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Daily Devotional - The Reward of Letting Go

SEPTEMBER 24TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Reward of Letting Go

Genesis 22:1-3

While it's often a struggle to put everything on the altar, one thing I've learned is that you don't have to understand *how* God will accomplish His plans. All He asks is that you surrender your will to His and trust that He will show you the way forward ([Prov. 3:5-6](#)). Abraham's willingness to give up what was most precious to him came from his unyielding faith in the Lord's trustworthiness.

However, if you tell God *no* because He won't explain why He wants us to do something, we are actually hindering His blessing. But when we say *yes* to Him, heaven opens to pour out His goodness and reward our obedience. What matters more than material blessings are the things He is teaching us in our spirit. But don't mistake His way of rewarding as being like a parent who withholds a treat until the child does as he's told. Rather, obeying the Lord naturally positions us to receive what He is already trying to give us and accomplish in our lives. So, when we fail to trust Him and refuse to do what He says, we are the ones choosing to close ourselves off from those good things.

What has God asked you to do? Have you only partially cooperated? Or have you, like Abraham, given up your need to understand and then obeyed completely?

If the Lord says to give more than you think you're able to give, know that He *will* provide. Whether things are running smoothly or the bottom has dropped out, He is always trustworthy. You can count on almighty God to keep His everlasting Word.

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Daily Devotional - The Freedom of Letting Go

SEPTEMBER 23RD 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Freedom of Letting Go

[1 Peter 5:6-7](#)

Our heavenly Father is interested in every detail in our life. If we want Him to work in a particular area—whether relationships, finances, vocation, habits, or something else—we must be willing to let go of our control and give over to Him whatever He asks of us.

We may *think* we have no attachments that come between us and the Lord, but He knows our hearts. One Sunday as I was about to preach a sermon along these lines, He showed me something I hadn't yet surrendered. I realized I needed to deal with it, or I wouldn't be able to preach the sermon. So I was glad when the choir's song took a while, because I had time to come to a place of being able to say, "Lord, if that's what You desire, I commit it to You. You have the right to claim it at any time, so it's Yours right now."

It's difficult to be completely obedient if we're holding on to something too tightly. The Lord wants our attachment to be exclusively to Him. You may have multitudes of things that God has blessed you with, but the moment any of it has a hold on you, His work in your life will be blocked. But when you open your hands, gripping nothing, you will be totally free as the Holy Spirit's power flows through you.

Is there anything you feel you could never give up? Think about whatever captivates you, and honestly consider whether it also holds you captive. I challenge you to release that relationship or situation to the Lord right now so He can give you the freedom you've been craving.

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Daily Devotional - God's Provisions in Adversity

SEPTEMBER 22ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - God's Provisions in Adversity

1 Thessalonians 5:18

As we determined yesterday, if you are not going through a difficult time, you likely will encounter one soon. Jesus assured us that we'd have many hardships in this life ([John 16:33](#)).

As unpleasant as trials are, there are still many reasons for giving thanks. Yesterday, we looked at three provisions believers can count on during adversity: God's presence, a pathway through the trouble, and potential to grow. Today, let's explore two more.

1) Protection. God doesn't necessarily keep believers from suffering or disappointment. Stopping the storms may be our goal, but from His point of view, the adversity may be necessary to mature us spiritually. However, the Father offers protection by staying with us in the struggle. Once we receive Jesus as our Savior, we are promised that God's Spirit indwells us and will never leave. What's more, we have assurance that nothing can separate us from His love ([Rom. 8:38-39](#)). So our ever-present God walks with us through the hardships, providing guidance and speaking truth into the situation.

2) Peace. While difficulties cause many people anxiety, God's peace is available to His children. This inner serenity does not depend on whether circumstances improve. Rather, it's a result of our relationship with Him. Our main focus shouldn't be on fixing the problem; rather, we should concentrate on our dependence upon God.

As we recognize the Lord's provision during trials, we can genuinely express gratitude. We often don't know what the purpose is for each ensuing difficulty, but we do know that our God is good and trustworthy.

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Daily Devotional - Through the Trials

SEPTEMBER 21ST 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Through the Trials

Matthew 14:22-34

No one gets through life without trials. Realistically, you are currently in a storm, just getting out of one, or about to enter a turbulent time. That is the bad news. Thankfully, we serve a good God who provides—even through dark times.

Today's passage tells of a stormy night on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus provides for us today just as He did for His disciples in that unsettling situation. Today, we will focus on ways that He does this.

- *The Father offers Christians His presence and the promise that He will never leave ([Heb. 13:5-6](#)). To the extent we are mindful of these wonderful provisions, we are able to live with a sense of comfort and courage, regardless of our circumstances. What an amazing gift!*
- *The Lord blesses His children with a pathway through trouble. He is in total control of our storm and will use the trial for His purpose. We may not understand, but we can trust His hand to guide us and accomplish good. Sometimes the reason or benefit of a difficulty becomes obvious, while in other cases, it may never be clear.*
- *The Father offers believers the potential to grow. Hardships serve as exercises in trust, and they allow us to learn more fully how great God's power and love are.*

No one enjoys trials. But remember to express gratitude for God's hand in your life. Hardships offer the chance to trust your Creator and know Him better. Even though they are painful, don't waste the opportunity trials offer to become all the Lord has planned for

you.

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Daily Devotional - The God to Whom We Pray

SEPTEMBER 18TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The God to Whom We Pray

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Nehemiah demonstrates power in prayer. As a servant to King Artaxerxes of Persia, he had no right to request leave to rebuild Jerusalem's walls, much less to requisition materials and protection. Yet knowing the nature of the God he served, Nehemiah did not hesitate to act boldly and ask the king for what was needed.

His prayer began, “I beseech You, O lord God of heaven” ([Neh. 1:5](#)). *Lord*, when it appears in all capital letters, denotes the word *Jehovah* (a form of *Yahweh*, the Hebrew name for God). It means “God who is eternal in His being”—conveying that everything everywhere is in His presence. So, when God makes a promise, He knows how He will keep it. That is why Nehemiah called Him “the awesome God who preserves the covenant.” He knew God was committed to bringing repentant Israelites back to their homeland to dwell in His presence ([Neh. 1:9](#)).

Another Hebrew name used to refer to God, *Elohim*, is translated “He who is absolutely sovereign.” If He spoke the world into being, then He is certainly more than able to provide Nehemiah with supplies, some time off from work, and favor from the Persian king.

There are many other names for God, such as *Adonai* (“master”), *Jehovah-Jireh* (“provider”), and *Jehovah-Rapha* (“healer”). Since the Hebrew language is precise, it can help us to better know who He is—when we need solace, we call upon the God of comfort; in our confusion, we have the God who teaches. Just as knowing one’s audience affects which words we choose to sp

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