



ENCOURAGEMENT

FROM THE FATHER



*A Seven-lesson Devotional Guide
with real life experiences from a father,
inspired by the Father.*

BY: RICHARD G. LEE II



Preface

My life has gone through many seasons, but entering fatherhood has been rewarding yet equally challenging. The joy of being a father cannot adequately be put into words. God has remained faithful throughout this journey. This devotional is not just for fathers, but for everyone.

Each devotional lesson was written from a first-hand account of how the Father has continued to walk with me every step of the way. I pray that this devotional encourages, strengthens, and blesses you RICHLY.

In His Service,
Richard G. Lee II

About the Author

Richard Lee is a Husband, Father, Songwriter/Director, Musician, and a High School music production teacher, who is passionate about living his personal scripture, Colossians 3:16. His prayer is that he would not seek to be recognized for his service, but that He (the Father) would be recognized in His service.



Dedication

To my wife,

You carried our son into this world through sickness the entire pregnancy.

Yet, you never complained or questioned God while experiencing such a difficult season. My faith was encouraged daily as I watched you give every morsel of strength to get our son here safely.

We are living proof that even at our weakest, His strength is made perfect.

Though spiritually I am continuing to grow, your resilience and trust in God have inspired me to share some of our journey and, in turn, encourage others in the faith.

With God's Love,

Richard

Devotional

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Caesar's daughter raised.

l, a woman,
with an issue
came behind
e hem of his
in herself, If
s garment, I
him about,
er, he said,
omfort; ⁷ thy
whole. And
whole from
s came into
d saw ^s the
ple making
hem, ^t Give
s not dead,
ey laughed
eople were
, and took
the maid
ereof went
s departed
n followed
^u Thou son
us.
come in-
men came
aith unto
I am able
unto him,
heir eyes,
r faith be
e opened;
ed them,
an know
were de-
fame in
, behold,
umb man
was cast
the mul-
It was
id, ^a He
gh the
t all the
hing in
reaching
m, and
d every
he mul-
h com-
e they
red a-
o shep-
disciples,
us, but
e Lord
l send
st.

Anno
DOMINI
31.

^p Mark 5, 25,
Luko 8, 43.

^q Luke 7, 50,
& 8, 48,
& 17, 19,
& 18, 42.

^r Mark 5, 38,
Luko 8, 51.
^s See 2 Chr.
35, 25.

^t Acts 20, 10.

2 Or,
this fame.

^u ch. 15, 22,
& 20, 30, 31,
Mark 10, 47,
48,
Luko 13, 33,
39.

^x ch. 8, 4,
& 12, 16,
& 17, 9,
Luko 5, 14,
^y Mark 7, 39.

^z See ch. 12,
22,
Luko 11, 14.

^a ch. 12, 24,
Mark 3, 22,
Luko 11, 15.

^b Mark 6, 6,
Luko 13, 22.

^c ch. 4, 23.

^d Mark 6, 34.

3 Or, were
tired and lay
down.

^e Num. 27, 17,
1 Kin. 22, 17,
Ezek. 34, 5,
Zech. 10, 2.

^f Luko 10, 2,
John 4, 35,
^g 2 Thess. 3, 1.

Christ sendeth out

St. M

CHAPTER 10.

1 Christ sendeth out his twelve apo-
enabling them with power to do mir-
5 giveth them their charge, teacheth
16 comforteth them against persecu-
40 and promiseth a blessing to those
receive them.

AND ^a when he had called
him his twelve disciples, he
them power ² against unclean
rits, to cast them out, and to
all manner of sickness and all
ner of disease.

² Now the names of the tw
apostles are these; The first, Si-
^b who is called Peter, and Andre-
brother; James the son of Zeb-
and John his brother;

³ Philip, and Bartholomew;
mas, and Matthew the publi-
James the son of Alphaeus,
Lebbæus, whose surname was
dæus;

⁴ Simon the Canaanite, and
d Iscariot, who also betrayed hi-
⁵ These twelve Jesus sent
and commanded them, saying
not into the way of the Gen-
and into any city of the Sa-
tans enter ye not:

⁶ But go rather to the ^h lost
of the house of Israel.

⁷ And as ye go, preach, s-
⁸ The kingdom of heaven is at h-
⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the l-
raise the dead, cast out devils: l-
ye have received, freely give.

⁹ ³ Provide neither gold, ne-
ver, nor ^u brass in your purses,
¹⁰ Nor scrip for your journey,
ther two coats, neither shoes
yet ⁴ staves: ^o for the workm-
worthy of his meat.

¹¹ And into whatsoever c-
town ye shall enter, enquire
in it is worthy; and there abid-
ye go thence.

¹² And when ye come into an
salute it.

¹³ And if the house be w-
let your peace come upon it:
if it be not worthy, let your
return to you.

¹⁴ And whosoever shall n-
ceive you, nor hear your
when ye depart out of that
or city, ^t shake off the dust of
feet.

¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, ^u I
be more tolerable for the la-
Sodom and Gomorrhah in the
judgment, than for that city.

¹⁶ Behold, I send you fo-
sheep in the midst of wolves:
ye therefore wise as serpent
² harmless as doves.

¹⁷ But beware of men: for
will deliver you up to the co-
and ^b they will scourge you in
synagogues;

¹⁸ And ^c ye shall be broug-
fore governors and kings for
sake, for a testimony against
and the Gentiles.

¹⁹ But when they deliver y-
take no thought how or what y-

Anno
DOMINI
31.

^h Luke 5, 15,
14, & 6, 7,
Luko 6, 16,
16, 3, 1,
2 Cor. over.

ⁱ Luke 1, 42.

^j Luke 6, 15,
Acts 1, 13.

^k Luke 13, 26,
ch. 4, 15,
^l See 2 Kin.
17, 24,
Luko 4, 9, 20,
ch. 15, 24,
Acts 13, 46,
ch. 53, 6,
Jer. 50, 6, 17,
Ezek. 34, 5,
ch. 16,
1 Pet. 2, 25,
Luko 9, 2,
ch. 3, 2,
& 4, 17,
Luko 10, 9,
Acts 8, 18, 20,
1 Sam. 9, 7,
Mark 6, 8,
Luko 9, 3,
& 10, 4,
& 22, 35,
2 Cor. Get.
^o See Mark
6, 8.
^p Or, a staff.
^q Luko 10, 7,
1 Cor. 3, 7,
1 Tim. 5, 18,
^r Luko 10, 8,
^s Luko 10, 5,
^t Ps. 55, 13,
^u Mark 6, 11,
Luko 9, 5,
& 10, 10, 11,
^v Neh. 5, 13,
Acts 13, 51,
& 18, 6,
^w ch. 11, 22,
24,
^x Luko 10, 3,
^y Rom. 16, 19,
Eph. 5, 15,
^z 1 Cor. 14, 20,
Phil. 2, 15.
^{aa} Or, simple.
^{ab} ch. 24, 8,
Mark 13, 9,
Luko 12, 11,
& 21, 12,
^{ac} Acts 5, 40,
^{ad} Acts 12, 1,
& 24, 10,
& 23, 7, 23,
^{ae} Tim. 4, 16,
^{af} Mark 13, 11,
12, 13,
Luko 12, 11,
& 21, 14, 15.

1

The Father's Voice

Before my son was born, I would put my head to my wife's stomach and speak to him. One particular day, when I spoke, I said, "This is your Paw here". Immediately, I felt a kick (my wife says it was a punch) right to my face. I was blown away that my son, who was not even born yet, already knew my voice and responded to me.

I often think about how we respond to the Father's voice even as adults. There have been times when God, the Father, has shared ideas, plans, and visions with me, but fear and insecurities caused me not to walk in His authority. Please remember, if God called you to it, He will carry you through it.

In times of uncertainty, ask the Father to speak to and show you clear signs and wonders, that you will know without a doubt are from Him.

Prayer:


Father, when we hear your voice, please give us the strength to respond with boldness. Our God, for you have not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7). Teach us to hear your voice, even over our fears.

Amen

Scripture:


My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28 (NIV)



Lesson Journal

What is God calling you
to begin in this season of your life?



2

The Father's Grace

While my wife was expecting, she experienced many days of sickness. We encountered multiple hospital visits and even had to stay overnight once or twice. During these times, I could truly only rely on God. During one emergency room visit, the nurses were struggling to find my son's pulse. I could feel myself getting agitated, so I just stood back and watched the nurses move about frantically. In that moment, all I could hear in my head was "His grace is sufficient". I could also hear a melody with it, and I laughed to myself and said, "God, this is not the time for a songwriting session."

The meaning of the word sufficient is "enough, adequate". God gives us just enough grace to handle any situation that we may experience. Even in our lowest moments, we can approach the throne of Grace that we might receive mercy and find the help that we need (Hebrews 4:16).

Prayer:


Father, give us the strength to trust that your grace is enough to carry us through any obstacle or circumstance that we may experience. May we be still and know that you are God (Psalm 46:10) and that you are in control of every situation.

Amen

Scripture:


But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV



Lesson Journal

Please share a time when you experienced
God's grace in your life.



3

The Father's Gift

I can remember the first couple of weeks when my son was born, my wife handled bath time. At some point along the way, bath time became my responsibility. We had one of those baby bath tubs that expands and grows with the baby. I can not remember how many months had passed, but I was still trying to bathe my son in a bathtub that he could not fit in anymore. One day, my wife said, "Just put him in the tub; he will be okay." I was not okay with this. I honestly did not want to accept the fact that my son had outgrown his bathtub. I mean, his legs were kind of hanging over, but still. I had to put my fear aside and trust that my baby would be okay in our normal-sized bathtub.

When God gives us a gift, oftentimes we expect it to stay in the same package, format, etc. As we grow in our faith, we must also grow in our mindset. God can do exceedingly and abundantly above what we ask or think (Ephesians 3:16) . We must push through complacency and procrastination because God is ready to push our plans to the next level.

Prayer:

Father, just as you teach us to grow spiritually, give us the knowledge to accept when you are pushing our ideas, plans, and gifts beyond even our imagination. May we experience peace knowing that You are with us, even as we adjust to changes in our lives.

Amen

Scripture:

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

Lesson Journal

◆◆◆◆◆
In what ways can you develop as a better steward of the gifts God has blessed you with?



4

The Father's Guidance

Around the time that my son began to crawl around our home, he would start to pull himself up to stand. I can remember once rushing to his side to make sure he didn't fall back. Though he was still at a young age, I can remember him giving me this look like "Why are you helping me, don't you know I got this?". Well, he has been adventurous ever since. But I do recall another instance where he pulled himself up, but this time, he could not figure out how to get his footing to move around. So he looked back at me and with his look said, "Why are you just standing there, aren't you going to help me"?

I think this is often how we treat our relationship with the Father, God. In some situations and circumstances, we want to be in full control. "That's okay, God, I got this one". But let a storm come into our lives that we weren't expecting or prepared for. We begin looking for and calling out to God. "Father, I stretch my hands to thee....". Let us be encouraged by His Word that invites us to cast all of our cares on Him, for He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).

Prayer:


Father, thank you for being Emmanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23). Even in our roughest moments, when we seem alone and hopeless, let us take courage in knowing that you know all, see all, and can do all but fail.

Amen

Scripture:


In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:6 KJV



Lesson Journal

What areas of your life do you need to turn over to God, for His guidance??



5

The Father's Way

The first few months after my son's birth, my wife would be with him at home, and I would have the afternoon shift after coming home from work. He was a mama's boy from day one. It seemed like he would cry long and hard with me every day at the same time. I could relate to Kevin Hart in his movie, *Fatherhood*, when he says, "Oh no, I gave the baby colic". I mean, I would walk around, sing to the heavens, run water at the faucet, but nothing seemed to stop my baby from crying. My wife would show me how she held him, but it didn't work for me.

One day, during the intense crying, I placed him on my chest in an unconventional position. His head at my heart and his body positioned across mine. It was a miracle; not only did the crying stop, but it became the magic sauce to getting him to go to sleep at night. Even at the time of writing this devotional, I still rock him to sleep in that same position.

There's no way like the Father's way. We must do everything in our power to stick to His purpose and plan for our lives. Please try not to compare your journey with others. Trust that He has your best interest at heart.

Prayer:

Father, may we recognize that your ways are not like ours. Please give us the boldness to trust your Will and your Way for our lives. Even that which seems unconventional, but has your handprint all over it.

Amen

Scripture:


For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

Isaiah 55:8 KJV



Lesson Journal 5

Write a prayer to God asking for direction
in following after His way.



6

The Father's Peace

As a follow-up to the last lesson devotional, there is no greater feeling for me as a father than rocking my son to sleep. Sometimes he could be restless and anxious, but there is a great peace being rocked in the father's arms. Forgive me if this sounds silly, but try to go with me.

As adults, I wonder if we need to be rocked to sleep by the Father. We let bills, health, career, marriage, family, retirement, etc., consume us to the point that it shows up in our mental, emotional, and spiritual health. The Father's definition of peace provides a calming presence that surpasses even our comprehension. When we truly begin to walk in God's peace, it will show up in every aspect of our lives.

Today, choose Peace!!!

Prayer:

Father, you promised us your peace, not as the world gives peace. Grant us your peace as we forgive others and even ourselves. Please send your healing power to all who struggle with past hurts, disappointments, failures, regrets, or even current insecurities that will block us from truly experiencing the fullness of your peace.

Amen

Scripture:


And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 KJV



Lesson Journal 6

Please write about something that disrupts
the peace in your life.



7

The Father's Reflection

As I finish writing this devotional, my mind goes back to when my son was born. Everyone said, "he looks just like you". Well, they were right, as my wife would say, he was "copy and paste". As time has gone on (in my opinion), he has started to look more and more like my wife. But there are days when there is no denying that we are father and son, forever connected.

Likewise, as we grow older, obtain graduate degrees, become CEOs of large corporations, and achieve other career aspirations, the Father must always be seen in us. If I could leave you with anything, it would be this. People will see your gifts, your talents, and abilities, but God must get all the Glory.

If by chance you are not sure where to start, ask God to be glorified in your life, your marriage, your children, your home, your relationships, your career, your church, your health, and even your finances. The world needs to see more of God; let Him be seen through you today.

Prayer:

Father, in all that we accomplish and experience, may you get the Glory out of our lives.

Amen

Scripture:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 KJV

Lesson Journal 7

How can God's glory be seen in your life today?

Thank You For Reading This Devotional

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