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# Daily Devotional - Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

JULY 26TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

## [Psalms 139:1-10](#)

When God looked at the world He'd made, He declared it good. [Genesis 1:27](#) summarizes the crowning achievement of His creative work: "God created man in His own image . . . male and female He created them." Psalm 139 reminds us that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

The Lord has given each of His children great potential for service in His kingdom. However, some of us have serious doubts that this is true. When we compare ourselves to other people, we notice the things we lack. At other times, we repeatedly criticize ourselves for mistakes we've made. How can we have awesome potential when we see so many ways in which we fall short? Consider these biblical examples:

**Moses** appeared to have many advantages while he was growing up in Pharaoh's household. Then he killed an Egyptian and fled the country. No longer did he seem a likely candidate to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. But God looked beyond what Moses had done and saw who he could become.

**Paul**, prior to salvation, had vehemently persecuted those who believed in Jesus. Yet through God's mercy, the apostle became a mighty evangelist and author of nearly a third of the New Testament.

**Peter** was a simple fisherman who denied—not once but three times—that he knew Jesus. Still, the Lord chose him to become the leader of the Jerusalem church.

Our Father sees beyond our human frailties to the potential we have in Christ. Because we were made in God’s image and His Spirit dwells in us, we have a greater capacity for spiritual transformation and service than we could imagine. Seek to become the person God has equipped you to be.

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## Daily Devotional - When Faith Wavers

JULY 26TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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**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.

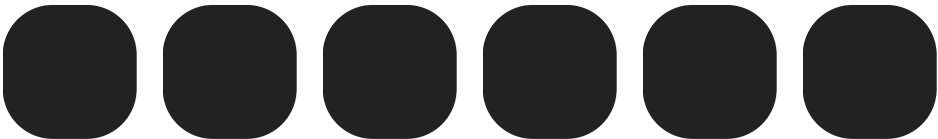
Another cause for uncertainty is ignorance. If we don't know God's ways, we will be disappointed in His response. All too often our prayers are accompanied by expectations of how He will work. When He fails to intervene according to our anticipated method, we start to doubt. But placing our faith in 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

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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

## 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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