

The Joy and Struggle of Creative Pursuits: By Erica Jermanus

In this short ebook, I talk about some of the joys and struggles of pursuing your creativity and purpose. I hope and pray that this book will be a blessing and help to you. I pray that this book will help you to pursue your purpose and to put your gifts and talents to use for the kingdom of God in Jesus Christ mighty name amen.

Some of the joys of pursuing your creativity and purpose include: enjoyment, fulfillment, and satisfaction. When you are pursuing your purpose, you will have a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. You feel completed in a way because you are doing what you are called to do, and you are serving Christ and fulfilling your God-given purpose. You will also love what you do because it is a gift that was given to you by God. So, when you do what God has created you to do, you feel happy and content. You are putting to use the gifts that God has given you for His glory and for the kingdom of God.

When you are fulfilling your purpose, you will have a sense of peace and joy that could only come from Jesus Christ and serving Him. You will try to do other things that just do not bring you the peace that comes when you are fulfilling your God given assignment.

When you are serving God, the peace that you get comes from God's presence and from your relationship with Him. Out of that relationship with Jesus Christ will flow your spiritual gifts and talents. When you serve God and have a relationship with Him, you will then feel compelled to want to serve Him. It is because of your love for God that you want to serve and do His will. He has called you for a greater purpose, and He has a perfect plan for your life that does not look like our plans.

Another joy of pursuing creativity and purpose is exploration. God has not called us to our comfort zones. But He called us to step out in faith and do what may be uncomfortable in the moment. That may mean exploring new things that you have never done before. Maybe it is trying a new hobby not knowing that the hobby is your passion and your purpose. You may start working at a new job that you have never worked at before, and you will learn new skills and get new experience from that job. You find out that you love that job, and that you are not just working for a paycheck, but you are working for a purpose and that is to serve Christ and one another in the love of God.

So, when you are exploring new things, that is when you find the will of God for your life. You find out what you are called to do. You find out where you can work and what you can do for God and His glory and His kingdom. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." 1

Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

You can also find out what you are good at and what your passion is by trying new hobbies, and you find out those are your strengths, and you are able to turn those strengths into a purpose to serve Christ in His kingdom. You may love to write, paint, draw, cook, bake, clean, etc. Whatever that may be, you can turn it into a purpose and it can become your calling. You can use your calling to serve God and bring souls into the kingdom of God. You can write books to minister to lost souls. Or you can sing songs and write lyrics to bring souls to Christ. Or you can cook and bake for the homeless or use your skills to help and bless others in need.

1 Peter 4:10 says, “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 Peter 4:11 says, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

Next joy that comes with fulfilling your purpose is that it connects you with others. When you are using your gifts and talents, you may meet new people. For example, you may start a business or a ministry, and you will talk to people about your products or services, and it may lead to establishing relationships and friendships. Those people that God brings into your life can be a blessing to your ministry or business.

Those people can support you and you can support, and bless them too with what you have to offer them. You can offer them your love and your gifts and talents through the work that you are doing for God and His glory. You can minister to the lost souls in need of Christ by sharing the gospel and sharing your faith with them. They may be saved and receive Christ as their

Lord and Savior because of you ministering to them and sharing the gospel and because of your love in action and not just in your words. Your words are powerful, but what's even more powerful is your actions behind your words. What you do for God and His kingdom is what will matter for eternity.

Next, the next joy of serving your purpose and using your creativity is that you will get rewards in the kingdom of heaven for the work on earth that you do for God and His kingdom and glory. If your work continues for the gospel continues to endure, you will get rewards in the kingdom of heaven. God is going to reward you for your obedience and sacrifice to Him. When you continue to show up and put in the work that is needed, you will bear fruit and that fruit will produce a harvest of souls in the kingdom of God.

Another joy of fulfilling your purpose is self-expression. You can express yourself through art, music, writing, cooking, baking. When you express yourself, it brings out the real you and the you that God has called and created you to be on this earth. That is when you express yourself in what you're doing, not for selfish gain, but for the glory of God. What you're doing is

bring God's glory through your music, writing, and art. It is an act of worship to Him, and it makes Him smile and it makes you smile, and brings joy and happiness, because what you're doing is your calling and purpose, and you love to do it.

Also, when you are pursuing your purpose, it can lead you to increased well-being. You will be healthier and more productive in your work and in your mind and body. You will also be taking care of your temple and the body that God has given you. That is because what you are doing you are doing for Jesus Christ and His glory, and you are doing it to serve Him and to love others and love yourself. So, it helps you to be healthy in your mind, body, and soul.

It is also helping you to be a better person so that you can continue to serve Christ and do His work and will on this earth. It is important that we are doing the will of God and not our own will. So, when you are serving Christ, you are doing His will, whether you are working a job or career or starting a business, writing a book, or serving at your church. It is all for Him and His glory.

Now, I will talk about the struggles that come with creativity and purpose. The first struggle is a fear of failure. You may feel that you are unworthy or not good enough to serve God and to fulfill your purpose or calling. You may feel like you cannot do the job that you are called to do. You may feel like you are not good enough for the job or that you have tried to do something hard, and you failed the first time, so you want to give up and not continue. I know we have all been there before. So, that can be a struggle. We have believed the lies of the enemy telling us these things and making us feel like we are not good enough or worthy enough. Rebuke the enemy and his lies and stand on the word of God and His promises about your situation or your life.

Another struggle can be self-doubt. We may start to doubt ourselves and what God can do in and through our lives. We may start to doubt God and lose faith or hope in Him. That is what the enemy wants for us. The enemy wants us to lose faith and hope and to be hopeless or faithless instead of continuing to believe and have hope. So, that is when we need to renew our minds in the word of God and come back to who we are in Christ and our identity in Him. When we know

who we are and our worth and value in Christ, we will not easily fall prey to the enemy's lies. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Other struggles that can affect creativity and purpose are meeting deadlines, expectations, and the pressures or demands of life. We may feel like we need to meet a certain person's expectations or we need to meet a job's expectations, so we try to please them, and we try to overwork ourselves to the maximum. This can cause you to feel overwhelmed and stressed out and even anxious about life. This can also cause a person to not be as creative and to not fulfill their purpose on the job or even after the job is over, because of feelings of doubt, fear, worry, and stress.

But whenever you are faced with something like this, you may need to let go of certain things that may not be God's will for your life. You may need to let go of people's expectations of you and let go of trying to be perfect and trying to please men. That is when you will experience true freedom. You will have so much peace when you are doing the will of God because you know

that is where He wants you to be. Matthew 11:28-30 says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Another struggle with creativity may be resistance to change or to trying new things, meeting new people, and going to new places. We may not experience all that God has for us because we are unwilling to change or to want change in our lives. We may not want to try the new things that God is calling us to do, such as working a new job or career, or starting a new business, or writing a new book. But when we go ahead and do it, we will have peace and joy and fulfillment that comes from doing that thing God is leading us to do. Proverbs 16:9 says, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."

Lastly, what may hinder creativity is a lack of clarity and vision or goals. You may not know what you are called to do or what God wants to do with our lives. You may not know what your purpose is. But when you ask God

to show you what His will is for your life, that is when you can pursue your creativity, passion, and purpose in life for His glory. So, you may need to write down your ideas on paper and just choose an idea and start that idea.

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Habakkuk 2:2-3 says, "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." It helps to write down your ideas on paper so that you can execute those ideas and put them in practice into your life. When you put those ideas to work in action, you will find creativity and purpose again.

You can even ask God to show you what He wants you to do with your life and how He wants you to serve your purpose. He will lead and guide you and show you what His will is for you and how you can use your gifts and talents to serve Him and others. Then, you can go ahead and take that next step of action by doing the

things that are needed to fulfill your purpose and destiny.