

SHARE YOUR STORY

**OWN YOUR
BROKENNESS**



A Note To The Reader

This short eBook is a part of the larger work of my upcoming book - "10 Steps To Walking In Purpose".

The book is scheduled to be released in September 2015.

And as is a given with how God deals with me, He surprised me with the idea for the book.

He used something He had already placed in my heart to do as the basis for the book.

I currently organize seminars at girls secondary schools in Nigeria where I speak to the young girls about the fact that God has a purpose for them to fulfill on earth.



Text 1: Me And The Girls At A Secondary School This Year

I am a prime example of someone who never thought God could use her for anything good and I simply desire that these students would have what I didn't have – an awakening to the fact that they are not just souls drifting aimlessly through earth, God has a niche for them to fulfill on earth.

I usually get questions from the students and from other persons on "how to find their purpose in life" and it was on one of such days when I sat up to put together a reply to a mail on the purpose topic, that God laid the book "10Steps To Walking In Purpose" in my heart.

It began with a plan for it to be just an eBook but metamorphosed into it being in hard copies.

The online copies of the book will be distributed for free online and plans for the printed copies are currently in the works.

The plan is to give out the printed copies of the book for free to students at schools where I currently organize seminars at.

However, the book is not limited to just students in secondary schools as every person who is interested in finding and walking in God's purpose for their lives will be blessed mightily by it.

The steps in it are steps that have transformed me from the 'good-for--nothing" girl into a girl used for God's purposes on earth and I am certain they will help everyone too.

If you also organize seminars at secondary schools, this book will be of great help to the young ones you speak to.

It can be donated to libraries at schools, churches... practically everywhere s soul who needs the words therein can come in contact with it.

The treasures in the book are things I wish that I had known at the young stages of my life and every young person's life will be blessed by it.

Plans are in the works for the hard copies and it would actually be great if anyone who wants a copy of it pre-orders and indicates their interest before plans for the printed copies of the book are finalized.

Donations/sponsorship to make the free distribution to teenagers in secondary schools possible will also be highly appreciated.

You can reach me via email at okorofrances@gmail.com if you are interested in getting a hard copy of the full book from which "Share Your Story" stems from or if you want to sponsor some copies for my work in schools or if you simply want to make inquiries concerning the book.

Thank you very much!

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About This Short eBook

As already mentioned above, this short eBook is a part of my upcoming book – '10Steps To Walking In Purpose'.

And as also already explained up there, the idea for this book cannot be attributed to me but to the God in me.

I actually think that the way God works with me is quite funny.

Anytime I think about His dealings with me, I just feel like He waits till He knows that I have gotten to the point where I will do what He asks of me before He asks it.

He never reveals His entire plan to me all at once.

Looking back on the story I will be sharing in this short eBook now, I am amazed as to how God would give me a word that I didn't see myself in till months passed by.

Everything God has given me to do have always started with me – my own story.

I may not see it when He says it at first but He brings me to a point where I finally see that He wants my life to be a basis for the message He wants me to share.

He doesn't want me to pull out a "robot-like manual" to tell everyone what He wants me to say to them but He wants me to use my own life as a background for whatever He is leading me to say or do.

I felt led to start the "Chastity For Men" series on my blog – a series which has now metamorphosed into a book and I had no idea that God

wanted me to also share my story with sexual addictions as a basis for it. And when "Share Your Story" was laid in my heart too, I had no idea that God also wanted me to share a part of my life that I'd rather forget. I didn't know that my story would also be a part of the book that He was leading me to write.

And I so desperately didn't want to obey Him on it!

But He has taught me that every time I speak of what He has done in my life, I am actually sharing His goodness for everyone to see and what He has done in my life is not for me, it's for others to see the light and see that God can pull them out of darkness too.

The short words in here will bare a part of my life that I would have preferred to stay hidden but when my heavenly Father says yes, who am I to say no?

If you read my story here and go all:

"Frances, why are you sharing your life in a medium that's as public as this?"

My response to you would be:

"Dear you,

My life isn't my own, God has simply taken over".

Most Christians prefer to only show off the squeaky clean part of them.

I do too.

But God has showed me that that's not what he has called me to do.

The darkness He pulled me out of is meant for one end – one purpose – to let others know that He can do the same in their life too.

He can turn your life over and wash off your darkness.

He can use your mess as a message for Him.

I know this as a fact.

I have seen Him do it in my life.

I was broken battered and in a deep mess.

With blood in my hands – blood in my heart – blood on my sleeves –
dead in sin and burdened with guilt and condemnation.

But then He restored, revived and redeemed me.

He took my sins, my guilt, my death – He took them all and gave me life
– abundant life in Christ Jesus and He can do the same for you.

And I know with absolutely no doubt in my heart that God can do the
same for you.

He can also use you despite your imperfections.

My story below is written just as it is in the book.

Just as it was when God gave the words to me.

It took tears and pain in my heart to release the past but I am certain that
other lives will be blessed by my obedience.

My prayer for you is that you will see yourself in my story and that you
will let God peel off the darkness in your life and let His light shine in
and through you, in Jesus name, amen.

Step 6

Share Your Story; Own Your Brokenness.

Now this is one step in this book that took me a lot of tears, prayers and trepidation to write about.

Why?

Because I am also going to share my story, as I am instructed to do so by God.

I know that God called me out of my imperfections and He intends to use them for Him – to shine forth the light to others; but what He has asked me to share in this step is too deep.

I have told Him that I will definitely not find a husband after sharing this deep dark story in a book that will be read by lots of people but He has told me that that's okay – I am not supposed to find him anyway, he will bring the husband to me.

I have asked Him what people will think, what will my parents think?

And His only response to me was that He intends to use my imperfections for Him. He has asked me to share my story, let Him heal me and heal the scars of others through this too.

And if He wants me to share my story in this book, then who am I to say no?

Never mind that I knew that I would share this story openly but wanted to wait till I was married with kids.

But if He says now, then I say yes Lord.

Remember the relationship I talked about in a bit of my walk in purpose up there?

I committed two abortions while I was in it.

I was a novice at the sex deal and knew nothing about birth control. And so after eating the forbidden fruit for a few months, I got pregnant – of course that’s what you get when you have unprotected sex (and just so we know, any form of sex, protected or not is frowned on by God outside marriage).

The obvious answer was to abort it because I could not imagine my parents knowing about it; neither could I imagine my fellowship at school getting wind of it.

To my young mind, there wasn’t really a choice to be made – just take it off.

And the next time I got pregnant again, the answer was again simple – just take it off.

Most people will tell you about the medical procedure but no one tells you about the psychological procedure involved in letting it all go.

Even after giving my life to Christ and becoming a tongue speaking lover of Christ, I still cowered under the weight of condemnation and scars gotten not from the abortion instruments used by the doctor – but scars deeply etched into my soul.

I carried them around for years till God addressed my issue in a meeting I attended while I was at Law School.

The preacher suddenly veered off into talking about the weight of condemnation arising from past sins of abortion and I remember crying my heart and eyes out as I prayed to God.

And that was it.

One sincere heart to heart talk with God and everything was taken away.

I remember speaking to my elder brother, the only person who knew that I had committed an abortion, and telling Him that God just addressed my issue in the meeting I just attended.

That meeting happened in 2013.

This is 2015 and I can without doubt say that the weight of condemnation is all gone from my soul.

I do not know how God did it, but a sense of wholeness overwhelmed me from that day.

I finally believed like His Word says that He has washed me of all sins I committed before I came to Him and I am now a new creation in Christ.

As I type this right now, I am thinking of how God has taken my life and washed it clean one step at a time.

So many dark stories – so many dark crevices – He took them all and let His light shine through them all.

This girl in Christ would not be here today without those dark years.

But God has turned those dark years into light.

Who am I?

Who is this flawed imperfect girl with a shady past that He loves this much? And then He still calls this brokenly flawed girl beautiful.

He not only brought light to my life through the dark years, He wants to bring light to others through my own past darkness.

I remember sharing this story in a conference I was opportune to speak at and the number of ladies that were just set free from the sins they were struggling with.

What kind of God turns that which men believe should be hidden into testimonies for Him?

Why would He want me to put something the world calls so shameful into a book – to be read by lots of people?

I mean, I used to be so ashamed of my past.

I used to cover up in disgust at some of the things that I did in the past.

But He has made me see; how can I not share my story about how God saved me from myself with others?

Someone else's light can be lighted through God's light in me and it would be a shame to miss out on bringing another life to God's light.

Now, I believe that you understand why I feel an aching pain in my heart to spread forth the truth that young girls should live purposeful lives.

I was once like them – drifting along with no idea that God has created me to be more and do more.

No one told me then that God has a unique niche for me to fill on earth. I had to grow into that knowledge as God revealed it to me and that's exactly what I don't want to be repeated in the lives of these young girls.

Someone has to tell them not to repeat the same mistakes that I made and if it has to be me, then by all means, let it be me.

God knows that I have been there before so I know how it all works.

So what did He do with my experience?

He set it all up as a part of my purpose in Him.

And I believe that God wants us to understand this truth too.

Our past experiences weren't given to us for us to sweep them under the carpet; they are all used in the good works that God has prepared for us before the beginning of time.

Every experience (painful or not) that has ever happened in our lives lead us up to just one thing - God's purpose for us.

God's light to shine through our past darkness.

Romans 8:28

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

The past we feel like hiding?

It all culminates in God's purpose for our lives.

We have got to look deep down into the experiences we have had in our lives. More often than not, God will also use that to point us towards what our purpose on earth.

We are always drawn towards people going through what we have gone through in time past.

But the thing is, we usually don't like to look back into the past, some of us just want to bury the terrible experiences and sometimes, I want to do that too.

My family situation was rough for a better part of my young life and I do not like to remember the years when we always had my parents fighting in our home, but when I see a girl crying about her family situation, I know that I must tell her my story and let her know that God restores homes.

And it should be the same for us too.

Our past experiences are lamp stands that point us towards who God wants us to be and what He wants us to do on earth for Him.

Don't hide the pain, let the pain of past experiences be healed by God and when He makes you whole again, use those experiences to bless the lives in front of you.

God works out everything in our lives for good – He uses the good and the bad to bring out His good purposes in our lives.

Don't beat yourself up about your past, give it all to God and let Him wrought purpose in you through it.

He will mold that sad tale – that story that you are tempted to sweep under the carpet and use it to bless lives for Him.

Pay close attention to your past (and present) life experiences.

Everything that has ever happened in our lives leads us right back to

walking in purpose for God while on earth.

Let God mold you and bring you forth as fine gold for Him - usable for every good work.

Please share your story.

Please own your brokenness.

A life out there needs to hear it.

If you have been blessed by the words above, then you would probably also be blessed by the words God gave me to share on my story at a sister's conference recently.

God met us in mighty ways at the meeting.

I experienced the fruit of obedience first hand as we had people literally experiencing freedom from the guilt of past sins and letting God come in to make them anew.

You can watch the video here on my [YouTube Channel](#) (Just click on the highlighted text to watch) and I am certain that it would bless you mightily.

The "Share Your Story Series" also continues on my blog every Monday in the month of August 2015 (might spill over into September) and it would highlight real life stories of people who have been changed by God.

You can read them all on my blog at www.imperfectlyperfectlives.com and be encouraged to know that you aren't alone in your "seeming mess".

God can and will pull you out of darkness into the light too.. If you let Him like I pray you will.

Finally, it would be appreciated by me if you would allow yourself to be used as a vessel to let other lives see the light.

You can please share this short eBook to friends via mail, Bluetooth, flash share, etc... share it to any and every one you know will be blessed to have it.

And share it via the social media channels below.

Thank you very much.

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Full Book Coming September 2015

Contact Me At okorofrances@gmail.com if you would like to pre-order your hard copy of the book.... Or if you would like to be used as a vessel to sponsor some free copies for young girls in my work in Secondary Schools.

Thank you!

About The Author



Frances Okoro is a Lawyer by profession and a writer/Christian blogger by passion/calling. She is enraptured with living forth God's purposes in her life and her aim is to shine forth God's light in her with the simple story of God's manifold grace that found her in her mess. She has a heart for young girls and organizes "Awakening youths" seminars in secondary schools in Nigeria where she awakens young girls with the message that God has created them for

more — for them to live forth their God-given purposes in Christ and impact their world positively while they are on earth. She is also an adventure seeker and aspiring world traveler. She is a huge fan of traveling solo when there is no one to tag along and you can find her climbing mountains and hills on days when the adventure bug hits her.

Visit her website at www.imperfectlyperfectlives.com