

You weren't created just to work, go through hard times, have regrets, and then die. No! You were created for relationship with the Most High, for love like this world cannot comprehend. For freedom. For worship. To let the Light of the World chase away the darkness within and all around you with the power of His love. To LIVE. Abundantly. In His felt presence. Forever.

Are you living what you were created for?

LET GOD BE YOUR TIME-MANAGER

Ecclesiastes 3:1; Philippians 4:13; Proverbs 3:5-7; Isaiah 55:6-9

Burnout happens when you're doing more than God has asked you to, or you're doing it in your own power.

As I hand my schedule over to the Lord day after day, month after month, year after year, I've found an astounding principle at work in oneness with Him:

Moving in God's empowering and through His guidance, I accomplish more than is humanly possible! Philippians 4:13.

So many times, a task has been laid before me that should take days or even weeks to accomplish, but the Lord miraculously completed it in just a few hours!

Of course, not every situation is like that. Sometimes, He takes His time so I can learn the lessons needed along the way, or so He can use that situation to draw others into His love. But certainly, He has triumphed over time and the "impossible" often enough to make me never want to step out on my own again. I only want to do what He's doing, when He's doing it, and in His power. Forget my own agendas. I want God's!

This day planner is helpful for organizing and keeping track of busy schedules, but its main intention is to guide you into deeper depths with Christ, as you build new life-changing habits to enjoy the Spirit's empowering every moment of every day. (See the accompanying devotional Bible study, *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder*, and the *Delight to Be a Woman of Wonder Prayer Journal*.)

How many meetings you plan, how smart you are at homeschooling your kids, how many Bible studies you teach, how great you are at your job, or how many things you accomplish in a day isn't as important as how well you have loved. Matthew 22:37-40.

And love starts with God. 1 John 4:7.

So does your day. Psalm 5:3; 130:6; 143:8.

Whatever your habit is when you first wake up in the morning — whether you worry yourself out of bed with a million things on your to-do list, or roll over with a groan and a pillow over your head

— if you want to live a truly powerful life, then start a new habit: Let your first thought be Jesus.

Before you open your eyes, before you think of all the things you have to do, before you feel the pressure of the coming battles, ... think Jesus. And hand Him your day.

Ask Him what He wants to do in you and through you that day. Is there anything on your schedule He hasn't asked you to do? Or anything you're not doing yet that He's asking you to do? Look for His leading all throughout the day. Ask Him how He sees each situation and person, and be willing for Him to speak and act through you. Proverbs 3:5-7 says to seek the Lord in all your ways, and He will direct your paths.

Even small things we think don't matter can turn out miraculous when we hand them to the Lord.

Years ago, during a particularly stressful time in my life, I started purposing to make Jesus my first thought before I got out of bed each morning. I'd ask Him questions, like the ones on page 7, or just rest in His arms. Then I'd get up and head out into life's battles, purposing to seek Him and worship my way through the day. I often forgot, of course, especially in the beginning, because it wasn't yet my habit. But I used those stressful times as a bold reminder to hand my every thought back to Jesus and ask Him for His. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

One morning, I asked Him what to make for breakfast. "French toast" popped into my head, so I put on some worship music as I made it, and let my heart sing along. I realized the toast would either burn or get cold if I left it to wake the kids. So I asked Him to wake them up for me. Besides, I knew if He awakened them, they'd wake up much happier.

A few moments later, my daughter came in, rubbing sleepy eyes. When she saw what was on the stove, her face brightened. "French toast? Oh, I wanted French toast. How did you know?"

"Jesus told me," I grinned.

She threw her arms around my legs and laughed. "Jesus loves me!"

Then my son came in. "How did you know I wanted French toast?"

"Jesus told Mommy," my daughter giggled. Then they danced about the kitchen together, saying, "Jesus loves me! Jesus loves me!"

Had I not handed that seemingly insignificant decision to God, I would have missed the miracle. I couldn't even have begun to imagine such a powerful lesson of faith that has marked both my kids and me for life. They saw how personal God's love is, and I learned how He wants to take each everyday moment and make it a

God-awesome one.

Walking as one with the Lord all the time takes practice, though. I have to purpose to ask Him questions and listen for His answers. To invite Him into my daily situations and look for what He's doing. To seek His will before I make decisions, no matter how small.

That may seem burdensome, but it is freeing! I have no idea what my children need, but God does. I don't know what challenges I'll face at work each day, but He does. Come to think of it, I know almost nothing compared to all my Sovereign knows! So, handing everything over to Him is not only safe, it's wise, freeing, exciting, and even fun.

Now, He's the One Who awakens me each morning telling me what He wants to do that day, or singing over me about how much He loves me. I feel His joy at yet another day filled with His purposes and surprises. And what used to stress me out is now just another adventure in crawling up onto His Eagle wings and soaring over it together with Him. Isaiah 40:27-31, Exodus 19:4.

But my life hasn't always been that way. At first, it felt awkward to ask Him before I thought or did anything, because I was so used to doing things my way. But once constant surrender became a habit, not surrendering and not walking in the Spirit's power felt wrong.

Some people argue there's no need to seek God all the time. Just make decisions. He put you in that position, after all, so surely it's because you already know what needs to be done.

But such reasoning from man does not agree with the Word of God. Proverbs 3:5-7. The Most High calls us to humility and surrender, not pride and control. He didn't create us and then throw us out into the world to do things on our own. He created us for relationship, for oneness with Him, as we listen to His voice and follow His lead. John 14:15-27.

If we're about ourselves and what we think ought to happen, we'll miss the joy of joining with God in the great and mighty things He wants to make happen in us, through us, and even despite us.

WALK AS ONE WITH THE WORD

Psalm 31:14-15a; John 5:19, 14:15-27, 15:1-17; Psalm 3:5

This journal day planner is set up to help you organize your time such that it belongs to God. If you'd like further help in hearing His voice, walking in the Spirit, and influencing others to do the same, visit www.MoreThanAConquerorBooks.com for deep Bible studies, devotionals, and prayer journals to further your journey to oneness.

Suggested instructions for Power Planning:

1. Use conversation-openers like the ones on page 7 for your first thoughts before you get out of bed.
2. Then, as you go into your quiet time, seek God for His word for you for that day. This will usually be a verse or message from His heart. As you get used to listening to His voice, hearing Him will become easier, but whatever He says will always agree with what Scripture says and God's heart of love and grace (see the Three-Fold Sieve on page 9), so it's important to spend time every day getting to know the Word Himself (John 1:1, 14) by reading what He says. In the space provided each morning in this power planner, write what He tells you from His heart for that day.
3. Then as you go about the day, look for what God is doing and follow Him there. If you forget, don't worry. Just keep turning your thoughts back to Him whenever you remember. You can ask Him questions like, "What are You doing in this situation?" "What do You want me to do now?" or, "Lord, I think.... What do You think?"
4. At the end of the day, write how God did what He told you He would that morning, how you saw His love displayed, what He taught you, how He used you, or whatever else He did.

BEFORE YOU OPEN YOUR EYES..

Isaiah 50:4; Psalm 139; Psalm 63:6; Psalm 119:148

Suggested conversation-openers to start your day with Jesus:

- Lord, here's my day. It's yours and I'm yours to do with as You will.
- What do You want to do today? I want to join You there.
- Is there a word You have for me today?
- Is there something You want to show me or teach me?
- What verses will I need for what I'm about to face today?
- Lord, how do You want me to bless my husband (roommate, children, mother, father, friend, rival, etc.)?
- Is there anything I'm planning to do You haven't asked me to do?
- Is there anything You want me to do I'm not doing yet?
- Surprise me today, Lord. Delight me with your love in some sweet, miraculous way that I'll know that I know that it's from You.

That last one is my favorite. Finding His hidden kisses in my day deepens my passion for Him and my ability to feel His presence and flow in His love. John 14:15.

TIME FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE

Luke 5:16; Psalm 42; Mark 1:35

Another habit you'll need to walk as one with Christ is to make time, just as Jesus did, for extended times alone with God. You may want to take one day alone with Him each month, or a half-day every other week, or even an overnight, and go someplace quiet and apart from your busy life. But however God leads you, those special hours you take to be alone with Him will become markers in your life. Your intimacy will grow, and He will give you valuable instructions for battles yet to come.

But if you neglect to spend time with God, you'll be like a maid scurrying about to serve your Master, rather than a wife who knows her Husband's heart intimately and takes joy in Him. Hosea 2:14-20. Far more precious to Jesus than your service is your love. Luke 10:38-42.

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S VOICE

John 10:27; Psalm 27

If you're like many Christians, that French toast adventure might be a bit out of your box. Maybe you believe God doesn't speak, or that He speaks to others but not to you.

Sometimes we can't hear the Lord—not because He isn't speaking, but because sin or lies like the above two are drawing us away.

God Almighty loves to whisper, to draw us in so near we have to tune in to hear Him. James 4:8, 1 Kings 19:9-13.

He speaks all the time and in many different ways. Here are just a few the Bible mentions:

- The Word (Bible) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Circumstances (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Psalm 40:1-3)
- Others (1 Corinthians 2:4-13)
- His still small voice in your mind and heart (Psalm 42:8)
- Dreams and visions (Acts 2:17)
- Impressions or urgings (Acts 15:28)
- A sense of peace (Philippians 4:7)
- Signs and wonders (Acts 2:17-21)
- Nature (Psalm 125; 19:1-4)

The key to hearing God's voice is obedience. Each time you step out in faith to do what He's telling you to do, His voice gets louder.

So, if God has been talking to you, but you've dismissed His voice with thoughts like, "That's just me," or "What if that's the enemy trying to trick me?" or "I'm so crazy I'm talking to myself," or "I'll

get back to that later; I'm busy now," ... then you have closed the door in Jesus' face.

You must leave the door to your heart open to God in order to hear Him clearly. If you're not sure it's Him, then

1. Hand God what you're thinking and ask Him if it's from Him.
2. Run it through the Three-fold Sieve (page 9).
3. If you're still not sure, take a step of faith and say, "God, it feels like You're asking me to ..., so I'm headed that way. If that's not what You want me to do, then please make that clear."

God is for you. Any mistakes you make in listening are not a failure, but an opportunity to grow. Ask Him what went wrong, learn what He's teaching you, and seek Him all the more. Jeremiah 29:11-13.

More important than how loudly you hear God's voice is the condition of your heart. Pride opens the door to the enemy and makes it easier to mistake his voice or your own for God's. But a humble heart is surrendered to God, and draws Him near. Numbers 12:3, Exodus 33:11, Proverbs 8:13, James 4:7-8.

So, lay down all your opinions and ideas at Jesus' feet and ask Him for His. If you can't hear Him straight away, just keep your questions open before Him and then go about your day. Like a treasure hunt, His answers may show up in unexpected places.

I was still learning to listen to God's voice when "French toast" popped into my head. I didn't know for sure it was God. After all, there's no verse in the Bible about French toast. But I had asked God what to cook, and that's what came to mind. So that's what I did. Every step you take in surrender, with your heart wide open to God to do anything He wants to do in you and through you, is a step deeper into oneness.

And it's that oneness that makes you a Woman of Wonder with a front-row seat to His greatness, as you watch Him do powerful things in you, through you, and all around you. I want to be like a ring on His finger, pointing to His beauty, and just along for the ride, as He does marvelous things all around me by His mighty hand.

THREE-FOLD SIEVE TO MAKE SURE IT'S GOD'S VOICE:

1. Does what you feel God saying line up with His Word — not just one portion, but all of it?
2. Does it line up with God's character — especially His love and grace? 1 John 4:16, Matthew 22:37-40.
3. Does it draw you/others closer to Him?

2022

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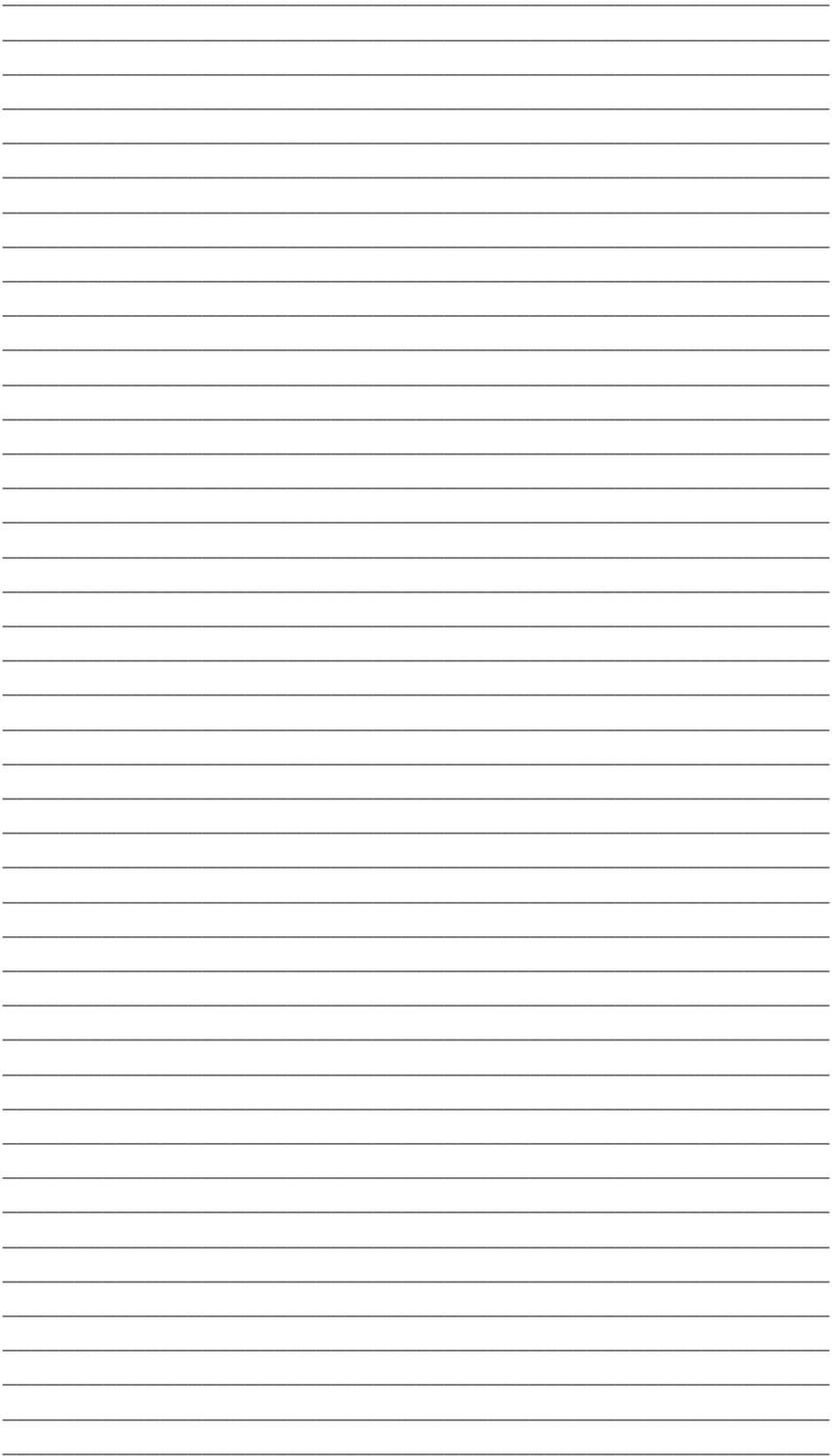
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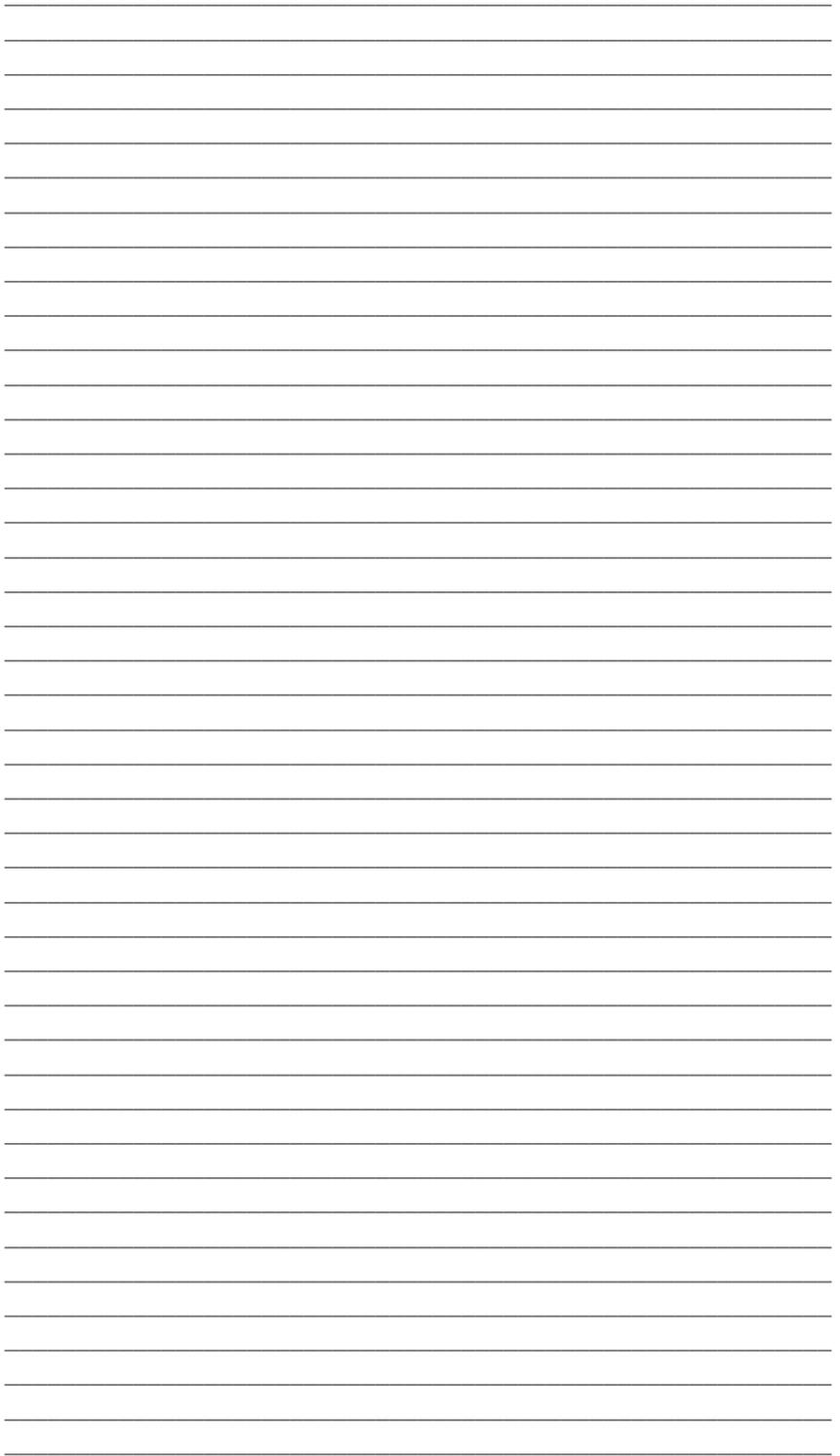
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JANUARY 2022

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

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