

Afterword

You exited the womb uniquely equipped.

The Master Weaver selected your temperament threads, your character texture, the yarn of your personality, all before you were born. God did not drop you into the world, utterly defenseless and empty-handed. You arrived fully equipped. What motivates you, what exhausts you . . . God authored—and authors—it all.

How would you answer this multiple-choice question?

I am:

- a coincidental collision of particles.
- an accidental evolution of molecules.
- soulless flotsam in the universe.
- “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14 NKJV),
“skillfully wrought” (Psalm 139:15 NKJV).

Don’t dull your life by missing this point. You are more than statistical chance, more than a marriage of heredity and society; more than a confluence of inherited chromosomes and childhood trauma. More than a walking weathervane, whipped about by the cold winds of fate.

Thanks to God you have been “sculpted from nothing into something” (Psalm 139:15 MESSAGE).

This is the message of the Bible.

And this is the welcome message from Paula Faris in *Called Out*. Each of us is uniquely gifted with what she calls our “faith calling.” She urges us to wrestle with important questions like:

Do I understand my faith calling—who I am and my underlying purpose?

Could I write out my faith calling with any sort of clarity?

Do my vocation, my acts of service, my parenting, my side hustle, or my next big idea flow from my faith calling, or is something else steering the ship?

Few questions would be more important than these. And few people would be more qualified to help us find the answers. Paula is incurably curious. She asks astounding questions (I know this firsthand), and she is a wellspring of good advice. (Again, I speak from personal experience.) Most of all, she is in dogged pursuit of a life that lives out faith and values. If you desire to do the same, then you are holding the right book. It is well-written and inviting. The ideas are timely and timeless. Thank you, Paula, for sharing them with us.

—Max Lucado, pastor and bestselling author
of *How Happiness Happens*