

The Surprising Joy

OF EMBRACING GOD'S PROMISES

365 Reminders of His Faithfulness

GAYLYN R. WILLIAMS



www.RelationshipResources.org

**This book is also available as a journal.
Learn more at www.RelationshipResources.org.**

© 2014 Relationship Resources. All Rights Reserved.
Published by Relationship Resources, Inc.

This book uses many different Bible translations. They are listed at the back of the book. See page 375 for the other versions used. It becomes part of this copyright page.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the authors.

Contact Relationship Resources for additional copies and quantity discounts:

PO Box 62454, Colorado Springs, CO 80962

www.RelationshipResources.org

email: info@RelationshipResources.org

Library of Congress Control Number: 2014955902

ISBN: 978-1503088108

Cover designed by Timothy Whalin. www.TimothyWhalin.com.

Printed in the United States of America.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------|
| Dedication | iii |
| Introduction | ix |
| How to Use This Book..... | xiii |
| Daily Devotionals..... | 1 |
| Leaders Guide for Small Groups | 367 |
| Discovering a Personal Relationship with God | 369 |
| About the Publisher and Author | 371 |
| Other Books by the Author | 374 |
| Scripture Translations Used | 391 |

Get access to four free eBooks at www.RelationshipResources.org:

- *De-Stress Your Life*
- *Unlocking Joy*
- *Reconcilable Differences*
- *Harness the Power of Nonverbal Communication*



Dedication

I dedicate this book to my best friend, Karen Linamen. Thank you for bringing so much joy into my life. I pray this book brings you strength, joy and encouragement.

Karen writes humorous self-help books for women, including:

- *Just Hand over the Chocolate and No One Will Get Hurt*
- *Due to Rising Energy Costs, the Light at the End of the Tunnel Has Been Turned Off*

Learn more at www.WitAndWellness.com.



Acknowledgements

I am deeply indebted to many people who made this book possible.

My son Timothy Whalin created another beautiful cover! I'm grateful that even with all your work as a designer for Amazon, you are still willing to share your creativity with me and all who will enjoy this book.

Thank you to Linda Harris for doing the final edit on this book and to Pastor Steve Sherwood and Lyndell Martin who read through the entire book, giving their insights and editing. Thank you to those who proofread part of the book: Patti Sheeley, John Rodwick and my daughter-in-love Megan Whalin.

Thank you to Rubin Paxton. You spent many hours checking each Scripture reference to make sure they were correct. You also did many other projects on this book.

Gordon and Dian, thank you for sharing your lovely cabin, where I wrote a majority of this book.

Introduction

*[God] has given us great and precious promises.
These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and
escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.*

2 Peter 1:4 NLT

The Bible is filled with hundreds of incredible promises. In this book, we'll only look at 365 of them. How many have you seen fulfilled?

What do these verses say to you about God's promises?

I encourage you to read each one, asking God to reveal His truth to you through it.

- 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV): "No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."
- Isaiah 45:19 (NLT): "I [God] publicly proclaim bold promises. I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner. I would not have told the people of Israel to seek me if I could not be found. I, the Lord, speak only what is true and declare only what is right."
- Romans 15:4 (NLT): "The Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled."
- Romans 4:18-24 (NLT): "Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping. ... Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead." You can read the story in Genesis 15-17 and 22.

- Hebrews 6:10-15 (NIV): “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, ‘I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.’ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.”
- Hebrews 11:11 (AMP): “Because of faith also Sarah herself received physical power to conceive a child, even when she was long past the age for it, because she considered [God] Who had given her the promise to be reliable and trustworthy and true to His word.”
- Hebrews 11:17 (AMP): “By faith Abraham, when he was put to the test [while the testing of his faith was still in progress], had already brought Isaac for an offering; he who had gladly received and welcomed [God’s] promises was ready to sacrifice his only son.”

How did these verses encourage you?

Are you living with broken promises, wondering who you can trust? Many people experience them with spouses, parents, siblings, friends, politicians, church leaders and more. Being trustworthy seems to be a lost art.

If you’ve experienced broken promises, does that make you skeptical about whether God will keep the promises He made in the Bible? Or maybe you’ve claimed biblical promises, but haven’t seen them fulfilled in your life.

Writing this book challenged my faith. I’ve seen many of these promises accomplished in my life; however I struggled with the ones I haven’t yet experienced. I know God’s Word is true, but sometimes I haven’t personally seen the evidence. Can you relate?

There can be a variety of reasons why we may not see God fulfill His promises in our lives. Look at three of them:

The first reason is that we may not have met its conditions. Many of them have one or more conditions for their fulfillment, as you’ll see in the devotionals. It could be having a personal relationship with God or obeying a command. At times the conditions for the promise may be in a different part of the Word. For example, look at the following verses about asking and receiving:

- John 14:14 (NIV): “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”
- John 15:7 (NIV): “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”
- 1 John 3:22 (NKJV): “Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

- Mark 11:24 (NIV): “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Notice how each of the verses above is slightly different. If we don't see an answer, we may need to search the Word to see what else God says about the subject.

A second reason we may not experience a promise is that we don't yet have the faith to believe it is possible. I'm growing in my faith, but know I still have a long way to go! I regularly ask God to increase my faith, praying, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24 NIV). Regardless of how strong your faith is, I encourage you to pray a similar prayer.

Another reason we may not see promises fulfilled is the timing may not be right. Look at the verses below in Hebrews 11. I encourage you to read the full chapter. The people mentioned are those God commended as having great faith, yet they didn't experience all God pledged to do for them. What can you learn about God's timing?

- Hebrews 11:13 (NLT): “All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.”
- Hebrews 11:39-40 (NIV): “These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”

Like the people in Hebrews 11, we may have to trust that God will do what He said in His own timing, even when we can't see the end result. Just because we haven't seen a promise come true doesn't mean it is not true. It may have come true, but we didn't recognize it. Sometimes we must wait patiently for God to fulfill it. If you are meeting the conditions and you don't experience one of them, ask God to reveal why you haven't.

I challenge you to study and believe God for each truth in this book. I pray God's blessings on you as you grow in the Lord and learn to embrace all of His promises.

Gaylyn Williams

How to Use This Book

This book is not meant to be me sharing my wisdom. It is designed to help you dig deeper to discover more for yourself and grow in your relationship with God.

Each day has one or more Scriptures, questions to ponder and a short prayer related to the truth about how God sees you. You can use these as a springboard to a deeper study and prayer time. I encourage you to keep a separate journal to note what God reveals to you. Or use the accompanying journal, *The Surprising Joy Journal III* (available at www.RelationshipResources.org).

I challenge you to take time not only to read the devotional for each day but to meditate throughout the day on how God sees you. Ask God to transform your view of yourself, so you can begin to see yourself as He sees you and begin to live with confidence, knowing who you are in Him.

Some themes are repeated throughout the book, such as God's love for us, peace and joy. They are critical truths for us to understand. Each promise is different, even though they are on similar topics.

When I mention other books I've written, they are all available on Amazon or on www.RelationshipResources.org.

Meditation

Meditation has gotten a bad reputation with Christians, because of the way other religions use it. However, the Bible has a lot to say about meditation. Look up the following verses. Think about what each one says about meditating on God and His Word:

- Joshua 1:8 (NKJV): "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

- Psalm 1:1–2 (HCSB): “How happy is the man who does not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path of sinners, or join a group of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.”
- Psalm 48:9 (NIV): “Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your un-failing love.”
- Psalm 77:12 (ESV): “I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.” The New Living Translation says, “They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works.”
- Psalm 119:27 (NLT): “Help me understand the meaning of your commandments, and I will meditate on your wonderful deeds.”
- Psalm 119:97, 99 (ASV): “Oh how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day. ... I have more understanding than all my teachers; for thy testimonies are my meditation.”
- Psalm 145:5 (NKJV): “I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works.”
- Philippians 4:8 (ESV): “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Other synonyms for meditate include: consider, think about, study, contemplate, ponder, deliberate and mull over.

I encourage you to take the time to meditate on and consider the truths from each devotional. Ask the Lord to reveal His truth to you as you meditate on His Word.

Further Study

You might want to take one verse or question from one of the devotionals to meditate on throughout the week, so you can go deeper in your understanding of who you are in Christ.

Whatever the topic is for the day, you can go deeper in your study by discovering what else the Word says on the topic. One way to do that is to go to www.BibleGateway.com. Put the word or words into the “Keyword Search Tool.” For example, if the truth for the day is “I Am a Child of God,” you could search for “Child of God.”

Declarations

Throughout this book, I give you declarations to speak. Part of changing the

way we think and view ourselves is speaking the truth out loud. Sometimes it isn't enough to just think the right truths. There is something powerful about speaking the truth from God's Word audibly.

In Romans 4:17 (NIV) Paul said about Abraham, "He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and *calls into being things that were not*" [emphasis added]. Just as God calls things into being, we can do the same with our declarations. Our words are powerful. For example, if I am saying to myself (or if you are), "I'm tired," "I'm dumb," or "I'm a procrastinator," then we are calling in what will happen. We will become more of whatever we say about ourselves.

In the last two or three years, I've been speaking declarations almost every morning aloud so I hear them, but the enemy also hears them. I declare who God is, who I am in Him and what He has done for me. It changes my outlook on life.

I encourage you to say the title for each day audibly, as a declaration. For truths that are harder for you to accept, you might want to put them on cards or sticky notes and repeat them every day. You may need to reprogram your mind to accept what God says about you, rather than what your earthly family, the enemy, "friends" or the media has told you.

Conditions that Must Be Met for Some of the Truths

Many of the truths in this book have conditions that must be met for them to be true for us. Some are written in the verses, others are not. Many of the truths are only true for those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If you don't yet know Jesus, I encourage you to get to know Him.

This book reveals what a true relationship with God can bring. I don't want you to miss anything God has for you. If you want to know more, go to the back of this book, "Discovering a Personal Relationship with God" on page 369.

Scripture Memory

I will often encourage you to memorize Bible verses. When you have the Word in your heart, you'll be amazed at the times God brings it back to you—just when you need it. I've been memorizing Scripture since I was a child. Often during the night, when I can't go to sleep, I'll begin meditating on a verse. For help on memorizing verses, go to my blog www.DailyNameofGod.com.

You Can Use This Book in the Following Ways:

- In your personal time with God, drawing you into deeper intimacy with Him.
- As a couples' devotional, growing in your relationship with each other and God.
- With your children, helping them gain a bigger view of God.

- In a small group or with one or two friends, sharing your insights together.
- With your whole church or ministry. Every household in one church got a copy of the first book in this series. They were able to share with each other on deeper levels at church, rather than talking about surface issues.

If you are studying the book with others, look at the “Leaders’ Guide” in the back of this book for some helpful ideas.

Hebrew and Greek Words

Some words from the original languages are included because often they add so much depth to the meaning. A word in Hebrew or Greek can have numerous meanings, yet they are translated with one English word. As a result, we miss so much of the meaning. Here are two of my favorite examples that we’ll look at more in the future:

- *Shalom* in Hebrew is normally translated as “peace” in English. However, it also means the following: safe, well, happy, friendly, health, prosperity, favor, rest, welfare, friendship and more.
- *Sozo* in Greek is usually translated “save” as in “Jesus saves.” However it also means so much more, including: deliver, protect (literally or figuratively), heal, preserve, make whole and do well. Think about all Jesus did for you, all that is included in the one English word “save.”

I am not a Hebrew or Greek scholar and only include that information to add to your understanding. I don’t pretend to fully comprehend them. I’m a fellow adventurer, longing to continue to know God more intimately.

The Hebrew and Greek words are written with easy-to-pronounce spellings, although there are other ways to spell them. Many times we will only look at the definitions and not include the word in the original language.

Bible Translations

This book uses different translations of the Bible, which show variations and nuances of the verses. Only part of some verses are used, because that’s what is being emphasized. The copyright information for the Bible translations is on the copyright page at the end of this book. The abbreviations used are:

AMP—Amplified Bible

ASV—American Standard Version

CEV—Contemporary English Version

CJB—Complete Jewish Bible

ESV—English Standard Version

GW—God’s Word

HCSB—Holman Christian Standard Bible
JBP—J. B. Phillips, The New Testament in Modern English
MSG—The Message
NASB—New American Standard Bible
NET—The NET Bible
NIV—New International Version
NJB—New Jerusalem Bible
NKJV—New King James Version
NLT—New Living Translation
NOG—Names of God
OJB—The Orthodox Jewish Bible
YLT—Young’s Literal Translation

JANUARY I

God's Love and Faithfulness Endure Forever

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 117:1–2 ESV

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- What a great way to start this year, focusing on God's love and His faithfulness! I pray as you go through this devotional study you will be blessed as you learn to see God's love and faithfulness in new ways.
- Many of the verses we'll look at have more than one promise in them. These verses have two. We'll look at each separately:
- *First, God's steadfast love toward us is great.* The *New Living Translation* says, "He loves us with unfailing love."
 - The Hebrew for "steadfast love" is *chesed*, which also means unrelenting passion, goodness and kindness. It is also translated loving-kindness, unchanging love, devotion and mercy.
 - The Hebrew word for "great" in this verse is *gabar*, and also means to be strong or mighty.
 - Meditate on God's unfailing love for you, which is strong and mighty. How have you experienced God's love? Do you feel God's love or do you question it because of events in your past? If you question it, I encourage you to stay open throughout this study to allow God to reveal His love for you in greater ways.
- *The second promise is that God's faithfulness endures forever.*
 - "Faithfulness" in Hebrew is *emeth*, which also means truth, steadfastness, fidelity, stability and firmness. God is all of these. How does this encourage you?
 - Consider how long forever is. That's how long God's faithfulness will go on.
- What does Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) say to you about God's faithfulness? "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise."
- Three times in these verses we are told to praise and extol the Lord. As you go through this book and study God's promises, take the time to praise Him daily for what He has done for you and will do for you.

A Prayer for You:

Lord, I praise You and thank You for showing me Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, which endures forever. Help me to see and understand both in new ways. I want to learn to trust You in greater ways.

JANUARY 2

My Sins Are Forgiven

[Christ] is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.

Acts 10:43 NLT

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- What a deal! We just have to believe in Christ and our sins are forgiven. Think about that. You don't have to do anything for God to forgive you. You can't earn His forgiveness. It is a free gift, simply by believing in Him!
- "Sin" in Greek is *hamartia*, meaning to miss the mark, to err, be mistaken, to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor, to do or go wrong, to wander from the law of God or to violate God's law. How do these definitions help you to understand sin? In what ways have you done any of these?
- What do these verses add about God's forgiveness?
 - Psalm 103:12 (NLT): "He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."
 - Nehemiah 9:17 (ESV): "You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them."
- Meditate on each of the verses above, thanking God for what He's done for you.
- I've known people who feel like they can do anything they want because God will forgive them or God already has forgiven them. Imagine how that attitude must hurt God's heart. If that is you, I encourage you to repent and ask God to help you live a life that pleases Him. If you are not sure you have believed in Jesus, you can go to page 369 to learn how.
- Look at the beginning of this verse. Jesus is the one the prophets testified about hundreds of years before He was born. They knew He was coming and would forgive people's sins just because they believed in Him.
- When did you first begin to believe in Jesus? Share your story with someone who might need to hear it. I grew up knowing about God, but didn't begin to fully believe in Jesus until I was eleven. I made a decision to follow Him at that point.

A Prayer for You:

Jesus, thank You for planning to forgive us so long ago. Thank You for being willing to come as a sacrifice for my sins. All I have to do is believe in You. Forgive me for any times I've taken advantage of Your forgiveness and continued to sin. I declare my trust and faith in You once again.

JANUARY 3

I Am Cleansed from All Sin

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9 ESV

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- Yesterday, we looked at God's forgiveness through our believing in Jesus. Today we further examine God's forgiveness. If we confess our sins, God forgives us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Think about that. Our part is so easy.
- "Confess" in Greek is *homologeō* and means to say the same thing as another or to agree with. God says all sin is wrong and separates you from Him. To confess your sins means you agree with what He says about your sins.
- Is there anything you need to confess to God? If so, take time to do it. I'm so glad we don't have to go to a priest or anyone else to confess our sins. We can go straight to God!
- We are only going to focus on the second promise in this verse, since we considered forgiveness yesterday. God cleanses us from all unrighteousness.
- "Cleanse" in Greek is *katharizō* and also means to free from defilement of sin and from faults, to purify from wickedness and to free from guilt of sin. How do these definitions add to your understanding of what God does for you?
- God is righteous. He is completely perfect. Anything below that standard is unrighteousness. Read Romans 1:29–32 (ESV) to see what God considers unrighteous. What does it mean to you that God washes you clean from all wrongdoing?
- What do these verses add?
 - Romans 3:23 (NLT): "Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."
 - Psalm 32:5 (ESV): "I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; ... and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."
 - 1 John 2:12 (NLT): "I am writing to you who are God's children because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus."
- Ask God to reveal to you anything you may need to do to experience these promises. Then do what He says.

A Prayer for You:

God, thank You that when I confess my sins to You, You are faithful and just to forgive me from all my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I know I don't deserve it, but I'm so grateful. I confess to You my sins (name each one). Please forgive me and cleanse me.

JANUARY 4

I Am a Child of God and Know God

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.

Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7 NLT

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- *The Message* says, "My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God."
- Examine the two promises in this verse, asking God to reveal to you what He wants you to see from each.
- *The first promise is you are a child of God.* Consider what it means to be God's child.
 - The Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, chose to adopt you as His child. What does Romans 8:15 (ESV) tell you? "You did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"
 - God loves you completely. Take time to meditate on what that means. If you didn't have a good relationship with your earthly father, you may struggle to accept God's love. Ask Him to reveal more of His love to you.
 - As God's child, you have the full rights as His child, with the same access to God the Father that Jesus has. You can come boldly into His presence anytime, knowing you are loved and accepted.
 - What does Galatians 3:26 (NLT) add? "You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus."
- *The second promise is you know God.* What a privilege! He allows us to get to know Him. Just as in any relationship, it takes spending time together to develop intimacy. How much time do you spend with Him? Is your relationship with Him a priority for you? Why or why not?
- These promises have a condition that must be met: *we continue to love others.* Are there people you struggle to love? Ask God for His help to love them as He loves you.
- As I said yesterday, I became a child of God when I was eleven years old. However it's been a lifelong process getting to know God intimately. I'm sure I won't be finished this side of Heaven.
- Say this out loud as your declaration: "I am a child of God and I know God."

A Prayer for You:

Lord, I am so blessed to be Your child and to be able to know You as my Father. Open my heart to understand Your love in new ways. I want to be changed as I learn to live confidently in Your love.

JANUARY 5

I Have an Advocate with the Father

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.
But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
1 John 2:1 NIV*

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- “Sin” in Greek is *hamartia*. It also means to miss the mark, to err, be mistaken, to wander from the path of uprightness and to do wrong. Think about what that means. God set a bar of perfection for us to hit, because He is sinless. When we sin, we miss that mark and God must punish us. However, Jesus is our advocate with the Father.
- Imagine Jesus standing before the Father saying, “I know ___ (your name) sinned again, but remember I am righteous and I paid for his/her sins with my blood.”
- “Advocate” in the Greek is *parakletos*, meaning one called alongside to help. Think about what it means to have someone who is called alongside of you to help you when you sin.
- John 14:16 uses the same word, but is translated “helper.” John 14:16 (NAS) says, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.”
- God’s desire for us is that we don’t sin. However, He knows our frailty, so He provided an answer, our own personal advocate.
- I was taken to court once by a contractor who was repairing a house I bought to sell. Even though I knew I could easily win in court, I had an attorney represent me. I sat back and relaxed, knowing he knew what he was doing. Jesus does that for us, although don’t have to pay Him and He is always available to advocate for us.
- Meditate on this promise and thank God for what He provides for you.
- Say this out loud as your declaration: “I know I have an advocate with the Father.”

A Prayer for You:

Righteous One, thank You for being my advocate with the Father, paying the price for my sins with Your own blood. I need Your help to keep from sinning. In myself I know I can't, but with You I can do anything. Please forgive me for my sins.

JANUARY 6

I Have Peace with God

Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1 NKJV

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- Consider each part of this promise:
 - *We have been justified.* “Justified” in Greek is *dikayoo*, also meaning to render or declare to be righteous. Think about what Jesus did to accomplish that.
 - *By faith.* You have to believe Jesus made you righteous in His sight. Have you trusted Him to save you? Why or why not?
 - *We have peace.* “Peace” is *eirene* in Greek. It means so much more than just peace. It also means to join, prosperity, quietness, rest and to be set at one. Which of these aspects of peace stand out to you? Why?
 - *With God.* We were God’s enemies, yet He brought us to peace with Him. He set us at one with Him.
 - *Through our Lord Jesus Christ.* God did all of this through Christ.
- What does Romans 8:33 (NLT) add? “Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself.”
- Consider each part of Jesus’ name used here:
 - *Lord.* Reveals His authority.
 - *Jesus.* Shows His humanity.
 - *Christ.* Portrays His deity (being God).
- Have you met the condition in this verse: being justified by faith? If you aren’t sure, go to page 369.
- What does it mean to you, knowing you have peace with the God of gods, because of what Jesus did for you?
- If you aren’t experiencing God’s peace, ask Him to show you why you aren’t.

A Prayer for You:

Dear God, thank You that because You justified me by faith, I know I have peace with You through my Lord Jesus Christ. Teach me how to walk in that peace in new ways.

JANUARY 7

I Am Confident to Stand before God

Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

1 John 3:18–19 NLT

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- What is the condition for this promise? (Hint: It's in the first sentence.)
- Are you fulfilling the condition? If not, then the promise is not for you.
- Is there anyone to whom you are not showing love by your actions? If so, what might need to change?
- Read the verses again. Does it say we are to love others because they deserve our love? Many times people don't warrant our love, but that doesn't change the command to love them. We don't deserve God's love, yet He loves us anyway.
- One time I struggled to love someone who devastated me. I didn't want to love her or think she deserved it. God convicted me, so I chose to call, listen and even invite her to be part of my plans. Was it easy? No, but it was necessary. God used my actions to restore our relationship.
- Consider what it looks like to love others with actions.
- Look at the two promises in these verses. *First, our actions will show we belong to the truth.* How do your actions reveal you belong to the truth? You might ask God if they do and to show you anything you may need to change.
- *Second, we will be confident when we stand before God.*
 - What does Hebrews 10:17–22 (ESV) tell you? God says, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."
- Do you have confidence to stand before the King of kings? Why or why not? If you're not sure, ask God to reveal anything you may need to do.

A Prayer for You:

God of truth, forgive me for not loving others. Help me to reflect Your heart through my actions. I want to please You and stand before You in confidence. Let Your promise show through my actions so that it shows I belong to the truth. Help me to be confident when I stand before You.

JANUARY 8

God Will Keep Me Strong and Blameless

He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns.

1 Corinthians 1:8 NLT

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- What must you do, according to this verse?
- What does God do?
- Why does God keep you strong to the end?
- How has God kept you strong?
- In what areas do you feel weak? Ask the Lord to give you His strength and to keep you strong to the end. I'm so grateful we don't have to be strong or blameless on our own.
- We are blameless because of what Jesus did for us.
- Second Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) says: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Take time to meditate on this verse. I believe it is one of the most powerful verses in the Bible.
- What do these verses add about being strong and blameless?
 - Ephesians 6:10 (ESV): "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NIV): "May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."
- Speak this truth: "I declare God will keep me strong to the end so I will be free from all blame on the day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns."

A Prayer for You:

Father God, thank You that I don't have to be strong or blameless and holy on my own. Thank You that it is all because of what You have done. Wow! I stand in amazement.

JANUARY 9

I Can Have Intimacy with God

This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God.

1 John 4:13, 15 MSG

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- Think about this: We can have an intimate relationship with God, because His Spirit lives in us and gives us life.
- Are you doing that? Why or why not?
- What do these verses add?
 - 2 John 1:9 (NLT): "Anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son."
 - 1 John 3:24 (ESV): "Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us."
 - Romans 5:11 (NLT): "We can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."
- What does having an intimate relationship with God mean to you?
- What does that look like for you? If you're not sure, ask Him to show you.
- *The condition for this promise is we must confess that Jesus is God's Son.* Have you done that? If not, then this promise is not for you yet. However, you can make that choice. If you need help to do that, go to page 369.
- I'm so blessed having an intimate relationship with God. I spend time with Him every day, because He is my closest friend. Not only do I talk to Him, but I also take time to listen to what He says. Sometimes He talks to me from His Word; sometimes it is His word directly to me. How about you?
- Speak this truth out loud: "I declare that I have an intimate relationship with God."

A Prayer for You:

Spirit of God, thank You that because You live in me and are giving me life, I can participate continuously in an intimate relationship with God. Show me what that means and how to live in it.

JANUARY 10

I'm Like a Tree by Streams of Water

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

Psalm 1:1–3 NIV

Steps on Your Journey to Embrace God's Faithfulness:

- Look at the conditions in these verses. Is there anything you may need to change to meet these conditions?
 - *Don't walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way of sinners.*
 - *Delight in God's law and meditate on it day and night.*
 - *Trust in the Lord and have your hope in Him.*
- Meditate on each of these promises, asking God to reveal what He wants to show you through them:
 - *We'll be blessed.* How does God bless you?
 - *We will be like trees planted by streams of water, yielding fruit, our leaves not withering.* Think about the benefits of being planted by the waters. What would it look like to be planted by waters? What is the water?
 - *Whatever we do will prosper.* Wow! Think about that. Do you want to prosper? God promises you will if you follow the conditions He has set forth. Are there any of the conditions you aren't meeting? If so, what might need to change?
- Look up Jeremiah 17:7–8 to learn more about how you are like a tree planted by the water.
- How are you like a tree planted by streams of water? Ask God to show you what that is like for you.
- Are you yielding fruit? If so, what kinds of fruit? Fruit is the result of our following and trusting God. Others should be able to see fruit in our lives.
- What would cause leaves to wither? Our spiritual leaves might wither if we are not staying close to the Lord, the living water. We need daily water from the Word to keep from withering.

A Prayer for You:

Lord, thank You for blessing me when I choose not to walk or stand with the wicked. Thank You for Your blessings when I'm delighting in and meditating on Your Word. Teach me how to delight in it. I'm grateful for Your promise that I'll be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither, and whatever I do will prosper.

Leader's Guide for Small Groups

**You can use these suggestions for any small groups,
including with your spouse and/or children.**

Leading a group discussion is a rewarding experience. It can also be frightening, especially if it's your first time. By giving specific suggestions, this guide will help facilitate group discussion. As you prepare and lead the group, remember 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Accept His grace and power to lead your group.

Here are some ideas that may help you:

1. Pray that God will give wisdom and guidance as you study to learn everything He wants to teach you personally, as well as to effectively lead the discussion. Also pray for God to give all group members understanding and excitement as they study.
2. Start and end on time. Begin each class with prayer.
3. Before each session, choose between one and ten pages to study. You might want to discuss with your group how many pages they want to study for the week.
4. Have each person look up study and meditate on the promises on the pages you will study. It is more important to go deeper in the study than to get through more truths. Each person should use a separate notebook to write down what the Lord is showing them through each truth.
5. In the first session, as well as whenever anyone new begins the class, tell everyone that everything shared in the study is completely confidential. Get an agreement from participants that they will not share outside the group, anything they hear in the group—including talking to each other about another member, when they are not present.
6. Encourage each member to participate but be sensitive to the shy ones. Never call on anyone who has not volunteered to share. Wait until they

are ready to talk, otherwise the group may feel unsafe to those who are more introverted.

7. During the session, ask the following questions and allow the group to discuss each one:
 - o Which truths of how God sees you stood out to you and why?
 - o Which verses ministered to you and why?
 - o What is the Lord teaching you as you study His promises?

End each class with a time of prayer, giving participants an opportunity to share with God whatever is on their heart.

In the first session, if the group members don't know each other, have everyone briefly introduce themselves. Keep it short so you have time for the Bible Study.

Enjoy your study. As you share with your group, you will learn even more than you would on your own.

Discovering a Personal Relationship with God

If you don't yet have a personal relationship with God, congratulations on taking a giant step in your search. I've had a relationship with God for many years. It has been the most exciting adventure of my life—and I have traveled all over the world and had some amazing adventures. I encourage you to get to know Him. It is well worth it.

Consider the following:

Romans 3:23 explains that we “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” We can't have a relationship with God on our own.

Romans 6:23 tells us that as a result of sin in our lives there is price to be paid—death. But instead of death, God wants to give us a gift—“eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He trades our sins for the gift of getting to live with Him forever. I say that's a very good trade for us!

John 3:16 sheds light on how much God loves us, how desperately He wants to give us this gift of living with Him forever. We see the sacrifice He made so He could give us this gift. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Romans 10:9 explains there are two simple things you and I need to do in order to receive this gift: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Confess just means to speak out that Jesus is Lord.

Do these truths resonate with you? If you haven't yet trusted Jesus as your Savior, you can do so right now, by praying a prayer like the following (you can use whatever words you want):

Dear Lord, I realize I'm a sinner and need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins and rising again the third day from the dead. I now confess all my sins and repent. I ask You to forgive me and cleanse me from all sin. Thank You for saving me and making me right with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Look what happens in Heaven the moment we put our trust in Jesus. Luke 15:7 says, “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” How do you respond to that?

There’s no pressure to trust God immediately. He’s not in a hurry, although He would love to talk with you anytime.

If you just trusted Jesus as your Savior, congratulations. Now I encourage you to do some things:

- Get a modern Bible at a Christian bookstore (if you don’t already have one) so you can read God’s love-letters to you in familiar, contemporary language. As you read, you’ll gain wonderful insights into who God is and the wonderful plans He has for you. A good place to start reading is in the book of John.
- Find a Bible-believing church where you can learn and grow.
- Email me at gaylyn@RelationshipResources.org.

Feel free to email me if you just trusted Jesus as your Savior, so I can pray for you and help you in any ways I can with starting your new life! Even if you’re not sure about the whole concept, I’d love to hear from you. We can begin a dialog with no pressure at all.

About The Publisher

Relationship Resources

- Facilitates growth for believers and not-yet-believers in their relationships with God, themselves and other people.
- Provides practical, biblical, interactive workshops and materials designed to empower and equip individuals and groups in their lives, work and ministries.
- Trains and mentors facilitators to provide workshops for other groups.
- Gained IRS nonprofit status in 1999.
- Began as a concept in 1970 with Ken Williams' training missionaries.
- Offers workshops on many topics, including:
 - Keys to Transforming Your Relationships;
 - Reconcilable Differences;
 - Sharpen Your Interpersonal Skills;
 - Surprised by Joy;
 - De-Stress Your Life.
 - Spiritual Warfare

For more information about Relationship Resources, us or any of our books, go to www.RelationshipResources.org or e-mail us at info@RelationshipResources.org.

You can also get access to four free eBooks:

- De-Stress Your Life
- Unlocking Joy
- Reconcilable Differences
- Harness the Power of Nonverbal Communication

About the Author

Gaylyn Williams is

- The director of Relationship Resources, Inc. since 1999;
- Passionate about empowering people for maximum success in their lives and relationships;
- A published author of twenty-five books;
- A magazine writer with numerous published articles in various magazines;
- An international motivational speaker and seminar trainer;
- Mother of two married sons;
- A former missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators from 1972 to 1992;
- A former missionary with The Navigators from 1997–1999.

Gaylyn inspires people to be all they can be spiritually, personally and relationally. She is a transparent and engaging author and speaker who creates an intimate rapport with her audience. Her insights are poignant and powerful as she encourages people in every area of their lives.

Having experienced heartbreaking losses as a child on the mission field and later as a woman and mother, Gaylyn's stories and illustrations beautifully reflect the power of God's sustaining grace.

Today she is passionate about equipping and encouraging people toward rediscovering joy, experiencing God's love, de-stressing their lives, building strong relationships, turning conflict into intimacy, and embracing new perspectives for a transformed life. Gaylyn offers practical, biblical insights that make a difference in lives and relationships.

Gaylyn has spoken to hundreds of organizations nationally and internationally, and has been featured on dozens of radio and television programs. A former missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Navigators, she is now the director of Relationship Resources, a non-profit

organization equipping people to apply biblical principles to their relationships. Gaylyn lives with her family in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

What her listeners and readers are saying:

Is it really possible to live in joy when your life has been riddled with unthinkable pain? I am awed by a person who has mastered the task. Gaylyn shares a litany of life events that would have sent Goliath spiraling. Much like David the shepherd boy, she faced off with her giant and moved from defeat to victory! Her story held me captive—the unabridged truth came with force and clarity. It was clear she had spent time in the soul's abyss and came out a shining star. She is amazingly authentic.

—*Kimberly Faye, Author and Speaker*

Gaylyn Williams and her incredible life story and spirit inspire all those who are fortunate enough to hear her speak or read her story. Gaylyn's humble, but powerful, style is laced with humor, grace, heartache, and joy, while her story embodies adventure, courage, triumph, and tragedy. By creatively sharing the lessons she learned along the way, Gaylyn helps the rest of us see how we too can apply those lessons to ease our own burdens.

—*Kris Harty, Author, Speaker and Stickabilities Specialist www.StrongSpiritUnlimited.com*



Other Books by the Author

**Learn more about these books at
www.RelationshipResources.org.**

**Some of the books are co-authored by Ken Williams,
PhD, Gaylyn's father. He was the co-founder of
Relationship Resources.**

Battlefield Strategies for Every Believer:

A Biblical Guide to Spiritual Warfare

**Do you feel confused, overwhelmed,
fearful or defeated?**

**Uncover simple ways to overcome Satan's
strategies and embrace God's victory.**

God has already won the war against the enemy and given us our handbook with the winning strategies—the Bible. The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus came to give us a rich and satisfying life (John 10:10).

**This easy-to-apply exploration of
spiritual warfare will prepare you to**

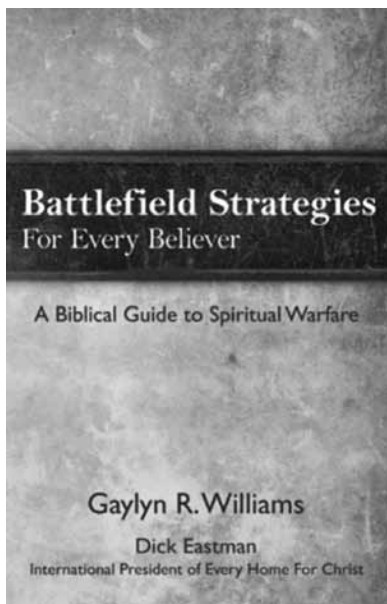
- Overcome anything hindering you from success in your life.
- Expose the devil's playbook and render his tactics powerless.
- Protect yourself and your family with powerful, strategic prayers.
- Exchange bondage for the freedom Christ purchased on the cross.
- Demystify the enemy and spiritual warfare biblically and effectively.

This biblical guidebook empowers you to successfully block Satan's assaults today and every day. It is filled with Scripture, Bible study questions and proven principles, inspiring individuals and small groups to live victorious lives.

**You'll discover greater power and authority as you focus on God
rather than Satan.**

*Quotes from the Foreword by Dick Eastman, International President,
Every Home for Christ*

In encountering *Battlefield Strategies*, I was struck by the fact that these very practices—the prayer strategies I've been using in my personal prayer life as well as in the EHC ministry—are just what Gaylyn Williams describes as



“battlefield strategies” for victorious spiritual warfare.

From years of my own experience, and in reading the experiences of mighty prayer warriors of past generations, I can tell you that the principles and strategies Gaylyn Williams shares truly work. They work on a global scale, releasing victory in the nations, and they can work in your life personally as you seek the Lord’s victory in your own circumstances. When we are equipped to engage in spiritual warfare effectively, we truly become agents of transformation. And it begins with transformation in our own lives.

Battlefield Strategies is a resource, a guide you’ll want to return to again and again as you encounter new circumstances and battles and need new strategies to face them. *Battlefield Strategies* is practical and engaging, with biblical insights woven together by an author who has faced her own share of difficult battles and emerged victorious in Christ. Gaylyn’s humor and willingness to share from her heart and life will surely encourage you as you learn to walk in victory.

Most of all, I am impressed by *Battlefield Strategies* because of its holistic approach and its clear focus on Jesus. Gaylyn thoroughly explores what the Bible has to say, not just about spiritual warfare, but about every aspect that relates to our participation in it. Although much has been written on the topic of spiritual warfare, I believe Gaylyn’s work is unique and uniquely powerful because of her insistent focus on Christ, His power and His already accomplished victory rather than on the enemy. This is significant.

I encourage you to immerse yourself in *Battlefield Strategies* and embrace these proven principles for your life. Study the Scriptures, ponder the questions, meditate on the lessons, and pray the practical prayers in each chapter. Read it on your own and read it with a small group or your family. Then, watch how God responds as you apply these biblically proven *Battlefield Strategies* in your own life.

All Stressed Up and Everywhere to Go!

Solutions to De-Stressing Your Life and Recovering Your Sanity

By Gaylyn R. Williams and Ken Williams, Ph.D.

From the daily hassles to the catastrophic events, this book will empower you to successfully de-stress your life and recover your sanity. You'll discover easy-to-use skills enabling you to gain greater freedom from life's ups and down.

In today's fast-paced, overworked world, stress is all around us: the economy, finances, raising children, health, job, school, family or lack of it, elderly parents, divorce, tragedy, debt, death and conflict.

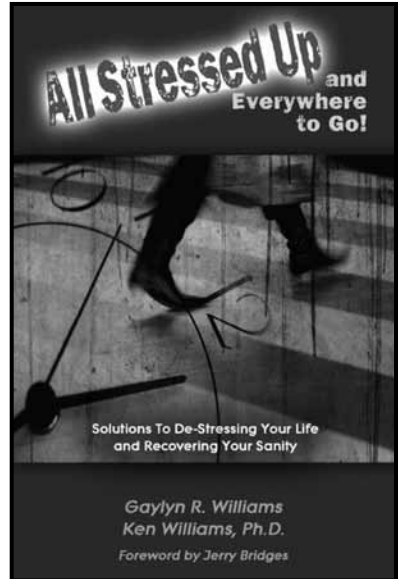
This is not an ordinary book about stress!

This unique workbook contains practical, biblical tools for attaining spiritual, emotional, physical and interpersonal balance. It is filled with powerful personal stories to illustrate principles, thought-provoking questions for individual or group study, Bible studies, self-assessments and easy-to-apply strategies to develop a balanced lifestyle.

As you explore the timeless connection between biblical principles and this practical, life-enhancing approach, you'll gain valuable solutions to cope with your own stress, as well as help friends and family.

These powerful strategies have been proven worldwide. Over twenty thousand pastors and ministry leaders in eighty countries have benefitted from these life-changing skills. Ken and Gaylyn first tested them in their own lives and continue to use them on a regular basis.

Rather than writing from a clinical perspective—although Dr. Williams, with his PhD in Human Behavior, could do that—they honestly share their personal experiences, having each dealt with numerous major and minor stresses. They have trained people in Christian organizations in these methods for twenty-five years. Now they are available to you.



What others are saying about *All Stressed Up and Everywhere to Go*:

I recommend you take the time to read this important book. The Biblical solutions and personal truths in this book can set your heart, mind and soul free. This book is a timely remedy for a culture consumed with pressure, over-scheduling, impossible deadlines and sleepless nights full of anxiety.

—*Gary Wilkerson, President of World Challenge and Pastor of The Springs Church*

Dr. Ken Williams and his daughter, Gaylyn, have teamed up to provide an excellent resource for believers who want to de-stress their lives through the application of God's Word mixed with healthy counseling principles.

—*Bob Creson, President and CEO, Wycliffe Bible Translators USA*

All Stressed up and Everywhere to Go is a refreshingly simple book filled with usable, practical advice in dealing with the stressors of life.

—*George Stabnke, Director of Renewal Ministries*

The principles work! Because the principles flow out of God's Word, they are timeless and relevant in any context. The principles are easy to grasp and easy to hand off to others who are in the "stress crucible."

—*Tim Westcott, Pastor of Idyllwild Bible Church*

This father/daughter writing team have produced something profoundly useful for the Christian community. Authentic, soundly practical, occasionally funny, often heart-wrenching—you'll love it!

—*Laura Mae Gardner, D.Min., International Training Consultant for Wycliffe Bible Translators and SIL International*

[This book] equips one to develop strategies and skills for managing stress in a life giving manner.

—*Wayne Cone, Pastor of Pastoral Care, Cypress Bible Church*

This book is the best material I have found on handling stress. The principles are solidly Biblical. They are born out of real life experience facing stress.

—*Steven G. Edlin MA LCPC MFT, Counseling Director, TEAM*

I commend the book to all who are involved in Christian service, however, every believer would benefit from this material.

—*Frank Hoskin, Director, Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia*

Keys to Joy

How to Unlock God's Gifts of Lasting Happiness

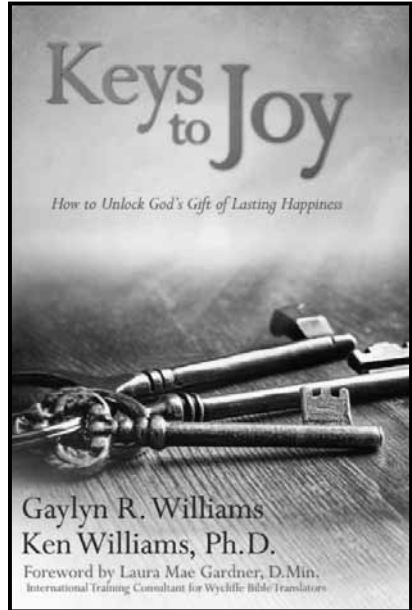
By Gaylyn R. Williams and Ken Williams, Ph.D.

Discover Thirteen Surprising, Proven Secrets To Unlock Your Joy!

Experiencing joy is a natural—but often elusive—part of Christian living. The hurts of life, unhelpful habits and unhealthy attitudes all lock out joy for many believers. And it remains locked until they take action to open it up.

Keys to Joy not only shows you the door, but gives you the keys you need to usher yourself daily into the full, lasting joy God offers. You'll discover how to:

- Climb to new heights of joy in your relationships with God, family and others;
- Replace worry and fear with peace and contentment;
- Demolish unhappiness, misery and discouragement;
- Eradicate anything that locks joy out of your life;
- Transform trials into stepping stones.



In this practical, life-changing Bible study, you'll uncover strength and encouragement for your difficult times through the authors' powerful stories of God's joy in sufferings. Each daily study includes Scriptures with questions to contemplate and grow in your relationship with God. They are designed to empower you to experience the full joy God has for you.

Keys to Joy is for individuals, couples or small groups, and includes a leader's guide for group study. It provides the biblical understanding and life patterns you need to live joyfully regardless of your struggles. Once you've opened the door to joy, you'll know how to assure it's never shut again.

What people are saying about *Keys to Joy*:

“John records a wonderful statement made by Jesus, “I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! (John 15:11 NLT) Jesus wants our joy to overflow. What are these things that Jesus spoke of? In this book, *Keys to Joy*, Ken and Gaylyn Williams, the father-daughter writing team, do us a favor by reminding us of the things that lead to joy in the Christian life. Based on the study of God’s Word, the contents of this book will lead the reader to a greater sense of who God is, and a deep abiding peace in the One who loves us and wants a relationship with his children.

—**Bob Creson, President/CEO of Wycliffe Bible Translators USA**

In the midst of a world filled with broken promises and elusive dreams, *Keys to Joy* provides powerful clarity to obtaining lasting joy. Each chapter contains poignant narrative packed with spiritual truth and practical application. Everyone desires joy, but few discover the key to obtaining it. *Keys to Joy* unlocks the mystery of joy’s obscurity by providing 12 surprising truths. It’s a must read for every avid “joy” seeker.

—**Julie Gorman, Founder and Executive Director for FYI**

Joy is one of the fruits of the spirit which I find so challenging to allow to grow in my life, especially during times of uncertainty and pain. Guilt and condemnation seem to follow during these difficult times. With much hope, Gaylyn and Ken, share not only their personal struggles on their journey to joy, but practical steps to allow joy to flourish in even the most challenging times.

—**Evelyn Sherwood, Wife, mother, grandmother and pastor’s wife**

This book is eminently practical, thoroughly Biblical, thirst-promoting. It fills me with eagerness to study it more and enthusiastic about promoting it. It is a super book!!!! I can’t say enough good things about it.

—**Laura Mae Gardner, D.Min., International Training Consultant for Wycliffe Bible Translators**

“The choice to rejoice.” That phrase reverberates in my heart since reading this delightful, scriptural study on the keys to Joy. Ken and Gaylyn share personal experiences and give practical, biblical advice (keys) to help believers unlock the door to true joy.

—**Steven Sherwood Sr., Pastor of Fairview Baptist Church**

The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart:

A Daily Adventure with 365 of His Names

By Gaylyn R. Williams

Embark on a Life-Changing Adventure!

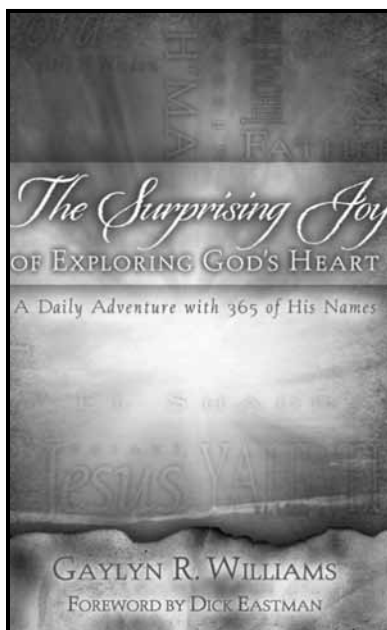
Do you long to fall deeper in love with God? Would you like to come into His presence in new and fresh ways? In as little as five minutes a day, enhance your intimacy with God as you explore His names.

This powerful, daily devotional and journal will help you:

- Discover new insights into your awesome God;
- Experience comfort, strength and hope from understanding God's character;
- Expand your vision for God's power, majesty and greatness;
- Enjoy a growing passion for God through praise and worship;
- Transform your prayer life and strengthen your faith.

This unique treasure contains 365 names of God directly from the Bible. Uncover daily encouragement as you dig deeper into who God is and how He relates to you personally.

Individuals, couples, families and small groups can use this simple yet powerful tool to climb to new heights in your relationship with God and others. You'll be forever changed as you get to know God in new ways.



This book is also available as a journal, with only the Name of God, a verse and the reference. The rest of the page is blank for you to write your thoughts.

What others are saying about *The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart*:

In this series, Gaylyn Williams has done a remarkable job of identifying and explaining the various names God uses to describe Himself. Meditating on these names, one day at a time, will help us to know God more intimately.

—*Jerry Bridges, Author of twelve books, including, Trusting God*

TKnowing the names of God is to know the heart of God. Gaylyn helps us know God better by revealing his character and nature. Take the time to read this book and you will be changed.

—*Gary Wilkerson, President, World Challenge and Lead Pastor, The Springs Church*

This exceptional daily devotional reveals God's character. When we draw closer to Him, "blessings" happen.

—*Chuck Asay, Syndicated Editorial Cartoonist*

I urge you, to use this book along with your Bible, read it daily, study it and meditate on Him, the God who is Love (1John 4:16). As I studied this book, I oft found myself laughing, shouting and crying with joy as the Holy Spirit would overwhelm me with the greatness of Who God is.

—*Steven R Sherwood, Sr. Pastor Fairview Baptist Church, Kokomo, IN*

These brief meditations are geared specifically to the contemporary believer's busy life. Gaylyn shares 365 ways God is addressed in Scripture. And she invites busy Christians (me...you) to engage in understanding God more intimately. These brief, to the point page-long meditations and Gaylyn's questions urge the reader toward application to personal life in the 21st Century.

—*Sandra T. Auer, Campus Crusade for Christ, Member Care*

We will never grow beyond our revelation of who God is. Everything in our lives flows from our understanding of the character and attributes of God. One of the best ways to grow in our relationship with God is to grow in our understanding of His names. This book is a great tool to become more intimately acquainted with the many facets of God's character by praying into and thinking deeply upon the names of God.

—*Jayde Duncan, Senior Pastor of Freedom Church in Colorado Springs*

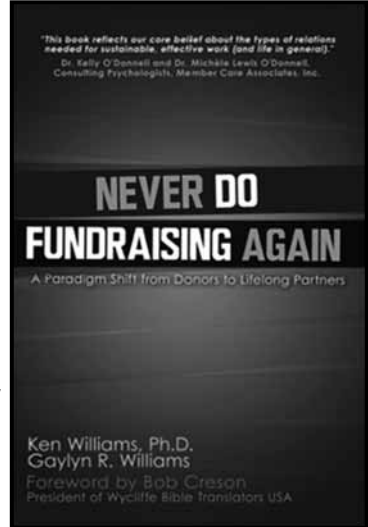
Never Do Fundraising Again:

A Paradigm Shift from Donors to Lifelong Partners

By Ken Williams, Ph.D. and Gaylyn Williams

In this practical, biblical book you will discover how to:

- Convert one time gifts into lifetime support
- Experience the amazing power of gratitude to motivate people
- Employ effective communication skills—both written and verbal
- Transform the stress and drudgery of fundraising into a joyful ministry
- Utilize proven strategies to spend less time, effort and money to maintain full support
- Cultivate life-long ministry partners *and* close friends
- Inspire your partners to become your best recruiters for more support
- Enjoy freedom from worry about your financial needs



Never Do Fundraising Again contains over 200 pages of proven strategies and skills for building and maintaining your support. It is filled with powerful stories from the author's lives and others who are using the biblical principles.

This book is written by Ken and Gaylyn Williams, a father-daughter team with over 85 years' experience (combined) as supported missionaries. Gaylyn, as well as Ken and his wife Bobbie, served with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Look what others are saying about this book:

"An outstanding book, applying Biblical principles to partner development."
—Ken Royer, D.Min., Director of Pastoral Care, Link Care Center Fresno, California

“I was amazed by this book. It is so practical and is the right way to do these things.”

—*Laura Mae Gardner, D.Min., International Training Consultant for
Wycliffe Bible Translators*

“This book reflects our core belief about the types of relations needed for sustainable, effective work (and life in general). Thanks for helping us understand resource realities (finances) in light of relational resiliency (friendships). Your use of metaphors, examples, Scripture and suggestions really help to make the material practical.”

—*Dr. Kelly O'Donnell and Dr. Michèle Lewis O'Donnell, Consulting
Psychologists, Member Care Associates, Inc.*

“We are excited to see these principles now in print! And this book contains many ideas and examples of ministering to your partnership team.”

—*Dr. Jim and Jan Holsclaw, Wycliffe Bible Translators*

“This book is a wonderful description of biblical partnership for ministry! Gaylyn and Ken share a very practical and God-honoring lifestyle of relating to ministry partners that goes far beyond fundraising. I heartily recommend this resource to all involved in ministry today.”

—*Paul Lere, International Training Partners*

“This book is a must read, if you are a missionary, no matter if you have just begun fundraising or have been doing it for a long time! Ken and “It has been a joy to learn from these giants who attend so beautifully to their ministry partners. May those who read this workbook carefully consider its godly principles of partner-caring.”

—*Dick and Vicki Gascho, Greater Europe Mission*

“This book is tangible evidence of Ken and Gaylyn’s commitment to Scripture. This book is thoroughly biblical, and chock-full of Scripture. Their ideas and suggestions are so biblically based. The book is also thoroughly practical. There are enough ideas to keep one busy for a lifetime. It is with much joy (one of Ken’s and Gaylyn’s favorite words) that I recommend this book to everyone who is called by God to discover and serve together with partners.”

—*Dr. and Mrs. Jim Van Meter, with Paraclete Mission Group*

2031 Names of God

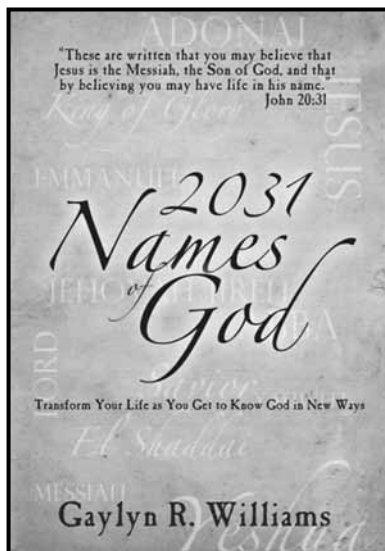
Transform Your Life as You Get to Know God in New Ways

Enhance Your Intimacy with God as You Explore His Names

Do you long for to know God better? This simple, yet powerful book will help you:

- Experience the fullness of your awesome God through His names revealed in his Word
- Come into God's presence in new and fresh ways
- Discover comfort, strength and hope from understanding God's character
- Expand your vision for God's power, majesty and greatness
- Enjoy a growing passion for God through praise and worship
Transform your prayer life and strengthen your faith

This unique treasure has 2031 names of God directly from the Bible, along with Scripture references and over 400 Greek or Hebrew names. Uncover daily encouragement as you dig deeper into who God is and how He relates to you personally. You'll be forever changed as you get to know God in new ways.



This life-changing reference book will empower:

- individuals, couples and families wanting to grow in their relationship with God
- small groups desiring a unique study
- pastors preparing for sermons
- college and seminary students doing research for classes
- missionaries seeking to maintain their love for God in difficult situations

The material in this book is now available in alphabetical order and scriptural order. Learn more at www.2031NamesofGod.com.

What others are saying about *2031 Names of God*:

“Gaylyn has compiled the powerful Names of God into a study guide for our spiritual growth. Philippians 3:7-8 declares Paul’s heart to know Him “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...” Proverbs 18:10 declares “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man (or woman) runs into it and is safe.” How much we need to know His Names to know His heart for us as His children! Be blessed as you study this compilation of His Character as revealed by His Names.”

— *Camilla L. Seabolt, Executive Director of Community Bible Study*

“We serve an amazing God! Understanding and appreciating the character of the Lord is the beginning of knowing who we are in Him. In Gaylyn Williams’s *2031 Names of God*,” she explores and uncovers who God is by examining the 2031 names given to the Lord. As a military retiree who spent 30 years serving my Nation and my Lord, how refreshing it will be to those who serve to discover in a more intimate way the Lord they serve through this journey Gaylyn will take you on.”

— *Brig General David B. Warner, USAF (Ret.), Executive Director, Officers’ Christian Fellowship*

“This wonderful collection of Names of our Lord that has been compiled by a special friend of my wife and me, Gaylyn Williams. You will find literally hundreds and hundreds of such descriptive expressions in Scripture in the pages that follow. Indeed, the author of this helpful guide has saved you countless hours in searching out these cherished expressions describing the nature and character of our Lord.”

— *Dick Eastman, International President of Every Home for Christ*

“This book is beyond amazing! What a treasure! I’ve considered myself a serious student of Scripture for 60 years, but had no idea of the richness of God’s revelation about who He is. This book will be a companion to my Bible reading and devotional times from now on, as I come to appreciate even more God’s rich character.”

— *Ken Williams, Ph.D., fifty-five year Missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators,*

The Surprising Joy of Discovering How God Sees You:

A Daily Adventure with Your Identity in Christ

Many people devote their lives to seeking love and approval from their relationships, possessions, career or appearance. True love and acceptance can only be found in God when you understand and believe what He says about you.

This unique treasure, revealing 365 truths about how God sees you, will

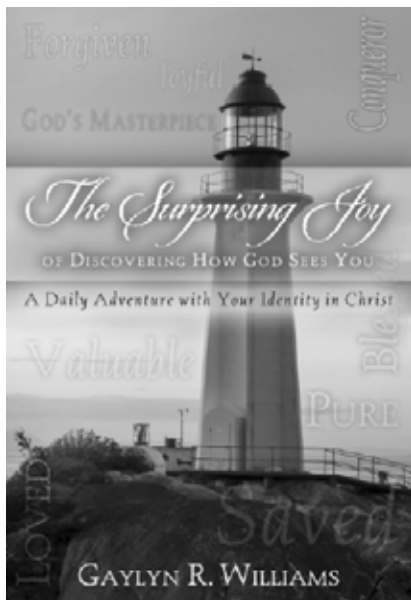
- Enable you to grasp God's image shaped in you
- Change how you live your life as you experience more of God's love
- Empower you to reach your full potential and recognize your great worth in God's eyes
- Increase confidence, understanding and acceptance in your life and relationships
- Stimulate an awareness of the power and authority in your life
- Encourage discovery of your destiny—what God created you to do

Uncover daily encouragement as you dig deeper into Scripture, discovering what God says about you. These devotional studies contain powerful Bible verses, personal illustrations, relevant prayers, thought-provoking questions and challenging meditations.

You'll be forever changed as you discover your true identity in Christ.

This life-changing book will inspire pastors preparing sermons; small groups desiring a unique study; college and seminary students doing research; ministry leaders communicating God's love to those they serve; and individuals, couples and families wanting to better understand themselves and others.

This book is also available as a journal, with only the truth about how God sees you, a verse and the reference. The rest of the page is blank for you to write your thoughts.



What Others Are Saying about *The Surprising Joy of Discovering How God Sees You*:

“The Surprising Joy of Discovering How God Sees You is an incredible resource for seeking and connecting with the heart of God during those daily times. Filled with Scripture, insightful thoughts, and probing questions, this book will deepen your understanding and awareness of God’s love for you, help you discover who you are in Him, and guide you in ‘walking out’ that identity from day to day. Every page of Gaylyn’s work is, as always, marked with her wisdom, encouraging spirit, and genuine love for the reader. This is a book I will be coming back to for years to come.”

—*Dick Eastman, International President of Every Home for Christ*

“I highly recommend Gaylyn’s treasures taken straight from the Scriptures! Gaylyn’s compilation of the Word of God with applications on ‘How God Sees You’ is vital for each of us. As you and I spend daily time in this resource, we will be reminded afresh of who we are in Christ. The result will be evidenced in our lives by greater cleansing, intimacy and power with our Lord. You will relish the time you spend sitting with Him and pondering these passages and principles. Get ready for wonderful times of refreshing from the Holy Spirit!”

—*Camilla Leathers Seabolt, Former Executive Director for Community Bible Study*

“Until we understand our true identity as a child of God, we will never feel whole. Working on this book gave me a new appreciation for who I am in Christ. It taught me that God is the missing piece to everything that we lack. In this way, the book can be useful to anyone who feels inadequate in some form or another. As a teenager in this world of media and persuasion, I often feel less than. By learning my birthright in God’s kingdom, I realized I have access to everything He is. My power lies in Him; therefore, I am capable of anything.”

—*Kacie Linamen, Teenager and College Student*

“Gaylyn Williams presents in this book an eternal treasure chest of who God is and how He desires to spiritually refresh us. It’s a great book to encourage you on your walk with the Lord.”

—*Steve Koeppen, President, Living Way Ministries, Colorado Springs*

“As ever, Gaylyn’s newest guide to applying specific Scripture portions to life is both practical and specific. Use these daily devotionals as a guide for your quiet time with Jesus or as a script for a small group studying the Bible together. Keeping a journal of your responses could be useful for later reference. However you choose to use it, this book of devotionals is bound to bless you, those you live with and those you minister to.”

—*Sandra T. Auer, Cru Human Resources Specialist and Counselor*

Scripture Translations Used

This page forms part of the copyright page.

The following Scripture translations were used in this book. Each one starts with the abbreviation used, followed by the copyright information for that translation:

AMP—Scripture quotations marked AMP are taken from the Amplified® Bible, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

ASV—American Standard Version. Copyright © 1901 by Public Domain.

CEV— Contemporary English Version®. Copyright © 1995 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

CJB—Scripture quotations marked CJB are taken from the Complete Jewish Bible, copyright © 1998 by David H. Stern. Published by Jewish New Testament Publications, Inc. www.messianicjewish.net/jntp. Distributed by Messianic Jewish Resources. www.messianicjewish.net. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ESV—Scripture quotations marked ESV are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

GWT— Scripture is taken from GOD’S WORD®, © 1995 God’s Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group

HCSB— Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

JBP—J. B. Phillips, “The New Testament in Modern English,” 1962 edition, published by HarperCollins.

MSG—Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

NAS—Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960,1962,1963,1968,1971,1972,1973,1975,1977,1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

NET—Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C.<http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.

NIV—THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

NJB—Scripture quotations marked NJB are from The New Jerusalem Bible, copyright © 1985 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd. and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. Reprinted by Permission.

NKJV—Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

NLT—Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

NOG—The Names of God Bible (without notes) © 2011 by Baker Publishing Group. Scripture is taken from GOD’S WORD®, © 1995 God’s Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group.

OJB—The Orthodox Jewish Bible fourth edition, OJB. Copyright 2002, 2003, 2008, 2010, 2011 by Artists for Israel International. All rights reserved.

RSV—Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1952 [2nd edition, 1971] by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

YLT—Young’s Literal Translation. Public Domain.