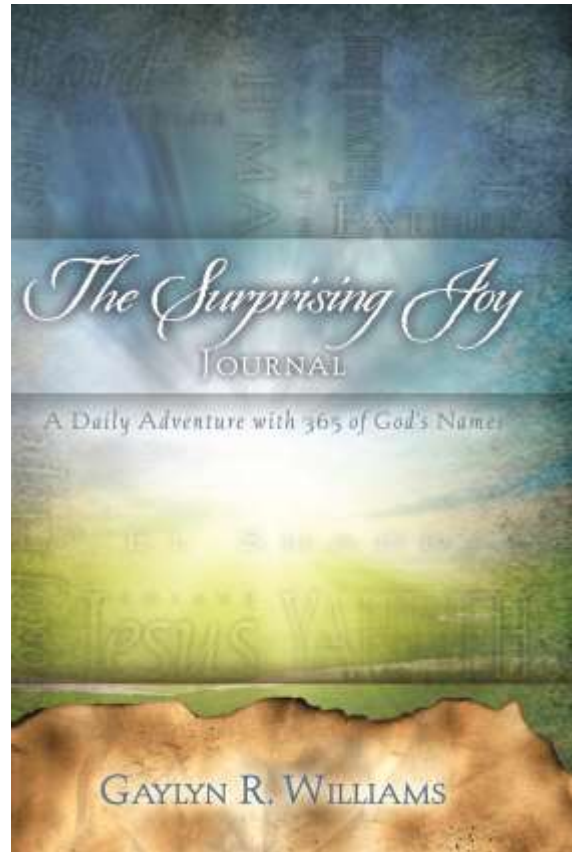
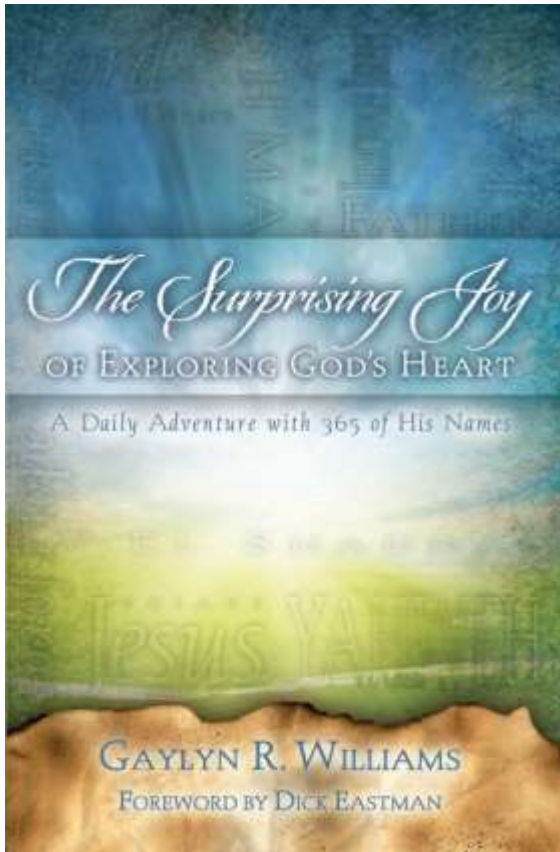


# Sample Copy of

## The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart

### *Devotional and Journal*



# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **Training Available on Deepening Your Relationship with God**

### **Grow More Intimately with God and Learn How He Sees You**

Delve into new depths of God's character and discover the richness of His Greek and Hebrew names. You'll discover new insights into our awesome God and learn to experience comfort, strength and hope from understanding God's character in new ways. You'll also learn to see yourself as Father God sees you.

In small groups, study the Word and interact to discover more of your identity in Christ. You'll leave with a new excitement about who God is, how God sees you, and how that affects your life.

As each person in your group grows to know God more intimately and how He sees them, you will watch amazing transformation in individual's lives as well as in the whole group. You'll see people beginning to treat each other more like Christ treats us.

#### ***What this workshop includes:***

- 1-2 hours of training with Gaylyn Williams sharing her powerful story and practical, biblical teaching, as well as incorporating whole group and small group interaction
- Handouts for each participant include an outline with the key principles, for them to take notes and keep for further study
- Time to reflect on what God is saying to each individual and write what they want to begin doing differently as a result of this class
- Opportunities to develop deeper relationships as you study the Bible and discuss the principles in small groups
- Discount code to buy a copy of *2031 Names of God*, *The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart*, and *The Surprising Joy of Discovering How God Sees You*

This session can be paired along with our [workshops on joy](#).

### **Contact Us**

Learn more about how Relationship Resources can help you and your group discover a deeper intimacy with God and a greater understanding of your identity in Christ.

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **Back Cover Copy for the Devotional**

### **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. Enhance your experience by journaling about each name in the space available on each page. You'll be forever changed as you get to know God in new ways.

Each devotional is one-page with a name of God, one or more verses with that name. Many of the devotions have

*Gaylyn Williams has done a remarkable job of identifying and explaining the various names God uses to describe Himself.*

**—Jerry Bridges, Author of *The Pursuit of Holiness***

*Gaylyn Williams 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; Lead Pastor, The Springs Church**

*This exceptional daily devotional reveals God's character. What a relationship builder is this guide to all who want to draw closer to God. And when we draw closer to Him, "blessings" happen.*

**—Chuck Asay, Syndicated Editorial Cartoonist**

***Get your copy of***

***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart***

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

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# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **What's in a Name?**

### ***Foreword by Dick Eastman***

We all agree—one's name is important!

A name, according to Webster's dictionary, is "a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing." In our lives, the unique ability to give "distinctive designation" to people and things, through a name, helps us order our very existence. When we hear the name of a friend or loved one, we immediately conjure up images of that person and his or her characteristics.

One of the first jobs Adam was given in the garden was to name all the animals. From the beginning, God made humans with the ability to organize their life and identify things around them through naming. But often we forget just how important a name can actually be. Imagine using only generic terms when speaking to those around us? Hey, you! Or, hey person with the brown hair! Imagine shouting to a child in one's family: "Come here, short person with the freckles." Life would be sadly generic and sometimes even confusing. What if two of one's children were short and both had freckles?

The reality in life is that each of us was given a name by our parents, and this name is one of the primary means of preserving our identity in a world of seven billion-plus people. Names, in our western culture, often represent decades or sometimes centuries of family heritage. What comes to your mind when you hear the name Winston Churchill, Dwight David Eisenhower or Mother Theresa? Likewise, names often carry special meaning or ascribe particular attributes to us.

Names can represent societal trends and therefore identify someone with a specific era in history. In some unique instances in the Bible what a child was named was so important that angels would actually come to earth and tell expecting parents what to name their coming child. For example, an angel told Zachariah (see Luke chapter one) to name their son John. We would know him for generations to come as John the Baptist. Joseph, likewise, was told in a dream to name Mary's baby boy "Jesus," a name that literally means "God saves." Clearly, what we are called by those around us is significant. Names have always been a big deal to God.

Throughout time, God has been gracious enough to reveal His own name in multiple ways to humankind. Starting with Adam and progressing until today, in various times and in various ways, God has revealed His identity to people using phrases that one might view as His names. Today, we're more accustomed to hearing the various names attributed to our Lord. Can you imagine what it was like when the first prophet learned that our Lord was "the God of angel armies?" Undoubtedly there was a sense of awe and wonder. Even today, I am filled with that same awe and wonder when I hear many of the names of our Lord. What an amazing privilege that God has actually told us Who He is by revealing His vast variety of names in so many ways throughout His Word!

Over my years of following Jesus, I have found tremendous confidence and strength from regularly considering the names of the Lord in prayer. For decades I have compiled my own personal list of the Lord's names, drawing these names from numerous translations of Scripture. From these lists, I have written into each day's entry in my journal one of those names, claiming the fullness of that name for that specific day. Often I allow that name to become a song that I sing in my devotional time for that day.

As I meditate, speak, and pray the names of the Lord over the situations of my life, I have found that what I'm actually doing is inserting God's very identity into those situations. When I proclaim a biblical name of our Lord, I'm making a statement of faith—God is Who He said He

## ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

is! The knowledge of God's name literally transforms the way we live by infusing faith into our prayers! Of course, certain passages of Scripture fortify this reality. The Psalmist sang:

"Hallelujah! Thank God! Pray to him by name! Tell everyone you meet what he has done...Honor his holy name with Hallelujahs, you who seek God...Keep your eyes open for God, watch for his works" (Psalm 105:1, 3-4 The Message Bible).

On an earlier occasion the psalmist declared:

"All day we parade God's praise—we thank you by name over and over" (Psalm 44:8 The Message Bible).

All these thoughts lead me to highlight this wonderful collection of Names of our Lord that you hold in your hand. They have been compiled by a special friend of my wife and me, Gaylyn Williams. Like me, years ago Gaylyn began compiling descriptive phrases that define and describe our Lord. My list contains almost 700 such names, but Gaylyn's goes far beyond that. 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.

My suggestion to you is this: Pray these names daily—and sing them, memorize them and (most of all) live them. You'll soon discover a personal Jesus that you've never known before. Further, you'll find practical ways to apply these names. A famous credit card commercial once saturated their advertising with the phrase—"Don't leave home without it!" May I suggest that you start each day with a fresh Name of our Lord from this list and that you "don't leave home without it!" Carry Christ's Name into your day! You will never regret it.

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

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **Discovering Joy in Intimacy with God** ***thoughts From the author***

I began my adventure exploring God's names when my second son, Daniel, was three months old. After being in and out of the hospital—mostly in—his whole life, the doctor had just told me Daniel had six to twelve months left to live.

What had been a time of grief, sadness and questioning turned into a surprisingly joyful experience. After six surgeries and seeing twenty-five pediatric specialists, I finally realized the doctors couldn't do anything to save Daniel. God was his only hope.

The previous three months, I had focused on my problems and became more and more depressed. The day the doctor delivered my son's "death sentence," I knew I had a choice. I could be sad and miserable, or I could choose to focus on God and trust Him.

Daily I cared for my three-year-old son Jonathan, along with juggling Daniel's numerous doctor appointments and high levels of oxygen. During those difficult months, I started a list of God's names from the Word. Every day I chose to take time to focus on God, even though it was not easy.

Daniel's health slid downhill, until he went into a three-day coma when he was almost six months old. He woke up briefly just before he went to be with Jesus. At that moment, I experienced an unexpected joy, because I knew God had healed him—not as I hoped, but he was now completely whole and healthy.

I discovered that when I focus on my problems, they seem to get bigger and more overwhelming. However, when I focus on God, my problems seem to shrink compared to how great He is. And I experience amazing joy and peace.

That adventure started 25 years ago and I'm still on it, although I took a break for a few years. And guess what? During those years when I stopped focusing on God—because I was fixated on my problems—I experienced less peace and joy, as well as depression and hopelessness.

I now have over 1800 names of God from the Word and I'm still finding more. I'm constantly astonished at all of God's names. The more I study them, the more joy, peace and excitement God is giving me with life. Our God is so great. I'm sure no matter how much we learn about Him, we'll never know everything.

Studying God's names and getting to know Him better through them has been one of the greatest adventures of my life. I pray you too will be surprised by incredible joy and peace as you study His names and as you get to know Him better with all the various facets of Who He is.

Blessings on you,  
Gaylyn Williams

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **How to Use This Book**

The purpose of this devotional is to reveal more of Who God is and empower you to experience a deeper intimacy with Him. It is not meant to be me sharing all my wisdom. It is designed to help you dig deeper to discover more about God for yourself and grow in your relationship with Him.

Each day has a Scripture, questions to ponder and a short prayer related to the name. You can use them as a springboard to a deeper prayer time and study. There is space to journal on most days; however, you might want to keep a separate journal beside you to add more. I briefly share some of my stories so you can see how God's names have affected my life. I share both victories and defeats in my adventure to know God better.

### **You Can Use This Book In The Following Ways:**

- in your personal devotions, drawing you into deeper intimacy with God
- 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, sharing your insights together

If you don't yet have a personal relationship with God, you've come to the right place. You can explore more of who God is in a relaxed way. If you want to know more, go to page 369

In this book, I use different translations of the Bible, which show variations and nuances of God's names. You might want to check other translations to see how they depict our awesome God. The abbreviations for the Bible translations are on the copyright page. All unmarked verses are from the New International Version.

Throughout the book I encourage you to memorize Bible verses. When you have the Word in your heart, you'll be amazed at the times God will bring 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 wake up and can't go back to sleep, I'll begin meditating on a verse.

I had a missionary friend, Chet Bitterman, who was captured by terrorists in Colombia in the 1980s. Although he had no Bible, he had the Word in his heart and mind. He had just finished memorizing the book of 1 Peter. His letters to his wife were filled with Scripture. If you were suddenly without your Bible, how much of it would you have in you? For help on memorizing verses, go to [www.365NamesofGod.com](http://www.365NamesofGod.com).

At the back of the book are lists where you can find help for specific situations. For example, if you are feeling sad, you can go to page 22, where you can find comfort in God's name "My Exceeding Joy." If you need hope, go to page 13.

### **Hebrew and Greek Words:**

I include many of God's names in the original languages. However, I am not a Hebrew or Greek scholar. I 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.

About spelling: I write the Hebrew and Greek words so they are easy to pronounce (I'm sure there are other ways to spell them).



## ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

About pronouns: When a name of God starts with a pronoun, such as my or your, I only show the Hebrew root, not the pronoun. The pronoun is a suffix on the noun.

The Hebrew Word, Sh'ma, on the front cover is the first word in Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one." It means hear, listen in order to obey the Name (God's Name.) The ancient Hebrew symbols in Sh'ma were a picture of an eye and a picture representing "name," meaning "See the Name." This book is all about seeing and hearing God's Name(s). Sh'ma is also written Shema or Shma.

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

***January 1***

## ***The Beginning and the End***

***Arkhay Kai Telos (Greek)***

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.  
Revelation 22:13 (ESV)*

### **Steps on Your Journey to Know God More Intimately:**

- Arkhay means beginning or principality. Telos means end, ending and finally.
- Happy New Year. Just think: this is a new year, an opportunity to begin fresh. As we end one year and begin a new one, it's a great time to focus on the Lord being the Beginning and the End.
- Think about this name. What does it mean to you?
- How does this name affect your life today? This year?
- How did last year begin, what was different at the end?
- As I begin this year, I choose to let go of the difficult things from this last year and begin fresh. I encourage you to do the same.
- Take some time today to reflect on all the good things God did in your life this last year. Thank Him for His blessings (even if things were not as positive as you would have liked.)
- Talk to the Lord about this coming year. What do you want to be different this year? Remember, He is the Beginning. He can bring you new beginnings.

### **A Prayer For You:**

*Thank You, Lord, that You are the Beginning and the End. Thank You for all the great things You did in my life last year. I'm looking forward to seeing what You have for me this coming year. Thank You that I can start over fresh with You, the Beginning.*

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

***January 2***

***Him Who Is from the Beginning***

***Ton Apo Arkhay (Greek)***

*I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.*

1 John 2:13 (ESV)

## **Steps on Your Journey to Know God More Intimately:**

- *Ton* means he, one, the and that. *Apo* means from, of and out of. *Arkhay* means beginning.
- Meditate on this name.<sup>2</sup> What does it mean to you today that God is from the beginning?
- How does it affect your life knowing He has always been there?
- He has no beginning ... or end. If you're like me, it's hard to really comprehend that He has no beginning. Ask the Lord to reveal to you what that means.
- Spend some time praising the Lord using this name.

## **A Prayer For You:**

*Lord, I praise You that You have always existed and You always will. Open my mind to be able to comprehend this truth that You are Him Who Is from the Beginning. Please show me what this name means to me personally.*

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

**January 3**

**God**

***elohim (hebrew); Theos (Greek)***

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)

## **Steps on Your Journey to Know God More Intimately:**

- Deuteronomy 10:17 says, “The Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed” (NLT).
- This is the very first of God’s names that He gives us, in the first verse of the Bible. These verses use Elohim, which means Almighty God, the Creator. It is also the word that is used of any god, not just the One True God. Elohim is plural of God, revealing the first hint of the Trinity, one God in three persons. Theos mean the supreme deity.
- Each word for God and gods is exactly the same word in the Old Testament verses above.
- Ephesians 2:4-5 says, “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
- I grew up in a little village high in the mountains of Guatemala, where my parents were missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators. I saw the Mayans worshipping all their gods, burning their incense and candles in front of the Catholic Church.
- Meditate on this name. Ask God to reveal more of Himself to you today.
- What does the name God mean to you?

## **A Prayer For You:**

*God, I praise You that You are the God of gods and Lord of lords. Thank You that You are the mighty and awesome God, that You are the Creator. Please open my eyes, ears and heart to know You more and more intimately.*

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

***January 4***

## ***My Faithful God***

*Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.*

Psalm 31:5

### **Steps on Your Journey to Know God More Intimately:**

- When Jesus was hanging on the cross, He quoted part of this verse in Luke 23:46: “Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’”
- The Hebrew word for faithful is *emeth* and means certainty, truth, trustworthiness, establishment, faithful, right, sure and true. Some versions translate this name as “The God of Truth.” *EI* is the singular for *Elohim*.
- Merriam-Webster<sup>3</sup> defines faithful as, “steadfast in affection or allegiance; firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty; given with strong assurance; true to the facts, to a standard or to an original.” Think about these definitions. What does it mean to you that God is your faithful God?
- I have seen God’s faithfulness in my life so many times. One example is in how He has provided for all of my needs, sometimes in a miraculous way. As a young single mom, I was so poor that I was turned down for the indigent health care. Why? Because I didn’t make enough money. That is a true story! However, even though many months I didn’t have enough to pay my bills, yet I always paid them—from my own checkbook. I can’t explain it, except for God’s faithfulness. He is faithful to you too.
- Because He is faithful, we can depend on Him for anything and everything. Often we can’t depend on people to remain faithful to us, but we can stake our lives on the fact that God won’t ever change.

### **A Prayer For You:**

*Thank You, My Faithful God, for always being faithful to me. I praise You that You are trustworthy, truthful and dependable. Teach me to trust You more and rely on You for every area of my life.*

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

**January 5**

**LORD**

***yhwh or yahweh (hebrew)***

*Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.*

Psalm 37:4 (NLT)

## **Steps on Your Journey to Know God More Intimately:**

- This is the Hebrew word, *YHWH*, Yahweh or Jehovah. It means the Self-Existent One, the Covenant-Keeping God, the Unchangeable and Intimate God. In many English versions, it is written with small capital letters. We'll look at the name "Lord" (with lower case letters) later.
- Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take" (NLT).
- This was such a sacred name of God, that the Israelites would not even say it. Yet often people in our culture use God's name in vain.
- Ask the Lord to show you if you need to change anything you say. If you have misused His name, ask for His forgiveness and decide that you will no longer do it. I'm so glad our God is a forgiving God. Aren't you?
- This name is used thousands of times in the Old Testament. Meditate on it today, asking the Lord to reveal more of Himself through it.

## **A Prayer For You:**

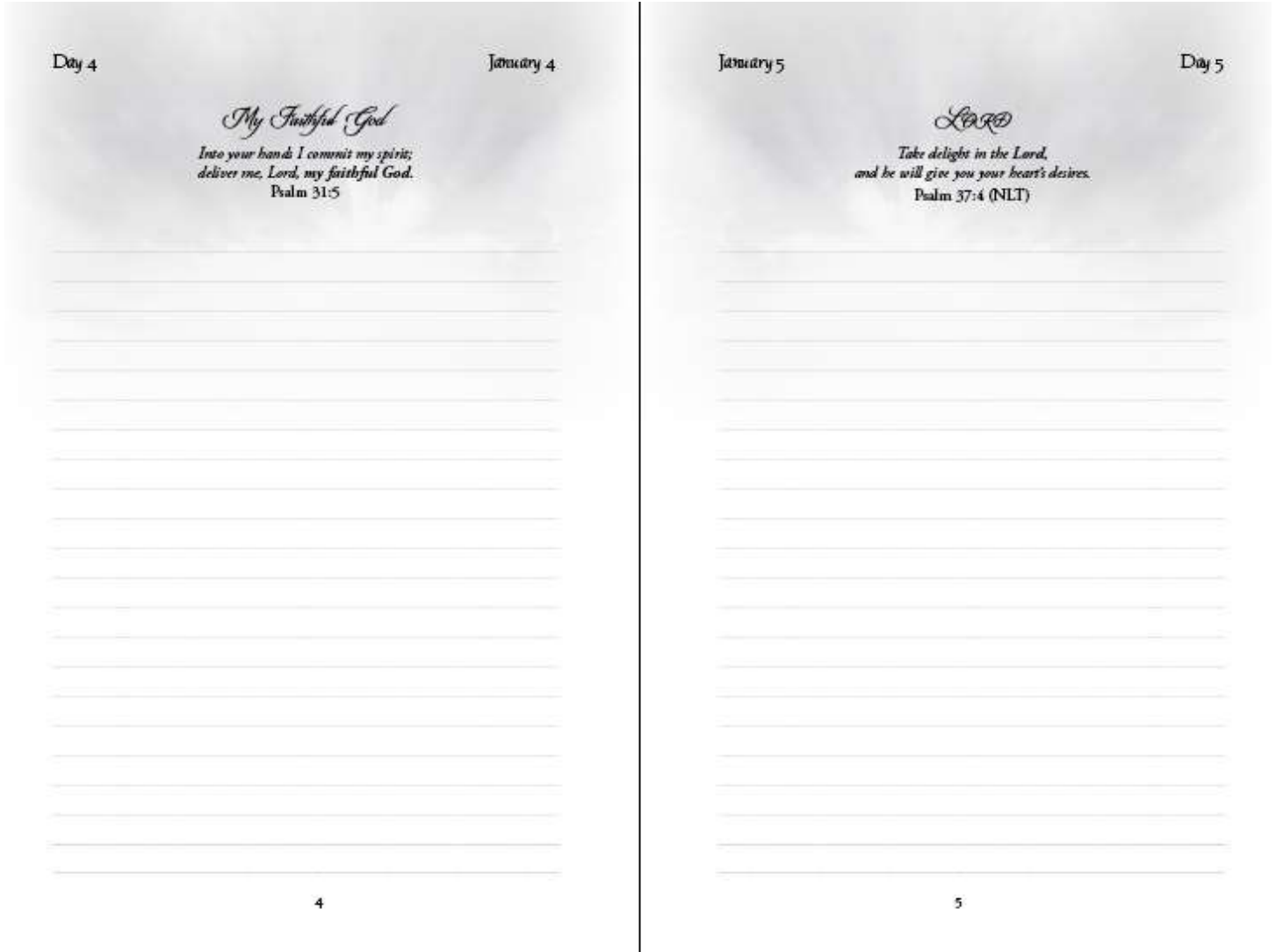
*Thank You, Lord, that You are a personal, intimate God, even though You are holy. Thank You for being trustworthy, because You are a covenant-keeping God. Help me to learn to trust You and delight in You more and more.*

***Get your copy of***

***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart***

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **Sample Journal Pages**



***Get your copy of***  
***The Surprising Joy Journal***

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## ***Endorsements***

The Bible uses many names for God, each of them designed to reflect one facet of His glorious character. 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. This series will prove useful in enriching one's daily quiet time.

—***Jerry Bridges, Author of twelve books, including, *Trusting God Even Though It Hurts* and *The Joy of Fearing God.****

There is no greater means to become free of sin, sadness and sorrow than taking our eyes off ourselves and placing our hope wholly in God. Knowing the names of God is to know the heart of God. Gaylyn Williams 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***

It seems our Creator puts a lot of stock in names. I'm sure He knows my name but do I know His? This exceptional daily devotional reveals God's character. What a relationship builder is this guide to all who want to draw closer to God. And when we draw closer to Him, "blessings" happen.

—***Chuck Asay, Syndicated Editorial Cartoonist***

This book is a labor of love from Gaylyn Williams' heart, to God's people who desire to know Him better, and what better way to get to know Him than to study His names. 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. As I type this, tears of joy fill my eyes again. It is joy over what this has done for me and what Father will do for you, through this work, if you will open your heart and take the time to get to know Him through His names. Wow!!! What a Savior!!!

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

I've always found great joy in exploring God's unique identity and have studied it often. But this book has opened my eyes in new ways to appreciate who He is, and to love Him more than ever. Each day is a heart-warming adventure as I come to know Him more, and examine my relationship with Him in new ways.

—***Ken Williams, Ph.D, Founder of International Training Partners***

Having been a follower of Christ from a young age and then surrendering to ministry as a teenager, I have often found myself in "desert places". Through those dry times, God has always been faithful to water my soul in unexpected ways. "The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart" has been one of those surprises. God has used this book to lovingly bring hope and refreshing back into my heart and home. Through the easy to read format, heartfelt prayers and pointed questions, I have slowed down enough to fix my gaze upon the All-sufficient One. What joy to rest in His presence.

—***Evelyn Sherwood, Ministry Leader, Minister's Wife, Mom and Grandma***

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



## ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

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 can never get enough of God nor can we fully comprehend His character. However, Gaylyn's fresh approach to learning and honoring the names of God is a powerful and practical tool for better knowing our Father in Heaven. The unique daily format provides teachings and practical applications that guide the reader into a deeper and higher relationship with the Father. The reader will especially benefit from the daily prayers that encourage greater submission to the Father's will as they develop a better understanding of His nature. This is a nightstand tool, a daily must read, and can be used year after year without exhausting your understanding of God.

—**Amy Everette, Director, Colorado Concert of Prayer**

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**

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# *The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample*

## **Other Books by the Author**

### **Battlefield Strategies for Every Believer**

#### **A Biblical Guide to Spiritual Warfare**

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

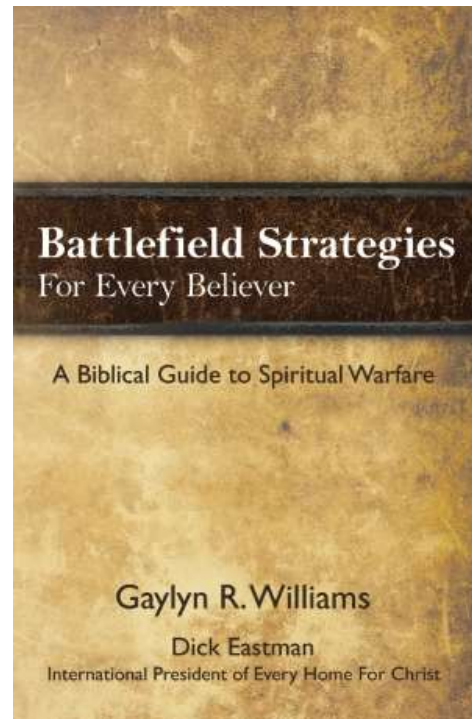
**Uncover simple ways to overcome Satan's strategies and embrace God's victory.**

God has already won the war against the enemy and gave 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.**

**From Forward by Dick Eastman, International President Every Home for Christ (and President of America's National Prayer Committee)**

"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. *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."

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **All Stressed Up and Everywhere to Go!**

### **Solutions to De-Stressing Your Life and Recovering Your Sanity**

*co-authored with 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 downs.

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 benefited from these life-changing skills. Ken and Gaylyn first tested them in their own lives and continue to use them on a regular basis.

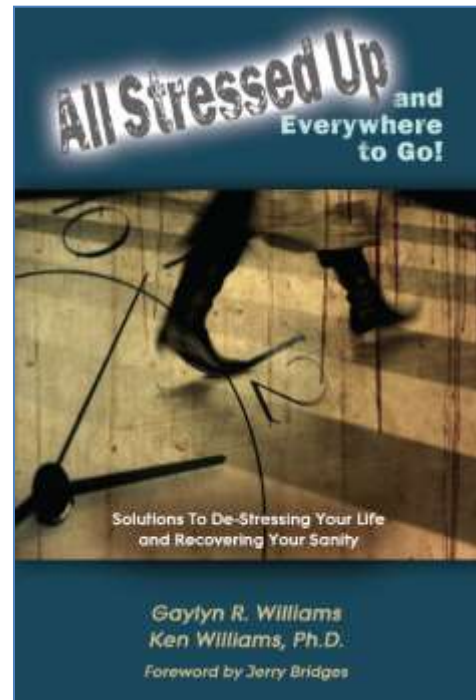
Rather than writing from a clinical perspective—although Dr. Williams, with his PhD in Human Behavior, could do that—they honestly share their personal experiences, having each dealt with numerous major and minor stresses. They have trained people in Christian organizations in these methods for twenty-five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

"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**



# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **Keys to Joy**

### **How to Unlock God's Gifts of Lasting Happiness**

*co-authored with Ken Williams, Ph.D.*

#### **Discover Thirteen Surprising, Proven Secrets To Unlock Your Joy!**

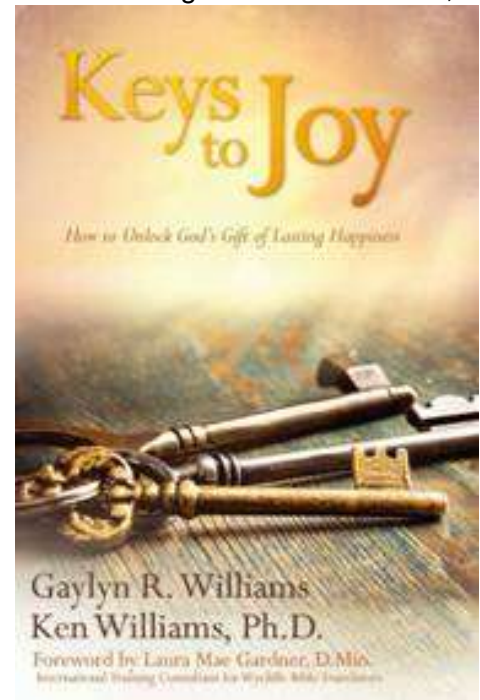
Experiencing joy is a natural—but often elusive—part of Christian living. The hurts of life, unhelpful habits and unhealthy attitudes all lock out joy for many believers. And it remains locked until they take action to open it up.

*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.



“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**

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **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

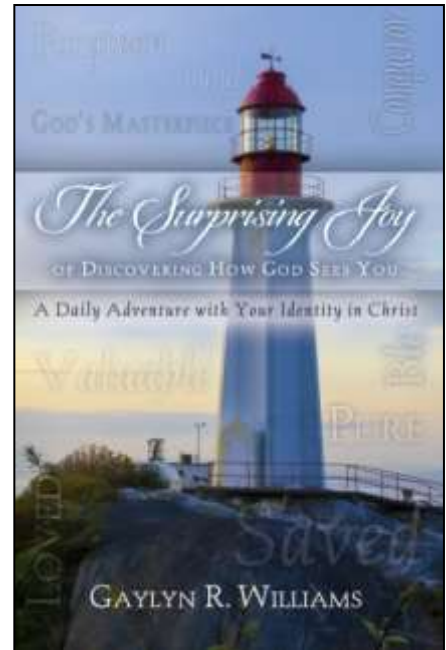
Uncover daily encouragement as you dig deeper into Scripture, discovering what God says about you. These devotional studies contain powerful Bible verses, personal illustrations, relevant prayers, thought-provoking questions and challenging meditations.

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; individuals, couples and families wanting to better understand themselves and others.

"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 Sebolt. Former Executive Director for Community Bible Study (1997–2013)**

## **This devotional has an accompanying journal.**



# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **2031 Names of God**

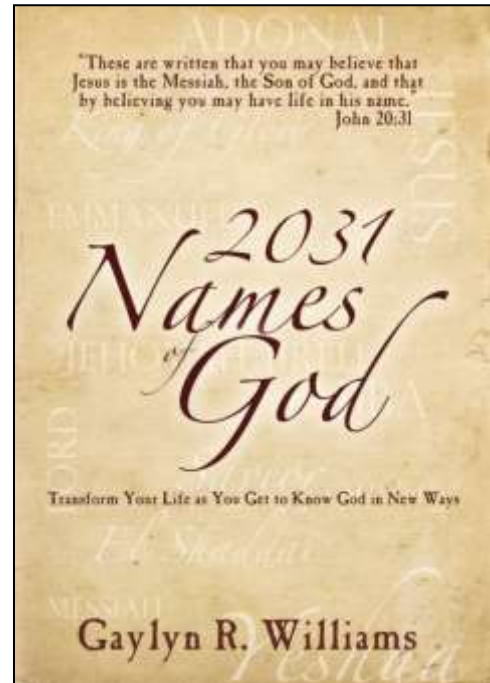
**Transform Your Life as You Get to Know God in New Ways**

**Enhance Your Intimacy with God as You Explore His Names**

Do you long for 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 and others in ministry seeking to maintain their love for God in difficult situations

“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’ *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**

# ***The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart Sample***

## **Never Do Fundraising Again**

### **A Paradigm Shift from Donors to Lifelong Partners**

*co-authored with Ken Williams, Ph.D.*

#### **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 authors' 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.

"An outstanding book, applying Biblical principles to partner development."

**—Ken Royer, D.Min., Director of Pastoral Care, Link Care Center Fresno, California**

"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.**

