

# A Greater Purpose: By Erica Jermanus

In this book, I share my testimony of how I came out of corporate America and found my purpose. God may be leading you to do the same!

After I graduated from high school, I had a desire to find a job and to work. At that time, I did not know God or have a personal relationship with Him. I was not seeking Him for what I should do with my life. While in high school, I had a counselor set me up with an agency that helped me get this corporate America job working at a grocery store as a courtesy clerk. The name of the grocery store was Kroger. In 2010, I applied for the grocery store clerk job and ended up getting a call for an interview and little did I know I would end up staying at this job for almost 11 years. I ended up working at the old store location for a few years before going to the new location and working there a few years.

I stayed in the same position for those 10 or 11 years. I bagged groceries, collected carts, cleaned the store facility, cleaned and managed the bottle room, and put products back on the shelves. I was pretty content at this job and in this position. I got too comfortable and complacent in the same position. I never moved up or advanced to another position. I felt like I was stuck in the same position even when I wanted to move up to another one. I was on social security disability and

could only work so many hours, or I would lose my benefits.

The courtesy clerk position worked with my hours. They allowed me to work up to 15 to 20 hours a week. Also, at the time I was working at this job, I was going to school at a community college taking general ed classes. I did not know what I wanted to do with my life. I did not know my purpose in life and neither did I know Jesus Christ. Going to this community college led me to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. My whole life changed from there on out.

I met a friend in a psychology class at college. And we had a group project, and she was praying that she would come across a lost soul. I was that lost soul that did not know Christ. I talked to her outside of class and told her how I struggled with mental illness and how I took medication for it. That is when she told me how Jesus Christ could heal me from mental illness. My whole life changed. That is when I started a relationship with God and I started to seek Him and get to know Him and His will for my life.

I went to that college not just to take classes and get a degree, but to receive salvation and Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. That friend was a blessing in my life and her obedience to God led me to accept Christ and receive a new life in Him. After I met that friend, I started to find my purpose in life. I wanted to serve others and find out what my gifts and talents were. I knew that one of my gifts was communication, whether that was speaking, reading, and writing. That is another reason why I stayed so long in that position. The courtesy clerk position worked with the public. This position allows you to speak with the customers. So I was using that gift of communication and customer service in this job position.

Working at Kroger led me to start fulfilling my purpose. Outside the job, I joined an evangelism team and I also started a YouTube channel. I would preach the gospel through videos on YouTube. Whenever I was on my break or lunch or whenever I would go out on carts or do carry-outs, I would try to look for opportunities to share the gospel. The people I talked to about Jesus Christ on the job received me because they were already believers. I tried to use wisdom and

discernment as to who to share the gospel with because I did not want to lose my job.

While I was on the job, I started to lose weight because the job was heavy labor. It was a lot of pushing, pulling and lifting. I worked somewhat long hours, standing and walking on my feet a lot. It was good exercise, and it really kept you in shape physically. But it took a toll on my health. I weighed about 100 pounds. My low weight ran in my family. Some of my family members were skinny too, so it was a part of genetics. But I was losing weight because of the strenuous exercise on the job. I could not afford to lose any more weight, or I would be sickly thin. So the Lord spoke to me in various ways that He wanted me to quit this job.

At first, I did not want to let go of the job because I needed the money and the paycheck. I stayed there longer than I should have because I did not listen to God when He told me to leave the first time. I was acting out of disobedience. Not only that, I wanted to please people by staying there. Family would pressure me into staying at this job because it was a great company to work for. They did not want me to leave without another job lined up.

That is why I stayed longer, because I cared too much about what people thought of me and the job. I also needed money. It was more so about the money and the pay check rather than a passion or a purpose. It was more so about doing my own will rather than doing the will of the Father. I was putting my trust in riches rather than in God, who could richly supply all my needs. I needed to be willing to let go so that God could bless me with something better. He had better plans in store for me. I just needed to trust in Him.

Finally, It was around covid 19 times when the virus started to break out. I put in my two-week notice and quit the job. I had to disappoint some people that really wanted me to stay there. Sometimes, in order to obey God, you have to disappoint people. That is when I really started to find purpose and find out what my gifts and talents were. And I started to do YouTube over the last few years without a job. The YouTube channel did not pay money. I tried to apply for other jobs, but they would fall through, and other people would get the job. I knew that God was closing the door on those jobs because they were not in His will for my life. He wanted me to focus on serving Him and fulfilling my purpose. He wanted me to serve Him and His kingdom on earth.

It was more important to serve God and do things His way, than to do things my way. I needed to listen to Him and obey Him. There are rewards on the other side of our obedience. If I had listened to the people in my life, I would probably have still been at that job. But I took a step of faith even when I could not see the whole picture. I knew that God was preparing me for marriage and children in the future. As of this day, He is still preparing me for His perfect time.

I have gone through many tests and trials that have shaped and molded me into the person I am today. I have become stronger in my character and faith because of the trials and tribulations that I have endured. God is still working on me and preparing me for greater things He has for the future. I just need to take one step at a time and trust in His perfect timing. God knows what you need and when you need it. Sometimes, He requires us to leave behind old jobs because they no longer serve us anymore. God had me at that job for a season so that He could use me at that job. He also used that job to shape and mold me into the person I am today. But now that season has ended, and He has called me to serve Him and fulfill the call of God on my life.

God may be calling you to do the same as well. Maybe you are in a job that you have been in for years, and you may have gotten complacent or comfortable at this job. You may be used to it and you will enjoy it. But God may want to move you elsewhere because your time is done at that job. You may have fulfilled your purpose and assignment at that job. So God wanted to use you somewhere else. So he may be leading you to quit that job and put in your two-week notice. God is calling many of God's children out of the secular workforce to serve Him and the kingdom of God. There are souls that are perishing every day, and we are called to share the gospel and love of God with others.

We can do that in our workplaces or schools. We can do that at the stores or wherever we go. God may be calling you into ministry or to start a business. He will give you the ideas and put them on your mind and in your heart. He will lead and guide and show you what to do and what your purpose is in life. He will show you what He wants you to do to serve others. He may lead you to start an online ministry preaching the gospel on social media platforms or at your job in your community or in your schools. He may lead you to teach your



children about God and the Bible. Whatever He leads you to do, do it for His glory and for His kingdom. You will have rewards when you get to heaven if you are a believer in Christ.

I want to share what I liked about this grocery store job. I liked that I got to get out of the house and be around people. I am both introverted and extroverted. My gift is communication, and so I love to talk to people and share my beliefs with them if they are willing and open to listening. But I could not always do that on the job. But I could be a light with my actions and not just my words. That is what we are called to do as believers in Christ. We are called to shine the light of Christ and walk in the love of God. We are called to be a reflection of Christ. You can do that by working unto the Lord, because you do not work for man. You work for God whether you are working at a grocery store or some place else.

So, if you work for God, you do your job to the best of your ability because you are working to serve Him and not man. When you serve God, you work hard, and you do your job with a positive attitude. Your light will shine onto others, and you will be a blessing wherever God

sends you and leads you. God led me to leave this job because I fulfilled my purpose and assignment there, and it was time to move on to start my YouTube ministry and to write these books for His glory and kingdom.

What I also enjoyed about working at this job was the exercise. I liked being able to be on my feet even if it was just for a few hours. Exercise is good for the body, and it keeps you healthy and active. I also liked that I was getting paid and had money coming in to pay bills and to provide food and necessities. But I trusted in my wealth rather than trusting God. So that is another reason why I left that job. But I also liked that the job was covered under the union. The union protected my job and made sure I was safe on the job. The union also provided medical leaves and absences. So that was a blessing.

I also liked this job because I got to clean the restroom and put things back on the shelves. I love to clean and organize. So I was able to use that gift and talent of cleaning and organizing on the job. I also was able to use the gift of communication because I was able to talk to the customers and employees. I was also able to

use the gift of service because I was able to serve the customers and help them with their groceries and provide customer care. I also liked that the position I was in worked with my hours while I was on social security disability and going to school. These are the reasons I stayed at this job for so long. But that time had ended at that job, and it was time to move forward to the better and greater things that the Lord had in store for me.