

*RECOGNIZING GOD...in Your Everyday Life by Kathy Boyd Blackwell. Real-life short stories from the author's everyday life. You will laugh, you might cry and most assuredly you will identify with Kathy. The mundane to the extraordinary, this is real-life and faith-based, and exemplifies how to discover and recognize God in all our moments. Scripture references included. A reminder of God's presence every day! For personal pleasure, small groups and discussion groups - a must read!*

## **Recognizing God... In Your Everyday**

**Order the complete book from**

**[Booklocker.com](http://www.booklocker.com)**

**<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/8665.html?s=pdf>**

**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**

**Enjoy your free excerpt below!**

*Recognizing*  
— GOD —  
*...In Your*  
EVERYDAY LIFE

**KATHY BOYD BLACKWELL**

A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy. The trees are dark and slender, and the sunlight creates a warm, golden glow in the background, illuminating the green leaves and the forest floor.

Copyright © 2016 Kathy Boyd Blackwell

ISBN: 978-1-63491-453-6

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Bradenton, Florida.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.  
2016

Second Edition

**Book One of the “Your Everyday Life” series.**

[www.youreyeverydaylifewithkathy.com](http://www.youreyeverydaylifewithkathy.com)

Email: [kathyboydblackwell@gmail.com](mailto:kathyboydblackwell@gmail.com)

# Table of Contents

<b>BEFORE YOU BEGIN .....</b>	<b>XIII</b>
#1 WILL YOU RECEIVE THE PRIZE? .....	1
#2 HAVE YOU HEARD TODAY'S FORECAST? .....	2
#3 WHAT ABOUT THE . . . "AND THEN SOME"?	3
#4 WISHING WILL NOT SET YOU <i>FREE!</i> .....	5
#5 WHAT IS YOUR STORY? .....	6
#6 ARE YOU WHAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO BE?.....	7
#7 FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON .....	9
#8 "YOU RAISE ME UP TO MORE THAN I CAN BE" .....	11
#9 YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE .....	12
#10 DOES THE "CHURCH" PUSH PEOPLE OUT .....	13
#11 ARE YOU THE SCOREKEEPER? .....	14
#12 WHERE DO YOU FIND COMFORT? .....	15
#13 HAVE YOU SEEN GOD TODAY?.....	16
#14 WHO ER YOU? .....	18
#15 DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN? SUMMER NIGHT & LIGHTNING BUGS .....	19
#16 A BARRIER WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT IT? .....	20
#17 WHY? .....	23
#18 MINING.....	25
#19 FORGIVENESS IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO GET EVEN .....	26
# 20 BUILDING A BRIDGE.....	27
#21 REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES .....	29
#22 FORGIVENESS, AGAIN? REALLY?.....	30
#23 HOW'S YOUR VISION?.....	31
#24 WALK/DON'T WALK.....	33
#25 HALF EMPTY – HALF FULL YOUR CHOICE! .....	34
#26 HOW EASY IT IS TO JUDGE OTHERS.....	35
#27 THE SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN .....	36
#28 THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE KINDERGARTEN WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL .....	37
#29 TIME TO UPGRADE! .....	40
#30 HAVE YOU HEARD GOD CALL YOUR NAME? .....	42
#31 SISTERLY LOVE .....	44
#32 FUNDAMENTS OF AGING DAY! .....	45

*Kathy Boyd Blackwell*

#33 GET SOMETHING DONE! .....	47
#34 HE KNOWS YOUR NAME .....	48
#35 ARE YOU READY?.....	49
#36 WHEN HALF IS NOT HALF.....	50
#37 ARE YOU IN OR OUT?.....	51
#38 RIDING THE RIVER.....	52
#39 R.I.P. ....	54
#40 IT'S ALL ABOUT PREPARATION AND CHOICE. ....	55
#41 WE SAW THE LIGHT .....	57
#42 SOMETIMES YOU WAIT! .....	58
#43 FIND GOD'S PURPOSE.....	59
#44 WHO ARE YOU LISTENING TO? .....	60
#45 WHAT YOU ARE IS WHERE YOU WERE WHEN .....	62
#46 THE SNAKE .....	63
#47 YOU CAN DO AND BE MORE THAN YOU THINK.....	65
#48 WAS THERE AN ELLA IN YOUR LIFE?.....	67
#49 IF NOT NOW, WHEN? IF NOT US, WHO? IF NOT HERE, WHERE? .....	71
#50 YA'LL WANNA SNORKEL? .....	72
#51 COMFORT ZONE .....	74
#52 MIKEY WILL EAT ANYTHING! .....	75
#53 "HEY MOM, WANTA RIDE? .....	76
#54 ARE YOU A "SORTA/KINDA" CHRISTIAN? .....	77
#55 EVER BEEN IN A PICKLE? .....	78
#56 ARE YOU RACING TO THE FINISH LINE? .....	81
#57 DOES GOD TALK TO YOU?.....	83
#58 REALLY, WHO DO YOU SERVE? .....	84
#59 WORRY ENDS WHERE FAITH BEGINS.....	86
#60 I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE .....	87
#61 ARE YOU ASKING (TELLING) GOD TO WAIT?.....	89
#62 NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE ON FIRE? .....	91
#63 ARE YOU ON FIRE? .....	92
#64 IT'S NEVER TOO LATE .....	94
#65 LOOKING FOR PERFECTION? .....	95
#66 ARE YOU WHERE YOU ARE CALLED TO BE?.....	97
#67 HUNTING OR FISHING – THERE IS A DIFFERENCE .....	99
#68 CAN YOU SEE GOD?.....	100
#69 DO YOU "JUST KNOW?" OR DO YOU "LISTEN AND DISCOVER"? .....	102
#70 WAITING FOR THE GREEN.....	104

## RECOGNIZING GOD. . . *in Your Everyday Life!*

#71 GOT MAIL? .....	105
#72 WHAT OR WHO “STANDS IN THE WAY OF” YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? .....	107
#73 WHAT ARE WE AFRAID OF? FOR SOME, EVERYTHING: .....	110
#74 CRANK IT UP! .....	114
#75 JUST FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS.....	115
#76 “IN RETROSPECT” .....	116
#77 SOMETIMES WE JUST DON’T THINK THINGS THROUGH . . . ..	118
#78 WHAT HAPPENED? .....	119
#79 EVER LOST YOUR CAR? .....	120
#80 WHAT MAKES YOU A CHRISTIAN? .....	121
#81 BE STILL AND LISTEN .....	122
#82 EVER HIT A “BUMP IN THE ROAD?” .....	123
#83 WARDROBE MALFUNCTION .....	124
#84 CHRISTMAS SHOPPING CAN MAKE YOU HOT .....	125
#85 YOU SHOULD HAVE PUT THE CAT OUT .....	126
#86 GET UP! / GET UP! .....	127
#87 JASPER WAS SO CUTE! .....	128
#88 AN AMERICAN PAST-TIME .....	130
#89 IS YOUR RELIGION GUARANTEED? .....	132
#90 IS IT SUNDAY RELIGION? .....	133
#91 SAFE RETURN.....	133
#92 “IF ONLY” AND “WHAT IF” .....	136
#93 GO OR WAIT? .....	138
#94 GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS.....	139
#95 GOT THE REMOTE? .....	140
#96 BEST LAID PLANS.....	142
#97 MONSTER SNOW .....	143
#98 NEED A MOMENT? .....	145
#99 NEED “SOME COLOR”? .....	146
#100 SOME THINGS SHOULD NOT BE MELTED! .....	147
#101 IS YOUR GOD AN EVERYDAY GOD? .....	149
#102 EMPTY? - HALF EMPTY? – HALF FULL? - FULL AND RUNNING OVER!! .....	150
#103 SEEDS.....	151
#104 KEEPING A LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE? .....	151
#105 WHY, MOM? .....	154
#106 HE’S A ‘COMING LIKE THIS! .....	155
#107 HAVE ANY LOST SHEEP IN YOUR CONGREGATION? .....	156
#108 IT’S BASIC MANAGEMENT .....	157

*Kathy Boyd Blackwell*

#109 WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION? .....	159
#110 LOOK AT YOUR HANDS.....	159
#111 “LET ME TELL YOU WHAT YOU SHOULD DO” .....	160
#112 CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? .....	163
#113 WILL YOU PRAY?.....	164
#114 DIFFERENT WOODS BURNS DIFFERENTLY .....	165
#115 ARE YOU DIFFERENT TODAY?.....	166
#116 WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER.....	166
#117 YOUR WORDS MATTER.....	167
#118 WANT TO GET WHERE YOU’RE GOING, USE THE MAP! .....	170
#119 HOW DO YOU START YOUR MOWER? .....	171
#120 ARE YOU KNOCKING ON THE RIGHT DOOR?.....	173
#121 HOW WELL CAN YOU READ DIRECTIONS.....	173
#122 TIMING IS EVERYTHING .....	174
#123 BE AWARE, SOMETIMES THE EXITS CHANGE .....	175
#124 IN THE GARDEN .....	176
#125 CHAPEL WITHOUT THE CHAPLAIN .....	178
#126 TO LEAD OR FOLLOW?.....	179
#127 BOTTOMS . . . OUT! .....	181
#128 IS SEEING BELIEVING OR IS BELIEVING KNOWING? .....	183
#129 NEITHER DOG NOR MAN “JUST KNOWS” .....	185
#130 WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT AND WHAT YOU SAY MATTERS .....	187
#131 BLESSED BY THE “GRACIOUS” .....	188
#132 WHAT DID YOU SAY? .....	190
#133 TOURNAMENT GRILL .....	191
#134 WEDDING “TO DO’S” .....	192
#135 “PERSPECTIVE – A CHOICE” .....	196
#136 ONE MORE TIME .....	198
#137 ARE YOU RUNNING WITH THE PACK? .....	199
#138 GOD EQUIPS US – PAY ATTENTION! .....	200
#139 WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN MATTERS! .....	203
#140 WHO DO YOU LOOK LIKE? .....	204
#141 WATCH OUT FOR . . . EVERYTHING!.....	205
#142 IF DOGS COULD TALK. . . WELL, THEY DO!.....	207
#143 “TREED?” .....	209
#144 THERE IS A TIME AND A SEASON .....	210
#145 I SAW THE “ICED” MAN! .....	211
#146 KNOW ANY OLD-TIMER’S SAYINGS? .....	212

RECOGNIZING GOD. . . *in Your Everyday Life!*

#147 AWW. . . MEMORIES .....	213
#148 LOST OR FOUND? .....	215
#149 YOU HAVE HEARD OF SPILLED MILK .....	216
#150 ART . . . ME, ART? .....	218
#151 WHAT WAS THAT? .....	220
#152 USE IT OR LOSE IT .....	222
#153 THOUGHTS AND SOIL .....	222
#154 MY RUN-A-WAY .....	223
#155 YOU CAN LOSE YOUR WAY .....	225
#156 TRAIN UP . . . WILL NOT DEPART .....	226
#157 CHOOSE TO CLAIM YOUR LIFE! .....	227
#158 THE “VOLUNTEER” PLANT .....	228
#159 ARE YOU THE TREE, THE NUT OR THE SHELL? .....	230
#160 YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE! .....	231



## #1

### Will You Receive the Prize?

A friend decided as part of her new health regime she would begin walking a mile a day. Sounded good and there were days I joined her. Then she caught the fever – she walked *FAST* and soon was walking/jogging and then jogging and then all out running. Running to beat her last time. Running not one mile or even two, but miles - and every day. She soon gave up on me.

I still walk . . . you know, sometimes a mile, sometimes more . . . Although most of the time less. I start out at a brisk walk but definitely slow as the footfalls progress, particularly if there is an incline. Probably, in the interest of full disclosure, I should tell you I do not “do” hills.

And then, my scripture reading today was convicting: “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?” Well, sure, I know that. And yes, I am well aware that from a health standpoint my friend is taking the prize.

And then the mental gears change. We believers are all in a race of sorts. Winning, be it racing, a game of tennis or our walk with God, requires a purpose and discipline. Are we content to be in God’s house (to be IN the race) but without diligent focus and preparation to ultimately receive that victory, that imperishable crown?

The runner seeks physical endurance, healthier lifestyle, weight control, and more.

What about our walk with God? We need endurance, we need to practice and enhance our prayer life, our Bible study time, and our

times of worship. Just as the runner is focused on the task at hand, so should the Believer.

Our task is God-focused, God-prepared and God-driven. The prize, available to all but accepted by a few, is the promise of eternal life!

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NKJV)** *“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*

## #2

### **Have You Heard Today’s Forecast?**

My husband and I listen to/watch weather forecasting throughout the day – every day. Maybe you do too.

Living in the Blue Ridge Mountains in a rural, mountain town, weather matters. It matters in the spring/summer/fall and winter: hay cutting, raking, baling and for garden planting, cultivating and harvesting. It matters during the season of “calving”, feeding and even taking to market.

Yes, weather matters to us and most likely to you. All of us check the weather – using the latest apps, radio and TV. We often plan our day’s routine related to the weather forecast. For some that same forecast changes recreational planning, travel, etc. I imagine, with few exceptions, most people have some knowledge of their local weather forecast and plan accordingly.

We know the weather forecast is an educated guess that has multiple variables that alter or even drastically change the forecast. Weather is often discussed in percentages and ranges.

I wonder what our lives, our community, our country and even the world would be like if we were all as interested in God's Word, His forecast for our future. God promises – he doesn't give a 50% chance – and yet, many of us are more in tune with the weather forecast than our own eternal life.

**John 5:24 (NKJV) “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”**

Note that “most assuredly”, not a possibility, or a guess, but stated assurance. Maybe we should consider spending more time in the assurance of His Word and a little less time in probability projections.

### #3

#### **What About the . . . “And Then Some”?**

When my son was a junior in high school, he was baling hay from a 20-acre field. We had agreed he could sell the hay and keep the proceeds.

In a conversation with a neighboring community police officer, the officer questioned if I knew anyone that might have “horse” hay for sale. (Horses, it seems, prefer high-quality, square-baled hay). Many local farmers had gone to the large round-baled hay and fewer still “square-baled” and often it was the lower quality of hay.

I immediately shared that my son had square-baled hay for sale and, if they were interested, I would be glad to bring a bale for them to let

the horse taste-test. He seemed amused, but said, o.k. Evidently the police patrol horses (my term) liked the hay. A 100-bale order was placed.

Within a few days my son was able to haul the hay the 50-mile distance. He and a police officer unloaded the hay while the Sergeant and I chatted. He was glad to report that he was able to get a check cut for the amount owed and could pay my son today. With the unloading complete, the officer verified the hay appeared to be top quality and there were 107 bales.

The Sergeant immediately turned to my son, and in an angry voice stated he had ordered 100 bales and he would not accept any more or any less!

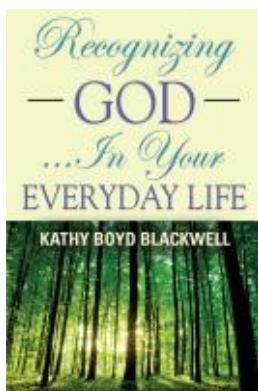
My son looked at him and said, “100 bales was the agreement – those seven bales are the **and then some**. He took the check, shook hands with both officers and got in his truck.

Still appearing confused, the Sergeant wanted to know what he was talking about. I explained, “you know, do what is right **and then some**.”

**Luke 6:31 (ESV) And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.**

**Matthew 7:12 (ESV)“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.**

**Mark 12:31 (ESV) The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”**



*RECOGNIZING GOD...in Your Everyday Life* by Kathy Boyd Blackwell. Real-life short stories from the author's everyday life. You will laugh, you might cry and most assuredly you will identify with Kathy. The mundane to the extraordinary, this is real-life and faith-based, and exemplifies how to discover and recognize God in all our moments. Scripture references included. A reminder of God's presence every day! For personal pleasure, small groups and discussion groups - a must read!

## **Recognizing God... In Your Everyday**

**Order the complete book from**

**[Booklocker.com](http://www.booklocker.com)**

**<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/8665.html?s=pdf>**

**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**

**Enjoy your free excerpt below!**