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## Daily Devotional - Know What You Believe

JUNE 18TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Know What You Believe

### 1 Peter 3:13-16

Yesterday, we learned about Jesus' divinity and those who recognized it while He walked the earth. Though sharing our faith with others is important, doing so isn't always easy. Some people claim that it doesn't make a bit of difference what they believe. In fact, some go so far as to deny the existence of truth. Yet our belief system actually matters tremendously, because it is the foundation for our character, conduct, and decisions.

For instance, a person who concludes that there is no God and no eternity will live for the moment. On the other hand, someone who trusts in the Lord and His promise of heaven will have a completely different lifestyle and purpose. Obedience, faith, and responsibility will characterize him as he lives to please his heavenly Father.

Knowing what we believe is critical—first of all, because our salvation depends on it. In [John 8:24](#), Jesus made a powerful and unequivocal statement about this subject: “Unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” The Bible is very clear that all people have sinned and in their natural state are separated from God ([Romans 3:23](#)). The punishment for sin is death, which is eternal separation from the Lord. But the Father, in His love and mercy, sent His own Son to die in our place. As a result, everyone who believes in Jesus is forgiven and receives His free gift of salvation.

Believers are to share the good news of salvation, but the world's hostility can make us afraid. Today's passage encourages us not to fear. Telling others about Jesus doesn't require lofty words or long quotations of memorized Scripture. Simply be ready with an

answer if you're asked about "the hope that is in you" ([1 Peter 3:15](#)).

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## Daily Devotional - Jesus, the Son of God

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[Daily Devotional - Jesus, the Son of God](#)

### [Luke 22:66-71](#)

Jesus called Himself both the Son of Man and the Son of God. The first title emphasized His humanity; the second, His deity. He is the only person in history who was both God and man. Leaving heaven, He laid aside His divine glory and took upon Himself the robe of humanness ([Philippians 2:6-7](#)).

Who recognized His divine nature?

- **Angels.** At Christ’s birth, the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would bear a child and His name would be the Son of God ([Luke 1:26-35](#)).
- **God the Father.** When Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan, the heavenly Father declared, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased” ([Matthew 3:17](#)). Later, God affirmed this same truth and instructed those present listen to Jesus ([Matthew 17:5](#)).
- **Satan and the demons.** Knowing that Jesus was God’s Son, Satan challenged Him to use His supernatural powers to bypass God’s plan. Later in the same chapter, the demons saw Jesus and shrieked that He was the Son of God ([Luke 4:1-41](#)).
- **Disciples.** When these men saw Jesus walk on water in the midst of the storm, they worshiped Him and concluded He was the Son of God ([Matthew 14:25-33](#)). Peter later declared, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” ([Matthew 16:16](#)).
- **Martha.** When Jesus brought Lazarus back to life, his sister Martha said, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world” ([John 11:27 NIV](#)).

The world needs to understand who Jesus is. Whom can you tell about His deity?

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# Daily Devotional - Reasons for Taking Risks

JUNE 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - Reasons for Taking Risks

### Joshua 1:6-9

In the first chapter of Joshua, God delivers the greatest pep talk in all of Scripture. Moses had just died, and now his successor was called upon to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land—a military action that would surely involve significant risk. Joshua was no doubt unsettled by the prospects of facing a strong hostile army. Therefore, the Lord spoke words of encouragement to him that still ring true for us today.

What would have happened if Joshua had refused this daunting assignment? Most likely, the nation of Israel would have languished in the desert indefinitely. Fortunately, this leader was a man of great faith and courage, and he boldly took up the cause of God.

Like Joshua, we face daily obstacles that seem to push our faith to the breaking point. And yet, it is in the throes of adversity that God hones our faith ([James 1:2-4](#)). When we refuse to follow Him into risky situations, the results can be devastating to our spiritual growth. Consider the consequences of disobedience on your life:

1. You will never become the person that God wants you to be.
2. You limit your usefulness to the Lord.
3. You are willing to live a life of rationalized disobedience.
4. You'll be governed by fear rather than faith.
5. You risk losing not only rewards in heaven but also blessings on earth.

Are you in some way refusing God's call? The Lord is trustworthy. Whatever His plan of action for you, be assured He will see you safely through the ordeal.

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## Daily Devotional - Trusting the God of Love

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JUNE 15TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Trusting the God of Love

### [Hebrews 8:6-13](#)

Trusting God is a foundational principle in the Christian life. We are expected to accept that God is perfect in love, infinite in wisdom, and sovereign in control. We don't automatically grasp these truths at the moment of salvation; rather, we learn them over time. Of these three facts, however, the one we most seem to doubt is the Lord's love for us. However, Scripture gives us three proofs to rely upon when our certainty starts to waver.

**Character love**—God's very nature is love ([1 John 4:8](#)). The Bible also tells us that God is light and there is no darkness in Him ([1 John 1:5](#)). In other words, there's nothing sinful or imperfect in His character. If the Father is perfect and loving, He will never mistreat one of His children.

**Calvary love**—Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for our sins provides irrefutable evidence of divine love. The Father's heart for humanity was revealed when He gave His Son to die in our place. Through Christ, salvation is available to all, but He would have made the same choice if you had been the only person on earth.

**Covenant love**—God is committed to making us heirs ([Hebrews 8:10](#)). We know that when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, we become children of God. Our immaturity is the reason He is patient and kind to us. God sees us as we are—little ones learning to navigate in our short-term earthly home.

As growing believers, we can't trust God if we doubt His devotion. Thankfully, we possess these amazing proofs. It is the heavenly Father's very nature to love, which He demonstrated at the cross and continues to prove by adopting us as His sons and daughters.

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## Daily Devotional - Through Times of Trial

JUNE 12TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Through Times of Trial](#)

## Genesis 39:19-23

When the problems of life seem overwhelming, we need someone to come alongside and help us to see our difficulties through the eyes of our sovereign God. Joseph is just such a person. Although he lived thousands of years ago, his story still speaks to us with great insight into the Lord's purposes.

Joseph experienced a wide variety of trials—hatred, rejection, and betrayal by his brothers; loss of home, family, and freedom; false accusation and imprisonment; and the loneliness and disappointment of being forgotten. His life was a series of difficult and unfair situations, yet Scripture never records any bitterness or revenge in Joseph's responses to all these circumstances.

Though outwardly it may have seemed as if God had abandoned the young man, He was doing some awesome work in Joseph's heart. The Lord had big plans for him, and He knew that these trials would be the most effective tools in preparing His servant for the work that lay ahead.

As Joseph responded to each situation with faith in God and diligence in every task assigned to him, one fact became obvious to all who knew him: The Lord was with Joseph ([Gen. 39:2, 21, 23](#)).

We need to remember this when we are going through hard times: The Lord is with us even when our circumstances seem to shout that He has deserted us. We may have little control over the difficulties we face, but we each have a choice of how to respond. Joseph calls to us from out of the past, urging us to trust God.

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