Wife after God

Drawing Closer to God & Your Husband

A 30-Day Devotional by

Unveiled Wife

JENNIFER SMITH
This devotional is dedicated to my amazing husband. Thank you for encouraging me, supporting me, and always pointing me to Christ. I love you!

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This devotional is also dedicated to Gary And Courtney. Thank you for showing me how to step out in faith. Your friendship is priceless!
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Dear Wife,

It is such a wonderful blessing to share this devotional with you. God spoke to my heart encouraging, assisting, and inspiring me to provide a resource that would draw you closer to Him and closer to your husband. I sincerely hope and pray this devotional is revolutionary in the two most important and intimate relationships in your life. Be encouraged knowing that there are many more wives also experiencing the richness of this content, intentionally striving to be more holy as a child of God and as a wife; you are not alone in your struggles and you are not alone in your transformation of becoming the woman God wants you to be. This is an amazing journey and knowing that you are rallying with wives all across the world to make positive changes in your marriage should be empowering! If this devotional influences you and encourages you, please do not hesitate to share it with another wife. Thank you so much for taking the time to explore this devotional, for being a wife after God, and for investing in your marriage. May faith, hope, and love abound, and may peace fill your heart!

Love,
Jennifer Smith
Unveiled Wife
Dear Lord,

Thank you for this beautiful woman reading this right now. Thank you for giving her the opportunity to be a wife. May you bless her and her husband. May you fulfill their marriage in every way. Equip them with communication skills, inspire them to live intentionally, help them to cultivate intimacy, and allow them to experience the extraordinary. I pray that her husband would see your light radiating from her heart as she journeys through this devotional. May you radically transform their marriage so they would mirror your love. I pray your Holy Spirit would prepare this wife’s heart for the material in this devotional. Soften her, Lord, so that she may gain understanding and wisdom. Give her courage to accept the challenges and to initiate them. I pray against the enemy, in Jesus’ name. I pray against distractions that would try to steal her away from being able to complete this devotional. I implore you to send encouragements to her daily and to protect her and her marriage from any schemes or temptations the enemy attempts. Guard her heart and her mind in Christ Jesus.

Reveal yourself to her, Lord, in great and mighty ways, intimate ways, ways that are personal, so she comes to know you better. Thank you for her precious life. May you fill her with your peace and help her grow in faith. Show her how to keep you in the center of her marriage as she becomes the wife you have called her to be. In Jesus’ name,

AMEN!
INTRODUCTION

You are here because God pursued you. You are more valuable than treasured gold, silver, or gems. You are worthy to be loved and you are a wife! God has set aside a very special opportunity for husbands and wives to experience an intimate relationship with each other, which reflects the intimacy God desires to have with all of humanity! Your role as a wife is extraordinary in that you have the capacity to love and care for your husband just as Christ loves.

Unfortunately, you live in a fallen world--your culture, environment, and family tree have influenced who you are today, and not all of the things you have learned along the way are beneficial. You can probably think about a few things right now that you know you need to work on. The more you humble yourself before God and ask Him to transform you, the better you become at fulfilling your purpose as a wife, which in turn leads to the fulfillment of a healthy, joyful, God-centered marriage. Of course, reaching the goal of a healthy, joyful, God-centered marriage will also require your husband to take action if he has not done so already. Your husband may be ahead of you in this area, he may be right alongside you, he may be ten steps behind you, or perhaps on a different path altogether. Wherever your husband is spiritually you need to trust God with him and continue to pray for him no matter what. Your husband needs you to do the same things you would want from him: to cheer him on, to set an example, to have faith, and to pursue him passionately.

As a Christian and as a wife there is a responsibility to nurture both your relationship with God and your husband. Failure to passionately pursue these relationships will result in isolation. You may know that feeling all too well, but you can stand again and fight for what God has gifted to you. To do so you must take hold of your responsibilities and commit to working towards growth and oneness.
This devotional is designed to walk you through an intense journey of experiencing God, specifically tailored to one of your most important ministry roles--being a wife! Here are some scriptures that support the purpose of this devotional:

**Please Read:**  
James 4:8  
Hebrews 10:22  
Colossians 2:2-3

These scriptures are foundational to the purpose of this devotional. God has called you to draw close to Him, to know the message of Christ, and to be encouraged. These things occur when you meditate on His Word.

This devotional has 30 chapters. So, for the next 30 Days you are committing to the following:

- Spending quality time with God daily through reading God’s Word, praying, and journaling.
- Actively engaging and participating in all of the given challenges within each chapter.

You may or may not be familiar with spending time with God on a daily basis. Whether you are experienced with this or not, here are a few quick tips on how you can spend quality time with God:

**You will need a bible.**  
It is written in Hebrews 4:12 that God’s Word is living and active, so just as you would carry a conversation with a close friend, God will converse with you through His Word. The material in this devotional is based on the NIV. However, reflecting on different translations can provide more understanding. Feel free to explore different translations as you are going through scriptures.
You will be encouraged to journal.
Writing is one of the most comprehensive ways to learn because it forces you to slow down in your thinking process, allowing your hand a chance to translate your thought. It is also very beneficial in that you will have the opportunity to refer back to any archived entry and see your relationship growth with God along with any answered or unanswered prayers you may have written down. This journal has space for you to journal within each chapter, but you may also use your own journal if you wish.

Here is a journal entry excerpt for you to use as a guideline; however, there is freedom to customize your personal journal:

(Date) 11-24-10

(What God Is Teaching You) I need to stop worrying and give all of my cares to God. I need to keep praying everyday. I need to lean on God’s understanding and not my own.

(Answer Questions From Devotional) My worry stems from fears or insecurities that I won’t have enough to get by.

(Prayer) God, please help me not to worry about my kids or my job. Please give me confidence in the plans you have for me. I pray that you bless my husband and give him patience today. May your will be done in my life.
Amen!

When you spend quality time with God, growth in your relationship with Him is inevitable. The amount of time you spend with God and the length of your journal entry is completely up to you, just be sure to pray, read scripture, and
record what you experience as you journal. Remember, God wants to hear from you and He wants you to listen, the balance of both of these will result in great communication—the key to any thriving relationship.

Consistency is very crucial, both in your quality time with God and in participating in the challenges. Consistency reflects commitment and self-discipline. Some of the challenges will be more difficult than others; however, the result is a stronger relationship with God and with your husband. You must understand that this devotional is only as effective as you are willing to commit, and the devotion you exert, especially in your relationship with God, will overflow into your relationship with your husband.

Additionally, each chapter has a status update challenge. This is an incredible way for you to share your journey through the devotional with the UW Community and get other wives excited about participating. All you need to do is copy the status update and send it out through social media, being sure to tag @unveiledwife and #WifeAfterGod.

By committing to these standards you will allow God to transform your life, your marriage, and countless others who you will positively affect through living as an example of a Wife After God!

*Sign below as a declaration to yourself and to God of the commitment you are making:
A Special Note From Unveiled Wife:
Invite a few other wives to grab a devotional and go through it at the same time. That way you will have some great discussion together over the material, you can keep each other accountable to the commitment you made, and learn how it is impacting each other’s marriage!

Also, keep in mind that a version of this devotional is available as a group study! Please visit WivesAfterGod.com for more details.

Disclaimer: The stories shared throughout this devotional are all paraphrased, yet based on true events from couples around the world.

The content in this devotional although rooted in Biblical principles are the expressed interpretations and opinions of Jennifer Smith. She is not a licensed professional.

There are certain situations in marriage that may need the assistance of professionals or authorities, such as abuse. Please do not hesitate to seek professional help.
**Day 1: God’s Purpose For Your Marriage**

**Focus Verse:** Genesis 1:27, 2 Corinthians 5:20

**Thought:**
God created you in His image. In His image! You were made as a representation, to reflect God’s goodness, and to radiate His love. You were not thrown together with scraps nor were you stitched together with leftovers. You were divinely designed by the Creator of the universe, you were inspired by Him, and you were made with purpose. Can you feel the weight of this knowledge? Does it fill your heart with delight and worthiness? If you value God, you must value what He has created in His image, and you must value the purpose of why He created...you.

You were fearfully and wonderfully made in His image. You were made to represent Him. Knowing this should change the way you view your life. No longer should you be motivated by your own desires or pursuits, rather you should be motivated by how you reflect Him. Through your actions, your words, your appearance, and all the different areas of your life.

One area of life--probably the most important--is your marriage. Just as God created man and woman, God created marriage: the union of a man and woman, joining together to become one flesh. As these counterparts are joined together they mirror an incredible love story, God’s love story. A marriage mirrors the intimate relationship between Jesus and His bride, the Church. Just as Jesus demonstrated selfless, sacrificial love, you can imitate that same love towards your husband and he can do the same for you. Marriage is an opportunity to bring glory to God as you reflect His love story. God’s purpose for your marriage is not only to allow
you to be a living representation of His love towards man, but also to allow your marriage to teach you to be more like Him.

**Prayer:**

*Dear Lord, Thank you so much for creating me in your image. Knowing that I was made in your image minimizes the things I tend to be unsatisfied with or complain about. Please change my heart to understand the weight of what it means to be made in your image. I pray that your Holy Spirit would help me to reflect your goodness and your love. Thank you for my husband. Thank you for joining us together, giving us the opportunity to reflect your love story. I pray that you would also help my husband understand why he was created in your image and that our marriage has purpose. I believe as we operate knowing that our marriage can reflect your testimony and bring you glory, we will have a stronger marriage and experience the extraordinary. May your will be done in my marriage. In Jesus’ name, AMEN!*

**Challenge:**

Talk to your husband and discuss with him about the purpose of marriage.

**Status Update:** “@unveiledwife God’s purpose for my marriage is to reveal His love to the world.” #WifeAfterGod

**Journal Questions:**

Why is it important to know God’s Purpose for your marriage?
How does this knowledge change the way you look at your life/marriage?

What is one thing you will do differently in your marriage knowing that you are reflecting God’s love story?
**Day 2: Marriage By Design**

**Focus Verse:** Ephesians 5:21-33

**Thought:**
God was intentional about the quality of your design. Think about the incredible detail He put into making your body. Now think about the creativeness in your mental capacity along with your emotions. God spent time developing every part of what makes you...you! God was intentional about the quality of your design and He was intentional about the quality of your husband’s design.

God made male and female. Although both are made in His image, the details in their design are very different. There are many details that make men and women different from each other, but it is important to note the difference in needs when it comes to marriage. God inspired Paul to note these differences to help husbands and wives along their journey. Although a husband and a wife both need love and respect, God designed men to have a deep need for respect and women to have an overwhelming desire to be loved.

Men get reenergized by respect. It gives them confidence and speaks to their soul, laying the foundation for them to lead. Women are reenergized by love. When a woman is pursued romantically she feels accepted and secure, which lays the foundation for her to serve as a helper. This was God’s great design for marriage: that you would respect your husband through your words and actions and that he would love you unconditionally just as Christ loves the Church. By satisfying these needs in marriage you and your husband will experience a rich relationship abundant in generosity, kindness, faithfulness, and intimacy.

Marriage by God’s design requires that you live out what He has called you to do regardless of whether your husband
is doing so or not. This is one of the greatest difficulties to overcome in marriage, especially if you have been hurt or offended by your husband. The only source of motivation to fulfill your husband’s needs regardless of his actions comes from Ephesians 5:21, submitting to each other out of reverence for Christ. This is where reflecting God’s love story comes into focus. You will be reflecting the same unconditional, sacrificial love that Christ displayed for His bride of undeserved sinners. That type of love is transforming and redeeming.

Prayer:
Dear Lord, Thank you for your incredible design. Thank you for all of the detail you put into creation, and thank you for your design of marriage. I pray for wisdom, so I may fully understand the correlation of marriage and the Gospel. May you help me fulfill my husband’s need for respect regardless of whether he deserves it or not. I desire to be a wife who reflects your unconditional love. Take away the selfish parts of my heart that seeks to justify why I should or should not do something for my husband. Help me to love like you! I also pray that you would reveal these truths to my husband. Help him understand that it is important to fulfill my needs. I hope and pray that our marriage would grow as we mature. In Jesus’ name, AMEN!

Challenge:
Tell your husband one reason why you respect him.

Status Update:
“@unveiledwife God’s design for marriage is for me to respect my husband out of reverence for Christ.”
#WifeAfterGod
Journal Questions:
In what ways does your husband show you love?

What is one thing that makes it hard for you to respect your husband?

What are some ways you can show your husband respect?
Focus Verse: Genesis 2:18-22

Thought:
Companionship, fellowship, camaraderie. It is a need that exists at the core of every heart. God desired companionship, so He created man. He created Adam, walked with him, talked with him, and invited Adam to join in an incredible relationship with Him. God trusted Adam, giving him the opportunity to name every amazing animal. Part of companionship is establishing trust and being able to rely on another. Imagine the honor Adam must have felt when God asked him to join in and assist. God knew Adam’s ability to fulfill such a task because they were companions. They knew each other, they spent time together, they stood side by side, and endured life together. Even when there was conflict in their relationship, God protected Adam and sought reconciliation.

God desires companionship with you, as well. He wants to cultivate an intimate relationship with you, and He longs for you to join Him. He pursues you as a gentlemen pursues a woman. He impresses you with creation, magnificent sunsets, brilliant flowers, and powerful seas. He woos you with poetic language, sweet aromas, and courts you with His Holy Spirit. Be still, look around you, see how the Lord is pursuing you!

How is He inviting you to join Him? He is seeking companionship with you--an unending bond of intimate friendship. He is there beside you to be your Rock, your refuge, your ally. He is there to share joy with you, to comfort you in times of hardship, and to help you weather every storm. There is nothing you can do to push Him away
or to make Him not love you. However, to love God is a choice you must make because you have free will, which makes companionship so powerful...because you chose it.

Companionship emerged with the special relationship between God and man, yet God desired that man would have the opportunity to experience that same level of intimacy with a counterpart. That is when God put Adam to sleep and fashioned the most beautiful compliment for him: woman. God intentionally created man and woman in His image, giving them the gift of companionship, a strong bond of friendship, camaraderie, and community, thus laying the foundations for marriage.

You were created for companionship. There was an extraordinary moment in your life when you stepped into a covenantal bond of companionship, choosing to love and declaring it with your vows. In that moment you became a wife. You said yes to standing side by side, to enjoying life together, enduring storms together, comforting one another, and making yourselves known to each other through intimate conversations and experiences. You said yes. To have a thriving marriage you must protect your companionship with your husband. Make it a priority to pursue your husband, to invite him to join you, to commune with him and communicate with him. Trust in him, be confident in his abilities, rely on him, and rally with him. Be his friend and experience the marvelous gift of companionship.

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord, Thank you for pursuing me. Thank you for caring about me and wanting companionship with me. Please forgive me if I didn’t recognize all the times you were inviting me to join you. Please open my eyes so that I never miss out on those moments to share with you. I pray that my relationship with you continues to grow. I pray that you would trust me and that I would trust you. I also thank you for companionship in marriage. Thank you for the bond that my husband and I have, our friendship, and
our intimacy. I pray that my husband and I would cultivate our companionship, that we would enjoy life together, comfort each other, and stand by each other to weather through every storm. May you help me to trust in my husband and be confident in his abilities. Please help me to be intentional about investing in our companionship and to be creative in pursuing my husband daily. In Jesus’ name, AMEN!

**Challenge:**
Spend time with your husband doing an activity that he would prefer to do.

**Status Update:**
“@unveiledwife I am going to pursue companionship with my husband.” #WifeAfterGod

**Journal Questions:**
In what ways do you see God pursuing companionship with you?
Do you trust your husband to fulfill tasks in your marriage just like God allowed Adam to name the animals?

What is one thing you can do to build companionship with your husband?
I hope you were blessed by the first 3 days of the Wife After God Devotional.

Please consider supporting the Unveiled Wife ministry, while also investing into your marriage by purchasing the full copy of this 30-Day Devotional at WifeAfterGod.com