

Designed for God

By Steve Pruitt

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Psalms 139:16 NKJV

On June 4, 2008 I underwent open heart surgery to replace an aortic valve which had been defective since birth. Many times while lying in the hospital bed the Holy Spirit brought Psalm 139:16 to my mind.

The Hebrew word for fashioned used by David in this Psalm is yatsar. According to Strong's Concordance of the Bible yatsar means to press (intransitive), i.e. be narrow; figuratively, be in distress; be distressed, be narrow, be straitened (in straits), be vexed; (through the squeezing into shape); to mould into a form; especially as a potter; figuratively, to determine (i.e. form a resolution): earthen, fashion, form, frame, make (-r), potter, purpose.

With this understanding I can clearly see that my heavenly Father was not caught off guard by my surgery. He not only knew about it, he planned it. He didn't just merely allow it to happen; he squeezed it into shape; he formed, framed and molded it like a potter does a vessel. And he did it for a specific purpose. I don't yet know all the specifics as to why God planned this in my life; however I believe I do see part of the big picture.

One reason God planned it was to conform me into the image of Jesus. He desires that when others look at me they only see Christ. Another reason I believe God planned my surgery was for his great name's sake and the praise of the glory of his grace.

God takes great pleasure in the exaltation of his name. In fact, God is jealous for the exaltation of his name. That is why he chose Israel as his people. Jeremiah records, *For as the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me, says the LORD, that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear.* (Jeremiah 13:11)

God predestined us as sons to the praise of the glory of his grace. He predestined us and fashioned our days to show us and the entire world his great love and mercy, to make a great name for him; that he would receive all praise and glory. That is the essence of all worship; for God's name to be exalted above all else.

Are you a son? Ask the Father to conform you into his image that you might be for renown, for praise and for glory. Ask the Father for the grace to make your light shine for the glory of his great name.

NOTES:

Scriptures for meditation:

Romans 8:29

2 Corinthians 5:21

Ephesians 1:3-6