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Daily Devotional - The Real Enemy

MAY 13TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Real Enemy

[2 Timothy 2:3](#)

There is a spiritual war being waged throughout the entire world. We as believers must recognize that our enemy is very real, but through Christ, we have the power to fight effectively.

The Scriptures reveal that Satan and a whole empire of evil spirits oppose God and His kingdom. However, the enemies are fallen angels; while we shouldn't underestimate their abilities, we must not be deceived into thinking of their power as greater than it actually is. Fallen angels are no match for God. When the Lord rebuked demonic forces that were causing torment, they were forced to obey. Jesus gave His disciples authority over these spirits ([Luke 10:17-20](#)), and He gives the same to His followers today. [First John 4:4](#) says that through the Holy Spirit, we have already overcome the enemy, because "greater is He who is in [the believer] than he who is in the world." But if we fail to take up our position in Christ, we will feel overwhelmed and defeated.

Though Satan cannot have our souls, he will try to disable us. When we give in to temptation, he may say, "You're a weak, unworthy sinner who will never be able to really serve God." If we believe such accusations, we run the double risk of ceasing to listen to the voice of Truth and forgetting our real identity in Christ. Instead, we can resist the devil ([James 4:7](#)) and say to him, "I reject that! It came from you, and I rebuke you in Jesus' name. What's more, I take that thought captive to Christ" ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)). We have this authority!

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Daily Devotional - Conquering Loneliness

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[Psalms 25:15-22](#)

I know the pain of loneliness. I was the only child of a single mother who had to work long hours to support us. My adult life has been marked by periods of emotional isolation as well. However, the Lord has never abandoned me to these feelings.

God desires that all people feel connected to Him and to each other. And in fact, we can be quickly comforted when we respond wisely to loneliness.

The first step is to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. But simply believing He exists isn't enough. The Lord created mankind for fellowship, which is why a relationship with Him gives people a sense of oneness. The love of Christ forces

loneliness out of the lives of God's children.

Second, we must admit that we're lonely. Some Christians incorrectly think they shouldn't be susceptible to normal human feelings. But nothing in the Bible says we won't endure emotional isolation. Not only men like David and Paul but even the Lord Himself knew the ache of feeling deserted ([Psalms 25:16](#); [2 Timothy 4:16](#); [Matthew 26:40](#); [Matthew 27:46](#)).

Finally, we should develop godly friends. These are the Christian brothers and sisters who will laugh, cry, and empathize with us. Above all, believers need friends who will continually point them to God and pray over them.

We can't deny feelings of loneliness, nor can we run from them. A person who seeks ways to escape such feelings only broadens the gap between the Lord and himself. There is just one way to close the chasm and conquer loneliness—by drawing near to the Lord.

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Daily Devotional - When We are Lonely

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Hebrews 13:1-5

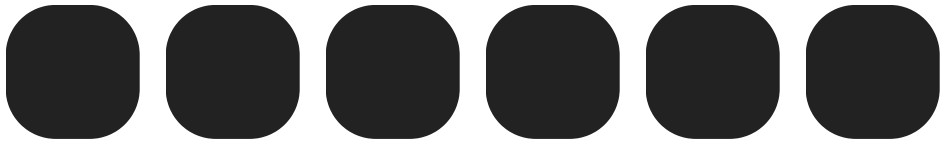
God created humanity for companionship with Himself and each other. He doesn't want people to suffer the emotional turmoil of loneliness. That's why His Word contains pledges of His constant presence as well as instructions to prevent loneliness among church members.

The Lord stressed His unceasing presence because He knows our need for assurance, especially when we feel deserted or isolated. His vow never to forsake believers is found throughout the Bible: This comforting word was spoken to Joshua, the Israelites, and the disciples who were about to witness Jesus' ascension ([Joshua 1:5](#); [Matthew 28:20](#)). Some biblical saints picked up the theme in their writing as well. David often sought God's solace ([Psalms 25:16](#)). And the apostle Paul preached that nothing compared with drawing close to Christ ([Philippians 3:8](#)). God wants every believer to trust implicitly that He is near.

The church is designed to meet our need for person-to-person connection. A spiritual body works much like a human body—parts are both independent and interdependent, each needing others in order to function well. We require support from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Knowing this, Paul admonished people to accept one another ([Romans 15:7](#)), bear each other's burdens ([Galatians 6:2](#)), and avoid judging ([Romans 14:13](#)).

Loneliness can cripple a person emotionally and spiritually. Human beings are not designed to walk through this world alone. We are made for relationship, which God gladly supplies. Lest we forget that the Lord is near, He gave the Bible this consistent theme: *I love you and I am with you always.*

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Daily Devotional - How Do You Honor Your Mother?

MAY 10TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - How Do You Honor Your Mother?

Exodus 20:12

The command to “honor . . . your mother” isn’t a suggestion, and nobody is exempt. Her character or effectiveness as a parent is not the issue. God established this guideline for Israel because a respectful home was crucial to the nation’s future success. The same is true for us today. God blesses our homes when we respect our mothers with words, attitudes, and actions.

LOVE HER UNCONDITIONALLY. We’re called to love our moms as God does. He didn’t qualify His love with expectations or conditions to be met first. He lavished affection on us “while we were yet sinners” ([Romans 5:8](#)).

FORGIVE HER COMPASSIONATELY. Since there are no perfect mothers, at times we’ll have to forgive them. If your mom seems harsh or unloving, show compassion. As a child, she may have experienced hardships that wounded her spirit.

REMEMBER HER GRATEFULLY. This Mother’s Day, thank Mom for all she did for you when you were young. But don’t let it end there. Nothing is more hurtful than feeling forgotten. Make room for her in your busy schedule. After all, she made countless sacrifices for you.

TREAT HER KINDLY. Let your mother know she's valued. Take time to listen attentively to her words, and help her out when she is in need.

Does your mother feel loved and honored? What can you do to bring a big smile to her face? In our adult years, it's easy to distance ourselves from our moms because life gets hectic and multiple demands steal our time. Make it a habit to pray for her daily and contact her regularly.

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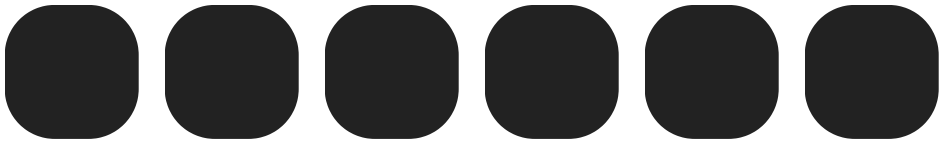
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