You were made by love, for love, to love.

God Made You Lovable is a daily devotional that will speak to your true identity as a woman who is full of worth and Divine love. This 4-week devotional is designed to give you a fresh perspective of the ways God made you lovable in your body, “innertude,” and purpose. It is my joy to share my personal stories, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit's revelation of God's perfect love for us! At the end of this daily devotional, my hope is that you will never again judge your worth and "lovability" based on what another woman has done or is doing. You, my friend, are about to walk into the freedom of knowing how God made you, and oh did He make you something wonderful.

Jilliam is the founder of JilliamJoe.com, an online resource for women's empowerment and inspiration with a joyful flare. Jilliam also holds a Ph.D. in psychometrics and practices in the educational field as a research and measurement consultant. You can visit www.measurebydesign.com for more information.
This book is a gift to

_____________________________________

From

_____________________________________

Date
God Made You Lovable

by

Jilliam Joe

G.G. Publishing
To the One who loved me before I knew Him, Jesus.
Acknowledgment

I almost quit before I ever started. Yep. Before I ever wrote a single word, I nearly put this devotional on the “top of the fridge”—it’s the place where all things you don’t want to throw away, but don’t know where else to put them, go. So, I owe my deepest gratitude to my inner-circle, those of you who have believed in me, loved me, and would not allow me to quit on myself. Cheers to you!! A special mention goes to my Golden Girl, Regine Jean-Baptiste! She is a complete God-send. Regine took my vision and made it happen. She has been my coach, intercessor, champion, and friend throughout the entire process. Thank you. Let’s do it again!
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Foreword

In a day where people will trade in their real identity for a disguise that covers up the deep wounds of rejection, shame, and low self-esteem, I see nothing more relevant than Dr. Jilliam Joe’s devotional, *God Made You Lovable*.

The basis for identity in our current world has been distorted to seeking out and spending more money on the next hot pair of heels and the latest makeup line to make women feel beautiful and accepted. Opposite of this, there has been a lack of pursuit towards the process of being truly accepted by the One who gives a woman her real worth.

The topic of accepting God’s love has been the greatest foundation to my endurance in the faith. I believe that love should be demonstrated in action as it was with Christ. I also believe that it is impossible to love outside of welcoming it to shatter the false beliefs and barriers in your own heart. This has been my most intense, appreciated, distinguished, and celebrated discovery as a Pastor.

Dr. Jilliam is amongst one of the most qualified persons I know to walk the body of Christ through identity transformation. Her display of love is captured as one of the purest forms you will ever encounter. The authentic intimacy that she hosts
within can teach you how to expose the hidden inner battles of self-sabotage, and help you to experience true acceptance from the Father. Her tender approach provides a safe place to really journey through the deep-rooted fears of trust that may have been unknowingly ignored. Her un-relented expressions of joy will also inspire you to endure through the heart circumcision process of this devotional.

As a result of *God Made You Lovable*, you will no longer represent your value with pearls, purses, and possessions. You will have a profound degree of awareness that you are unquestionably loved by God. This awareness will mobilize you to surrender to the nature God has designed for you to have as a woman. It will also, and most importantly, release you to deposit to others that same love you have received. This will only come from the essence of a virtuous and restored identity. I am confident that this will be one of the most highlighted and notable journeys of your life!

_Apostle Dr. Kamilah Stevenson_

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Introduction

Hey, girlfriend! You and I may not know one another, yet, but that is not going to stop us from locking arms and twirling our way through this not-so-typical four-week devotional. This devotional is filled with my personal accounts and keys to how God opened my eyes to see that I was created as a lovable treasure. These keys will equip and empower you to take a fresh look at yourself and fall in love with your Creator all over again. Over the next four weeks, we will get to know each other as we focus our attention on the ways God has made us valuable and worthy of being loved. This is why I titled this devotional “God Made You Lovable.” We are going to launch into a journey that is designed to excavate the treasure from the trash. It is okay, we all have “trash” hidden away in our hearts and minds. To do this, you will be required to put in a bit of work. However, I promise that if you stay on the journey with me, God will surely smooth out those rough spots, help you throw out trashy thinking, and deliver you to your true lovable identity.

So why did I put pen to paper? Well, in this instance it was more like fingers to keyboard. I wrote this devotional because God made me aware of the feelings of low self-worth
that lived in my heart. Low self-worth would rear its head whenever one of my dear sister-friends received an upgrade in her life. Now, here I was an accomplished woman professionally, growing spiritually, and lacking no material thing that I wanted. Yet, my attention would turn to what “she” had or what “she” was doing, and whether I was just as valuable. My heart would become discontent and dissatisfied with my life. How silly, right?

God gripped my heart and made me take a close look at why those insecurities and feelings of low self-worth existed. I also had to take a look at my ideas of self-love. In the process, I came across Anne Friedman’s 2013 article, Shine Theory: Why Powerful Women Make the Greatest Friends; which taught me to celebrate upgrades. The article gave me the forever-mantra: “If others don’t shine, I don’t shine.” I learned that another woman’s shine by no means diminishes yours or mine. It only makes our world more brilliant! I also had to learn (and I’m still learning, by the way) to stop comparing myself to others and to fix my eyes on Jesus Christ. God wants me to see my self-worth reflected through Christ’s beautiful shining eyes. The more I gaze into Jesus’ eyes, the more I realize God made me lovable and valuable! My self-esteem received an upgrade and my desire to see others see themselves as lovable in the eyes of God increased as well.

So I created this four-week devotional to help us focus our attention on God’s truth about us. Life happens and we need a little cushion here and there. If you want to spend a couple of days on one or two devotionals, be my guest! I invite you to go at a pace that is reasonable for you. Whatever you do, don’t quit
part-way through. Finish the course.

Here are some helpful tips for finishing and for getting the most out of this devotional:

1. **Find a quiet place.**

   You will need to find a place where you will likely have no interruptions or distractions. Granted, most distractions live in our head. So, I suggest you spend some time dumping all those cares onto Jesus before you get started. You can do this by praying, singing, or listening to a worship song. One of my dear friends finds her quiet place in her bathroom. For her, the bathroom represents relaxation and it is a place where she can shut the door and be still. When I need to get still, there is a place between my bed and my dresser that I like to go. I simply sit on the floor, take a deep breath, and turn my mind to focus on Jesus. Wherever you choose, find a quiet place that allows you to be still and focus on God.

2. **Set aside at least 30-45 minutes per day.**

   I know this might be easier said than done, particularly for those of us who have a demanding career and those who are also trying to balance the demands of family. I encourage you to take the time and invest in yourself. Your self-care is not just for you, but for everyone around you. It is imperative that you invest your time in this devotional. The results will amaze you!
3. **Journal. God will speak.**

God will speak to you clearly and boldly these next 30 days. Prepare to journal God’s thoughts toward you. People often ask how they can hear the voice of God. One way is to write what we hear and measure it with the Scriptures. We sometimes confuse our voice with God’s voice, so checking Scripture is crucial. God’s voice will always support and highlight His written word found in the Bible. As you journal, meditate, and answer the reflection questions for each day’s devotional be prepared to hear God’s thoughts speaking to you.

4. **Share.**

You will discover a lot about yourself over the next four weeks. Be sure to share your lessons learned with your friends and family. Sharing helps you remain accountable to the journey of self-love and encourages you to finish. Sharing your lessons learned is bound to help someone else shine too. Remember our mantra? “If others don’t shine, I don’t shine.” So, take the time to share and let us make our world more brilliant!

Again, welcome to the journey of discovering and remembering that everything about you that God created is lovable!
Week 1
A Lovable Body

This week’s God Made You Lovable devotional focuses on the body. Our objective is to detach our God-ascribed self-worth and “lovability” from our physical differences, perceived imperfections, and shame of what we have done in and to our bodies. Are you ready to take this journey with me?
Day One:

**A Radical Love**

When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, ‘Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution.

- Hosea 1:2

Let’s begin with the odd couple—Hosea and Gomer. The story of Hosea and Gomer screams “Look, you messed up and broken girl, I love you!” While this story speaks to the bigger picture of God’s unfailing love, it is also a story about a real couple living out a scenario that can best be described as daytime drama material. Here is a little background. The nation of Israel rejected God for other lesser gods and idols. Unfortunately, it was a habit for the people of Israel to substitute the real love of God for a fake idol. Hosea is a prophet in Israel and God calls him to do something radical to demonstrate His redemptive and forever love for people. He calls him to marry Gomer, a known prostitute.

Gomer is not someone a man would typically bring to a
family. Girlfriend did strange things with her body for a piece of change. Gomer was the one folks today would call a “hoe” and “trick.” If she wore a hoodie, it most likely would have said “trap queen.” She was the type of woman who was the subject of men’s “locker room” conversations. As a prostitute, Gomer’s body was objectified and traded like a commodity. Gomer represented the worst of what Israel’s culture had become: a people who made costly sacrifices to idols who would never commit to love them faithfully like God desired to do. In this story Hosea represents the image of God’s purity and Gomer represents the worst of the human condition. Therefore, when God called Hosea to marry the hardest case in the community, it was His eternal signal to us that there is nothing about our lives that disqualifies us from being loved.

No matter where our bodies have been, no matter if we have traded our body like a commodity, no matter what others say concerning us in a locker room, or the labels society has placed on us, we are worthy of love. Everyone God created is worthy of love. This includes you and me! We do not have to prostitute ourselves to idols in our pursuit for love. Idols like money, accolade, career, ministry, or whatever we put above God in our lives will prove to be unfaithful. God is ready and available to love us faithfully forever.

When you read the book of Hosea, you see God’s love for us displayed in Hosea’s love for Gomer, which was nothing short of divine, illogical, radical, superhuman, and rule-breaking. It was not a love that ignored the flaws. Hosea’s love was born out of a complete awareness of Gomer’s flaws and yet he made a bold
choice to love her as she was.

Interestingly, the Bible mentions only one thing about Gomer’s background. Aside from her occupation, we learn that she was “the daughter of Diblaim.” Why was that worth mentioning? Why should we care about a prostitute’s history? She is just a sinner, right? I think God wanted this information shared to communicate that Gomer belonged to a family, to a heritage. “Belonging” has intrinsic value. Each of us is born into a first heritage—the heritage provided by our parents and ancestors. That heritage may be healthy or it may be dysfunctional, but it is a heritage nonetheless. Gomer was not an object, she was a person who carried the blessings and baggage of all who came before her. Despite what she inherited from her lineage, God wanted to gift her a new heritage through Hosea. God wanted her to know that she belonged to a new lineage, she was worthy of something better, and that she is lovable despite the trashy mess of her prostitution. This revelation of God’s radical love for people made Gomer worth every tear Hosea cried for her and all that he spent to bring her into his heritage.

You should know that very same radical love pursues you today. You, my dear, are worthy of being loved because you, your body, and your life belong to God. God demonstrated this love for us by sending His Son Jesus to bring us into His lineage. If Gomer represents you and me and Hosea is an archetype of Christ, then that means every believer of Jesus is brought into the rich heritage of the Lord through our belief in Jesus Christ. God’s unconditional love is for Gomer, the nation of Israel who He was speaking to through this story, and for you and me today.
through Christ. And *that* makes you more valuable than all the treasure in the world.

**Daily Reflection**

1. **Describe God’s unconditional love?** When was the last time you felt the unconditional love of God? Journal your experience.

2. **What are some ways you have loved yourself with condition?** What are some conditions you have used to judge your body?
3. What are some ways you can love yourself and your body unconditionally?

4. Journal a note of thanksgiving to God for bringing you into His lineage and that through Christ you are worthy to be loved.
Share
Share with a girlfriend something you love about your body. Encourage her to share something she loves about her body too. Take a moment to celebrate and compliment your friend on the gift that God has given her in her body.

Pray This Prayer With Me
Father, you see me, you know me, and you love me still. You love me with a crazy, passionate, relentless kind of love. Give me the grace to know how wide, how long, how high, and how deep your love is for me, all of me. I pray this in the power of Jesus’ name. Amen!