



Praying for Purpose for Women

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*In loving memory of my mom,
Rosalie Marie Murphy,
who was my dear friend and
a godly prayer warrior.*

*To my sweet dad and family members.
You pray with passion, purpose,
and expectancy.*

*Thank you for what you have taught me
about prayer, love, and ministry.*



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Part One

Praying God's Purposes for Your Life

For the next sixty days, absorb the wisdom of God's Word and the wisdom of a wide cross-section of Christian women who will share with you their journey on the pathway to purpose. As you do, pray intentionally for the Lord to direct you on your own specific journey.





YOUR DIVINE APPOINTMENTS WITH GOD

Welcome to *Praying for Purpose for Women*. This sixty-day prayer experience is designed to help you answer the question: *What hopes, longings, passions, strengths, character, faith, and values did God instill in me for his use, his glory, and his purposes?* Yes, you do have a purpose beyond all the really hard years of going to school, accomplishing your to-do lists, and building a retirement fund! If you truly desire God's greatest plans for your present and future, the most powerful things you can do are to pray, reflect on Scripture, read about biblical and modern-day role models, take time to listen to God as he mentors you about his wishes, and record your insights. This book will coach you daily to do that.

AN OVERVIEW: WHERE YOU'RE HEADED

In this prayer experience you will accomplish five important things:

1. *Become an eyewitness to purpose in the lives of others* by reading sixty surprising interviews of Christian women role models and sixty stories about Bible characters.

2. *Uncover purpose in your life* by answering sixty tough and insightful questions that will lead you to a clearer understanding of who God formed you to be.
3. *Pray for purpose* by praying sixty specific Scripture prayers for life direction and by taking the time to listen for God's answers.
4. *Summarize purpose* by evaluating your life themes, patterns, and action steps, and by having your written comments reviewed by a dear friend or spouse, who will tell you the truth about what she/he notices.
5. *Live out purpose in your life* by consistently completing your own prayerfully recommended action steps.

Part I will focus on who God is, how much he loves you, and how uniquely he created you. You will see that you are only a steward of the personality, roles, and talents he has entrusted to you. You will explore topics related to your time, money, resources, energy, character, ministry, brokenness, successes, network, and platform, among others, as each affects the kingdom-building mission for which you were born.

Each day features the response of an influential woman to one of sixty critical questions about life purpose. When you read these behind-the-scenes and, sometimes, never-before-heard stories—explaining how these women slowly and often painstakingly grew into God's plan for their lives—you will see that they are just like you, facing issues similar to your own. Not one of them has been exempt from life's struggles and not one of them has all the answers. In other words, the barrier between the women who appear to have it all together and the rest of us who often feel like we are floundering *does not exist*.

In Part 2, you will record your life themes and patterns, “connecting the dots” about things you may not have understood before. And, most importantly, you will answer two key questions:

1. From what you notice—even if they don’t seem logical to you right now—what appear to be your current life purposes?
2. From what you notice—even if it doesn’t seem logical to you right now—what appears to be your unique, passionate ache that God instilled in your heart before you were born?

Answers to these questions will free you up to enjoy doing “today things” today and prayerfully preparing for your tomorrows!

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS PRAYER BOOK

- *Take your time.* I suggest that you read through only one lesson per day for sixty days, so that you won’t attempt to rush through your prayers and reflections for the sake of getting answers sooner. This process takes time.
- *Pray personally.* When you see a blank line in the Suggested Prayer, fill in your first name on the line to personalize your prayer. In that way, you will actually be praying Scripture back to God. Remember to keep your Bible handy to read about each day’s Bible character.

- *Trust the process.* I can't promise you that you will like (or understand) the progression of the questions as you move through the book. The seemingly random order of the questions (and some redundancy) clears itself up during Part 2, when you slot your answers into categories. To dwell on this ahead of time could skew your response or dwarf your insights. Just enjoy the process, trust the Holy Spirit, and don't try to figure everything out.
- *Dig deep.* I suggest that you *not use the same words* to answer more than two questions. This will cause you to dig deeper for truths or to, at least, phrase your answer from a different perspective.
- *Welcome the struggle.* If you find yourself asking, *Why is this question challenging me?* allow yourself the freedom to be uncomfortable as God confronts you with any truth he would like you to hear. You may even need to deeply ponder your answer throughout the day as you talk to him about your feelings (anger, sadness, fear, elation, surprise, curiosity, or other). Figuratively speaking, ask him to open your eyes, just like he did literally for the blind man, Bartimaeus (see Mark 10:46–52).
- *Desire a change in your life.* Let the process stir up a persistent desire for a changed life that God will use. Anticipate that he will mobilize you now and in the future in a powerful way.
- *Let God mentor you.* Sit still and listen to him, so he can speak to you.

My intense longing for purpose in my own life—and my drive to learn of other women’s struggles along this same path—sent me searching for answers around the world, when all along, my purpose was right before my eyes. May your decision to pray daily for purpose—for sixty days—help you be still, listen for God to speak, and see the magnificent purposes he has planned for you—that are right before your eyes. Enjoy these sixty divine appointments with God.