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## Daily Devotional - When Faith Wavers

JULY 26TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - When Faith Wavers

### Matthew 21:21

One of the main obstacles to effective prayer is lack of trust. If we believe God is who He says He is and will do what He has promised, why do so many of us habitually waver in our prayers? Instead of exercising bold faith, we come to the Lord “hoping” He will hear us and answer our requests, but we’re just not sure He will. With this kind of thinking, we cannot expect to receive anything from Him.

One reason we are so prone to doubt is that we fail to see God at work in our circumstances. We asked, and nothing happened. But the Lord is not some cosmic bellhop who jumps in response to our requests. He sees past, present, and future and knows the right time for every answer. His invisible hand is already at work on our behalf—arranging situations to accomplish His will, opening hearts, and preparing us to receive what He wants to give.

Another cause for uncertainty is ignorance. If we don’t know God’s ways, we will be disappointed in His response. All too often our prayers are accompanied by expectations of how He will work. When He fails to intervene according to our anticipated method, we start to doubt. But placing our faith in the Lord and trusting in His good and perfect ways gives us stability as we wait for His answer.

To overcome doubts, spend time in the Word to learn God’s principles and ways. Then you’ll begin to grasp what He wants to achieve in your life and how He goes about it. Examine your past from a biblical perspective—faith will grow as you see the unexpected

ways He's answered your prayers.

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## Daily Devotional - Waiting for God to Answer

JULY 24TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Waiting for God to Answer

### [Psalms 17:1-6](#)

Yesterday we learned several reasons why a prayer may seem to go unanswered. Let's consider more possibilities.

One is unconfessed sin. God promises to forgive us once we admit our action is wrong and turn away from it ([1 John 1:9](#)). But if our confession is mere lip service or we persist in ungodly ways, petitions won't be granted. An unrepentant heart always hinders our

prayer life.

What about those times when our heart is right and what we ask is in line with God's will, but He remains silent? Sometimes He waits because our longing for Him is in danger of being replaced by our desire for something else. Certain petitions—such as a request for a spouse, a baby, or a loved one's healing—generate strong emotions in us. Unless we are careful, these desires could divert our attention from God. He will not share first place with anyone or anything. So sometimes He patiently waits for our focus to return to Him before He answers.

At other times, God uses delays to prepare us for future service or greater blessing. He could be protecting us from consequences we fail to see, or He may want to strengthen our trust. Strong faith means believing Him even in trials, persevering while awaiting an answer, and being confident that He always keeps His promises.

Prayer is the communication link between us and our loving Father. Instead of letting “static” block His message to us, we must confess and turn from all known sin. Then we'll be able to hear God's voice and obediently carry out whatever He asks.

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# Daily Devotional - Avoiding Obstacles to Effective Prayer

JULY 23RD 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - Avoiding Obstacles to Effective Prayer

### James 1:5-8

Some of King David's prayers are recorded in the Psalms. There we read how he praised the Lord, confessed sin, and cried out about his troubles. He also asked God to hear his prayers and not be silent.

We all want to pray effectively like David. To do so, we must avoid certain hindrances, such as:

**Wavering faith.** Doubts about God's character or dependability diminish our trust in Him. Therefore, we must not allow feelings to dictate what we believe.

**Wrong motives** ([James 4:3](#)). Petitions motivated by selfish desires won't receive an affirmative answer. God wants us to pray for *His* will to be done—not ours.

**Conflict in relationships.** Being resentful or argumentative with others will affect communication with the Father.

**Lack of generosity** ([Proverbs 21:13](#)). God is displeased when we ignore people's needs or give begrudgingly to the church. He hears us asking for a blessing yet sees us refusing to obey Him in our giving ([1 Timothy 6:17-19](#)).

**Indifference** ([Proverbs 28:9](#)). Apathy to the Scriptures is another stumbling block. God has given us the Bible so that we might know Him and serve Him wholeheartedly. Failure to read and apply His Word consistently will diminish our ability to maintain a godly lifestyle.

It takes effort and commitment to develop a strong prayer life, but the rewards are great. If your prayers have not been answered, consider which, if any, of the above issues may need correction. Then, start by personalizing the prayers you read in the Psalms or

elsewhere in God's Word

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## Daily Devotional - Softening Your Heart

JULY 22ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Softening Your Heart

### **[Psalms 25:1-22](#)**

When you are continually on your face before God, seeking Him in His Word, His presence will saturate your heart, making it sensitive and teachable. Just as a marriage relationship can begin to grow cold unless proactive steps are taken daily to keep it warm, your heart can gradually harden when you aren't seeking intimacy with God. You must also obediently—and promptly—respond to whatever He tells you to do so that your heart will stay soft and receptive. Then it won't take much for the Lord to get your attention, and when He convicts you of sin, you will want to deal with the problem right away. This

is why we must walk in the Spirit moment by moment.

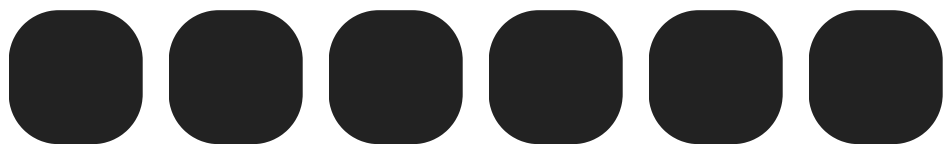
If you believe that God might be leading you in a certain direction, take the time to earnestly seek His mind on the matter, and open your heart to listen to Him. Be careful about getting busy with a substitute for what He originally called you to do.

It would be tragic to work extra hard doing what you and others consider good, only to discover that your effort was expended in accomplishing something that was not God's intention. Resisting the Lord often amounts to putting your life on the shelf, which leaves you feeling that something is missing. There is no substitute for God's will, even when His plan might seem difficult or impossible. But when you trust Him with a cooperative heart, there is no limit to what God can do through your life. Step out in obedience today and say, "Lord, I want Your will—no matter what."

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## Daily Devotional - Friendship: A Help to Holiness

JULY 21ST 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## John 15:12-15

In all of God's creation, just one thing did not meet with His approval. He beheld Adam, who was the only being of his kind, and said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" ([Genesis 2:18](#)). The Creator designed people for emotional, mental, and physical intimacy so they'd be able to share their innermost selves with one another.

Jesus explained this to His disciples, saying they should love each other as He had loved them. In a God-honoring friendship, two people build each other up and spur one another toward Christlikeness. Many people, however, fall far short of making and maintaining relationships that sharpen their faith ([Proverbs 27:17](#)). They instead welcome the trivial talk of casual acquaintances: The weather, tough bosses, and world affairs are safe topics. Sadly, believers often shy away from the penetrating conversations about sin, accountability, and biblical living that would serve to enrich their faith.

Strong relationships begin with men and women who decide to risk their pride and comfort in order to love as Jesus does. They recognize that one of the reasons we have friends is so we can motivate one another toward holiness. In a friendship of mutual trust and submission, two people will confess sin, offer gentle reproof, and share burdens.

The walls we build to keep people at a distance are often defenses against God as well: We don't want Him too close to our most personal business. But as believers learn to share openly and freely with a brother or sister in Christ, they develop the capacity to be more honest with God.

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