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Daily Devotional - Don't Waste Your Adversities

AUGUST 10TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Don't Waste Your Adversities

James 1:2-4

Are you wasting your troubles? Any time God allows trials to enter your life, He has a purpose for them. He wants you to squeeze out every ounce of spiritual growth instead of letting difficulties force you into despair and discouragement. If you'll just respond in the right manner, the trial that looks as if it could destroy you becomes an instrument of blessing.

The most natural response to adversity is to groan and plead with the Lord to remove it. If that doesn't work, we might get angry or try to find our own way out of the difficulty or pain. Sometimes we resort to blaming others for the trouble. And in truth, someone else might have caused the problem, but ultimately God allowed it. No matter where affliction originates, who is involved, or how evil their intentions, by the time it reaches you, it's been dipped in the Father's love and shaped to accomplish His good purpose. The question is, will you cooperate with Him, or will you resist?

Perhaps the key word is found in verse 4 of today's reading. God wants to use our trial to develop spiritual maturity, but unless you let it do its work, that opportunity will be lost. If we could foresee every benefit the Lord designed our trials to accomplish, maybe we'd be more cooperative.

Although we can't see all the specifics of God's plan, we know that His goal is to use our adversity to supply something we lack so we can be mature and complete. Even though the experience is painful, rest in the Father's comforting arms, and let Him do His perfect

work in you.

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Daily Devotional - Conquering Fear

AUGUST 08TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Conquering Fear

Psalm 63:1-11

Each of us will experience moments of apprehension. Denial or trying to hide from it will do no good. When you feel fear begin to rise in you, ask yourself the following questions: *Where does it come from?* (You know it isn't from God.) *Has God ever failed me in the past?* *Does He promise to meet all of my needs?* *Does He keep His promises?*

If we read the Bible, we'll find countless stories of God's faithfulness. For example, the apostle Paul lived through hardship, persecution, pain, and all kinds of terrible circumstances, yet he was able to make the bold declaration that God weaves it all together for the good of His followers ([Romans 8:28](#)). This testifies to the fact that for those who trust in Him, God turns every difficulty, loss, and separation into something good.

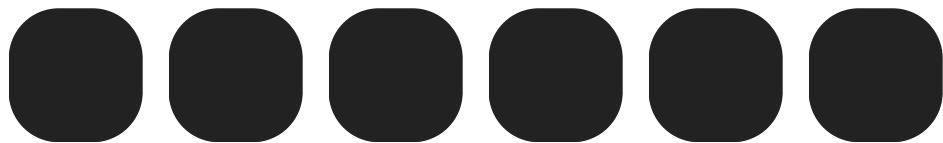
Whatever we read in Scripture—whether a story about Abraham, David, Job, Isaiah, Jonah, John, Paul, or others—we see God's constant love and care for His people. His Word is a lamp that will give us clear guidance when circumstances are bleak. It offers the best direction we will ever find. When we meditate upon it, pray over it, grapple with it, and incorporate it into our life, His light chases away the darkness. The psalms, in particular, are helpful in dealing with fear.

God, the sovereign ruler of this universe, is in control of your life. Don't make the mistake of thinking He isn't, simply because He does not operate according to your will and schedule. If you read your Bible and meditate on it, you will find genuine strength in His promises.

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Daily Devotional - The Side Effects of Fear

AUGUST 07TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Side Effects of Fear

Matthew 6:25-34

We're all aware that fear produces anxiety, but it also has far-reaching effects. Here are some ways apprehension creates chaos in our life and impacts those around us.

Fear stifles thoughts and actions. It creates indecisiveness that results in stagnation. I have known talented people who procrastinate indefinitely rather than risk failure. Lost opportunities cause erosion of confidence, and the downward spiral begins.

Fear can be a roadblock to God's plans for His children. When we're dominated by negative emotions, we cannot achieve the goals He has in mind for us. A lack of self-confidence stymies our belief in what the Lord can do with our lives.

Fear can lead to destructive habits. To numb the pain of overbearing distress and foreboding, some turn to things like drugs and alcohol for artificial relief.

Fear steals peace and contentment. When we're regularly afraid, our life becomes centered on pessimism and gloom.

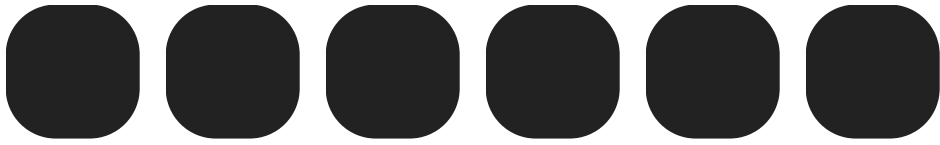
Fear creates doubt. God promises an abundant life, but if we surrender instead to the chains of fear, we most likely won't live in the abundance He offers.

No matter what you are afraid of, here's what you need to know: God will never reject you. Whether you accept Him is your decision. And remember, the Lord wants to meet all of your needs. He feeds the birds of the air and clothes the grass with the splendor of lilies. How much more, then, will He care for you and me, who are made in His image? Our only concern is to obey the heavenly Father and leave all the consequences to Him.

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Daily Devotional - The Power of the Cross

AUGUST 06TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Power of the Cross

[Romans 1:16-17](#)

The scene of the cross is a paradox. It demonstrates the power of God in what appears to be the weakest moment of His Son's life. With hands and feet nailed to rough wood, Jesus looked totally helpless. Adding to that impression was the fact that He remained there while the crowd jeered, "If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross" ([Matthew 27:40](#)).

Strength is not always revealed in a dramatic display; at times, it's demonstrated in determined endurance. What power held Jesus on that cross, when with one spoken word He could have been free? It was divine love that kept Him there. With mankind's eternal destiny at stake, Christ hung on the cross until our salvation was secured.

But the power of the cross didn't end when Jesus finally finished His suffering, gave up His spirit, and died. His death thrust open the door of salvation to all people—those who walk through it by faith are forgiven for every sin and ensured a place in heaven.

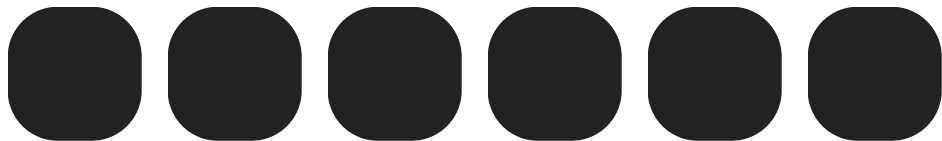
Yet even after salvation, the power of the cross continues in believers' lives. Millions of people have been transformed as a result of the Savior's victory over sin and death. He sets us free from sinful habits and addictions, empowering us to live victoriously in His righteousness.

Have you let the cross do its work in your life? The Lord does not force its benefits on anyone. Rather, He offers them freely to all who will believe in Him and walk in His ways. With each step of faith that we take, the mighty work of God in us increases.

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Daily Devotional - Waiting in Faith

AUGUST 04TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Waiting in Faith

[Psalms 33:18-22](#)

Our culture is not one that teaches patience. Just watch the frustration of drivers behind a car that doesn't start moving the instant the traffic light turns green. Because of a two-second delay, tempers flare and horns honk. Living in a fast-paced world has programmed us to expect everything immediately, and that includes answers to our prayers.

At times, I have been very impatient and frustrated with the Lord when He hasn't operated according to my schedule. I've even tried to manipulate circumstances so I could present Him with the solution and ask for His blessing. But delayed timing from my perspective is perfect timing from His viewpoint. An omniscient God who created and rules over time can never be late.

Waiting on the Lord requires faith. Just because we can't see what He is doing does not mean that He is inactive. Our heavenly Father works outside of our visible realm, arranging and orchestrating events to bring about His plan for our lives. His work is like a seed planted deep in a garden—we cannot see the underground process. But just as a budding plant eventually appears, we can trust that in time, the Lord's ordained outcome will become evident.

The solution to whatever problem you are facing is in God's hands. Steadfastly cling to the truth of His love for you, His knowledge of all things, and His power over every obstacle. Then you can confidently walk by faith rather than by sight, knowing that on God's schedule, His good purposes will be fulfilled. In time, your eyes will see proof of His faithfulness.

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