry today. There are ministers who are experiencing these premature labor pains and think it is time to deliver. They start heading toward the pastor to schedule an appointment to inform him or her of the time of delivery, yet the pastor disagrees. He or she is well aware of their condition in spirit and knows that it is not time to release them yet!

The pastor tries to explain that it is just false labor, but they choose not to hear the explanation for this type of pain. Just a few days earlier it was prophesied, from an unknown source, about the great ministry in them that is in the birthing canal, ready to come forth and they were instructed not to let anyone stop it from coming.

***Ministers, be wise as serpents, but harmless as a dove!*¹⁹**

A wise pastor will discern, by spirit, when it is time to release the ministry in you; however, Satan will always be around lurking, trying to devise a plan that will cause you to abort before time.

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He will use whoever is willing to try and deceive you into doing so; therefore, be aware of the enemy's snares. Warning ~ everyone that appears to be a nurse or midwife assisting you through the delivering process, outside of who God has placed you in the custody of, could be a wolf in medical apparel!

The bible states that Satan himself is transformed into an “angel of light” and his ministers into “ministers of righteousness.”²⁰ If he was able to deceive one third of the angels in heaven, what makes you think it will not happen to you?

*This is why God has given you pastors according to his heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*²¹ Who are able to discern the schemes, snares, and traps of the enemy and posses the wisdom to rescue you from them, if for some reason, you find yourself trapped and entangled.

If Satan is not successful in getting you to abort the ministry, he will then try to devour it as soon as it comes forth. That is why God has prepared holy men and women who will train you in the way you are to go and instruct you in how to defeat the enemy at his own game. The bible state in *Ephesians 4:11*, “He has given some Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers...” to bring the ministry to perfection or maturity.

These are offices in the fivefold ministry, held by holy servants of God who will cultivate, nurture, and chastise when needed and not be intimidated by your temper tantrums or deceived by your tears.

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They will not allow flattering words to manipulate, seduce, nor influence their decision-making concerning you. These men and women are ordained by God and not appointed by men!

No weapon created, produced, or fashioned by your enemy, shall prosper in your life ~ if you don't permit it to!

Revelation 12:13 says, "... He persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child." After the men and women of God have successfully assisted you in delivering your man-child (ministry); in many cases, the dragon will come after you with persecution, sickness, financial and marital problems as well as whatever else he can conjure up.

When satan's wicked schemes do not work, he becomes extremely angry; so he tries to destroy the one who has given birth to the ministry. Be not afraid, God will deliver you out of the hands of your enemy, just wait!

Satan has declared war against all those who understand God's purpose for their lives, keeps His commandments, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ because they are a threat to his kingdom!

BUT, God is faithful; He will never leave you nor forsake you.²² He will never place you in a situation that He knows you are not able to handle; the test may feel unbearable; on the contrary, God's grace will empower you to endure.

When you feel you cannot go any further, God has already prepared a way of escape to care for and protect you until you are restored in strength. He has assured us in His word, that *He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*²³

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“He is my refuge and my fortress: my God in Him will I trust... surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler...He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shall thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” ²⁴

Satan recognizes that time is winding up; so, he will not stop until he has you wondering around like a spiritual vagabond; tossed to and fro by doctrines of devils and every evil works.

God has birthed us for His purpose, to be His mouthpiece; it's high time we operate in it! Stop allowing the enemy's distractions to lead you down the wrong path or alter your understanding concerning God's purpose for the ministry birthing out through you!

Remember, God is no respecter of person!

God does not discriminate, nor is he a respecter of persons when it comes to spiritual things. Both male and female were birthed for purpose. *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus*²⁵ God has prescribed roles, in society, for both men and women; however, in spirit He uses whom He pleases!

I am aware of those who have problems with women in ministry. It is hard for them to believe that God would actually use a woman to preach His word; yet, their opinion did not stop God from putting His word in women's mouths, or placing His anointing on their life, authorizing them to go forth in ministry.

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That's just another tool of the enemy formed to keep women in bondage as well as dissention amongst the brethren. My pastor, Bishop Alvin J. McCoy, always says, *"If Mary can carry Jesus (The Word) in her womb for nine months, surely a woman can carry The Word on her lips for thirty minutes."*

Women, stop running from the call of God just because others did not hear or recognize God calling you! There are those who are intimate with God who will recognize the call on your life; if not, still answer the call!

*Women,
"You too" are birthed for purpose!*

If you've been rescued out of the hands of your enemy,
be not entwined or tangled again...Stay free!

JER 1:17-19

Apostle Sonja D. Theodore

Est. 2009

III.

Know God's Purpose For Your Life

Many were called to serve, but few
were chosen to lead!
What's your purpose?

Spiritual mothers and fathers must possess the
wisdom of God to birth out His children; if not,
there is a possibility you could possess the spirit
of Eli, the priest, who elevated and honored his
children above God!

Birthed For Purpose!

Isaiah Chapters 1-6; 49

Jeremiah Chapters 1 & 20

Knowing God's purpose for your life is very important. When God's purpose is unknown, people will find themselves operating in ministry positions opposite of the calling on their lives; while others feel extremely inadequate or unworthy to operate in any position of ministry.

If you do not have a correct understanding of your purpose, then anyone could talk you into thinking you are something that you are not. In addition, good intentioned people will misdiagnose your calling with something other than God's purpose for you in life.

Gain a clear understanding of God's purpose for your life!

In the first five chapters in the book of Isaiah, visions began to appear in the spirit of his mind, concerning God's people; this was Isaiah first face to face encounter with God. The Lord began to reveal how corrupt the people were and the destruction that was soon to come. In chapter six, he had another vision which was instrumental in the preparation of the call into the prophetic ministry.

According to ancient superstition, if you came face to face with God, you would surely die.²⁶ Of course that was not true. Jacob did not die when he wrestled face to face with the angel of the Lord, which was God in theophany form, but Isaiah was not aware of that!

Isaiah, feeling both terrified and guilty in the presence of God, began to cry out, "Woe is me, for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have **"seen"** the King, the Lord of hosts." *Isaiah 6:5*

Birthed For Purpose!

God knew Isaiah's spiritual condition; however, Isaiah was blind to it. Nonetheless, God's presence has the ability to expose anything that's hidden in spirit! The conviction was so strong that Isaiah's heart began to cry out, first in confession of his sins; then in repentance for his sins.

His admission of guilt did not cancel out the call to ministry; but once he repented, the seraphim, *"...having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the alter... laid it upon his mouth, saying 'Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.'" Isaiah 6:6a-7*

Then the Lord asked a question, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah 6:8a*

Obviously God knew that Isaiah would not have answered the call unless he was convinced that he was cleansed and forgiven. How come many, who are called to ministry today, are numb and blind to their spiritual condition? They operate in ministry with filthy hands and hearts. Is it because their consciences have become seared?

Some may ask why hot coal was used concerning Isaiah. I believe the hot coal was symbolic of a spiritual cleansing of impurities that was really in the spirit of his mind, but manifested through the deeds of his flesh. In reality, it was his genuine confession of repentance and God's forgiveness that actually cleansed him from his sins. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*²⁷

Notice how the coal was placed upon his lips, which was the area of defilement?

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I am quite sure that Isaiah had other areas of concern, but why do you think he was so troubled about his lips? After all, he was like that for many years and it never bothered him before.

Why was it so important now? Was it because of the words that he allowed to fall from his lips that were spoken out of his heart? Or could it be because of what he allowed to pass through his lips into his stomach? Whatever the reasons, Isaiah knew he needed to be clean!

What caused Isaiah to be aware of the defilement? Did God reveal it to him? Or, was it because of what he felt in his heart, which was unlike anything he had ever felt before? Many times we have ignored the feeling we felt when God filled the sanctuary or touched our spirit man, aborting what God could have done, if allowed. Remember, He knocks ~We open up!

Isaiah cried out and confessed; then the angel of the Lord touched his lips with the hot coal which purged and prepared him for service. The action used symbolized a pardoned, then a cleansing. Isaiah's mind was now set at ease. Then he replied, *"Here am I; send me."* *Isaiah 6:8b*

Can you imagine the thoughts that went through Isaiah's head? Probably some of the same thoughts we entertained when God called us. *"How can I tell these people anything? I was just like them!" "I am too young!" "They will look at me like I am some kind of a religious nut!" "They will not receive me; they know what I have done and where I have been." "They were the ones I did it with!" "I am afraid, what if they try to bring up my past?"*

Birthed For Purpose!

I am quite sure many thoughts ran through Isaiah's head, one of which he verbally spoke out, "...*I am undone because I am a man with unclean lips and I live amongst a people with unclean lips!*" *Isaiah 6:5*

Isaiah felt so unworthy. The stench of sin was so great in his nostrils that he had to confess his condition.

Isaiah was purposed, in the mind of God, to do a work on the earth at a certain time and season. He knew that God had spoken through several scriptures saying He would rise up faithful prophets and priests from amongst the people and put His words in their mouth to speak. That meant people would be a witness to your conversion.

Isaiah was not aware he would be one of those prophets God would raise up. After the conversion he now had a right to say, "Look, that was me then, this is me now!"

God was not only talking about raising up prophets and priest of old, He was talking about raising you up too!

In the 49th chapter of Isaiah the scriptures says, "***The LORD called me before my birth; from within the womb he called me by name. He made my words of judgment as sharp as a sword. He has hidden me in the shadow of his hand. I am like a sharp arrow in his quiver.***"

The above verses of scripture are in bold because they reveal a couple of things; they not only described the arrival of the Messiah, but they also reveal the plan for His life as well.

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I believe this scripture, amongst many, were given to solidify we were not accidents waiting to happen, but a well thought out plan in the mind of God. Many of us are sharp arrows of judgment God has hidden in His quiver to be shot out for His purpose for such a time as now! Remember, *“Cry aloud and spare not!” Isaiah 58:1a*

Being called before birth meant that you were face to face with God, in spirit, before you were actually placed in the womb of your mother. The Lord stated in Jeremiah 1:5, *“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee...”* “I was intimate with you.” “I had a personal relationship with you.”²⁸

If God knew him before he was formed or placed in the womb, it suggests that there was some type of communication going on, in spirit, between the Creator and His creation. In other words, Jeremiah was created and fashioned in spirit form first, before he was released in flesh form!

Everything Jeremiah needed to be God’s prophet was fashioned and placed in him in the very beginning of his existence. The only thing left to do was to impart God’s word in his mouth to be spoken as prompted by God.

***Jeremiah came forth, out of the womb, equipped,
set apart, and appointed a prophet to the nation;
he just had to be positioned, God!***

Unfortunately, Jeremiah was not aware of that. He said, *“Look, I can’t speak, I’m just a child!”* And God responded with, *“Say not, I am a child!”*

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Jeremiah did not have to remind God of his adolescence nor of his inability to be a mouthpiece. God was fully aware of that; so *He put forth His hand and touched his mouth saying, "I have put or {placed} MY words in your mouth... See, **I have this day** set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant."*
Jeremiah 1:10

He instructed him not to be afraid of the faces of the people or He will make him look foolish in front of them. He also assured him that He would be with him to deliver him. Although Jeremiah was positioned in spirit, before birth, it was not until the day God spoke to him that he was literally positioned and placed, as a leader, in the congregation of God's people. God said, **"I have set thee this day over..."**

He first had to be birthed ~ then he was placed!

At first, Jeremiah and Isaiah was not aware of their purpose in life, but once it was revealed to them; they understood and went about doing whatever God commanded. They realized that it was not about their abilities or inadequacies, what they could or could not do in and of their own power, but it was the Word of God, working through them and His spirit placed on them to do what pleased God.

There were many times when Jeremiah did not want to speak what God had inspired him to say because of the verbal persecution, attacks and physical abuse he would receive at the hand of leaders, co-laborers, family and friends.

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Jeremiah felt like speaking God's word and His name became a reproach or a shame to him, so he said, *"I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in his name. But His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing..."* Jeremiah 20:8-9

In other words, he got tired of wrestling, trying to hold them in! Did that ever happen to you?

Yes, he was physically and verbally abused, mishandled and persecuted by those in authority as well as his family members and friends, but the verbal and physical mistreatment and abuse Satan wrought against Jeremiah, through flesh dressed demons, did not stop him from speaking what God placed in his mouth! The Word of God was like fire burning inside of him - He had to release them!

*God's Word Will Be like A Fire
Shut Up In Your Bones; If You Don't Speak It!*

Jeremiah got tired of wrestling internally with God's words; after all, it was a losing battle. It was better to speak them, than to burn inside. Remember when the Lord gave you a word or a message of rebuke to speak to the church and you were afraid to release them because of the severity of the rebuke? You sat there trying to keep your mouth shut, crying and asking God to give it to someone else, but He wouldn't?

Remember how the words were pacing up and down the avenues and isles of your spirit, waiting to be released through your mouth; but yet, you were afraid to say it for fear of being attacked or persecuted. Nothing has changed; this is still going on in the body!

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But somehow a burst of confidence welled up in you empowering you to stand boldly and give it anyway. That burst was the power of God working through you, by His spirit, giving you the boldness, strength, and courage to say it.

Have you ever notice how some people are not afraid to say anything? If God gave it to them to say, they would stand flat-footed and declare it with power and authority and you wondered to yourself, *“How do they do that?”* *How come they are not afraid of the aftermath or the back lashes?*

In this instance, I believe they realized that it was better to obey God; rather than man! Many times God used young, obedient men and women, to deliver words of correction to leaders and the house. For instance, God used Prophet Samuel to speak His words of judgment concerning Priest Eli and his sons. Just because Samuel was the student did not mean God would not use him to speak to his instructor “Priest Eli” on His behalf!

“But you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...”²⁹

I have listed for your reading; several powerful scriptures that I hope will encourage you to obey the leading of GOD’S spirit.³⁰

Jeremiah 1:18, (NLT)

“I have made you immune to their attacks. You are strong like a fortified city that cannot be captured, like an iron pillar or a bronze wall. None of the kings, officials, priests, or people of Judah will be able to stand against you.

Birthed For Purpose!

Ezekiel 3:9 (NLT)

“I have made you as hard as rock! So don’t be afraid of them or fear their angry looks, even though they are such rebels.”

Isaiah 41:10 (KJV)

“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

Isaiah 54:17 (NLT)

“But in that coming day, no weapon turned against you will succeed. And everyone who tells lies in court will be brought to justice. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the LORD; their vindication will come from me. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

Isaiah 49:1-2 (NLT)

“The Lord called me before my birth; from within the womb he called me by name. He made my words of judgment as sharp as a sword. He has hidden me in the shadow of his hand. I am like a sharp arrow in his quiver.”

Isaiah 58:1 (KJV)

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

Jeremiah 1:17-19 (NLT)

“Get up and get dressed. Go out, and tell them whatever I tell you to say...None of the kings, officials, priests, or people of Judah will be able to stand against you. They will try, but they will fail. For I am with you, and I will take care of you. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

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1 Corinthians 1:5, 7 (NLT)

“That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge... So that ye come behind in no gift...”

Romans 8:31 (KJV)

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

II Timothy 4:2 (NLT)

“Preach the word of God. Be persistent, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.”

We are to embrace these words in our heart and allow them to manifest through our walk. These words were not merely written just to encourage the prophets of old, but they were also written to strengthen and encourage us today as well!

God has equipped and empowered us with everything we need to operate in ministry. When He hid us in the shadow of His hands for protection, He also polished, shaped, and molded us for the task. Many were overlooked, ignored, and sometimes mistreated, but that too, was a part of your birthing and preparation process.

He made our words of judgment as sharp as a sword, to pierce and penetrate the hearts of His people, causing them to come to repentance. The reason why He had to sharpen the words of His messengers was because the words had to be strong enough to cut through the callused and hardened minds and hearts, formed from sin.

Birthed For Purpose!

Our job is not to sugar coat God's word but to condemn sin and make ready "His" bride!

Some people cannot stand to hear sharp words of rebuke or to receive chastisement from the Lord, but the bible says, "*My son, despise not chastening from the Lord, nor faint when thou are rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth whom he receiveth.*"³¹ Sometimes you have to hurt the one you love in order to see progress!

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might!³²

God expressed, through his word, what type of people He was sending us to, so why are we so surprised from the reactions we receive! He said they were hardhearted and stiff-necked ~ rebellious and disobedient.

He also instructed us not to be afraid of what they will say, although the words are sometimes harsh and lethal, nor the piercing looks they will give, even though they feel like sharp arrows aimed at one's heart and mind. Stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might! Because "*It Is not by our might, nor by our power, but by His spirit saith the Lord.*"³³

If God called you, He will definitely send you. Do not be like the foolish many that were called and went; instead of, waiting to be sent. He promised that our gift would make room for us³⁴ in the body of Christ.

So please, stop rushing the birthing process!

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Isaiah 66:9 says, "Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the Lord...shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God."

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."³⁵

"...Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."³⁶

When you understand what God's purpose is for your life, you will never question your purpose again!

*The very reason for life existence
Is purpose!*

IV.
Accepting
The Real You!

Will the REAL you, please stand up!

Birthed For Purpose!

Genesis 1

Genesis 5

Psalms 139

Once you have become one with God's purpose for your life, you must now accept the real you!

"...For shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? Or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding."³⁷ I believe when people are dissatisfied with how God created them or they are not quite sure of whom they are, some will create false personalities or identities; while others emulate or try to duplicate a particular person's character traits to minister through. This is what is commonly known as "the pretender or spiritual impersonator". You are hiding behind a man-made disguise. It's time to pull off the mask!

You are fearfully and wonderfully made!

In the 139th division of psalm, David said that he was fearfully and wonderfully made. That includes us too! God delicately designed our personalities specifically for us and us alone. Stop rejecting the real YOU and embrace who you are!

Jesus had twelve disciples and each one of them possessed twelve different personalities. Some were bold, timid, aggressive, passive and one was even a deceiver; however, each one carried out their own purpose on earth! If our personalities were not of any importance, why would God take the time to create us so diverse and distinct?

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Yes, there are times when you will meet someone whose personality is somewhat like yours or they will remind you of someone you know; nevertheless, you will still notice a unique difference about them.

It's ok to be different!

God specifically formed us to be able to reach all of humanity, but through different vessels. There are times when it is hard for a passive person to reach an aggressive person; the two personalities, from time to time, clashes. It is easier for those who have, to some extent, the same temperament to minister one to another because one can identify with as well as diagnose his or her spiritual condition.

***Stop trying to minister through self created personalities;
the real you will eventually manifest!***

Once you have imitated someone for a long period of time, it is hard to accept who you really are; nevertheless, God will place specific people in your life to assist and aid in locating the real you. People like pastors, first ladies, and spiritual mentors.

Iron sharpens iron!³⁸

A spiritual mentor is supposed to be a trusted counselor, who advise and guide, educate and train, lead and instruct, as well as, tweak and fine-tune his or her students. He or she has the ability to encourage and motivate them to be themselves and not ministers who mimic others.

A mentor will aide in teaching a minister to recognize, gain control over, and strengthen areas of weakness; while at the same time, preserving and maintaining areas of strength.

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Mentors must be very careful not to recreate themselves in their disciples, making duplicates and carbon copies of themselves and not mirror images of God! After all, God said, *“Let us make man (woman) in our image, after our likeness”*³⁹ – NOT YOURS!

God Sent Mentors

When I heard the call of God for ministry, I was in Killeen, Texas. At first, I did not recognize He was calling me because He spoke a scripture text to me audibly and I didn't understand why. At that time, I was so dependent upon others to interpret what He was saying; I allowed someone to interpret what God meant when He spoke Isaiah 6:1 to me, so I missed His first call; However, when He summoned for me again, this time in Korea, I heard Him and responded without human assistance! I recognized the call to ministry and was confirmed by my first spiritual mentor.

Over the course of time, God had given me exceptional mentors who have aided me in recognizing my purpose and embraced the call. Our Father wants us to be able to recognize His voice when He calls; while He confirms the call through those who He is placing us in the custody of, for training.

My first response was, “Me!” I could not believe that God would actually call me for ministry. Then, I began to feel a sense of inadequacy when I compared myself to others, I remember saying, *“I can't pray like them, I can't preach like them, and I can't teach like them!”* But, that did not stop me from scheduling an appointment to meet with the pastor, expressing to him what God had spoken to me. Although I was concerned that he wouldn't believe me, I still had to share with him.

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I was so petrified and intimidated, but I knew I needed an answer concerning what I heard and felt concerning Isaiah 6:1.

All kinds of things were running through my mind; I kept thinking, “Is God calling me to be a minister?” I was somewhat of an introvert, who loved being by myself and yet, I had a domineering personality and didn’t recognize it. I was outspoken and direct; on the other hand, people were drawn to me ~ go figure? I couldn’t believe God was calling me to be one of His mouthpieces.

The pastor and mother of the church, in Soul Korea, were my first mentors who recognized the call and my personality, immediately. The Pastor spoke what was in my heart that I spoke, in the air, while in transit to Korea and Mother recognized what would hinder me in ministry. They both began counseling me concerning their spiritual observation. I felt I was being attacked and as usual, tears began to well up in my eyes. The D word mentioned by mother, “Domineering”, caused me to cry.

I heard that a domineering personality was a negative trait to have; I didn’t want that trait and I wasn’t trying to be that way. However, this was how God created me, but altered by life. She saw my tears and said, “Darlin, its ok... allow God to use it for His glory.” That was the best advice I could ever have received. She wasn’t telling me to do away with or reject that part of my personality; she redirected me by telling me to allow God to use it for His glory, in ministry.

***A God sent mentor will discern, expose, and uncover
the real you and then they will uproot and replant,
tear down and rebuild!***

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Pastors and first ladies, along with spiritual mentors are somewhat like gardeners. One may break up the fallow ground of your soil (or flesh) and plant the seed of God's word in the heart of your spirit; the other will water or reiterate His word through teaching and preaching of the scriptures; then God, by His spirit, gives the increase.

On the other hand, some mentors think they are supposed to plant, water, and give the increase, but that is not in line with the word of God! *“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”*⁴⁰

People of God, stop reproducing after your likeness and image and reproduce God's likeness!

There are times when you will hear a person preach and you'll say, “They preach just like their pastor!” Or “They remind me of “Prophetess Y!” And that's ok. It is normal to resemble some of the behaviors, mannerisms and sayings from your pastor or mentor, but when you start stealing their complete identity and erasing who you are ~ then you have a real problem!

Don't exchange who you are for someone else's image!

If you spend most of your time in the mirror trying to preach your sermon in the same fashion or manner in which “Bishop X” or “Elder K”, then it is time to stop and examine yourself because you are acting like a spiritual impersonator!

Just like God spoke through His word to, “Be ye holy”⁴¹, He is also saying, “Be you!”

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God wants us to be just what He fashioned and created us to be and that is men and women of God with His purpose, in mind. Embrace who you are and be free!

*Accepting who you are is the beginning
of "Your" designed destiny journey!*

Romans 8:30 states,

*“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called:
and whom he called, them he also justified:
and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”*

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¹Author's definition

²Author's definition

³Dake Annotated Reference Bible, The Old and New Testament, w/notes, Concordance and Index 1963 by, 1991

⁴Dake Annotated Reference Bible, The Old and New Testament, w/notes, Concordance and Index 1963 by, 1991

⁵Dake Annotated Reference Bible, The Old and New Testament, w/notes, Concordance and Index 1963 by, 1991

⁶Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV

⁷Jeremiah 29:11 KJV

⁸Numbers 23:19 KJV

⁹Psalms 84:11 KJV

¹⁰Psalms 27:14 KJV

¹¹I John 5:14-15 KJV

¹²I John 5:14-15 KJV

¹³Romans 8:28 KJV

¹⁴Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV

¹⁵Philippians 2:13 KJV

¹⁶Galatians 4:19 KJV

¹⁷Acts 2:47 KJV

¹⁸I Samuel 2:12-22 KJV

¹⁹Matthew 10:16 KJV

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²⁰II Corinthians 11:13-15 KJV

²¹Jeremiah 3:15 KJV

²²Hebrews 13:5b KJV

²³Psalms 91:11 KJV

²⁴Psalms 91:1-4 KJV

²⁵Galatians 3:28 KJV

²⁶Dake Annotated Reference Bible, The Old and New Testament, w/notes, Concordance and Index 1963 by, 1991

²⁷1 John 1:9 KJV

²⁸Jeremiah 1:5 KJV emphasis mine

²⁹Acts 1:8 KJV

³⁰New Living Translation & Authorized King James Version

³¹Hebrews 12:5-6 KJV

³²Ephesians 6:10 KJV

³³Zechariah 4:6 KJV

³⁴Proverbs 18:16 KJV

³⁵Ephesians 2:10 KJV

³⁶I Corinthians 15:58

³⁷Isaiah 29:16 KJV

³⁸Proverbs 27:17 KJV

³⁹Genesis 1:26 KJV emphasis mine

⁴⁰I Corinthians 3:6-9 KJV

⁴¹Leviticus 20:7 KJV

Birthed for Purpose! was written to challenge, encourage, and inspire God's creation. This book is based on the word of God, as well as personal experiences, to illustrate several biblical teachings. In modern Christianity, the concept of purpose is lost; nevertheless, it is important for you to know that you were not merely an accident waiting to happen, but a well-thought-out plan in the mind of God! Purpose is something that everyone needs to know about, but very few know how to find it. You will never understand your purpose until you develop a relationship with the one who create you. He's the only one who can reveal to you the reason for your existence. Satan knows that much power could be released into your life once you understand your purpose and that is why he is trying to keep you in the dark concerning your true identity.

Apostle Sonja D. Newby-Theodore

was conferred an Apostle November 2013. She served in the U.S. Army for fourteen years. While overseas in Korea, she accepted her call into the ministry and was commanded to cry aloud and spare not. Her desire is to enlighten God's people concerning His word through preaching and teaching. She is the pastor and founder of ReDigging The Foundation Ministries in Durham, North Carolina.

