



[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional - What Do You Desire?

FEBRUARY 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - What Do You Desire?

[John 16:23-24](#)

If I were to ask you to name the desire of your heart, would you have an answer? How long would it take you to express your deepest, most genuine yearning?

Of course, most of us have a seemingly endless list of things that we want, whether it be a big screen TV, a new car, a promotion at work, or the respect we think we deserve. Things are added to and removed from our want list every day; our wants are frequently dictated by what those around us have. Sometimes simply seeing a friend's new vehicle will give us "car fever," even if we have a perfectly fine automobile sitting in the driveway.

Our wants come and go, but what about our true *desires*? If you've never taken the time to meditate prayerfully on this issue, then you may not even know what your heart's desires are. And, if that is the case, how can you request them from God? The simple answer is, you can't.

Not knowing what we truly desire leads us to offer up a string of prayers for random, incoherent wants rather than genuine, heartfelt desires. Sometimes the Lord graciously answers these requests; other times He even more graciously protects us from foolish wants by saying no. If our requests are not grounded in prayer and heartfelt sincerity, however, we may never understand why they go unanswered.

Are you able to articulate your heart's desire today? If not, dedicate some prayer time this week to the issue. First, ask the Lord to open your eyes to what He desires for you. Then, request that He make His desires your own.

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Daily Devotional - Fighting the Battle Against Sin

FEBRUARY 25TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Fighting the Battle Against Sin

[1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

God established protective boundaries for His children because He knows the dangers of disobedience—for both the transgressor and others affected by the sin. His Word warns us not to give in to temptation but to follow Jesus Christ in a life of sacrifice, which is the only way to true contentment.

In contrast, the world says satisfaction is found in acquiring goods, wealth, status, and friends. Satan whispers the lie that gratification comes from self-indulgence. His goal of turning us away from God started with his temptation of Adam and Eve. The Creator had given them access to every tree in the Garden of Eden except one. The first man and woman stepped outside the limit set by the Lord, ate the forbidden fruit, and became separated from Him. Satan used doubt (“Has God said?”), deceit (“You surely will not die”), and self-delusion (“You will be like God”) to achieve his aim ([Gen. 3:1-5](#)). He made rebellion against God—which is the root of all sin—seem very attractive. And the enemy’s methods are the same today.

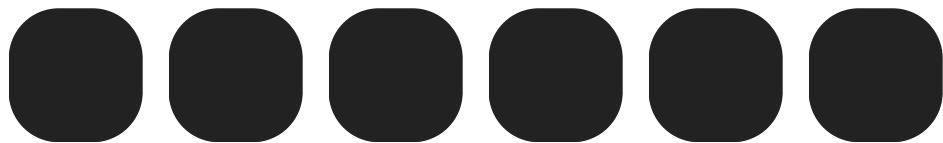
The only way we can withstand the world’s clamor, the devil’s whispers, and our own selfish desires is by immersing ourselves in the Word of God. We must focus our attention on knowing the heavenly Father in all of His fullness, believing His promises, and obeying His commands. Only through our relationship with Jesus Christ will we be able to fight the battle against sin and stand firm.

Clear your mind of any distractions, and allow the Lord to speak to you through His Word. He has much to tell you.

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Daily Devotional - The Pursuit of Humility

FEBRUARY 24TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Pursuit of Humility

[Ephesians 4:1-3](#)

To accomplish anything in life, we must set a goal and devote our energy and time to achieving it. When people don't realize that God has objectives in mind for their lives, they just float aimlessly. Not only does God have specific aims for each of us individually, but He also has goals that apply universally to all believers, such as a relentless, lifelong pursuit of humility.

Humility is more than a healthy view of our merit; it is a servant's attitude that acknowledges total dependence on God. Few people are excited about pursuing humility because it's considered a weakness. But if we understand God's view of it, we'll realize that humility is an extremely significant quality. [Philippians 2:3](#) says, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves." In order of priority, Jesus comes first, others are second, and we are last.

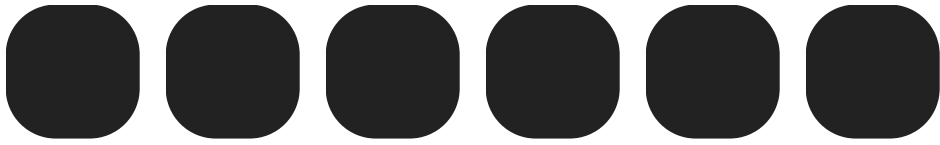
We speak emphatically about loving others, forgiving unconditionally, and acting with kindness. But the root of these actions is humility. To be able to love and forgive others, we must be willing to recognize their great worth in God's eyes and the magnitude of His compassion and forgiveness toward mankind. [Ephesians 4:32](#) says, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

If we think only of how we feel, what's convenient for us, or how we can profit from a situation, we won't be demonstrating Jesus' love. However, when humility is our goal, then love, forgiveness, and kindness will grow out of it.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional - Purging Pride

FEBRUARY 23RD 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Purging Pride

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

To humble ourselves, we must first be willing to detect pride in our heart. But recognizing it isn't the same as getting rid of it. Here are several common areas of pride and some solutions for dealing with them.

Possessions. Start giving things away. We can begin by honoring God with our tithe. He promises that our nine-tenths will go farther than ten-tenths. The next step is to give to someone in need who can give nothing in return. But don't parade your generosity around; keep it as secret as you can ([Matt. 6:1-4](#)).

Position. Acknowledge that whatever you have accomplished, God has done it for you ([Isa. 26:12](#)). Then ask Him to show you an area of service that has no rank or credit. Knowing that the Lord values every kind of service, we shouldn't hesitate to request a place that is lower than we're accustomed to. Our position in this world matters only to the extent that we use it to glorify God ([James 1:9-11](#)).

Privilege. Realize that many things you may take pride in come through privilege. None of us is truly "self-made"; no matter how hard you've worked, others have made sacrifices to allow you the opportunities and freedoms you enjoy. Remember, it is actually God's grace that has blessed you with whatever knowledge you may credit yourself for having.

No matter what kind of pride we deal with, we must take the focus off of ourselves, turning it first to God and then to others. When we are willing to confront our pride actively, God will replace it with a spirit of humility that fits who we are in Christ.

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[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional - The Obstacle to Humility

FEBRUARY 22ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Obstacle to Humility

[Proverbs 6:16-19](#)

Humility is a healthy, godly sense of our merits, talents, and achievements. In the life of the believer, one thing stands as an obstacle to humility: pride. To think of oneself above others is the exact opposite of the humble mindset God calls His children to demonstrate ([Phil. 2:3](#)). Pride is deceitful in that we might not recognize it in our own hearts. Even more dangerous is the person who is proud on the inside and yet appears humble to others. But God cannot be fooled.

Our heavenly Father hates pride because He knows the destructive power it can have in our lives. When we are proud, what we're really saying is that we know better than God. He places pride—"haughty eyes"—at the top of the list of seven abominations. That doesn't mean that He hates the person who is prideful. God loves all of us. Because of that love, He despises anything that will bring harm to us.

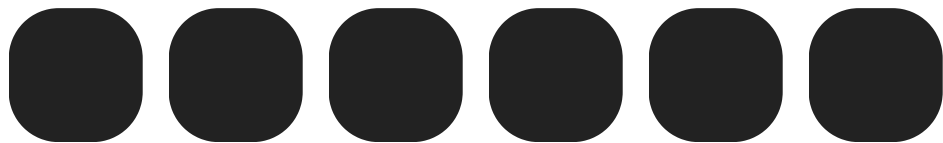
Pride blocks our communication with God. Scripture tells us God opposes the proud ([James 4:6](#)), so we must recognize that such an attitude will affect communication with Him. We can't expect the Lord to answer our prayers if we approach Him with a prideful heart. Our worthiness isn't God's basis for considering the prayer requests we bring; the fact of the matter is that we are not worthy. God instead responds to our need.

When we attempt to live in our own strength, we can expect God to ruin our successes (2 Chron. 26), ridicule our schemes ([Ps. 2:1-5](#)), and remove our status (Dan. 5). He wants us to renounce our pride before it destroys us.

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