

03 | Purposefully Designed

FULFILLING YOUR CALLING Series

Welcome to part three of the series. Today's title is Purposefully Designed. And I want to read to you from one of my favorite passages. Actually, it was a really life-changing passage for me, as the Lord healed me from being a perfectionist, people pleaser. This became so alive in me. I want to read to you from Ephesians 2:10, and it says this: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." We are His workmanship. I know your mom and dad had something to do with bringing you into this earth; I'm very aware of that. But before Mom and Dad, there was a God who created you purposefully and designed you intentionally. And so we are called His workmanship. You are the work of God. That word "workmanship" is actually the Greek word *poiema*, where you can tell we get the word poem; and there are some bad poems! But I think this is referring to the good poem where there's a rhythm and there's a beauty to this workmanship. We are God's artwork. He crafted us with skill and with purpose and with a flow and with an intentionality that is actually beautiful. You are His workmanship, and you not only are His workmanship, but you've been created in Christ Jesus.

You know, if you ever want to do just a wonderful study through the New Testament, look at every time it says "in Christ," "in Him," "in God," because this is who you are. Now that you have made Jesus Lord of your life; you have this new identity called "in Christ." So, not only did God design you intentionally, He purposefully designed you, but now you are in Christ Jesus. So, everything that belongs to you is because you are in Christ: authority and power and blessing and communion with God. I recommend you do that study for yourself. It is amazing what we have because we are in Christ.

So, we are not only His workmanship created in Christ Jesus, but we have also been created for good works. Now I want to read to you from Psalm 139:13-26 (NASB): "For you created my innermost parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well." Now, how many of you walk around going, "Lord, I give thanks to You because I am awesomely and wonderfully made"? You know, it can sound like you're being arrogant, but you have to remember something: you didn't make you. You know, when we compliment a painting, we're not really complimenting the painting as much as we are complimenting the painter. The painting didn't create itself; it doesn't have the ability to create itself, it is based on the skill of the one who made the painting. So, you are His workmanship. You are based on God's skill and God's ability. Therefore, David had no problem saying, "I am awesomely and

wonderfully made" because David knew he didn't make himself; he was a product of what God made, of who God made.

So, we should be rejoicing and saying, "God, all You do is good. You only know how to do good. All Your works are awesome. All Your works are wonderful, including me." Again, it sounds like, "Oh, that's arrogant." No, you're complimenting the One who created you. You didn't create you. So, I love that David says, "My soul knows that very well." In other words, my soul knows where I come from. My emotions, my mind, my will--they know You're the One who made me; you're the One who designed me. And there is a comfort, but there's also a boldness and a confidence that comes when you recognize God, who is so skillful and so brilliant and so full of wisdom and does all things well, is the one who designed and created me. We should rejoice! We should rejoice in who God created us to be.

That doesn't mean that we don't have areas that need to be addressed, because we're human beings. We have areas that you're like, "Yeah, that's my flesh." So, we don't blame God for our flesh part, right? We take responsibility for those things. But how God designed you, how He purposefully designed you, and the calling of God that matches that design and that purpose, how they all flow together ... it is wonderful. It is beautiful. It is awesome. And you need to thank the Lord. As a matter of fact, I really feel strongly that some of you are going to break through the depths of insecurity and even fear to step out

on what God has, through the declaration of, "Lord, I thank You because I am awesomely and wonderfully made." Let's do that right now, right where you are. Just say, "Lord, I thank You. You're the one who made me. And I thank You that I am awesomely and wonderfully made. Because that's all You know how to do. You only can do wonderful. You only can do awesome. So, Lord, we give You things today. We're sorry for not recognizing the beauty of how You created us and who You created us to be. We're sorry for spending so much time trying to become someone else."

Oh, my goodness, this is not in my notes, but I can just sense so strongly that some of you have spent so much of your time trying to become who you think you should be instead of stepping into who God's already created you to be. There's so much joy when you step into the purpose of God and the calling of God. And then you walk with those gifts that He has given to you, and they match, and they go together. There's such joy in that! So, I urge you, continue to declare to the Lord, "Thank You. My soul knows well that I am your workmanship. You created me. Therefore, You created me beautifully, awesomely, and wonderfully."

Let's look at verse 15: "My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret and skillfully formed..." (Skillfully formed; God, with His ability, skillfully formed you.) "...skillfully formed in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my formless substance, and in Your book were written all

the days that were ordained for me, when, as yet, there were none of them." You were not only created with the perfect knowledge, wisdom, and skill of God, but there were days that were ordained for you. God created your days; ordained, just like your calling is holy, your days are ordained by God who knows everything about everything and who says if you lose your life, you'll actually find it. You find your life when you're walking in these ordained days that have been written in His book that He's not going to change His mind on. You can't talk God out of your calling, how He designed you, or the way He ordained your days. You will fulfill that calling when you begin to walk in these ordained days, and we'll talk about a little bit more of that in another part of this series. So, you are His workmanship. You've been created before you were even in your mother's womb. He'd already designed you intentionally, and marvelous are you!

Now I want to talk about being created in Christ Jesus. Turn with me to 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. Because again, Ephesians 2:10 says we're His workmanship, and that we were created in Christ Jesus. So, I want to just remind you of what that means. Verse 17 of 2 Corinthians 5: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; old things have passed away..." (Let them go; they passed away, they're not in existence anymore.) "...behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has us reconciled to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation..." So, not only

are you purposefully designed by God before you are in your mother's womb, not only are your days ordained, but you are also in Christ Jesus. Which means the old stuff, the old life, the "before Jesus" life--that's dead. It's over. It's passed away. Now that you're in Christ, all things have become new. So many of you are walking in the old because you haven't recognized that in Christ Jesus there's newness of life for you. So He has made all things new, and now all things are of God. Everything now comes into alignment to who God is and who He's created us to be. You've been completely transformed from the inside out.

You know, I mentioned earlier that I was a perfectionist, people pleaser for at least 32 years of my life. And when you're a perfectionist, people pleaser, you try to bring change, but it's always from the outside in. You're trying to adjust behavior, you're trying to adjust the outward things, and it's a losing battle. And so you deal with a lot of discouragement, even sometimes depression. But when you recognize that you are in Christ Jesus, the old things have passed away, and that all things now are new from the inside, you allow what God is doing on the inside then to begin to reveal itself on the outside. It's the difference between what Jesus told the Pharisees. The Pharisees were real concerned about the outside. He said, "You're concerned about the outside of the cup. Let the transformation of God come inside, and that transformation will eventually be visible on the outside." So, you have newness of life you need to tap into. In other words, if you were

in bondage to sin, if you were addicted, some kind of an addiction to alcohol or to drugs, before you were in Christ, receive the newness of life because in Christ you're no longer addicted. Your body needs to catch up with the truth. You are in Christ Jesus. You're no longer that same person, so you have actually been freed from sin. Again, there's just so much in what it means to be in Christ. But you are in Christ Jesus, old things have passed away. Behold, all things are new and they're of God; you've been completely transformed. So, you've been transformed completely from the inside. The transformation is from the inside and you're being transformed on the outside. It's evident that transformation has taken place.

But notice that all of this being a good work, being God's workmanship, and being created in Christ Jesus is for something: it's for good works. That's what Ephesians 2:10 says, "You've been created in Christ Jesus for good works." Now, I want to read to you from Ephesians 2:8-9, just so that we can clarify something. This is really important. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." I love Ephesians 2:1-9; it's powerful because it talks about while we were in the midst of sin, God loved us. And it's just this beautiful passage of how lost we were until we met Christ. And so, this salvation in verses 8 and 9 is talking about a salvation because of the love of God, and the grace of God that has nothing to do with

your works. You can never be good enough to earn salvation. You can never be perfect enough, no matter how close you may come, to earn salvation. Salvation only comes by faith in Christ Jesus, period.

So, this is really, really important. Otherwise, we live our lives trying to prove something to God. Or, we live our lives out of this servanthood mindset of "I'm just here to do what God says and not to transgress His sins." But it's not this communion of fellowship, where transformation comes from the inside out. It makes a really big difference. God has called us to serve Him, absolutely. But He's called us to serve Him from a position of sonship and daughtership, as sons and daughters, not from a place of a distant servant, just doing what I've told You to do. And so it is really important that we catch Ephesians 2:1-9, that we understand we were messed up without Jesus, and it's His kindness and His goodness that has brought this great salvation. So, we were not saved because we worked and we tried really hard. And now God says, "You've tried good enough, now you're saved." No. It's very clear. This salvation was by grace, through faith in Christ. And not of works. Not of works. You cannot earn salvation. Why is this so important? Well, because verse ten clarifies that you are not saved by your works, but you were saved for good works. See the difference? When you think you're saved by works, you're always trying to perform to make God happy with you. When you realize that salvation comes through grace, there's this beautiful

freedom that you are connected with God and have communion with God because of what Jesus did. But now what you do, you do it out of this abundance of the salvation, such a great salvation, that has come.

So we were not saved by works, but we were saved for works, and not just any kind of work. Remember back what I shared in a previous teaching, that we've been called to a holy calling. So part of these works are are that holy calling; these are good works. You know, the American language we use good for like good food, like, "I had good In-n-Out today" or "I had good Taco Bell" or "I feel good." We use it in different ways to express something that really almost sounds like it's pretty good. Like it's nice, it's average. And so when we read this, that we're in Christ Jesus for good works, we don't recognize the depth of what that word good means. We just think, "Yeah, we've been saved, and we've been created purposely for some good works, some average, nice kind of works." No, it's the works that God prepared for us, which means that they are holy, they are fruitful, they're powerful, they're effective. They bring life not only to us, but to others around us. These are not casual works. These are the things that we do because we love God and we love people. It's the things that God prepared beforehand. It's the days that were ordained for us. These are the works. These are not casual works. These are holy, separated kind of works. So, we were not saved by works, but we were saved for good works. The God-kind of works. And let me tell you, works does say

action; God does call us to action. We cannot separate the fact that when we are saved, we're called to do some things. I know it's important we talk about how important it is being a son, being a daughter. Yes, absolutely. But we cannot neglect the fact that God has called us to do some things, that there is an action, there are works that He has called us to do. And so, it's important to remember that we were created for action, effective action, action that makes a difference, the kind of action that we'll be so glad we did at the end of our lives.

In John 14:12, Jesus said this: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. Interesting. Jesus is talking again about works, and He's saying the person that believes in Me will do the works that I've done. Well, what did Jesus do? He preached. He healed, He delivered. He set free. He raised the dead. I mean, we could just go through the Gospels; Jesus did quite a few works! In the book of Acts, I believe it says, in talking about Jesus, how He went about doing good. He would go about doing good. He would go about showing who the Father was. And Jesus also said, "I don't do anything unless I see the Father do it." So the works that Jesus would do would be the things that God had prepared for Him, the things that God would show Him to do and were designed for Him to live out these good works, fruitful works. And Jesus said, "Some of those works are the things that I did. Again, preach the gospel, heal the

sick, raise the dead, heal the brokenhearted." Luke 4: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me..." to do some things; those are works. The Spirit of the Lord is upon you to do some of these works. Jesus said, "The works that I do, you'll do, and even greater because I go to My Father." What does that mean? "When I go to My Father, He will send you the Holy Spirit that will enable you to do the works that I did." So, part of the works that you're called to do is to preach the gospel, heal the brokenhearted, heal the sick. That's right, set at liberty those that are oppressed, raise the dead. Bring hope. Bring life, speak wisdom. These are the things we are called to. These are good works. It shouldn't intimidate or discourage you because, again, you've been saved by grace. You weren't saved because God said, "Okay, they're going to do a nice job. So then I'm going to call them. Now I'm going to give them a holy calling." No, this grace, this calling, of yours is because of God's grace.

But isn't that wonderful that God doesn't call us to live average lives? I don't know about you, but the last thing I want to do is live an average American life. No, no, I want to do what Jesus did! What a beautiful invitation! Jesus says, "You're going to do what I did." You and I have been called to do the works that He did. This is part of Ephesians 2:10, the good works which God prepared beforehand, and even greater than Jesus. Peter's shadow healed people; it never states that Jesus' shadow healed people, but Peter's did. I'm sure that "greater" can be looked at as

quantity, because there are so many of us who believe in Christ, that the multitude, the explosion of signs and wonders, the works, would increase. But also, I believe that just in the greater miracles, in the greater ways that God would use us.

So again, I want to say to you, part of the works that God has called you to do is just to do what Jesus did. And if you're not sure what He did, read through the Gospels. I particularly love the book of Luke because it so depicts who Jesus is, how He thought, how He ministered, why He ministered the way He did. So, if you want to know what you're supposed to be doing, read through the book of Luke specifically, and do those works, and even greater. And again, it should stir your heart! This is an invitation to walk with God and see miraculous things take place in your life. It shouldn't be a pressure because you can't do it by yourself anyway. God's saying, "No, no, no, I've already prepared these works for you. Just do them. Walk in them."

So, let's finish up. I'm going to read Matthew 5:14-16, talking about these works. It says this: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." So again, Jesus is using an illustration here. He's saying, you are the light of the world, a city set on a hill. It can't be hidden. It's up on

the hill. The lights are on. Everybody can see it. And He says, "Do they light a lamp and put it under a basket?" No. Lamps are made to bring light. And Jesus is saying, "That's who you are. You are made, you were purposed and designed to be light. But He gives a further instruction. He says, "But let your light so shine ... let it shine so much that they may see your good works." Well, I thought we were supposed to live because we loved Jesus, not to be seen by man. Yes, Jesus actually addressed that; when your whole life is to be seen and recognized by man, He's got some teachings on that, too. But I want you to understand that there's a purity to the call of God that we are supposed to be light to the point that people can actually see the good works that we do. But notice what those good works do. They glorify the Father in heaven. Why? Because people realize that couldn't happen without God. People can be nice without God, but people can't heal bodies without God. I understand medical doctors, but you know what I'm talking about. I'm talking about the supernatural power of God, coming in the works that Jesus did that testify of who God is. So Jesus' instruction to us is don't hide your light. No, no! You were designed to be a light wherever you go, so that as you're doing these works from Ephesians 2:10, these good works, that people would so see those good works, they would say, "There is a God! He's real, He has to be because these things can't happen without Him!" I want my life to be a testament that there's a real God. If people look at my life and if everything about my life just looks like Kimberly could do it, I'll be so

disappointed because I have said to the Lord, "I want my life to be evident that it could only be You, that it is You working in me and through me." What a beautiful invitation to let our light so shine before people. Not because we need their affirmation, their encouragement, or we're trying to build an audience to ourselves, but so that we reflect who God is. And as we're doing these works, it brings evidence to who God is, and they begin to glorify God as God of heaven and the Father of all.

I want to close with this again from Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." And again, as we've looked at Psalm 139, that these works have already been prepared beforehand for us, as our days were ordained in His book, they were already established. So, when did God prepare these works? Before the foundations of the world. Before you were in your mother's womb. God had works and He designed you to work together. And it is a good thing. And He's not changing His mind. So, you've been prepared by God in totality because you're His workmanship and you're created in Christ Jesus. So, whatever deficiency there is, because you're a human being through the grace of God, it is made up, so that we can fulfill the plan that He has for us. Your days--this is where the works that we do are in alignment with our design. The works that we're called to do, I should say, are in alignment with how God designed us. You need to check out your gifts, find out

what they are. God, what gifting did You give me? You know, one of the challenges of recognizing your gifts is that they don't feel like gifts. They feel so natural. There are some people that cook and they cook without cookbooks. They don't look at measurements, they just naturally do it, and it's good. I could do that, too, but it may not be good; I'm talking about people that just do it and their stuff turns out so good and you're thinking, "You're so gifted!" and they're like, "Oh no, it's not gifting. It's just my mother used to do that." No, you've been gifted! We can overlook our gifts because they come so naturally. But that's because God gave them to us to be used. Every gift needs to be used for the Kingdom of God.

So, what gifts do you have that you haven't awakened to, that God's been waiting for you to wake up and recognize that is a gift because that will be a part of the works that you do in these ordained days that God has prepared for you. So, this design, I just think it's so marvelous that God designed us and made us in Christ and then gave us gifts and a calling, a holy calling. And by grace, we're called to fulfill His purposes here on earth. Your destiny has been prepared by God, and the fulfillment of your destiny is based on you doing the great works that He prepared for you. Not only will this bring life to you, but brothers and sisters, these works will glorify God and will reconcile many to God once again.