

Volume 6  
*Developing the  
Leader in You*



**Daily**  
Strength  
for the  
**Battle**®

You,  
God's Word,  
5 minutes

By Scott & Judy McChrystal

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Developing the Leader in You*  
By Scott & Judy McChrystal

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*To all military Veterans, past and present, and their families who have served God and Country so nobly and selflessly. Only the Lord and those who have walked that path can fully grasp the incredible commitment, dedication, and sacrifices you have made. Thank you. The prayers and support of our nation are with you.*

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# Introduction

Every reader of these devotional books has leadership potential, quite possibly much more potential than you think.

*Volume 5, Maximizing Your Leadership Impact* focused on the critical need for leaders to consult God's Word for His priceless wisdom that far surpasses anything human intelligence or experience can offer.

*Volume 6, Developing the Leader in You* will offer you tools to reach your God-given leadership potential through rigorous self-examination. Scripture underscores the need for self-examination: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

How important is it for leaders to practice self-examination? Notice Paul's admonition to ministry leaders in Ephesus: "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

Paul exhorts these shepherds to care for the people entrusted into their leadership, but only after telling leaders, "keep watch over yourselves" (Acts 20:28).

Paul knows how important it is for leaders to lead themselves before they lead others. Experts estimate that approximately fifty percent of all leadership failures are the result of leaders failing to lead themselves.

So what does self-examination of the leader look like? This devotional breaks the process into a series of seven questions. Each weekly question connects with a longer article followed by seven daily devotionals. The one exception pertains to the final question: How is your character? We devote two weeks to this topic, broken down into Part 1 and Part 2. Every devotional begins with a Bible verse.

Self-examination is not an exercise for cowards. It will reveal the good, the bad, and the ugly. If you are a leader who genuinely wants to grow to your fullest potential, you will welcome all truth that comes through self-examination.

A few tips as you begin the process of self-examination:

- Be confident that the Holy Spirit will guide your efforts as you search God's Word to discover truth about yourself.
- Apply what you learn to yourself, not to others.

## *Introduction*

- If you get “blindsided” by some unflattering truth about yourself, don’t get discouraged. Embrace that truth and strive to improve as the Lord guides and enables you.
- Genuine integrity is required for self-examination. Be honest with yourself and the Lord. Remember, God already knows. Nothing is hidden from Him.
- Self-examination takes time. Don’t rush the process.
- As God shows you needed changes, don’t try to “fix” everything at once. Be patient with yourself.

Let God’s Word help you to become a more effective leader and a better person. If we have better leaders, we will have a better world. ■

# Maximizing Your Minutes

Christian growth and maturity require consistent effort. If you make this book part of your spiritual fitness plan, you will find it is most useful when read each day. Reading times should take about five minutes.

Each volume of *Daily Strength for the Battle*:

- Contains seven weeks of devotions, with one devotion per day. (Volume 6 has eight weeks of devotions.)
- Each week relates to one theme. (Volume 6: Weeks 7 and 8 relate to same theme.)
- Each weekly theme begins with a practical illustration designed to demonstrate the relevance and importance of the theme.
- All daily devotions incorporate topics related to the weekly theme.
- All daily devotions begin with a Bible verse related to the topic.

A suggested way to approach your devotional time could include the following:

- Pray and ask the Lord to open your heart and mind to the truth of His Word.

- Read the verse at the beginning of the devotional and then paraphrase it in your own words.
- Read the devotional.
- Try to answer the following questions:
  - What biblical truth does this devotional talk about?
  - How was the truth applied in the devotional?
  - Do I believe this truth could be important for my own life?
  - How can I apply this truth to my own life?
- Close in prayer and ask God to help integrate this truth into your own life.

Five minutes a day may not seem like much, but you can experience wonderful growth in your Christian life by consistently using these short devotions. The Lord will honor your efforts to honor Him. ■

# Why Are You a Leader?

## Wanted: Godly Leaders

*After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites."*

*Joshua 1:1-2*

God is calling men and women to serve as military leaders. Likewise, He is calling people from around the world to lead in a vast array of venues, beginning with the basic family unit all the way to the largest corporations.

Military service is a unique calling. Charged with providing for our nation's defense, the Department of Defense needs the best men and women available who are willing to wear the mantle of leadership.

Interestingly, the military profession continues to rank at the top of the most respected occupations. Despite the politics surrounding war and conflict, our nation still reveres its military. If you have served or are presently serving as a member of our Armed Forces, congratulations for your work in the Profession of Arms!

**We want to challenge you.** What if we told you that your leadership potential is greater than you think or that the impact you can have on warriors, families, and the

mission can be enhanced to levels far beyond the present? Would you be interested in exploring how?

We're not blowing smoke—not at all. The Bible is clear. God wants the same thing. Here's an example. The verses shown above from the Book of Joshua illustrate one of numerous places in Scripture where God has called on a military figure to lead His people. Read Joshua 1 to get the big picture. The mission given to Joshua was a daunting one. Moses had led the Israelites for forty years but never reached the land promised to Israel by the Lord. Joshua was God's chosen leader to accomplish that. It was going to be a difficult mission. The years under Joshua's leadership would be characterized by constant fighting against fierce nations who presently occupied the land.

The Lord knew that Joshua could not handle the leadership challenges in his own strength. Joshua realized that, too. God gave him a promise with two important conditions. First, God told Joshua that his people would one day divide the inheritance promised to them, but he must lead courageously. Second, the Lord ordered Joshua to remain brave so he could lead the people in following all of the laws passed down through Moses. God concluded His encouragement by assuring Joshua that He





## Why Are You a Leader?

would be with him wherever he would go.

Stop to consider your own experience as a military leader. Were there times when the mission assigned exceeded your human capacities to accomplish? Can you recall the stress, anxiety, and confusion you felt as you searched for answers? This happens to most leaders, at least once, if not more often. If that experience hasn't occurred yet, it most likely will.

**Military service is a noble calling.** For centuries some have questioned whether the Profession of Arms is truly a calling approved by God. This view is not supported by the Bible. First, it is based on wrongful interpretation of the sixth commandment. The word in the King James Version that is translated "kill" should have been translated "murder." God has ordained civil authorities to maintain order in society. Part of that mandate calls for nations to defend themselves through warfare. Killing as a part of warfare is clearly permitted in Scripture. Dissenters, even whole denominations, are actually basing their argument on social or political grounds, not biblical ones.

Joshua was only one of many the Lord called to assume the mantle of military leadership. David, Samson, Deborah, and Gibeon are just a few of the great military leaders who appear in Scripture. Many more are listed in the Bible though there is not much description of each. However, the evidence is clear. War has been a part of human history and will be so until Jesus returns. God

understands that. Further support is found in Exodus in Moses's song following the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, Moses writes this: "The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name" (Exodus 15:3).

Joining the military is certainly not the right choice for everyone. Like any profession or line of work, there are important personal considerations that should be addressed before anyone chooses to join the armed forces. If you sense the Lord is directing you to become a military leader, rest assured that you are embarking on a noble calling, one approved by the Lord.

Let's briefly review. **First**, the world needs leaders, and the military is no exception. **Second**, God calls men and women to serve as military leaders. This is evident in both biblical and secular history.

**Third**, God supports military leaders. He provides the wisdom, courage, and ability to serve effectively.

**Last**, He desires to see military leaders grow into godly leaders who maximize their impact on those whom they lead.

If you genuinely desire to be a more godly and effective military leader, you certainly can, but it won't come



easily. You must commit to hard work and sacrifice. The great news is that your efforts will prove successful because the Lord has your back.

Let us close with this challenge from Joshua after decades of leading the nation of Israel: “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15). ■

## Made to Lead

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*  
Genesis 1:26

The Creator of our universe has created you to lead. From the time God created human beings, He has intended for them to rule over all the earth.

You are made in God’s image and are superior to all other living creatures. He has endowed you with creativity, consciousness, and personality. Additionally, the Lord has endowed humans with the ability to think abstractly and to make moral judgments.

The above traits, along with many others, equip you to lead. Our world needs good leaders.

However, leaders need to remember one important limitation. God’s will has never been for leaders to rely solely on their own abilities. He desires that we trust and lean on Him to guide us. “Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established” (Proverbs 16:3, ESV).

Lead together with God. ■