

*I Promise.*  
REJOICE!

Carol Boseman Taylor

© 2015

Published in the United States by Nurturing Faith, Macon GA,  
[www.nurturingfaith.info](http://www.nurturingfaith.info)

ISBN 978-1-938514-70-8

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“Carol Boseman Taylor has been listening for the voice of God most of her adult life, and in this brilliant little devotional book she shows that she’s heard it.”

Jim Somerville  
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia

Carol Taylor has written a beautiful year-long conversation with God for personal devotion, Bible study, and spiritual growth. This is a book that you can read year after year and be challenged, comforted, and reformed. These conversations will truly let you hear the voice of God encouraging your personal journey towards deeper discipleship.

Bo Prosser  
Coordinator of Organizational Relationships,  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

“Carol Taylor’s *I Promise. Rejoice!* is a different kind of devotional book. From the depth of her own devotional life and communion with God, Taylor dares to write from God’s perspective. Rather than being based on stories or metaphors, both the title and the daily entries are written as direct words of comfort and challenge from God in the light of assigned biblical texts for the day. Taylor’s combination of empathy and insight offer a daring and meaningful approach to the enterprise of daily devotion.”

Tony Cartledge  
Professor of Old Testament, Campbell University Divinity School and  
Contributing Editor, *Baptists Today*

“We are admonished on every side to pay attention, to listen, to be quiet, to find solitude, to wait on God. But it is not that easy. In our high-tech world, with multi-layer sounds, and doubled-booked calendars, it is more challenging than ever before. Carol Taylor helps us. Take her book every

morning, find a special place to be quiet, then close that period of silence with a daily word from Carol and God. Listen . . . . God's voice can still be heard!"

Linda McKinnish Bridges  
Senior Director, Shorelight Education

*I Promise. Rejoice!* is dedicated to:

**My husband, Charles E. (Chuck) Taylor, Jr.**

You are my best friend and biggest cheerleader. Thank you for your unconditional love and for always encouraging me to reach outside of myself.

**My daughter, Mary Blythe Taylor**

You gave me the gift of being my “agent” for this book and encouraged me all along the way. Without you, I might not have had the courage to finish it.

**My daughters, Anna Taylor Freeman and Erin Taylor Rice**

Both of you share your love and encouragement with me daily. Your support and love are gifts beyond measure.

**My friend, Pat Vess**

You put “feet” to my even considering publishing this book. Your faith in me and your long-standing friendship are treasures from God.

**My sister-in-law, Mimi Greenawalt Boseman**

Had you not shared Wally Paton’s book with our family, I might never have tried listening to God. You were the catalyst that got it all started, and you are truly a gift to our family. How blessed we are by you.

**My sister-in-law, Janice Taylor Bobbitt**

You asked for a copy of the notebook of readings and have been such an encouragement to me to move forward with publishing.

**To each of you:** I love you and am eternally grateful for your presence in my life and for your encouragement to me to get outside of my comfort zone and let God have his way with this book.

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Carol Boseman Taylor is my friend and I am honored to tell you about her. Carol is a wife, mother, and grandmother; she is a Christian and friend to many; she is a leader, teacher, jewelry-maker, chef, prayer shawl designer and now, a published writer! Since 1986, I have had the privilege to know Carol. During that time, I have experienced her as a Christian who prays the Scriptures, an individual who takes time to listen to God and a woman who seeks to be spiritually formed. Most importantly, Carol Boseman Taylor is a person who yearns for God's direction in living life—practically and spiritually. Through her “real” life example and loving Christ-like spirit, Carol has effected change in this world. I know that she has made an impact on my life.

Now Carol shares her authenticity in this meaningful devotional work titled *I Promise. Rejoice!* She credits her writings as “messages from God” and describes her learnings as “holy offerings.” Presenting a much needed communicate, Carol's daily writings are concise, challenging and include Biblical references for your own “chewing” on the Scriptures. These devotions stem from Carol's experience of listening to God and journaling thoughts while encountering the world around her. Carol is true to who she is as an individual and characterizes her book as a life guide. *I Promise. Rejoice!* is truly an opportunity for practical application in listening to God, learning from God, and responding with God.

In her introduction, Carol Boseman Taylor posts a disclaimer when she writes that she is a “simple Believer, called to pray.” A simple Believer, called by God to pray!” is exactly who I need in my life as a relevant example, a spiritual encourager, and a grace-filled petitioner. From Genesis 28:16, her July 4th devotional affirms that “Listening is essential” and “God waits!” Carol Boseman Taylor invites us to listen and wait for “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. Blotting out the noises of the world and listening for the sounds of nature I am ushered into the presence of God.” I promise. Rejoice!

Kathy Gore Chappell  
Winston-Salem, NC 2015

**Isaiah 30:21:** *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*

This book you hold in your hands seems to me to be more of a “life guide” than a devotional guide, but I will let you decide if it is so for you.

I am not a theological or Biblical scholar, nor do I hold advanced degrees in any field. I am a simple believer who has felt called to prayer and who has dedicated much of my time to journaling prayer requests.

For nearly 40 years, I have kept daily prayer journals. In them I wrote my prayers and offered them to God. It was really a list of “here is what I need from you, Father.” For many of these years, I have used two devotional guides in my prayer time: *God Calling*, edited by A. J. Russell, and *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young.

About eight years ago, after reading a book called *How to Listen to God* by Wally Paton, I realized that it was time I stopped telling God what I needed from him and began listening for what he might be trying to say to me. I followed the guide outlined at the end of this book as I “listened” during my prayer times.

It was quite difficult to quiet my active mind as I sat with journal and pen in hand. Then, one day, something amazing happened! As I sat in a spirit of prayer, in front of a beautiful lake, words started to flow into my mind and through my pen onto the paper. The phrasing was quite unlike anything I might ordinarily say. The words were clearly not mine. This practice has continued—sometimes with more regularity than at other times. But the result is always the same: The words flow, and the message is something I really need to hear. It has felt like a “holy” experience and like sacred work.

The reason for calling this book a life guide is because its words are words of discipline, of teaching, of guidance, of comfort, of communion, of admonishment, and of love. Each time I read the daily offering, I am struck anew with how blessed I am to have received these words. The readings are true to the message of God’s word.

It is my hope that these words will be a blessing to you.

Should you like to try listening to God, you may use the same listening instructions I used when I began this process. These words have been copied from Wally Paton’s *How to Listen to God*.

Carol Boseman Taylor