**Leading in Joy: 21-Day Devotional for the Spirit-Led Leader**

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**INTRODUCTION**

**This devotional is being written as a result of a prophetic word that was spoken over me immediately following the release of my first book "Leading in Joy: Finding Fulfillment as A Spirit-Led Leader". Since that time my readers have asked for "something" that could compliment the book and help them stay motivated and encouraged in a more tangible way. Proverbs 29:2 (msg) says "When good people run things, everyone is glad, but when the ruler is bad, everyone groans". We need our Spirit-Led leaders to be good; mentally, physically and spiritually. This devotional is designed to inspire, motivate, and strengthen leaders as they lead their teams. Each day you will find scriptures and quotes along with prayers that will touch on the challenges that leaders face on a daily basis. In addition, there will be space to write your thoughts, affirmations, challenges and solutions.**

**As leaders, we have an opportunity to start anew and set the tone for the day. Why not start by being connected to the one who gives us the strength to endure and continue to be Spirit-Led.**

***DAY 1***

***THE POWER OF PRAYER***

***“In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus”***

***\* Reverend Jacob Knapp\****

I Chronicles 16:11 (NIV) tells us to *“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always”.* Why is starting your day with prayer so important? Because spirit-led leaders should look to the Lord for understanding each and every day to ensure that our actions are in line with His plan and not ours. We understand that it is God that guides our footsteps. We offer praise and thanksgiving for the blessings and seek guidance and strength for life’s challenges. In addition, we can go the Him on behalf of others. What are the challenges that your team(s) may be facing? Has a team member come to you with a need that only prayer can resolve? Ask God for wisdom as you navigate those challenges as you provide the support that your team needs.

I like to start my day by reading a scripture and prayer. Then I have my “conversation” with God. This practice gives me a sense of peace because I have established my connection to the Creator who gives me everything I need to face the day. Scripture tells us in Matthew 6:33-34 (TNT) “So above all, constantly seek God’s kingdom and his righteousness, then all these less important things will be given to you abundantly. 34) Refuse to worry about tomorrow, but deal with each challenge that comes your way, one day at a time. Tomorrow will take care of itself”.

Not sure where to start? Let’s say this prayer together:

*Father, in the name of Jesus, we come to you this morning with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts. We thank you for your many blessings. We thank you for life, health and strength. We thank you for your grace and mercy that’s brand new each and every day. Now Father, we ask for your divine guidance for today. Lead us in the way that you will have us to go. Provide wisdom and clarity as we navigate today’s challenges. Give us the right words to say so we don’t offend anyone because we understand that words have power. Fill us with compassion when needed and strength when necessary. We pray for those that you have given us charge over. Touch their lives as they deal with any hardships that they may be facing for we know that you are able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could ever ask or think. And we ask all these things in your name, Jesus. AMEN.*

***PRAYER REQUESTS***

***What are your needs? What are you specifically asking God for?***

***What are the needs of your team? Be specific.***

***DAY 2***

***AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE***

***“16) Let joy be your continual feast. 17) Make your life a prayer. 18) And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God’s perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus”.***

***I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (TPT)***

I love the Passion translation for this scripture. The NIV version tells us to rejoice always; that we should be filled with joy as we offer praise and thanksgiving unto God. It goes on to say that we should pray continually. Our lives should show that we are always connected to the Father. Lastly, no matter what is going on around us, it is God’s will for us to always give thanks. Scripture tells us in Psalm 100:4-5 (NIV) to “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5) For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations”.

Being grateful acknowledges that we haven’t done anything ourselves. We acknowledge that we see God at work in our lives and the lives of our family members. We have so much to be thankful for, including being a spirit-led leader. When you have an attitude of gratitude, it’s hard to focus on the negative. Remember, there is always someone who is worse off than you. So, be thankful for all things big and small and praise God for it!

*Dear God, I come to you this morning with a heart full of gratitude. I thank you for waking me up this morning and allowing me to see another beautiful day. I am grateful for the opportunity to praise your holy name. Thank you for my family and friends. Thank you for your provision of food, clothing and shelter. Thank you for your many blessings, big and small. Thank you for trusting me to lead your people. As I begin this day, I thank you for leading and guiding me as I lead them. You are a faithful God and you are worthy of all of my praise! In Jesus Name. Amen.*

***GRATITUDE LIST***

***What are you grateful for today? Keep a running list.***

***DAY 3***

***ENCOURAGE YOURSELF!***

***“I repeat, be strong and brave! Do not yield to fear nor be discouraged, for I am YAHWEH your God, and I will be with you wherever you go!”***

***Joshua 1:9***

We live in a world where everyone has an opinion about something. Unfortunately, those opinions are often negative. As leaders, our character is often attacked when decisions are made that others do not agree with. Our superiors may feel that we are not capable, and our team members rally against us. How do we keep going when words are spoken that cut deep? We can turn to people we trust for comfort and support, but when that is not an option, we must turn to God and let his word help us encourage ourselves. We know that God has put us in this leadership position for a reason to fulfill a unique purpose. Don’t doubt yourself and remember what God says about you! You are a masterpiece made in His image!

*God, I come to you today with a troubled heart. I have been under attack from all sides. But I know your word tells me in Philippians4:6 to not be anxious for anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present my request to you. So, I pray that your word washes over me and gives me the strength to withstand the opposition. Help me to drown out the naysayers. I will stay focused on you and who you say I am. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

***AFFIRMATIONS***

***What does God say about you? Write your “I Am” affirmations below.***

***Example: I Am Amazing***

***DAY 4***

***YOUR YES!***

***“For we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God’s promises].***

***2 Corinthians 5:7 AMP***

What does it mean to say “Yes” to God? It means putting your trust in Him when there is something he has asked you to do. I know this is easier said than done because his “ask” is usually something so big or out of the ordinary that you stop and question: “Did I hear that right?” You might even say “Why are you asking ME to do this?” or “I am not equipped for this task”. That’s when fear and hesitation set in. Now, imagine how Mary felt when the angel came to her and told her that she would carry the Son of God. Where would we be if she didn’t say “Yes”? Imagine how Moses felt when God told him that he would be the one to lead the people of Israel to freedom. Where would they be if he didn’t say “Yes”? Scripture tells us in 2 Timothy 1:7 KJV *“For god hath not given us the spirit of* *fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*”. So, what is God asking you to do today? Give God your “Yes”. Even if you can’t see it. Even if you don’t understand it. Don’t worry; God’s got this! Surrender to the Lord and trust His will for every situation in your life. Remember, all things work together for your good!

*Dear God, I awoke this morning with my heart totally surrendered to you. As I give you my “Yes”, I ask that you equip me for the task that is before me today. Give me wisdom, strength and courage to face any obstacles that are put in my path. I put my trust in you for you know what’s best for me. Thank you for choosing me to fulfill this assignment. Thank you for choosing me to be a Godly leader. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

***REFLECTIONS***

***Make a to-do list of all the things that you have put off doing.***

***Now, list what is preventing you from moving forward.***

***What do you need in order to say “Yes”?***

***DAY 5***

***STIR UP YOUR GIFTS***

***“God gave you a talent. He gave you a gift. Are you using it? If not, start.”***

[***www.YouBetterPreach.com***](http://www.YouBetterPreach.com)

What are your gifts and talents? All of us have something that we are naturally good at. However, once identified, it is up to us to nurture that gift and use it to fulfill our purpose here on Earth. As leaders, God has given us a special talent for leading people. Some of the gifts that come with being an effective leader are humility, compassion, wisdom, knowledge, etc. However, whatever the gift is, it’s not effective if you are not putting it to use. 2 Timothy 1:6-7 MSG *says “And the* *special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed – keep* *that ablaze!* When you find yourself in a slump and have lost your passion for leading, I encourage you to rekindle the flame and recommit to serving your team with all the gifts that God has given you.

*Father God, show me what my gifts and talents are. Fill my mind with ideas and visions. Show me how I can use those gifts to serve your people so that you get the Glory. Thank you for blessing me with the gift of leadership and trusting me to lead your people. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

***SPIRITUAL GIFTS***

***Do you know what your gifts are? List them below.***