DAY 15

Wearing My Father's Shoes

Honoring Purpose Beyond Expected Shoes

Today's Diary at a Glance

In Day 15, Kimberly reflects on growing up as a pastor's daughter and wrestling with her desire for ministry after her father urged her toward engineering. Surviving a suicide attempt in college, she later experienced a profound spiritual surrender in 2008 and began preaching in 2009. Yet repeated spiritual battles, seasons of silence, and church bullying left her questioning her discernment and nursing deep wounds. As she began recognizing her autism and ADHD, she reexamined past church dynamics alongside her neurodivergence. By 2026, Kimberly realized that serving God and caring for others did not require standing behind a pulpit or duplicating her father's life. Purpose, she discovered, unfolds through diverse tools, technological creativity, advocacy, and honoring her authentic voice without wearing someone else's shoes.

Key Life Lesson

We often mistake a genuine calling for the specific title, platform, or inherited path we first envisioned. When our journeys diverge from those rigid expectations, it does not mean we have failed or missed our purpose. True faithfulness allows us to honor those who came before us while using our gifts responsibly without sacrificing our well-being.

Spiritual Reflection

1 Corinthians 12:4–6

Drawing from 1 Corinthians 12:4–6, Kimberly recognizes that spiritual gifts, administrations, and operations are expressed through many diverse avenues rather than a single pulpit. She embraces the freedom to serve God with humility, knowing that faithfulness does not require forcing herself into someone else's pattern.

Moment of Grace

May you grant yourself gentle permission to release the heavy expectations and inherited paths that were never designed for your feet. May you trust that your service and worth remain deeply meaningful, even when your journey looks entirely different from what you once imagined.

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Today's Self-Reflection

1. Have you ever felt pressured to follow a path because of your family, your faith community, your profession, or the expectations others placed on you?
2. Have you ever questioned whether you misunderstood your purpose because your life did not unfold the way you expected?
3. Consider the gifts, experiences, and passions that have remained consistent throughout your life, even when the way you expressed them changed. Are there ways you could use those gifts to serve others that you have not previously considered?
4. And are there expectations you may need to release in order to pursue a healthier, more authentic path?

My Journal

1. If you wish, write about an inherited expectation or role you have tried to fulfill, noting what it felt like to realize it might not fit your authentic design.
2. If you wish, list the gifts and core passions that have stayed with you over time, exploring unconventional or quiet ways they are currently bearing fruit.

Prayer & Application

Prayer prompt: If prayer is part of your practice, you might rest in God's quiet presence and release the pressure to replicate someone else's spiritual journey or assignment. You might ask for discernment to honor your unique wiring and trust that your calling can flourish outside conventional lines.

Practical takeaway: Take five quiet minutes to name one expectation you have been carrying out of habit or obligation, and gently imagine setting it down.

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Reading Circle Discussion

1. How have family expectations or church traditions shaped the way you define personal success or spiritual service?
2. In what ways have you experienced tension between who you are as a whole person and what communities expect you to produce?
3. Reflecting on 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 and its reminder of diverse gifts and administrations, how might expanding your view of service bring healing to seasons of perceived failure?

Your written responses belong to you. You may leave any prompt unanswered and decide whether to share anything in a group.

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Read the complete chapter in your published book.

The Diary of a Neurodivergent Black Woman

30 Days of Faith, Identity, Healing, and Becoming · Kimberly J. Lewis, M.Div.

This companion includes manuscript-based summaries, the original questions in Today's Self-Reflection, and newly developed companion exercises. Scripture reference: 1 Corinthians 12:4–6. Source: Approved manuscript · Day 15 · pages 67–77.