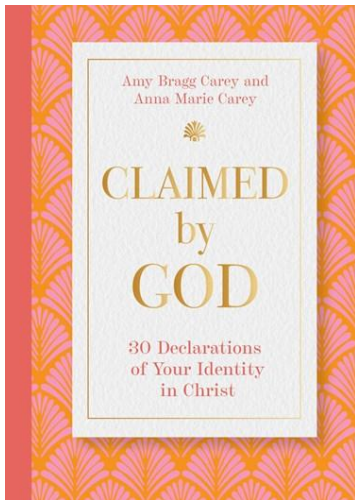




## EXCERPT



### ***Claimed by God*** ***Thirty Declarations of Your Identity in Christ***

August 25, 2026 | \$19.99, 136 pages, hardcover | 978-1-5140-1456-1

*Claimed by God helps you remember your identity as a daughter of God through thirty statements about the joy, confidence, and hope that God has instilled in you. These declarations are grounded in Scripture and supported by guided prayers that fuel your assurance, strength, and gratitude for God's unchanging love. Together they enable you to believe beyond what you can see in front of you.*

## Embrace Your Identity as a Child of God

We are royal daughters of the King. Intricately formed by our Creator. Beloved friends of Jesus. But we haven't always lived as though we believe it.

At times we have let self-doubt convince us we are exempt from the love of the Father. We have let guilt and shame unravel our confidence. We have let fear distract us from our God-given purposes. And we have let oppressive hopelessness keep us from the fullness of life.

Yet Scripture confirms we are God's own children (1 John 3:1), created in his image (Genesis 1:27). We have a God ordained purpose (Romans 12:4-5). We don't need to give in to anxiety (Philippians 4:6-7) because we are filled with hope (Romans 5:3-5). We are offered freedom through the Lord's grace (Romans 6:14) and are unconditionally loved (John 3:16).

What would our lives look like if we wholeheartedly believed these truths? What would our world look like if we all embraced our identity as children of God?

It would look like abundant generosity and kindness. It would look like deep-rooted trust and assurance in the midst of difficulty. It would be filled with people slow to judge and quick to forgive. It would look like authentic community, with distinct gifts and talents, working in unison toward a restorative kingdom purpose. It would be led by innovators and leaders who rely on God's miraculous and creative resources.

It would look like a little more of heaven on earth.

It's this hopeful portrait of a renewed earth, propelled by restored identity, that inspired the writing of this book.

But the reality is that the world is facing an identity crisis. To be known and loved sits at the core of every individual's desire, but the solution to that heart cry is constantly being distorted. We are inundated with promotional messages that dictate who we should or shouldn't be. Social media sells us aspirational relationships, unsatisfying mantras, and impossible beauty standards. Commercials convince us to improve ourselves with useless products or short-lived fashion trends. Our careers promote wealth and busyness as keys to true success. Critical comments reveal our deepest insecurities. People are becoming so informed by the world that they are forgetting they were first formed by the Creator of the world.

As Amy engages with students through her work in higher education and Anna mentors young volunteers at her church, we've seen this crisis up close and personal. Plus we've each had our own roundabout journeys in reconnecting with the person God has called us to be. Perhaps God gave us this front row seat so that we could encourage people to move back toward their Maker. Perhaps we went through our own personal crises so that we could share our inspired testimonies.

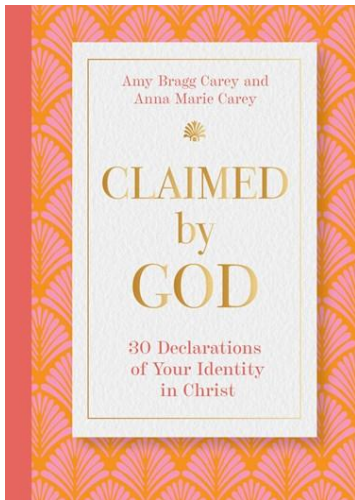


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Both of us, at different points in our faith journeys, were gifted a printout from friends and mentors Michael and Cathy Wise. Dr. Michael Wise is a biblical scholar and expert on the Dead Sea Scrolls who, alongside his wife, Cathy, hosts Bible studies for hundreds of believers at his church. They compiled, in the document they gave us, various biblical truths and Scripture references related to who we are, what we're promised, who God is, and what our future holds. These declarative statements made God's Word feel active and applicable. They were instrumental to each of us as we stumbled our way back to our God-given identity and calling. We tucked the documents into our bedside tables and typed the phrases onto our phones so we could reread them often. Sometimes we found ourselves proclaiming the truth we needed to hear most, before we saw evidence of it in our lives. But over time our hearts and minds started to align more closely with God's intended design for our lives.

The Bible is full of these declarative statements. But it's one thing to memorize them in a Sunday school class and another thing to actually let them permeate our thoughts and actions. Scripture is a reflection of God's own heart. It holds power. It is meant to literally jump off the page and come alive within us. This requires us to go beyond just knowing that God's Word is true, to living as though it is true.

That is where this book comes in!

While not the same list we received from the Wises, this book is influenced by some of the key things we learned about being children of God. These identity statements are reminders of the joy, confidence, and hope that God has instilled in us. Sure, our circumstances may not always seem joyful, confident, and hopeful; we may not always feel strong and assured, but that's why these statements are considered declarations. They encourage us to believe beyond what we see in front of us and align us with God's will for our lives.

Proverbs 18:21 says, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit" (NIV). This is a profound reminder that our words are powerful. With biting words we can cut someone down. With uplifting words we can inspire someone we love. Our words don't just hang in midair; they spark action, they shape beliefs and opinions. Therefore, the words we speak over ourselves and our lives matter. Especially in a world prone to insult, unkindness, and incivility, we need to refresh our hearts, minds, and spirits with lifegiving words that reflect God's promises

—taken from the introduction

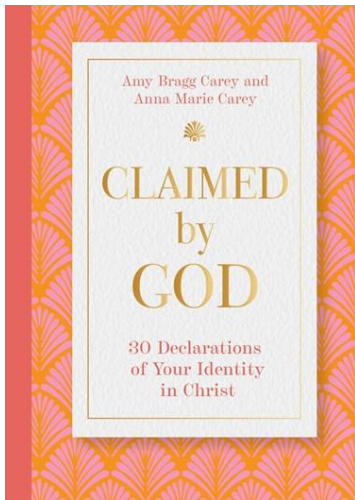


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## Q & A



### ***Claimed by God***

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**Amy Bragg Carey** (EdD, Azusa Pacific) is the president of Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. She serves on the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities board and the International Friends Missions board. Amy lives in Kansas with her husband Bryan.

**Anna Marie Carey** (BS, University of Northwestern, St. Paul) is a songwriter, copywriter, and video producer. She is also the worship director at The Gathering Community Church in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. Anna lives in the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

## Declare God's Scriptural Promises Over Your Life

### **What motivated you to write *Claimed by God*?**

**Anna Marie Carey:** In working with younger generations, I have seen both young men and women struggle in their sense of identity and purpose. Insecurity is rampant. Self-deprecation is growing. Though I have always been a fairly confident person myself, I had seasons where I felt broken. I felt excluded from God's goodness and love, and that dictated how I lived my life, how I managed my relationships, and how I viewed God. When I came to a clearer understanding of God's unchanging love for me, having uniquely formed me, everything in my life changed. I began declaring God's promises over my life in difficult seasons and walked out the other side with newfound freedom and healing. I am eager to share my testimony with others and encourage them in their own journey of rediscovery of their identity in Christ.

**Amy Bragg Carey:** Working with young adults, I noticed hurt and challenges associated with striving for identity outside of our identity in Christ. It was my desire to take these negative narratives we have about ourselves and reframe them. Our culture, and those around us, seek to declare what's valuable and important, but these are often soul-crushing, not life-giving, leaving us disappointed. I wanted to write something accessible and affirming to declare our God-designed purpose and value. Additionally, the opportunity to write something with my daughter, who has so much to say to young women, was a motivation. Last, there's been many times in my life when I needed to remind myself that I am worthy of God's love, care, and protection.

### **What is your book about and what makes it distinctive?**

**Anna Marie:** God has not only uniquely formed each one of us, but continuously chooses us. We are beloved children of the King. Though, it doesn't always feel that way because the world tends to lie and tear us down. But when we look at what the Bible says about who God is and, as a result, who we are, we should approach life with confidence. *Claimed by God* gives readers a chance to not only reflect on their God-given purpose and identity but actually declare Scriptural promises and truths over themselves and their lives. These declarations are especially critical in times of doubt and insecurity. We declare what we have not fully lived out or walked through, knowing that God will be faithful to keep His promise to us!

**Amy:** *Claimed by God* helps us remember our God-given identity through thirty statements about the joy, confidence, and hope that God has instilled in us. What is distinctive about this book is that it includes declarations that are grounded in Scripture and supported by personal stories and guided prayers, which fuels assurance, strength, and gratitude for God's unchanging love. These accessible chapters will remind the reader who God says we are.

### **What are five main things you want readers to take away from your book?**

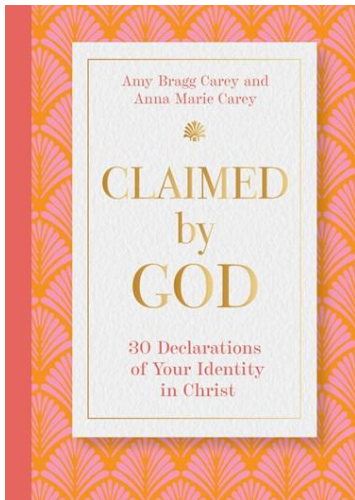


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#### **Anna Marie:**

1. You are a child of God—and that title can never be stripped away from you.
2. You are meant to live with a sense of hope, joy, and meaningful purpose.
3. With God, you can come just as you are, but you're not meant to stay there—God's transforming presence should change you.
4. God is not dictated by your circumstances or doubt—He is unchanging and His love for you is unchanging.
5. Step out in faith, trusting in what you don't fully understand or see—declare God's truth over your life even if you don't "feel" that it's true, and watch your perspective shift over time.

#### **Amy:**

1. First, that our identity is first and foremost in Christ.
2. Second, I hope the readers can identify with the challenging circumstances that Anna and I have faced and sense they are not alone in their challenges.
3. Third, that words matter, and by claiming these life-giving declarations readers will anchor themselves in God's amazing power, love, and care.
4. Fourth, is to encourage us to believe beyond what we feel.
5. Fifth, God's Scripture holds power. I hope these words of Scripture will come alive and make a difference in the life of the reader.



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