

**YOU
ARE
CALLED**

ALSO BY JOHN BEVERE

The Awe of God

The Bait of Satan

Driven by Eternity

God, Where Are You?

Killing Kryptonite

The Holy Spirit: An Introduction

Under Cover

Honor's Reward

The Story of Marriage (with Lisa Bevere)

The Fear of the Lord

Relentless

Breaking Intimidation

Drawing Near

How to Respond When You Feel Mistreated

Extraordinary

A Heart Ablaze

Enemy Access Denied

Thus Saith the Lord?

Good or God?

Everyday Courage

**YOU
ARE
CALLED**

**DISCOVER YOUR
GOD-GIVEN GIFTS
TO FULFILL
YOUR PURPOSE**

JOHN BEVERE



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You Are Called

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A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM JOHN

Throughout these pages, you'll find biblical insights and strategies that will empower you to discover your purpose, ignite your passion, and realize your God-given potential. Within each chapter, you'll also see questions and prompts to help you think about and personalize what you're learning.

As you go on this journey to discover and step into your calling, I want to make sure you know about the *CALLED* course, which serves as an excellent companion resource to this book. In the MessengerX App, we've made this full-length course available to you at no cost.

Inside the free MessengerX App, you'll also have access to dozens of full-length courses, audiobooks, sermons, and other discipleship resources to help you grow in your faith every day. We've made this app available for free in over 130 languages because we believe everyone should have access to life-transforming biblical teaching, regardless of their location, language, or financial position. (The story behind this outreach is something you'll learn more about in the pages of this book.)

Download the free MessengerX app today in the Apple App Store or on Google Play and begin taking advantage of this powerful tool to help you get even more as you journey through these pages.

Cheering you on!

John



*Download the free MessengerX App and
get the full-length CALLED course.*



CONNECTING THE DOTS

CHAPTER 1

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom . . .

Wisdom will multiply your days
and add years to your life.

If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit.

PROVERBS 9:10-12

The year was 2012. I was scheduled to speak in the Los Angeles area for a church's weekend services. My normal pattern is to fly in late Saturday afternoon, minister Saturday evening and Sunday morning, and return home Sunday afternoon. This routine was about to change.

One of our ministry partners—I'll call him Stan—in discovering I was scheduled in the LA area, called and asked if I would like to play the golf course at the famous Riviera Country Club. This is an exclusive and private club, very difficult to get into. I didn't have to think twice. I enthusiastically responded, "Absolutely yes, I'd love to!"

Stan picked me up early Saturday morning for the dream round. I started out the first four holes being three over par (nerves got the best of me), but ended the round at two under par. Stan and I had a great time together; it was a memorable morning, to say the least.

On the drive back to my hotel in downtown Los Angeles, Stan asked a heartfelt question: "John, can I ask you about an issue I've been wrestling with?"
"Sure."

In a vulnerable and sincere manner, he set up his question: "John, I've

worked tirelessly and diligently, giving many hours to building my businesses over the past couple of decades. My net worth is now approximately \$9 million. Everything's running smoothly with my current clients. The result of years of hard work is that my wife and children are financially set for life."

Then came his question: "Now that I'm entering my fifties, why should I work at the same pace? Why should I struggle to build my businesses to \$35 million over the next ten years?"

Before you read on, consider this question: Like Stan, have you wrestled personally with a "why should I" question—without yet fully answering it? If so, mentally complete any of the following phrases that reflect your struggle: *(Feel free to write out your response in the space provided.)*

- Why should I keep caring about . . .
- Why should I keep devoting time to . . .
- Why should I keep on . . .
- Why shouldn't I give up on . . .

There with Stan, the Holy Spirit instantly gave me wisdom on how to answer. "Let me pose a scenario," I said. "Suppose I was to say to you, 'Stan, I've spent years working hard to write seventeen books that are now in over eighty languages with copies numbering in the multiple millions. I've flown over ten million miles in the past twenty-five years, fought jet lag, experienced a variety of cultures and strange foods, and stayed in tiny hotel rooms—all so I could minister the gospel all over the globe. The ministry is doing well, and finances are stable; Lisa and my children are set too. Why should I continue to work at this same rate?'"

It was a perfect setup. With a slight chuckle, he answered, "I wouldn't want to be in your shoes when you face Jesus one day."

"Stan," I said, "that's exactly what you were talking about regarding your own businesses."

The smile immediately left his face. He turned his eyes away from the highway and toward me with a look of shock. “How do you mean?” he asked.

I then explained to Stan that God has divinely gifted every one of His children to build His kingdom. However, we are stewards, and we can therefore choose at any given time to use these gifts in one of three ways:

1. We can use the gifts to build God’s kingdom.
2. We can use the gifts to build ourselves.
3. Or we can neglect the gifts altogether.

Take a moment to pray, acknowledging before God what you want your future to look like regarding your most important gifts from Him (even if you’re not yet certain what those gifts really are). Ask for His help and guidance. You may want to use the following phrases if they match your genuine desire to follow Him.

- Lord God, as You make me more fully aware of my gifts from You, help me to embrace and not neglect them.
- Help me, heavenly Father, to use my gifts to build up Your kingdom.
- Meanwhile, I trust You, Lord God, to provide security and well-being in the future for my family and me, according to Your own love and wisdom.
- *(Or write your different response here.)*

I had Stan’s attention, so I continued: “Some of my obvious gifts are writing and speaking; your gifts are related to business and giving. You can see how my gifts are used to build the kingdom, but you don’t see how *your* gifts can be used to build the kingdom. However, here’s the truth: Your gifts, Stan, are just as important for building God’s kingdom as mine are. In fact, yours may be *more* important—and yet you haven’t connected the dots!”

We continued to talk along these lines. From our conversation, I found it both fulfilling and enjoyable to see the rapid change in Stan’s thoughts and attitude.

THE UPDATE

Six months later, I called Stan to touch base. We had another unforgettable chat.

“Hey, Stan, how you doing?”

“You want the honest truth?” His answer caught me off guard.

“Yes, of course.”

“I’ve been haunted, in a good way, by the words you spoke to me six months ago.”

“What are you doing about it?”

With a laugh, he quickly stated, “I’m busting my rear end to build my businesses up to \$35 million for the sake of building the kingdom.”

“Good for you!”

Then in 2022—ten years after our initial conversation—I received a text from Stan, which he signed: “70 million dollar Stan.”

Stan has grasped the reality that he’s not a spectator in advancing God’s kingdom, but a vital participant. He caught the vision, which eludes so many, that his unique abilities are valuable for the eternal, not just the temporal. Now he fully understands he’s gifted for a greater purpose than himself and his family.

I’m so grateful he was blunt, sincere, and humble. These traits opened him up to receive the truth that would change his life—and due to his testimony, the lives of so many others in turn.

Just recently, I received this text from Stan:

Years ago, after I played golf with you at Riviera, I started a new company with three Jewish men. Again, this was after you and I had a long talk. Now here’s the news I told you I was going to share when I could: This morning, we closed on the sale of the company to a private equity group out of NY. Very exciting. We ended up selling for \$555mil. Thank you for your words of wisdom!

Stan’s enlightenment has now become his motivation to multiply his efforts, and it exemplifies the primary purpose of this book. In conversing with believers throughout my years of travel, the vast number who think no differently than Stan did is a shocking reality. In fact, if I were backed into a corner, I would

have to say it's the majority. However, many are not as forthright as Stan in admitting it.

But as conversations ensue, the disconnect is uncovered.

In light of Stan's story, how do you view your own gifts and abilities? Which of the following statements best reflects your honest response?

- I believe God wants to use my gifts and abilities for building His kingdom.
- I fail to see a close connection between building God's kingdom and my own gifts and abilities.
- *(Or write a different response here:)*

A PARADIGM SHIFT

If you question your purpose or have similar thoughts, I'm so happy you have this book in your hands. My sincere hope is that your paradigm will also shift.

As with Stan, be honest with yourself; doing so will help you connect your dots. In this posture of humility, you'll discover and firmly believe in *multiplying* your unique gifts for building the kingdom. (This concept of multiplying is one we'll explore in depth as we go along.) You're just as called by God as your pastor or anyone else is. Your calling is just as legitimate as that of the late Billy Graham, or of any well-known minister today.

You're just as called by God as your pastor or anyone else is.

Your calling is just as legitimate as that of the late Billy Graham, or of any well-known minister today.

Think for a moment about how fully you can embrace this statement: "I'm just as called by God as anyone else on earth." Which of the following responses best reflects your present belief and honest mindset about this?

- I can clearly recognize that some people are more called by God than I am.

- I want to believe that I'm just as called by God as anyone else—but I'm not there yet.
- Yes, I mentally accept that I'm called by God, but my heart doesn't really feel it.
- Yes, in my mind and heart I believe I'm just as called by God as anyone.
- *(Or write a different response here:)*

If you struggle to believe that you're just as called by God as anyone else—what can you identify as the root reasons for your resistance to this? *(Here—as with all the reflection sections in this book—you're invited to use the space that follows to jot down your response—your further thoughts, prayers, and questions.)*

In this guidebook, we'll explore how to discover, develop, and most importantly *multiply* your gifts to enhance your specific calling. The Word of God and the stories contained in these pages will build your faith to greatly increase your effectiveness.

I know this firsthand; it happened with me as I was creating this book.

BORN ON PURPOSE, FOR A PURPOSE

Let's begin by examining a familiar portion of Scripture:

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. (Ephesians 2:8–9 NKJV)

Think about this: From your own understanding of Paul's statement in Ephesians 2:8-9 (as well as other verses you may be familiar with), how would you define "grace" (in your own words) as Paul uses it here? And how would you define "works" as Paul uses it here?

The focus of these two verses is the *grace of God*. It's clear—abundantly clear—that we're saved by grace, which is a gift from God. The twenty-first-century church has done an excellent job of communicating this truth. We can never work hard enough, live pure enough, or sacrifice enough to earn the privilege of spending eternity with our Creator, Almighty God. This familiar scripture has been the most looked-to reference to reveal this important truth.

However, we may have neglected what comes next:

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should *walk in them*. (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV)

Notice that the next word after the ninth verse is *for*. This word is a *conjunction*, which joins the two statements together. This tells us that the beginning of Paul's statement (verses 8 and 9) is not complete on its own. The word *for* means "because of this," so verse 10 should not be left out when citing verses 8 and 9; otherwise, we don't get the complete meaning of what's being communicated.

You are God's "workmanship," His "handiwork"! Some personal questions to consider:

- Thinking especially of what we see in Ephesians 2:10, how would you express your overall purpose in life as intended by God?
- How does that purpose relate personally to Jesus Christ?
- How does that purpose relate to God's work and efforts, as seen in this verse?
- According to God's truth for us in Ephesians 2:10, before you were born, He planned certain things for you to do. What kind of hindrances have

you experienced—or would you expect to experience—in seeking to know and live out God’s unique plans for you?

- What could you do to overcome these hindrances?

In a simple statement addressed to God, let Him know how much you desire to know with certainty His plans for you and how He expects you to live them out.

Paul states in Ephesians 2:10 that we are His handiwork created for a specific purpose—to produce good works. To summarize, in these three verses combined (8, 9, and 10 in Ephesians 2), Paul in essence is saying: “We’re saved by grace to first *be someone*—a child of God—and we’re equally empowered by that same grace to *do something*.”

We should never overemphasize one truth to the neglect of another truth. But let me emphasize up front that who we are in Christ Jesus is paramount to what we do—because *anything we do should be an outflow of who we are*.

Think about your typical activities—what you’ve actually been doing—during your awake time over the past week or so. What statements do these activities make about who you truly are?

It’s tempting to shy away from the “do something” aspect, since it relieves us from any pressure of laboring to build the kingdom. But the serious reality is this: *Our labor energizes us*. Jesus says, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work” (John 4:34 NKJV). He also says, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21 NKJV). Putting His two statements together, we clearly see that our food is to do and finish the will of Jesus, who sends us. Food strengthens us. If we don’t eat, we become weak and are good for very little.

A few additional worthwhile questions to ponder:

- In what kinds of tasks or working situations have you experienced being energized by your efforts and labor?
- Through your relationship with Christ, and as you remember His words, what would it mean in your life today to say (as He did), “My food is to do God’s will and to finish His work”? What would that work involve?
- What does being “sent” by Jesus (as He teaches us in John 20:21) mean to you?
- Doing the will of God strengthens us. Is what you’re doing with your life strengthening you?
- How passionate are you about the work you’re now doing? If you’re lacking passion, assess your situation carefully. Why do you think you’re lacking fulfillment in this area?

STRENGTH FOR DOING WHAT GOD HAS PLANNED

Let’s now bring this over to our spiritual life. If we don’t do the will of Jesus who sends us, we become weak. That makes us more vulnerable to temptation.

In more than forty years of walking with Jesus, I’ve noticed that one of the primary causes of people slipping away from the faith is a lack of “doing.” They become lazy and idle regarding their calling, and before they know it, they find themselves in complacent drunkenness, immorality, or given to interests that pull them back into the world’s way of living. They lose their spiritual strength.

Here’s the bottom line: What we do for God strengthens us.

How would you honestly describe the overall present condition of your spiritual strength?

In what specific ways do you sense the need for *greater* spiritual strength?

Allow me to restate the truth of these three verses (8, 9, and 10 in Ephesians 2): You were born again by the free gift of grace to be a child of God, and you were equally empowered by that same grace to do something.

Scripture declares that God planned each of our works beforehand. Addressing the Lord, David writes:

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)

God designed things for you to do *before you were born*. He actually recorded these works in a book! We can only imagine how huge this book is, because every moment of our lives is recorded in it. These assignments He planned for us revolve around building His kingdom.

Regarding our specific calling, we won't be judged on what we did, but rather on what we were called to do. That's both sobering and invigorating.

His deepest desire is that we fulfill His plans for our life—but it's not guaranteed that we will. Notice in Ephesians 2:10 the word *should*. It doesn't say "that we *would* walk in them"; it says "that we *should* walk in them." Here's where our free will enters the game. He prearranged our works—but it's up to us to walk in what He planned.

I'm firmly convinced that when we stand before Jesus at the believer's judgment seat (where we'll be rewarded for our labor as Christians or suffer loss for our neglect), He will open His book and say, "Let's compare how you actually lived to the original plan My Father and I had in mind for you." (In regard to the judgment, it's written in two different places in Scripture that the "books were opened"—see Daniel 7:10 and Revelation 20:12.) I believe these books were written by God about our life before we were born. Regarding our specific calling, we won't be judged on what we did, but rather on *what we were called to do*. That's both sobering and invigorating.

Envision yourself standing before the Lord after your present earthly life is past, and your eternal rewards have been granted—having been determined by your faithfulness to God's original plan for your life, and for your

unique calling and purpose. What do you think you'll want to praise and thank Him for most?

What do you think you'll want most to hear from Him?

Keep thinking further about the truth that God has a unique, original plan and calling for each of us. What does this say about our heavenly Father's character—especially about His wisdom, His compassion, His grace, and His mercy? As you reflect on this, feel free in this moment to give Him your worship and praise.

DESIGN, CHOICE, AND REWARD

At this point, you may be feeling a little panicked. Please don't! There are three important things to note:

First, God is more passionate about you completing what He's called you to do than you are, so He's not going to hide His plans from you. *He* desires that you know your calling more than *you* do!

For the good of your mind and heart and soul, express realistically in prayer your personal gratitude for how passionate God is about your calling, and for how strongly he desires for you to know and understand it.

Second, the process of growing into the fullness of your calling is a journey, not a one-time event, so fight the urge to give in to impatience.

Communicate to the Lord your willingness and commitment to persevere patiently in the journey of discovering and living out his calling on your life.

Third, in this book you'll find insights from both Scripture and experience to help you discover and develop your calling.

Speak to the Lord also about how eager you are to learn all you can from this book and from Scripture about your calling.

Consider this illustration. Suppose I'm a city planner, and I desire to build a spectacular residential, recreational, and retail complex near the city center. Being the city planner makes me the chief designer, so I organize the master plan with skilled developers and architects. In this complex, I want play areas, amusement rides, sports courts, fountains, sitting areas, and walking trails. I also want restaurants, movie theaters, shops with upstairs condominiums, and other creative accents to make our complex unique.

Once the design is complete, I then determine what contractors I'll need to accomplish the different aspects of the master plan. I hire these various contractors and give them a timeline for their assignments. The project is set to commence.

If all the contractors do exactly what I ask, the massive project will be built seamlessly and smoothly. However, what if some of the contractors don't make this project a priority? What if they accept the assignment but then use their skills to work on other jobs instead? What if they go fishing or golfing or attend sporting events too often, so the project gets neglected? What if others are lazy and don't take their work seriously? If I totally depend on these original contractors, the project won't get done on schedule. In fact, it may never be done.

The choice belongs to the contractors in what to do with their time and talents. However, as the city planner, I'm not going to settle for major delays or the possibility of the project never being finished. Instead, I'll bring in others to do the work.

What's the result? The original contractors don't get the reward of being a part of the team that builds the beautiful complex. They won't be able to show

their children, grandchildren, and friends the part they played in the beautiful focus of the city center. Their children won't be able to tell others about what their parents accomplished. They'll also lose the reward of being paid for the assignment.

FAILING TO FULFILL GOD'S PLAN

You can see this same principle exemplified all through Scripture. God has a master plan for the building of His kingdom. Yet throughout history, God has had to work with people who haven't fulfilled His desires. Therefore, He's frequently had to adjust His original plan. (I speak in human terms because God knows the end from the beginning; He's not bound to time.) "Changing" the plan is not a shock to Him. He knew what His laborers would choose beforehand. He was already prepared with their replacements.

Here are a few of many examples of this in Scripture. You see this with Abraham's father, Terah. (Our youngest son, Arden, recently reminded me of this truth.) Most of us know that Abraham was born and grew up in Ur of the Chaldeans before God called him to travel to Canaan. But if you look closely at the story, the lesser-known detail you'll discover is that Terah was more likely the original one called to do this. We read:

One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. He was *headed for the land of Canaan*, but they stopped at Haran and *settled there*. Terah lived for 205 years and died while still in Haran. (Genesis 11:31–32)

Here are two things to consider. First, why would a man, for no reason, uproot his family from Ur and travel over six hundred miles toward, of all places, the land of Canaan? A trip by camel is slow and arduous. With women and children, it probably took at least a few months. It's not like Terah could go online and see pictures and read articles about Canaan being a great place to

live and work. He didn't discover it through posts on social media. He would have had a reason for this distinct and distant move.

Second, if he was headed for Canaan, why did he settle in Haran? Why didn't he complete his journey to the destination? Could it be that he was tempted to not finish? Could he have run up against interfering desires, hardships, a family member who was fed up with traveling, or other distracting circumstances? Could it have been that he saw more chances for opportunity in Haran and didn't want to risk losing out on them simply over a word from God?

In considering all this, could we possibly conclude that Terah was God's first choice to be "the father of many nations"? Was he also originally assigned to be the *father of faith*, a term now ascribed to Abraham (Romans 4:16–17)?

Terah decided not to go the distance; he settled in Haran. I believe if he'd stayed the course, today we would read about his adventures and covenant with God. I believe Israel would have called him their father of faith, and that Jesus would have been referred to as the seed of Terah instead of the seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:16).

For contrast, you may want to consider the actions of Terah's son Abram (later called Abraham). You can find evidence of this man's true responsiveness to God by looking up these Bible passages: Genesis 12:4–9; 13:14–18; and 15:1–6. Look to Abram's actions as a pattern and example for your own life, as you pursue your calling and purpose.

Another example of a change in God's master plan is the judge and head priest Eli. He and his descendants were assigned to be the priests who would approach God for the people. However, a prophet sent to Eli declared:

The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I promised that your branch of the tribe of Levi would always be my priests. But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me. The time is coming when I will

put an end to your family, so it will no longer serve as my priests. (1 Samuel 2:30–31)

Eli's disobedience affected both him and his descendants. Had he walked honorably before God, the priesthood would have continued with Eli's clan.

As a contrast to Eli, consider the example of Samuel, who as a boy lived under Eli's care. Look in your Bible at 1 Samuel 3:19–21. Notice how God was at work to confirm Samuel's calling and purpose as God's prophet and priest for Israel. What honest expectations do you have for how God will communicate and confirm His calling and purpose in your own life?

Still another example is all the kings of Israel. The first would be David's son Solomon. God said to him, "Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my decrees, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants" (1 Kings 11:11). Had Solomon stayed true, the kingdom never would have been ripped away later from his son Rehoboam.

The majority of the kingdom was given to Jeroboam, yet later he also failed in being faithful. God told him:

I promoted you from the ranks of the common people and made you ruler over my people Israel. I ripped the kingdom away from the family of David and gave it to you. But you have not been like my servant David, who obeyed my commands and followed me with all his heart and always did whatever I wanted . . . And since you have turned your back on me, I will bring disaster on your dynasty. (1 Kings 14:7–10)

Jeroboam would have had an enduring dynasty had he not misused his position and gifts to benefit himself instead of God's kingdom. A similar message was given to King Baasha of Israel (1 Kings 15:25–16:7), as well as to others entrusted with kingdom responsibilities.

If you read in 1 Kings 15:25–16:7 about King Baasha’s behavior and the tragic and gruesome outcome that befell him and his family, take note especially of the compounding evil that brought such awful judgment upon them.

Here’s my point: Often our unfaithfulness to the call of God affects not only us, but also our descendants. With Terah it didn’t, but with many others it did.

We see a similar situation among the prophets. Elisha served Elijah and received a double portion of what was on Elijah’s life. But years later, Elisha’s servant, Gehazi, who was next in line to walk in the prophetic gifting, lost focus of what was important and pulled away. He became a leper and left the service he was originally called to (2 Kings 5:14–27). A new servant (not named) moved into his place to assist Elisha.

By looking at 2 Kings 5:14–27, you can see what happened in Gehazi’s mind that caused him to stray from his calling. How easily can you relate to his temptation?

In the New Testament, you see this with Judas Iscariot. Because he misused his calling and the gifts entrusted to him, he had to be replaced. Peter said to the disciples in the upper room, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says . . . ‘Let someone else take his position.’ So now we must choose a replacement for Judas” (Acts 1:20–21).

How sad, how tragic! Imagine the regrets so many will have because they chose not to steward the calling or gifts upon their lives in a worthy manner.

In returning to the positive aspect—hear again that you were born *on* purpose and *for* a purpose. Your life has great value in building the eternal. It’s not the will of a mere man or woman, but determined by God Himself.

YOU DETERMINE YOUR EFFECTIVENESS

Here's the startling reality: *How effective you are is not up to God, but up to you.* That may sound irreverent if you've put all your life achievements in the basket of "God's sovereignty." However, I assure you it is not irreverent, nor does this statement take anything away from the sovereignty of God. It's a testimony of His trust in us, and His desire for His sons and daughters to exercise the free will He's given us.

Let's look again at a portion of the Scripture that opened this chapter:

Wisdom will *multiply your days* and add years to your life. If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. (Proverbs 9:11–12)

This truth is so encouraging and powerful! What does it mean to *multiply your days*? It surely means more than lengthening your life; this is already covered by the statement "and add years to your life." Rather, it must mean *increasing your effectiveness* each and every day. In other words, you'll get more out of the day than someone without God's wisdom.

You've most likely heard the proverb, "If the ax is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but wisdom brings success" (Ecclesiastes 10:10 NKJV). Wisdom is the focus here. You won't be as effective or productive with a dull ax (a lack of wisdom). Conversely, you'll be able to cut down many more trees with an ax that's sharpened (by living wisely). You'll multiply your efforts using the same strength.

God's wisdom is so important. I'll share a story later in the book of a friend of mine who was unproductive as a believer for decades and eventually became fed up with his lethargic state. The first thing he did was to immerse himself in Scripture for six months. This gave him the wisdom to be more effective, and you'll be amazed by his life story.

And it's not just true of my friend; we're all told, "Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do" (Proverbs 4:7 GNT). I love this statement. Once you really believe it, you'll give your time and energy to acquiring wisdom. But the great truth of Proverbs 9:11–12 is this: Once you obtain wisdom, *you are the one who benefits.*

Take a moment to pray in a way that rightly expresses your true commitment to seeking and depending on God's wisdom regarding your life's calling and purpose.

The wisdom of God that I write about in this book took years of seeking, searching, and listening to come by—coupled with both positive and negative experiences. But as you'll discover, it's not only me, but also others that I've had the privilege to interview who've walked wisely and borne tremendous fruit. I can only hope that in a short amount of time you'll receive what took me years to obtain, and that you'll go much further with this wisdom than I have.

It's a kingdom matter. We are all one, so if you benefit, then I benefit. If you go further than me, it's also to my advantage. We are all working for a common purpose and for the glory of our King.

REFLECTION FOR RENEWAL

(Each chapter will include space at the end—like what follows here—where you can jot down concluding thoughts and responses as you review and reflect upon what you’ve just read.)

In this chapter, what statements or Scripture passages seemed most meaningful for you?

How would you restate them in your own words? (Personalize your answer as a prayer of response to God.)

What are your thoughts about what God wants you to do now in response to what you’ve seen and reflected upon in this chapter?

