



Day by Day
AND
Night by Night

*365 Morning & Evening
Devotions for Leaders*

BroadStreet
P U B L I S H I N G

BroadStreet Publishing® Group, LLC
Savage, Minnesota, USA
BroadStreetPublishing.com

Day by Day and Night by Night: 365 Morning & Evening Devotions for Leaders
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9781424567225 (faux leather)
9781424567232 (ebook)

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Printed in China

24 25 26 27 28 5 4 3 2 1

To our grandchildren:
Peyton, Reese, Parker, Beckham, Jack, Norah, and Maya.
I love you.
I believe in you.
Change the world.
Now is the time to lead.

*"With a pillar of cloud You led them by day,
and with a pillar of fire by night
to light for them the way
in which they were to go."*

NEHEMIAH 9:12



INTRODUCTION

Recently, I chose to leave a significant position of leadership. Decisions were made that impacted the organization in such a way that I felt I could no longer lead effectively.

This decision to leave brought about great personal loss in ways I had never experienced before. The losses of identity, influence, relationships, and future impact in leadership absolutely devastated me personally. God used this experience to humble me and teach me to walk with him day by day and night by night, experiencing the presence of God. Each day I looked for the cloud, and each night I looked for the pillar of fire.

The inspiration for *Day by Day and Night by Night* came from this journey, and it will inspire you to experience the presence of God daily. You can go through each day's devotion in one sitting or divide it easily, bringing inspiration to your mornings and your evenings. Overall, this devotional can contribute to your development as a leader, and if you are part of a team or a small group, consider going on this journey together.

May you soon be compelled to repeat daily this declaration: *Day by day and night by night, I want to experience the presence of God.*

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JANUARY

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EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*"With a pillar of cloud You led them by day,
and with a pillar of fire by night to light for them
the way in which they were to go."*

NEHEMIAH 9:12

God wants you to experience his presence day by day and night by night. In the past, God was faithful to reveal himself to his people and clarify his way and will for their lives. God led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. While God manifested his presence to them by cloud and by fire, he manifests his presence to us through the Holy Spirit. God is with us always. Look for him today.

DECLARE THIS TODAY

I will experience God's presence day by day and night by night this year.



Did you look for God today? His cloud? His fire? As a leader, you need to experience God's presence. You must always know God's will and direction for you and the people God has entrusted you to lead. Whether you are a leader in business, government, finance, law, education, sports, health care, the military, or ministry, you always need to know God is with you. Your greatest asset in leadership is to experience God's presence day by day and night by night. With God, nothing is impossible.

*God, I want to experience your presence day by day and night by night
this year. Show me your way. Amen.*



JANUARY 2

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

*The LORD said to me,
"What do you see, Amos?"*
AMOS 7:8

What do you see for the future in this first week of the year? Having vision is seeing something before you see it. Leaders see their goals with their spiritual eyes before they ever see the vision come to fruition with their physical eyes. God revealed to Amos the future and shared his role with him. In the same way, God is asking each of us today, *What are you seeing right now for your life and future this year?* Keep your eyes and heart open, and God will reveal it to you.

DECLARE THIS TODAY

I will see what God sees for my life and leadership this year.



Sometimes what God wants us to see for life and leadership is more than evident. He is not hiding our future from us or playing spiritual games with us. Yet sometimes we struggle to see what God wants us to see. Therefore, we need to talk to God about our life and leadership. Simultaneously, we also need to open the Bible each day to read it and hear what God is saying to us in his Word. When we do this, his path for our life often becomes clearer. Additionally, connecting with a local church so we have a spiritual family is a significant asset. Our church family will pray for us to see what God wants us to see and may even act as messengers of God's guidance.

Lord, I want to see what you want me to see in my life and future. Amen.

RALLY PEOPLE TO A BETTER FUTURE

They said, "Let's arise and build."

NEHEMIAH 2:18

Leadership is hard, and today's leaders have an extraordinary challenge before them. Leading has always been difficult, but it seems the challenge is extraordinary today due to the amplification of public opinion. Instant communication ignites public opinion both negatively and positively.

When Nehemiah declared Jerusalem was devastated and its security was at significant risk, he called for everyone to unite and rebuild Jerusalem for God's glory. His clear and compelling vision led the people to respond by saying, "Let's arise and build." What moved the people to make this decision? Nehemiah, a great leader who rallied people to a better future.

DECLARE THIS TODAY

I will become a leader who rallies others to a better future.



When God begins to reveal his future to a leader, that leader needs to share with the people what God has put in their heart to say and to do. With transparency, the leaders should speak about the greatness of God as they share the vision with others. Why is this important? The people need assurance that there is nothing our God cannot do. Yet due diligence is essential and should always precede the verbal communication of the vision. This takes time. Therefore, the "spirit of hurry" is not an attribute nor an asset to the Spirit of God. He is the only one who rallies people to the future God has for them.

Our Father, empower me to lead others to a better future. Amen.



JANUARY 4

YOUR BURDEN SHOULD AWAKEN YOU

When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

NEHEMIAH 1:4

A burden is something troubling that you get up with in the morning, live with through the day, and even go to bed with in the evening. And no, I am not talking about your spouse! When a leader feels burdened about the future, this burden should become a wake-up call to act.

When Nehemiah saw the great distress within Jerusalem and the obvious disgrace of its condition, he was deeply and emotionally moved to do something about it. His burden became a wake-up call in his life and his leadership. Will you do something today about the things that burden you?

DECLARE THIS TODAY

I will let the burdens in my life wake me up to act.



Before Nehemiah even thought about repairing walls and the people rising to build them, he prayed and fasted. In humility, he prayed and fasted. These spiritual disciplines preceded his actions. Fasting occurs when you abstain from food while keeping a spiritual goal in mind. While it can help bring clarity to a situation, fasting may be a path that not everyone can take because of health concerns. However, prayer is *not* optional. Prayer should always be your first choice and not your last resort. This year, talk to God about your burdens and sometimes join your prayers with fasting.

Lord, may prayer always be my first choice and not my last resort. Amen.

LOVING GOD WITH YOUR ALL

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

God loves you. He has given to you the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. God gave, and still provides today, 100 percent of himself to you. When we ask Jesus Christ to come into our lives, we receive his gift of eternal life. This begins a daily relationship with God. Scripture calls upon us to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength. Therefore, we are to love God with all of who we are and all that he has given us.

DECLARE THIS TODAY

I will love God with 100 percent of my life, day by day and night by night.



We should aspire each day to love God with all we are and with all we have. When we worship God each Sunday, whether we are singing, praying, or listening to the preaching of God's Word, we should be fully engaged and responsive to him. This is loving and worshiping God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength, which will require you to be present where you are.

*God, from this day forward, I will love you with all my heart, all my soul,
and all my strength. Amen.*

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JANUARY 6

BE PRESENT WHERE YOU ARE

*To the weak I became weak,
that I might gain the weak;
I have become all things to all people,
so that I may by all means save some.*

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22

Without ever compromising the Bible or the gospel, the apostle Paul was willing to become all things to all people for them to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This was a remarkable testimony of his life and personal commitment to the Lord. Paul was so committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the whole world that he was willing to be present wherever he was and with whomever he was at the time. This verse illustrates one of the most powerful principles in leadership: be present where you are.

DECLARE THIS TODAY

I will be present wherever I am and with whomever I am today.



Have you ever been in a conversation with someone and felt they were not there with you? Their eyes were not focused on you, and they made you feel unimportant to them. We know what this is like and how this makes us feel. This violates the principle of being present wherever you are.

The most outstanding leaders I know are always assuring others that they value and appreciate them. Being present can be something as simple as actively listening to and engaging with others. Apply this to your family, friends, colleagues, and even people you do not know.

*God, help me to always prioritize people and be present wherever I am.
Amen.*

READ THE BIBLE DAILY

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

PSALM 119:105

Reading God's Word daily becomes a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. Experiencing the presence of God day by day and night by night only occurs when the Bible plays a significant part in your life. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you.

Trucking magnate J. B. Hunt used to tell me that the Bible was like a map for him to live his life by. He compared it to how he needed a map when he was a truck driver. Knowing where he was going and how to get there was always his priority. Every leader needs to know where they are going. The Bible will help you get there successfully. Will you read the Bible daily and let it be a road map for your life?

DECLARE THIS TODAY

I will read the Bible daily.



The most significant spiritual discipline I have ever implemented in my life is reading God's Word daily and reading through the entire Bible annually. For over thirty years, I have read the Bible through at least one time each year. *Nothing else has impacted my life more significantly.* In times of transition and through the deepest days of disappointment and discouragement as a leader, the Holy Spirit has used God's Word to lift my spirit, restore my faith, and declare unwaveringly that our God is faithful. He will do the same for you.

*God, when I read the Bible daily, please speak to me and change me.
Amen.*