

Dear 2020,

What is louder? A shout or a close whisper? One may argue that a shout has a larger decibel. And it does. However, the ear is delicate and sensitive. A stressful sound may be heard, but the ear quickly tunes it out. What the ear listens to is the slightest whisper that is ever so close. As the world continues to roar in its chaotic essence, some of the best ideas come in silence. But what is the whisper, you may ask? To some, it is God, and to some, it is the wind. To some, it is a hum, and to some, it is the subconscious. I cannot tell you what the whisper is for me. But I can tell you that when I sit in silence, the world slows down. Like a popcorn kernel bursting upon ignition, the ideas begin to explode in my mind upon the company of silence. But does the presence of silence abscond and return, or the presence of loudness come and go? As an extrovert, the loudness would go wherever I went as a child. But now, being an extrovert that has learned to listen and embrace the gift of silence, I never take silence for granted. Silence means creative time.

It was around the time of the year when the leaves fall when I heard words in the whisper. As I sat in silence, cogitating the idea of a podcast, I knew I needed a motive and a title. With my heart beating, my lungs breathing, and the slightest sound of my eyelashes kissing, I thought, “I have a purpose. Whether the world is up in flames or not, the bones in my body are consistent. The number of hair follicles on my head is consistent. The pattern of my heart beating is consistent. My genetic code was written once and has never changed.”

You see, my podcast is a Christian podcast for women. It focuses on reminding women of their purpose while helping them develop desirable characteristics of their persona. I knew I needed a name that would captivate young and older women in pursuing a powerful message alongside me. As I sat there a few more seconds, a few more deep breaths in and out, waiting for the title to come to my head, I muttered, “you are written with purpose, Claire. And so is everyone in this crazy world.” The podcast was then named, *Written with Purpose*.

Silence has much to say, and one with too much to say will never hear the beauty within the whisper. And when you listen to the whisper, a whole, new conversation is unlocked.

Thank you for the silence you brought—there was some good in you.

Claire K. Taetz

