



TOP

## Daily Devotional - The Living Word

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JULY 12TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Living Word

### Hebrews 4:12-13

The Bible is the most amazing book ever written. God used human beings to record His thoughts and words in writing so that others could know Him ([2 Peter 1:20-21](#)). The One who spoke the universe into existence still speaks just as powerfully through the pages of the Bible that you hold in your hands.

At the moment of salvation, believers receive the Holy Spirit, and the lines of communication with the Lord are established. Then, whenever the Scriptures are read, children of God can hear His voice, and the Spirit enables them to understand and put into practice what they have heard.

The Bible is not just a good book with comforting verses but is effective, always accomplishing the purpose for which God sends it ([Isaiah 55:10-11](#)). Scripture is active and alive and “performs its work in [those] who believe” ([1 Thessalonians 2:13](#)). The Word of God has the power to change our lives if we will believe Him and do what He says.

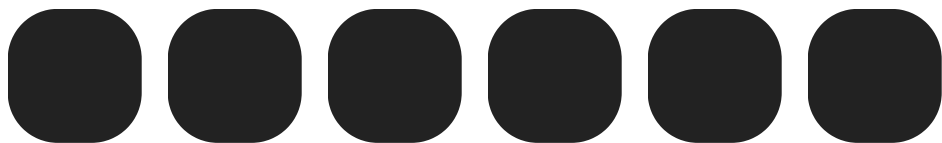
God uses Scripture to transform us from the inside out. His Word has the quality of a sword that cuts through our hearts and judges thoughts and intentions, delivering light to the darkness hiding in our souls. This Book tells us not only who God is, but also who we are.

Sometimes life's concerns can deafen our "spiritual ears." Before reading Scripture, ask God to help you hear and understand what He's saying. As you believe and obey, your spiritual hearing will become more acute, and your time in the Word will be an intimate conversation with the Lord.

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<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/uube/Daily-Devotional--The-Living-Word>

[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Moving Beyond Our Fears

JULY 10TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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**[Luke 1:68-75](#)**

The Scriptures distinguish between two kinds of fear: healthy and unhealthy. For example, a protective type of anxiety helps prevent avoidable harm by warning us not to touch a hot stove or walk on thin ice. And we are commanded to have a proper fear of

God. This includes an overwhelming sense of awe because of who He is—namely, Judge and sovereign King. It also involves a lifestyle of respectful obedience that honors Him.

Unhealthy fear causes us to feel tense, uncomfortable, or threatened. Its source may be a childhood experience or an authority figure’s repeated negative words. The feeling of distress becomes rooted in our thinking and colors our decision-making. Even when there’s no longer any basis for this anxiety, it may continue to inhibit us.

The imagination is also a source of fear. We can get caught up in “what if” thinking, such as, *What if something goes wrong?* or *What if the outcome I want doesn’t come about?*

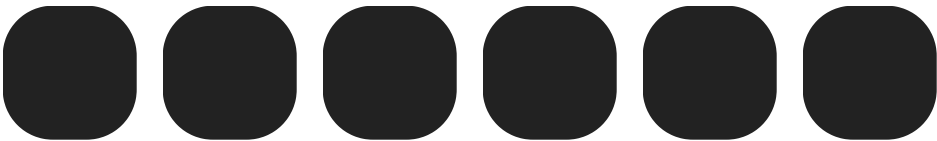
This kind of agitation can block God’s best in our life. His purposes often require that we move beyond where we feel most comfortable. Learning new skills, changing jobs, or trying a different way of ministering to others could be part of what He expects. Such challenges present the opportunity to trust the Lord and obey Him.

Fear doesn’t come from God (2 Timothy 1:7). Let the Holy Spirit guide you from a place of disquiet into the freedom that is ours in Christ. There you will discover the ability to follow His plan without being hindered by overwhelming fear

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# Daily Devotional - The Landmine of Fear

JULY 09TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - The Landmine of Fear

### **Psalms 27:1-4**

Fear has been a part of man's emotional makeup since the fall. When Adam and Eve rebelled against the Lord, they hid themselves from Him and were afraid ([Genesis 3:10](#)). Things haven't changed much. Anxiety often affects our thinking and controls our actions. It can keep us boxed in and unwilling to venture into unknown territory.

Let truth help you defeat fear. Remember that God is . . .

**Almighty.** Through the Savior's perfect life and His sacrifice on the cross, our two greatest enemies have been defeated—Satan and death. Jesus set us free from slavery to sin; the devil has lost control over our lives. What's more, we no longer face eternal separation from God. Jesus' physical death has become the gateway to heaven, where we can live with the Father forever.

**Always with us.** Though He called Abraham to move away from all that was familiar, the Lord Himself promised to remain nearby. In [Matthew 28:20](#), Jesus gives us similar reassurance. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we as believers have God not only near us but also in us. Nothing can ever separate us from His love—not past mistakes, present circumstances, or difficult people ([Romans 8:38-39](#)).

**Actively involved.** God promises His help, and He always keeps His word. He knows what is happening in our lives and can turn hardships into a time of spiritual growth and ultimate blessing.

God Himself is the reason we should not be afraid. Grasp the truth of His power, presence, and involvement, and use them to disarm the landmine of fear.

[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Saved by Grace

JULY 08TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Saved by Grace

### [Ephesians 2:4-10](#)

Many people believe that piling up good works makes them right with the Lord. Yet when it comes to sin, death is the only payment that can satisfy divine justice ([Romans 6:23](#)). Since we all transgress, this leaves us in a desperate situation facing an eternity apart from God.

Grace, the expression of divine love and kindness to the utterly undeserving, prompted the solution: God sent His Son Jesus to die in our place. According to [Romans 10:9](#), all we need to do is believe. Jesus' death satisfied God's justice and brought us:

**New Life.** Our spirit is made alive in Christ the moment we acknowledge we're sinners, turn from our rebelliousness, and believe that His death paid our sin debt in full.

**Freedom.** At salvation, sin's power over us is broken and we are set free from its hold. Jesus raised us up out of the quagmire of disobedience and gave us the faith to believe. Now we can exercise our newfound freedom and follow Him.

**Security.** When we accept God's judgment that we are, by nature, sinners and acknowledge our Savior's sacrifice as payment for our sins, we're permanently adopted into the heavenly Father's family. Our status changes instantly: Once objects of wrath, we are now children of God. Someday we will be seated in the heavenly realms with Christ to enjoy life everlasting with Him.

God, the very One against whom we rebelled, substituted His Son Jesus in our place to receive the punishment that was rightfully ours. How will you show your gratitude to God for His saving grace?

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<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/uuaq/Daily-Devotional--Saved-by-Grace>

[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - The Need for Salvation

JULY 07TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Ephesians 2:1-3

Followers of Christ know the importance of being saved, but the world sees no need for rescue. Let's think about some key truths regarding man's need for salvation.

Those who don't have a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus are:

**Spiritually dead.** Many people don't realize that there are three kinds of death—physical, eternal, and spiritual. Eternal death comes at the end of the age, when all those who have refused Jesus as Savior are cast away from God permanently (Matthew 25:41). Spiritual death occurred in the Garden of Eden. Disobedience severed Adam and Eve's intimate connection to God and caused all of their descendants to be spiritually detached from Him (Romans 5:12). We're born as "dead" people in need of new life.

**Living a life of sin.** Our nature is to rebel against God, and that's called *sin*. Over and over, we choose what pleases us, not Him. We're enslaved to sin (John 8:34), and any effort to free ourselves from its power is in vain. We need someone to rescue us.

**Under divine wrath.** Because of our disobedience, we are under God's judgment, awaiting punishment. All efforts to earn His approval and escape our sentence are insufficient. Sinful man has nothing acceptable to offer holy God. Our only hope of escape is for someone else to take our penalty.

The good news is that the Lord has provided a way for all to pass from spiritual death to life, from the bondage of sin into freedom, and from condemnation to intimacy with Him. Jesus Christ alone is the way (John 14:6), and He meets our every need.

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