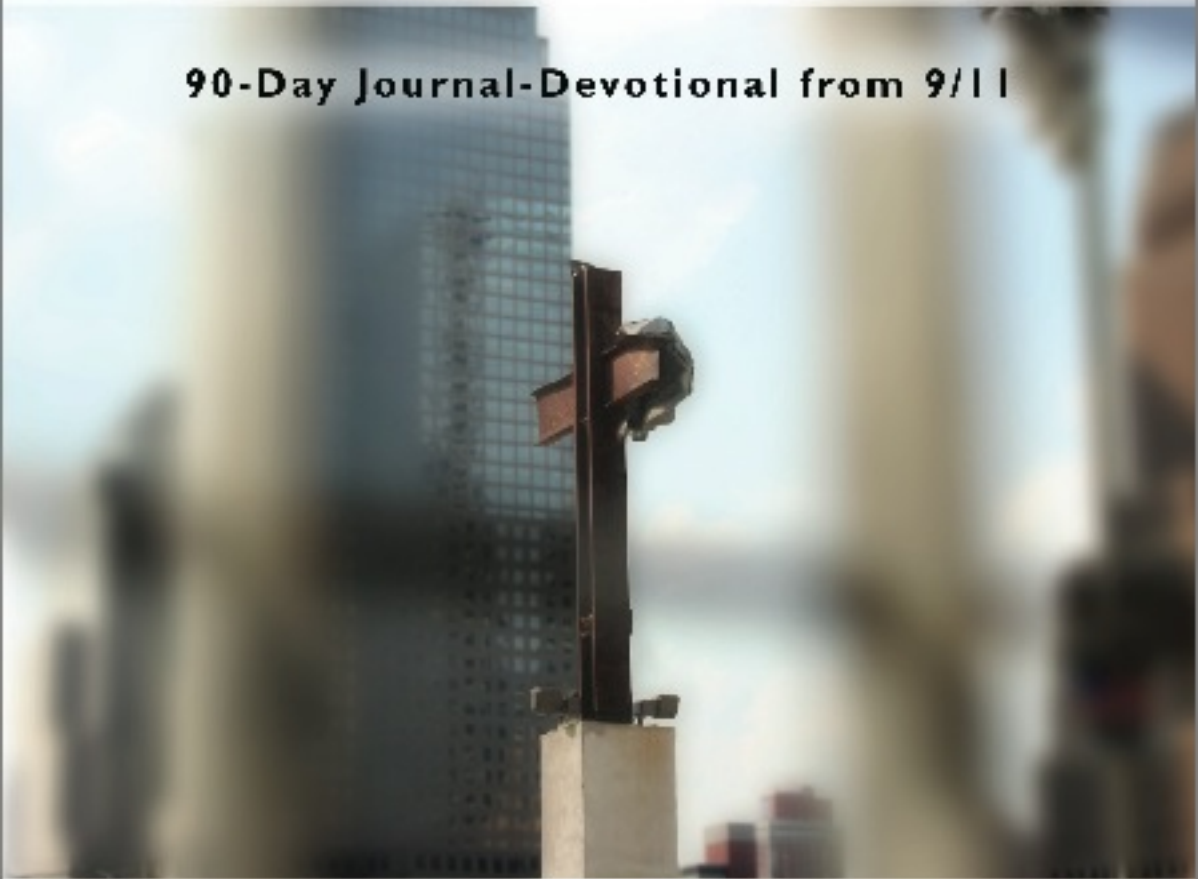
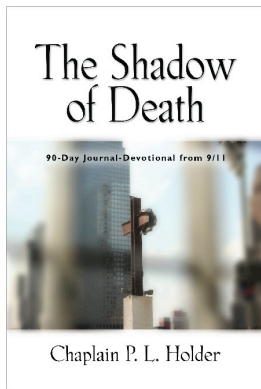


# The Shadow of Death

90-Day Journal-Devotional from 9/11

A blurred photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, with a prominent cross in the foreground. The cross is dark and stands on a light-colored base. The background shows tall buildings and a hazy sky, suggesting a somber or reflective atmosphere.

Chaplain P. L. Holder



*A 9/11 book written as a Club sandwich made from the variety of breads that make up the daily news for those wondering who want the facts. It is filled with choice meats of personal encounters, experiences, stories and illustrations that will gently stir memories, struggles and victories for those who were there. Finally it is topped off with words of Comfort, Adoration, Recognition and Encouragement for those still struggling with "The Shadow of Death."*

# **The Shadow of Death**

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*(90-Day Journal-Devotional from 9/11)*

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## **Chapter 3**

### **Response Was Offered (8-9)**

*“We need to begin anew”*

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States: "We have been recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God. Intoxicated with unbroken success is the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." (*Abraham Lincoln, Proclamation of a National Day of Fasting and Prayer, March 30, 1863, Washington, D.C.*)

#### **W.E. N.E.E.D. T.O.!**

**“Sept 19:** Beamer, of Cranbury, N.J., died Tuesday aboard United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Somerset County. Before the crash, Beamer dialed zero on the onboard phone system, reaching an operator at GTE in Chicago. He told her the plane had been hijacked.

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Jefferson, a supervisor at GTE, got on the line and talked with Beamer for 13 minutes, telling him about other hijackings that had ended in crashes at the World Trade Center in New York.

Beamer told Jefferson he and other passengers planned to take on the hijackers. He made Jefferson promise to call his wife, Lisa, and sons David, 3, and Andrew, 1.

The last words Jefferson heard from Beamer were to his fellow passengers: "Are you guys ready? Let's roll."

Minutes later, the plane crashed, short of its presumed target of Washington, D.C., the last of four crashes in a span of about an hour.

No one aboard survived the crash, but authorities believe the passengers' actions prevented much greater carnage." (*Wednesday, September 19, 2001 By Jim McKinnon, Post-Gazette Staff Writer*)

"Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless."  
*Psalm 10:12 (NIV)*

"Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." – *Viktor Frankl*

We need to! Do what, you may ask? Those on the plane in Pennsylvania made their decision about what they needed to do. In

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New York City, everyone was doing their best to be in their place doing their thing trying to bring it all together. What was it we needed?

We look back recognizing what we had, the many avenues of support.

Worship was provided by a multiplicity of clergy in churches, parking lots, outside buildings, small rooms and the great outdoors.

Engineers worked around the clock to make it a safe place to do search and rescue, remove material safely, and check for structural integrity.

Nurses dutifully and tirelessly worked in emergency rooms, morgues, worksites and wherever requested to provide services. Usually they were bearing a tearful smile with unusual strength in their eyes. They were an outer support for a hurting society.

Educators, civilian and military, combined forces and were offering courses in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) to enable anyone who was having difficulty dealing with their feelings and emotions in regard to the events of 9/11. They were making CISD available long after the events had passed.

Enterprising civilians opened their restaurants, set up water stations, made sandwiches, and cleaned floors and bathrooms.

*The Shadow of Death*

**Doctors** of many types put their skills to work. There were medical doctors, chiropractors, massage therapists, acupuncturists, physiatrists, psychologists, dentist and probably some doctors I knew nothing about. These specialists provided their services freely for those who were in the rescue, cleanup and security forces.

**Timely supporters:** Many street vendors and individuals worked at churches and restaurants to provide food, resting places, quietness, and fellowship

**Organizers:** I offer a special thanks to the skilled, talented and well-functioning work of the FEMA crews, Red Cross, Search and Rescue crews – to include the specially-trained dogs, military and civilian security, plus all other groups that kept things flowing in a steady direction toward mission accomplishment.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we join together in giving thanks for all who have come together to help in the time of need. Be with all who journeyed the second mile while dealing with their own personal issues, emotional struggles and spiritual battles during their time of specialized aide. God’s blessings upon each endeavor past and present. Amen.

**B.E.G.I.N. A.N.E.W.**



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**Sept. 20:** At the joint session of Congress, President Bush said, “We have seen the state of our union in the endurance of rescuers working past exhaustion. We've seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, and the giving of blood, the saying of prayers in English, Hebrew and Arabic. We have seen the decency of a loving and giving people who have made the grief of strangers their own. My fellow citizens, for the last nine days, the entire world has seen for itself the state of our union, and it is strong.

Tonight, we are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done.”

“If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us of all unrighteousness.” *1 John 1:9 (NIV)*

Service members were all in place, each doing their assigned task. Each day was the start of a new 24-hour time frame and a time to begin anew if needed. Think of the many within New York City, some who were now serving their country, who had to start over after the 9/11 tragedy. Some were still hoping and looking for some sign of a lost loved one, others were searching for a new home or job, and still others were not sure what they were searching for but knew they had not found it yet. They searched amidst the clouds of gray ash, the rubble of destroyed

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buildings, and the faces of those at the outskirts of the work zone. Looking!

Many, in their personal lives, were searching and had to start life all over because of an error in judgment, an improper attitude, an accident or a recognized need that it was time to change.

They had to begin anew! They had to begin anew, especially when they looked at the variety of mistakes they had made, the things they had said, the friends they had offended, and the sins they had committed. Their past experience versed their present life. Are you in a place where you need to begin anew?

For some involved in the 9/11 experience, September 11<sup>th</sup> will always be a turning point, a reminder that they had to start over anew celebrated the fact God had given them another chance.

“Imagine a sponge that has been used to wash the dishes. It’s all full of dirt and food and old water. It needs to be filled with clean water! But how can you do that? Easy, you wring it out, rinse it off, and wring it out again. Only when you have done this can you fill it with clean water.

It’s the same with the Spirit (of God). Here we are, all full of sin and grime and filth. There is no room for Him. But once all the filth has

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been removed, and we have been emptied, the Spirit can come and fill us anew.” – *Unknown (Sermoncentral.com/illustrations)*

“Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.” – *Henry Ward Beecher*

- **Boy**, how many times I have wanted to begin,
- **Erasing** the mistakes of my past.
- **Give** me victory over my ongoing errors and sin
- **Inspire** me to stay faithful till the last.
- **Now** – not tomorrow – help me receive His best.

Writing today I respond by saying:

Another day, lies before us, with 24 hours to pass.

Never knowing what will be our individual fate.

Each day a new opportunity, in our life, will pass.

Wonder – how will you and I will relate?

“I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.” *Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 (NIV)*

*The Shadow of Death*

**A. N.E.W.** beginning occurred at 9/11 for many a person. However, there were those who had difficulty starting anew. How about you?

**Prayer:** Lord, help us

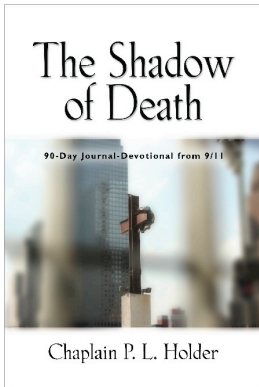
Announce to the world how much you truly care

Never questioning the Holy Spirit's power we share

Enriching us with glorious wonderful strength anew

Winning because we walk holding hands with You.

'Lord we thank You because we know "...those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Amen.' *Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)*



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