

[00:00:00]<Music>

Annie: Hi friends, welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be here with you today we have got a great show in store. Oh my gracious, how much I love these women. But before we get started, I just want to tell you about one of our incredible partners, Cru.

Y'all know this about me, but God's Word really matters in my life. I've been reading through the Bible in a Year in 2021, and I'm just always blown away by how alive it is and how I learn something new every day. But imagine for a second that you couldn't get a Bible. Like you couldn't afford one or you couldn't just hop on Amazon and have one sent to your house.

Take it one step further and imagine that you aren't even allowed to have one. This is not hard for us to imagine right now when we know what's going on in the world. And honestly, though, we can forget that there are so many people who simply can't get a Bible and that's why we are thrilled, hear me clear, so thrilled to partner with Cru.

Cru is one of the largest evangelical organizations in the world with over 25,000 missionaries in almost every country. And Cru's given Bibles to people in their own heart language and sharing the hope of Jesus all around the globe.

But here's where they need our help, for only \$21 a month you can provide three people with Bibles each and every month. And when you sign up to provide three Bibles with a monthly gift of \$21, as a thank you, Cru will provide meals to five hungry families through their humanitarian aid ministry and you get a free copy of my book That Sounds Fun.

Simply text fun, F-U-N 71326 to help today. Imagine just how much this gift could change someone's life. So text fun to 71326, that's F-U-N to 71326 to help now or visit give.cru.org/fun.

And we are only a couple of weeks away from hopping on the bus with Tanny Annie and Tiny Annie and lots of our friends and taking this show on the road. Be sure to hop over to anniefdowns.com/events to grab your tickets for the That Sounds Fun Tour.

It's comedy, it's a live podcast interview with special guests in every city. There's confetti, it's so much fun coming your way we cannot wait to see you at one of these shows.

Today on the show we have such a lovely duo Natalie Grant and Charlotte Gambill from *Dare To Be*. Acclaimed Christian artist Natalie Grant, who you know in love she was on Episode: 263 of the pod. Well she and her best friend Charlotte Gambill are an

incredibly powerful speaker and author, founded *Dare To Be* in 2012 with amazing live events to encourage women, and now they've written a book by the same name.

In *Dare To Be* Natalie and Charlotte challenge readers to re-embrace those I dare you moments, which were so prevalent in childhood and dare to unlock their full potential with childlike excitement and biblical courage. These women, y'all, buckle up because they have got some things to share that we need to know.

Listen, you may want to take notes, Charlotte is like a nugget factory, man. She has so many very awesome things to say. You're going to love it. So here's my conversation with Natalie Grant and Charlotte Gambill.

[00:03:07] <Music>

Annie: Charlotte, it's your first time on That Sounds Fun-

Charlotte: I know I'm so excited.

Annie: I'm so glad you are here. Nat, welcome back.

Natalie: Thank you for having me.

Annie: As usual you're always welcome here.

Natalie: Thank you for having me.

Annie: First, we need to do some friendship stuff about the UK.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: Me and Charlotte.

**Episode 320: Natalie Grant
and Charlotte Gambill**

That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Natalie: Yes. Okay.

Annie: Did you know I used to live in Edinburgh?

Charlotte: Really?

Annie: Yes

Charlotte: Awesome.

Natalie: How come I didn't know that either.

Annie: You didn't know that either?

Natalie: What? Oh my word!

Annie: It may have been pre-friendship. It was 2011, I lived in Edinburgh.

Charlotte: Clearly you didn't pick up the accent?

Annie: No, but I can understand it very clearly.

Charlotte: Well that's a hard accent to understand.

Natalie: But why did you live there?

Annie: I was helping with a church plant that was doing college ministry and I was writing a book right. **[Crosstalk 00:03:47]** I did get to move from first-world to first-world, it was not hard, I loved it.

Charlotte: It's so beautiful.

Annie: I mean, the interesting thing, I wonder if this is your experience with America too, because you're so good at both countries, is that I found if I move to a country that is not first-world that does not speak English, the culture shock is very high at first.

Charlotte: Right.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: And the longer you're there, you're like, "You know what, but we all share this and share this." And it's like it shrinks, the culture shock. When I moved first-world to first-world, it was like, "Oh, we're the same, we're the same." We are not the same.

Natalie: No we are not the same.

Charlotte: Yes, not the same at all.

Annie: We're not the same.

Charlotte: So imagine walking that scenario out, but actually it's because you chose to marry someone from America.

Annie: Uh-huh, right, hey, listen, I tried, trust me I tried.

Charlotte: So I'm like, "This is going to work, this is going to work." Oh my gosh, what do you mean? That's not right. That was like our whole beginning first couple of years of marriage, down to like the whole language. So I am bilingual.

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: The good thing is for all your listeners today, I speak American and I speak English.

Annie: Yes, yes, that's exactly, I mean it's not the same, it turns out.

Charlotte: It's not.

Annie: It would be so funny because when I was talking to a guy and-

Charlotte: Yeah, I can go with that.

Annie: That's how we'll do it.

Charlotte: Sticking my toe in the water.

Annie: When I was talking to him, I mean, we'd have moments where I'd be like, you know, kindergarten and you know the word kindergarten, I was like this ain't going to work.
[Crosstalk 00:05:10]

Charlotte: You can get in trouble, I mean-

Annie: It was so weird.

Charlotte: ...there was a funny moment, a friend of mine-

Natalie: Oh my gosh please tell the story, please tell it in full do not edit.

Charlotte: Well, I don't know which one because I have lots and lots of them.

Natalie: You have to tell that story, you have to.

Charlotte: Okay, okay, okay.

Natalie: You must.

Charlotte: I have a couple, so, the first. I have a friend who is very, very proper, started church in America. When like his first Sunday, the church is super excited, these are their new pastors blah, blah, blah.

Annie: And he's English?

Charlotte: Yeah, he's English.

Annie: Okay.

Natalie: Very, very proper English, like suit tie the whole deal. And so like, he just tells the church after his sermon, he is like, "Now church you know, what I want you to do is I noticed on my way in, there was a lot of fags in the parking lot. So I would like to first of all to bag a fag on your way out. And then I want you to just go home and have a Sunday, join as a family and just think about everything that's happened today."

Annie: Oh, and...

Charlotte: Right?

Annie: They did not...

Charlotte: So the whole congregation, is like, "We have to go bag a fag and have a joint, and this is his first Sunday?" So that's a cigarette butt in English and he wants them to collect

the garbage, put it away. And he also wanted them to go home and have a Sunday meal together. So roast dinner is called a joint, in England.

Annie: Oh, I didn't know that.

Charlotte: Yeah so that was interesting.

Natalie: My problem is that in the south, you wouldn't even have a pastor acknowledge smoking in the pulpit-

Annie: Right, that's never [Crosstalk 00:06:28]

Natalie: ...you might go to hell. So the pastor was like "Hey, those of you that got smoke in the parking lot grab a bag."

Annie: Yeah, yeah. Oh my gosh.

Natalie: Tell the [Crosstalk 00:06:39]

Annie: That might have been so offensive to some of the people.

Charlotte: Exactly.

Natalie: This is even more fun.

Charlotte: When I was first dating my husband-

Annie: How did y'all meet by the way?

Charlotte: Oh, that's a whole another story. it's very long and very cool.

Annie: Okay.

Charlotte: So unless we want to stay for three hours, which we're totally cool with, I'll stick to the first story. So I was dating my husband, he was part of quite a conservative group and I didn't really know any of his church friends. And one of them had been really down, like depressed. And so I knew this one guy called Ross and I was leaving town.

So I needed to go get the car keys from Steve, who I was dating at the time. So I went into this men's prayer meeting and I just basically, kind of, needed the keys. So I was

like, "Can I have your keys?" And so he's like, he gives me the keys and was like, quiet. And as I'm going just you know me, I'm just like I want to encourage.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: So I just shout across the group of these guys that are gathering for prayer. And "Hey, Ross, just keep your pecker up."

Annie: Oh, no.

Charlotte: Yes.

Annie: You said that in front of the whole...

Charlotte: And then I walked out of the door. Because in England, that just means, "Hey, keep your chin up, you're going to be fine." Yeah that was my first meeting with Steve's prayer group.

Annie: Oh my gosh! Who corrected you?

Charlotte: Nobody. They were stunned, they couldn't even speak. They were like I don't know who to talk, and Steve didn't know that it was an innocent thing.

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: So he's like thinking, "Who is this girl that I am seriously falling in love with? She's cray-cray."

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: Afterwards, he's like, "What were you thinking?"

Natalie: So there is a language barrier thing-

Annie: Yes, the language barrier.

Natalie: That truly is, it's a real thing.

Charlotte: I give up.

Annie: Where are you from England?

Charlotte: So I'm from Yorkshire.

Annie: Mh-hmm. Do you know I wanted to guess that because I wanted to be boujie and say, I can tell but I wasn't totally sure.

Charlotte: Yeah, yeah.

Annie: Okay, so from Yorkshire.

Charlotte: So my accent is not like the full Yorkshire accent. If I was to talk in the full Yorkshire accent, you wouldn't have a clue what I was saying. So like, my son is probably the most extreme, he's the one that Nat has to ask to repeat more than anybody else.

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: Because when he talks, it's thick, but mine's a little easier for your listeners.

Annie: Did Steve live in England when y'all met? You don't have to tell the whole story, or did you in America?

Charlotte: So no, really condensed version. He was traveling with a band in England.

Annie: Got it.

Charlotte: This is when I was like, just 16, I flirted with him. He was a drummer all weekend. He was eight years older than me, paid me no attention. Finally, on the last day he says, "I have a word from God for you." Which I was annoyed about, because I didn't want a word from God, I just wanted his cell phone number, right?

Annie: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Charlotte: But he just said, "Look, God's going to use you from a very early age. And God told me to tell you, you need to stop being a flirt and when God's ready, He'll bring the right man at the right time."

Annie: He gave you that word?

Charlotte: Yes. Yes. And that's the only year I kept a journal. And I wrote in my journal at age 16, "Who even is this guy? He's not even that good looking." And so I was so mad

and wrote his name down. And it was an entire four years later. And I went out after finishing education in the UK, before I went to uni, took a year like a summer off, and went and served at a church in St. Louis.

And they had a party and he walked through the door. And I was like, "Oh, my gosh, I remember you four years earlier." And he had no idea it was me. And so he took me for coffee, and I'm like, "You do know we've met before, right?" He's like, "No, we haven't." I was like, "Yes, we have." And I repeated the story. And I was like, "You know, you told me I had to wait for the right guy, at the right time."

He just looked right back up at me over at Starbucks and said, "Well, it was a word from God and I am the right guy, and now is the right time."

Annie: No!

Charlotte: Yes.

Annie: Oh, my gosh!

Natalie: And here they are, almost 26 years later.

Charlotte: 26 years married, next week.

Annie: Oh, my gosh!

Charlotte: Right? Ain't that crazy?

Natalie: Crazy,

Annie: Well, I have been having these conversations with friends, of how quickly we say a time period that took a long time.

Natalie: Right?

Charlotte: Yeah.

Annie: So you go like, so four years later-

Charlotte: Yeah.

Natalie: Right.

Annie: Or like a couple of months later, this went sideways for six weeks and you are like, "Well, yeah, you can tell that." So four years later. But that was four years.

Charlotte: Yeah.

Natalie: Four years.

Annie: There's that part, a friend of mine reminded me of this. There's that part in Mere Christianity, where C.S. Lewis talks about, do y'all remember the sentence where he says, the author writes, "The man got up from the table and went to the door and opened it." But you have no idea if there was a month between each sentence as the author wrote.

Natalie: Right.

Charlotte: Yes.

Annie: And so those stories are so encouraging for all of us.

Charlotte: Right.

Annie: To hear like, "Oh, yeah, four years." Four years?

Charlotte: Right. And in that four years, you just don't know, I had to either listen to the word that was given to me by him which was, "Stop being a flirt, God wants your heart intact, He's going to use you." Or in those four years pay no attention to that.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And, I think for some, maybe that's listening right now, they just need to be encouraged that just do the thing God told you.

Annie: Yes.

Natalie: Yeah.

Charlotte: Because God can bring the right people at the right time, which is how our story even is.

Annie: That's literally the next thing I wanted. The number two relationship in your life, Natalie, how did y'all meet? I don't know this.

Natalie: So back in 2005, I was leading worship at a women's conference in Southern California, Cottonwood Christian Center, Janet Conley. And then there's this lineup of speakers, obviously, and Charlotte was one of the speakers but I didn't know who she was. And they didn't have any Christian music in England at that point, so she had no clue who I was. But literally she has to-

Annie: Except Delirious?

Natalie: Exactly, she knew Delirious and Vineyard.

Annie: And Vineyard probably.

Natalie: And Darlene Zschech.

Annie: And Darlene Zschech, right. "Shout to the Lord."

Natalie: And so at that point, I'm just coming in to lead worship that night and you have to tell the story. Even though I know you've already been talking, because it happened to you and so you have to tell us.

Charlotte: So I was not speaking that night, I literally just come in. So I was tired, but for some reason, I just decided that I would just go to the service that night, check it out. So I'm sat towards the front and I'm literally in the worship with my eyes closed, and I hear an audible male voice.

Annie: Oh, my gosh.

Charlotte: Like I think someone has come and stood next to me. And don't think I'm that holy that this happens to me every day, it doesn't. But in this particular moment, I'll never forget it. And I just heard this audible male voice say, "Open your eyes, at the back of

this auditorium there's a girl in an orange sweater and jeans and she's to do with your future."

Annie: Oh, my gosh.

Charlotte: And I so was freaking out and I was traveling with someone, and I nudged them and I said, "Can you just tell me, is there someone at the back of this auditorium in an orange sweater and jeans?" And they went, "Yeah, there is. How did you know?" I was like, "Don't ask." So I'm freaking out, I'm like, "What in the heck is going on?"

So I sit down and the pastor leans forward and says, "Hey, I know you're not speaking tonight. But now that you're here, would you just take the offering?"

Annie: Oh, my gosh, you are like "No."

Charlotte: So I was like, "Okay, okay, okay." So she's like, "Oh, and while you're up there, during the offering, we've got like a guest singer. And so can you just introduce her?" So I'm like, "Well, I don't know who she is." So she's like, "Just read the bio out." And she pushes the bio in my hand. So I begin to read this bio out. And as I'm reading the bio out, the girl in the orange sweater and jeans starts walking down the center aisle. And I just start prophesying over her. And she's-

Natalie: I start crying.

Charlotte: ...she is crying.

Annie: Do you do that?

Charlotte: Yeah.

Annie: Of course. I would too.

Charlotte: She's crying, she gets to the platform, we have this awkward hug. And I'm like, "Hi, I'm Charlotte, and I don't normally do this stuff." And then I got off the stage.

Annie: What did you say? What kind of things?

Natalie: And it's so funny too, because even as I'm listening to you tell the story, as I've listened to at least 150 times because we love telling the story. I'm reminded of the little small steps of obedience.

Charlotte: Yeah.

Annie: Always.

Natalie: If she would have said, "No," and just kind of refused. She was tired, all the reasons she had to not do that introduction.

Annie: Yes.

Natalie: If she just would have, but instead, she was like, "You know what, I'm going to go ahead and just say, 'Yes.'"

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: That's simple yes is what lead, I know, I don't mean to admit it, but when I'm there to do something, I don't usually come in beforehand I'm usually-

Annie: None of us do, honestly, none of us do.

Natalie: ...now, I'm warming up backstage.

Annie: You can't, yeah.

Natalie: I felt a nudge that particular night, because I was in a really kind of burned out season in my own life. I was burned out, we weren't getting pregnant.

Annie: So it was before the girls, right?

Natalie: We're having all of this issues in my own personal life. And I just felt that nudge of, "You actually aren't just here to give out, you need to be filled up before you can even get out." So I went and stood in the back because I wanted to be a part of worship. Third of all, I never wear orange.

Annie: I'm not kidding you when I tell you I thought, "Natalie wore orange!"

Charlotte: Yeah.

Natalie: Right, I never wear orange. I'm like every time she tells that I'm like, "Why was I wearing an orange sweater?" I'm like, "Because the Lord knew you're going to have

on a color, that was going to be something that is forever marked, and remembered, and seen."

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And like, wait, that girl had on an orange sweater. It was something that she could see, when somebody turned around to see, plus, all of the little pieces.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And our little yeses, the little nudges are what led us to that. And she started speaking this encouragement over me. And at that point, Annie, you'll understand this, being in any kind of church ministry, you wrong or right, you get to a point where you're so used to people needing something from you.

Annie: Sure.

Natalie: Like, "You need something from me. You're being nice to me because you need something from me." And I was in a really that kind of bitter place.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And she spoke such life over me in those 30 seconds, I'm bawling my eyes out. And then we get off stage, and I'm like, "Hi, we should probably actually have a proper meeting, because you just literally rocked my life."

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And she'll say, often, she remembers that I said to her, "What do you want from me?" Because I thought there's something that you're needing from me.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And that just kind of tells you where I was at. But what's incredible is what started in that moment was, she said, "Hey, I've got this church in England. This is probably not how you do this, but will you come?" And I was like, "Actually, yes, I will."

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And it was that easy, I just thought that, "I'm going to say, yes." So Bernie and I ended up going over to England, this is in 2006. And we hadn't told anybody that we were starting to go through fertility treatments.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And because we were told we had less than 1%, of ever conceiving a child. So we're going through these fertility treatments. But anybody who's gone through that, you've got injections and all this stuff you've got to go through. And the way that the time change was, it was like, I had to start these injections. And I had them in my purse, because I knew that she was taking me to go shopping, with all these other people in England. We're like, "Let's go to the cute shops." And I'm like, "I don't want to say no." Because I have to stay back and figure out how to give myself an injection in my stomach, you know?

Annie: Right, right.

Natalie: But so I'm sitting in the dressing room and I'm shaking, I've literally got this little vial in my hand. And I'm like, "I don't know how to do this." And I literally hear a knock outside the door. And she goes, "What are you doing in there?" And I'm like, I opened the door. I'm standing there with a syringe and I'm like, "I promise this is legal, I promise this is legal."

And what's incredible, this is just how God works. When you just lean in to His nudge, to His still small voice, I didn't know that she had gone through the same thing as me. Gone through the same treatments and she said, "I felt the nudge to come see what you were doing. But let me show you how to do it."

And that's just for me, like a reminder that it doesn't always, if you're listening to this, you're like, "I want that kind of miraculous friendship." But it will play out in your life in a different way. But still, God is always faithful when we're faithful in the small. He just shows up at just the right time, with just the right people. And that has literally been the story of our friendship. But about maybe six years into it, took us a while, we were like-

Annie: Yeah, that's what people need to hear, is it wasn't a miraculous friendship on day one.

Natalie: And then we went out and just thought-

Annie: It was cool stuff, you start to get to know each other.

Natalie: Hey, I've got this really cool chick that lives in England, and-

Annie: Yes, totally.

Natalie: ...she's like so awesome. And she's got that cool accent. And I'm going to go over there to visit, because I had somebody to stay with in England.

Annie: Right.

Natalie: And so it was six or seven years before we were like, "I think God probably didn't go to all of that trouble, just so we could go on vacation together." And so when we call this thing that we've started, *Dare To Be*, we always say we were the ones who took the first dare.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: We were the ones that said, "We're going to dare to combine our ministries." It makes no sense. You live across an ocean. We're going to dare to start something with nobody's help, just us and our pocketbook. We're going to dare to step out. Because we had young kids or we were full-time women in career, in ministry, and try to figure it out and we needed it.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Natalie: And we've been a part of a bunch of different conferences, but they'd been other people's ideas or other people's whatever and we're like, "No, this is something birthed in us, that we're going to walk out."

Charlotte: Mh-hmm.

Natalie: And that's really kind of how it all, the whole thing got started.

[00:18:53] <Music>

Annie: Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation quickly to share about another one of our incredible partners, KiwiCo. There is not much I love more than hanging out and doing something fun and creative with some of my Mini BFFs. Giving them a chance to get some energy on and giving their parents a little break in the evening after

school, is a win, win, win. And KiwiCo Crates are some of our favorite things to do together.

With KiwiCo you get hands-on science and art projects delivered right to your door. The little pinball machine we made together not long ago was so cool. Every single thing you need is included because KiwiCo thinks of everything, literally. And then when we're done putting it together we got to challenge each other to our own little pinball tournament, creativity, engineering, competition all in one.

Do your part to encourage your children or the mini BFFs in your life to be innovators and creative thinkers. They won't believe what they can build and accomplish with KiwiCo and the best part you get to watch their confidence grow with each monthly creation.

KiwiCo is redefining learning with hands-on projects that build confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills. There's something for every kid or kid at heart at KiwiCo. Get 50% off, that's five zero, you guys 50% off your first month, plus, free shipping on any Crate line with the code THATSOUNDSFUN at [kiwico.com](https://www.kiwico.com). That's 50% off your first month at [kiwico.com](https://www.kiwico.com) promo code, THATSOUNDSFUN. And now back to our conversation with Charlotte and Natalie.

[00:20:22] <Music>

Annie: Charlotte, I'm going to tell you what I'm thinking in my head. I'm thinking about women who are leading in the church, women who are running women's ministries, are running student ministries, are running the church. It is rare, we talk about this, but it's what's at the front of my mind.

So will you just talk for a minute to the women who are doing this by themselves. And who are running the women's ministry and they've gone through COVID and their women's conference was canceled.

Charlotte: Yes.

Annie: And they can't find all the women who were in the ministry a year and a half ago and they don't know where they've gone. Will you just kind of encourage for a minute. Talk to these women who are not the three of us on a stage and popping in and out of conferences. But are like doing the daily grind of leading women in their community.

Charlotte: I think it's just going right back. Like I think all of us in our own way, have had this over this last season, you go right back to the, "Why?". You're like if you're doing it because it's your role or it's your title or it's your job brief, then that won't sustain you in seasons like we've just been through.

But if it's the "Why" of, I just feel burdened to reach out, to encourage the people in my community, the women in my community, the single parent, the student, and I just know that, that was God's. Then whatever you've been through, it's like that still remains. And so whether that was used to be to 100 people and now it's more like 50, the "Why" is still there and the numbers will change, and the numbers can grow back. But the heart has to stay on fire.

So I think the first thing you have to give attention to is keeping fanning into flame the why. We've just had this conversation about *Dare To Be*, going back out in the fall and being able to finally go back out. But the reason why we're going back out is not, because I think there's a lot of things that people over this season have gone, "Well, maybe I should give that up." Or "Maybe I don't want to do that anymore."

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: I think everyone's taken that assessment time, right? But what we couldn't get away from and what I probably think women in leadership that are doing those roles will probably not be able to get away from is, "But when I really get back to the why I'm doing it, it's because I believe that I want to see my salvation. I want to see women restored. I want to see daughters and mothers find that place of wholeness again. I want to see the student find hope, again. I want to see something in my community that women can gather around and find someone that shares a story with them." That's why they started it. And so for us, well, I don't know what the volatile looks like after COVID, after everything.

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: But what we know is we want to see altars filled, we want to see people find Jesus. We want to see, find hope. We want to see people that have just lost so much in this season, get back to that realization that they still have everything because they have Christ.

And so I'd say to the leader get back to your why. Focus on your why. Pray about your why. And I think you'll find the strength and the renewal of strength to just start and if you start small again, start small again.

Annie: Start small.

Charlotte: It's like David, starting with the stone and the sling. And refusing the armor just start, some of us, our whole ministry began to stones and slings. We don't, I think we add the armor, thinking that that's what makes us look more professional. But the truth is the stone and the sling was what brought Goliath down. And so get back to whether that's a small Bible study in your living room. Whether that's just a couple of girls that meet for coffee. Get back to what it is that reminds you of why you do what you do and leave the growth part to God.

Annie: Yeah. Natalie, I mean, the Scripture is really clear that two are better than one.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: And people use that all the time about marriage, which I think is really beautiful and I hope for myself as well. That two are better than one because they share the work. And I mean, Scripture is very clear about like, it just is more effective.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: And so how have you seen that true in the ministry you're doing? I'm thinking again, of the women that are doing ministry, they're like, "Oh, I guess I could invite this other woman from this other church, for us to group together and do something together."

Natalie: Yes,

Annie: How has it been better?

Natalie: Well, I think that's the beauty in it, is because when you, and that's how we knew it was the Lord because her strengths are some of my weaknesses.

Annie: Oh wow.

Natalie: And my strengths are some of her weaknesses.

Charlotte: For sure.

Natalie: And when you partner together with somebody. You realize, we don't, and women especially, there's such a spirit of competitiveness sometimes and not like, "Well, I've

got to actually bring my A game, because she has her A game." And no, no, no, let her bring her A game and what she's A game in and you bring your A game in what you're A game in. And there's something so beautiful about collaboration.

And I think sometimes when we can lay down feeling like we have to either keep up or achieve or do more. Because they're doing more and we relax into I'm actually going to walk out what I know I'm good at. I'm going to let you walk out what I know you're good at. And sometimes we disagree and we work through it as sisters. And sometimes we cry, most times we laugh.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: But we literally are so, you hear that phrase better together all the time.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And it's really easy to say because it sounds cute, but it's actually truth. It's just a simple truth. That when you work off of one another's strengths and you lean into letting in somebody else. If that means that you have to let them run with something that maybe you wanted to run with, but you're actually going to trust that they're going to run it better.

That actually takes maturity to let somebody else be better than you at something, that does take maturity. And I have not always been mature in it, but I've grown as a result of this relationship.

Charlotte: And it was so funny, when we first started doing the tour together, doing the Dare To Be. I would laugh and I had to deal with some things in me that were insecure and I had to speak into that in my life. Because I'm going out on *Dare To Be*, and obviously people know her music, they know her singing. So you realize, well, a lot of these people think it's just a concert.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: So like, we do the meet and greet. And they're like, "Oh, my gosh, it's Natalie Grant." And then they're like give me their cell phone, and they're like, "Could you take my picture with her?" And I'm like, "Sure, I can."

Annie: I know.

Charlotte: And like I can see her dying a thousand deaths, because she's like, "I feel so sorry." Like, "I don't want that." And I was like, "It's totally fine."

Annie: Yes.

Charlotte: But it took me a minute to just be secure in my lane and just be like "You know what, these people have listened to her on radio, that's how they've come to our event. They're used to hearing her." And they're like, "Who's this English chick?" So I used to just embrace it.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: Took me a minute and I just come out and go, "Hi, I'm Nat's friend and I'm not a new duet, we're not going to sing together. But I am going to teach the Word and I think we're going to be good."

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And it just had to build from there. But there was a moment where I was like, "Man, I just feel like, "Am I the add-on?" And I think that can be the reason why you don't come together. Because you can feel your insecurity in those moments. But you've got to realize that we're about the same win.

Annie: Yes.

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: Saul couldn't partner with David because he was insecure. But Jonathan, his son, who had more to lose, was like, "Here have this and here's my ring, and here's my cloak." He's like, "Because we're about the same win."

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And when you become about the same win, then it doesn't matter what part you play.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And it's been a beautiful story of how there's been moments where it's just been a case, okay now people know what Dare To Be is. And they know that it's not just

worship, but it's Word and it's the combination. But I think if my insecurity had got to the front of that and I hadn't dealt with that and Nat hadn't helped me with that, then I think it would be a very different place that we'd be at today.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Charlotte: And we talk about all that in the book we just wrote.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: Like there are chapters about that, about our disagreements, about the tears. Because we want people to see it's not just some tidy, professional thing that we've got going on.

Natalie: No.

Charlotte: It genuinely is that journey?

Annie: Yes. I absolutely do not endorse books that I did not read. And so everyone can know when they open the book and see my endorsement, I actually read Dare To Be, I promise I read every word.

Natalie: I Thank you for that.

Annie: It's really good. It comes out tomorrow, but people can order it today. Why take a live event to a book? What was not available to people in 2020 that's available now because it's written down?

Natalie: Right. I think a lot of it is actually when you have an event, you've got like a thing that's you're following, right? You have kind of a flow that you're following, the worship. And I think the stories of that's not the on-stage, not what people see, not the two blonde chicks, showing up who has struggled with fertility and got the miracle. Because I think sometimes, that's actually my struggle in sharing the miracle is that so many other people are waiting for the miracle, and they may never get it. And that's the part that I can't explain.

Annie: And there are people who got miracles that you didn't, right?

Natalie: Exactly.

Annie: That's just not what we talk about.

Natalie: Like, exactly that's just part of it. And I think sometimes the event can be so great, but just by the nature of the fact that it's on a stage, there are certain polished aspects to it, that you just can't get away from.

Annie: Because it has to be excellent.

Natalie: It just is. But I think for us, the book was more of a chance to say, this is actually the in-depth version of how this started. And how we had to stick with it even when we had no money. How we had to stick with it, we had no crew and had to untangle the beads ourselves.

Annie: Oh my gosh, I could not believe that part. I was like "I can't picture it, Nat."

Natalie: It was-

Charlotte: Dare To Be which will never be repeated.

Natalie: That's right. And I think that's the part that helps people see the real and I think the realness and the authenticity of it. This wasn't just somebody's idea that they put together and put on a stage. It's birthed out of genuine friendship.

Women, it's actually possible to do something that's from genuine friendship and that it works, even when you don't see eye-to-eye. Even when you come from different places that it can work when God puts it together. And I think that's why the book to us was so important, was to not just tell the story, but then believing that those stories coupled with the Word was going to inspire other women to embrace that adventure, to embrace it.

Because I think so many right now are actually stuck. They're literally stuck with, "Okay, I feel this nudge to do this, or I want to do that, or I've got a dream to do this. But too much time has passed and it's not happening." Or "I don't know how to..." Or "I'm waiting for the big male voice from the sky to say, 'There's somebody in the back of the auditorium with an orange...'" They are waiting for something that's going to give them the nudge, instead of just saying, "I'm going to actually just go for it."

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And to believe that what God's put in me, He's going to see to fruition and that doesn't mean it's going to be easy, and I think that's part of it. We need more people willing to step out of where they're stuck, especially in the moment we're living in.

Charlotte: And I think we believe that one of our strengths, because it's just who we are, is our conversation. Like just the fact that we are friends and friends do just chat. And so I think the book allows people to be in on a conversation.

Annie: Yeah. That's what I loved about it.

Charlotte: I think, when you're reading it, you feel like you're in on a conversation and I think women love that. They don't necessarily want, these are the five points that you do to get from A to B, they want to be in the dialogue.

Like, "What did you say behind the scenes." Like, I'm talking about when she's brushing my hair, because I'm sobbing my eyes out, because I'm missing my kids. And I'm like, "I can't do this tonight." And she's like, "Okay, I got you, I got your hair, but you need to pull yourself together." And those are the things that people don't see.

But those are the reality of what makes it be what it is. And I think it was just us being us on paper, and being able to just have that chat, and invite people into the conversation.

Annie: Yeah. One of the things I loved about the book that, Charlotte, I'd love for you, both of you, but I think it was one of the thing she wrote was about leading but not controlling. I think that is the thing that women, I feel, that women in leadership feel. I'm thinking about the women who are leading their ministry in their church or their family or whatever. Of like, okay, we are privileged to live in a country, this is very forward right now, to me in our news. That we live in a country where women are allowed to lead.

Natalie: Right.

Charlotte: Yes.

Annie: Where the three of us get to be public about our faith and make a living out of it. And so my struggle is control. And you write about it a little bit in here, about like, "Letting go." And so balance for me leading and controlling.

Charlotte: Right, I think it's the difference between a force in your ministry or a force in your marriage or a force with your kids, and a flow.

Annie: Uh, wow.

Charlotte: I think it's the difference in that. I think that sometimes you just know I'm forcing this, right?

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: And so I'm forcing this to happen, I'm forcing this door to open, I'm forcing this conversation, I'm forcing that opportunity to come to me. Which means that all the effort is on you. And whatever you forced you've got to sustain, right?

Natalie: Mh-hmm. Yes, come on!

Annie: I'm in. I'm taking notes. Whatever you force, you have to sustain.

Charlotte: But what God endorses instead of you forcing, so what you want is a God endorsing, not you forcing.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Charlotte: An what God endorses-

Annie: Excuse me, just stay there.

Natalie: Tattooing it right now on the arm.

Charlotte: What God endorses He sustains, right?

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Natalie: Such a word.

Charlotte: Because you step into His flow.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And you know, okay, so when He talks about there's a rhythm of grace for your life. That means that, that there's a great, it doesn't mean that you don't stop moving.

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: But now you're not forcing it. When you're forcing it, you don't have the grace to the rhythm.

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: But when there's an endorsement of God, so you can be busy with the things that God has for you. But there's a grace in the busyness because God is helping you in that. But once you start doing it all by yourself and miss the opportunity He made, and miss the appointment that you made, and it's the... And so that's why I think the timing, even of the book, we could have forced it earlier.

Annie: Yes.

Charlotte: But it just felt like it was the right season and it was the right timing. And it came, and honestly the book was like a flood, it was a flow.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: It wasn't hard to get it on paper. But I think if we did try it a couple of years back, and I think that's the thing, our time and God's time that's always the issue, right?

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And I think even-

Annie: It is for me.

Natalie: Yeah I hear that. Yes, and Amen.

Charlotte: And so I think you just know the signs of when you just know, "I'm forcing this. I'm working way too hard to make this happen than I probably should be." And so then at those points, I always go back to that Scripture that says, "Delight yourself in the Lord. And He'll give you the desires of your heart." I think a lot of people want the desires of their heart, but they don't delight in the Lord, right?

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: So when you're forcing the desires of your heart to happen and you've stopped delighting, you're in trouble.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: So just get back to delighting and trust that God can endorse what it is that needs to happen in your future.

Natalie: I'm actually literally taking over your show right now. So, Charlotte, actually speak to what it actually means when you say, "Delight yourself in the Lord." When the Scripture says that, what do you think delight means?

Charlotte: For me, it's coming back to that place where He is everything.

Natalie: Mh-hmm.

Charlotte: And like, and His ways are way more important than my ways.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: And I'm just going to delight in who He is as my Father. I'm going to delight in who He is as the faithful one in my life all these years. I'm just going to delight in the fact that He's just good and He is good and He does good.

I'm just going to delight through worship, I'm going to delight through devoting myself to time in the Scripture. I'm just going to delight in just what He's already done for me and not keep asking for more.

Natalie: Yeah, like I'm going to delight in being content in who He is in my life right now, I'm not giving Him a list of wants. To me delighting is removing it from a wish list and asking. It's not coming to, "Okay, I'm going to worship You Lord and whilst I worship You, what I'd like You to do is I'd like this opportunity, and I'd like to get this interview."

Annie: While I got your attention Lord.

Natalie: Yes, Lord.

Charlotte: That's not delighting.

Annie: No.

Charlotte: That's like, if He never did another thing for you-

Natalie: Right, it's enough.

Charlotte: And so it's just being in that place of content, of I'm just, "The only thing I'm here for is just to tell you, I love you."

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: "And I'm so grateful for what You've done for me. And if You did no more, You've already done more than enough."

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: That, to me is delighting. It's like delighting in your kids, right?

Annie: Yes.

Charlotte: I'm delighting in the fact that, that you just you are, how amazing I get to be interested with you. And not I'm delighting in you because you did good or you did your chores or you-

Natalie: Sometimes I have to convince myself of that. I'm just going to throw that in there.

Charlotte: But when you delight just for those reasons, it's amazing how it just changes. Because if you need the other stuff to delight, then the relationship is already faulty.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: That's good.

Annie: Lord have mercy. How do you-

Natalie: See, see, see.

Annie: Between the two of you is just church, it's just church. It's just church.

Charlotte: Now, we just need Nat to crank out a song, and we just have a whole Jesus experience.

Annie: That's right. That's right. Natalie, I'm thinking, for our friends who are waiting on the miracle.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: So they're hearing Charlotte and they're going like, "I don't know what else to do. I tell God, He's the best thing that's ever happened to me. But we can't get pregnant."

And me, I'm not married or someone is looking for a job. Or someone just lost someone they love to COVID. Or it's someone served in Afghanistan and is just feeling everything. What's the hope, when you think you're doing everything and you still don't have the miracle?

Natalie: You know, I don't know if I said this when I was on your show last time. But something that really the Lord really taught me through my season of having thyroid cancer was before the answer came.

So a lot of people, they knew I was going to maybe never sing again. Because I had this tumor that was sitting on my vocal nerve. And so my voice still works and everyone thought that was such a miracle. And I actually don't think that was a miracle, I just think it was a gift.

Annie: Mh-hmm. What's the difference?

Natalie: To me, a miracle is God doing something for a greater purpose in me, not just something I can do, but who I am.

Annie: Wow.

Natalie: So for me, the voice is something I get to do and it's awesome and I'm going to do it for Him. I have more of a passion now than ever, because He preserved my voice.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Natalie: But what He did in me had nothing to do with what I'm doing, had everything to do with who I'm being. And that was getting to the place where I could say, "My outcome does not determine His goodness." And I think whoever you are, whatever you're waiting for, whatever that moment you're waiting for. If you can actually make a determination in your heart and begin to pray into that, to that end, "My outcome does not determine your goodness."

And you start to say it even when you don't believe it, even when you don't feel it. Just everyday begin to pray, "My outcome does not determine your goodness. You're actually still good if this doesn't work out. You're still faithful if I'm not healed. You're still kind if You don't answer my prayer the way I want you to, because my outcome doesn't determine who you are."

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: And I think getting to that place where I could say that with sincerity, that was the miracle for me. Because I was not there, but He brought me there. And now going into every situation, to go, "You know what, it may it may not, but You're still God and You're still good."

And that comes I just think through a maturity of faith and through beginning to declare it. I think there's such power in what we declare. Sometimes we forget and don't actually take inventory of what we're saying. But I think a lot of times those that are waiting, to start to take inventory about how much you talk about that.

Annie: Wow.

Natalie: How much do you talk about what you're waiting for? How much do you talk about hoping that you could be married? How much do you talk about, there's nothing wrong with talking about it.

Annie: So do you want people to talk about it more or less?

Natalie: I think if you focused on it less, not talk about it. Because you don't want to not be real, you want to be genuine, you want to be authentic, you don't want to hide it. But if it's your focus, of "I need Him to do this. I need this healing. I'm devastated by this." And you keep talking.

It's one thing to be vulnerable and share your devastation, it's another thing to sit in your devastation every day. Where you're just sitting in it, sitting in it, sitting in it. Then I think that's the part we're like, "Okay I actually need to change my confession." And I'm not Joel Osteening you here right now, like the power of positive thinking all the time-

Annie: But also.

Natalie: But also, the man is on to something.

Annie: The Word has the power of life and death, right?

Natalie: Exactly.

Charlotte: What I quite love about what you just said, what I just heard through what you were saying is, the focus is not on the gift is on the giver.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: Yes.

Charlotte: That's what you're saying? It wasn't the gift of your voice.

Natalie: No.

Charlotte: For you it became all about the giver now.

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: And that is everything, because if the gift looks different in this next season, you still have the giver.

Natalie: Exactly.

Annie: Right. Right. Right.

Charlotte: I love that.

Annie: And what you say out, I mean, we talked about this with Danny Gokey. We've talked about this within a couple of different episodes lately about like, literally what you're saying out loud matters.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: The things you're praying and you can tell the truth, and be vulnerable, and be honest-

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: ...like I have counseling today, I'm going to tell her the whole truth. I'm going to say it out loud.

Natalie: The whole truth, yes.

Annie: But also when I'm praying, I'm not, I mean, even this week I've been walking out of like a little hallway, that I kind of pace. If I move I pray better, than if I sit.

Charlotte: Me too.

Annie: And so I'll walk and I'll be like, "You are kind. You are good. You are paying attention." And I don't feel any of that.

Natalie: No, no, no, no.

Annie: None of that is how I feel, but I'm just saying. I'm just talking about the giver.

Charlotte: Yes. Because the enemy can't read your thoughts.

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: Let's just remember that. So he doesn't have any power until it comes out your mouth.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Charlotte: He can only use what comes out your mouth.

Annie: Wow.

Charlotte: So he doesn't know you're scared until you say you are.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: Right.

Charlotte: He doesn't know that you're anxious until you start talking anxious.

Annie: Uh-huh.

Charlotte: And so once those words come out, you give them as a gift to not only the giver, but also the thief that comes to kill, steal, and destroy.

Annie: Yes.

Charlotte: They are a gift on whoever's hands they last land in is up to you.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Charlotte: So just like, my kids don't know what I'm thinking.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: So if I suddenly say, "Well, that's a disaster." Oh, well, "You're useless."

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: They only know that until it comes out my mouth.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: So, you think about it that way, my husband doesn't know what's in my head until it comes out of my mouth. And so it's the same with the enemy. Think of the enemy that way and realize once it comes out your mouth, you just either gave him fuel for the fire or you put water instead of petrol on the fire.

Natalie: And on that thing I'm literally sit here going, "Yeah, but I don't want people to think that they can't share how they're feeling. And they don't get to be vulnerable." But that is actually why it's so important who your friends are.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: Because you either have a friend that your safe, because you want somebody that you can speak to about it.

Annie: Yes.

Natalie: Are they going to just get down there in the pit and then commiserate with you? And then it's going to be this thing back and forth. And then all of a sudden there's no life being put into the air.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: But when you surround yourself with people that listen to you, cry with you, hurt with you, and then speak life into you.

Annie: Yes.

Natalie: Speak life back against those words that you're saying, that's why it's so important.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Natalie: Who you actually let into your inner-circle, because you need those people that are going to actually answer your hurts and your cries with life.

[00:43:02] <Music>

Annie: Hey y'all, just interrupting this conversation one more time to tell you about another amazing partner, Policy Genius. Policy Genius can't help you refresh your cool weather wardrobe for autumn, but they can help you shop for another kind of coverage, life insurance.

Policy Genius makes it easy to compare quotes from over a dozen top insurers all in one place. Why compare? Well for starters, you could save 50% or more on life insurance by comparing quotes with Policy Genius. And you can save \$1300 or more per year on life insurance, by using Policy Genius to compare policies.

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process. That kind of service has earned Policy Genius thousands of five-star reviews across Trustpilot and Google. And eligible applicants can get covered in as little as a week, thanks to an award-winning policy option that swaps the standard medical exam requirement for a simple phone call.

This exclusive policy was recently rated number one by Forbes Advisor. Higher than options from Ladder, Ethos, and Bestow. Getting started is easy; first, head to policygenius.com, and in minutes you can work out how much life insurance coverage you need and compare personalized quotes to find your best price.

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[00:44:37] <Music>

Annie: It's one of the things I love about Job's friends, because they're idiots, for sure. But it is just like someone who was in here, forgive me that I don't remember who. Craig you may remember who if you do say it out loud. But said, Job, in the book of Job, Job's friends talk about God, Job talks to God. And I was like, "Oh my gosh, I never thought about that." But who you listen to in your vulnerability, and in your pain, who you are sharing that with, it is not, you shouldn't keep it all inside. But who you go to-

Charlotte: Right, careful who you talk to.

Annie: ...if you go to your Job's friends. And so I've been asking God really thoughtfully lately, as I'm in conversations and going, "Is this person a Job's friend or is this person a healthy spot for me." And I'm starting to sheep and goat it a little bit.

Natalie: Right.

Charlotte: Right.

Annie: Of who I can trust when I'm trying to make some decisions and think through things.

Charlotte: And it's how you say it. So like David was in a in a rough spot and he was not doing good, and he was anxious. And then he says, "Why are you downcast oh my soul?" Right?

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: But then there's another line, "You will praise the Lord." In other words, it's not that you should hide what where you're at but be careful how you say it.

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: Because if you just say like, "I'm downcast, my life's over, everything sucks. There's no way out." I mean, you've just dug a hole, which the enemy is just going to keep

piling more and more on top of you. For you to feel that way. But if you acknowledge the pain, but also acknowledge the promise. And also acknowledge that there's a way out and also acknowledge the pain, the one that can come and heal the pain. Then in the same mouth, you're saying to the enemy, "Yeah, this is what's happening, but this is who I'm giving it to."

Annie: That's it. That's it. That is saying, "This is what's true of my experience-"

Charlotte: And this is who is going to.

Annie: "...but my experience didn't tell me about God. God tells me about my experience."

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: And that's how you know if you've got a good friend.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: So when the friend just gets in with you and like, "Yeah, I'm anxious too. And yeah, I feel it. And yeah, if I were you, I'd feel the same way." But when I tell her she's like, "I see it. I feel for you. I'm hurting for you. And this is what we're going to do about it."

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: "I'm believing with you. I'm praying with you. We're standing with you."

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And so then the whole conversation now has a way out instead of just a way further down.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: When you're praying for a thing and it is extended when it happens. I have found, tell me if y'all agree with as or your thoughts on this. The longer you have to stand in faith, the more clear it is who can stand with you.

Natalie: Yeah.

Charlotte: Yeah.

Natalie: So true.

Annie: Because the first week everybody-

Natalie: So true, right?

Annie: ...everybody is with you

Natalie: Everybody is with you.

Annie: Eight weeks in, 12 weeks in, seven, eight years in, you are like, "Now, y'all are asking me, if I should really be believing?" And I'm like, "No, listen, I thought you were going to stand with me. I thought we were all believing." Right?

Natalie: Right. It's so true.

Annie: So how do you find the right people? How do you find them?

Charlotte: I think you have to understand that there's different friendships, right? There's some friendships that are seasonal.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And there's some friendships that are forever.

**Episode 320: Natalie Grant
and Charlotte Gambill**

That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: And the Internet is trying to kill seasonal friendships. And make us believe that everyone we've met we have to know forever, because we follow them on Instagram.

Natalie: Exactly.

Charlotte: Exactly. And we have to uncouple ourselves from that.

Annie: Yeah, that's good Charlotte.

Charlotte: Because it's just faulty thinking and it's not healthy thinking.

Annie: No.

Charlotte: And it's not actually what Jesus modeled. And it's not actually what we read in our Bible.

Annie: It's certainly not what Paul modeled.

Charlotte: Right.

Natalie: No.

Charlotte: I mean, I think about it with Ruth, and Naomi, and Orpah, like think about that. Like there was an opportunity that came, they journeyed so far together. And we always talk about how Ruth was the better one. But actually, I think they both made the better choice.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: Because you don't travel with someone unless you know that that's the next season of your life.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And, so, they both in that moment one clings to Naomi is like, "Yeah, this is it. This is it for me." And the other is like, "No, this is my goodbye."

Annie: Yes.

Charlotte: And both are right.

Annie: Yes.

Charlotte: And I think we just focus on well, we should all have the Ruth spirit and cling to the person forever. Well, no not unless you know, and Ruth was written into that. That was part of her future, but it wasn't necessarily for Orpah. And so I think those are the areas in our life where we have to first of all know don't go into every friendship like, "Okay, this is forever, we're moving in together. I'm going to tell you everything" No, no, no, no, no, that's not how that began for us.

I mean, we look now, 16 years later, and we're like, "Wow, how did that happen?" We're raising our kids together, we're sharing the journey of marriage together. But we didn't start off thinking it would be that.

Natalie: No.

Annie: Right.

Charlotte: And so I think you have to first of all know, "Okay, when I enter into a friendship, I enter and I take it a step at a time."

Annie: I mean, we almost need to put some of our dating boundaries on friendships.

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: Right, exactly.

Annie: For real, like when y'all break up all your friends say, "Delete his phone number. Unfollow him on Instagram." When y'all aren't in relationship anymore, it's healthiest to let them go.

Natalie: Right.

Charlotte: Right.

Annie: But with female friends we think, "Well, that's not loving and that's not kind, if we don't stay together as best friends forever."

Natalie: Right, it actually is loving.

Charlotte: I actually just discovered the Mute button.

Annie: Oh, isn't that a gift.

Charlotte: Mute is actually a gift. Because then you don't have, you don't have to worry about hurting someone's feelings when you unfollow them, you just silence them. And it's a beautiful thing.

Annie: Like I actually have all stories muted, I have. Because I can't take it, it was hours of my life. And so people will say, "Well, did you see my story?" I'm like, "No, I still follow you, and I'm interested, I can't watch your stories-

Natalie: Exactly.

Annie: Because I don't have it in me.

Charlotte: And I think one of the things I would say is that just like I just referenced, I think when you know it's a right friendship it's just a flow.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: It's not forced. Like, when somebody is telling you, "Why didn't you call me? And why didn't you text me?" And you're like either that works for you or it doesn't. But for me, that's too high maintenance.

Annie: Yeah.

Natalie: Right.

Charlotte: And, so, you just got to be upfront. Like "Hey, I want to be your friend. But I'm kind of the friend that when we're in, we're all in. And then when we're about our lives, we're about our lives." I'm like we can go for months.

Natalie: Months.

Charlotte: I think people think we speak to each other every day.

Natalie: We can like go for actual months.

Charlotte: And not even be in touch, but we don't need to be.

Annie: But it works for both of you.

Natali: Yes.

Charlotte: Yes, her life's busy, my life's busy. We're in two different time zones, it's like that would just be extra.

Annie: It's a little bit the nature of being friends with people that do our job.

Natalie: Yes.

Charlotte: Right.

Annie: It's A, if we're at work, we're not in the same place, as usually y'all get to be. But if we're all at work on the same weekend, we're in different cities, I'm not with y'all. But then if we run into each other, it's like, "Okay, let's eat dinner tonight." Just like, "Let's say all the things."

Charlotte: I mean we haven't seen each other for months. So I arrived at her house last night. First of all, I always forget to tell her I'm coming.

Annie: Did you just come here from England?

Charlotte: No, I was in the States.

Annie: Okay, I was starting to be like, my gosh!

Natalie: You're like you're looking good for such-

Charlotte: So like I always forget, so I text her at the airport going, "Oh, by the way, I'm staying tonight, right?" She's like, "Yeah, we are good." Like, literally, then I'm helping her with dinner and then we're eating, and then we're measuring for furniture.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And then we're moving furniture. And we're like literally-

Natalie: It's just like we never missed a beat.

Charlotte: And I think that to me is just healthy.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: It's just how the healthy things just grow, right?

Natalie: Yeah.

Charlotte: And then if it's healthy, you get to prune it and you don't mind when it's pruned.

Annie: Yeah.

Charlotte: So if we have to prune something and talk about something, it's healthy.

Natalie: Yeah.

Charlotte: Whereas, I think if we have a friendship and when you prune it, it's like, "Well, I'm not speaking to you again, until I get over this." It's that's not healthy. And if it needs all the time, full-time care, that's not healthy.

Natalie: No.

Annie: Yeah. That's right.

Charlotte: So I just think, when you're building a friendship, look at those signs and think, "Can I sustain this?"

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Charlotte: Because if this is going to take 90% of my life to keep you happy, then that's not healthy for either of us.

Natalie: No.

Annie: Yeah. And I would think, I've experienced this, some of my married friends, their husbands are like, "Go be with your girlfriends, you need that." And then I know some

single people who have put all the weight of relationship on their girlfriends. And then you go, "Hey, listen, I can't carry all this for you."

Natalie: No.

Annie: We can't be everything. And so it's that pruning of, "If I cut this back, will it grow again or not?" And that's so important, it's so helpful, because we have a lot of life left, hopefully.

Natalie: Hopefully, unless Jesus wants to come back and He can't because it's crazy.

Annie: That's right. That's fine.

Natalie: Come on back Jesus.

Annie: You're welcome. You're welcome here. But as I'm thinking back on this whole conversation, literally what y'all keep saying over and over again, is the Dare To Be idea. Of like, just dare to be in friendship. Dare to believe that God is who He says He is. Dare to rest. Dare to stand. Dare to trust the flow and not force things. I mean, y'all are living what you teach right here in front of us. That is a huge gift.

Natalie: And I think that's the part is just people think that word dare sometimes almost sounds a little bit like, "Oh, but you actually have to." I think oftentimes, even in our faith, we are waiting for God to do the thing that steps out, that makes it happen, that opens the door, that pushes us through. God's already done everything He needs to do, actually. He's constantly got a hand extended.

Annie: Yes.

Natalie: We actually have to take a hold of it.

Annie: Yes.

Natalie: We actually have to profess the word. We actually have to step out, we have a responsibility. And I think that that word is exactly what it is, it's you have to dare to take God at His Word. And then when you do the payoff is great, not easy, but the payoff is great.

Charlotte: But we even did a chapter called "Dare To Fail."

Annie: Yes, oh my gosh, I loved it.

Charlotte: We were like, "Is this going to work?" I have no idea.

Natalie: Right, I have no idea.

Charlotte: I mean like the first time we record in the book, like the first night of Dare To Be with the disaster, with the backdrop. And then the next time there was a storm and nobody came and we're like looking out and we're like, "There's nobody here."

Annie: Oh, gosh.

Charlotte: Like you just had to live in that place, honestly like I think it's important people see that, because if you think that when we say Dare To Be means "Oh, yeah, if you Dare, well, it's going to be good-"

Annie: All is going to work.

Natalie: All is going to be good.

Charlotte: But no, the failing teaches you just as much as the succeeding, if not more.

Natalie: More I think.

Annie: Okay, is there anything we didn't talk about that you want to talk about? What did we leave on the table?

Natalie: I don't know. We've talked so much about the flow and I'm literally laughing because I'm like, "Man you are so in the flow, even water bottle is called flow."

Annie: We're going to flow, I know, even that.

Natalie: Perfect.

Annie: Thank y'all for Dare To Be, I've been to the show, and I loved it, I mean, seriously. And we had questions come in from our friends listening that get our AFD Week in Review, and of the 10 questions that came in seven of them are just thanking y'all. For the show, for your writing, for your music, for an experience of meeting you 20-years ago and how kind you were.

Natalie: Oh, my gosh, I just want to cry.

Annie: Yeah, I mean, so I think that that says the most-

Charlotte: Ain't that awesome? I love that.

Annie: ...that when people get a chance to ask you a question directly they mostly want to say thank you.

Charlotte: That's amazing.

Natalie: Gosh, that means a lot.

Annie: So I think that's really sweet. I can't wait for people to get the book tomorrow. And the last question we always ask, you know it's coming up.

Natalie: Yes.

Annie: Both of you get to answer, because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you?

Natalie: Oh, man, well, at this moment, a beach.

Annie: Yes, great answer.

Natalie: A beach sounds fantastic. Preferably nowhere in the south because it is so humid right now. It is disgusting outside, so somewhere with dry heat, a beach. And then the other thing that sounds really fun that I've been thinking about, if I could do anything else with my life, it would be to be a candy taste tester.

Annie: Oh, my gosh, just like tasting it. By the way, you know like nine out of 10 times it's going to be gross?

Natalie: I know, I don't think so.

Annie: Okay.

Natalie: Like I think if I would have parameters because I would be the taste tester, so I would get to set the rules.

Annie: You're like the top of the triangle?

Natalie: Yeah, so I'm not doing that Jelly Belly thing where they've like it tastes like vomit.

Annie: Yeah, that's my fear for you.

Natalie: No, it's like new chocolates or new gummy worms, that just kind of sounds like a joke.

Annie: Okay, so if any of our friends listening own a candy company, Natalie is totally available. What about you Charlotte? What sounds fun to you?

Charlotte: You know what just dropped into my mind that sounds fun. To have someone open like my favorite store at night, just for me and a group of girlfriends and we have access to shop.

Annie: Yes.

Charlotte: For as long as we want and we don't get charged for anything.

Annie: Oh, you just take-

Natalie: Oh, have fun without me, you want to come with me, now, don't ya?

Charlotte: If she gets the candy, I'm going with her.

Annie: What store would you pick?

Charlotte: Probably Nordstrom because it has a bit of everything in it.

Natalie: Everything, yes.

Annie: Yeah. Yeah.

Charlotte: And like when I say everything like Louie has to be open, and the sheets department has to be open, and the makeup counter has to be opened. And it's nice and we just go in, and we get to eat at the cafe.

Natalie: That does sound fun.

Annie: Oh, that sounds so fun.

Charlotte: And just shop, no other customers.

Natalie: And eat their fries?

Charlotte: Yeah.

Annie: Their fries-

Natalie: Their fries, are the best.

Annie: ... oh, my gosh! Their fries are the best.

Natalie: Oh my gosh.

Charlotte: We try on all the clothes, we could just-

Annie: Oh, that sounds so awesome.

Charlotte: ...and then just load up what we think we want and then...

Natalie: That does sound fun. We're all going to be day-dreaming for the rest of the day. It will be so much.

Annie: That could be so fun.

Charlotte: I mean, if I ever get that dream I'll put you on the list-

Natalie: Thank you.

Annie: Thank you. I'm very interested, very interested.

[00:57:32] <Music>

Annie: Oh my gosh, you guys, aren't they incredible? I love them both, so, so much. I just absolutely adore them. So be sure to pick up your copy of *Dare To Be*, open the first page and you will see that I loved it so much, I endorsed it as soon as I read it. I just absolutely think this is a great devotional to have. Make sure you're following Natalie

and Charlotte so you can tell them thanks for being on the show, and get yourself to a *Dare To Be* event as soon as you can, they are awesome. I've been to a couple and I just love them.

If you need anything else for me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find, Annie F. Downs on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), all the places you may need me and out on the road, that's how you can find me. And I think that's it from me today, friends go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you, and I will do the same. Have a great couple of days. We'll see you back here on Friday with my pal, one of my favorite pastors, Steve Carter. See you guys then.

[00:58:26] <Music>