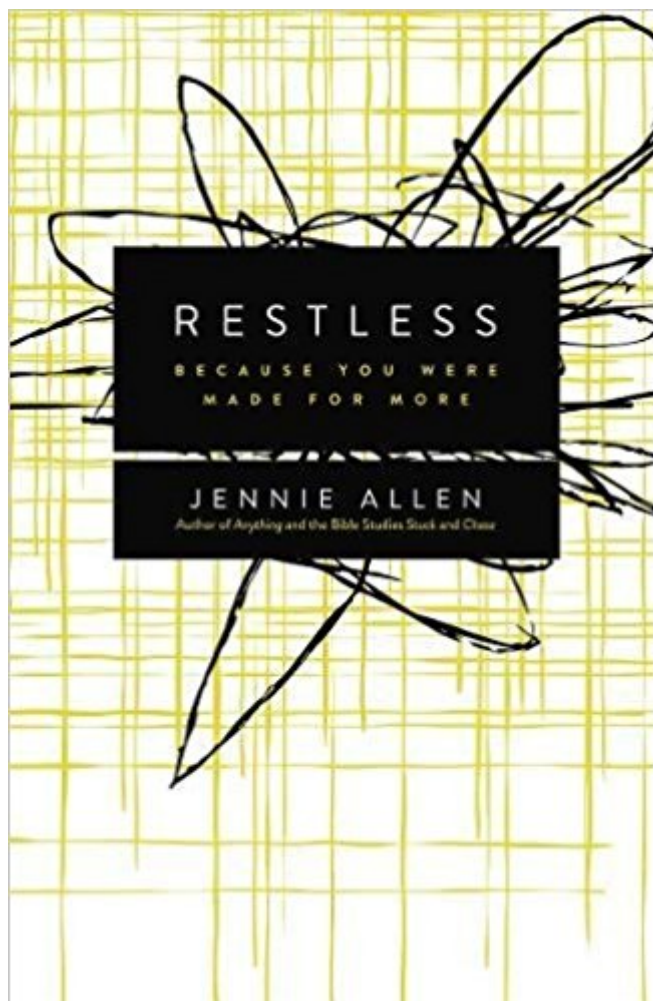


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# Restless: Because You Were Made For More



## Synopsis

Do You Feel Like You're Missing Something? What if this feeling wasn't a bad thing? It could be a longing for more of God and a catalyst to living the life that was designed before the foundations of the earth were laid. A lot of us, if we're honest, are afraid. We hold our dreams close to our chest. But our passions have a purpose—they were engineered for God's greater plan and he intends for us to use them for his glory and purposes. In *Restless*, Bible teacher and fellow struggler Jennie Allen explores practical ways to identify the threads of your life and how to intentionally weave them together. She explains how your gifts, passions, places, and relationships aren't random; they're deliberate and meaningful. And your suffering—it's possible it has produced the very thing you want to give back to the world. Using the story of Joseph, the dreamer, Jennie explains how his suffering, gifts, relationships—all of the threads of his life—fit into the greater story of God and how our stories can do the same. What would happen if God got bigger than your fear and insecurity, and you spent the rest of your life running without reservation after his purposes for you? You were created for more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jennie Allen is a recovering achiever who is passionate about Jesus. She is the best-selling author of *Anything* and *Restless*, and the Bible studies *Stuck* and *Chase*, as well as the founder and visionary for the million-strong IF:Gathering, which exists to gather, equip, and unleash the next generation to live out their purpose. Jennie speaks frequently at conferences such as Catalyst

and Q. She holds a master's degree in biblical studies from Dallas Theological Seminary and lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, Zac, and their four children.

This is not a bad book. Nor is it particularly poorly written. I just think it is a bit misguided. This is my first Jennie Allen book and, after reading many glowing reviews (and a couple of not so glowing ones), I was ready to jump right in. I am no stranger to journaling (I understood from a review or two that this would be necessary) so I was poised to dig, journal and discover what it means to dream again -- all with Jennie Allen cheering me along the way. And that's exactly what she does. Early on in the book, I felt understood -- after all, she too was a wife and mom who struggled with a sense of purpose and that restless feeling we all seem to get in our lives at some point or another. Jennie felt like a friend who understood (who would love to be discussing your hopes and dreams over coffee right this instant, but simply couldn't), and the conversational tone of this book makes it both engaging and easy to read. Jennie is nothing if not sincere. She sincerely wants you to realize that God has uniquely equipped you with gifts, and she sincerely wants you to passionately pursue God's call and purpose for your life. And these are very good things. The journaling activities are meant to help you discern what your giftings and calling might be. You were asked to write about your own story, highlighting unique instances when you felt joy and delight in what you were doing, and she also directs you to see how God might use suffering in your life to fuel your passions or to enable you to help others who suffer. She encourages you to write about the places you encounter regularly and how you might live more meaningfully and purposefully as you engage with those places. In short, she helps you to connect the dots of your life: your gifts, the people in your life who need you (and whom you need), the suffering you have endured, the places you regularly encounter and the passions you have all to help you pinpoint what your purpose might be. And she cheers you, she is behind you, and she shares countless stories about countless, amazing friends who have died, come back to life or almost died and who now are living lives on mission, and she wants to help you to do the same -- to not miss it, or to bury the gifts God has given you because of fear. She lived that way for a while, but now she is running hard toward God and, incidentally, so is her husband, Zac, who wasn't always on board with her pursuing her dreams. But now says he is. Chapter 21, "When Women Dream," is where my former enthusiasm began to unravel. Framed a certain way, it seems possible to justify almost anything. Being away from your four children for extended periods of traveling and working is perfectly acceptable so long as you are doing it for the kingdom. Why should we have any less access to pursuing our dreams than our husbands do?

After all, God gave us dreams and giftings too. This sounds eerily like a Christianized version of a worldly ideology. It made me feel like Jennie was using a very old, yet cleverly disguised strategy: "God didn't really say no." Why else would she basically say it was okay for her to charge full speed ahead in her career (with what she feels is God's approval, of course), candidly admit that sometimes her husband feels "eclipsed" and that she is often absent in the home (to the extent that she gets help from sitters, cleaners and administrative assistance) with absolutely no reference to Titus 2:5 whatsoever? I am also concerned that what is being further eclipsed here is the matter of daily, ordinary, unsung faithfulness. Attention to the common, boring, monotonous, unremarkable with remarkable regularity, devotion, a daily (often moment-by-moment) dying to self for the sake of others -- not for praise we may receive presently, nor the thrill or sudden "rush" of knowing we are walking in our "purpose", but out of sincere devotion to Christ and out of our love for Him. I am concerned that women reading this book will think their purpose "out there" somewhere -- something they must leave to do or look for somewhere else. Often what is required of us is right beneath our noses, but fails to look appealing, because we are fickle mortals and our "restless" feelings are often still just feelings, and we should be wise in how we respond to them, interpret them, and where we allow them to lead us. I also believe that simple discontentment is a far greater issue that people in general, and women in particular, grapple with. We Christians are not exempt from the inner tuggings that tell us we deserve more, we were meant for more (than this) and that it's our God-given "right" to pursue more. We needn't even leave the church to find support for this sort of belief system. It is a far greater challenge, indeed, to embrace contentment with what God has apportioned us, and to do so will always be swimming against the current in today's culture. I realize it is often difficult to be discerning with so many well-meaning Christian books coming at us, with a thousand different voices about what is right or what is advisable. The Holy Spirit and God's immutable Word must ultimately lead us in the right direction. It seems to me that the vast majority of women live ordinary lives where they can and should use the gifts God has given them. But how and when they use those gifts is a matter of great discernment that should be made with much prayer, counsel and adherence to God's Word.

As others have indicated, this is a thought-provoking book that you need to take your time with. However, I wish I had been warned not to buy the Kindle edition. A large portion of this book involves reflection and journaling, and there are charts and diagrams within the book where you are supposed to write. These are not replicated well in the Kindle edition, so even if you try to complete

the information in your personal journal, it's hard to know what the diagrams look like.

I am new to Jennie Allen's books, but now I am a real fan! I love the way she is so honest about life and about following Jesus. She really connects to women's feelings and needs. *Restless* can help you figure out what God wants you to do with your life. She spent lots of money and time learning about what God wanted her to do with her life. In this book, she shares how to do that, just for the cost of 1 book and your time. This could give you direction for your life as a Christian. Do it. Read this book.

I chose this book because the excerpt (part of the first chapter) described every thought and frustration I had thought in the past few hours of that day. If you feel like your days are adding up to meaning nothing and you feel stuck/trapped/lost this book helps walk you through an untangling process to find clarity/purpose/and passion in what you are doing. I have a renewed sense of who I am, what I am here for, and what kind of God I serve. This book gave me more resource for how to process suffering and trials and maintain super faith all the while. As far as books go that are devotions, bible studies, or just christian uplifting- this book has impacted me more than any other ever. I want every woman (and man) to read this and be set free! Praise Jesus for helping me see and understand Him more through this book.

Please finish the entire book if you have the opportunity to read it! I almost stopped 1/2 way thru, thinking I had nothing new to learn. But take her journal challenge and be entirely honest with yourself in the process...it will be spiritually freeing and leave you knowing how significant your life is before God, regardless of what others may think (including yourself). We are individuals, we have purpose and it probably will be different from any one else you know...and that is good and that is from God.

Jennie Allen knocks it out of the park with yet another witty, honest, challenging book/bible study. As a follow up to the book *Anything* where Allen challenges her reader to surrender, this book attempts to help the reader answer the question "now what happens that I've surrendered?" What I love most about this book is the way each chapter allows the reader to move forward, processing their personal journey of why God has placed them on the path they are on. Allen allows the reader to celebrate the things that bring them joy, and helps us all realize God finds joy in our talents. Additionally the reader it brought through the story of Joseph and Allen has this simple way of

writing which allows the story of Joseph to parallel our own, and yet our story is kept uniquely our own. If you are wondering what your purpose on earth is, why you are living where you are or have to deal with the people you do, this book is for you. If you are in need of affirmation that your mission field IS where you are called, this book is for you. If you are simply searching for the tools on how to seek deeper relationship with God or people, this book is for you.

Do the projects, then you MUST meet with trusted friend(s) to look at your results and to encourage you forward. You will feel mediocre, but your friends will see your strengths and can partner with you to seek the Lord.

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