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Daily Devotional - Seeing Adversity from God's Viewpoint

JULY 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Seeing Adversity from God's Viewpoint

Isaiah 55:8-9

When adversity hits you like a ton of bricks, it could easily throw you into a pit of discouragement and despair. Although you may regard difficulties as setbacks, the Lord sees them as times for great advancement. His purpose in allowing them is not to destroy you but to stimulate your spiritual growth. In His great wisdom, the Lord knows how to take an awful situation and use it to transform you into the image of Christ and equip you to carry out His will.

Every adversity that comes into your life is sifted through God's permissive will. That doesn't mean the difficulty itself is His perfect will, but He's allowed the trial to touch you so that He can use it to accomplish His wonderful purposes for your life. Although some of the suffering we see and experience seems senseless or blatantly evil, we must recognize that we have a very limited perspective and cannot always understand what the Lord is doing.

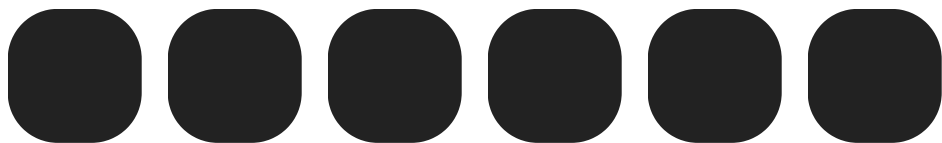
Our heavenly Father sees every aspect of life, but our view is restricted to what is right before us. His plans include not only you but also all of His creation, and they reach from the beginning of time to eternity. Though we'll never grasp the infinite mind of God, we can know His faithfulness and love.

When you can't understand God's ways, focus on His perfect knowledge, wisdom, and power rather than the magnitude of your sorrow. Remember, He sees the entire picture and loves you more than you can imagine. This is a time to walk by faith, as perfect understanding comes only in heaven.

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Daily Devotional - The Source of Our Adversity

JULY 15TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Source of Our Adversity

[Isaiah 45:5-10](#)

When experiencing hardship, we usually wonder why God allows painful situations to come our way. In our minds, this just doesn't fit with His role as our loving heavenly Father. We also struggle to reconcile our suffering with the realization that an omnipotent

God could have prevented it. To understand what's going on, we must consider the possible sources of adversity.

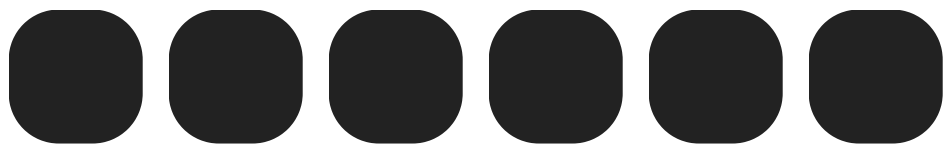
- **A Fallen World.** When sin entered the world, suffering came with it. God could have protected us from these harmful effects by making us like puppets who couldn't choose sin, but that would mean we'd also be unable to choose to love Him, since love, by its very nature, is voluntary.
- **Our Own Doing.** Sometimes we get ourselves into trouble with foolish or sinful choices. If the Lord stepped in and rescued us from every negative consequence, we'd never grow into mature believers.
- **Satanic Attack.** The devil is our enemy. To hinder anything God wants to do in and through believers, Satan will never cease to harass us. His goal is to destroy our lives and our testimonies, thereby making us weak and useless for the Lord's purposes.
- **God's Sovereignty.** Ultimately, the Lord is in charge of all adversity that comes our way. To deny His involvement contradicts His power and sovereignty over creation.

For us to accept that God allows—or even sends—affliction, we must see adversity from His perspective. Is your focus on the pain of your experience or on God and His faithfulness? As believers, we're assured that no adversity comes our way unless He can use it for our benefit and His good purposes.

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Daily Devotional - Jesus, Our Rock

JULY 14TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Jesus, Our Rock

Malachi 3:6

People will sometimes say, “The only constant is change.” Fortunately, this is not true. There is One who never changes: Jesus Christ always remains the same. What a comforting truth! But it’s hard to find refuge in someone we don’t know well. So let’s explore the Lord’s actions to learn more about His nature.

- **Jesus forgave others.** He showed mercy, not judgment, to those who recognized their sin. For example, Jesus had compassion on the woman caught in adultery and stopped her death penalty with a few wise words. Then, instead of pronouncing condemnation, He said that her sins were forgiven ([John 8:1-11](#)).
- **Jesus comforted the hurting.** He visited Mary and Martha, who were mourning the loss of their brother Lazarus ([John 11:1-45](#)).
- **Jesus provided for needs.** After spending three days healing all kinds of disabilities, He was concerned that the large crowd hadn’t eaten. He could have sent all 4,000 away to find their own food, but He provided more than enough to satisfy their hunger ([Mark 8:1-9](#)).
- **Jesus interceded for His disciples.** Just before He was crucified, He asked the Father to protect and sanctify His followers, which includes you and me ([John 17:15, 17, 19-20](#)).
- **Jesus strengthened believers and gave them power to do God’s work.** In [Acts 1:8](#), the Lord sent His disciples out to share the gospel, assuring them, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

Jesus still forgives, still comforts, still provides, still intercedes, and still empowers. What a blessing that we can find refuge in our amazing Lord!

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Daily Devotional -The Foundation of Unwavering Faith

JULY 13TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional -The Foundation of Unwavering Faith

Hebrews 13:8

In our ever-changing world, families move, friendships drift, allegiances shift, and technology advances by quantum leaps. If we seek security in people, possessions, or positions, we're doomed to be disappointed.

Yet we all need somewhere to turn during the storms of life. The one true anchor for our soul is Jesus Christ, who Scripture assures us will not change. To find comfort in Him, we must learn who He is, what He does, and how He works. Today we will explore a few details about His life and character.

[John 1:1](#) reveals that Jesus was Deity from the beginning. Fully God and fully man, He was born of a virgin, lived 33 years on Earth, was crucified despite His innocence, and rose after three days. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—the Christ, the Son of the Living God ([John 14:6](#); [Matthew 16:16-17](#)). Our Lord fulfilled countless prophecies in the Old Testament, such as Isaiah 53. Like us, Jesus has feelings—He wept for hurting people and felt angry when people misused the temple. Most importantly, His resurrection defeated death, and He still lives today.

God’s character never varies. Of course, as situations change, He acts accordingly. But the merciful, loving, compassionate, and holy Jesus we know in Scripture is the same Messiah we can cling to today.

Where do you turn in trying times? Difficult circumstances are inevitable. Prepare yourself for them by learning who Jesus is—He’s the only true shelter and rock that will not change. What a wonderful Savior!

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Daily Devotional - The Living Word

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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