

BECOMING A WOMAN OF VALUE

FLORENCE NASSALI KAYIWA

"Keep evolving so you become all that God wants you to be!"

FOREWORD BY PR. CINDY KIGANDA

FOREWORD

When I met Pastor Florence, I felt a very strong connection and the baby inside me leaped. A woman of value is a spiritual woman because she knows life is spiritual. A woman of value carries destiny because she knows her worth despite the negative experiences and discouragements in our society. She stands out for the truth with high self-esteem and respects other people without being intimidated by anyone.

Becoming a woman of value is a process that has to be reached with intention, dedication and commitment. We have many examples of women today and around the world that stand out and have contributed positively to their world and nations.

The Bible presents many examples including Esther, Ruth, Deborah, Docus, and Sarah that were women who surrendered and gave themselves up to be used by God and bring Him glory. God can still use you today in this world with ever changing needs, trials and temptations to be the voice and channel of hope and blessings to the young generation and others to come.

Pastor Florence has carefully described the process of becoming a woman of value drawing from several experiences including her own. She has shown us that value is precious, and every woman is born with it and needs to contend for it to attain and fulfill this earthly destiny and the one to come. I encourage you to prayerfully read this book and open your spirit and heart to receiving new wisdom and guidelines from the woman of God.

We need as women to build each other up and learn from one another so we can fulfill our destiny and bring glory to God. Do not be afraid to consult others or admit failures and disappointments, rather allow God to use them to take you to another level of excellence and impact.

In His service

Pastor Cindy Kiganda

Christianity Focus Ministries

Mengo Kisenyi, Kampala Uganda

BECOMING A WOMAN OF VALUE

Dedication

I dedicate this book to all the women out there that have refused to settle for less than what they can and could become. Despite obstacles, challenges and limitations, God will cause you to triumph and prevail in Jesus' name.

You matter, you are seen, and you are loved!

I dedicate my favorite Michelle quote to you all; "Do not bring people in your life who weigh you down. And trust your instincts ... good relationships feel good. They feel right. They don't hurt. They're not painful. That's not just with somebody you want to marry, but it's with the friends that you choose. It's with the people you surround yourselves with."

- Michelle Obama

All scripture quotations are taken from the King James version and the New International version of the Bible

No part of this book may be reproduced without the explicit permission of the author

A publication of the Global Real Women Foundation Limited,
November 2024

APPRECIATION

I sincerely appreciate all the women and men that God has used and continues to use to contribute to my ever-evolving process of becoming a woman of value.

I appreciate the husband of my life, Pr. Charles Kayiwa for being kind, understanding and loving to me. Also, for letting me be the woman that God has called me to be and giving me a platform to shine in my calling. My gratitude to my sons for the energy you bring to my life, the love, care and friendship. Thanks for believing in me and cheering me on as I do not take this for granted. I love you so much!

I am forever indebted to my parents; Mr. Enock Ssali and Mrs. Janepher Ssali for the good foundation and endless love. I continue to pray for long life, good health and peace for you.

My gratitude to Dr. Maggie Wafula and the preacher's wives Forum, thanks for being a great source of support and encouragement on this ministry journey. You are all such incredible women of God! I appreciate the woman of God, Pr. Cindy Kiganda for loving me and believing in me to minister alongside with her; you are such a special gift to the body of Christ and an uncommon woman of God. I thank God for this unique connection and thanks too for allowing to foreword this piece!

I appreciate the women ministry of the Foundation Tabernacle in Kitebi and the church members. Thanks for your love to me and my family and for availing yourselves to serve with me. I love you all one by one.

And may all the glory and honor be to my God, my savior Jesus Christ and the blessed Holy spirit for the privilege of knowing you and to be chosen as one of the 'daughters of God'. What an honor! I look forward to seeing you in glory face to face when I finish my race.

In His blessed service!

Florence Nassali Kayiwa

Table of Contents

i. *Dedication* ii

ii. *Appreciation* iv

iii. *Introduction: Setting the pace;
becoming a woman of value* vi

iv. *Chapter 01: The creation story* 1

v. *Chapter 02: The gift of salvation
and its empowerment* 13

vi. *Chapter 03: The power hidden in pain* 19

vii. *Chapter 04: The price we must pay* 25

viii. *Chapter 05: The power of surrender* 34

ix. *Chapter 06: Seeing the end from the beginning* 44

x. *Final Reflections* 50

Introduction: setting the pace, becoming a woman of value

Popular quotations on people of Value

“If you want to be effective in the world, you must become a person of value. When you become valuable to the world, they seek for you!” - Dr Myles Munroe.

Albert Einstein (widely known as the most influential scientist) has said – “try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.”

People pursue to become success and forget to nurture their character. Albert Einstein says that become a man of value, (including women) in other words, keep honesty, diligence, equality or empathy towards others as the core values that you should abide to. Because when you do that you not just nurture your character but also influence the people you care in a good way. He proposes five ways to Become a Person of value and Influence.

1. Find your passion and purpose.:

- Purpose ignites passion which keeps you motivated, inspired, and focused.

2. Embrace Personal Development.

- Become a lifelong learner. Personal development is understanding and developing yourself to realize your full potential. It takes time to refine yourself as you seek and strive to learn what to do or learn to become a better person. Your value depends on the value you offer others.

3. Choose a problem you can solve for people.

- Become genuinely interested in people to solve a specific problem for them. It might be as simple as connecting with someone else, but that connection is valuable to them.

4. Be Authentic.

- Do not try to be someone else... be YOU. Pursue excellence by going beyond the usual and striving for excellence (which is different than perfection).

5. Lead with integrity.

- No one is perfect, but integrity is always doing the right thing in all circumstances, even when it is not convenient.

A woman of value is someone who understands her worth and is confident in herself, without needing external validation. She is self-aware, works on personal growth, and is open to feedback. She also prioritizes her personal time and does things that make her happy

Here are some traits of a woman of value:

• **Knows her worth**

A woman of value knows that her worth doesn't come from her physical appearance, body, or the attention she gets. She decides her value and doesn't need anyone else to validate it.

- **Is confident**

A woman of value is confident in herself and doesn't need external validation. Her sense of self-worth comes from within, and it's not dictated by what people around her say or do.

- **Prioritizes personal time**

A woman of value prioritizes her personal time and does things that make her happy. She checks in with herself and relaxes.

- **Works on personal growth**

A woman of value is self-aware and actively works on personal growth. She understands her strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. She seeks opportunities for self-improvement and is open to feedback.

“Single women should not be made to feel they are missing something because they are not married. Married women should not be made to feel they must have a career to be complete.”

- Joyce Meyer, *The Confident Woman: Start Today Living Boldly and Without Fear*

“A person is not a failure because she tried some things that did not work out. She fails only when she stops trying.”

- Joyce Meyer, *The Confident Woman: Start Today Living Boldly and Without Fear*

“The world is not hungry for mediocrity. We really don't need a bunch of 4s and 5s running around, doing an average job in life. This world needs 10s.”

- Joyce Meyer, *The Confident Woman: Start Today Living Boldly and Without Fear*

“Because of the lingering discrimination, many women still lack confidence. They live in fear of stepping beyond what they feel is

acceptable 'female' behavior. I can remember feeling that I wasn't 'normal' because I was aggressive, had dreams and goals, and wanted to do great things...I am glad now that I found courage to do something radical and chase my dreams." - Joyce Meyer, ***The Confident Woman: Start Today Living Boldly and Without Fear***

Joyce Meyer has inspired and challenged us women down the years. A woman with a painful past yet she chose to surrender and be used of God to become all that she could become irrespective of societal limitations and barriers.

Tonya Leigh, the life coach states that: "a woman's worth is continually subjected to societal expectations around beauty, weight, motherhood, relationships, career paths, money, and more in today's world. And the worst part is that most women are convinced of the soundness of such judgments. We are so much more than our bodies, jobs, behaviors, or roles in life. We are more than our age, weight, or beauty; more than the amount of money we make, our relationship status, A genuinely empowered woman knows her worth is beyond measure. Your self-image measures your self-worth, which is the only thing that should define the rules for you. With self-worth comes a boatload of confidence, self-esteem, and personal development. You are free to enter any profession, have kids or not, be partnered or not, want what you want, follow your dreams and live a life you love.

Michelle Obama, the famous former first lady of the United States and first African American woman to serve as first lady states in her book (Becoming) states that: "For me, becoming isn't about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it instead as forward motion, a means of evolving, a way to reach continuously toward a better self. The journey doesn't end." Isn't this powerful and gives wider reflection on the concept of becoming a woman of value!

The great Matriarch and servant of God, Reverend Funke Felix Adejumo among her popular quotes has stated that; "If God will give me one hundred years on earth if Jesus tarry, I will not die as a woman, I die as an institution.". Such a statement of determination to leave a mark on this world for the Kingdom of God.

For a couple of years now, God has taken me on a unique journey of discovery and the journey never stops. Each passing year and season, I continue to find new ways and opportunities to be a woman of value! There are many women in this world but not all of us have identified the added value we carry and or can carry to bring glory to the creator of us.

I have written this piece to inspire you to become an uncommon woman_ a woman of value! Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and you need to discover that God brought the light in your life so you can discover your unique purpose and become all that He wants you to become.

Desire and choose to become a woman that will make a difference in our generation. I do not want to return to the master without writing my mark on this world for His glory. God has deposited a lot of potential and capacity in you so that you can use the gifts and abilities he has given you to bring His name glory.

You are not usual because God created you with His purpose and end in mind. We all have a unique purpose that God in His wisdom has designed for us, but we need to walk a journey with Him so that we discover this purpose and contribution to the Kingdom expansion. God will use people, situations and circumstances to make us to become all that He wants us to become. This is why becoming a woman of added value is a process and keeps evolving.

We are mostly familiar with the Proverbs 31 woman: Whenever I

would hear about the proverb 31 woman, it would excite me and I would wonder what made her so special? Who is a virtuous woman? A woman of value!! So valuable that the husband cannot afford to lose her! So valuable that the community needs her and her contributions! So valuable that she has no mortal price tag but that revealed by the heavenly father that cannot be costed! So valuable that she is so favored it annoys her adversaries! Sometimes people try to search and search wondering what can make some women so special regardless of beauty, looks, education level, family background and speech ability. It is what I call the God factor! God can add you so much value that you stand out among women! You become simply a woman of value! You see the source is God. I see many women unfortunately trying to do certain things that cannot add lasting value at least as far as our creator is concerned and we need to discover that our true worth comes from discovering who we are in God.

Proverbs 31: 10-31

¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

¹¹ The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

¹² She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

¹³ She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

¹⁴ She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

¹⁵ She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

¹⁶ She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands, she planteth a vineyard.

¹⁷ She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

¹⁸ She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth

not out by night.

- ¹⁹ She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
- ²⁰ She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
- ²¹ She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
- ²² She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
- ²³ Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
- ²⁴ She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
- ²⁵ Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
- ²⁶ She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
- ²⁷ She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
- ²⁸ Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.
- ²⁹ Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
- ³⁰ Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.
- ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

The verses above are powerful indeed and the Verse 30 shows that beauty indeed is fleeting but immense value comes with the fear of the Lord for us women. You may read these verses and feel like that was too much and that in our day it is not possible to attain. Am here

to remind you that its possible to become the proverb 31 woman. You can buy that field and possess it! You can set up that charity and help the needy and yes you can achieve big things for our God. You can be a Minister in your government and a member of parliament, even President! There is no limit to what you can become if you will let God.

Am so proud of my father because as much as he raised mainly girls, He inspired us to become all that we wanted to become. For me each step is not enough, I want to be all that God created me to become and inspire other women and girls. Notice in the chapter of Proverbs 31 above that the husband of this woman did not praise her only because of her beauty but because she was a woman with value. Value was hidden in her unique contribution to her household, her community and even the world. She was a woman worthy of immense praise. Many women want to be praised, celebrated and even adored but are not willing to pay the price. There is a price to pay dear ladies! You have to do the work, you have to develop self-discipline, emotional intelligence and wisdom to be a woman of value. You must be intentional on the friends you make and keep as they have to be women of value as well that will make you better at what you do and not those that sack the life out of you.

The scripture above shows that this woman chooses to do good no matter what all the days of her life. In this world, you will be tempted to give up and the enemy will try to use people to get you off track and to stop doing good works that glorify your father in heaven, but you must determine that you will bring God glory no matter what happens. God will always reward our efforts if we faint not and His grace is more than sufficient to carry us through even the most trouble times victorious.

God is too faithful to fail. He will never leave or abandon you

I have decided to live my life with intention and purpose. The calling and destiny of God for my life is now clearer than before. I know the price I must pay and though I do not have the full picture since I am human I am confident that the God who knows and sees the full picture is more than able to accomplish the destiny He has for me. God is too faithful to fail and can be relied upon. People may leave you, disappoint you, change and hurt you but God never leaves and sticks closer than a brother. He is the one that can keep everything concerning you. He will keep your husband, children, job, family relations and all things.

True confidence and joy are found in discovering who you are in God and what He could make you to become! It is not found in beauty. Even the Bible records in the reading above that beauty is simply fleeting but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised forever. As we grow, we change and cannot rely on our looks and appearances alone to generate our value. Of course, all women are beautiful in their own unique ways and we love to be and look beautiful but it's dangerous to think that this is all. Esther was a beauty, but do you know that Vashti was also such a beauty? See below in Esther 1: 10-11)

Esther 1:10-11

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.

So you see Vashti was such a beauty too that the King wanted to show her off though unfortunately she did not discern the right actions to take or even think that she could lose the throne. This is why it is very important to understand that becoming a woman of value is an evolving process that does not end. If we are still here, God will continually prune us to make us the women He created us to be. If Vashiti had listened to the King and obeyed the call, maybe she could have retained the throne and not have been disposed off.

Never get comfortable and think that you have arrived. As long as we are still here, we are not done yet and each day we should long to become better versions of ourselves in Jesus. We may age, or even hurt but this does not mean the plans of our God about us can ever change. Even if you failed yesterday, arise again and pursue after the Master. Sarah got so tired of waiting upon the Lord for Isaac but even if she grew in years (and she was also such a beauty! Remember how Ibrahim tried hiding her and disguising as her brother?), this did not change the plan of God for Sarah. He kept the promise, even if she was increasing in years and getting old.

Many times as women, we are tempted to give up as we grow older. We and or the society may try to make us feel less beautiful. After having a number of children, you may obviously not look the way you did when you were eighteen. Some women have had life transforming experiences such as surgery and difficult birth experiences that left them in a different shape and size. This does not mean that their value diminished! In fact our value is not measurable or cost money as we are so precious. This is why you need to surrender everything about you to the Lord including your body as a living sacrifice. The Bible advises us as well to do so in Romans 12:1:

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

When you discover that you are a woman of immense value, you will not give in to using your body in ways that do not glorify God. This is why it is so important to know the lord and get born again so that He gives you a new sense of purpose and belonging. Remember the lady that was caught in adultery in Luke 8: 3-11? Jesus told her to sin no more after the pharisees had condemned her and brought her before Jesus. I love the Word of God because its reliable and true and the text below shows us that no matter what you have done, Jesus can cleanse you, justify you and then use you for His glory. He desires that once we receive the light, we make a bouncing turn around and sin no more!

Sin has consequences, it destroys and kills so God loves us so much that He does not want us to suffer such consequences. Before we receive God's light through becoming born again (John 3:16), we are not spiritually aware of this reality, until we repent and ask God to give us a new path which He does and He also gives us beauty for our ashes. God is a healer, a deliverer and transformer. I have known Him to be my reason for confidence, my source of strength, hope, focus and faith. He will restore, sanctify and give you beauty for your ashes if you will let Him!

Luke 8:3-11

³ As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of

adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

4 “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

11 “No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

In the Verses above, we notice that the accusers of the women were teachers of religious law who knew the Bible but were quite judgmental. They thought they could trap Jesus with this case and thought he would also pass judgement on this woman who had been caught in adultery. You see some folk can use your shame and pain to pass out a message. The society over the years has evolved of their views of women. As much as we still have many that do not believe in the empowerment of women and girls, the journey has become better and brighter, and this started in the Bible! Women were not counted many times and often despised. I feel that the pharisees picked this woman specifically because of their views on women who might find themselves in similar situation, but little did they know that Jesus came for the sinners, for the failures and for those that society deemed not suitable to fit!

I am convinced that the Lord understands our struggles as women and how society tries to place values of us on how we look and appear yet if we fail we are seen as a disappointment and a problem. Rahab is another of such woman, from a former prostitute to being the protector of the Jewish spies and later find herself in the lineage of Jesus! What a statement of bravery and hope! No matter where you have been, what you have done and what you have been through, Christ is for all of us girl!

Just surrender yourself to Him and see Him turn your life around. Just like the Samaritan woman that was hesitant to give Christ drink, she did not know that He had the power to make her a completely wholesome individual. Too many women and girls walk around as victims and not victors partly because of their past, failures, society pressures, heart breaks and losses suffered in life. The Master is calling upon you today to let go and let God take the wheel!

Luke 4:7-14

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[a])

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty

again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

In Luke 4 verses 39 to 42, we see that many Samaritans came to believe in God because of this woman, she did not keep to herself what Christ had done for her but rather shared it with others so they could also believe! When you encounter Jesus, He does not only change your life but give you a testimony too.

Luke 4:39-42

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

Press beyond societal limitations and beliefs and reach out to what God says about you. He says He loves you, knows you and gifted you even before you were formed in your mothers' womb. You are a special vessel on a special assignment and purpose. Before I got born again, I had no purpose and was simply existing, but Christ touched my heart in a special way and opened my eyes to understand and discover true royalty and what this entails.

Value is priceless and will live through to eternity for it's the things we do for the Master that will matter the most at the end of the day. What we have done for Him will speak for us before Him on that day and bring Him immense joy and glory.

May you become a woman of value_ choose to do so today for tomorrow may not be yours !

Chapter one: The creation story

The creation story begins the journey of our identity as women. Male and female He created them; (Genesis 5:2). ² Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created'. God had us women in mind and knew that it was not perfect for a man to be alone. He needs a woman to complement, fulfill and co-labor with him. Dear Woman, you were created because you were needed (Reverend Funke Felix Adejumo).

Genesis 2: 18-25

¹⁸ *The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. ¹⁹ Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam[f] no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs[g] and then closed the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib[h] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame*

So you see Adam was not complete without woman and even when the Lord showed him all the animals and creatures he had made,

nothing satisfied him except when Eve came into the picture and she was formed from the man. You were created with a purpose in mind and from the very beginning of creation, we see the special place that women hold in the lives of their husbands, fathers, families and the community. What would this world be like without women?

I was privileged to be the chairlady of one of the great halls at Makerere University in 2004/2005. This was Mary Stuart Hall or popularly known as BOX and our key slogan was taken from Mary Stuart after whom the hall was named (the wife of Bishop Simon Stuart of Namirembe Cathedral. She was a committed to Education of Women in Uganda. She passed away on 4th June 2000 after clocking 100 years). The slogan was 'train a woman, a nation trained.' Simple but powerful statement. When women are trained, the whole nations are safe as women have the capacity to turn things around if they are willing. We have seen women influence laws, parliaments, education systems and families. We have a unique and great purpose that if we will celebrate our femininity and embrace it, societies and homes will be better, safer and fruitful.

Train a woman, a nation trained! (Mary Stuart)

Women are not mistakes or secondary class citizens rather we are specially made to the glory of the Master. Adam had to be asleep so woman could be formed. You are special dear lady! God took some time on you and created you with all that you need to fulfill your destiny.

In whatever shape, form, ethnicity or country of origin, we are all women- uniquely formed by God with a destiny in mind. None of us is an accident. I love God because He is very intentional with us. He has purpose at the end of everything. He wanted Adam and Eve to

reproduce and bring forth Godly children that would worship Him and bring Him glory.

I need to emphasize here the point of destiny: Eve was to be the mother of all, created to live alongside Adam, what an experience of the first woman! We serve a God of destiny; God has uniquely gifted each of us women differently and we each have a purpose and destiny to fulfill. Your destiny can be fought and hindered but it cannot be stopped.

You may be an Eve, a Deborah, a Ruth, a Naomi, an Esther, a Mary, a Docus, a Martha or the many women that were not counted in the mighty works of the Bible yet you are there!_ Serving our God in truth and in spirit and telling of His goodness. Esther had to stand in as the Queen to bring deliverance to the Jews. Ruth had to stick with Naomi for her breakthrough while Deborah brought the victory to Israel. Whatever your background and experiences, I invite you a deeper walk with the Lord and to discover your God ordained purpose in this life before you return to Him.

***Your destiny can be fought, destructed, delayed
but it cannot be stopped***

Our sister Rahab in Joshua 2:4-11 presents many lessons to us today. It matters what you choose to do once you connect with God's light and purpose. She decided to hide the spies and got herself into Jesus' lineage! Today her name is in the Bible not because of her past lifestyle but because of the choice she made amidst very trying times where she could have exposed the spies that Joshua had sent but she chose to do otherwise. Rahab also teaches us that we have no excuse to give; We all can seize the moment and become Women of value!

Joshua 2:4-11

⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. ⁵ At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” ⁶ (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)

⁷ So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

⁸ Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof ⁹ and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea^[a] for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.^[b] ¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

So, Rahab got the revelation that God was with the spies and they were not usual. She had learned of what the God of Israel had done in the past and was willing to give her next chapter of life to this God. In verse 12, She asked them for assurance that her family would be spared. Imagine this amazing story of courage in the very unlikely circumstances. Rahab took a step of courage amidst many risks including potentially losing her life. Many of us women are giving excuses for not pursuing greatness or seizing the opportunity to do amazing things for God. We give many excuses such as our age, ethnicity, education level, marital status our past and economic level.

God is a Master at superseding our limitations if we will let Him and surrender our lives to Him. There is no limit to what God can do and He will continue to take you from glory to glory if you will let Him!

¹²“Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.” (Joshua 2:12-13)

The beauty about salvation (receiving Christ as your Lord and savior) is the discovery of a new chapter. Jesus is the game changer, the life changer and transformer. No matter how bad, hard or rugged your past lifestyle was, once you come to Him, He will give you a new name and help you to discover your God ordained destiny. He does not judge us but lovingly leads us to Himself and divine purposes.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
(John 3:16, NIV)

God is looking for women in this generation who will say here I am Lord, do as you will for my life. When I gave my life to Jesus Christ and became born again, the darkness that had covered my life and belief system was broken. Christ shed His light on my heart, soul and spirit and I became a new creature.

I love God because He is very intentional with us_ You are not here by accident. It does not matter what your life looks like now, if you turn your faith to God, He will absolutely deliver you and guide you on the path to His destiny for you.

God has earmarked a destiny to fulfill for each of us. Ruth was to eventually marry Boaz, Esther was made for the palace, Mary had the

favor that made her chosen to be the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, Deborah was a prophet and Judge! Elizabeth had to carry John the Baptist and Abigail saved her family from the King's wrath.

We need to pattern our lives after our God given destinies. When we choose our own way, we fall away. This is what happened to Eve, as much as God had designed the garden with everything she and Adam needed, Eve listened to the serpent opening a door for God's rejection and consequences that women still bear today such as pain during childbirth.

Jezebel is another example of a woman that left the path that God desires for us to follow that of the earthly gods and Baal. The result was that she was used by the enemy to fight God's plan and purposes and was daring enough to threaten God's prophets and in the end, she was destroyed and her body consumed by the dogs as God had revealed prior. I have the belief that if Jezebel, had repented and turned to God, the story would have been different. We would have read about her dramatic change as we do for Rahab.

Jezebel was the daughter of the priest-king Ethbaal, ruler of the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon. When Jezebel married King Ahab of Israel, she persuaded him to introduce the worship of the Tyrian god Baal-Melkart, a nature god. Most of the prophets of Yahweh were killed at her command. The husband of Jezebel was the King of Israel but instead of persuading him to worship the true living God, she instead enticed the husband to worship the foreign gods and her end was not good as the dogs devoured her body. Many prophets of God were killed at her command and was a master at enticing them to try and leave the service of the true living God. The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.' (2 Kings 9:10)

The spirit that influenced Jezebel is very much present in our day and unfortunately, we still see women and girls allowing themselves to be used by this spirit to divide homes, destruct the prophets of God and bring baal worship in the house of God. One of the manifestations of the spirit of Jezebel is the selfish nature; when one is possessed by this spirit, they do not care about how others will feel if they satisfy their own lustful and fleshly desires. All such a woman desires is what feels good and tastes good to her senses and mind. We need to guard ourselves and resist this spirit as its from the pit of hell and God does not desire any of His daughters to be controlled by this spirit.

As parents, we need to raise our daughters and children in the fear of God and teach them His ways. Jezebel was a daughter of a baal priest who grew up in a household where baal was the god worshipped despite being in Isreal so this is the life she grew up seeing and knowing. We need to be intentional on walking with our God with fear and trembling and being committed to His will and purpose.

Rahab represents the story of hope and demonstrates what a simple moment of faith can do to woman that takes God's chance to a different path. A former prostitute, she perceived that the spies served a bigger God and envisioned what it would be like if she tried this God. I believe she might have been ridiculed by people and despised, but God did not despise the faith and bold steps that Rahab took to hide the spies. So you see, we are justified by faith in our God and not works.

The door is still wide open to anyone that believes, hopes and walks into the open hands of God. God is seeking out for you and wants you to become all that He created you to be. We serve a God of a first chance, a second chance, a third chance and infinite chances. God can never get tired of us. People can get tired of you and even give up on you, but God will never. Indeed, He sticks closer than a

brother. He alone can touch you in ways that no human soul can. Give Him your life today. Surrender completely to His power and you will be healed and restored.

God is a God of a first chance, second chance, third and infinite chances. _ Meaning He will never run out of chances to receive and embrace us if we turn to Him

I have shared the story of my encounter with the Lord before. I still recall His divine touch in the King's College Budo school chapel in 2000 (approximately twenty-four years ago). I did not know that the God of heaven the one who created the universe cares about the little details of our lives or even that He knew me. I did not know that God speaks and can be experienced! All I knew before was that He created us and loved us but had never experienced His love and presence. That is why we ought to be born again! This is so we experience the spiritual rebirth and rediscover God's plan for our lives.

John 3:3-7

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]"

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You^[c] must be born again.'

Unless you receive and experience this second birth, you will not

have knowledge and demonstration of the authentic power of God at work in those that dare to believe. God turned my life around from the inside out. The transformation began from the inside and spread to the outside.

When Jesus discussed the new birth with Nicodemus, He had thought that he had to return first to his mother's womb, yet this was not the case. He had to receive the precious gift of God. Maybe you are not yet born again, you need to open your heart so that Christ can come in and transform your life and destiny.

When our relationship with Christ is restored through the process of this rebirth, then we rediscover our destinies and purposes. Remember that because of what Adam and Eve did, there were consequences. But praise be to the God of infinite chances, because through the gift of Jesus Christ, we can be restored to the divine purpose and will of God. Christ is the route that we all must go through to see our Creator. He is the corner stone, once rejected that has become the chief cornerstone.

Once I got born again, I rediscovered myself, purpose and destiny. My life was completely turned around to the amazement of those that knew me before. I had such a boldness that I did not have before and was preaching the gospel whenever I got the chance. I had a new sense of purpose and began the journey of self-discovery.

Christ is the bridge connecting us to the almighty God

Becoming a woman of value is a process that never ends as long as we are still here. God in His infinite wisdom is working in and through us to perfect us for the call and prepare us for Christ's second coming.

Becoming a woman of value is an evolving process and does not happen in one day. Getting to know that Lord is an amazing experience and God desires that we walk with Him on a journey of self-discovery. When we are younger, we have different dreams, desires and aspirations and as we get older these dreams keep changing. This is not bad at all as we grow in knowledge, understanding and exposure. The experiences we go through in life also contribute a great deal to our view of the world and the issues around us.

The good news is that God also uses the experiences we go through to shape our destiny and refine who we are meant to be. I recall a time when I was in Primary six and my parents made a decision to send me to boarding school. I still remember the personal struggle and painful experience of leaving home. I did not know that it was something I would get used to and even consider it a great grooming experience which was a part of my next primary and secondary education. We all love the comfort zone as things are easier, but you see we cannot fulfill our destinies while in the comfortable zone. God sometimes orchestrates events in our lives to wake us up and take us to our next level.

This is why it is very important for us to be women that discern the times we are in. Like the sons of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12: 32. We ought to know the different seasons of life we are in. I am grateful to God that He has and still takes me on this journey of self-discovery. Initially God will put a desire in your heart a burning passion and will gladly lead you to your destiny.

1 Chronicles 12:32

1 Chronicles 12:32 says, "Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command

We need to discover as women that God has big plans for us and these plans are good, great and keep evolving. God in His own wisdom will position people in your life and cause you to connect with them to fulfill your destiny. God is the author and source of our destinies. He is the one to whom we will answer even when we leave this world. He has beautiful mansions He is preparing for us in Heaven, Hallelujah!

I thank God because He has taken me on a journey discovering and finding my purpose in Him. When you know who and who's you are, you will walk the journey of life with absolute confidence! I need to emphasize that when we discover who we are in God, then we can become the best versions of who God desires us to become.

When you know who and who's you are, you will walk the journey of life with absolute confidence! You belong to God

God is in the business of revealing Himself and His glory to us. Before I came to know the lord, this life was empty and unclear and now that I know Him, am confident in His divine purpose and grace. Coming to know the Lord is only the first step but God has a deeper and bigger purpose for you. He wishes to take us on a unique journey of self-discovery.

God is the one that forgives our sins and gives us a new song, story and destiny. The world can judge you, but God does not and will perfect His will and desires for you. He knows the end from the beginning, the forgiver of our sins and destiny changer indeed. He has never failed and will never fail, He has only good plans for your life and will take us from glory to glory.

Am so confident in His divine power and purposes that He cannot lie for He is not a man. Men can change, fail you and abandon you but

God will never. People may love you for different reasons and things, but God loves you for who you are and does not plan to use you and leave you. I always encourage single mothers and abandoned women that if a man leaves, all is not lost as God did not leave you. His divine purpose and will supersedes the plan of human beings and even when they fail you, He sticks closer than a brother.

I have seen God through the different seasons of my life, through pains and joy, ups and downs of this life, He has and remains the friend that sticks closer than a brother or sister. He is above parents, friends, acquaintances and colleagues His love is genuine, chases after us and keeps us in His unending plans for us.

Chapter two:

The greatest gift: The gift of salvation and its empowerment

I want to thank God because he loves us, and he has a good plan for us. The first plan to becoming a woman of value is receiving the precious gift. And this is the gift of salvation. The Bible says in John 3, verse 16, for God so loved the world that he gave his own begotten son, that whoever will accept him will become a child of God. So, when we receive Christ, when we receive the light that's in the name of Jesus, when we receive the salvation that God freely gives because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we are reborn. Our spirit man is reborn.

John 3:16

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life"

We have read about Nicodemus in the previous chapter in John chapter 3:3, the famous story of the Pharisee leader. Nicodemus asked Jesus, do you mean that I must return to my mother's womb to be born again? And Christ told him, no, you don't need to return to your mother's womb.

He was referring to the special experience of the divine encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. I still recall this special experience. It happened to me first in December 1999 when I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. And that began a new journey of becoming a woman of value. I understood who I was without the second birth. You are like in the darkness. You cannot love people in your own strength. Some of the things you cannot overcome them because you have not yet received this precious gift. And when Nicodemus received this gift, he was changed. He was

transformed. He came to know the Lord.

And that is the plan that God has for us, even as women. That when we come to know him, we are transformed, and we become more like Jesus. The special thing about being born again and about receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior is that God starts a new journey in your life and taking away the darkness.

I have talked about my encounter with the Lord severally in my books and in some of my sermons and in the previous paragraphs of this book above. I got born again in 1999 in December, but I had a special encounter with the Lord in the school chapel of King's College Budo in 2000 when I was in senior five. I did not know such joy and peace exist until the Lord touched me by his power. And I wondered how I had been living in darkness for all that long. When the Lord touched my heart, He opened my spirit to understand how he loves me, how he knew me before I was formed in my mother's womb, and to me this was the game changer. This was transforming and so powerful. I came to understand how God loves me, how his love can do anything, and how much He cares about us.

When the Lord touched me in the school chapel, I still remember how my life was transformed. I was a shy girl. I couldn't speak so much. I wasn't really somebody that could speak even in public. But when the Lord touched me, I became a different kind of woman. Even my fellow students, people I attended with at King's College Budo, they attest to this. I became a different person. I went to Makerere University, and I was preaching the gospel. I would literally stand in the main hall and talk about God's love. This was a miracle to me and the spirit of God has taken over my life. Some of you that have been to Makerere University know the main building, the main hall. Before the lectures would begin, I would stand there to preach the gospel. That's how much I was on fire. That's how Christ touched me. I was like, I have

seen the light. I want to follow this Jesus, and this passion has kept me going through life's ups and downs.

We need to understand the place of salvation and the special power it carries to restore us back to God our creator. Remember the other lady who was caught in adultery? And she was about to be stoned to death? And Christ said, who of you has not sinned? The person who has never sinned should stone her. And all the men walked away.

John 8:3-11

³As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

⁴“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

⁶They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. ⁷They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” ⁸Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

⁹When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” ¹¹“No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

I often reflect on the experiences of that woman. I think of how she felt when she was standing before those men. And they all wanted

to stone her. Unfortunately, we live in a society that's not so much pro-women. Particularly African societies that are patriarchal societies. Women roles are mostly limited to home making and motherhood. Not that any of this is bad but it should not stop you from going beyond this and being all that you want to be and to become. And when Christ came, he wanted to show us and demonstrate to us as women that he has a good plan for everybody, including us women.

Jesus asked the crowd that had brought the woman caught in adultery; Who is going to stone her who has not sinned? This woman experienced the unconditional love of God and received His gift of love. It is believed widely that she's the one who anointed the Lord Jesus Christ before he went for his final mission because she felt like this man is so special to her salvation journey. How could he love me with all my weaknesses, with my sin? How could he accept me when everybody wanted to stone me? It doesn't matter what you have done in the past. It doesn't matter what you have been through. It doesn't matter your family background. If you open your door to Jesus, he will turn your life around. He will give you purpose. In this life, you'll find challenges. I am telling you; storms will rise. You'll lose loved ones. People will change. You'll be betrayed. You may lack. But if you have the Lord Jesus Christ, you will always stand. Because he is the true source of strength. You know, when Hannah was barren and the Lord remembered her, and she was singing a song in 1 Samuel, the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 2. When she was singing the song of praise and she said, Now I know that people don't overcome by their strength. It doesn't take strength alone.

So, you see, we need the power of God to becoming all that God wants us to become. We need God to intervene in the affairs of our lives. For me, I did not know that God knew me. I've had a couple of encounters. Before I was baptized, that is with water, baptism,

and filling of the Holy Spirit, I got another encounter with the Lord in one of the churches while in my senior six vacation. And there was a minister, he was a visiting pastor to that church, God bless him, he's still ministering up to today. And he saw me sitting at the back. He had a word of prophecy about me, about my family, about where I came from, about how God showed him how I would finish my education and more. All the prophecies have come to pass but I did not want to leave that church because I did not know that God can know you like that.

I did not know that God knows us. Before I was just going to church, following the Bible. Of course, feared God but I did not know that God is very personal. I always preach that God is for everybody, but we serve a God who is very personal. Now, that was a missing link for me. I did not know that God can get so personal to the point that you get to know him and His person.

God is for everybody and the crowd, but He can also be experienced individually

Maybe you are reading this book, and you are not yet born again. It's not too late to open your heart to God to receive this precious gift and watch Him transform and turn your life around. You can pray this prayer and join the great cloud of witnesses. God bless you and guide you on this unique journey!

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9-10: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth

confession is made unto salvation.” I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

I am now reborn! I am a Christian—a child of Almighty God! I am saved! You also said in Your Word, “If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13). I’m also asking You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance (Acts 2:4). In Jesus’ Name. Amen._ (Adopted from Kenneth Copeland Ministries).

Chapter three: The power hidden in pain

One of the key aspects I wanted to talk about on this journey of becoming is Pain. There is a mystery hidden in pain and how God allows pain to make us what He wants us to be and essentially to become the version and reflection of His purpose in our lives. Many times, when we are going through issues and challenges in life that cause pain such as the loss of a loved one, illness, barrenness, delay in marriage and or lack of a job and others, we tend to feel and think that God is far and not with us yet I have learned that He is always with us and works good out of our pain if we will let Him.

It is during processes of pain, loneliness, trials that I find I have grown the most and even got closer to God as I discover that He not only sticks closer than a brother but works out beauty from our ashes. When Hannah was without child and was challenged by Peninnah, it was a very painful process. She felt desperate, ridiculed and even the love of her husband could not make up for the pain she felt. All women know the difference between a child and a husband. It got so bad that she decided to remain alone in the temple crying out to God to remember her. The Bible states clearly that, its God that had closed her womb. Imagine!

So you see, God can allow us to go through pain and later use it for His glory if we let Him. Remember that He is the one that had closed Hannah's womb, yet He was also the one with the power to open her womb if she prayed and Hannah did pray and travail in prayer. It is very important to prevail before the Lord while going through hard and difficult times. Many times, we worry, cry and even try to find help from people but I have learned that people are very limited and can disappoint. Its only God that cannot disappoint and can do what men cannot do. He is more than able and more than equipped.

The Bible records that when Hannah prayed and travailed, God answered her and even Eli thought that she was drunk. Hannah travailed in prayer so much that even the high priest thought that she was drunk.

1 Samuel 1:4-17

⁴Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice; he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. ⁷This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. ⁸Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

⁹Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house. ¹⁰In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. ¹¹And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

¹²As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine."

¹⁵ “Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”

¹⁷ Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”

I have included all these verses here so that you can reflect on them. A few notable observations from this story.

- ❖ Hannah was a Godly woman: Despite her challenges, this is not changing the fact that Hannah was a Godly woman and loved by God. Sometimes, when we are going through hard times, we get tempted to feel and think that God has abandoned us, but this is not usually the case. God is ever present in our infirmities, challenges and troubles of life. God can allow you to go through difficult situations so that you get closer to Him and partner with Him to bring His promises to come to pass. Praise be to God that at the end, God granted Hannah her request.
- ❖ Peninnah kept provoking Hannah to the point of irritating and distressing her: God can leave challengers and mountains in our lives to make us leave our comfort zones and pray to God for the fulfillment of His promises. Are you having challenges including shame to the point that it feels like God is not present? We can learn something from Hannah’s situation. God left the challengers in her life so that she could have something pushing her to travail for her miracle. I have learned many times in my own life that when God leaves hard situations or seems not to work is an opportunity to go deeper in prayer and seeking after Him. In times when people including loved ones forsake you, then you can stand alone and

seek the Lord. In such times, you will discover that indeed, God sticks closer than a brother as He will be your greatest source of comfort and strength.

- ❖ The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much: As the Bible records in James 5: 16-17 ¹⁶ "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. There is power when we pray and sincerely go deeper in prayer. The journey of becoming a woman of value has prayer as a key ingredient. We cannot become all that God wants us to become without prayer. There is power when we pray fervently and go before the Lord in faith and desperation. Allow yourself to get vulnerable with God and in prayer. At this point, Hannah did not care what anyone thought of her; she needed a miracle! Even Eli the high priest thought that she was drunk, yet she was not. I have a firm belief that Eli knew that Hannah could not drink alcohol but her expressions and the way she prayed all indicated that this was an unusual day and prayer. It forced Eli to declare together with her that she would receive what she was praying for.

Are you troubled, broken, disappointed or hurting? Take it to the Lord in prayer! God will surely come down and answer you. I encourage women to make prayer a lifestyle; let it be a part of your life. There are many battles won on our knees and God will always come down and fight for a woman who has learned the power of calling upon Him in prayer.

The knees of a praying woman May not be beautiful, but the life of a praying woman is indeed beautiful_

Pr. Cindy Kiganda

The other beauty about prayer is in its transforming power; prayer is a critical component of our Christian lives but even most powerful is the power it has to make us what we should become. Prayer transforms us and in prayer, our sins become convicted, our hearts softened, and God releases the grace to bear Godly fruit.

It's hard to be prayerful and hateful, spiteful or irritable. Prayer brings peace, hope and joy to our lives. Prayer will not only cause the glory of God to shine on your face so you radiate with His favor but will get you closer to the Master and make you one with Him so that He enables you to fulfill your destiny and become the woman that He wants you to become.

Delay is not denial. Just because it has delayed does not mean that God will not do it; in fact, the breakthrough will be bigger and glorious!

- ❖ The blessedness of waiting and patience; We also learn from Hannah's experience that delay is not denial. Just because it has delayed does not mean that God will not do it. In fact, I have learned that the longer it takes, the more glorious it will be. Peninnah had many children but none of them was a Samuel! Hannah's breakthrough and miracle delayed but when God eventually heard her prayer, she brought forth a prophet of the almighty God. May God give you great breakthroughs that will silence your enemies. May God vindicate you and prepare a table for you in the presence of your enemies.

- ❖ Make a vow before the Lord that you can fulfill: In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly and she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head”. There is a secret in making vows to the Lord and fulfilling them. The Bible records that in her prayer, Hannah made a solemn vow to the Lord which she kept. Vows in prayers can move God on your behalf as God loves to see that we bring Him glory and add value to His Kingdom.

I usually share in my sermons that whatever we do should have a Kingdom impact and agenda for example why should God bless you financially if you will not sue the resources to expand His kingdom? Why should God heal you of that infirmity? _ Are you going to use the miracle as a getaway to preach the gospel? This does not mean that God works with us conditionally or that He does not answer prayers that have no vows, in fact He does answer them on several occasions. Am simply trying to show you that when you have done all things and prayed without seeing results, trying to make a vow to the Lord that you will fulfill.

I once vowed to the Lord that if He gave me a better job, I would give my entire first salary to His Kingdom which I did and I saw the hand of God on that job and He sustained it until I decided to end the mission by myself. I have seen God demonstrate His power and breakthroughs through vows and prayers with intention. Becoming a woman of value is also about growing in faith and in total surrender to the Master.

Chapter four: The price we must pay

We still have many people unfortunately that think that they can achieve results or become what God wills for them to become by simply wishing for good things to happen. I wish this was true, but it is not. Salvation is free but Christ had to pay the price of dying for us on the cross so that we can receive and enjoy this gift from God. To this day as much as salvation is free, it does cost to preach the gospel. It costs resources including money, time, human capital and even equipment.

No one becomes a medical doctor or lawyer by wishes; they must study hard and go through to the university including to medical school and law development centers for lawyers. Many of us professionals must work for years to get a niche in our areas of specialty. We must devote time, resources and even hard work to grow and leave an impact that translates into being facilitated and paid meaningfully for the work we do.

“If wishes were horses, beggars would ride” (a proverb and nursery rhyme, first recorded about 1628 in a collection of Scottish proverbs)

Becoming a woman of value is a hard work with intention and is not all about wishing away that you can be a woman that stands out and makes an impact on your society and those around you. There is the old English saying that if wishes were horses, beggars would ride!

It is very important when we are talking about becoming a woman of value to know that we have a price to pay, there is a price we must pay! There is no shortcut about this. There is a price we must pay to glorify God. God loves us so much, but Jesus had to pay the price. Even Christ had to pay the price so we can be free. He had to go

to the cross for our own sake. He had to shed his own blood. Christ is a perfect example of the price that you must pay for greatness. You must be willing to pay the price. You must be willing to have a disciplined life. You must be willing to be selfless. You must be willing to be accommodative.

Christ was ready to pay the price, just think about it. If he did not go to the cross, if he said father, you're sending me, but I'm not going to go if he decided not to go to the cross. You and I would not have an opportunity to be saved and to be restored back to God. But today we rejoice and have the joy of salvation because Christ was willing and humble enough to pay their price. Esther in the Bible, when she became queen, there was a process. It was not obvious. It was not as simple as it may seem. Some of you might have watched the famous movie one night with the king that tried to depict the life of Queen Esther. But I have faith that what she had to do is greater than what can be shown on screen. Even before becoming queen, there were several girls that Esther had to contend with before becoming queen. They were all beautiful and virgins, yet they had to go through a process of being prepared. And behold, there was a cost to pay! God gave Esther wisdom, and he became friendly with one of the eunuchs. That was a price to pay, and he told her some of the secrets about the king. She understood the power of positioning herself in wisdom, but she also knew that was not going to come easy.

God promises to take us from glory to glory and every now and then, He will bring an opportunity for you to become greater and better and to be ushered into your destiny. Esther started being comfortable and felt that she had arrived after she became queen. Little did she know that behind the glamour and Position, God had a definite plan to use her to deliver the Jews.

One thing I've discovered about God is that he is very intentional with us. God is a visionary and has a plan. He knows what he's doing, so when Esther became queen, it was for a divine purpose. God had purpose in mind. God wanted to use her to deliver the Jews. And how did he do this? He allowed the situation started by Harman to come around so he could use Esther to save her people.

Esther 4:4-16

⁴ When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. ⁵ Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

⁶ So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. ⁷ Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

⁹ Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and

saves their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

When Esther was afraid to leave her comfort zone and feared what could become of her if she went to the King, uninvited, Mordechai spoke to her and reminded her that we serve a God of purpose. He reminded her in chapter 4 verse 14 above that who knows that she had been elevated to the palace at a time such as that. So, you see Esther did not become a queen for the sake of being a queen. But God was orchestrating her divine destiny. God had a purpose. Esther was unusual woman, a woman of value and some of the time we have not discovered this value. But when God brings people in our lives, these people can see and guide us and mentor us to discover this value. That is why Mordechai was so instrumental in the life of Esther. Because God used him not only to position her, but also to alert her when she was tempted to forsake her destiny and God's calling.

Mordecai knew the God of Israel, and that the God we serve is a

master at making a way where there seems to be no way. So, he advised Esther to better avail herself as God was capable of using someone else to deliver the Jews but she would miss out on the blessed opportunity of being used by God to deliver the Jews and fulfill God's will.

Many of us can relate to this story where we have some excuses when it comes to paying higher price to serve God. The instructions may be difficult and have a price to pay but when we obey the Lord, we will benefit even more. It is an honor to serve the Lord and a privilege. I consider knowing and serving the Lord a privilege and an honor. Choose to avail yourself so that you can be used by God to access your sweet destiny. And I thank God that Esther remembered the God of Mordecai and the God she was served and agreed to do something about the situation of the Jews.

I have discovered it is not going to be easy to become all that desire to be and to glorify God, but God will give you the grace. Sometimes challenges are hidden opportunities. God brings opportunities to us every now and then to become better and fruitful. Praise the Lord that after prayer and fasting, Esther went before the king and even when it was not acceptable, she got his attention and was saved from the King's wrath simply because she obeyed God and went to Him in prayer so He could give her strength and the ability to do it.

I need to remind you that during Esther's days, the Laws were stronger. There were stringent against women, but we still have women in the Old Testament Like Esther, who defied the protocol. God can use you to defy protocol. God can use you to defy the unusual. God used Esther to defy the protocol. Behold, she came before the king uninvited at a time when she was not accepted. And the king did not smash her because she was a woman on purpose. God appreciates the price we are willing to pay and rewards us for this. You must be

willing to pay the price for your success. I have mentioned in the earlier chapters about the life of the proverb 31 woman. She was not just a usual woman. And that is why she's referred to many times as a woman of noble character. We have seen there's a price She was paying. She was getting up early. She was preparing things for her family. She was doing a lot of things helping the needy and a lot more, the reason that her husband was proud of her and celebrated her publicly. The proverb 31 woman understood that to become a virtuous woman there was a price to pay. my dear sisters, we need to know that we have price to pay to become women of value. There is a price to pay to have a stable home. There is a price you must pay to succeed at your job, there is no one that has become great without realizing this and taking the required action.

The children of Israel had a divine promise from God to deliver them from Egypt, but they had to contend with the barriers and resistance from Pharaoh. Even though God performed several miracles to demonstrate his power, Pharaoh was not willing to let the children of Israel go to the promised land. So, Moses had to pay the price. He continually went through to Pharaoh so he could let the children of Israel go to fulfill the divine destiny God had for them. He had to work with God to bring this destiny to come to pass. Even when they were crossing the Red Sea, Pharaoh's army was still pursuing after them.

Daniel in the Bible was a devoted man of prayer and committed to the God of Israel. He found himself in the den of lions. Why? Because of his God, he was rejected because of his God. But Daniel did not give up. That was the price he had to pay together with Meshach, Shadrack and Abednego. They had to refrain from eating the great food that everyone was eating. They ate vegetables because they perceived that was the cost they had to pay for the glory of God to

be manifested. And for God to use them like He did. I mean, because Daniel prophesied managed to demonstrate that God's power was above that of magicians, He needed his superpower. He needed the supernatural. He needed to be greater than them and he knew there was a price to pay!

only mediocrity fails to appreciate that there is a price to be paid to attain greatness. Consider Jesus' statement on paying the cost and price: who builds a House without. Counting the cost?

Luke 14:28-30 The Message (MSG): "Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and figure the cost so you'll know if you can complete it? If you only get the foundation laid and then run out of money, you're going to look foolish. Everyone passing by will poke fun at you: 'He started something he couldn't finish.'

To become a woman of value, will cost you including some of your friends and acquaintances. There are friends who may not want you to go deeper higher in the Lord and you have to let them go painfully. It may cost you some family relations who may not see who you are or where you must go.

Jacob was fleeing from Laban because He was tired of that situation. He was fleeing and tired when he had a divine encounter that changed His name to Israel. He was so tired, and I feel God was always waiting for him. He worked seven years for Rachel and did get her till he worked extra seven years. He was tired, but behold, he still had to travail with the Lord. And that is how his name got changed from Jacob to Israel.

You too have a promise, but sometimes you fear. Sometimes you're not willing to leave that comfort zone to go deeper. Remember, even the disciples of Jesus one day were not catching fish and Christ told

them to cast their nets deeper. They had to go deeper in the water so they could catch bigger fish. Today, God is calling you woman to a higher level, a higher level of understanding His goodness. A higher level of ministry and divine fulfillment. Sometimes you must shake off all the previous disappointments so God can take them off and give you a new garment.

I often share in my sermons that we need to learn to let go of trying to help ourselves and give God the driving wheel. When we get comfortable, and we are not listening to what God is saying, He will shake everything around us, and sometimes we may think it is the devil when it is not. But it is God himself shaking the issues around us so he can try and get our attention to him so that we can leave our comfort zone and pay the price we must pay. I have titled this chapter the price we must pay, not we can pay. There's a reason why I have used must because it must be intentional. There is a price to pay. This means it is a definite expectation that we pay this price.

You have to give your body as a living sacrifice. That is why Paul said in in Romans 12(. I beseech you, brethren, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice). And he goes on to assert that when you consider what Christ has done for you, this is not so much to ask. There is a price to pay if you're going to be a woman of value and virtue. You can't use your body anyhow because you know your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord. Whether you're a believer or not, you must understand this law. The law of paying the price. Every great person pays the price. Remember the famous Napoleon Bonaparte, the French revolutionary? It is said he slept for a few hours every day because of the cost they had to pay. He fought many battles because of the cost, the price he had to pay.

David, the king fought many battles but understood that there was a sacrifice and cost he had to pay to follow the Lord. Many people

want unusual breakthroughs and uncommon miracles, but they are not willing to pay the price. Many women are not willing to pay the price. The price of prevailing prayer, the price of standing in the gap in prayer for your family and children to see the promises of God come to pass. The price of travailing for your destiny in prayer and sacrifice.

***God does not shoot up; He lifts from glory to glory
(Reverend Funke Felix Adejumo.***

The Bible also records that if you are faithful in the little, he'll put you in charge of more. God respects and loves faithfulness when we are faithful in the little. Daily, we are paying the price as we build the work of God. Politicians must pay a price of campaigning, of talking of meeting different people's expectations. There is a price you must pay to become a great leader. It is my prayer that you will be a woman of value after God' heart and that you will understand the price to pay to achieve and to attain greatness. There is no shortcut!

He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least, is unjust also in much. Luke 16:10

Even Mary, the mother of Jesus, she had to trust God. She did not know how it was going to happen. But the price was that she had to carry the Savior without knowing what is going to happen. Because of this unique destiny, she had, she found herself in Egypt at one point because she had to carry the child and take her and preserve him.

Chapter five: The power of surrender and vulnerability

The Merriam Webster dictionary has two key definitions of vulnerability that I wanted to share: **1.** capable of being physically or emotionally wounded , **2.:** open to attack or damage; vulnerable to criticism.

As part of becoming a woman of value, it is very important for us women to appreciate that with value comes Surrender and vulnerability. We cannot say that we are going to be Women or people of value without understanding that greatness or peculiarity and standing out from the crowd comes with a level of vulnerability and Surrender.

The Miriam Webster dictionary above defines vulnerability in different ways, but I wanted to pick two that I wanted to share. First of all, with vulnerability we must understand that when you are vulnerable, there is a possibility of being physically or emotionally wounded. And you need to expect attack or damage or even criticism. We need to appreciate that greatness comes with vulnerability to attacks, disappointments, frustrations and challenges.

In this day, sometimes we are tempted to build walls because we are afraid. I know very much what this means. I went through an experience one time where I was deeply hurt. This happens to us all the time as we walk on this journey of life and the ministry. And so I felt that I should close myself in and I started saying things like; I don't want to be vulnerable to my weaknesses being seen by other people or to being betrayed, I don't want to work with some people and I find out they're not what I thought they were. But later on, I discovered that this is part of the journey as Christ's disciples.

Christ was also vulnerable to the possibility that they could betray him. And indeed, Judas one of them that betrayed Jesus. So, we need

to understand that vulnerability in itself is not a weakness but rather a sign of our humanity. Knowing that we are human, first of all, we are vulnerable and fragile to the reality of this world which is not always fair and just. As women, we are especially vulnerable to emotional imbalances; Sometimes we have no full control Particularly in specific times of the month, for example, when we are going through our menstrual period as these are affected by our hormones. When a woman is pregnant, this may also affect how she deals with situations and the surroundings around her. For example, in my own experience, for all my four children, I was always sick particularly in the first four months nonstop.

We need to appreciate that this is normal, and many women experience challenges in this time even after childbirth and this may also increase the level of vulnerability to stress, emotional instabilities and attitude to life. We need to appreciate our femininity and understand that we are uniquely formed to glorify God as women. When we fail to appreciate our femininity, we end up being depressed and blame ourselves for any imperfections. We are women and God has designed us differently from men. We should be proud to be women and celebrate our uniqueness.

Someone said in every woman there's a girl that wants to play and come out. We all have the feminine nature in us. That is why we are women. We are not like men. We are emotionally driven and great multi taskers. As mothers, we have a womb for a reason. God has given us a womb for a reason because we nurture life for months. I need to stress that it is very important to accept your uniqueness as a woman and this is the basis to working towards becoming a woman of value once you know how precious, special and blessed you are to be a woman as God created you as one and He knows the plans He has for you which are all good plans (Jeremiah 29:11).

one great aspect of strength is appreciating and understanding your areas of vulnerability and knowing that you are human. As a human being, you may be vulnerable to many issues depending on your societal and environmental experiences. Women already have pre-conceived levels of vulnerability depending on the society we come from. For example, in African society, which is mainly a patriarchal society, we women may be more vulnerable to certain forms of attacks versus male counterparts. This does not mean that we cannot attain our destiny or be used of God. But we need to understand this reality and the fact that God does not see us in view of societal limitations but rather in light of what He can do with us and what we can become if we trust and let Him.

The other thing I wanted to talk about when we are reflecting and talking about vulnerability is when pursuing a great destiny. Whenever you want to do something big for God, it will make you even more vulnerable to criticism, more vulnerable to abuse, more vulnerable to being misunderstood and even rejected. I don't mean like violence or being harassed, but also being vulnerable to attacks that you may have nothing to do about. But just because you are a woman in a position of authority. Maybe God has lifted you and you are visible to other people, or you are a mentor to others. You may be a leader in the community, and you have a relationship with the community and other leaders. This capacity you have is a strength but may come with other layers of vulnerabilities to negative talkers, criticism and other unwanted expectations which may be unrealistic. A woman in leadership like me, as I have mentioned will experience all these, but you need to remain focused

The Bible records in Galatians Chapter 6 verse. 9 (⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.). A reflection on this verse shows that there's a

possibility of fainting. God knows and is aware that as we go on to becoming greater and as we go on to fulfilling our unique destinies, we are susceptible to attack and to failure. We may be vulnerable to our own weaknesses, things that we have not yet dealt with. Things or issues that we must accept that they are in us because we are human. None of us is perfect and we need to appreciate that we can rely on other people's strengths to be better and learn from each other.

When you know that you are human enough, you are also woman enough and will know when you are not in a very good mood or need a break. There are situations in our lives that we have no control over such as how people treat us, what they think of us or how they choose to live their lives. There is peace in discovering that only God can do what no man can do, and this will enable you to not have very high expectations of people or else you will be disappointed when things do not go your way. Self-awareness is very key and very important to our self-discovery.

We still have women and young girls out there that have not yet discovered who they are. It is very important that you discover your areas of vulnerability such that the enemy does not use them as tools to attack you to feel less about who you are. You need to understand your strengths and your weaknesses; those things that come easily to you and the ones you struggle with, maybe you are a good speaker, maybe you're good at making friends or love serving others. You need to understand and capitalize on that, but also appreciate where you need support areas of growth for you. This is very important if you're going to become a woman of value.

You need to understand and be aware of your stress triggers or energy boosters. You need to be aware of your anger drivers, or your triggers for those things that you don't like for example, I don't like negativity. I don't like to be around People that speak negatively as I

consider them energy killers. I think we should all be like that, but I think that sometimes it really does affect me. Like I keep thinking, why does this person talk like this? It can easily stress me, so I'm aware of that. I'm very detailed so I may put off someone who is not that detailed who wants just a bigger picture. I love the big picture too, but I pay a lot of detail to the little things as well. You know, I pay a lot of detail to how we shall get there _the process and the means as well. I need to know them and that can irritate some people. So, it is very important that we are aware of our weaknesses and strengths and be open to getting guidance and support from others. We need to be vulnerable enough to allow other women that God has lifted and helped to show us the way.

Such women understand what it means to be a woman and the unique challenges that women in leadership or pursuing their destiny face alongside other roles such as wives, mothers and caretakers. For example, if you're a woman in leadership, it is not the same as a woman who is not. If you are married to a Pastor like me, that is a different category. Not in the sense that you are in a different class, no. I'm saying it is different. The experiences, the cost, the nature, what you have to deal with is different from what someone else maybe dealing with.

Sometimes God will push us out of our comfort zones and cause us to be in places that are unfamiliar to us. Where we may feel uncomfortable and our levels of weakness or our struggles may become visible to others. This should never discourage you. I have come to the level of accepting and be human enough to say this is me. I think I am struggling in this area and be open to receiving advice from other women. Decide to be open to receiving advice from other people that have overcome similar situations and challenges. I find that many times when we get hurt as women, we close up, with fear

of what people, society and family will say without prioritizing our health and wellbeing. If you're married for example, you need to be open to understanding that things will not always be perfect because neither you nor your husband is. Your children are also not perfect, and you need to accept them as they are and that they will not always meet your expectations. There will be issues in life, marriage, work, ministry and others because conflict is a normal part of our lives. What we need are skills on how to deal with it once it happens.

Becoming a woman of value also involves knowing your personality and personal attributes. For example, for me, I'm an introvert by nature though because of exposure to other cultures and different contexts, I have become more extroverted. I got to be aware of my personality, accept it, appreciate it, love it and now I can build on that to increase the strength in what God has given me and be able to accomplish my destiny. It is very important that you appreciate your own uniqueness and personality for example, you need to know what makes you happy. I told you for me being around positivity is such a big thing for me. I have to surround myself with people who believe in me. I love to surround myself with positive energy because so that I can accomplish my dreams. We all love that, but for me it's very intentional because I don't like negative energy. It sucks life out of me, so I think it's very important that you are aware of those things that make you happy. I love gifts. I love to give people gifts, surprises. When you understand what you love to do, it will go a long way in boasting your energy and create a positive attitude to life. For me it excites me to have a positive mindset and attitude to life and that is me. I don't know for you what is your area of vulnerability. What are those things that make you happy? Those things that make you sad, we need to understand prayer will not resolve everything as much as prayers are very much important and a special part of our Christian journey

***A negative attitude is like a flat tyre.
It won't take you anywhere!***

Another area of vulnerability that we need to regularly manage to deal with on this journey of becoming women of value is our past! This includes things we did in our past that we may not be proud of, Consequences of our decisions, Past pains, disappointments and heart breaks. Those are in the past, but because of the effects of those things on us, we may be tempted to carry that baggage along with us because we fear to be hurt again. Allow yourself to get vulnerable again, because in vulnerability and surrender can God heal you.

Remember the woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8:43, She had bled for twelve years. Twelve years is not one day, it is not even one year. I mean just to bleed for an extra week without stopping can stress a woman so imagine all this long. It was embarrassing. The Bible records about her, which means it had become public knowledge. The Bible says she had gone to every doctor, and nothing was working. She had to accept her sickness. She made up her mind that no one could help her apart from Jesus and made up her mind to touch Him in a special way.

Luke 8:43-48

⁴³ And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,⁴⁴ Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.

⁴⁵ And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

⁴⁶ And Jesus said, somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.

⁴⁷ And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.⁴⁸ And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

I talked about the Samaritan woman earlier in previous chapters. She was fearing to get vulnerable with Jesus and tried to put up a barrier but in fact many times we do that because we are trying to hide our scars. We hide our pains from our fellow sisters because we have been hurt in the past or fear they will talk about it or judge us. But most of us women, our experiences are really the same. Most of us know the pain of a heartbreak. Most of us know the pain of childbirth. Some of us know the pain of a cesarean section. Most of us know the pain of a marriage when you're having conflict. So, we need to understand that we are human and not keep putting barriers that may not be healthy.

I talked about the power of pain before in the previous chapters. God will take your pain and cause it to become a message. This is the God we are serving. When you give him your pain and surrender your past, and shame, He will turn things around and give you a new testimony. Maybe there are people who were telling Rahab that she was a former prostitute and therefore not deserving of God's grace and mercy. But she did not listen to them but decided to turn to God and believe His report. Rahab is not in the Bible for her prostitution. She is in the Bible because she decided to turn around. She decided to put her faith in God in spite of her past.

There's another woman who became so vulnerable, and that is Ruth. She had lost her husband. We don't even sometimes take time to reflect on what that could mean. Living with the mother-in-law, without a husband and the mother-in-law asks her to go back to her people. Ruth decided to become vulnerable. She didn't know where she was going, but she decided and said to Naomi that her people would become hers as well. Because perhaps she had tested that the God of Israel was different from the Moabite gods where she came from. God saw that determination and He set events in motion and touched Naomi to set Boaz for Ruth. In our vulnerability and pain is hidden opportunity for greatness and higher destinies if we will surrender and let God take the wheel. Surrender your pain, your sickness, your worries to the Lord today and God will use it and those experiences for his glory.

Your testimonies should not embarrass you but remind you of God's power and greatness. Hannah started singing a song when God remembered her until she became so vulnerable that Eli thought she was drunk. In your shame is hidden the glory of the Lord if you will let him use it for His glory for example you may be renting and tired of moving from house to house. I understand this pain as I have been through it before but can tell you that no hard situation lasts forever. Allow yourself to be vulnerable to that shame and trust God to take you out. That will be your testimony tomorrow. Maybe you're going through a marital separation, and sometimes when there has been divorce or marital breakdowns. Women are often blamed, which hinders effective healing and restoration.

God wants to use you, your shame, your pain, your struggles. I remember the time in my life while at my first university, I went through a big season of depression and serious attack. I was walking through the valley of the shadow of death. I talk about this proudly

because Christ took me out and now am free and I can tell you that there is nothing that God cannot heal or deal with. During the delivery of our fourth son Jason, I was fighting for my life in the intensive care unit following an emergency Cesarean section. The operation became a little complicated and it was scary as I was fighting for my life, and it was one of the most trying times of my life. For me it was another valley of the shadow of death, but Christ still took me out and spared me. I had lost more than half of my blood and my issue became urgent to save, as my husband travailed in prayer, the Lord brought about a speedy recovery and discharge. Jason is now two years old, and we are both fine- God took us out! Why won't I talk about this God? Do not be ashamed of your infirmities and scars for God can heal and restore you.

We have seen over and over that shame, pain, distress, lack and adversity can also be a great opportunity to see God at work if we let Him. Remember Adam and Eve were naked and ashamed after sinning against God, but He still covered them. They were hiding from him, and He was still pursuing after them. That is what we do, sometimes we try to hide from God, but God wants to still find us in our brokenness, in our vulnerability and personal struggles as women. I know the struggle is real but don't kill yourself for it. Don't blame yourself. Many women are going through what you're going through and God can give you strength and there's power in accepting vulnerability and surrender everything to the God who is omnipotent. Psalms 91, if you make the Lord your shelter, you're hiding, He will keep you under his wings. Surrender today so that Yahweh can give you a new name that he gave to Sarah. Remember that its God who had closed Hannah's womb, and she became vulnerable to Peninnah's insults. When God remembered her, He gave her a new song and God will do the same for you _ give you a new song and testimony!

Chapter Six: Seeing the end from the beginning

Hebrews 12:2 says, “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” This verse makes it abundantly clear that Jesus “endured” and “despised” the Cross.

I want to appreciate you for reading the book so far and invite you to the final chapter. I pray that you will be inspired to become a woman of value with intention. So, the Bible reminds us to look at Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame. And He is now sitting at the right hand of the throne of God. This verse makes it clear that Jesus endured and despised the cross. I spoke earlier about understanding the price to be paid. This understanding comes vulnerability and total surrender.

As we wind up, I wanted to emphasize the importance of seeing the end from the beginning. Our God is the alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I love God because He sees the end from the beginning. That is why He told Jeremiah that before He formed Him in the mother’s womb, He foreknew Him. God knew about you before you were formed and your parents were a vehicle used to get you here.

Jeremiah 1:5

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew[a] you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

Mordechai told Esther in Esther Chapter 4:14 b: “Who knows that you

have been lifted to the palace at the time such as this?”. God knows the end from the beginning. We need to understand, as women of value that God sees the bigger picture and we have Christ as our key example. He endured the cross He could see the end of us being saved, redeemed and transformed. He could see the people that would appreciate the benefits of the Kingdom of God. Even when it got harder, He endured and surrendered to God’s will. You too can focus on the end of the Kingdom reward where God will bless and reward you for all the sacrifices and also wipe away your tears both now and in eternity and when you decide to say yes to His purpose, you become a woman of immense value. The enemy will try to stop you but look at the end of it all. Christ will give you a mighty crown in the life to come. And even in this life, you will reap a mighty harvest. God will promote you; God will lift you up and use your pain for His glory because our God sees the end from the beginning.

If you are a mother like me, you need to be able to envision the next ten years of your children’s lives and start cultivating and pattern their actions on the understanding of their unique destinies. This also includes you my dear lady; what do you want to do you’re your lie? What do you want to become? When you’re looking at the end you’re aim to finish well. The end will justify the beginning. Reverend Funke Felix often says that she wants to die not as a woman but as an institution meaning after she has emptied herself to this world for God’s use and she is a true inspiration. You need to see the end from the beginning and not focus on the little destructions that try to weigh you down.

You need to understand that be after everything is done, God will prevail. That’s why the Bible says weeping may endure for a night, but surely joy will come in the morning. God did it for many before, he will do it again, God will bless you again. God will lift you again. God will

favor you again. God will bring his promises about you to come to pass because He is too faithful to fail. One day you will understand that the pain was necessary for the process and the refining so you could learn to trust in God. How will you learn to trust in God? How would you learn to rely on God if you do not allow yourself to go through the challenges of this life? How can you become a woman of value if you have not appreciated the past life, the failures, the hindrances. And seeing that God is able to turn your situations around and make you a better vessel of honor.

Joyce Meyer, the famous televangelist has said to us severally that if the devil reminds you of your past, you also remind him of your future. Tell him that yes, that might have been my past, but I'm still going somewhere greater and bigger with God's help for my God has a good plan for me and that is why I see the end. We need to be intentional women as we do this life, and the rewards will be beautiful at the end.

Mother Teresa, the great Nobel Peace Prize winner (1979) was quite an inspirational woman who was dedicated to leaving a lasting impact on this world. Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her unwavering commitment to serving the poorest of the poor and bringing hope to those in desperate need. See below some of her great quotes.

- ❖ I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.
- ❖ Live simply so others may simply live. Each one of them is Jesus in disguise.
- ❖ I do not pray for success; I ask for faithfulness.
- ❖ Some people come in our life as blessings. Some come in your life as lessons.
- ❖ Do extraordinary things with love.

- ❖ Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.
- ❖ It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.
- ❖ I prefer you to make mistakes in kindness than work miracles in unkindness.
- ❖ Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.
- ❖ The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.
- ❖ The person who gives with a smile is the best giver because God loves a cheerful giver.
- ❖ Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier.
- ❖ Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.
- ❖ I know I am touching the living body of Christ in the broken bodies of the hungry and the suffering.
- ❖ It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.
- ❖ Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.
- ❖ We must make our homes centers of compassion and forgive endlessly.
- ❖ If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.
- ❖ Peace and war start within one's own home.
- ❖ here is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
- ❖ Be happy in the moment, that's enough. Each moment is all we need, not more.
- ❖ If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy

anyway.

- ❖ Profound joy of the heart is like a magnet that indicates the path of life.
- ❖ One filled with joy preaches without preaching.
- ❖ Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it.
- ❖ Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it.
- ❖ Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen.

We are serving a God who sees the end from the beginning. We need to be such visionary women that see the end from the beginning. We need to be able to understand, to perceive what God is going to do in the end. Then it will inform our actions in the beginning. Remember when we were still at high school, we studied that failing to plan was planning to fail indeed. The beginning matters as much as they end matters. It is very important that you begin, but with the end in mind for it matters how we shall end. That is why you need to stay on track with the Lord. Because at the end of the day, He is the one before whom we are going to stand and give an account.

Maybe many people saw Esther the famous Bible queen as an orphan girl, but God saw a queen. God knows you too and what you can become beyond what human beings can perceive and He will amaze you. He will do so much more for you in the name of Jesus. God will do much more. I pray for you that you will be able to see the end from the beginning. That you will be able to understand why you're doing what you're doing. You need to be visionary as women of value and very focused to the results of your efforts and ambitions to bring God glory. You need to have a plan for your life where you want to go the next, year, the next couple of months and beyond. Live with intention. Live with the purpose in mind. You are on a unique journey to attaining

your destiny. Do not look left or right. Keep moving forward. Keep going forward and you will see God amaze you.

Moses's mother is a special woman of focus for she could see the end of Moses's life, and so when Pharaoh wanted to kill all the Jewish boys, she made a notable choice, and she put him on the water and made-up her mind that someone will come and raise this child. She could see the end of his great destiny. We have no excuse today. God is still giving us many opportunities to see the end from the beginning and what we can become. The enemy may come in as a flood, but the spirit of God raises the standard. If you are in ministry or leadership, focus on the end from the beginning. See the end of that ministry. See the impact. See the results that you are building. That is what should inspire you to do more and to serve our God. God has your reward; the Bible says in Hebrews 11 that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him

I pray that God will give you the wisdom to see the end from the beginning. That God will give you the sense to understand your end from the beginning and that He will give you the strength to work towards finishing well. At the end of the day, whatever you start, it matters how you will finish it. It matters how we will leave this world. The end of a university degree matters, and all these are foundations from primary and Secondary school. The one who sees the end before we can see it is God That is why it is very important to have a vibrant and great personal relationship with God. Because he alone will restore you. Use you, he you deliver you, give you a sense of purpose.

FINAL REFLECTIONS

Paul the Apostle speaks of Christ's love for us and how powerful it is that nothing can ever compare it. The love of God for you my dear sister is so powerful. More powerful than the love of parents, children, husbands, family and friends.

Romans 8:38-39:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

No matter what you have done, where you have been or what you have been through, God's love can find you, heal you and restore you to His glory. There is nothing that can compare to His love for us and it is the love of God that keeps us hoping for the best even when things get tough and difficult. He is the one that sticks closer than a brother and never disappoints.

God can never back bite you to offend, belittle and hurt you. He is not like us human beings for He is omnipresent, Omnipotent and omniscient. The all-powerful God knows your destiny and how you will fulfill it. He is the lifter of men and the one that lifts the poor out of the dust and cause them to sit among the princes of His people.

1 Samuel 2:8:'

He raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

Hannah included the above statements in 1 Samuel 2:8 after the God of Israel remembered her. God can choose to remember you and make you forget our disappointments and pain. We serve a God of restoration who is able to do more than what ask for, imagine or comprehend. This God can be trusted to cause our destiny to come to pass. God is a beautifier, giver and doer of good things. Up to this, I reflect on how I was able to get the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue my Masters Degree at King's college London in London in 2015. It was surely by the grace of God! It was not only about my grades but God just decided to favor me to have mercy on me. I also won the Thomson Reuters Human Rights scholarship in London in 2017 because of my commitment to empower women.

I often get asked about how I balance work, ministry and family. As a mother of four boys, a wife, gospel minister and humanitarian staff, it's not always easy but God gives the grace. It is also important to have our priorities in the right order so that we are able to function in a healthy manner to serve all the capacities and responsibilities that God has given us.

I decided a long time ago to put God first in my life and the rest is secondary. It is very important for us women to appreciate that God is the true source of our happiness, wholeness and purpose. He has created all of us with a unique purpose and destiny. You see Esther cannot be a Ruth as Mary was not her sister Martha. Sarah could not be Deborah and Ruth could not be an Orpa. We are all uniquely formed and gifted and need to appreciate that we cannot be the same.

As women, we need to appreciate this reality and work towards becoming women of value! As I mentioned before there is a price to pay and it is not a smooth road, but His grace is sufficient. Just because you find resistance does not mean that you give up! I still remember

an experience I had in Leicester city in England when the Pastor told me that I would never stand on the pulpit to preach because I was a woman! And this was in 2017 not very long ago. It hurt but I remembered that the one who calls does not discriminate based on gender. He can and will use all of us to bring His dreams to come to pass. I already shared my story about surviving an emergency C-section. This was life threatening, but my God took me out.

By God's grace, I have been to eight countries to date, and I can tell you that God cannot be limited but is wherever we go. We need to be committed and hardworking to achieve more positive results and desist from negative comments.

As a woman that is evolving and being changed daily, I can attest to the fact that God sticks closer than a brother and will use anything and anybody to bring Glory to His name and bring His divine purposes to come to pass.