

Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV) ¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

“Designed with Purpose in Mind”¹

Pastor Kan’Dace L. Brock

The Message Church, San Antonio, Texas

Since Friday, ladies from across the city of San Antonio have gathered to consider the conversation of finding our purpose, passion, and place in life, or simply, to “Find Her.” On Friday night, we shared in love, laughter, and lemonade. We laughed together through the comic relief of Sister Benita, we danced until our feet hurt, discussed the issues of life and did some painting with a twist. Then yesterday, we came together to worship and pray. We also learned the value of branding with Dr. Dee C. Marshall. We found balance in career and personal life with Sister Kae. We found our peace with Minister Jo Angelia. We redefined our purpose with Sis. Quency, and then, ended our day with prayer and encouragement with Pastor Claudia. But God didn’t stop there in me. As I was preparing for my lecture session on “Finding Your Purpose,” the Lord spoke to me through Psalm 139. As I was reading David’s prayer, God began to emphasize to me what I want to share with you today; God designed you with purpose in mind.

¹ This sermon was preached at a women’s conference in San Antonio, Texas at Resurrection Baptist Church. The theme of the conference was “Finding Her.”

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Here in 139th number of the Psalms, we find David speaking about our omnipresent omniscient God. But I don't want to take it for granted that you know who David is. David is the once shepherd, Goliath slayer who went on to become King of Israel. The prophet Samuel described David as a "Man after God's Own Heart." However, David was not without his own troubles. And let me take a minute and pause and remind somebody that just because you know God doesn't mean you are exempt from the troubles of life. Just know that your trouble won't last always. But that's a different sermon for another day. Here in our text, David reminds himself, and us today of the omnipresence of God. David begins the passage acknowledging God's ability to know what God is doing. David writes "You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar." And, so we consider the reality that you are designed with purpose in mind, the first thing this biblical teaches us is that

1) You are God's handiwork.

Verse 13 reads, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Here, David recognized the intricacy of his very being. David acknowledged that God took time in creating him. Theologian Albert Barnes found that the original word in the Hebrew for "created" carries the idea of protecting, as in a booth or hut, woven or knit together. And, as I was reading David's observation, I couldn't help but think of the miracle of pregnancy and birth. As I was reflecting on the miracle of life, I decided I needed to look up some milestones in pregnancy. So, I went to babycenter.com and this is what I found-

At 5 weeks, a baby's heart begins to beat and the circulatory system begins to form.

At 10 weeks, a baby's limbs are formed.

At 15 weeks, the gender of a baby can be detected.

At 20 weeks, a baby can swallow and their digestive system is fully functioning.

At 25 weeks, hair starts to grow and skin is thickens.

At 30 weeks, the baby is moves and responds to outside stimuli.

And during weeks 35-40, the mother's body prepares itself to do what God designed a pregnant woman's body to do, and that is, to deliver the baby. Someone is looking at me and wondering, "Why in the world did Pastor Kan'Dace discuss the incremental progression of pregnancy through delivery?" Well, I'm glad you asked. I needed someone to hear and understand that when David said, "For you created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother's womb," David wasn't just speaking as a scientist, but David was acknowledging that God took time in creating him. Don't miss your shout. You need to understand God didn't outsource the creation process. God didn't use second hand materials, thrift-store finds or bargain deals to create you. God didn't go on Groupon and get a 2 for 1 special. God didn't go on Ebay looking for you at a discounted price. God didn't go on Amazon Prime ordering you today so you would be here tomorrow.

Beloved, out of the 7.53 billion people in the world God created only one of you! God took His time, numbered the hairs on your head, gave you the right amount of melanin in your skin, and knew that you would be Black girl magic and Black boy joy even before you got here, all because God knit you together in your mother's womb. Is there anybody here who can celebrate the fact that YOU ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK?! Can we take a minute and brag on our God. You don't look like what you've been through. Your edges are laid, you fade is tight, and you're

looking like everything is going to be alright. If you can celebrate that with me, high-five your neighbor and say, “You are God’s handiwork!”

Not only does David remind us in Psalm 139 that you and I are God’s handiwork, but he goes on to show you in part A of verse 14 to say that:

2) You are FIERCE and FABULOUS. In other words, you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Don’t check out on me. To be “fierce” means to have or express confidence or style. To be “fabulous” means to be wonderful and marvelous. Here in verse 14, part A, David has the confidence to express how wonderful and marvelous God made him. David said, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” But there is a verb that goes along with David’s acknowledgement of who he is. The text says “*I praise you...*” The word used for praise here in the Hebrew means to revere or worship with extended hands. This messed me up. Watch this. David essentially said, “Look, not only am I going to worship but I am going to use my hands. I’m going to extend my hands in praise for the manner in which You, God, created me.” So, my question to you this morning is, “When was the last time you raised your hands in worship to God? When was the last time you gave God a wave offering?” You don’t have to answer that out loud, but what I’ve learned through the years is that there are times in my life when it isn’t enough for me to say something; I need to show up with hands lifted in praise to God.

But there’s more. David takes it a step further. As David was writing this Psalm, he was specific in his word choice. David said, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” The word for fearfully in the Hebrew translates to revere. To *revere* something means to respect, followed by

“wonderfully” meaning *distinguished*. So when David thought of himself, he knew that God made him with respect and distinguished, and for that, he could give God praise. Someone is walking around here now allowing others to disrespect you because you don’t know that God created you with respect and dignity. And because God created you with respect and dignity, then you shouldn’t accept anything less! Stop letting people talk to you any kind of way.

Stop letting people use you and throw you away.

Stop allowing people that mean you no good to stay in your life.

Stop making excuses for people that don’t want to change.

Stop allowing the opinions of others to outweigh the facts of God.

Take your life back, get your praise together and declare this day, and every day moving forward, that I am fierce and fabulous because God made me that way. I am fierce and fabulous because God created me in His image. I am fierce and fabulous because the same God that knows the number of stars in the sky knew me before I knew myself.

Not only can you declare that you are fierce and fabulous, but in part B of verse 14, David shows you that you are designed with purpose in mind because--

3) You know God for yourself.

In a 2009, in a Dutch research study on friendships, researchers found that the average friendship lasts for 7 years. The researchers went on to point out that in order for the relationship to last longer, both parties have to be willing to do the work necessary for the friendship to last. In other words, you have to get to know the person you are wanting to know for yourself. Look

back at part B of verse 14, David ends with this, “your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” David was able to declare God’s works as wonderful, and have peace in his soul because he knew God for himself. In Charles H. Spurgeon’s *The Treasury of David*, he notes that, “David was made to know the marvelous nature of God's work with assurance and accuracy. [David] had found by experience that the Lord is a master-worker, performing...wonders when accomplishing his kind designs.” But the interrogative, the question, that I ask you today, is, “Do you know God for yourself?” You see David wasn’t reflecting on what he heard. David was talking about what he knew about God from past experience. David knew God to be a protector as he tended to his father’s sheep and was able to defeat a lion and a bear. David knew God to be his strength when he defeated Goliath in first Samuel chapter 17. David knew God to be a healer when he lost his son Absalom in second Samuel chapters 15-18. David knew God to be a promoter when God elevated David as king. David knew God to be security when Saul was seeking to killing him. David knew God to be a way-maker when he was on the battlefield.

Is there anybody here who can declare that God has made a way out of no way?

Is there anybody here who knows God turned your mess into a miracle?

Is there anybody here who knows God keeps His promises when others don’t?

Is there anybody here who knows God is their light in the midst of a dark situation?

Is there anybody here who knows their God to be everything and so much more?

We serve the true and living God who was here before been here got here. And, when you take the time to look back over your life and see God’s hand keeping you, you too, like David can

declare, “Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” If Gospel great Eddie James was here, he would say it like this:

As I look back over my life
I can see how Your love has guided me
Even though I've done wrong
You never left me alone
But You forgave me
And You kept on blessing
This I recall to my mind
Therefore I have hope
It's because of Your mercy that we are not consumed
Because thy compassions fail not,
They are new every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness

You can declare this and so much more because you know God for yourself! God has designed you with purpose in mind!

