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BECOMING  
A WOMAN  
WHO KNOWS  
GOD  
BY NAME  
— — — — —  
JAN HARRISON



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## **BECOMING A WOMAN WHO KNOWS GOD BY NAME**

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To the faithful group of women in the 2011–2012 Women of the Word Bible Study at Central Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. You helped me stand with a broken heart and a crushed spirit. You allowed me to lead, and you shared my burdens during the darkest storm in my life. Glory to God for using you to guide me to my safe haven.

*Then they are glad because they are quiet;  
So He guides them to their desired haven.*

Psalm 107:30 NKJV



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Those who know Your name will put their trust in You;  
For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.  
Psalm 9:10 NKJV



## Know Your Purpose in *Elohim*

### *God Is Your Creator*

A sweet and substantial relationship develops between a woman and God when she calls on Him as Creator, All-Sufficient One, Shepherd, Healer, and the other names we will embrace during our time together. Before I did this study, I may have wondered, *What's in a name? Why is it important to know the multiple names of someone?* But even then, had I thought much about it, I would've realized how greatly that knowledge strengthens a relationship. Have you discovered that the better you know a person, the more their name means to you? When you hear it or speak it, that name brings to mind an image and an emotion. The name begins to represent the character and heart of a particular person, not merely a label.

I recall reading and dwelling on Song of Solomon 1:3 (NKJV), “Your name is ointment poured forth,” and my heart cried, *Yes it is! Lord, I want to know You more intimately and personally. I want to learn to call on You in a deeper way. A way that will reflect Your character and not merely a label for who You are.* That verse sparked an awareness of how much more I had to grow in my knowledge of my God. I sensed Him responding, “Know Me through My names!”

Perhaps this verse caught my attention because of the personal pain I was feeling deep within my own heart. The image of ointment being gently and tenderly applied to a wound gave me comfort and healing I desperately needed. The words from Song of Solomon, written thousands of years ago, spoke clarity into my haze of sadness and sorrow and beckoned me to come closer and receive the power in the names of God revealed in Scripture.

Sometimes we forget that God is not playing hide and seek with our faith. He is not trying to taunt or frustrate us in our pursuit of Him. It is His heart's desire for us to know the many aspects of His character and to learn to find strength, refuge, and identity in Him through those names. His many names unfold into the deeper heart of His divine nature. Throughout Scripture His many names are used to highlight the unique attributes of His character. With each new level of discovery, we are enriched in faith as we learn to address God with the name that is specific to a particular need we have or blessing we long for.

God's deepest desire is for us to truly know Him. He is not satisfied for us to simply know *about* Him. He wants us to know the genuine depth of His love and provision for us through deep personal revelations of His character. Those personal insights and unveilings are found in His many names. He created us in His image so that we would live in relationship with Him and cleave to Him with deep dependence and unwavering trust. So what better name to start with than the very first name God shared in Scripture and the one that means "creator": *Elohim*.

God often draws us to Himself as our Creator. We are made in the image of God.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that

creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)

Allow this truth to sink into your inner being for a minute. He prepared His creation with infinite wisdom, perfect order, and meticulous attention to every detail. At the completion of each day’s creation, He declared, “It is good.” Then He made male and female and gave them rule over all that had been created, and “God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

We have been designed with a God-given purpose from the very beginning. No matter what your personal circumstances are, you are not an accident, a mistake, or assigned to a life of pointless, purposeless existence. God’s plans and preparations since the beginning of time include you! The prophet Jeremiah spoke these words of promise from God: “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope’” (Jeremiah 29:11). The message of these words is given in countless ways throughout Scripture to communicate encouragement and a deep sense of purpose. Certainly this insight helps us build our trust in God.

## Everything You Need from the Beginning

If we examine the name *Elohim*, a more complete image of God unfolds. *Elohim* is the plural form of the word “*El*,” which means “Strong One.” It refers to God, and the plural form of *Elohim* intimates the Trinity. As we spend time in Genesis, we realize that *Elohim* refers to more than one. Genesis 1:26 presents a plural pronoun: “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.’” We can interpret this plural name for God and the interchange of singular and plural pronouns for God in Genesis to represent the Trinity. This idea left me awestruck. At the very beginning

of all creation, the fellowship of the Trinity existed in unbroken relationship. Take this incredible truth further: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit together created the world and created you and me. They created us to reflect their very nature and gave us the capacity for deep intimate relationship with the Godhead working in our lives.

An understanding of the power of each part of the Trinity will enable us to find the wholeness we all long for in our relationship with God. Jesus, the Son, is the second person of the Trinity, and He was present at our creation. Colossians 1:16 says, “By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth” (NKJV). Our way of salvation and our bridge to God was there in the very beginning. The plan of salvation, the cross of Christ, was not an afterthought or a plan B to deal with sin. The perfect, sinless Son of God was present at creation. God the Father, foreseeing the sin of Adam, provided “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29 NKJV).

But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob,  
And He who formed you, O Israel,  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are Mine!  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.  
When you walk through the fire, you will not be  
scorched,  
Nor will the flame burn you.” (Isaiah 43:1-2)

Redemption is one of those beautiful benefits of His holy name that we are called to remember. Redemption is the gracious gift of God provided through His Son. He has offered to redeem us. He calls us by name. He says, “You are Mine!” *Elohim* declares you are His precious creation.

The sweet gift of being called by God was made very real to me

by Margaret, a friend of mine. She has been my prayer partner for many years, and as the day of my daughter Caroline's wedding drew near, Margaret called to say she would like to get together with us to pray for the bride. Years of common sharing and caring have gone into this relationship, and it was with eager expectation that we gathered on the front steps of the wedding site to lift our hearts to God. Margaret prayed something precious and profound. She said, "I don't know why your parents named you Caroline, but God named you before the beginning of time. They chose a name, but God appointed it. Your name means 'strength,' and we see how God ordained strength to mark your character from the time you were a very small child." God named my daughter and let me think I had picked it out! He perfectly named her because He has redeemed her and she belongs to Him. Margaret's prayer was a beautiful reminder and a great faith builder. He is very personally invested in His creation, and we can trust Him. What a sweet picture of our Creator's delight in redeeming and calling us each one by name. He is telling us of His great love and attachment to us. Why would we doubt or resist His plans and purposes for our lives when He exhibits such devotion to His creation?

The most beautiful illustration of His love is when He allows us to become a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) by calling on His name for salvation. *Elohim* called light out of the darkness. He is the same God who creates supernatural light in the soul of man and delivers us from the kingdom of darkness to His marvelous light. Jesus the Son said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12 NKJV). Being named by God, being called by name, and sharing in His great name are tremendous privileges and responsibilities. I pray that you are filled with a greater understanding of your individual significance to your Creator and that your heart is lifted and encouraged by the Son's gift of redemption for you.

The third person of the Trinity present at creation was the Holy

Spirit. “The Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). The Holy Spirit does the work of wooing and drawing us to our Creator. When a person looks to the cross of Christ for salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to indwell the believer and hovers over their heart to give assurance and security of eternal salvation. Paul said, “You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:14 NKJV). The Holy Spirit is the inner witness of *Elohim* reminding us that we belong to Him and nothing will ever snatch us away.

When I let go of religion and received Jesus as my Redeemer in personal relationship, I was immediately aware of a deep sense of assurance. I had tried to figure out how to know God for many years and took the usual avenues of being good enough or trying harder. But no matter how “on” or “off” I was, I never felt certain I was acceptable. The relief and the freedom from self-effort was an amazing change. It has been more than thirty years since I trusted the blood of Christ to cover my sins. I have floundered and faltered many times. There have been seasons when I have stumbled and fallen along the path. But I have never, ever doubted the presence of the Holy Spirit lifting me up and setting my feet back on the solid rock. The Spirit hovers over His children to guide them all the way through life and into His presence.

We were designed to have abundant life! That is a reality far too few of us are living out. *Elohim* desires His creation to have the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in fellowship together making our lives complete in Him. If any part of the Trinity is left out of our relationship, we are spiritually incomplete. Let me share a little more what I mean. Acknowledging we believe in God is the first step, but it cannot stop there. Many religions believe



All you would ever need was present in the moment of your creation.

in a Supreme Being or higher power. But there is much more to our *Elohim*. Look at the profound words written by the apostle John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind” (John 1:1-4 NIV). Jesus is our source of eternal life. By believing in Him, we are promised that a river of living water will flow within us. This is the promise of the Holy Spirit, whom all who believe were to receive after Jesus ascended into heaven. He sent His Spirit to empower His children to walk in the truth and the light of His life. *Elohim* has given us His full supply to enable us to reflect His glory.

Before we go any further, will you do a heart check and ask yourself if your life is reflecting a complete image of the Creator?

Have I been reconciled to God through His Son, Jesus? He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6 NKJV). How do you know if the Holy Spirit is at work in your life? Listen to His job description according to Jesus, and you will know: “When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you” (John 16:13-14 NIV).

Before our innermost being was formed, God’s image and plan was for our lives to be filled with the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That’s huge, my friend. That truth alone should give you significance. That should give you a sense of awe and wonder. That should give you an understanding of how precious and important you are.

Sadly, what I have noticed in my life and from observing others over the years is that we can believe in Jesus with all our heart and we can be headed for heaven, yet we still fumble around in the dark saying we don’t know where we’re going or what our purpose is. We lose

sight of, or maybe we never had sight of, the empowering truth that we are created in the image of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

So the questions we should ask are: Does my life reflect the complete image of my Creator, or is it still simply reflecting a partial image? Do I call on the full power of the name *Elohim*? Am I trusting all the power of the Godhead, the triune that formed me into being?

Just imagine how incredible our lives would be if we walked through our days buoyed by our identity in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rather than brought down by false understanding of our worth and discouraged by the struggle to just get by.

## God Calls Your Name

Chances are that believing in God's existence is not your obstacle to embracing His comfort and calling. You look out over creation and you see and cannot deny that truth. You observe nature and people and you watch the seasons evolve, and it's clear that there is a witness across the world to God's existence. But how do you know your purpose? How do you have confidence to stand as a miraculous, formed being and then walk with certainty in the right direction for your life? I believe a lot of people have had times or are in times right now in which they feel as if life is happening at a free-fall pace or that they are in a rat race that has no objective and certainly no joy of the Lord. We get to that place because we don't hear the call on our life. And even if we reach out to God and embrace His holy name, somehow we are unable to hear His response: those empowering moments when He calls our name and places a purpose on our life. We see creation's glory but are unable to hear the Creator's message.

Questions about purpose often arise in a person's life when they are living out the version of life or the success that they believed would fulfill them and yet they are not fulfilled. It was this way for me. I remember very clearly when I first started to ask questions

about my purpose. I was about 26 years old, and I was doing the things I had dreamed about, planned for, and worked toward; yet, deep within my innermost being I was unsure of my purpose or what difference my life would make.

Maybe you're beginning to grapple with this inner dialogue: *I've got everything that I've planned for at this point in my life. I go to church. I love God, and I want to live for Him. But I don't know if my life, this life, has purpose. Real purpose.*

I believe we get so used to listening to people and the truth of God *through* people that we actually forget to listen to God. No matter what I communicate to you or others encourage you to believe, it will be your tender understanding and trusting of the Lord and your still times of listening to God that will make the truth real for you and life changing.

For example, we cling to the words of people who say, "God has a purpose for your life. God has a plan." We hold out hope for that very thing. Of course we do—we believe in our Lord. But instead of getting to know God's character and spending time with Him in prayer, we expect to see a big blueprint that says, "You're going to do this, and when you're 32 you're going to do that, and by the time you're 38 this will have happened, and all the while you will know this is God's plan for your life."

But how often does life really unfold like this? How often do you encounter people who say that the existence they live is exactly as they had planned? If you are talking to anyone over 30, chances are you are hearing more about how troubles have happened. Loss has happened. Mistakes and recovery have happened.

Every time I read Scripture and study how God interacts with His people, I perceive God nudging them and basically saying, "You put one foot in front of the next, you live by faith, you learn who I am according to My Word, you listen to My Son, the Word that became flesh and lived among us. You allow My Holy Spirit to

enlighten you and to lead you and to teach you and to show you truth. I will begin to show you the plan and the purpose for your life.”

Redemption is one of those benefits we are called to remember. God says, “‘I have redeemed you; I have called you by name’” (Isaiah 43:1). I love that! We are His. The God of the universe, the God beyond the galaxies, called me by name. He’s called you by name. This idea became more intimate to me when I spoke to an expectant mom. As she lovingly patted her stomach, she said, “I’ve got to tell you, I know what I’m going to name her, and I want you to know her name!” She told me what her name was going to be and she said, “I just love it! I love her! I’m having clothes with monograms made!”

There was no doubt that this child’s name was already intertwined with pure love in her mother’s heart. Before this child was visible or known to the world, she was named, she was deemed precious, and her parents loved her. This is what God is telling us about His love! “I have redeemed you! I know you by name, and I’m attached to you. I love you so much, I am preparing life for you. If you will lean into Me, I will show you the plans and the purposes that I have for your life!”

God’s love is real and powerful. It makes me wonder why we are so reluctant to trust Him. Are you open to knowing your gifting and your calling so you can begin to operate in the full image of the One you were created by and for? If you are, it will require you to journey closer to God with the absolute belief that there is a reason you were made. You have to let go of any belief that tells you otherwise.

## **Elohim Creates Our Good Works**

*Elohim* created you for a purpose. Throughout this personal faith journey to know God through His names, we will keep coming back to trusting God and trusting this specific truth. After all we have

learned concerning His personal attention to and investment in our creation, it makes sense that He has designed us with a plan and purpose. When in doubt, you and I can hold tightly to the revelation of Ephesians 2:10: “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Stop with these four words: “We are His workmanship...” Look around at the beauty of creation. Allow your senses to take in the intricate design of nature, the vastness of the night skies, and the miracle of a newborn baby. Now look into the mirror. As His workmanship, *you* are as intricate in design, as wonderful and miraculous to Him, as any part of His creation. If you are artistic or creative in any way, you know the joy and delight of creating, and that’s what you are to God. This truth should begin to help us see ourselves and see each other through His eyes instead of our own. Once we are recreated in Christ, our purpose is to be used to accomplish the works He has prepared for us. *Elohim* is waiting to use you. You have an assignment, and He wants you to know it, be equipped for it, and allow Him to use you to accomplish it for His glory. It’s all about Him: His workmanship, His good works, and His preplanned purpose for you.

We get anxious about His good works, and we want to figure out which works are appointed for us. Because they are His works, they are revealed to us as we surrender our lives to Him and learn to walk with Him in trust and obedience. We are being trained and equipped every single day. We are reminded by Paul, “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17 NKJV). Today, whatever God sets before you, it is an opportunity to do it to please Him. It is easy to lose sight of Him when your day is largely comprised of seemingly small and mundane tasks: folding clothes, driving endless carpools, and caring for little messy, whiney people or old, cranky ones. But whatever God puts before

you today is an opportunity to be faithful with small things. Let me share a couple of examples of God's workmanship doing His work in ways that point others to Him.

Pastor Eric's heart is burdened for Muslim people in the United States. He is called to minister in one of the darkest, most difficult sections of a large city. He leaves a thriving ministry in a comfortable community and embarks on building one-on-one relationships at a slow and intentional pace in a new area. Every day he humbles himself and allows God to use him to shine the light of Jesus and extend love toward his neighbors and acquaintances. It isn't big or grand. There is no welcoming church office or holy huddle of fellowship. But there is the deep sense of purpose, of being used to accomplish God's appointed work through him.

This spiritual pull toward those in need reminds me of my son, James. His heart was huge, and his love for the people in Africa was deep. He was called to them, lived with them, encouraged and loved them one person at a time. He built genuine relationships, witnessed for Christ, gave whatever he had, and didn't care if anyone ever knew what he was doing. It was a joy to James to be used as His workmanship and to accomplish His good works. We reap benefits when we walk in the purpose God ordains for us, but the greatest benefit is that we bring glory to God and bless His name, "for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13 NIV).

He creates His good works in us to fulfill His good purpose. Amen.

## Living as a New Creation

Paul is one of our greatest examples of a man who lived his life as a new creation and who knew and professed that the results of his labor had nothing to do with his ability and everything to do

with God's ability. Consider his testimony from 1 Corinthians: "By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me" (15:10). The grace of God was the reason he was living a radically changed life.

I can hear Paul praising *Elohim*: "My Creator re-created me. I had an image of myself. I was religious, I was important, I was educated, and I had heritage and culture and family connections. I was known, I had influence, I had everything the world says I should in order to have purpose. Then He called me by name. He blinded me with His light on the road to Damascus, and I was transformed. It's only by God's grace that I am what I am. I'm a believer in the risen Lord Jesus; I'm a changed man who lives in the full image of God. His grace toward me was not in vain, not without effect."

Paul's conviction and transformation of heart brings God glory. Great glory. The same is meant to be true in our lives. How tragic it would be if the grace of God poured out for us on Calvary were in vain. God works in our lives the same way He worked in Paul's. Let's look at the steps taken to lead us in our own journey to trust our Creator. Read the miraculous encounter Paul had with Jesus in Acts 9. In those verses, he was called by his Hebrew name, Saul. It was only after the Damascus road encounter that Saul chose to be called Paul, his Roman name. He wanted to be able to reach people for God without his old name and former ways interfering.

**He submitted.** Saul bowed his knee, head, and heart to give himself over to *Elohim*. In awe of the light and magnificence of Christ, Paul surrendered to God's mercy and forgiveness. In that moment, he became a vessel for God's good works and good pleasure.

**He repented.** Saul was a helpless man when God spoke to him by name out of heaven and asked him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" He calls us by name, and He knows what we are doing. The veil of unbelief was lifted, and Saul was able to recognize

how far he was from God's purpose. When we fully realize the depth of our sin and the overflowing capacity of His forgiveness, we deeply desire to become the new creation God made us to be.

**He surrendered.** Once transformed, Saul released self-importance and his personal plans for his life. He became God's workmanship, available to be used by Him, for Him, for His glory. Look at God's appointing words: "He is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel..." (Acts 9:15). God chose a murdering, hate-filled fanatic to carry the gospel all over the then-known world. Saul, filled with the Spirit of God, was enabled to live in the fullness of God.

## Freedom from Striving

Our transformation in Christ brings an amazing freedom that covers our lives. Even burdens become blessings when we trust God's intended purpose for us. The places He chooses to use us and give us ministry are often unlikely and unusual. Pastor Eric's burden for Muslims, James's heart for Africans, and a strict Jew (Paul) called to Gentiles are all examples of God's transforming power. I was thinking about our relationship to *Elohim*, and a simple illustration came to my mind. The manufacturer of a product does not ask that product to do something it can't do. For example, Whirlpool would never ask a dishwasher to be a refrigerator. Ford would never ask a car to be a lawnmower. Yet consider how often we challenge our Potter and play out the scene presented in Isaiah 45:9: "Woe to him who strives with his Maker! ... Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?'" (NKJV). Here is the root of our strife with our Maker.

Why in the world would we think that the Creator—who made us in His image, who knew us when we were yet unformed—would ask us to do or to be or be a part of anything that we are unsuited, ill-equipped, or unable to do? The key is to yield to His creative hand

in your life. It is impossible until we see ourselves as the transformed re-creation of God.

We are His workmanship, not produced generically on an assembly line, but shaped to be unique and blessed by His hands! You are an intricate, one-of-a-kind, valuable, priceless possession of the Maker. You and I may have been living a long time with our own picture of who we are. And frankly, isn't that image hard to uphold and preserve? In fact, it is so hard that we keep trying to re-create who we are rather than spending time with *Elohim* asking Him who we were created to be. Avoiding His truth and refusing to trust *Elohim* leads to so much wasted effort invested in false living.

We are immersed in a cultural mindset that compels us to think, *I'm just going to reinvent myself. I'm going to spend a lot of energy trying to get rid of who I was and become someone new.* Meanwhile, God, *Elohim*, has much more for us. We are trading freedom in Christ for a false, empty version of who we were formed to become. Striving is holding on to that notion that you know what you need for your life. Oh, that's when the starter gun goes off and the tug-of-war between you and the Holy Spirit ensues. You're determined. *I'm going to do this. I'm going to set this up. It's all going to work out my way.* (And by the way, please know that when I say "you," I also mean "me"!) Then we expect the Lord to bless us and our plans. But we are working against God's purpose. Even when we do good things and map out a plan that serves great causes, if we are not doing God's work God's way, then we are striving with our Maker.

The Word has a warning for us about striving with our Maker, about turning around to the Potter and saying, "What are You doing with me? Why are You asking me to do this and that?" What is interesting about this dynamic is that we do this out of an overly developed sense of value or ego *and* also out of a sense of not being worthy of a specific plan from God for our lives. So no matter which side of that spectrum we act from—pride or insecurity—the result is the same: we are creating tension between our spirit and the Holy

Spirit, and we are striving against *Elohim's* good pleasure in and through us. How exhausting!

His good pleasure is not an activity and it's not a project. It's hard to get that out of our little worker-bee, do-good heads. His good pleasure is for me to live in the fullness of His image. When I do, the good works will constantly reflect back to my Creator.

Many of us as need to hear that and apply it to how we interact with a child, spouse, friend, or someone in our family or faith community. We absolutely must view each child of God as fearfully and wonderfully made. Every person is His workmanship; they are not our workmanship. For a mom this is an especially difficult truth to embrace. It is not our responsibility to craft our children into who we want them to become. Ouch. Take it from someone who has walked long enough raising children and lost one of them...oh, how I beg you, trust that precious created image to the One who made him or her completely and wholly, because He wants to fulfill His purposes in him or her. By letting go of the role of creator, you are surrendering to *Elohim's* purpose for your life as well.

Trusting God to be in charge of our hearts, minds, spirits, and lives will only happen if we understand purpose in a spiritual sense. Contrary to the meaning of that word in our work and life circles, purpose is not what you do after you put this book down. Purpose is not what you plot out and then carry out. Your purpose is not an action. Your purpose is what you are. Purpose is Whose you are.

I know. This is not the purpose the world teaches. Most living, breathing, working humans equate purpose with career, success, and deliberate action steps toward a goal. It takes time in the Word for this God perspective to sink in, but when it does, you will find freedom in God's purpose for you. When you are striving and plotting and putting energy toward success and quantifiable measures of self-worth, you have veered away from purpose as God intends. And chances are that you are exhausted and ready for an authentic way of being you.

With this perspective, we can sing out to *Elohim* with praise and honor for *who* we are in Him. Our hearts are full because His image lives in us. He glorifies Himself when we are shining as the work of His hands and we say, “Awesome are Your works through the greatness of Your power. It’s nothing I do. It’s nothing I’ve set out to accomplish; it’s nothing that I am. It’s God. It’s His awesome power at work in me.”

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;  
Sing the glory of His name;  
Make His praise glorious.

Say to God, “How awesome are Your works!  
Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies  
will give feigned obedience to You.  
“All the earth will worship You,  
And will sing praises to You;  
They will sing praises to Your name.”

Come and see the works of God,  
Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.  
(Psalm 66:1-5)

The world says, “Wait and see. Show me the evidence and then I will come.” But I love this passage of Scripture because it claims, “Come and see.” This is how we praise God and invite others to trust His holy name. We call others to come and see, to get into His Word. Come and allow Him to be a part of your life and trust Him to speak personally to you. Come and see what it is to live by faith. The believer, the person living in the image of God, says, “Come, and you will see. I’m certain of it. *Elohim*, who created you, will never disappoint you. Oh, how *Elohim* does not disappoint!”

## Encountering Elohim



### *Trusting Elohim*

1. Trust in your identity as God's wonderful creation: "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14 NKJV). How does believing that purpose is who you are, and not what you do, radically change your mindset, your burden to succeed, or your worries that you aren't good enough?
2. Ask the Holy Spirit of the living God to come in and fill you with streams of living water so that you might live in the purpose that God has placed before you today, which is simply to bring Him pleasure and to give glory to His name so that the world will have accurate estimation of who God is.

### *Remembering the Benefits of Elohim*

1. The Creator calls you by name. You were formed by His hands. Walk in this confidence. See how it deepens your connection to His heart when you pray. Experience the reassurance of your identity as God's child. When you feel alone or lost, hold tightly to this truth.
2. The Trinity was with you from the very beginning. And the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are with you as you are shaped into a new creation. Trust this power in your life. Consider which difficulty you are struggling with or striving against. Submit this struggle to *Elohim* today, right now. Let Him make something holy and new from your offering.

## *Blessing Elohim*

1. Bless *Elohim* by showing your trust in Him. Make it apparent to those around you that you place your faith only in Him. When the fruit of your life is evidence of that trust, you bring glory to *Elohim*. Let your actions and words say “Come and see” to those in your life. What purpose is God calling you to that will lead others to praise Him? Walk in this with confidence.
2. Do as Paul did: submit, repent, and surrender. Consider making a commitment to walk through these three steps in one specific area of your life. This action blesses your Creator and leads to transformation. Pay attention to how your life changes in this area.

## *Praying to Elohim*

*Elohim, I praise Your name for creating me and all the wonders of the earth and sky. As I begin this journey of drawing close to You and calling out Your holy name, Lord, show me what it is that has prevented me from trusting You completely in the past. I want to let go of any doubt and sense of unworthiness so that I walk boldly and humbly on the path You formed from the beginning. I step with awe into my life today because I claim the truth that You—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—created me in Your image.*

*I feel lighter and more at peace as I release my desire to strive against You, Elohim. Show me how to trust You and the journey ahead so that the fruit of my life becomes the good works and good purposes of Your hand. I praise and worship You, Elohim, our Creator, in Jesus' name. Amen.*