12 DAY DEVOTIONAL

by KEELA CRAFT AMBROSE

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# A MESSAGE FROM KEELA



I want you to know that GOD LOVES YOU! I love devotionals because they set our mind on what matters most. I wanted to create a 12-day devotional for you, because I think it is SO important that we do not just make it a habit to spend time with God every so often-but that we realize it is a *NECESSITY* to have Him in our life daily! God has something to show you every day, He has something to tell you every day! & I hope that this resource helps you to begin a journey of personalizing what God wants to say to you through His word.

Lastly, my goal in creating this was to encourage you & that when you read this short devotional & seeing my personal thoughts & revelations, you will be empowered to feel God's love, & see His plan working in & through your life - like never before.



#### MATTHEW 5:5

What blessing comes to you when gentleness lives in you! For you will inherit the earth.

Gentleness - just reading that word makes me feel nervous. I would like to think that I am naturally gentle, but it is not how I'm naturally wired. Some women have the ability to just come across kind & gentle to people.

They have an approach that is soft & others are endeared to them. I struggle with this at times. I am not able to always navigate my emotions & line them up with the moments that require me to be gentle.

I want to grow & be better at this, & I love that there is this promised blessing that comes to our life - when we choose to be gentle with people & in seasons of our life that we don't have to be. Maybe you do not ever struggle with being gentle, but I just want to encourage ANYONE who reads this with the last part of this verse - it says: WHEN YOU ARE GENTLE, YOU WILL INHERIT what God has for you! If that is not motivation

to be sweet, I don't know what is!:)

#### PROVERBS 3:5-8

Trust in the Lord completely, & do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, & He will lead you in every decision you make. Become intimate with Him in whatever you do, & He will lead you wherever you go. Don't think for a moment that you know it all, for wisdom comes when you adore Him with undivided devotion & avoid everything that's wrong. Then you will find the healing refreshment your body & spirit long for.

There are times in my life that I can honestly say - I do not trust God with EVERYTHING... I want to - but somehow without realizing it, I want control more than to trust God. That sounds so terrible to even say & I am not sure how I even reach that conclusion at times. I can only tell you that too often I make decisions based on emotions & circumstances - instead of on the character & power of God - THAT I KNOW WORKS IN MY LIFE. I

know that God can & will lead me in every situation & season that I encounter. I want to rely on Him & let go of my opinion & my way. I think the start of this is that we MUST choose God over our insecurities & our inadequacy - we have to rely on God over what we FEEL & SEE IN A MOMENT... GOD HAS NEVER FAILED US. Things may not have gone the way we think it should - but He always exceeds our expectations. Only looking back can we understand all He was & is doing in our life & situations - YOU CAN TRUST HIM GIRL!

### **ROMANS 13:8**

Don't owe anything to anyone, except your outstanding debt to continually love one another, for the one who learns to love has fulfilled every requirement of the law.

I focus on what others do for me & don't do - I look at what I am not getting back when I choose to give - & looking at things this way gets me away from the focus that I am supposed to have. I know that - THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN TO LOVE! Love does not mean this mushy emotional overload... it means that you choose to care for someone & see them like God does, even when you do not feel like it.

This scripture says, "The one who learns to love has fulfilled every requirement of the law." Can't you see that LOVE IS IMPORTANT TO GOD!?!? If we are able to love, not feel - but act in love towards our self & others, we can have the confidence in knowing that we have been obedient to our highest calling. I don't know about you - but I need God's help with this!

### **PSALMS 143:6**

Now I'm reaching out to you, thirsting for you like the dry, cracked ground thirsts for rain. Pause in His presence.

Hard things, difficult seasons, & times where your heart is broken, or you have been let down just happen in life... & usually we only reach out to God when we have these dark circumstances, or we get in what I like to call emergency mode. I think that in any season it is good to get God involved... I love the part at the end of the verse that says, "Pause in His presence." I think when we are not in the presence of God - it is easy to get into a place that feels so far away from God.

Sometimes we even wonder where He is & why we cannot feel Him when we need Him most! This scripture shows the desperation we can reach at times, which honestly can be a beautiful reminder of how important it is to stay close to God at ALL times! We ALWAYS need God to be close to us - we need Him in our life, family, business, relationships, & every atmosphere we walk into. Let Him in!

### 2 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to relieve me of this. But he answered me, "My grace is always more than enough for you, & my power finds its full expression through your weakness." So, I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I'm weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me. So, I'm not defeated by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness & endure mistreatment — when I'm surrounded with troubles on every side & face persecution because of my love for Christ — I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God's power.

Have you ever faced something that you just want God to fix or things you want Him to take away...? I have literally prayed, "God can you just fix this?" - & I have said, "Can you take away the pain?" I have learned that many times, God uses our problems as solutions. & I have found out that God wants to change me in my situation, more than He wants to change my situation... While this can be a difficult reality, I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE that I can trust God! He has NEVER let me down.

Things have turned out different than I wanted them to at times - but He has always turned things around for better than I could have imagined. I love this version of the scripture, "My weakness becomes a portal to God's power." This is such a powerful realization for when you find yourself in a tough situation - YOU HAVE ACCESS TO POWER THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE BEFORE

- Because of this issue!

#### **PHILLIPIANS 4: 12-13**

I know what it means to lack, and I know what it means to experience overwhelming abundance. For I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. & I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me to conquer every difficulty.

Have you ever faced something that you just want God to fix or things you want Him to take away...? I have literally prayed, "God can you just fix this?" - & I have said, "Can you take away the pain?" I have learned that many times, God uses our problems as solutions. & I have found out that God wants to change me in my situation, more than He wants to change my situation... While this can be a difficult reality, I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE that I can trust God! He has NEVER let me down.

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#### **ROMANS 8:28**

So, we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are His children who have been called to fulfill His designed purpose.

Did you know that God has a PERFECT plan for you?!?

That is kind of crazy to think about... But it's true!

EVERY detail of your life is a part of His plan, the good, the medium, & even the not so good - each season is working together for YOUR GOOD. Sometimes we get so focused on OUR plan & our way that we do not even see that God has an even GREATER plan than we could come up with! When we choose our way over His - we end up feeling confused & even frustrated at God.

Too many people are worried about the future - the calling or destiny on their life & how it is all going to work out. But God is the one who created you! He knows the what, when, & where of your entire life! He is not bound to time or the order of our reality - God is working all through your story, He has gone before us in every moment & is preparing the way to victory! HE'S GOT YOU GIRL!

#### **PROVERBS 30:8**

Empty out of my heart everything that is false — every lie, & every crooked thing. & give me neither undue poverty nor undue wealth — but rather, feed my soul with the measure of prosperity that pleases you.

I personally need God's help to see what needs to be emptied in my life... I am often full of the wrong things & it can bring negativity & a negative perspective in my life. My dad always told me, "Whatever you are FULL of - you will be LED by." The enemy wants us to get full of the wrong things - so that the negative things we experience & see lead our life.

The enemy would love for you to be so distracted with what is going WRONG - that you cannot see ALL that God is doing that is SO RIGHT! Eventually, this kind of viewpoint can affect your whole life & the world you see & experience. I want what God wants for my life & to be honest I do not always invite Him into my day & my situations... Sometimes I pray for what I want instead of God's WILL in my life & seasons. But today, like never before - I GET IT & GOD I WANT YOUR WAY!

#### **PSALMS 37:23-24**

The steps of the God-pursuing ones follow firmly in the footsteps of the Lord, & God delights in every step they take to follow him. If they stumble badly, they will still survive, for the Lord lifts them up with his hands.

God is ordering your steps! No matter what you feel right now... God knows where you are headed & He even knows what is behind you, but the scripture reminds us that it is, "the steps of the God-pursuing ones..." - The people that want God's way over what they want (in a moment). When you choose God's way over what you want, you give Him the opportunity to bless you! We do not often think about things that way - What are you putting in the hands of God that He can multiply back to you? - If we want God to move in our life, we must give Him something to work with.

& guess what, even when you fail or fall in an area GOD WILL LIFT YOU UP! He is not concerned about how many times you have failed in the past or what you will mess up in the future - God just wants us to turn to Him, even when we do fall - so that He can help us. David is a great example of this - He messed up a lot but was still referred to as, "A man after God's heart." It wasn't because He was perfect, it was because he kept getting back up! GET BACK UP! :)

#### **PSALMS 139:12-13**

You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside & my intricate outside, & wove them all together in my mother's womb. i thank you, God, for making me so mysteriously complex! Everything you do is marvelously breathtaking. It simply amazes me to think about it! How thoroughly you know me, Lord!

There was a time in my life that I felt so unattractive... I literally would look in the mirror & I felt like Shrek. There was a day that I looked in the mirror & I was SURE that God made a mistake. Quickly, God spoke to me & said, "ARE YOU TELLING ME I MADE A MISTAKE? I DON'T MAKE MISTAKES."

I felt super humbled in that moment, because I was only seeing myself through the lens of that season & what I was feeling emotionally about myself. If God took the time to make me & know me - how this verse explains, then there is no way I could have been an accident! I realized I was judging the work of God when I was judging myself... Have you ever been there? You just aren't happy with the way your body, hair, or face looks & you wish you were like someone else... This scripture shows us that EVERYTHING He does is, "marvelously breathtaking." & I want you to know - He is talking about YOU!! Instead of judging yourself, what if we started thanking God for what He has made & maybe your perspective would change - mine did!

#### **PSALMS 139:12-13**

Your lives light up the world. Let others see your light from a distance, for how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop? & who would light a lamp & then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it's placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light. So, don't hide your light!

Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, & then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven.

God made you to be a LIGHT! Leann Rimes had a song I used to sing all the time when I was little called: YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE. & I think this is exactly what we are supposed to do in the rooms, situations, & to people that we encounter. Because the power of God lives in YOU... There is a LIGHT inside of you that can change any situation or circumstance you face for the good!

We were not meant to hide this light - I see the light as an evidence of the POWER OF GOD that works in us! God who works in & through us should so shine in & through our choices, demeanor, & even our approach to others - that people we do not even know can tell that there is something different about us (in a good way)! Don't hide the God light that is inside of you - you have a unique deposit of His glory in you - to shine for a GREAT purpose! & it honors God when you reflect His light!

#### 1 JOHN 4:9-10

The light of God's love shined within us when He sent His matchless Son into the world so that we might live through Him. This is love: He loved us long before we loved Him. It was his love, not ours. He proved it by sending his Son to be the pleasing sacrificial offering to take away our sins.

I have some good news about this light - the light we talked about yesterday... Not the light you let shine in you, but the origin of the light - JESUS! He loves us SO much that NOTHING can EVER separate us from that love. The enemy will try to convince you that you have messed up too much for Jesus to ever REALLY love you, but the truth is that - HE LOVES YOU EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T LOVE HIM BACK! He died on a cross for you, knowing fully all the wrong you would commit - & He thought you were worth the price! It can be so easy to get caught up in drama, gossip, & other issues in life that drag us down.

We get stuck inside of depression, sickness, panic attacks - & it colors our world. We never know when the ish is gonna hit the fan. But the PROOF OF JESUS' LOVE IN ACTION shows us that WE DO NOT HAVE TO BE BOUND. He died on a cross (not only) for our sins - But also for our sickness & issues. So, my question to you today is: Why are you holding onto something that you have already been freed from? Why is it still controlling you? Is it because a doctor told you so? IS YOUR SICKNESS OR ISSUE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE BLOOD OF JESUS? - I guess you have to decide who has the authority in your life & body, but MY GOD already paid the price!

## GETIT GIRL!

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