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Monday Daily Devotional - The Struggle With Jealousy

DECEMBER 07TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Monday Daily Devotional - The Struggle With Jealousy

1 Samuel 18:5-16

We all have expectations, desires, and hopes for our lives, but our plan isn't always God's best. And what we see others experiencing may not be what He has in store for us. When you compare yourself with others, watch out! Jealousy is usually lurking close by.

Consider Saul. Appointed by the Lord to be Israel's first king, Saul was given power and godly success. But when he heard women praising David for his great victory over Goliath, he became envious and suspicious. Saul began to fear losing the kingdom; eventually, his own jealousy led to loss of relationships, position, and power.

This may seem like an extreme example. And yet, if we honestly examine ourselves, we will likely find that envy is hiding somewhere in our hearts. Try this simple test: Ask yourself, *Is there anyone whose material, physical, or relational success causes me to feel displeasure, discomfort, or anxiety?*

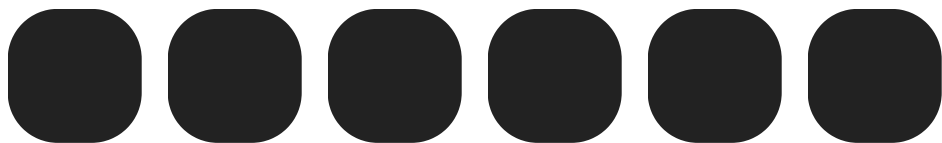
Most often, insecurity, selfishness, or pride is behind a jealous mindset. In fact, all three are evident in the life of Saul. He was scared that he would be outdone and overtaken, he didn't want to share the glory with David, and he was insulted that a mere shepherd boy would perform better than a king.

The fallacy of envy is that we can never view the entire picture in someone else's life. Only God sees beneath the surface of our lives. Our eyes should focus on our own walk with the Lord. He created each of us differently, and His plan for every individual's life is unique.

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Sunday Daily Devotional - The Power Within

DECEMBER 06TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Sunday Daily Devotional - The Power Within

[Acts 1:8](#)

God's Spirit works in every believer. He doesn't limit Himself to pastors and missionaries. If you've received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, then residing within you is the same great power that raised Christ from the dead. (See [Rom. 8:11](#).) The Holy

Spirit creates godly character in all who follow the Lord.

The fruit of the Spirit is the character and conduct the Holy Spirit produces in believers ([Gal. 5:22-23](#)). These are qualities that we can't generate consistently on our own.

Especially in this season, the most powerful message we can give isn't a testimony or sermon; it's the life we live when the pressure is on, temptation is tremendous, or we are buried under an avalanche of problems.

The world doesn't need more festive decorations or empty songs. Instead, it needs to witness godly families loving one another, businesspeople working with integrity and frugality, and young men and women who choose moral purity. The world needs to be exposed to believers who are obedient.

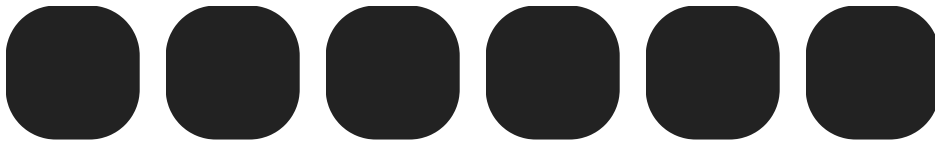
By showing peace instead of anxiety, or practicing patience rather than speaking a sharp word, a Christian bears witness to the beauty of the gospel. We attract unbelievers to Jesus through our words and deeds. They may turn down a doctrine, but they can't ignore a righteous life.

The strongest gospel message doesn't always come from a pulpit. The most powerful witness for Jesus Christ where you work, where you live, and where you relax is *you*. In the next few weeks and into the new year, be mindful of the message you preach through your words and actions.

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 06TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Friday Daily Devotional - Jesus' Offering of Peace

DECEMBER 04TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Friday Daily Devotional - Jesus' Offering of Peace

Romans 5:1-9

If you're brave enough, stand on a sidewalk and ask passersby the question, "What gives you peace?" The answers you receive will most likely have one thing in common: peace defined as dependent upon circumstances—a solid relationship with a spouse, a well-paying job, or good health. What happens, then, if a couple fights, the company lays off employees, or sickness saps the body? Peace rooted in good situations isn't really peace at all; it's a brittle kind of harmony between man and the world. It crumbles very easily.

Jesus Christ is the only One who offers true peace—a lasting contentment that is unbreakable, no matter what missiles Satan may hurl. However, a sinful life makes peace impossible because a person cannot experience assurance of God's care when he or she acts in defiance of His will. When a believer expresses faith in Jesus, the battle for self-rule is won. Submission to the Lord allows His peace to permeate one's life.

When the Holy Spirit lives within us, we can approach life confidently and serenely. The only way to get this lasting peace is through a relationship with the Savior. Paul explains in Romans 5:1 that to be justified—that is, declared no longer guilty—we must accept the sacrifice Christ made in our place. Justification makes us right with God and opens our hearts to peace.

If you haven't yet acknowledged to God that you recognize His Son's loving sacrifice made on your behalf, then you don't have real peace. Now is the right time to surrender to Him.

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 04TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Thursday Daily Devotional - Jesus, Our Great High Priest

DECEMBER 03RD 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Thursday Daily Devotional - Jesus, Our Great High Priest

[Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

Why is it that some people face life's hardships with confidence and boldness, but others find themselves plagued with doubts and fear of failure? One reason is that too many people have a sorely inadequate view of who Jesus is. We may know Him as the Bread of Life and the Living Water, but how many of us know Him as our Great High Priest?

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus “had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest” ([Heb. 2:17](#)). Hebrews 4:15 adds, “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.” Jesus enters into our lives and experiences our pain, hurt, and guilt right along with us.

Have you ever been totally misunderstood when you did your best and gave your all? Consider this: Was anybody more misunderstood than Jesus? He was personally acquainted with that kind of pain. Has somebody you loved ever said no, shut the door,

and walked away? You might wonder if Jesus ever felt such pain and rejection as this. Yes, He did. His own people scorned Him. Does Jesus, the sinless One, understand our feelings of guilt? The Bible says that the Father laid all the sins of the world on Him. Jesus Christ bore the guilt of all mankind.

No matter what you are facing, realize that the Savior identifies with your circumstance, and He feels every single thing you're experiencing.

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 03RD 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Wednesday Daily Devotional - The Foundation of Praise

DECEMBER 02ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Wednesday Daily Devotional - The Foundation of Praise

Psalms 40:8-10

Every time David and other writers penned a song of worship, they spoke about the Lord's specific attributes or actions. When the songs were compiled into the book we now call Psalms, the collection became like a biography of God—one that relies upon the language of praise and adoration to tell His story.

The ability to worship grows out of a love for the Lord. Because genuine love is always cultivated by learning about the other person's character, the true root of praise is knowledge. That's why God instilled in every believer a longing to know more of Him. We satisfy that desire by spending time with the Lord and by fellowshiping with other Christians. We also observe how the Father works in our lives to meet needs and provide blessings. Discovering each new facet of His character deepens both our knowledge of Him and our understanding of why He deserves praise.

Experiencing God in our lives makes us fall in love with Him. A person in love cannot help praising the one he or she cherishes. So we gratefully honor Jesus Christ with words, songs, dance, or whatever else appropriately expresses our delight in Him.

Our devotion does not have to stay private or remain confined within the church community. Each believer has a "biography" of the Lord to share. It's a story of accumulated praise not only for how He has intervened in chaos, comforted in tragedy, and blessed abundantly, but also for the lessons learned. We share our adoration with the world so that others might come to know, love, and praise the Savior.

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