



Q&A with dechari

ON WRITING THE BOOK

Q: When did you decide to write **Finding Your Fairy Tale Ending**?

A: I was talking with God one morning about 4 years into marriage when I felt prompted to ask God a question. "How do I tell them they don't have to settle; that You have so much more for them if they will trust You with everything?!" God answered. These words came swiftly to my mind. "You're going to write a book."

Q: How did you know it was God that spoke to you about writing a book and not just your own thoughts or ideas?

A: Honestly, I never wanted or thought of writing a book. So, when those words came to my mind my first reaction was, "Cool!" A split second later my reaction was, "Wait. I can't do that!" I realized this was not my idea. I went a step further and questioned would God be happy if I did and would Satan be happy if I didn't. I knew it was a God thing but had no clue how it would come about.

Q: How did you get started writing?

A: Let me preface this by saying, I didn't get started for 3.5 years after that conversation. God had to work on me during these years to trust He was calling me out to do this ... something I knew I couldn't do in my own ability. But I would say I finally got started by fasting. I didn't even know I was fasting. I was just desperate to figure out why I felt so unsettled in what I considered my dream job that I took a day off to pray. I laid down in my living room and said God, I'm not going to do anything until You tell me what You want me to do. I said this statement for the next several hours.

I finally took a break to meet with a sweet Christian friend, Jaquie, when I explained my internal struggle. Then, I said two sentences I had never said side by side. "I've been miserable in work for 3.5 years. You know, God told me to write a book 3.5 years ago." There was my confirmation. It was time.

My next steps started with praying flat on my face every morning and confessing I couldn't do this; my words wouldn't matter. I needed it to be God through me. I never started writing until I did this.

Then, I jotted down highlights of my story and lessons God taught me along the way. I didn't know what the book would essentially look like or why the Fairy Tale title until God brought it all together.

As I wrote, I continued to ask God what my next baby step was. The big picture is great to help keep you on track, but I had to back up and trust God to lead me that day. I didn't know the path God was taking me on, so I needed turn by turn instructions.



THOUGHTS ON DATING

Q: Do you think teenagers should or shouldn't date?

A: I asked God this question when I started writing as if I had to take a stand one way or the other. God impressed on my heart not to say either way, but to simply share my story and know that everyone's story looks a bit different. Though, I was asked an amazing question by a mom that I would love to share my answer to. It was, "If you had a teenage daughter, what would you want for her?" My heart filled up as I said, "I would want for her to live fully in this season... enjoy friendships, make great memories, have adventures, discover more about herself as she discovers more of Christ, & that she doesn't have to be rushed or pressured into anything, but she has a security in the Lord having the best for her as she follows Him." Can I get an amen?!

I would also say don't date to date. Dating should be with the intent of finding a mate. If you aren't ready to do that, don't date. Dating should be something you ask God about before making commitments. You should

involve your friends and family who love Jesus and you should ask God for His will in it often.

The most courageous prayer some girl friends have prayed, even while in great seeming relationships, is, "God, if He's not your best for me, then please help end this relationship." I say this is a courageous prayer because when everything in you wants to hold onto a relationship, it's an amazing place to be willing to surrender what you think is good for waiting and trusting in God's best.

Q: How did your past dating relationships affect your marriage?

A: Most people don't realize at the time the impact their dating relationships will have on their future marriage. Somehow we think the past will stay in the past and that it won't matter who your spouse dated, kissed, or slept with. But it does matter - a lot! It hurts when you are facing your spouse, about to enter a sacred covenant that was only meant for you two, and you realize others were allowed into that.

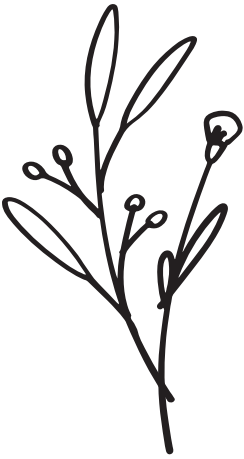
Neither my husband nor I had a perfect past. Even still, God in His mercy allowed us to experience His grace in a big way. Our pastor and his wife and close friends offered to pray over us before our wedding. We confessed our past relationships we entered into and asked for God to break the spiritual, physical and emotional ties from them.

Truthfully, I didn't know what to expect when they offered to pray over us before our wedding. When we left, I was surprised at the huge weight that lifted. We knew we had a past, but it no longer had a pull on us. Jesus is so good! It was seriously the biggest thing that helped our marriage!

FUN GET TO KNOW ME

Q: How did you get your name again?

A: First, you pronounce it dee-chair-uh, in case you were wondering :) I was the first girl in my family. My mom wanted a unique name and decided to make it up from a combination of my two older brothers and my dad's names. "De" from Derrick, "cha" from Channing, "ri" from Richard.



Q: What's something about you that may surprise people?

A: *I think I can come across as more reserved. So, I think people are surprised to find out that I've gone paragliding off a cliff in California, skydiving in Key West, and went on the second longest and fastest zip line in the world.*

Q: What is your favorite pastime?

A: *Traveling and exploring new places with my hubby, and movies or game nights with friends.*

Q: What's your favorite movie genre?

A: *I would say action/suspense and a great romantic comedy (which are so hard to find now). If it's in God's will, I would love to be a part of making a clean, awesome romantic comedy one day!*

Q: What are you afraid of?

A: *Alligators. I think they could be lurking in any body of water. And opening a can of biscuits. The suspense of when it will randomly pop open raises my blood pressure, lol!*

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: *I have a hard time controlling myself around mac & cheese and Rice Krispie Treats :)*

Q: Cats or dogs?

A: *Dogs!*

Q: Who has inspired you?

A: *I've had so many wonderful people in my life, but I would say my mom has had the greatest influence. She taught me to pray often, trust God with everything and be kind to everyone. She is my biggest cheerleader.*

Q: What's your favorite thing and hardest thing about marriage?

A: I tell girls that I get to have a sleepover with my best friend every night. It's a blast doing life with my bestie! I love how comfortable and safe I feel with him.

Marriage is definitely very challenging as well. I believe God has it as a refining tool to make us more like Christ. It first made me realize how selfish I was and that we needed to learn to serve one another, listen and give lots of grace. Two worlds are colliding and you have to embrace each other's unique qualities, gifts, quirks, past and flaws. So, it brings you to places of vulnerability and the need to seek God's wisdom to grow together. I'm actually praying about releasing a book on the best things we did for our marriage. Prayers appreciated over that and keep any eye out!

Q: What's your favorite scripture and why?

A: That's always tough to pick one, so I will pick the one that first really stood out to me as a child. Proverbs 16:9 says, "A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps." -NKJV

Maybe this stood out to me at a young age because God was preparing my heart for a journey I could never imagine as I would take many steps of faith with Him.

DETERMINING GOD'S PATH

Q: How and why did you start Girls Living 4 God (GL4G)?

A: Really that journey stemmed from when this book first came out in 2013. I realized how few Christian-based resources there were for youth at such a crucial age. While writing the book, I started a website to have a place to testify to what God was teaching me and other girls as we walked with Jesus. Several Christ-centered events followed, including My Fairy Tale Ball, with the first release of the book. Then, somehow information about becoming a nonprofit kept coming up. It was mentioned



enough times that I stopped and asked God if that was something to pursue. It was truly a God miracle when we partnered with 501c3Go and became a nonprofit in 2015. I believe becoming a nonprofit was God's way of letting me know it was bigger than me and it would allow many others to support this mission of investing in this next generation. We would love to invite you and those you know to join us on mission for "Her" at GL4G.com.

Q: What do you want girls to know about your journey?

A: It's easy to see people's highlights, but know there were many, many small steps of faith. It was a lot of listening for that tiny, still small voice and prayerfully taking a baby step. It was and is constantly asking the Holy Spirit to guide us while we hold our plans and timing loosely. They change and it's ok. There is a lot of waiting and trusting, joys and tears. It's in the journey you see more of God than the destination you are after. He is growing you and teaching you more of who He is so you will become more of who He created you to be. If you believe in Jesus and He is your Lord, you are on mission! Ask where that mission field is - your family, school, work, friends, your state, or another country (Matt. 28:18-20). You have purpose today. Don't discount all the little things. They make a bigger impact than you know.

→ your very being
reflects God

Q: What would you say to girls trying to determine God's call on their own life?

A: **#1 God uses all ages to impact the world.** He's used children all the way to the elderly. So, you are never too young or old to be used by God (1 Timothy 4:12). Your very being reflects God (Genesis 1:27)! So, stop listening to the enemy's lie that you don't matter and have nothing to give, and instead know truth. Each one of us was made with purpose, to bring glory to God and shine His light in a dark world (Eph. 2:10, Matthew 5:13-16).

#2 Don't compare journeys or talents or timing. You can't compare to what you were never meant to be! God has His path for you (Proverbs 16:9).

Each person in the body of Christ is made to do something unique (1 Cor. 12:12-20). So be yourself or else the body of Christ is missing something important. And learn sooner than later to surrender YOUR way and timing for things to happen (Isaiah 55:8-9). This may be the hardest thing to accept, but God isn't in a rush like we are. Don't be like Abraham and Sarai and decide to try and make things happen your own way and in your own ability (Genesis 16). Trust if God wants something to happen it will in His timing and probably in a way we could never imagine or done ourselves (Eph. 3:20, 1 Cor. 2:9). It's in the things you could never have done or planned yourself that your story points to someone greater than you - our awesome God.



#3 The outcome is God's. Your job is obedience. Some plant, some harvest, but God does the growing (1 Cor. 3:6-9). So, stop worrying about numbers or comments. You may not even see the impact God used you to make until Heaven. There once was a man who hosted a revival with some discouragement as night after night no one got saved. That was until one night a young boy did. That man was Billy Graham who went on to preach the gospel to hundreds of thousands. You can't see what God sees. Impacting one life matters!

#4 Out of your relationship with God is where impact happens. We too often start focusing on doing "for" the Lord instead of being "with" the Lord. So, spend lots of time talking to God. Dig into your Bible. Learn to listen for God's voice. Fall in love with Him. The more your relationship flourishes, the more that love and life changing impact in your own life will overflow to others.

WAIT... What point are we on? I think I lost count and started a second book, LOL. But this last one is awesome! **#5 Pray about everything;** not because you have to, but because you get to! As you try to figure out your talents and the direction for your life ... you get to ask God for wisdom and the Holy Spirit for guidance. Invite God in to all the seemingly little and big decisions in your life. Our viewpoint is so limited. Isn't it amazing that

we get to ask the God of the universe what great plans He has for us and watch it unfold?!

I'll finish with this...

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will
make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5-6 ESV

