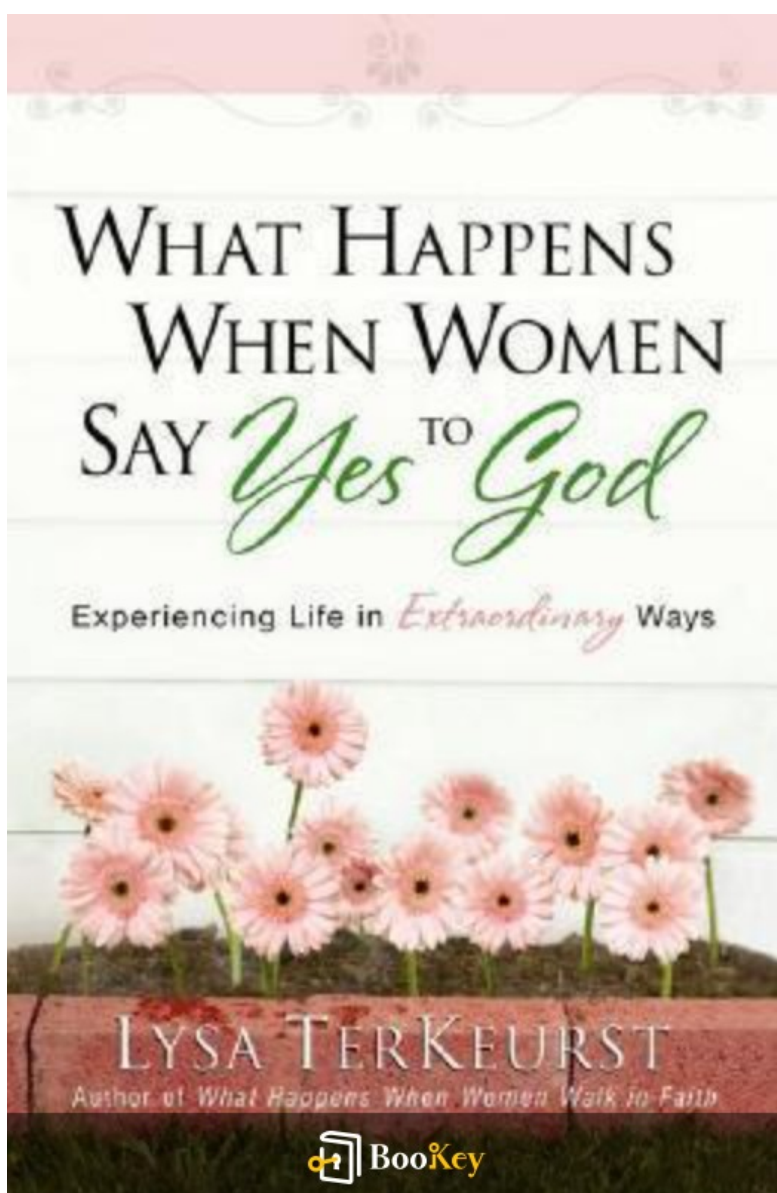


What Happens When Women Say Yes To God PDF

Lysa Terkeurst



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About the book

Book Overview: "What Happens When Women Say Yes to God" by Lysa TerKeurst

- Theme: In an increasingly chaotic and unpredictable world, this book stands out as a source of hope and inspiration for women.
- Author's Intent: Lysa TerKeurst invites readers on a journey that emphasizes faith and obedience, encouraging them to fully embrace God's calling, despite any challenges that might arise.
- Core Message: Through engaging storytelling and practical wisdom, TerKeurst demonstrates how saying "yes" to God can transform lives, leading to a fulfilling existence filled with purpose and unexpected joy.
- Invitation to Readers: This book is a guide for those who are ready to follow God's divine plan and unlock the myriad possibilities awaiting them, offering empowerment for steadfast faith and significant life changes.

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About the author

Profile: Lysa TerKeurst

Occupation: Speaker, Author, President of Proverbs 31 Ministries

Mission: Dedicated to providing God's peace, perspective, and purpose to today's busy women.

Achievements:

- Authored over 20 books, including multiple New York Times bestsellers.
- Notable works include *Uninvited* and *Made to Crave*.

Approach:

- Combines personal anecdotes, biblical truths, and practical guidance.
- Aims to inspire and equip millions of readers on their spiritual journeys.

Impact:

- Lysa's engaging voice and heartfelt message have made her a cherished mentor for women seeking deeper connections with God.
- Through her writings and speaking events, she empowers women globally to recognize their divine potential by embracing the transformative journey of saying "yes" to God.

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What Happens When Women Say Yes To God

Summary

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What Happens When Women Say Yes To God

Summary Chapter List

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1. Introduction: Embracing the Transformative Journey of Saying Yes to God

In the introduction of "What Happens When Women Say Yes to God," Lysa TerKeurst invites readers into a transformative journey that begins with one pivotal decision: saying 'yes' to God. This concept resonates on multiple levels, reaching deep into the fabric of our daily lives and our innermost spiritual desires. Saying 'yes' to God is not merely a one-time declaration or an act of obedience; it is a continuous journey filled with challenges, revelations, and profound spiritual growth.

Amidst the chaos of everyday life, the idea of embracing this journey can seem daunting. Women often find themselves juggling various roles—mother, daughter, employee, friend—making it easy to overlook the importance of nurturing their spiritual relationship. Lysa emphasizes that when women make the deliberate choice to prioritize their relationship with God, transformations begin to unfold. Choosing to say 'yes' paves the way for renewed purpose, joy, and fulfillment in ways that could only be imagined before.

In this journey, surrendering control is essential. When women boldly declare their willingness to follow God's lead, they begin to trust in a broader purpose. Lysa shares her own experiences, illustrating how acts of obedience evolved into unexpected blessings and revelations. For instance,

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there may be moments that initially appear insignificant, yet, through obedience, they reveal an intricate part of God's plan for our lives. These moments can range from volunteering in a local charity to simply being more present in our everyday interactions, opening the door to unanticipated joy and connections that deepen our faith.

Moreover, TerKeurst addresses the transformative power of community. Saying 'yes' is often amplified in the context of fellowship with other believers. Women supporting each other and sharing their stories of faith forge a bond that encourages collective growth. Lysa encourages readers to build networks filled with women who seek to enrich their spiritual lives and support one another on their journeys. This communal aspect is vital, as it generates a ripple effect of encouragement—one woman's journey of faith can inspire another, leading to a broader movement of women embracing their spiritual calling.

Importantly, TerKeurst emphasizes that this journey is not about perfection; it is about progress. Women are often burdened by the notion of needing to perform their faith flawlessly. The act of saying 'yes' to God allows for the acceptance of imperfections and a focus on the process of growing through faith. It is about taking that first step, trusting in God's plan despite uncertainties and setbacks, and learning that every step is significant, regardless of how small it may seem.

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Ultimately, the introduction sets the stage for a deeper exploration of how saying 'yes' becomes a path of liberation. It is an invitation to embark on a life filled with purpose, vibrance, and a connection to God that enriches every aspect of existence. Lysa TerKeurst's message resonates deeply as she challenges women to reflect on their willingness to say 'yes' and embrace the richness that unfolds when they commit to this journey. With every 'yes,' there lies a promise; a promise of joy, a promise of adventure, and a promise of divine fulfillment.

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2. Chapter 1: The Powerful Impact of Trusting God's Plan for Your Life

In Chapter 1 of "What Happens When Women Say Yes To God," Lysa TerKeurst lays the foundation for understanding the monumental impact of trusting in God's plan for our lives. This chapter emphasizes that saying 'yes' to God is not merely a momentary decision but a transformational journey that unfolds day by day.

Trusting God's plan requires a deep level of faith, particularly in a world rife with uncertainty. Life often throws challenges that can make even the staunchest believers question their path. Yet, TerKeurst argues that embracing God's plan allows for a sense of peace and purpose that transcends our worldly worries.

One of the critical narratives in this chapter is the comparison between our own plans and God's divine plans. Often, we see only the next step in our lives and assume that it is the ultimate destination. For instance, someone might plan for a specific career excellence, envisioning promotions and recognition. However, life events—like unexpected job loss or new responsibilities in other areas—might derail that path. TerKeurst explains how these diversions can lead us to discover better opportunities and deeper fulfillment than we ever anticipated.

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A strong case study presented in this chapter comes from the story of a woman named Emily, who felt a deep call towards humanitarian work. At first, she resisted this calling, insisting on pursuing a more traditional career path which, according to her, was more stable and secure. After several years of dissatisfaction in her job, she encountered a chance opportunity to volunteer in a struggle-torn country.

Emily's 'yes' to God's calling ignited her passion for helping others, directly aligning with the Scriptures that emphasize service and love for our neighbor. By trusting God's plan over her own ambitions, Emily not only found profound joy but also drastically changed the lives of those she worked with, emphasizing the ripple effect of saying 'yes' to God.

Furthermore, TerKeurst outlines the essence of prayer and reflection as vital components of understanding God's plan. She notes that when we actively engage with God through prayer, we start to see a clearer picture of our purpose. It's in these quiet moments that we receive guidance from the Holy Spirit, who illuminates the path ahead and reassures us that we are never alone in our journey.

The chapter also explores the emotional struggle women may face when trying to trust God fully. TerKeurst shares her own experiences of anxiety and doubt, correlating them with the common fears that many women



experience when contemplating significant life changes. This candidness is both relatable and reassuring, as it illustrates that even the most faithful can experience hesitation. The beauty in this vulnerability is that it allows others to connect and find solace in common struggles—demonstrating that the journey of trusting God is indeed a shared one.

One of TerKeurst's essential messages is that God's plan often requires patience and perseverance. Just as a seed does not grow overnight, so too do our plans with God take time to manifest. This journey can be daunting, but trusting that God is working on our behalf can provide us with strength to continue, even when immediate results are not visible.

In conclusion, Chapter 1 of "What Happens When Women Say Yes To God" is a powerful exploration of the necessity and impact of trusting in God's plan. Lysa TerKeurst encourages readers to embrace their unique journey, reminding them that God's plans are always good and ultimately better than anything we could engineer on our own. This chapter sets the tone for the transformational journey that awaits those willing to say 'yes' to God, promising that trust in Him leads to a life richly filled with purpose, fulfillment, and divine joy.

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3. Chapter 2: Opening Your Heart to God's Calling and Purpose

In Chapter 2 of "What Happens When Women Say Yes to God", Lysa Terkeurst delves into the profound importance of opening our hearts to the calling and purpose that God has for each of us. This chapter is pivotal as it lays the groundwork for understanding that God has a unique plan for every woman and encourages readers to embrace that purpose with an open heart.

Lysa begins by emphasizing that opening our hearts to God's calling starts with a willingness to listen and to be attuned to His voice. She shares her personal experiences, illustrating how moments of vulnerability and surrender led her to recognize God's nudges in her life. It is through these moments that God reveals to us what we are called to do—not only for our own growth but also for the service of others within our communities.

One of the core messages Lysa conveys is that often we may feel unworthy or ill-equipped for the tasks God sets before us. She reflects on times when she felt overwhelmed by the enormity of God's purpose, comparing it to a parable from the Bible where God calls a seemingly ordinary person to perform extraordinary tasks. The essence of this realization is that God does not see us the way we see ourselves. He sees our potential and the opportunities for growth and impact that lie within us.



To concretize this idea, Lysa shares stories of women who have answered God's call in various capacities, from ministry to community service, showcasing that sometimes God's call comes during challenging life transitions or unexpected circumstances. One example she illustrates is of a woman who felt called to start a local support group for women battling addiction. Initially, this woman doubted her qualifications, but when she said yes to God and opened her heart to this calling, her life—and the lives of many others—changed dramatically. This narrative reinforces the notion that God equips us for what He calls us to do.

Lysa also highlights the importance of community in embracing God's purpose. She points out that opening our hearts often requires the support and encouragement of other believers. Through fellowship, we find affirmation and strength to follow through with the paths laid out for us. She encourages readers to seek out their spiritual communities when grappling with their calling, engaging in prayer, and sharing their uncertainties.

As this chapter unfolds, we're invited to reflect on our personal experiences and what God might be calling us to do. Lysa prompts us to consider practical questions: What burdens weigh heavy on our hearts? What injustices stir us into action? These reflections serve as clues to uncover God's purpose for our lives.

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Furthermore, Lysa adds an insightful layer by discussing how our past experiences, even the painful ones, contribute to our readiness to fulfill God's calling. Our struggles can become our testimony, and through them, we can reach out to help others who find themselves in similar situations. This transformative perspective allows women to view their life events—not as obstacles but as stepping stones necessary for their unique journey toward fulfilling God's purpose.

In concluding the chapter, Lysa calls upon readers to take a leap of faith and step towards what God has called them to do. She employs powerful biblical encouragement, reminding us that God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called. Saying yes to God is not characterized by our perfection but by our willingness to trust in His plan and embark on the adventure He has for each of us. By opening our hearts to God's calling, we embrace a journey full of hope, possibilities, and a deeper understanding of our place in the world.

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4. Chapter 3: Recognizing and Overcoming Fears That Hold Us Back from God

In Chapter 3 of Lysa TerKeurst's "What Happens When Women Say Yes to God," the focus shifts to an often overlooked yet critical component of our spiritual journey—fears that can stall our relationship with God. TerKeurst asserts that recognizing these fears is the first step to overcoming them, allowing us to embrace the full invitation of God's call on our lives.

Fear can manifest in various forms, from anxiety about the unknown to dread of failure. TerKeurst highlights that these fears are not unique but rather universal, affecting women from all walks of life. She explains that fears can prevent us from responding to God's prompts, leading us to miss out on fulfilling experiences and divine appointments. For many women, the fear of inadequacy looms large. They worry about whether they have the skills, resources, or inner strength to meet God's expectations. This fear can be debilitating, leading to a paralyzing effect that keeps us from stepping out in faith.

In the text, TerKeurst uses powerful personal anecdotes to illustrate her points. For example, she recounts a time when she felt called to lead a women's group but was overwhelmed by self-doubt. The thought of leading discussions and guiding others felt intimidating, and she questioned her ability to fulfill such a responsibility. However, through prayer and



reflection, she realized that her fear stemmed from focusing on her limitations rather than trusting in God's provision. This pivotal moment became a learning opportunity—she learned that God equips those He calls, and embracing that truth can liberate one from the chains of fear.

Moreover, TerKeurst emphasizes that fear often arises from a lack of clarity about God's promises. Women may question the reliability of these promises, leading to further hesitation in saying yes to God's calls. She illustrates this with the story of a woman who feared her children would face hardships if she accepted a call to serve in her church. That fear blinded her to the potential blessings that could come from obedience. TerKeurst encourages readers to reframe their fears; instead of allowing them to dictate decisions, we should confront them with God's truth about His faithfulness and love. This perspective shift is crucial in dismantling the stronghold fears have over lives.

Additionally, TerKeurst reminds readers of the importance of community in overcoming fear. She suggests that sharing fears with trusted friends can lead to support and encouragement rather than isolation. With a collective voice, women can pray, strategize, and step forward in faith together. Her narrative weaves a beautiful tapestry of community—how it can serve as a God-given resource to confront fears and step boldly into service and purpose.

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Next, she delves into practical strategies for overcoming fear, including journaling one's fears versus one's aspirations and faith statements. This exercise helps in capturing thoughts and allowing one to examine the roots of their apprehensions. In this way, writing becomes a cathartic act of releasing fears, which in turn illuminates paths to respond to God's prompting.

Ultimately, TerKeurst's message in this chapter is one of hope and empowerment. She reassures her readers that while fear may always be present, it does not have to drive decisions. By fostering a robust connection with God, anchoring our identities in His truth, and embracing the strength found in community, we can confidently move through the haze of fear into the clarity of obedience and purpose. Just like she encourages others to do, TerKeurst invites us to take that crucial step of faith—acknowledging our fears but not allowing them to dictate our response to God's call.

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5. Chapter 4: The Joy and Freedom Found in Obedience to God

In Chapter 4 of "What Happens When Women Say Yes To God," Lysa Terkeurst delves into the profound joy and freedom that arise from obedience to God. This chapter emphasizes that true liberation and fulfillment are found not in resisting divine guidance but in surrendering to it.

Lysa underscores the idea that obedience is not merely about following rules but embracing God's call with a willing heart. She illustrates this by discussing how obedience leads women to discover their unique paths, revealing that God's plans are always more remarkable than anything we can imagine. In moments of doubt or hesitation, Lysa encourages readers to reflect on the stories of biblical figures who experienced incredible transformations through their willingness to follow God's commands.

An example she presents is that of Mary, the mother of Jesus. When the angel Gabriel asked her to bear the Son of God, she faced immense societal pressure and personal uncertainty. Yet her response, "I am the Lord's servant," encapsulated her obedience and trust in God's plan. As a result, Mary experienced overwhelming joy in her purpose and significant freedom from the weight of societal expectations and fear of inadequacy. Through her obedience, Mary not only changed the course of her life but also the



trajectory of humanity.

Lysa also discusses the misconceptions surrounding obedience. Many believe it will limit their lives, instilling a sense of fear about losing control. However, she argues that true freedom comes from aligning one's life with God's will. When we say yes to God, we relinquish our worries about perfection and future outcomes. Instead, we trust that our obedience will unfold into something beautiful, even if we cannot understand the entirety of the picture at the moment.

Furthermore, Lysa shares her own experiences of saying yes to God, which often involved stepping out of her comfort zone. She recounts the moment she felt called to write a book and the fears that accompanied it. Initially, she battled thoughts of unworthiness and insecurity. However, as she began to obey this calling, she found joy in the creative process and connected with countless women through her words. Her journey resulted in not only personal growth but also contribution to a larger community of faith.

The chapter also encourages readers to assess their own lives and consider areas where they might feel called to obedience. Lysa affirms that the journey may not always be easy, but it guarantees spiritual growth and deeper intimacy with God. She invites her audience to pray for clarity in hearing God's voice and to act courageously in faith.

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In essence, Chapter 4 crystallizes the belief that obedience is not about restriction but about liberation. Women are encouraged to embrace their roles within the tapestry of God's purpose, discovering that the act of saying yes leads to a life of joy and freedom that far exceeds their expectations. Through obedient hearts, women can unlock opportunities for personal growth, service, and community that manifest the true power of faith in action.

Overall, the chapter serves as a compelling affirmation that when women say yes to God, they embark on a journey that liberates them to experience life in its fullest form, instilling joy and purpose in every obedience they undertake.

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6. Conclusion: Living a Life Rich in Spiritual Fulfillment Through Yes to God

In conclusion, embracing a life characterized by an unwavering "Yes to God" is not merely an act of submission; it is an invitation to a richer and more fulfilling spiritual journey. Throughout "What Happens When Women Say Yes To God," Lysa Terkeurst illuminates the transformative power of saying yes to the divine call that permeates our lives. This commitment cultivates a profound connection with God and fosters personal growth, resilience, and joy.

Living a life full of spiritual fulfillment through saying yes to God requires a conscious decision to trust in His plans, aligning our will with His. This mutual relationship is akin to that between a gardener and their garden. Just as a gardener tends to each plant, nurturing it according to its unique needs, so does God lovingly guide us toward our purpose, encouraging us to blossom in ways we may not initially comprehend. When we say yes to God, we are surrendering our fears and uncertainties, opening ourselves to experiences that may go beyond our limited understanding. Through this surrender, we cultivate faith, much like a seed nurtured by rain and sunlight, allowing us to flourish spiritually.

One of the key messages Terkeurst emphasizes is that obedience leads to freedom. Women are often burdened by societal expectations and their own

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self-doubt, leading to a resistance to fully embrace God's call. However, as illustrated in the book, the act of obedience to God liberates us from these shackles. When we step forward and trust God, despite our fears, we often witness miraculous changes in our lives. For instance, consider the story of a woman who felt an internal nudge to start a ministry for young mothers but struggled with feelings of inadequacy. After much prayer and contemplation, she decided to say yes to this calling. She stepped out in faith, organizing gatherings that not only supported her own spiritual growth but also fostered nurturing relationships among the women in her community. The fruit of her obedience was a vibrant ministry that transformed lives, including her own.

Saying yes to God doesn't mean that challenges will cease. On the contrary, stepping onto this fulfilling path can sometimes lead us through trials.

However, as Terkeurst beautifully describes, these challenges are not ends in themselves but rather opportunities for deeper connection with God. They are moments that serve to refine us, much like gold being refined by fire. Through our struggles, we develop resilience and depend on God's strength when our own falters. The process of saying yes thus becomes a cycle of learning and growth, where each affirmation deepens our faith and spirituality.

Moreover, living a life rich in spiritual fulfillment encourages communal connections. By saying yes, we often inspire others to embark on similar

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paths. This ripple effect can be seen in small groups at church, where individual commitments to God encourage collective growth. Testimonies shared among women can uplift and strengthen faith, creating a supportive environment ripe for spiritual exploration.

Ultimately, saying yes to God is an intentional act that leads us toward a life imbued with purpose, joy, and spiritual depth. As we align our choices with God's will, we experience profound fulfillment that transcends mere happiness or success. It is a life where love, grace, and understanding abound, allowing us to serve others and faithfully live our calling.

Thus, "What Happens When Women Say Yes To God" invites all women (and indeed, all believers) to reflect on their relationship with God and the transformative power of acceptance. Embracing a lifestyle of saying yes permeates every aspect of our lives, leading to a continuous cycle of growth, joy, and enrichment in our spiritual journey, and ultimately, true fulfillment is found in the depths of our agreement with God's plan.

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