



## CHAPTER ONE

# You Are God's Book— Respect the Process

*You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life  
was recorded in Your book. Every moment was  
laid out before a single day had passed.*

(PSALM 139:16 NLT)

God is the author of your story! Every good story has a multi-dimensional character who experiences inner struggles, outer conflicts, and a satisfying “aha moment” where everything finally comes together for that character. You can't go to a bookstore, pick up a book, tear out the happy parts that you like, and then move on. If you pick up that book and you want those eight pages that you like, then you will have to buy all the other pages. And to live a successful life in all the other chapters of your book, you're going to need to faith it to the last page! God is crafting a marvelous book about each one of us, and in order to get to complete wholeness we must first understand our life is a series of processes all built to create us into the person God wants us to be. Don't worry! Your “aha moment” is on the way!





## Faithing It

I started dating my (now) husband, Brandon, six years ago and boy we were head over heels in love! When you are that in love, you have the tendency to want to move really quickly. Whenever we would feel the “urge” to move quickly, Brandon would look at me and say, “We have to respect the process.” At the time, though, it was so difficult. Although I knew what he meant, I had to patiently realize that there was a process that had to be implemented in order for us to get to our ultimate goal. We loved each other and we were grown, but it was not a time for “urgencies” and we had to respect the process. I had to grow more, and he did too.

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All great things come with a process. Was it hard for Brandon and me? Indeed! At first it was very hard, and then it became easy as God grew and matured us. We faced trials for sure and gained major perseverance, but at the end of the day it was our respect for our process that got us to our goal. Really, in all honesty, trusting God *is* the process. Allowing Him to lead you is the ultimate maturity.

## You Can't Skip the Process

You have to understand that “the process” is a normal way of life. When you think about the basic things of life, there's a process. When you are getting ready to cook for your family, you pick something out, then you build a grocery list, and





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then you have to go get the groceries, and preheat the oven, and prepare your meal. The meal cannot come forth without a process, and if you do not go through the process your family will be hungry. Even when you are tired, working, and things are going crazy, you have to cook and you have to go to the grocery store. You cannot skip the process. No matter how easy the meal is, you cannot skip the process to get there.

When you are crying out to God for Him to do something and it does not come through, you wonder, *Lord, why are You blessing everyone else connected to me, but not blessing me?* It is in that very moment in the middle of your WHY that God is telling you to respect the process—“trust Me.” It is in your maturity and completeness where you realize God is for you, and what He said He would fulfill, He will, but you must trust Him.

Our lives are living testaments of several processes both big and small. In our relationships of life there is a process. The point is, you can't run away from the process. You have to face it. If you want to be a wife, a husband, or even someone's significant other, you have to go through a process.

Being in a relationship you will have obstacles, ups and downs, but it's all a process in order to get you to your promise. God is asking you to face your process, face your trials, and when you can believe God in the midst of your trial, then, and only then, you will not lack anything. Your promise is in your problems. Those problems are there so you do not lack anything. God wants you to mature and become complete. Now when we look at “complete” I know that can be confusing, but it means that He wants you to be whole—He wants you to be full. The book of James tells us about the process that brings us to maturity:





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*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so **that you may be mature and complete**, not lacking anything (James 1:2-4 NIV).*

*It's all a process in order to get you to your promise.*

Perseverance as defined on Google is “steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.” James 1 tells us that the testing of our faith will bring perseverance. So God was simply saying, yes, we will face trials, and yes, it is going to be hard. But the good news is that our current hardship is going to develop steadfastness in whatever we do, despite difficulty or delay in our leap of faith.

Are you looking for purpose? Chances are your purpose and your plan are right there in your face. Let me explain how this happened to me.

## The Chapter in My Book that I Didn't Like

As I entered adulthood, I felt pretty steady and secure. I had realized one dream of working with children, and God loved me enough to allow me to meet the love of my life—an amazing man and artist, Brandon Coleman a.k.a. Skii (Sky) Ventura, and my life as far as I knew it was going great. Then I hit another obstacle. I mentioned in





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the introduction to this book the accident that I was in when Brandon and I were engaged to be married. Since that time, I've been in the fight of my life. I am currently dealing with the diagnosis that I will not get pregnant without fertility treatments due to PCOS (Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome). This very diagnosis is one of the reasons why I wrote this book.

After hearing such horrible news, right when we were ready to marry and start a family, I was heartbroken. I didn't like this chapter in my book at all! Yet again, here I was going through "everything that a young woman goes through." For years, I dreamed of becoming a mother, not to mention the fact that I had "mothered" countless children in my day care work and as the Children's Ministry Director of the Potter's House of Dallas. Now to hear I would not have children—I was disappointed beyond belief. But I did not let that stop me from trying, preparing, and getting ready to become a mother.

Often we let what the world says detour us from our desire and from what God said would happen. Then instead of even trying, we stop fighting altogether. Not me! I shook myself off and I looked for ways to make my dream come true. I became a mom to my beautiful daughter through adoption. I experienced the miracle of choosing my beautiful daughter. You don't have to birth a child in order to be a mom. With that being said, never make a backup plan for what God promised you. Keep the faith in the promise! When I was a little girl, I had a dream one night of being a mom to a son. I am holding on to the promise of my son from God, and I won't and can't stop faithing it until it comes to fruition.

You have to make up your mind to fight for your promise! The power is in your fight, so FIGHT FOR IT! You can do it.





## Faithing It with Perseverance

God is developing your purpose through your trial, and it's likely that you are currently in the process—meaning a series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end. The process of life cannot come without perseverance. Beware! You can lose your promise when you do not match the two together. It is important that whatever you go through in life, you go through it with perseverance while faithing it for your promise.

Whenever I think of perseverance, I think of my favorite story in the Bible—Job (pronounced Jobe). Maybe you've heard someone say, "It's been a Job day." That means, "I am having an incredibly difficult day and everything that *could* go wrong, *did* go wrong!" Job was a man of God, and an entire book of the Bible is named after Job and is dedicated to his story. Let me tell you a little bit about Job!

You see, the Bible says Job was an upright man, and because of the greatness that he sought, he was chosen to go through great trials. How crazy is it that? We get chosen to go through great trials when we are Christians? What sense does that make to go through problems when you are a child of the King? What if I told you that you were chosen to go through trials because you are a child of the King seeking righteousness, and the enemy wants to destroy your promise and your ability to prosper?

Here's how it went down. Satan went to God in heaven to accuse the people on earth. (Satan still accuses God's people, even today.) When satan accused the people living on the earth during Job's day, God said to satan, "Have you considered My servant Job?"





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Satan replied, “No wonder Job’s so righteous. Look at that hedge of protection You’ve put around him! Take down that hedge and I’ll get him to curse You” (see Job 1:8–11).

God allowed satan a limited access to Job, and Job lost everything but his life. He got sick, he was shaken, he was broken, yet he never once cursed God—although he did curse himself. There will be times in life when you wonder where God is, and He is standing right there, but He is taking you through the process in order to bless you. You must understand that the enemy is not hitting you without God’s permission. You need to know that the importance of Job’s story is that the enemy had to go before God before even touching Job. Your circumstance does not come without granted approval from the throne. It is also important to note that the enemy is not a creator—he is an imitator. If he attacked Job, then he will attack us, too. Whatever the enemy presents to you is just a reconstructed situation that he has used before.

Job’s friends thought he was crazy. His wife turned against him and even tempted him to sin! She said, “Why don’t you just curse God and die?” What a test! But Job still trusted God while he was in his process, and he never stopped believing in God.

You are designed by God to persevere. You are designed to face trials because you need them in

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order to get to the promise. Before you can get to what God has for you, you will have to face adversity.

Processes are not easy. Think about all of the conflict and struggles a main character goes through in a novel or even a movie. Those intense struggles make the “aha moment” even better! So keep faithing it, no matter where you are in your process.

## From the Process to the Promise

Sometimes we have to process our mind, friends, and family before we can get to our promise. The overall point is this: Are you willing to go through the process in order to get to the thing God wants for you? Even if it means losing everything in order to gain more in the end?

Philippians 3:8 says, “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

You see, there is much to gain! Not only will you obtain God’s promises for your life, but you walk out of your process *knowing* Jesus!

Let’s consider Jesus. Jesus was a carpenter. He created things, and He was a builder. Jesus was God in the flesh, and it’s only natural that we will go through processes in life simply because Jesus was a builder. He was a carpenter, and carpenters know more than most that there is a process in everything that you want to create. They understand that you cannot make something without a process.

Step out of who you think you are and who people think you are, and begin to walk in what God spoke over you. And just in case you





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did not know who God said you are, then you need to just walk in the simple fact that you are a child of the King of kings. You are a child of a carpenter, and He is building you into something beautiful. Molded and created in His perfect image, you can walk in the fact that you are called to be great.

I believe that fighting and faith go hand in hand. That's what gets us through these obstacles—our ability to stand before the mountain with faith and a fight and command the mountain to move. It *will* move!

God is molding you to be great. He is molding you to overcome. He is molding you into completion and maturity. You are not forgotten. You are worthy of your dreams and hopes. You are not being punished; you are being processed. You deserve to gain all God has for you. Do not limit yourself because the storms are raging, but look at the storm and say, "I will trust you, Lord." If you were not meant to be anything, you would not have trials to face. If you were not meant to be strong and great, then you would need no molding.

I wrote this book because I believe in you. As your sister in Christ, I am here to faith it with you so we can rise up together against the enemy and break his chains!

You are God's book, and right now, today, you are living out a page in that book. Is today's page

*Every superhero  
has a villain,  
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has a backstory.*



overwhelming you? Do you feel alone in this chapter of your life? As your sister and friend, I want to tell you that it is through your hurt that you become a hero. Every superhero has a villain, and every hero has a backstory. Will you let me pray for you right now?

*I pray that God give you the grace to endure the pain of the process. I pray that God open your eyes to see the people who are for you and the people who are not. I pray that God allow you to embrace this in a new way where you understand that your storms have been meant to make you grow stronger. I pray that God ignite the purpose and gifting inside of you, that you might be able to go after your purpose with everything that you have. I pray that faith be your encourager, that faith be your pusher, that faith be your strength, and that you begin to become a faither. I pray that you take on this challenge to become better than who you are, that you do not look behind you, and that you do not let the enemy keep you bound in the past, but that you challenge yourself to be even better than who you think you are supposed to be. I pray that you give God the ability to do great things in you. I pray you get something out of this journey, and that you understand that I am here for you, I am faithing with you, and, trust me, we are going to win and I pray you know that.*

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