

I Give Up: The Secret Joy of a Surrendered Life

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Most of us long to be in control-of our schedule, our relationships, and our future.

Newlywed Laura Story thought she had control over the great life ahead of her. After all, she followed Jesus and had a promising new job as a worship leader. Why would God not want to fulfill her dreams?

But when Laura and her husband, Martin, faced a brain tumor, infertility, and a son's birth defect, she realized she'd been looking for a happiness that comes from circumstances, rather than a deeper joy that comes from God. Again and again, Laura had to surrender her vision for her life so she could embrace God's vision. And again and again she learned that even in the midst of shattered dreams, God's plan brought greater joy than she could have imagined.

Now the Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter known for such hits as "Blessings," "Indescribable," and "Mighty to Save" shares her powerful story of finding blessing in her deepest pain. In, *I Give Up*, Laura explores:

- >> How to delight in God's gifts no matter your circumstances.
 - >> Why waiting on God is a daily decision, not a step-by-step process.
 - >> The strength we find from meditating on God's Word.
 - >> Why surrendering to God leads to reconciliation with others.
 - >> How the things we consider to be losses are ways for God to display his glory.
- As Laura writes, she no longer wants to be in control of her life. She wants to be rooted in the God who is in control. *I Give Up* will help you Discover a deeper life of worship, a fuller life of joy, and a freer life of true surrender as you open your hands to God. And give up.

Laura Story

is a songwriter, worship leader, author, artist, and Bible teacher. Her songs-which have won Grammys, Billboard Music Awards, and Dove Awards-include "Blessings," "Mighty to Save," and Chris Tomlin's "Indescribable." Laura has a master's of theological studies and a doctorate in worship studies, and has served as a worship leader at Perimeter Church in Atlanta since 2005. Her greatest joy is being a wife to Martin and mother to Josie, Ben, Griffin, and Timothy.

In this inspiring memoir, *Story (When God Doesn't Fix It)*, a Grammy Award-winning songwriter, explores recent personal turmoil and the ways uncertainty has opened her to God's plan. After her husband is diagnosed with a brain tumor, a pregnant Story learns that her son will be born with a cleft palate. The occurrences stun her and inspire her to recommit to God. In addition to sharing her own experiences, she provides examples from the Bible of those who surrendered to God's plan, including Esther, Hannah, Joseph, and

Jesus. 'Choosing to believe God when a situation remains unresolved... is a serious lesson in surrender.' Story addresses how one's choices affect others and why the act of surrendering often leads to the betterment or reconciliation of relationships. Following her husband's recovery and the healthy birth of her son (whose cleft palate required less surgery than they imagined), she explains how 'giving up' allowed God to use her disappointments to display his glory. Story also includes uplifting lyrics from her songs and concludes chapters with prayers based on the idea of surrender. Her tale of maintaining faith through hardship and her message that 'surrender is the secret to a life of joy' will appeal both to fans of her music and Christian readers alike. (PW)

Other Books

The Life You Long For. A beautiful invitation to discover your place in God's heart and let him set the pace for your life—from a wife and mother, singer-songwriter, and worship leader for Passion Conferences and IF:Gathering "Christy Nockels is a gentle, strong voice shepherding us into a fuller life with Jesus at the very center. This book will restore your weary soul."—Jennie Allen, New York Times bestselling author of *Get Out of Your Head* and founder and visionary of IF:Gathering Christy Nockels knows firsthand how easily our desire to serve God—even when using the gifts He has given us—can overshadow our delight in simply being with Him. When God called her to lay down her ministry for a season, Christy was forced to confront how her sense of purpose and worth had become tangled up in her work. God then lovingly invited her to discover true rest in His presence as she learned to live as the Beloved. In *The Life You Long For*, Christy shows us how to let go of hustle and achievement and instead find our identity in the quiet center of God's love. As we delight in being with Him, we are filled to overflowing with contentment and love that propel us into an entirely new way of being, one in which every act of service and every encounter with the people around us arise from a heart at rest. With irresistible warmth and grace, this book calls you to step fully into the life you didn't even realize you've been seeking, as you find your highest calling not in a duty to uphold but in a beautiful identity to live out.

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