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Daily Devotional - The Danger of Laziness

OCTOBER 11TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Danger of Laziness

2 Thessalonians 3:7-10

The Lord has appointed believers to be His ambassadors to a lost and hurting world. As His followers, we are to represent Him in our character, conduct, and conversation whenever we interact with family, friends, neighbors, or coworkers.

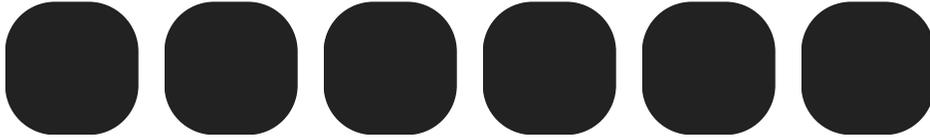
God expects us to be diligent in our work and faithful to complete it. However, in our self-absorbed, pleasure-seeking culture, it's very easy to get sidetracked into laziness. This sin is dangerous in a Christian's life because of the potential harm that can result—it can hurt our witness for Christ, damage our relationships with others, and waste both the time and the gifts the Lord has given us. Another negative result of such a lifestyle is a character marked as unreliable and untrustworthy.

Laziness frequently shows up as procrastination. We procrastinate when we tell someone we will take action and then repeatedly delay the start time. Or we may begin a project and yet find reasons not to finish it. Surely, if a believer is known as an unreliable person, it damages his or her testimony. We're also a poor example if we make an attempt to carry out responsibilities but do so in a haphazard or incomplete way. Nor should we be neglectful about the needs of others or relationships with loved ones.

Irresponsible behavior doesn't fit who we are in Christ. If you realize you've been careless in some area in your life, pray, "Lord, I have not lived as I should, and I ask You to forgive me. I choose to turn away from my lazy and neglectful attitudes. Please help me to follow through and become someone who is industrious for You."

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Daily Devotional - Encouragement in Tough Times

OCTOBER 09TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Encouragement in Tough Times](#)

[Judges 7:8-25](#)

Yesterday, we read about how God shrank Gideon's army down from 32,000 men to just 300 before an extremely important battle. Let's see what happened next.

Of course, Gideon was feeling anxious. He was about to attack an enemy camp of more than 130,000 trained soldiers, and he was going to do it with just a handful of men. In this terrifying moment, God gave Gideon what he needed most: encouragement.

God woke Gideon in the middle of the night and strategically positioned him to overhear an enemy soldier recounting a frightful dream—a vision of Israelite victory! This unlikely circumstance assured Gideon that the Lord was at work. God graciously used that incident

to demonstrate His sensitivity to one man’s faintheartedness. And He still does so for us today.

Consider the power of a friend’s encouraging words. Think about how meaningful it is when an unexpected blessing seems to fall from heaven right at your darkest moment. Ponder the impact of reading a reassuring verse when you most need it. These are not “happy accidents”—rather, they are precious confidence builders from God.

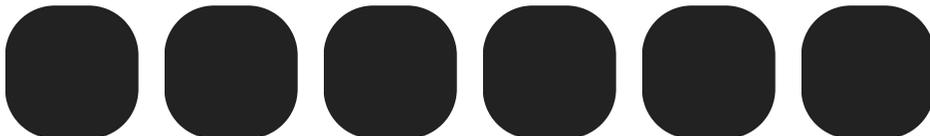
Our challenge is simply to remember the times in the past when our loving Father has encouraged us. Standing on the evidence of His faithfulness, we can boldly face the future, knowing that we are not alone.

As inhabitants of a fallen world, we will face seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But as children of God, we are never beyond reach of the Lord’s empowering encouragement.

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Daily Devotional - When the Odds are Against You

Daily Devotional - When the Odds are Against You

Judges 7:1-7

Have you ever felt backed into a corner, with the odds stacked against you? In situations like that, Christians too often refuse to acknowledge an important truth. That is, they fail to recognize that God may actually be orchestrating their challenging circumstances.

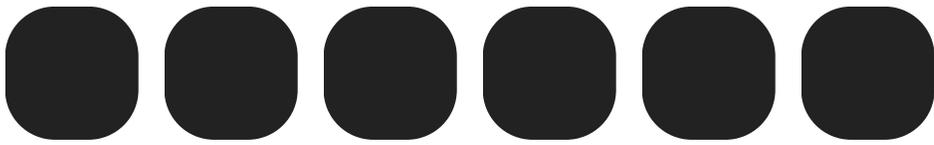
You may think, *No way. God protects me from such things. The world and Satan are doing this to me.* Perhaps. Yet maybe, just maybe, God is trying to tell you something—and He first needs to get your attention.

Time and again in Scripture, we see that the Lord uses difficulties to build our faith. It's easy to trust Him when things go our way. However, God often removes comforts and false securities from our lives to remind us that He is the true source of our strength.

Consider today's passage, in which Gideon was ready to lead a powerful militia of 32,000 men into battle against the enemy. However, the Lord stepped into the situation two different times, whittling the Israelite army down to less than one percent of its original size. We may have replied, "What? It's impossible to defeat enemy forces with just 300 men!" That's probably true; 300 men alone couldn't do it. But the Lord could.

When the odds are not in your favor, don't think that God has abandoned you. Your money, your success, and even people you thought were friends may disappear, but those wouldn't win the battle anyway. Stand your ground and stay focused on the Lord. With everything else stripped away, you'll be amazed at what your heavenly Father will achieve.

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Daily Devotional - Responding to God's Holiness

OCTOBER 07TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Responding to God's Holiness

[Isaiah 6:1-8](#)

A stunning sunset, a rainbow, the first blooms of spring, and many other displays of nature will elicit strong reactions. In a similar way, God's holiness is so magnificent that it causes people to respond in various ways.

Isaiah had a vision of the Lord's moral purity and holiness. When he saw God seated on a throne in all His glorious splendor, the prophet cried out, "Woe is me, for I am ruined!" ([Isa. 6:5](#)). A glimpse of divine perfection caused Isaiah to recognize the depths of his own sinful condition and to acknowledge the holiness of God. Peter had a similar reaction when he was in the presence of the Savior. After the Lord miraculously filled the fishing nets to overflowing, the disciple "fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, 'Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!'" ([Luke 5:8](#)). However, the religious leaders of the day had a different attitude. The more they heard Jesus' preaching and saw His work, the angrier they became.

We are Christ's ambassadors to a hurting world, and we must always act with love toward others. But sometimes those who are not abiding in Christ will experience what I call "holy heat." People who have rejected Jesus may act as if we are trying to force them to believe in Him. And Christians living in rebellion toward God may become uncomfortable around those who abide in Jesus; they may even ignore the advice of

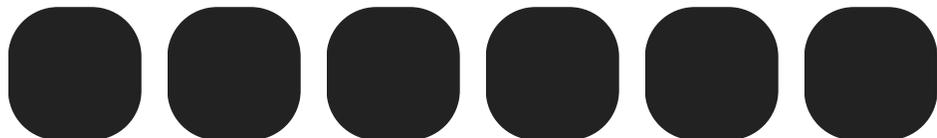
believers who have loved and advised them for years.

God wants us to live out our faith in love, regardless of others' reactions. Has your faith permeated the many areas of your life?

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Daily Devotional - The Holiness of God

OCTOBER 06TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - The Holiness of God](#)

Revelation 4:1-11

God is without sin. There's no evil in His thoughts, motives, or actions. Because of His holy character, He is against all iniquity. He truly loves the sinner, but He despises sin.

The heavenly Father’s holiness is revealed not only in His moral purity, but also in His separateness from all evil. Because of His righteous character, He cannot tolerate or ignore sin. His justice requires that wrongdoing be paid for, and the only acceptable payment is death ([Rom. 6:23](#)).

Only faith in Jesus Christ bridges the gap between holy God and sinful man. The Son of God, having lived a perfect life, died to pay our sin debt in full and provide a way for each of us to have a relationship with righteous God. The heavenly Father, having accepted Jesus’ payment for sin, invites all people to become His children.

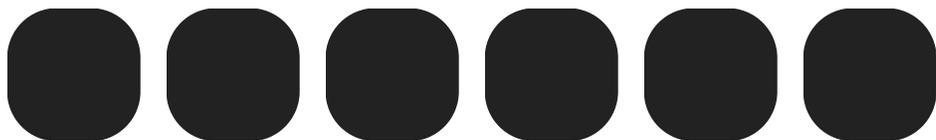
First, we must acknowledge we cannot pay for our own sins. Then we must confess our wrongdoing and ask Him to pardon us, based on the fact that Christ fully paid the penalty for our sins after suffering God’s wrath, condemnation, and judgment in our place. God justifies us the moment we receive Jesus as our personal Savior—the Judge of all humanity declares we are no longer guilty. He accepts the transfer of our guilt to His Son, who stood as our substitute.

Pardoned of all our sin. Clothed in Jesus’ righteousness. Made a child of holy God. These are the free gifts the Father gives us once we have accepted Jesus as our Savior through faith in Him. When we give Him our lives, He gives us His. Can you think of a better trade off?

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