



# *Creative*

## REVOLUTION



A 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL  
FOR CREATIVES



**LEONARDO RAMIREZ**

# **Creative Revolution**

*A devotional for creatives in all mediums*

**Leonardo Ramirez**

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CREATIVE REVOLUTION

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## About

**W**hether you are a novelist, a poet, a screenwriter, filmmaker, producer, director or a songwriter you are called to the same goal, intimacy with the Father. Journey with me and discover that the best way to create is to surrender all that we are (including our talents themselves) to the creator and giver of talents. From there, a seed of insatiable hunger for the deep of Christ will be planted and works that spread a rich understanding of his love will reach out to a world hungry for life.

Leonardo Ramirez is an author of kids' steampunk and young adult fantasy. You can visit the author's website at <http://Leonardoverse.com> to learn more.



## Special Thanks

**K***aren Covell, Founding Director of the Hollywood Prayer Network and staff* for your friendship, encouragement and prayers.



## Day One: Who is the Main Character of your Story?

**Today's Scripture:** John 15:4 (TPT)

*So, you must remain in life-union with me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine.*

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### Devotional

AS CREATIVES, WE ARE prone to being content in our solitude. So much so that we can, at times, crowd out the creator and lover of our soul, Jesus. We also become so attached to our work as a source of our joy driving away the One who longs for our company the most. We become accustomed to “thinking” about God instead of speaking to Him...out loud. As with any relationship, trust and dependence are fostered with communication. Before you put pen to paper, talk to Him out loud. Dwell in His presence. Hunger for Him. Press in and deepen your relationship with Him today, not for what He can give you but because of who He is. And because He is faithful, good things will come. That includes ideas for books, movies or songs! Don't say to yourself, “if I write that one book, screenplay or song, it will change everything.”

Let him be more than enough today. Exercise “detached excellence” from your work and focus on Him alone. Be careful

that you do not worship your gifts but instead worship the Giver of those gifts. That is idol worship. If you were to continue in that state, the thing that you do will become hollow and without fruit. Surrender all of you to Him. And He will move through you! Everything starts with relationship and HE is calling you to a greater intimacy in this very moment.



### Prayer

FATHER, GIVE ME A LEVEL of hunger for you that I have never known before. Remind me to be intentional about our time together. Holy Spirit, I invite you in to change my way of thinking.



## Day Two: MUST the Show Go On?

**Today's Scriptures:** Colossians 1:10-11, Matthew 6:1 (TPT)

### **C**olossians 1:10-11

*We pray that you would walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you'll become fruit-bearing branches, yielding to his life, and maturing in the rich experience of knowing God in his fullness! <sup>11</sup> And we pray that you would be energized with all his explosive power from the realm of his magnificent glory, filling you with great hope.*

### **Matthew 6:1**

*Examine your motives to make sure you're not showing off when you do your good deeds, only to be admired by others; otherwise, you will lose the reward of your heavenly Father. So when you give to the poor, don't announce it and make a show of it just to be seen by people, like the hypocrites in the streets and in the marketplace. They've already received their reward! But when you demonstrate generosity, do it with pure motives and without drawing attention to yourself. Give secretly and your Father, who sees all you do, will reward you openly.*

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### **Devotional**

AS I WAS DEVELOPING my works of fiction, I worked for a Christian record company that is still well known. Like many others, I was blessed by the music that had come from these talented artists. But after working there, I became disillusioned be-

cause of the sense of obsessive pride that emanated from some in “the work that they had done for the Lord”. As a creative myself, I was just as guilty of this. I wanted to do “great things” for the Lord but had forgotten my first love. Likewise, as a child of extreme poverty living in a single-parent family, there was an ever-increasing danger of anything I did for the Lord becoming my identity. Years after, He stripped everything that I was doing away. The music, the books...all of it. I found no comfort even in the church. All that was left was my heavenly father and me.

That was when I found my secret place. A place where there is nothing and no one but our shared time together as father and son. All that was left was an insatiable hunger for God. Let us not seek a platform. Let us not do this or that to be liked or revered. Find your secret place and cultivate your relationship to the Lord on a daily basis. That is the only thing that will fill you to overflowing. You’ll find that the hungrier for Him you are, the hungrier for Him you’ll be. And He, in turn, will show you what true love is so that you may love others as He loves you. Don’t let your gift become your identity. You are a child of God!

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**Prayer**

FATHER, GIVE ME A REVELATION of how you see me and all you want me to be. Strip away all that is not of you until all that is left is Jesus in me. Return me to my first love.



## Day Three: What's YOUR Story?

**Today's Scripture:** John 15: 18-20 (TPT)

*Just remember, when the unbelieving world hates you, they first hated me. If you were to give your allegiance to the world, they would love and welcome you as one of their own. But because you won't align yourself with the values of this world, they will hate you. I have chosen you and taken you out of the world to be mine. So, remember what I taught you, that a servant isn't superior to his master. And since they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. And if they obey my teachings, they will also obey yours.*

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### Devotional

ONCE I HAD A DIRECT supervisor who hated Christians with passion. Even though I never spoke of my faith, he let me know how much he hated those who followed Jesus. At that time, the symptoms of fibromyalgia were beginning to manifest in my body. One of these symptoms was pain spread throughout my body. The hostile working environment, coupled with multiple guess-work surgeries made things worse. As a result, I didn't always respond to my supervisor in a way that was pleasing to the Father. And while I knew that it was God's will for all to come to Him and come to depend on Him, I did not fully understand the level of trust He was calling me to. I also could no longer teach martial arts as I had doing for the past decade. Other than my wife and daughter, all of my friends had fallen away. All I had

was Jesus. And like Psalm 32:6 says, “This is what I’ve learned through it all. All believers should confess their sins to God; do it every time God has uncovered you in the time of exposing. For if you do this, when sudden storms of life overwhelm, you’ll be kept safe.”

It’s time to shed our lukewarm state and hunger for God more than ever. We should also remember that intentionally prioritizing our time of intimacy with Him will present challenges. Namely, the enemy will take notice.

**But just as it was for Israel, here is God’s promise to you.**

Zephaniah 3:9-13

*In the end I will turn things around for the people. I’ll give them a language undistorted, unpolluted, Words to address God in worship and, united, to serve me with their shoulders to the wheel. They’ll come from beyond the Ethiopian rivers, they’ll come praying—All my scattered, exiled people will come home with offerings for worship. You’ll no longer have to be ashamed of all those acts of rebellion. I’ll have gotten rid of your arrogant leaders. No more pious strutting on my holy hill! I’ll leave a core of people among you who are poor in spirit— What’s left of Israel that’s really Israel. They’ll make their home in God. This core holy people will not do wrong. They won’t lie, won’t use words to flatter or seduce. Content with who they are and where they are, unanxious, they’ll live at peace.*

God will turn your story around. In your quiet time, ask Him to reveal the depths of His love for you.

FATHER, HIDE ME IN the shadow of your wings. I lay down every hurt, offense or every idle word spoken against me. Open the eyes and ears of my heart. Show me your secrets and what your dream for me is.



## Day Four: Developing Character in Story, Song and Life

**Today's Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 12:5 (TPT)

**I**'m ready to boast of such an experience, but for my own good I refuse to boast unless it concerns my weaknesses.

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### Devotional

IN MY NOVEL, *Haven of Dante*, I've written a character who is a descendant of Dante Alighieri and is tasked with battling the nine circles of hell who have infiltrated every level of modern-day society. In the story, her abilities manifest as she acknowledges her weaknesses. Just like her and like Paul, we must acknowledge our weaknesses so that His power is perfected. Paul takes it a step further and says, "I'm ready to boast of such an experience, but for my own good I refuse to boast unless it concerns my weaknesses." But exactly HOW is this so? How is power perfected in weakness? I believe the answer to this lies in the level of dependence we grant to our Father. When we depend on Him, we grant Him permission to intervene in our circumstances. We say to our Father, "I can't do this without you." We can even take it a step further and say, "I can't do this at all." This doesn't deflect the weaknesses. It acknowledges them.

And that is when grace comes in. The level of dependence that you show will equal the level of power He will demonstrate. Don't ask Him to change your circumstance. Instead of asking

Him to take you out of the world, ask Him to take the world out of you. Ask Him to show you where you need to grow and then ask Him to take over that situation and not just be your co-pilot.

Take it all.



### **Prayer**

FATHER, MAY THE LEVEL of hunger that you've instilled in me be equal to the dependence that I have in you. I lay down everything that I have including the talents you have granted me stewardship of. Use them as you see fit.



## Day Five: Whose Voice are You Listening To?

**Today's Scriptures:** 1 John 3:1, 1 John 4:18, Psalm 34:5 TPT

- **1 John 3:1** *Look with wonder at the depth of the Father's marvelous love that he has lavished on us! He has called us and made us his very own beloved children. The reason the world doesn't recognize who we are is that they didn't recognize him.*
- **1 John 4:18** *Love never brings fear, for fear is always related to punishment. But love's perfection drives the fear of punishment far from our hearts. Whoever walks constantly afraid of punishment[a] has not reached love's perfection.*
- **Psalm 34:5** *Gaze upon him, join your life with his and joy will com. Your faces will glisten with glory. You'll never wear that shame-face again.*

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### Devotional

I grew up in a single-parent family. When my father left, my sisters and I were very young. My mother had succumbed to the pain and hurt of divorce which severely crippled her ability to sustain relationships resulting in her inability to keep a steady job. As a result, we were very poor and once, we were even home-

less. Yet through it all, God was there. I look back at instances where He provided for us. But having lived in those conditions for so long, the inner voice that was prevalent in my mind was that God had abandoned me. That became my internal voice. We are affected by rejection because of fear or past trauma, but those are the things that He wants to strip away. What we don't want to do is seek a platform or an accomplishment in the hope that it will heal our hurts. It will not. Only He can do that. We must go to the secret place every day. We must seek Him for Him and not what He can do for us, or even what we think we can do for Him. That's when we'll find complete and total healing. That's when we'll see that He is our deliverer from all of our troubles and like Psalm 34:5 says, we'll "never wear that shame face again".



### **Prayer**

FATHER, TEACH ME TO hear your voice alone. Let your love displace that of the accuser of the brethren and let me be guided solely by you. Thank you for never letting me go.



## Day Six: Learn Your Lines!

**Today's Scripture:** Psalm 33:6 (TPT)

**A**ll he had to do was speak by his Spirit-wind command, and God created the heavenlies. Filled with galaxies and stars, the vast cosmos he wonderfully made.



### Devotional

EVEN THOUGH WE DATED for a short time, many days and weeks came before the mere moments that Kristen and I became husband and wife. In just a few short moments before the officiator, we spoke our commitment to God and each other into existence and we pledged the rest of our lives to live as one. There is great debate as to how old the Earth and the universe are but either way, God spoke the universe into existence in a matter of moments and with few words. And the few words that God spoke to create the world that we inhabit, albeit a perfected form, has been around for a very long time. That is the value of words. The Bible consists of words that are eternal. We must remember that when we speak, He is there. We must remember whose we are and, on whose behalf, we speak. Words are eternal. I am so grateful that God is faithful and merciful.



### Prayer

FATHER, HELP ME TO remember that whatever I do, whatever I write, you are in the midst of it all. Help me to live a life that uplifts, heals others and brings glory to your name.



## Day Seven: Whose Talents, Are They?

**Today's Scripture:** Matthew 25:18 (TPT)

**B**ut the one who had been entrusted with one thousand gold coins dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

Steward: (Dictionary.com) a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.



### Devotional

YEARS AGO, I WAS ON the worship team at my local church and went on to lead worship elsewhere. I had already been devastated by a series of ill-spoken words directed at me by some, but the latest incident was a catalyst. We had moved to Nashville where I met a man who would later become a friend. He was the worship leader at our church and wanted to go on holiday. So, he asked me to step in for one Sunday and I agreed. After worship, I stepped off the platform. The pastor's wife marched up and stated that the person's whose place I was filling in for would have worked the songs in a different order. She was not happy. A bystander spoke up saying that I was only trying to help. She marched off. For many years after this incident, I refused to lead worship or even become a part of a worship team. I had never released the years of hurt from the years previous to this incident.

But here's what I did not realize. The talent I possessed was never my talent at all. It was something that God had given me to steward for others to benefit from. Serving Him and others while feeling fulfilled is a symbiotic relationship. One cannot live without the other. This is why the person who buried the master's talent was cast out. He couldn't be trusted with something so valuable to the master. Yet through this, God proves Himself faithful. If we choose to remember whose talents they are we won't become dependent on them for our identity. It will also be easier to keep in mind that it's not you they're insulting, it's Him. And because He is faithful, He will redeem it in greater measure than before. When someone offends, forgive and give it to God. You're better off letting Him handle it.

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**Prayer**

FATHER, THANK YOU FOR saving me from myself and my ego. Thank you for your faithfulness. Give me a people for whom to pray and serve. Help me to learn to love others as you love me. Let me forgive as you have forgiven me and let all that I do bring you glory for as long as I live.

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**My Prayer for YOU**

LET THE HUNGER OF YOUR heart be to become an intimate friend of God. May you be reminded every day of the depths of His love for you. Then from the overflow of that relationship, be a vessel of His love to the world and draw those to the saving grace of Christ and an awakening and full understanding of His love for them. Continue to ask Him to open the

eyes and ears of your heart that you may see and hear Him clearly. May you take the time each day to rest in His presence.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



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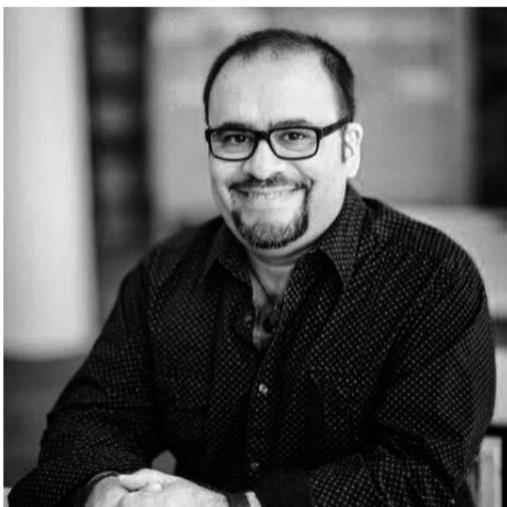
Haven of Dante: The Staff of Moshe

Beacon in the Badlands

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Watch for more at [Leonardoverse.com](http://Leonardoverse.com).



## About the Author

Leonardo Ramirez is a science fiction and fantasy author of all ages. From his humble beginnings in Bronx, New York, he's bootstrapped his way into the hearts of science fiction/fantasy readers—young and old alike. This is truly a man who understands that life is for the living and he helps every one of his readers live life to the fullest through the wonderful adventures of his written words! He also has a soft spot in his heart for people who are hurting. These can be kids who have had to grow up in a single-parent family as was the case in the popular steampunk kids series, *The Jupiter Chronicles*. It can also be young girls who have suffered an assault like Haven did in *Haven of Dante*. Those are the kids and adults he wants to speak to because he's been there.

His parents were divorced when Leonardo turned ten years old and what followed after was a tumultuous life filled with hardship that included poverty, abuse and homelessness.

But there is hope. And Leonardo Ramirez explains that hope in a short book titled, *Beacon in the Badlands* which you can download for free.

Leonardo Ramirez lives with his wife Kristen, their daughter Mackenzy and their two dogs, Duchess and Tinkerbell in a small suburb of Nashville, Tennessee.

Read more at [Leonardoverse.com](http://Leonardoverse.com).