



Own Your Life: Living with Deep Intention, Bold Faith, and Generous Love

Sally Clarkson , Sarah Mae (Foreword) , Angela Perritt (Foreword) , Ruth Schwenk (Foreword)

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Do you ever long for days full of joy and energy—days that bring out the best version of you rather than leave you exhausted? Do you sometimes catch yourself wishing life was more impactful and fulfilling? In a world that's moving so fast, it's easy to lose your sense of purpose. So now is the time to make each moment of your ordinary, everyday, beautiful existence count. It's time to own your life.

Sally Clarkson's *Own Your Life* is a breath of fresh air into the life and soul of a busy woman. Like a faithful friend, Sally journeys with you to explore what it means to live meaningfully, follow God truly, and bring much-needed order to your chaos. Each page offers deeply personal, authentic, and practical guidance to help you build an intentional life. Discover what it means to own your life, and dare to trust God's hands as He richly shapes your character, family, work, and soul.

Own Your Life: Living with Deep Intention, Bold Faith, and Generous Love Details

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From Reader Review Own Your Life: Living with Deep Intention, Bold Faith, and Generous Love for online ebook

A.C. Cuddy says

God has made you with the capacity to live courageously, to have great faith, and to become a person of influence. Will you follow hard after Him and live into your potential? Will you choose today to own your life?

Learn to live each day with spiritual intention—and see how your moment-by-moment decisions add up to a breathtaking life story that shines with God’s love. You’ll come alive with confidence, energy, and purpose as you discover His fingerprints in your most ordinary days. Your life will become a lasting legacy that points others to Him—and He will honor your decisions beyond what you ever imagined.”

“What will be the legacy of your life? What story will the day of your life tell? Will you invest your life for eternity, or spend it, wasting the days on things that do not matter, on issues that will quickly fade away?” (Page xv) Those are the first words in the opening of this book and they are powerful. They are the words that challenged the author, Sally Clarkson, all those years ago. They are the basis for this thought-provoking book, a book written to challenge you to ponder your life, and own it. Own and take responsibility for your own behavior, decisions, and attitudes.

In these 200+ pages, the author walks us through our ownership of our life, our visions, giving control of our life to God and then partnering with Him as He transforms our attitudes and actions, and finally owning our life by loving well and creating a lasting legacy. This book filled with so much wisdom and truth. It is a must read, not just a read... but also a study.

Visit the author’s website at: www.SallyClarkson.com

*Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book from Tyndale House Publisher, in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

*Reviews of this book were posted at the following locations:
Amazon, Christian Book, Deeper Shopping, Goodreads, and to be featured on my blog at
<http://titus3.wordpress.com>

Lucille Zimmerman says

A book filled with wise advise and wonderful stories. Sally is an inspiration.

Misti says

Read at just the right season of my life as we RV traveled. A keeper of a book to read again. Sally is like a kindred spirit friend with her thoughts in this book. I haven't enjoyed her other writings nearly as much as I

did this one.

Sara says

Much to love. Some that is irksome.

Kara says

I'm only about 1/3 through this book and I think I'm going to put it down for now. It's just too touchy-feely for me. A lot of stories with a lot of elaborate fluffy details, and with my ADD brain I simply lose focus. I think Sally is a wonderful Christian woman and I'm sure her words touch many women. But for me, the style of the writing simply isn't holding my attention at this time in my life. I don't doubt, however, that many women would give this 5 stars and surely enjoy it and feel challenged by it.

Catie says

I love Sally Clarkson. The end.

For real, though. This, in my opinion, was her most "real" book. She shares her struggles and weaknesses. She's usually pretty idealistic (one of the things I love about her!) but it seemed like in this book, she really got down to the heart of the matter(s).

One thing I love about Sally is her constant devotion to the Lord and her ability to take any issue and encourage you to surrender it to Jesus.

I would love to sit down and have coffee with this women, but I'm pretty sure I'll have to wait until we get to Heaven. ;o)

Elaine says

Sally Clarkson is always wonderful and this book is no exception!

Hope says

This is the second Sally Clarkson book I've read. I admire Clarkson's life and ministry, but can't seem to connect to her via her books. The chapter that made this book worth the effort, though, was the one on the high cost of loving. One thing off-putting about this book is that the many examples she gives from her own life come off as bragging, which I'm sure was never her intention.

Juanita says

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through Tyndale House book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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Own Your Life: Living with Deep Intention, Bold Faith, and Generous Love
by Sally Clarkson

"If you've ever wondered what a life well lived looks like, you'll find the secret be-tween the pages of this book." —Lisa-Jo Baker
God has made you with the capacity to live courageously, to have great faith, and to become a person of influence. Will you follow hard after Him and live into your potential? Will you choose today to own your life?

Sally Clarkson has raised her family, ministered around the world, and mentored countless women with this soul-resounding message. And in Own Your Life, she brings it straight to your heart. If your days seem filled with stresses, challenges, and difficulties . . . if you long to feel God's blessing but instead fear you're drifting away from Him . . . this book is the breath of spiritual oxygen you need.

It's time to own your life.

Learn to live each day with spiritual intention—and see how your moment-by-moment decisions add up to a breathtaking life story that shines with God's love. You'll come alive with confidence, energy, and purpose as you discover His finger-prints in your most ordinary days. Your life will become a lasting legacy that points others to Him—and He will honor your decisions beyond what you ever imagined.

About the Author

Sally Clarkson co-founded and has served as the women's ministry director of Whole Heart Ministries with her husband, Clay, since 1994. As a conference speaker, author of eleven popular books, and ministry leader, she has helped countless Christian parents build life-giving homes and raise wholehearted children for Christ.

—This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Own Your Life how we can take responsibility for different areas of our life, while still allowing God to work in them. Sally Clarkson has filled each chapter with something we can own and take care of on our own. Each chapter shows us what our parts are in our own lives. This book enables all to see what areas they can work on in their life and what they can do to keep on the path to God's Kingdom.

Countless times I have come across books that speak to me at just the right time in my life, when I need the contents and messages it has for me. This book has done just that, it has spoken to me at the right time in

areas where I need it most. Even the people mentioned in the book spoke to my own life, such as the son's name being similar to my own son's name. I found a wealth of valuable information on how to make a home a home (I would like the Sally Clarkson to write a book titled "Home" which would deal exclusively with how to make a home a home in detail.). I also discovered valuable nuggets dealing with being a mom and a wife. There can be a lot of information relating to love in more than just one section. Love is the greatest commandment.

Each chapter starts off with a quote and a scripture verse relating to the chapter's content. The content of the chapter holds examples/experiences from the author's own life as well as from Biblical events. Towards the end of each chapter there are suggestions and questions of things the reader can ask themselves and do to progress in that specific area. After the questions there is a prayer that the author prays with the reader. For each prayer I made it personal and changed all the "us" to "me" or "I". I found Own Your Life to be exceptionally powerful!

I highly recommend Own Your Life to all!

Holly says

I have read all of the Clarkson family's books. . .Clay's, Sally's, and Sarah's. I have been to multiple mom's conferences both in Colorado and Texas and have heard them speak. I have attended their seminars at homeschooling conferences. I subscribe to their newsletter and read their blogs. So, when I saw that Sally was publishing yet another book I wasn't particularly enthused, not because I don't adore the message of the Clarkson family, but because I thought, "I've heard all the stories and I know their party line, what could this book possibly be but the same message and anecdotes with a new cover?" Honestly, I didn't even plan to buy it, but a friend of mine surprised me by sending me a copy, so of course I had to actually READ it right away.

Was I right in my pre-judgement? Yes, and no.

If you have never read the Clarksons, then this book will fly you over their primary messages, so in that regard I was correct. The book has chapters that are Cliff's Notes versions of some of their full-length books (or series) on the chapters' topics at hand and I would urge you to read those books if the chapters even remotely whetted your appetites. (Seasons of a Mother's Heart is the book I have given as a gift more often than any other book, always to rave reviews from the recipients; second to this is The Mission of Motherhood and Heartfelt Discipline, a book that has gotten less press, but is very poignant.)

For the "No" side of this answer, the anecdotes are fresh and raw and so REAL. I was hungry to peek into Sally's life and struggles and find my own similar struggles there. Also, she covers materials that I have hardly ever known her to touch on (marriage struggles, end of life issues), but that are more important to me as I, too, age. So, much of the book was a revelation for even old-hands like myself.

I am 44 years old, have homeschooled for 18 years, and now have my first grandchild and I have felt like every step of my life since I decided to leave law school to bring my then only-child to Kindergarten at home has been like that of an explorer hacking through the jungle with a machete. Titus 2 women were not clamoring to my side, begging to mentor me in biblical home discipleship. I was either utterly on my own and clueless, or bombarded by church ladies and gents telling me that I was wrong, wrong, a thousand times

wrong about my choices to be a stay-at-home, homeschooling mama. I had "formula books" rammed at me and was severely rebuked when following the formulas contained within (God's way, of course!) weren't "working." Guilt. Shame. Blame. Loneliness. Fear.

I had one woman with children just a few years older than my own who was one step ahead of me on this homeschooling journey turn around, reach out to me, and show me the steps she'd taken to ease MY way forward. The few years we lived in the same town with her built me up tremendously. In 18 years ONE woman at church looked on me with compassion as she was herself crawling out of the other side of the Slough of Despond. ONE!

The older women in the church were feminists, career women, successful in worldly ambitions and pursuits and goods and too quick to condemn anybody doing anything different from the way THEY had done it. There WERE no Titus 2 women to be found, which is why Sally is so important to me and an entire generation of mothers. Her books, seminars, blog posts and newsletters are as folksy, and as personal as a "mass media" mentorship could possibly be and in the absence of one-on-one, face-to-face discipleship, the very best a distraught and lonely mama could have to encourage her to mop up one more mess and read one more bedtime story. More than anyone else, Sally got me through--is still getting me through, now that you mention it--I am still homeschooling my two youngest children.

I spent a few months last year caring for my dying mother in Oklahoma and was with her when she died. The night I returned to Colorado after delivering her eulogy in Texas, I rushed to be present for the home-birth of my first grandchild. This began a new season in my life. The bitter heartbreak of death and the thrilling hope of new life all in a day. It wasn't my first funeral or eulogy: besides various loved ones I have buried two of my own children. It certainly wasn't my first birth; I have had the privilege of being present for many babies making their debuts. Yet, burying my own mother and watching my granddaughter take her first breath with me as the middle-woman in this generational story, made me certain that I urgently needed to OWN MY LIFE.

And this is how Sally's book ends; with an urgent plea to make your life count for time and eternity, whether you fill stadiums for gospel rallies, or whether you are a godly grandmother whose biggest evangelistic "rally" is playing marbles with the neighborhood children and making them cookies and telling them stories about Jesus. . .take responsibility for ever moment and actively LIVE!

Ginny says

The chapters in this book have been read and reread as I worked my way through it. The overall theme for this book is being a good steward of the life we are given. My biggest take-aways are simple ones--seek God daily and consider where He leads today. Don't wait for life circumstances to change to do the things God calls you to today. In all things, love others with God's love.

Jenny Carr says

Like all Sally's books encouraging read, and some helpful prompts in there, too about making the most of time, and especially the time we have with our children, and family.
One thing that I really did not like, though was the quote she headed a chapter with from a former Pope. I

would be wary of this, as to some they might think it justifies Roman Catholicism. I see the Pope as a Spiritual apostate, and not a Christian. However, having said this, she never every justifies works based religion in her books. I feel I would be wrong not to mention this.

Ashley says

As a book, it was okay. A lot of imagery and flowery writing that I could've done without. But I felt like the title (of the book and the sections) didn't match the content. It was more like "Own Your Faith". The answer for pretty much every problem presented was "read your Bible, pray, have more faith". And I lost count of how many times the author mentioned "the countless books and conferences our ministry has produced". I know many women are loving this book, but it severely missed the mark for me and was not what I expected. The only reason I finished it was because I received it from the published in exchange for a review.

Catherine Gillespie says

Clarkson delves deeply into the tension between valuing productivity and valuing relationship. The two need not be mutually exclusive, of course, but in our culture efficiency is greatly prized and busyness is often equated with meaning, so you really have to be deliberate to prioritize engagement and encouragement. She notes that when you're preoccupied with working on something, giving a passive "uh-huh" rather than making eye contact, you aren't really fooling anyone, and miss the chance to build into the person seeking your attention. Obviously you have to get the work done sometimes, but her thoughts on being more deliberate and careful about how I connect—especially with my kids—really resonated with me.

Another contrast that struck me was between chaos and gentleness. Clarkson doesn't explicitly make that comparison, but her points about identifying and eliminating the sources of chaos in our days, and then considering how gentle responses are more encouraging and loving seemed like a connection to me. I know that in my life it's the moments of havoc that lead to my drill sergeant moments when I'm yelling orders and herding the cats kids, usually completely overlooking someone's need for grace or encouragement. I still have a ways to go with this, but seeing the connection between eliminating chaos to make room for calm gentleness was a needed reminder for me.

{Read my full review here}

Update: I read this book again in 2016 and had a different take: <http://aspiritedmind.com/2016/06/purp...>

Joy says

Lots of practical tips on Christian living from this book. A reminder that God often does not work with the most qualified, but with the most available. We had lots of things to agree on (1) "My mother-in-law is no Naomi." (2) instrumental guitar music (3) always sit in front of a window (4) convinced that gratefulness is a life-changer (5) a friend-oriented person (6) spending time in the Word of God (7) homeschooling (8) having no curtains on my bedroom windows so I can enjoy morning light.

More gems:

"Begin by identifying the drains and sources of chaos that steal our spiritual and emotional energy."

"In the absence of biblical convictions, people will go the way of culture."

"God has filled the world with potential pleasures."

*I meet very few women who seem exemplary of character and soul, whose lives challenge me to be more excellent."
