

Doses of Devotion

Published by: Lakisha Johnson

© 2020 by Lakisha D. Johnson

All Rights Reserved

All Rights Reserved – This devotional is simply the thoughts of the author. All scriptural references are taken from the Bible to be used for encouragement and are not intended to reflect the author's ownership. This devotional is licensed for your personal enjoyment and encouragement and the author ask that you please do not copy, republish or reproduce this book for monetary gain without written permission from the author.

Lakisha, the Author

How things started

When I began writing a daily devotional, I didn't realize the magnitude of people who were yearning for God's word. All I was doing was posting daily encouragement to my Facebook wall and it turned into something I never would have imagined. Yet, I'm grateful to each of you who read my books, follow my devotional blog or Facebook.

I'm not someone who bashes others over the head with theology and neither am I one who has a Bible under my arm everywhere I go, because truth is, some days I don't feel like being Holy. Who I am is God's chosen and I just believe He called me for a purpose and one happens to be writing. And I'll tell the world, *it isn't just writing, it's ministry.*

See, I've come to understand not everybody, including me, can read King James and understand it. We face real life situations, on a daily basis, and sometimes we need real-life encouragement broken down to a language we understand. This is why I'm grateful God allows me to pen these devotionals in a more modern way.

Please understand, I don't know everything. Baby, I can't even remember the 66 books in order. Nonetheless, I study, I ask questions and I trust God to give me an understanding. Am I perfect? By no stretch of the imagination but I'm God's chosen.

So, as you prepare to read this devotional, I pray something shared will bless you. Not for the benefit of me but for you. I pray this book affects your life in a way

Lakisha, the Author

that makes you want to share God with others. I pray you find understanding in the words and that you never get frustrated with reading the Bible.

If you get to a point you don't understand, ask questions, seek another interpretation, use a commentary, search Google or pray. Sometimes all it takes is a simple rephrase that makes it better for you.

What is devotion?

Devotion is defined as profound dedication, consecration or an earnest attachment to a cause, person or assignment. It is also defined as an observance or worship; a form of prayer or worship for special use. (<http://dictionary.reference.com>)

Biblically, devotion means being dedicated, consecrated or solemnly set apart. It's also defined as external worship, prayer to a supreme being, respect, affection and eagerness. Simply put, devotion is making God part of your daily life. Your devotion by way of praying, fasting, studying, outside worship, etc. should set you apart from those who are not in God. And devotion shouldn't be limited to a church building.

Devotion can be done at home on a Monday morning before work, a Saturday afternoon before a family gathering or a Wednesday night before heading out with friends. Devotion is you praying, studying, living, loving, worshipping the God you serve and etc. For me, devotion means to devote myself to the call God has on my life. My devotion sets me apart from the stereotypes that have plagued women of color and in ministry for as long as I can remember.

For me, devotion is using my words and gifts to uplift God by helping His people who may be down, encourage those who are broken and offer Jesus to those who may be lost. I do this by praying, in secret and by devoting my time to study God's word.

Hence the reason for this book, Doses of Devotion.

Lakisha, the Author

I chose this name because I hope, as you flip through the pages of this book, you'll get the right "dose of devotion" for what you may be dealing with. I pray with every swipe or page turn, you are able to find the courage, strength, faith and/or obedience to try again. I pray, through this book, you'll seek more of God especially those times the enemy is harassing you to give up.

If by chance, there is another topic or devotional you may need that's not here, check out my blog, www.kishasdailydevotional.com, to find more.

Questions to ponder.

What is devotion to you?

What are you devoted too?

Is your devotion setting you apart?

Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallow is your, your kingdom come, and may your will be done in earth as it is in Heaven. Father, as I petition your throne, I must first thank you for your blessing and anointing. Thank you for letting me see a new day, for believing in me when I don't believe in myself, for loving me, despite my flaws and for another chance.

God, now, I ask you to cover me on this daily journey. Crown my head with the wisdom and knowledge to be the great person you have destined me to be. God destroy the strongholds seeking to suffer me and the chains that try to bound me. Father where there is sickness, send healing. Where there is heartache, send relief and where there is trouble, send protection.

Today God, give me the strength to take up my cross so I no longer walk in the counsel of the ungodly or sit at the table of the scornful. Cleanse me from within so my heart is new, and my spirit is too. God, each time I open this devotional, allow me to feel you. As I read, let me hear you. As I meditate on your word, let it fill me because I desire more of you and less of me. Bind the hands of the enemy that will seek to distract me, sleepiness that tries to overtake me and self-doubt that will try to discourage me. All these things I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

– Philippians 4:6-7

The Process

You've finally decided to open this devotional. Maybe you got tired of looking at it on your Kindle, phone or bookshelf. Maybe you've opened it because you're praying it gives you a little bit of hope to keep going. See, you probably woke up this morning contemplating doing some things you wouldn't normally do. Or it's the middle of the night and you can't sleep because thoughts are keeping you up.

Maybe times have gotten so hard and you don't know if you are coming or going. You've tried to make sense of things, but you can't. It seems the more you try, the more broken you feel. Marriage (relationship) isn't going right, child(ren) acting out, sickness will not let you go, death angel showed up, bills behind, coworkers trying you and you're one word away from snapping.

It feels like you're losing your mind. Well beloved, here's a few words that may hurt ... what you're feeling is common and we've all been there. Oh, you thought I was about to say something sweet? Child, living is a process and sometimes it's hard.

Actually, it's hard more times than you care to remember, but it's part of the process. And don't even think about closing this book because you're in your feelings. THE PROCESS OF LIFE HURTS! If you're asking why does life have to be so freaking hard?

<Shrug> I don't have the answer. However, what I've learned is, after the breaking, comes restoration. After the hurt comes healing and after crying, joy. Yet, you may have to go through the process of preparation for whatever God has

Lakisha, the Author

for you. Hint: It may involve being broken, spiritually. I don't mean broken in the sense of you being without or in despair but broken as to then be restored or used.

Biblically, sometimes Jesus blessed some stuff He then turned around and broke. You don't have to believe me, but read where it says, "*when he had given thanks, he broke it,*" in First Corinthians eleven and twenty-four, Matthew twenty-six and twenty-seven, Mark fourteen and twenty-two, Luke twenty-two and nineteen, Matthew fourteen and nineteen (when He fed the 5000+) and Matthew fifteen and thirty-six (when He fed the 4000).

Do you see what is happening? During the process, stuff had to be broken in order for it to fulfill the purpose Jesus needed it for. Maybe this process you're going through, this period of brokenness, is preparing you to fulfill the purpose God has for you.

No, I don't know what you are being prepared for, but I can surmise that it's about to bless a multitude of folk, you just have to make it pass the breaking. Yeah, God is preparing you for the masses, but you have to endure the breaking. God is about to utilize the gift He placed in your belly, but you have to tolerate the breaking.

Are you ready? Good, then here's your first dose.

Disclaimer

These aren't your cute, feel good, fluffy, pat you on your back devotionals and some of them will pull from places you've probably shut off. However, these devotionals are meant to provoke a change in you and the only way you can become greater, you may need to deal with some stuff, starting with you. I won't lie and say, you won't get in your feelings and mumble "who she thinks she is," but that's good. It means it's reaching your heart.

For the record, I don't proclaim to be the best at anything, but what I share comes from God, the Holy Spirit interceding on my behalf and from being in dark places I overstayed. I don't share with you based on things I've heard, but what I've endured.

I pray this book blesses you, even if it'll hurt.

Lakisha, the Author



RX#167293

Patient's Name _____

Phone: (111) 111-1111
Store: 1
111 ANGEL HOST HIGHWAY
Prescribing Doctor: Jesus

*Take as needed for confidence to
continue when it gets hard*

FAITH 1000 MG
TABLET
1 of Unlimited refills

MFG: GOD

Strap Up

When a man or woman prepares for war, they have to be just that, prepared. They must have on the appropriate clothes, the right body gear and have usable weapons. They know it would be crazy, irresponsible, and a death sentence to walk into a fight unprepared.

What good would it do to show up to battle with a gun and no bullets, a shield that is cracked or not strong enough to withstand or a bulletproof vest that won't stop bullets? What sense would it make to jump into battle without being strong enough to endure it?

Well this is what happens every day when Christians go into battle unprepared and without the appropriate gear. I don't mean a physical battle but I'm speaking of a spiritual battle. For the Bible says in Ephesians six and twelve, *"for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

You need to STRAP UP!

You need to prepare yourself for the battles and the enemy who will surely come. When David got ready to fight Goliath, there were folk around him who'd already counted him out. They heckled and made fun of him saying, "he's too small," "who does he think he is," "he's no match for that giant," and "he'll never make it." He was even taunted by Goliath, who was bold enough to cross enemy lines to confront him. If you don't know how the story ends, I'll tell you. DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH!

Lakisha, the Author

You want to know how? He strapped up for war. It says in First Samuel seventeen, verse forty, *“he picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.”*

David was prepared for the battle. Let me ask you, are you strapping up for battle or are you more focused on what folk are saying? Have you strapped up for battle or are you already defeated by the size of the giant? Have you strapped up or have you lost sight of your task which is surviving? Are you strapped up or has the many times you’ve lost already defeated you?

Beloved, it doesn’t matter that you don’t look the part, you got power. You may not have the armor, but you got power. May have never fought in this kind of fight but you got power. Power from a God who never fails us! David’s power didn’t come from a sword, he didn’t have one. David’s power didn’t come from his armor, he didn’t have any. His power came from the God he worshipped, trusted, loved and served.

You have the same power, but you’ve got to stop listening to the hecklers and trust the God you serve because He’ll never place you in a battle, He hasn’t equipped you for. Even if it happens to be a battle, He’ll allow you to lose, He always has His reasons why. You have the power, but you’ve got to believe it, tap into it then use it.

Where is this power? It’s in God and when you study His word, walk in His word and apply His word to your life; you’ll get what you need to strap up and win.

Strap up boo, spray your strength serum and let’s go because you got some battles to win!

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:10-18

Stretch Out

This is for somebody who is being pulled on and you don't know why. This is for somebody who is being stretched and it doesn't make sense. All around you, it feels as if hell is breaking loose and no amount of praying has halted your storm. You are being hurt with words and actions and you haven't done anything to anybody.

You keep being sent into dark places and God hasn't turned on your nighttime vision, so fear is starting to set in. Things are happening you cannot control, and crying seems to be all you have the strength to do. Well beloved, stretch out.

What are you stretching out? The parts of you that are ready to receive from the Lord. Why are you stretching out? To see the manifestation of God work.

When God stretched out, He created everything from nothing. In Genesis, Abraham stretched out his hand to slay Isaac – his obedience was being tested and he was rewarded. Whenever Moses stretched out his hand, things God promised happened. In Joshua eight and eighteen, God commanded Joshua to stretch out his hand and He'd give him Ai and defeated his enemies.

When Elijah stretched out over a child, man deemed dead, the child lived again. In Matthew twelve, when the man with a withered hand stretched it out, it was made healthy. When Peter's doubt caused him to sink, Jesus stretched out His hand and grabbed him.

Beloved, stretch out.

Naturally, when you stretch out you keep your muscles from being fatigued, but spiritually you keep mobility in the parts of you God has need of. It may not feel

good but stretching out can be your exit from what looks to be impossible. When you are obedient and stretch out things God promised shows up. And sometimes, your stretching will not just involve your hands, but it'll be you, stretched out before the altar of God.

So, will you stretch out even if what you're looking at doesn't make sense? Will you stretch out even if the instructions from God seem strange? Will you not give up and just stretch out, this time? Will you trust God even when you can't see or feel Him and stretch out? Will you stretch out on God's promise to never leave or forsake you? Instead of trying to fix it yourself, handle it on your own or relying on man, will you stretch out.

Thank you for reading this sample of Doses of Devotion. The full devotional is now available via Amazon in eBook by clicking here <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08G2YX7JP>

Paperback will be available by Wednesday.

If you've enjoyed this preview, please share it with someone else.

Thank you and happy reading,

Lakisha