

# SEEKING VALUE, FINDING PURPOSE

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*Written by Glyn Wright McKay (Guest Writer)*

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Abortion. Birth control. Glass ceilings. Feminism. Marching for equality. Skipping work to prove your value. If you only read headlines and social media, you might think this is all there is to womanhood. It seems that if the government doesn't pay for your contraceptives, and society doesn't reward you with preferential treatment, then you're a victim of an oppressive, patriarchal society. Aren't we made for more than this?

I just want the madness to stop. American women are the most fortunate women in the world, why can't we embrace it and use that freedom to lift others up? When I was asked to write this blog, I struggled for weeks because all I really wanted was to publicly rant about the above-mentioned "women's movement."

But, there was something inside of me that kept saying, "Stop. This issue is so much bigger than *you*, *your* convictions, and *your* opinions." It occurred to me that it has never been about shattering glass ceilings, fighting sexism, or marching for reproductive rights. Rather, this struggle is more about lostness than the labels and platitudes that dominate the conversation.

Though we seem divided, if we're honest, we all want the same things: meaning and purpose; to live beyond ourselves; a legacy that outlasts the here and now; to leave the world better, safer, and more whole.

I wrote and rewrote this piece in a struggle to find balance between the spiritual and secular. Yet, again, that still, small voice kept saying, "You can't." If the issue is lostness, then the only hope is the Truth.

The Creator and God of the Universe has written a marvelous story for a depraved humanity that ends with reconciling those who *belong* to Him to an eternity *with* Him. All He asks is that we recognize our brokenness and commit our lives to Him. The truth is, He didn't just arbitrarily decide to give you life – no, His Word says He knew us before we were born, and if you belong to Him, He has given you hope and a future. He promises that if we seek Him, we will find Him.

Unfortunately, the finding part is a tiresome struggle in a world that is constantly pulling us in a million different directions and in a time where truth seems relative.

When I was fresh out of college, the plans I had made for myself kept getting in the way of the plans God had for me. I struggled with the notion of finding “God’s will” and my “calling.” I could see God working and moving but struggled to know *where* I should go. Ultimately, I realized that God is constantly moving and working in *me*, and He would use me wherever I ended up.

At the time, I was studying the story of Queen Esther. She was simply faithful where she was with what she had, and God used her to save an entire nation. She, too, struggled with her calling, and finding it took someone else, her uncle, imploring her to rise to the occasion: “...Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.” (Esther 4:14, HCSB)

So much of my personal understanding of purpose and calling began when I started to work for Phyllis Schlafly. I knew of her from the history books and because of my grandmother, but I soon grew a deeper respect and understanding for her well-defined positions, fearless nature, and unencumbered grit.

In her story, I found inspiration and encouragement – always grounded in moral truth, she took on the issues of her day, doing what she could with what she had. She is remembered as a great communicator, brilliant strategist, and a disciplined warrior for traditional values and the family. Through her leadership, she led an entire movement to ensure our freedom as American women to live as we please and to make the choices that we feel are best for ourselves and our families.

When she began, she didn’t know she would become a national icon– in fact, she began her work organizing at her kitchen table with her husband and children. She was simply faithful to God and to her mission, and through it all, she enabled and mobilized tens of thousands of people who faithfully continue her work today.

While I certainly don’t have it all figured out, of one thing I am sure, God has something for you too. He may not ask you to lead a national movement or to save an entire people group, but He has asked you to seek him where you will find him and to be faithful where you are in all you do.

Who knows why you’re in this particular job. Who knows why you lost your job. Who knows why God moved you. Who knows why He has kept you still. Who knows why you became pregnant “too soon.” Who knows why you are unable to

conceive. Who knows why you met this person or that one. Who knows why you have experienced great loss. Who knows why you find yourself where you are in this moment.

Who knows, perhaps you have come to \_\_\_\_\_ for such a time as this!

The One who knows is the One who created you with purpose. The One who knew the world needed you. The One who simply asks that you follow Him. I am a testament to God taking unforeseen circumstances, upsetting situations, and even loss, and making something very good out of it. His promises and His Word are true. Believe Him.

Your life may not be what you dreamed, your situation not ideal – but know that He is *for* you. The Creator of the Universe – the same one who called on women like Queen Esther and Phyllis Schlafly—is calling you. And, He promises that if you seek, you will find. God has something for you right now, where you are at – only trust Him.

*If you are searching, these promises, prayers, and Truth sustained me in my days of wandering:*

*Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him... Psalm 37:3-7*

*Fear not, 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 shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43:1-2*

*But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my own weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

*And, more: Psalm 3:4-5; Psalm 27:14; Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 51:10-12; Psalm 147:10; Proverbs 3:3-8; Proverbs 4:23-27; Proverbs 16:1-3; Isaiah 41:10; 2 Corinthians 5:14; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Philippians 4:19*