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Daily Devotional - The Source of Identity

AUGUST 02ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Source of Identity

[1 Peter 2:9-10](#)

How often do we evaluate ourselves on the basis of our feelings rather than what God says? The problem is, our feelings are always changing. From one moment to the next, we never know what circumstances will arise to test our faith.

Maybe today is “one of those days”—the car didn’t start, the boss has been breathing down your neck, the mortgage payment is due, and money is short. During such times, it can be difficult to think of yourself with “sober judgment” ([Romans 12:3](#) NIV). But remember, Satan will do whatever he can to divert your attention from the Lord. When we direct our focus toward circumstances instead of the Word of God, we accept what the situation seems to indicate or what others say, instead of what the Lord tells us.

So what do the Scriptures say about us? Today’s passage calls believers “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, [and] . . . God’s own possession.” And our purpose is to “proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

How encouraging it is to know that we’ve been called into God’s “marvelous light.” Yet unless we have help, we are unable to escape the “darkness” of our circumstances. As believers, we’re empowered by the Holy Spirit, who enables us to overcome Satan’s manipulative tactics.

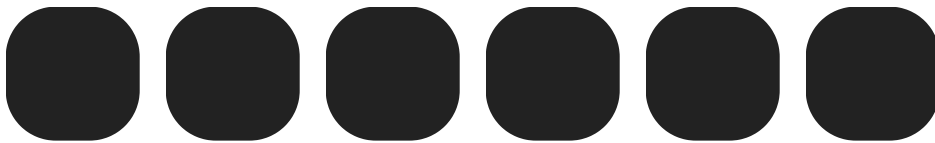
When circumstances seem unbearable, remember the Lord paid a price to purchase you ([1 Corinthians 6:20](#)). Wake up each morning with the knowledge that you are valuable to

your Father. Trust in His Word, not your feelings, and allow the Holy Spirit to change your self-perception.

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Daily Devotional - Communion with God

JULY 31ST 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Communion with God

[Philippians 3:7-10](#)

God created men and women to be in relationship with Him. The type of communion Adam and Eve first enjoyed with Him was meant for us as well. But when sin entered the world, everything changed. God's intended intimate relationship with mankind was broken, and it has been passed down through the generations in that damaged condition.

But as we know, that's not the end of the story. Jesus came to die in our place, bringing forgiveness for our sins and restoring our relationship with the Father. Through faith in Christ, we are adopted into God's family and belong to Him forever—just as He originally planned. He has provided us with everything we need to experience intimacy with Him.

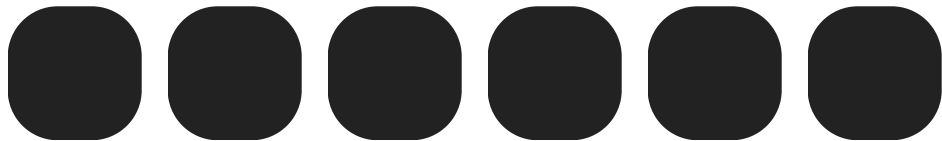
So what happens if, following salvation, new believers never go deeper? Some may drift away from their initial zeal for the Lord, failing to make Bible reading or church attendance a regular occurrence. Perhaps others try to focus on the Lord but allow earthly matters to distract them. Over time, some Christians settle for what's comfortable and familiar. Sadly, they will miss out on the deep contentment God wanted to provide. Yet those who make Jesus the priority of their life will have a deepening relationship with Him, which transcends any earthly one.

Communion with God made King David “fully satisfied as with the richest of foods” ([Psalms 63:5](#) NIV). And Paul viewed his own accomplishments as nothing in comparison with “the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus” ([Philippians 3:8](#)). Draw near to God, and experience the blessings of knowing Him.

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Daily Devotional - Rebuilding Passion

JULY 30TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Rebuilding Passion

1 Timothy 4:15

Just as people are drawn by the warmth and appeal of a fire on the hearth, non-believers will be attracted to Christians who are passionate for Jesus Christ. The Lord wants His followers to be a “city set on a hill” and the “light of the world,” shining brightly in the darkness with His love and message of redemption ([Matthew 5:14-15](#); [Matthew 28:19](#)).

Yet, as we saw yesterday, it is possible for our “fire” to cool, which affects our witness. If this should happen to you, take steps to rekindle the flame of passion for your relationship with the Savior.

First, be aware of where you are: Is your walk with God less dynamic than it used to be? Then, recall where you once were—think back to what it was like when you had zeal for the Lord. Next, acknowledge that you’ve drifted. Ask God to speak to you, and read His Word expectantly. Spend time daily in prayer; don’t just list things you want, but express a desire to really know your heavenly Father. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you refocus your attention. Think about what life can be like when Jesus is at the center, and you will no longer be content with anything less than God’s best.

The apostle Paul gave Timothy instruction on living a life pleasing to the Father. Then He added the reminder to be “absorbed” in these things. We, too, should saturate our minds with the principles of God. The Lord desires that your faith have excitement. He will use your fervor to draw others to Himself—and to bless you in the process.

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Daily Devotional - The Believer's Passion

JULY 29TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Believer's Passion

[2 Timothy 1:1-11](#)

A fire will not continue to burn strongly unless it's stoked. Similarly, a believer's fervor, if left untended, can diminish.

New Christians often share their faith passionately and sense God's joy and peace. Yet this zeal can fade unintentionally. From today's passage, we gather that Timothy had let his flame of faith cool slightly ([2 Timothy 1:6-7](#)).

Believers can experience "cooling" for several reasons. When tragedy strikes, a person may feel that his prayers went unanswered and that God doesn't care. If he then prays less, it's easy to drift away from the Lord. At other times, Christians can be sidetracked by the world's priorities—Timothy's enthusiasm wavered because of false teaching and fear. Whatever the apparent trigger may be, Satan is the underlying cause; he lures believers away from single-minded devotion to Jesus.

Drifting can be subtle and hard to detect. Six questions can help you assess whether your enthusiasm for God remains strong:

1. Do you have joy in the Lord and a desire to serve Him, share the gospel, and help others in need?
2. Do you spend time in the Word daily?
3. Do you pray, knowing that God is listening and working in your life?
4. Do you faithfully attend church and tithe?
5. Do you experience joy, peace, contentment, and hope in Jesus?
6. Do you stand firm in your godly convictions?

If some of your answers recently changed from “yes” to “no,” your fire may be diminishing. Acknowledge this to the Lord. Ask for His help to fuel your passion.

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Daily Devotional - The Weight of Guilt

Daily Devotional - The Weight of Guilt

John 3:16-17

False guilt can be an intolerable weight for the believer to bear. The nagging sense of shame can lead us to doubt the Lord's love and goodness; we might even start to wonder if our salvation is real. Thankfully, though, we can have relief.

First of all, it's helpful to identify the root cause of our guilt. (Check yesterday's devotion for a description of several potential causes.) Next, we must affirm three truths:

I am special. Any reason we give to "prove" otherwise is a lie from Satan. We are each a one-of-a-kind creation. The Lord chose to create us and endow us with specific talents and abilities meant to be used for His glory ([Ephesians 2:10](#)).

I am loved. The heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins so we could live with Him eternally. We don't have to do anything to earn His love; it is already ours for the receiving. All we must do is believe that He died in our place, was buried, and rose again.

I am forgiven. If we confess our sins, the Lord forgives. The Bible promises the process is as simple as that ([1 John 1:9](#)).

Since it's Satan who stimulates false guilt, the final step is to renounce his lies. Make a declaration to this effect: "In the name of Jesus Christ, I reject these feelings of guilt, because they have absolutely no scriptural basis. They are false, and I refuse to acknowledge them." The result will be that the heavy weight of guilt lifts from the heart.

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