

Deep Waters:
Lift Your Gaze
30-Day Devotional

KIM M. CLARK

Deep Waters: Lift Your Gaze 30-Day Devotional
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Endorsements

“No one is immune from trials, suffering, and temptation. In times of trials and life’s challenges, most of us tend to look in wrong directions: around, behind, or within. We sometimes bury ourselves in tiny self-pity pits—a situation or attitude that just worsens our suffering or trial. Kim M. Clark in her *Deep Waters: Lift Your Gaze 30-Day Devotional* has done an excellent job of exhorting readers to look up to God in each and every situation in their lives. I strongly believe this is a wonderful biblical antidote against any form of discouragement. Thank you, Kim, for this biblical and practical devotional.”

~ Zicky Chanda

Director, Lighthouse Christian School, Zambia, Africa

“I love this simple, easy-to-read devotional where Kim M. Clark openly shares her walk with the Lord and clearly illustrates how the Lord wants to be a part of our everyday life. A definite encouragement to keep my eyes on Him!”

~ Pastor Karen Hanson

New Hope Church, Palm Harbor, Florida

“Kim M. Clark’s award-winning devotional is an encouraging read. It helps us get through each day. I praise God for Kim’s transparency and how our great God has changed her life and can change our lives as well!”

~ Ruth Strait

*Prayer Minister, Board Trustee, Equip Care Ministries
Director, Equip Academy/ Chesapeake Bible College
& Seminary*

“Kim M. Clark’s *Deep Waters: Lift Your Gaze 30-Day Devotional* is clearly written from the heart, for the hearts of those needing an anchor of the Father’s hope.”

~ Lieutenant Commander Darrel Rewis

*Chaplain, US Navy
Director of Spiritual Resiliency at Warfighter Advance
Group Life Pastor at First Baptist Orlando*

Dedication

I lovingly dedicate this book to my husband and best friend,
who is faithful even through our deepest waters and
repeatedly encourages me to lift my gaze
to my Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.

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The First Sip

WEARY? ANGRY? DEPRESSED? I get it. With you in mind, I created this 30-day devotional to support my inspirational book, *Deep Waters: Lift Your Gaze*. This devotional can be used as a stand-alone source of hope, grace, and healing for you or your loved ones.

My prayer is that these devotions will bless you with a deluge of God's living waters, giving you the energy and strength to make it through *this* moment of your trial.

As you are going through your firestorm, I believe the Lord will tell you the same thing he told me: "Eyes on me."

When I gazed into Jesus' glistening eyes, rather pools of life, I absorbed the depth of his unfathomable love for me—and yes, for you as well. After I grasped the well-worn yet supple handle of the Sword of the Spirit, the hot spiritual ash spewing from my suffering no longer singed my body, the smell of the furnace left me, and my hair stopped

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swirling around as a sense of peace that transcended all understanding cascaded over me.

His voice pierced my heart: “Lift your gaze as you go through these deep waters, my beloved. I have this and I have you. I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

I pray that the words from this book are a healing salve to the parched areas of your heart, and that you are filled to overflowing with love, mercy, and grace. I beseech God that the forty-five-degree tilt in your vision is effortless as you lift your gaze from the deep waters of your affliction to your amazing, all-powerful, and all-knowing God.

In Jesus’ precious name, I pray.

Amen.

Lift Your Gaze

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

(Psalm 139:2)

“**L**IFT YOUR GAZE.” The Lord’s words penetrated my heart.

Despite the sun-drenched white sandy beach of my surroundings, I once again yearned for peace, calmness, and grace in the middle of my spiritual storm. Looking out over the endless blue sea, I pondered how sweet it would be to see dolphins playing once again in the surf.

I prayed silently, “God, is it too presumptuous to ask you to bring dolphins like you did last time? I could really use another reminder of the joy in your creation.”

As soon as I finished my prayer, an entire school of dolphins were squealing and jumping with joy in the waves. The people around me on the beach shot quizzical looks as

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I belly-laughed, watching these jubilant creatures delight in the ocean waters that God holds in the palm of his hand.

“You did it again, Lord,” I murmured as I looked upward, lost in wonder at the sky’s limitless expanse. “*Thank you.*”

Dear Lord, bless those who are reading this now, especially those of us who need to lift our gaze to you. Help us find comfort in your omniscience; you know our thoughts before we even form them. Draw our focus to the beauty of your creation. Fill us with your Spirit. Breathe on us. Give us your joy amid our suffering.

In Jesus’ precious name, I pray.

Amen.

DAY 2

Knowledge of Whom You Pray To

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

(Hebrews 11:1)

DO WE *REALLY* know our God? The Bible tells us he is our Father, Provider, Healer, Comforter, King, Judge, Kinsman Redeemer, and so much more. But when despair hits in the form of health problems, death, divorce, or financial devastation, the very foundation of our faith quakes.

After I prayed through my lack of faith in times of suffering, the Lord spoke to my heart, “It isn’t the size of your faith that is important. Rather it is the understanding and knowledge of *whom* you pray to.”

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Then I saw a vision of a foggy path. I could see only the steppingstone right in front of me. The mist of the unseen further fueled my anxiety. The path was hidden until I firmly took a step of faith and stood on the next stone. Peace eluded me until I lifted my gaze to where my help came from, my God. For whatever I focused on got bigger. If I focused on my suffering, then it eclipsed my God. If my eyes were on my God, then he became bigger than my suffering. Looking upward, I sighed in relief and prayed for the grace to keep my gaze affixed on my problem-solver, not on my problems.

Dear God, give us enough faith so that our focus is always on you, the assurance of things hoped for, and your promises that are not yet visible. Let us not be overly concerned with our suffering that we lose sight of you, the author and perfecter of our faith. Remind us daily that NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE for you, our great and amazing GOD.

In Jesus' precious name, I pray.
Amen.