



Fully His

MAKE THE LIFE GOD OFFERS YOUR OWN

KERRY CLARENSAU



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MAKE THE LIFE GOD OFFERS YOUR OWN

A 30-DAY DEVOTIONAL

KERRY CLARENSAU



Gospel Publishing House

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Introduction

One Sunday our pastor invited a four-year-old girl on to the platform. She walked up with her father—holding tightly to his hand. Pastor Scott got down on one knee and interviewed the little girl. He asked her all sorts of questions. Like, *Who made your breakfast this morning? What did you do yesterday? Where did you get your dress? How did you get to church this morning?* It seemed that the answer to every question about where she got something or how she did a certain task involved her mom or dad. Her answers were sweet and with every response she looked to her dad for approval. Her dad would simply nod and smile, or gently correct her.

After Pastor talked with the little girl, he spoke directly to her father. The father said they loved their daughter so much and were committed to giving her what she needed and *some* of what she wanted. He said there wasn't anything they wouldn't sacrifice for her, and that they wanted God's very best for her life. He was a good, kind dad.

After the father and daughter walked off the platform, Pastor Scott challenged the audience with Jesus' words, "Unless you change and become like children . . ." (Matthew 18:3, NRSV). He asked us, "Do you recognize that every good thing in your life is a gift from your heavenly Father? Are you willing to let God put you in the car, fasten your seat belt, and take you where He wants you to go?" He said, "You have a good, good Father who loves you more than this earthly dad loves his sweet

little girl. God loves you perfectly, and He wants you to trust Him and depend on Him even more than this four-year-old sweetheart trusts and depends on her parents.”

The way the little girl clung to her father’s hand and continually glanced his way for approval stirred something deep within my heart. *Am I clinging to God’s hand? Am I always looking to Him for approval?* Pastor Scott’s question—are you willing to let God put you in the car, fasten your seat belt, and take you where He wants you to go—challenged me to new depths of dependence and abandoned trust.

Throughout Scripture we see glimpses into God’s heart and the things He wants for His children. He longs for us to depend fully on Him, just as a small child rests in the care of loving parents. We don’t have to make sense of every circumstance or live in our own wisdom and strength. God wants us to trust Him with our whole heart and experience the full life He has designed for His children. “Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it” (Mark 10:15).

This thirty-day devotional is designed to help us understand just a few of the many promises God offers to those who believe in Him and how we, as His children, can embrace those gifts. On the odd days we will discuss some of the things that God provides. On the following even days, we will consider how we can accept and practice what He provides. Each daily devotional includes suggested Scripture readings, and I hope you will take the time to read through them each day. God’s Word is powerful and is able to lead you into all truth. The devotional also provides space for you to journal each day—either contemplating God’s provisions or expressing your desire to embrace what He offers.

Our heavenly Father provides everything we need for an abundant life. But we must recognize these gifts, actively walk toward Him, and embrace the good things available to us through Christ. This is my prayer for you—that you will pursue a dependent Father/child relationship and experience the riches of being fully His.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:3–11)

DAY 1

- GOD'S PROVISION -

God Created You and Knows You

As I sit at my desk writing this devotional, we are awaiting the arrival of our granddaughter. She was due two days ago, so my phone is right beside my keyboard. It could ring at any moment. And when it does, the writing will just have to wait because my daughter-in-law and son have asked me to be with them during the labor and delivery. Nothing will keep me away. *I can't wait to meet this baby girl!*

Little Winnie Frances has a family who loves her dearly. We've thought about her every day since we heard she was on the way. Her grandparents and great grandparents can't wait to hold her, aunts and uncles are anxious to see whom she looks like, and little cousins can't wait to kiss her sweet baby head. We are ready to fully embrace her into our family.

I distinctly remember the first encounters with our children—just staring at them for hours. I memorized every detail of their tiny features. Those moments are tucked away in the deepest part of my heart. Getting to watch their personalities emerge was so much fun. My husband and I really want to know our children and our grandchildren. And we want them to know us, because we belong to each other.

No child is a “mistake” or simply a random act of nature. That includes you. God purposefully formed you and placed you in this time in history for a reason. Just think about these truths for a moment—God chose to give you life, He knows you completely, and He is mindful of every detail of your existence.

Psalm 139 beautifully describes how God knows us intimately with phrases like, *you know everything about me; you know everything I do; you made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb* (Psalm 139:1, 3, 13, NLT). God knows you intimately, more intimately than any person could possibly know you.

Not only does He know you, He wants to have an ongoing, growing relationship with you. The Bible describes His relentless pursuit of us. You may not have felt valued as a child. Perhaps you didn't have an earthly family who embraced you in the way I've described our family welcoming baby Winnie. But God knows you and longs for a relationship with you. Maybe He led you to individuals who told you about Him, or maybe He's led you to this devotional for that very purpose.

- READ -

GENESIS 1:26-27; JOHN 10:14; PSALM 139

THE PROVISION

God wants you to know that you are created in His image, and He longs to enjoy a meaningful relationship with you. Let these truths settle deep into your heart: God knows everything about you—even the events of your life you may not remember. He knows your likes and dislikes, your strengths and your weaknesses. He understands your concerns and what you are feeling this very moment.

Describe your thoughts and emotions as you consider how God knows you completely...



You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! . . .

You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

PSALM 139:13-16, NLT

DAY 2

- MAKING IT YOUR OWN -

Pour Out Your Heart to God

Sin is a part of the human condition and something about it makes us want to hide from our Creator. We instinctively know He is holy and sin makes us unworthy to be in His presence. Adam and Eve experienced this immediately after they disobeyed God's instruction. They tried to hide from His presence and cover themselves from His view (Genesis 3).

But this grace-filled God who created us understands we are frail and prone to sin. He longs for us to be authentic in His presence. It doesn't make sense for us to hide anything from Him since He is all-knowing. Actually, He knows far more about us than we know about ourselves. He understands the events that cause disappointment and pain in our hearts.

He doesn't just remember those events; He knows your personality, your likes, your experiences, your failures, your disappointments, your

victories, and your pain. And He wants you to tell Him about them all. He wants you to be transparent with Him—to pour out your heart to Him. It may seem odd to tell Him what He already knows, but the significance isn't about telling God something new. It's about *making yourself known to your Creator*, becoming transparent, vulnerable, and open with Him, each and every day and hour of your life regardless of the circumstances you face.

Our part of relationship with God starts (and continues to grow) only as we are honest about ourselves in the light of His presence. Something supernatural happens every time our authentic self encounters the all-wise, all-knowing, all-loving Creator. We begin to see our lives from a completely different perspective. We come face-to-face with His grace and mercy in a deep, transforming way. His light shows us the promise of redemption and wholeness. And ultimately, those encounters make us more whole than we could imagine.

Friend, you were created for relationship with God. Don't miss the intimacy He longs to have with you because you aren't willing to be authentic in His presence. (Remember, no matter how long you've known Him, an intimate relationship requires ongoing transparency.)

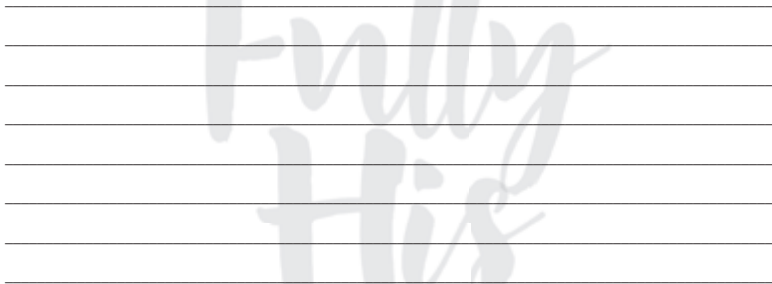
- READ -

PSALM 62:8; 34:17-18

YOUR RESPONSE

Is there a situation in your life you need to talk about with God? Maybe you feel you should handle it on your own. Or perhaps you think it isn't a big deal, so you've simply buried it in your heart. Is there a sin causing you to hide from Him or a disappointment you are ashamed to admit? Remember, while He knows about all these things, He wants you to tell Him about them. He draws close to us when we're completely open and honest with Him.

Take a few minutes to pour out your heart to God because He wants you to be fully His:



*Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.*

PSALM 62:8

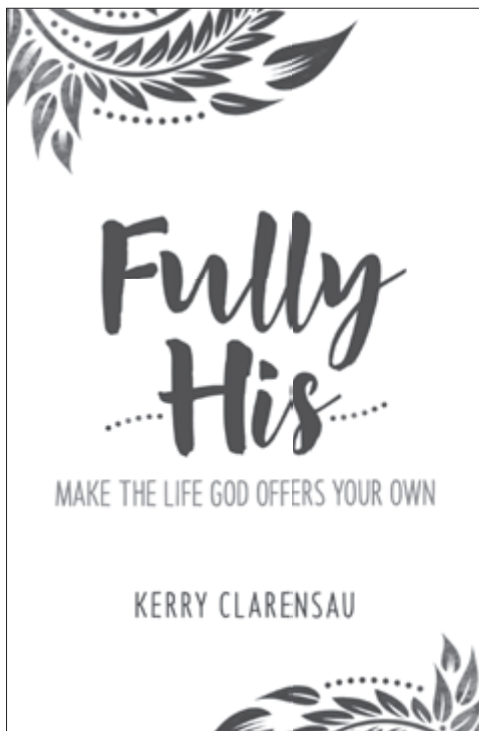
About the Author

Kerry Clarensau is a speaker, mentor, author, and inspiring leader for women. She and her husband, Mike, were pastors of a culturally diverse church in Wichita, Kansas, prior to Kerry becoming the director of the National Women's Ministries Department of the Assemblies of God. Currently, she serves as the director of Women's Ministries for the North Texas district of the Assemblies of God.

Kerry is passionate about helping women apply God's Word to their lives in practical ways. She is the author of *Selah; A Beautiful Life; Redeemed; Love Revealed; The Love Revealed Challenge; and Secrets*.

She and Mike live in the Dallas area. They have two sons, two beautiful daughters-in-law, and three precious granddaughters.

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Can you imagine the tremendously wonderful things God wants for you?

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THEY'RE TRULY AMAZING!

Do you have to seek and search for these things? No, God has already provided everything you need for an abundant life, but you must recognize these gifts and make them your own.

In this thirty-day devotional, Kerry Clarensau describes just a few of the many promises God offers to those who believe in Him and explains how to embrace them personally. Each devotion includes suggested Scripture readings and space for journaling.

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