

---

# procuring PURPOSE

## GOAL GUIDE

this is the year to  
**plan our lives a little less**  
and prepare our hearts a little more

BY: BECKI BAXTER

belongs to:

---

# INTRODUCTION

If you are like me, every year I sit down to write out my New Year's goals. I make my list of all the things I want to do and attempt to add them to my already-full life. I give an honest effort but it's not long before most of those goals have fallen flat. Statistically, 80% of New Year's resolutions fail by February!

I have found that simply setting goals and trying hard does not always cut it. So how do we make goals that last? Procuring Purpose will help us do just that! Instead of trying to add more to our already overflowing life, let's try something new. How about we take a look at what God has already given us: time, resources, abilities, etc. And let God lead, to change and prepare us for what He already has in store for us. (Spoiler alert: It will be greater than you can ever imagine!)

Are you excited?! You should be! There is some pretty awesome stuff coming around the corner for YOU. Now, let's get started and find out what that looks like.

xo becki

*Now to Him who is able to do infinitely more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen*

*Ephesians 3:20*

**For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10**

# DAY ONE

We are going to dive right in to discover WHY it's such a big deal that we let God lead us instead of simply setting our own goals for self-improvement.

## Read Psalm 23

This is a familiar passage, one many of us have heard before. After reading it, write out below the first five words of this chapter:

To 'shepherd' someone means "guide or direct in a particular direction". When we let God lead us, He is taking the role of Shepherd in our lives. Letting Him lead must be an intentional decision, we can just as easily hold on to control of our own lives.

Do you struggle with letting God lead you in all things?

What things do you hesitate handing over?

Why do you find it hard?

According to Psalm 23, when we intentionally let God lead us, we are promised a number of things:

1. *I will not want for anything; I will be fully satisfied. (vs1)*
2. *He will create space for rest; He isn't about always doing more. (vs2)*
3. *HE will restore me. I wont be restored by self-care, eating, shopping or even other relationships. (vs3)*
4. *He will give me purpose by leading me down the path that is for my best and for His glory. (vs3)*
5. *When we go through hard times, He will be my comfort. His goodness and mercy are always present, even on my darkest day. (vs4&5)*

Which of these promises speak to you in your current situation?

**The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. Psalm 23:1-3**

# DAY ONE

Here's the thing - when God is leading us, we can be sure we are taking the path that is perfectly designed for who He has created us to be.

It will require hard work, but we won't have to force things on our own strength. What we achieve on our own, we will have to maintain on our own. But the things we achieve with God's leading is up to Him to maintain.

Let the pressure to "achieve and maintain" fall away. You may need to intentionally hand it over to God. If He wants to give and take away, that's up to Him. Let's practice holding things loosely.

Declare this out loud: **I am FREE from striving!**

It's described like this in 1 Corinthians, *"Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful."*(1 Corinth. 12:8 MSG)

When we ask God to lead us, it's not for our independent success but for HIS glory.

## **So what has He given you to do?**

We are going to discover the answer to this question over the next few days. We will uncover what resources you have already been given, the spiritual gifts you have, and how to put all of those together to set goals for this coming year.

Now is the time to let go of your own agenda and let Him lead you into the most exciting, custom built life which has been designed just for you. I hope you are willing to keep going! I bet you'll be surprised by what you learn in the coming days.

One of my favorite quotes is from Francis Chan, in *Letters to the Church* where he writes, **"No one is called to be constantly fed without leading and feeding others."** Think about that for a moment. None of us are called to simply consume church, the Bible etc. without giving it away in some capacity! This goal guide will help you do just that!

**For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11**

## DAY TWO

One of the most common reasons for holding back and not letting God lead is lack of trust. It's important to know who God is and what His character is like before we will trust Him to lead us.

Before we go any further, we need to establish TWO things:

1. WHOSE we are.
2. Who WE are because of Him.

Circle the things that hold you back from trusting God whole-heartedly.

**insecurity   comparison   distractions   fear   uncertainty   self-doubt   other:**

Acts 2:38 says that when we confess our sins and choose to follow Jesus, we will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Read Romans 8:14-15**

What do these verses say about who we are now?

Since God is our father, and in 1 John 4:8 it says "God is Love", what type of characteristics would our loving father exhibit according to 1 Corinthians 13?

Is this easy for you to accept? Why or why not?

Sometimes our earthly experiences with our father can inhibit our ability to understand how God is fully love and loves us unconditionally. His love doesn't change according to the things we accomplish - it's constant! This is what makes Him such a good, trustworthy Father. He always wants what is best for us and we can trust Him to lead us in the right direction.

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6**

## DAY TWO

Now that we know who God is (that He is loving, trustworthy and has our best interest in mind) let's talk about who we are because of Him. Read below, a small sample of who we become when we choose to follow God, receive the Holy Spirit and submit ourselves to Him.

*I am chosen by God, holy and dearly loved. (Col. 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)*

*I am free forever from condemnation. (Romans 8:1)*

*I have been made complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:10)*

*I am a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

*I am being changed into the likeness of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

*I have been given strength in exchange for weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:10)*

*I am capable. (Philippians 4:13)*

*I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)*

**Circle** the ones that you have a harder time believing.

Take a minute to ask God to help you fully and believe and accept what He says about you is TRUE.

How does knowing *whose* you are and *who* you are in Him change your attitude toward achieving your purpose?

Romans 8:11 Says, "*The same power that raised Jesus from the grave lives in you.*" When we feel unequipped, insecure or unsure of our abilities, remember this. When we let God lead us, and He leads us to a path that seems too big, too impossible or too MUCH, remember the power that is in you to accomplish these things is not your own - it's the power of the Holy Spirit. A power so fierce that it raised Jesus from the dead!

What encouragement can you take away from knowing *whose* you are and *who* you are?

What scripture from the list above can you write out to remind yourself of *who* you are?

**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8**

## DAY THREE

Sometimes we get so caught up in setting goals for self-improvement that we forget to consult someone very important - the Holy Spirit. He is our constant guide as we ebb and flow through life.

John 16:13 says, *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.*

The Holy Spirit holds the full power of God and what He says trumps any self-reflection quiz or personal goal sheets. He is an integral part of living a purposeful, God-led life.

We are ALL given gifts from the Holy Spirit, when we choose to follow Jesus. Every single one of us - NO one is excluded!

### **Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-27**

This passage so wonderfully expresses that we *all* have unique gifts, and that every one of our gifts are needed for us to function together. Our gifts and abilities all look different, but there aren't any that are better or worse than another- they are ALL valued and needed. We are given our gifts to show others who God is, and to serve each other. They are NOT given to advance our own agendas. (1 Corinthians 12:8 MSG)

Do you know your spiritual gifts? If so, what are they?

If you do not know your gifts, you can do couple of things:

1. Ask someone who knows you well where they see God working through you.
2. Pray, ask God to reveal to you what gift(s) you have been given.
3. Take an online quiz to use as a starting point, then discuss with a trusted friend to confirm your results. (here is one link: [gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey](https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey))

One thing is certain - you definitely have a spiritual gift! And I would love to see you using it. So before you go further, be sure to find out and write below what your spiritual gifts are. This is an integral part of working in unity with others to fulfill the purpose for which you were created!

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.  
1 Corinthians 12:27**

# DAY FOUR

Talent, time, spiritual gifts, opportunities - these are all things God has entrusted to us. Let's read a story of three men in the Bible who were all given resources to invest and how that turned out.

## Read Matthew 25:14-30

This passage is about three servants and one master. The servants were each entrusted with a certain amount of resources and were expected to do something with it. Two out of the three did a good job and were rewarded for it and one was reprimanded .

What set the first two apart?

There were two things the first servants did that the third did not do. The first two received their talents and got to work. There was no comparison over what they had been given or any hesitation before they sprung to action. The third servant reacted differently. He panicked and hid his investment. He was too insecure and fearful to move forward, afraid he was going to fail. He likely felt this way because he didn't trust his Master or the opportunity given to him. **FAITH brings action - FEAR brings inaction.**

Which servant do you relate to? Why?

## Re-read verse 15.

What do you notice here?

We are all given different opportunities, abilities, body types, spiritual gifts, etc. We are given different gifts according to the purposes that we have been created for.

Do you struggle with comparison, fear, or insecurity?

Pray and ask God to take these from you as you pursue the purpose He has created you for! Trust that you have been equipped with everything you need to fulfill your purpose.

There is no such thing as talents and abilities too small to be used by God.

**His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.1 Matthew 25:23**

## DAY FOUR

Let's take a minute for a quick inventory of what God has already entrusted to you. This will help to determine if you are being faithful with the things you have been given before asking for more. Take your time through these questions. They will be important for goal setting later on.

### **TIME**

Do you have any spare time at the moment? When?

Is there time in your day / week that you can create some space? What would you have to give up or do less of to make this happen?

### **ABILITIES**

What talents and abilities has God given to you?

How are you using these talents now?

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

What specific opportunities has God currently entrusted you with? (Think: kids, work, relationships, etc)

Do you feel you are using your talents in these God-given opportunities? Why or Why not?

### **PASSIONS**

What things are you interested in or passionate about?

When you put together your TIME, TALENTS, OPPORTUNITIES and PASSIONS, you see what God has entrusted to you. Now let's keep going to see how you can use those things to make God-led changes in this new year to follow the purpose He has for you.

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.  
1 Corinthians 12:27**

## DAY FIVE

Goal setting is one of my favourite things. I love to sit down and write out all the ways I could improve my habits or achieve lofty things. It is almost as if with simply writing down those goals, I can already imagine what life will be like when I am 'there'.

HOWEVER, one very important thing I have learned is this:

***The condition of our hearts is more important than the completion of our goals.***

We need to remember that what flows from our heart measures higher than any other accomplishment we think is valuable. We may have a list a mile long of what we want to change about ourselves, but if we want to live the life that God has for us - it starts with the heart.

Proverbs 4:23 says, *Guard your heart above all else for it determines the course of your life.*

It's important to start this process of goal-setting with a simple prayer. Instead of trying to decide what we think is the most important thing to change, why don't we try a new approach? Let's take that time to pray and ask God what He would suggest we could do differently.

Take a minute to sit before God with this question. Don't be afraid to sit in silence as you wait. Write down whatever comes to mind. God speaks to us all differently and it's not always an audible voice, but I have learned to trust the thoughts that come to mind when intentionally seeking Him.

*Lord Jesus, I want to live a life that is honouring to you. Please bring to mind the area(s) that You would like to lead me in changing.*

### **What comes to mind?**

1.

2.

This practice was exemplified by David in Psalm 139. David prayed, *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path to everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24*

**Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.**

**Proverbs 4:23**

## DAY SIX

Sometimes we get too eager to achieve something BIG, but things don't work out the way we hoped. We pray, "God, What is my calling? I want a purposeful life but don't know what to do." We are genuinely willing to follow His lead and yet, we hear nothing from Him.

We have already addressed the fear of failure associated with not knowing our Master. But, what about our fear of missing out?

We worry we will miss out on opportunities for a number of reasons:

*We aren't looking hard enough*

*We aren't trying hard enough*

*We don't feel qualified*

*Our season of life is limiting (ie. parenting, school, finances etc.)*

What leads you to fear missing out on your purpose?

When we search the Bible, we find great examples of men and women who are remembered for their great faith-acts: Noah, Joseph, Esther, or Mary to name a few. Interestingly, NONE of these people were out searching for a greater calling, or spending a single moment worrying that they would miss it.

They were simply found ready to obey God because of the condition of their hearts. They showed their faithfulness in day-to-day life. They were not perfect people, but they knew and trusted their Master.

There is a quote I love, "*You go where you're sent and you stay where you're put and you give what you've got.*" - Jill Briscoe

Sometimes to pursue our purpose, we have to look around at the place we have been put and trust that we are being used right where we are. God will lead us to the next thing in His perfect timing.

Spend some time in prayer. *Lord, please show me if you are leading me to something new or if you want me to stay and invest my time where I am.*

What do you think He is saying to you?

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6**

## DAY SIX

Some of us may not fear missing out, but we still struggle with knowing what it is that God wants us to do. We can be mis-led with the idea that we need to do something grand, be in ministry, have a successful business or become well-known to really live out our purpose.

**Read** the scripture below for a great picture of what God has already asked ALL of us to do, right where we already are. If you aren't sure about what goals to set, or purpose to pursue - this is a great starting point.

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:1-2 MSG*

What stands out to you from this passage?

What are we to offer God?

What will change in us?

How will our life be different?

**Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Romans 12 msg**

# DAY SEVEN

By now have established a few things:

We know *why* it's important to let God lead us - because He has created the best path for our lives. We understand the condition of our heart is crucial and we have to keep that in front of setting goals. We know what we have been given - our time, talent, passions, spiritual gifts and opportunities. We know why we have been given them - to serve each other and to show people who God is. We have listened for the areas we feel God is leading us to change.

NOW it's time to move forward and set our goals! It may be a bit scary and uncomfortable, but we have *no fear* because we know who our Master is and we can surely trust Him as He leads us into this new chapter of our lives as we set out to achieve our purpose. And it's going to be awesome!!

1. Go to DAY THREE. What is your spiritual gift(s)?

2. Go to DAY FOUR. What resources have you been given?

**TIME**

**ABILITIES**

**OPPORTUNITY**

**PASSIONS**

3. Go to DAY FIVE. What is God leading you to change?

4. We know that the purpose of our gifts is to serve others and show them who God is. How can you combine all of the above to do this? *(Use a Journal or the back of this page for more room to dream!)*

This is the fun part! Pray. Listen. Get creative! No dream is too big or too small. Trust what God is bringing to mind. If your heart is pounding a little faster, you can be sure you're on the right track! Remember, we can **expect more** than we can even ask or imagine.

**Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. Galatians 6:5**

## DAY SEVEN

*Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. Galatians 6:4-5*

Using your brain storming from Question #4, try to come up with one or two simple goals you can work towards this year. Sometimes it helps to break it down into smaller goals for 1 month, 3 month, and 6 months markers.

### **GOAL #1:**

1 month

3 month

6 month

### **GOAL #2:**

1 month

3 month

6 month

How can you track your daily habits to be sure you are working toward your goals?

Pray and commit these goals to God. Leave room for Him to adjust as you go!

**Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3**

## DAY EIGHT

How do we stand firm in our goals and our convictions in a culture of distractions?

It's important that we have 'our people'. A small community of friends who truly know us. I have learned that these friends don't just happen. You could have the best friends in the world but unless you are intentional about bringing them in to the deep stuff of your heart, they will never know. We know our gifts are given to us to benefit those around us. We need each other for encouragement and support!

### **Read Hebrews 10:24-25**

In vs.25, what are we to continue doing and why?

Is this something you are currently doing?

If not, make a plan to start now. Either grab a few friends and plan to meet regularly OR join up at a church near by. Often, there are ministry groups that are meeting at your church already. It can feel intimidating at first, but the long term pay off is so great when you see the power of what happens when we gather, encourage each other, and spur each other on towards the things God has set for us.

So, what's your plan?

Maybe you already have your people. Great! I would encourage you to share with them what God has put on your heart throughout these pages. It's important to say your dreams and goals out loud so others can pray for you, encourage you and spur you on. Don't be afraid!

Remember, when we know who our Master is, we can trust Him to lead us down the right paths that He has fully equipped us for.

*Thank you for taking the time to go through Procuring Purpose Goal Guide.  
My prayer is that this year will be your most fulfilling year yet!  
I pray that God will continue to lead you into all the amazing things He has for  
you and that you would be found ready for whatever He brings.*

*MANY blessings to you in 2023!!*

*xo becki*

# 2023

## DAILY HABIT TRACKING

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
week 1: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 2: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 3: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 4: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 5: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 6: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 7: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 8: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 9: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 10: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 11: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 12: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 13: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 14: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 15: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 16: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 17: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 18: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 19: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 20: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 21: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 22: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 23: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 24: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 25: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						
week 26: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>						

1 MONTH GOAL:

3 MONTH GOAL:

6 MONTH GOAL:

# GOAL TRACKER