



# The President's Devotional: The Daily Readings That Inspired President Obama

*Joshua DuBois*

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*The President's Devotional* lets you start each day with the words that have inspired President Barack Obama, collected by Joshua DuBois, President Obama's "Pastor-in-Chief" (*Time* magazine)—his spiritual advisor who also served as the executive director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Every day, DuBois provided President Obama with a morning devotional weaving together scripture, song, prayer, and reflections, motivated by the spirit of God and infused with joyful flair. *The President's Devotional* contains the best of these devotionals, daily spiritual guidance that offer peace, comfort, and inspiration throughout the entire year.

## The President's Devotional: The Daily Readings That Inspired President Obama Details

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## James says

"Obama has often mentioned the inspiration he finds in Dubois' daily scripture e-mails, making the faith-based office director an informal spiritual advisor to the president." - The Washington Post.

There's sorrow in the night, and joy in the morning. POTUS speaking in Dallas in a speech reminiscent to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Here one must leave behind all hesitation;  
here every cowardice must meet its death.  
- Dante Alighieri, Inferno

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## Monique says

Awe-inspiring devotional that will make you think about your life.

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## Naomi says

A christian devotional for leaders, DuBois has crafted words and prayers in dialogue with selected Biblical texts and inspirational quotations that often move, ground, and encourage those in difficult leadership positions.

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## Heather B says

This is not a book to complete so much as a daily focus for one's prayer life.

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## Tina says

I haven't actually read all 365 daily devotions, but I have read the intro. to each month in which Joshua DuBois relates a story from his political career and how it changed him. DuBois started working for Senator Obama and later became head of his White House faith-based office. He sent daily devotional thoughts via e-mail to the Senator, then President, for years and has compiled the best in this book. The monthly vignettes satisfied my political junkie nature, but more importantly they glorify God over politics. I'm usually a stickler for reading a daily devotional "daily," but I've already read through January, given the book to a friend, and will be purchasing another copy for myself.

In the words of my 91 year old, evangelical Christian, life-long Democratic grandmother, the monthly introductions are "comforting."

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## **Jeff says**

During the 2008 campaign season, Joshua DuBois sent an email to a US Senator who "also happened to be running for president." It said:

"Hi Senator,  
I hope you're well. I've collected a few devotionals and scriptures that might provide encouragement in these last few weeks, including the one below. I'll send them in the morning from time to time, if it's helpful.  
Best, Joshua"

Senator Barak Obama replied that he would appreciate that greatly. Later on, Joshua would become the "White House faith-based office director." He had continued the practice of sending the President devotionals and scripture readings.

This book is a collection of some of those devotionals. And it is easily one of the most inspiring daily devotional books I have ever read.

At the beginning of each month's readings is a longer reading to start the month. The most most moving of those was (I can't remember which month) the one that detailed President Obama's visit to the home of evangelist Billy Graham. I was nearly in tears as Joshua described the moment when President Barak Obama (unjustly accused by many ultra-conservatives of being a Muslim) knelt and prayed for Billy Graham.

I treasure this book, and will keep it around, perhaps to use it again another year.

Oh, and by the way, it is rarely, if ever political at all. There might be one of the monthly opening articles that might have edged into politics, but that's it. The devotions are scripturally based and feature quotes from other people as well. They are also very short, never more than two pages, so it's easily accessible for a brief morning (or whenever) devotional reading.

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## **Gregory says**

### **I was blessed every day!**

I was given this book as a gift and at the start of the new year, I began to post small excerpts of the devotionals online. Not only was I blessed by the reading and sharing, the comments that others shared about how those tiny clips blessed them as well gave me fuel to continue. Having posted for a full year and gotten to the end of the book, I'm missing that experience and will keep the book nearby and always on hand for those times when inspiration is needed.

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## **Sandy says**

This book isn't really about politics or the president, though they are both mentioned in the lead-in to each month's readings. You could easily skip the chapter intros and never hear about the president at all. This is set up to be a daily devotional with a short reading, a scripture, and a prayer at the end, like any other devotional. The difference is that this is the best one I've ever read.

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## **Lydalyn says**

Great source for inspirational prayers. Fascinating to understand a glimpse into the spiritual side of President Obama. I read it from the library and kept having to renew it every few weeks, as it's not a book to just sit and read in one night, but I book to digest slowly. I plan to buy the book, Now that the copy has been returned to the library. I'd truly recommend the book, no matter whatsoever of aisle you lean, it's non-partisan and worth a look at.

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## **Pam Cipkowski says**

I started a few days late, but this is the first daily devotional I've ever read from beginning to end over a year. Aside from the title, preface, and a few notes throughout the book, you would never know that this was associated with Obama or the office of the President. But what an inspiration these vignettes must have been to the President when he received them on his phone every day from Joshua DuBois, his spiritual advisor and the executive director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Joshua actually started sending these reflections, writings, quotes, and scripture passages to Obama when he was a senator, and this devotional is a compilation of some of the best of those messages. DuBois states that, "The devotionals I sent the president have always been Christian at their core, and their ultimate subject is Christ." Aside from biblical verses, though, the devotional includes passages and quotations from individuals and sources such as Van Goethe's Faust, Joni Mitchell, Emily Brontë, Thomas Paine, C.S. Lewis, and Johnny Cash. If you are looking for a positive way to start your day with a contemporary and faith-based focus, you will be inspired by this devotional.

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## **Doug says**

DuBois was the head of the President's Faith Based Initiatives Office. He sent an email devotion to the President each day. This is a collection of those devotionals which include scripture, quotes from notable people, a brief reflection and prayer. I'm glad to see a work showing the influence of Christianity on a Democratic President.

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## **Nancy says**

There's a lot of wisdom in this book and the world being what it is these days, it's nice to read something that's uplifting. I have to be honest and say I didn't read one post a day....I just finished out the year

yesterday, but I plan to post some of the better quotes throughout the year on Facebook.

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### **David Roberts says**

Joshua DuBois worked directly for President Obama for 4 years, and got into the habit of sending his boss a daily inspirational message. This book is a collection of the "Best of" these messages, combined with a longer essay each month on a related topic, usually highlighting a personal story about the President.

Written from a Christian perspective, the daily page long readings offer a scripture passage, sometimes a quote from another source (and these are often quite good), a paragraph of commentary, and a short prayer. Most days were excellent food for thought and reflection.

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### **Ed Visser says**

Some excellent devotions, like this one based on Mt 5:1-7:

"Let's think about our frailty. The greatest among us is nothing more than sin stitched together. The least among us is not much worse, and maybe a bit better. We're kept alive and thriving only by the grace of God. These facts do not make us wretched beings. In fact, quite the opposite. When we realize that it is God's pure grace that binds the bodies and minds of our fellow man together, each person we encounter becomes more holy, special, worthy of care. Through his lens, it's hard to judge. And easier to love."

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### **Barbara says**

I put this book on my "currently reading list" a year ago. Since the book provides one year of daily devotionals I'm nearing the end of the book.

This book is not only a compilation of devotionals. Each day's "devotional" is preceded by a story or explanation or quotes that then leads to the devotional. The quotes come from a range of sources – the Bible, philosophers, a grandfather or aunt, Abraham Lincoln, and more. This book has provided me a few moments' time each day very well spent.

DuBois did not originally write this book for publication but I'm glad it was published.

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