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Daily Devotional - Burnout and Fatigue

APRIL 24TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Burnout and Fatigue

Matthew 11:25-30

We have all experienced physical burnout—those times when we are tired from our many activities or difficulties that assail us. Even more painful is spiritual burnout—the weariness believers can feel from the pressure of trying to obey God, attend church faithfully, and spend time in daily prayer and Scripture reading. Just contemplating everything we think we must do for success in the Christian life can be overwhelming! The trouble is that we become spiritually burned out if we rely on our own strength.

When we experience spiritual fatigue, it's often because of a wrong view of our faith. We find ourselves keeping a mental checklist of dos and don'ts, striving to please God with religious activities. That's not freedom. The Christian life isn't some formula whereby we modify our behavior to gain the Lord's approval. God reached down and reconciled us to Himself the moment we asked Him into our hearts, so we already have His approval. True spiritual maturity involves a growing awareness that nothing we can do—no change in conduct or attempt to live up to regulations—will make us acceptable. Rather, we give up our inability and weakness, and instead live by faith. Then God's omnipotence can carry us through life.

Think of God's power as a river coursing through hilly terrain. We can hike, puffing and sweating, along the footpath, or we can simply ease into the water. We won't have to expend energy because the power of the current will carry us all the way to our destination.

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Daily Devotional - Expectations

APRIL 23RD 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Expectations](#)

Luke 22:31-34

Peter was a man of great faith and bold action. But as readers of the New Testament know, his brash style sometimes led him to make humiliating mistakes. More than once, this disciple had to wear the label of “miserable failure” rather than that of “obedient servant.”

We can all relate when it comes to falling short of expectations. Obedience to God is a process—something we learn. And failure is a part of our development as humble servants. When we yield to temptation or rebel against God’s authority, we realize that sin has few rewards, and even those are fleeting.

Failure is an excellent learning tool, as Peter could certainly attest. Through trial and error, he discovered that one should never take his eyes off Jesus (Matthew 14:30); God's plan must always have priority over man's (Matthew 16:21-23; John 18:10-11); and humility is required of believers (Luke 13:5-14). He took each of those lessons to heart and thereby grew stronger in his faith. Isn't that Romans 8:28 in action? God caused Peter's failures to be put to good use as training material because the disciple was eager to mature and serve.

God doesn't reward rebellion or wrongdoing. However, by His grace, He blesses those who choose repentance and embrace chastisement as a tool for growth.

We would all prefer to grow in our faith without ever making a mistake, but we cannot deny that missteps are instructive. Failure teaches us that it is much wiser to be obedient to the Lord. That's a lesson we all should take to heart.

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Daily Devotional - Facing Temptation

Daily Devotional - Facing Temptation

Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed— James 1:14

What does sinful temptation consist of? James reveals two vital ingredients: first, it is being *drawn away* from God. Second, it is being *enticed* by one's *own lust*.

No matter what we may tell ourselves, any action, any person, any thing that draws our attention and affections away from God is wrong. It does not matter whether it is a romance or rock star, a [family](#) member or a football team — it is wrong to allow anything to come between us and our single-minded pursuit of God's glory.

This does not mean that we cease to care for or serve others; but it does mean that even our closest relationships and most committed labors must all be grounded in, and flowing out of, our love for Christ. Any other basis for a relationship or commitment is changeable, insecure, and idolatrous.

Notice that it is our *own* lust that draws us away from God. Not every lust (strong passion or desire) is wrong. Jesus and Paul both used this same word to describe their desire for Christian communion and to be with Christ, respectively (Luke 22:15; Philippians 1:23).

Whether the lust is good or bad depends entirely on its adjectives or qualifiers. Is it the lust of men, of the world, of the flesh? Are they our *own* desires/passions, or did they come from God and issue toward His glory? If they are self-motivated or self-originated then we can rest assured that they are sinful.

Every person is tempted when they are drawn away from God by their own passions or selfish pursuits. Do not be enticed; do not give into temptation.

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Spring Revival Planned at Friendship Baptist Church

APRIL 08TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Spring Revival Planned at Friendship Baptist Church

Dexter, Missouri - A spring revival will be held at Friendship Baptist Church on April 19th - 22nd with services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and service on Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Gospel musicians Steve and Christie Bradford will be leading the services with Steve Bradford as evangelist.

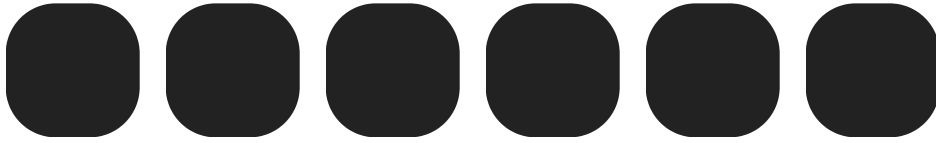
The Bradfords have been involved with gospel music for over 30 years. They are members of the Southern Gospel Music Guild and the Southern Gospel Music Association. In 2012, they were presented the James Blackwood Lifetime Achievement Award.

The couple lives in Portageville, Missouri where Steve is pastor and minister of music and youth at the First Baptist Church. He was ordained into the gospel ministry by the church. Christie serves as part-time ministerial assistant.

Everyone is welcome to attend these services. The Friendship Baptist Church is located on the North Outer Road in Dexter just west of the Crowley Ridge Nursing Home. For more information call 573-624-6525.

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The Loft to Host Book Signing by Author Betty Lowrey

NOVEMBER 18TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

[The Loft to Host Book Signing by Author Betty Lowrey](#)

Dexter, Missouri - Westbow Press, a division of Thomas E. Nelson and Zondervan has released local author Betty Lowrey's book, ***Forgiven***.

Lowrey will be on hand for a book signing at The Loft on East Stoddard St. in downtown Dexter on Sunday, November 23rd from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Her book ***Forgiven*** is a Christian fiction book. It is a story of four women, struggling in today's world. When the winter storm hits, Bitty, Anne, Ellen, and Harriet set out on an adventure. Bitty is the sitter and Anne is Ellen's friend from class. Harriet is the rich lady next door who has denied their friendship, but sets up residence in Ellen's home. They find a mix of misunderstandings, hurts of life

that all have buried within their heart. It is Ellen's faith that opens the door of hope. When Ellen's three year-old is kidnapped the women come together praying to find Ruthie.

Books are available thru Barnes and Noble and Amazon or by calling 573-431-5466. The cost is only \$15.00 per book if locally purchased. Please call 573-614-5138.

Follow her on Facebook by clicking **HERE**.

LAST UPDATED ON NOVEMBER 18TH 2014 BY FRANK M. KROMANN

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