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Daily Devotional - The Power of Patience

JULY 03RD 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Power of Patience

Hebrews 6:9-15

Picture waiting in a checkout line that hasn't moved for 10 minutes. Many of us would feel frustrated. We live in a generation that expects instant results.

Everyone struggles with some degree of impatience. We're born with this trait—think about a three-month-old who wants milk in the middle of the night. The inborn reaction is to fuss at the first hint of discomfort and to keep at it until the need is met. Patterns from our old flesh nature, like impatience, make this a continual battle for most people, but one that is very worthwhile to fight.

Let's consider the biblical definition of *patience*. The word can refer to both longsuffering and perseverance—that is, not giving up and yielding under pressure. It reveals itself when we are willing to wait without frustration while suffering or experiencing some strong desire. What's more, patience means accepting whatever the Lord chooses to give (or not to give) and willingly receiving it on His timetable. In the meantime, we should pray, obey, and persist as we seek God's direction.

The danger of impatience is that we might miss the Lord's perfect plan and blessing. But when we trust our Father's will and timing, we will know inner peace.

What causes you stress? Carefully examine whether you are taking matters into your own hands or releasing the circumstance to almighty God. Follow [Psalms 37:7](#), which says, "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him." Seek His way and His timing. Anything

else can be destructive.

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Daily Devotional - Recognizing the Voice of God

JULY 02ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Recognizing the Voice of God

[John 10:3-5, 10:14-16](#)

Have you ever been in a car with someone who is looking for a specific broadcast on the radio? While constantly adjusting the frequency, he cocks his ears and listens carefully. Station after station is rejected until he hears the familiar voice he's been seeking.

In our Christian life, we know the importance of recognizing God's voice and tuning others out. When making decisions, we want to be sure we hear the right Person. The

Bible assures us that as believers, we can distinguish God's voice from all others ([John 10:27](#)).

What are some of the conditions for recognizing His voice?

1. Be in range. The Lord's voice is heard through Scripture. Take time to reconnect with God through His Word. Let the Holy Spirit bring to mind the truths related to your situation.

2. Be tuned to the right station. God always speaks words that are consistent with Scripture—He will never contradict it. Compare what you are hearing with His Word, and seek godly advice to be sure you have the whole counsel of God.

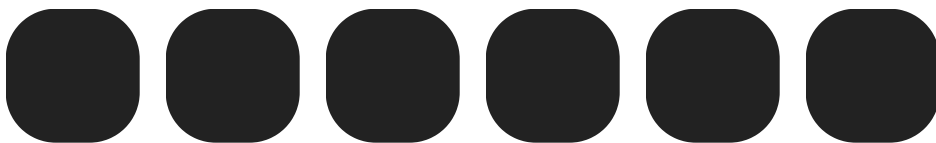
3. Be willing to make the necessary adjustments. Sometimes what God says conflicts with what seems logical to human reasoning. Or, it might clash with our fleshly desires. It can be tempting to dismiss a voice that disagrees with our preconceived ideas, but God's children need to align themselves with His directions regardless.

Our Savior is calling; how easily do you recognize His voice? To know His voice better, spend more time in His Word. Today is a good time to start.

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Daily Devotional - When God Speaks

JULY 01ST 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - When God Speaks

1 Samuel 3:1-21

The story of Samuel and how he learned to recognize God's voice provides an important lesson for all believers. The Bible tells us that in Samuel's day, communication from the Lord—by word or vision—was rare (1 Samuel 3:1). At the same time, we are informed in verse 12 that God had been saying a lot to the priest Eli about his family and their evil conduct. It appears, however, that there had been very little listening.

Fortunately, young Samuel put an end to all that. At first he, too, was unable to recognize God's voice. Even though he was immersed in religious activity, the Bible tells us that the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him (1 Samuel 3:7). When God first spoke to Samuel, the boy had to appeal to his religious superiors before he could understand what was going on.

What this suggests is that when we think we hear God's voice, we shouldn't hesitate to discuss it with our spiritual leaders or other mature Christians. Prayer and wise consultation of this sort can help recognize who really is speaking. The devil seeks to imitate the voice of God, so we must carefully discern the source of the message.

Once we hear from God and get our bearings spiritually, we must not shrink from testifying to what we heard. At first Samuel was fearful about sharing the message with Eli, but he finally did so. And remember, we should never ask God to speak if we are not prepared to act on the message we hear.

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Daily Devotional - The Decisions That Lead to Contentment

JUNE 30TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Decisions That Lead to Contentment

Romans 8:28-39

Think about a circumstance in your life you'd change if you could. Are you frustrated? Worried? Angry? To experience the freedom of contentment in the midst of it—whether a hardship or unfulfilled desire—you must accept the situation as having been allowed by God, even if He didn't cause it.

In these situations, I often pray, “Lord, I choose to accept this as though it's coming from You. No matter what I see, I'm choosing to look to You.” Then I can rest in His omnipotence and the knowledge that I'm a child of the living God. Instead of feeling like a helpless, hopeless victim of my circumstance, I know I'm cared for and guided by my sovereign Father through whatever may come.

The second crucial decision is total submission. This doesn't mean approaching God insincerely and saying, “Well, Lord, I just want to thank You for this! It's all just so sweet, Jesus.” No, it's not. Be honest and admit, “This is painful and I don't like it. But I

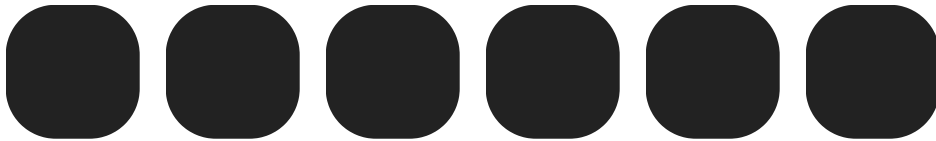
choose to submit to You because You are trustworthy and loving. I'm willing to persevere until You accomplish in me whatever You want. I choose to draw from Your strength for everything I need." My friend, if you make this decision and follow through, your fears will lose their power.

Either you believe Romans 8:28 or you don't. And if you do, you can entrust yourself to the Lord, knowing that He has your best interest at heart, will take care of you, and won't ever leave your side. When you embrace these truths, you'll have no reason to be anxious.

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Daily Devotional - Drawing from the Source

JUNE 29TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Drawing from the Source

[Jeremiah 2:13](#)

For us who believe in Jesus, contentment should be governed by inner attitude and the decisions we make rather than by external circumstances. Because Paul had learned this secret, he was able to experience joy and peace in any kind of situation—whether he was surrounded by friends or isolated in a Roman prison; whether he had plenty or was in great need.

The apostle understood what it meant to live in Christ and to have Christ living in him ([John 15:1-9](#); [Galatians 5:22-23](#)). He had made a simple but profound faith decision to draw his life from the Lord and, as a result, had the calm assurance that what he possessed inside could never be stolen. He was confident in his identity as a child of the Almighty, with full access to the abundant life Jesus offers.

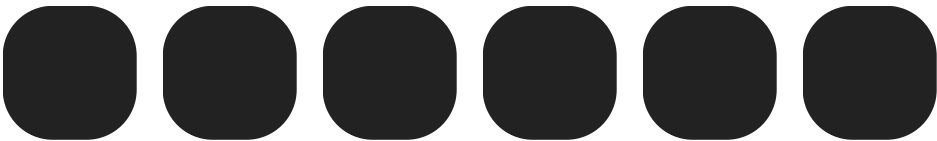
I want to challenge you—this week, when something threatens to steal your contentment, choose to draw from God; decide to stop drawing from other sources and trying to be in control. When you find yourself becoming flustered, anxious, or angry, stop and say, “Lord, You are my source, and I draw from You the capacity to be kind. I draw from You the forgiveness I need to extend right now. I draw from You the love I need to express.” This decision is a matter of simple trust.

Watch and see how God will quiet your spirit and provide confidence when you draw only from Him as your source. You’ll be surprised at your own attitude: When you respond from within—rather than from the flesh—Jesus will give you the ability to respond as He would.

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