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## Daily Devotional - The Message of a Lifetime

MARCH 08TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Message of a Lifetime

### Job 23:10-14

Imagine going to a nice restaurant for dinner. The table is set with linens, fine china, and crystal glasses. The waiter delivers your plate with a flourish. In the middle of that exquisite plate is a single marshmallow. What a letdown! Instead of receiving a nutritious, meaty meal, we are left with a puff of sugar and no satisfaction.

If we become lax, our lives can resemble that disappointing meal. Instead of being believers with a weighty message full of hope, we can find ourselves with nothing to offer but a bit of fluffy sweetness. God's message is meant to nourish and sustain; our family, our friends, and even we ourselves cannot be satisfied by meager provisions. Our Father wants us to have such impact that people will never be the same after we arrive.

If the Lord is building a valuable message into our lives, we must receive everything that comes our way as from Him. When a bad event passes through God's permissive will to affect us, He will bring good from it. (See [Rom. 8:28](#).) Truthfully, a person can share a message of hope more effectively if he or she has first suffered. When we are hurting, we seek comfort from people who have faced similar hurt. Likewise, others will trust our comfort if we have known pain.

Whatever the circumstances, we should be evaluating what God is doing in us. Like a gem polisher, He will work off our rough edges by running us up against tough experiences and people. When we look for His purposes and lessons, we hasten the time when our life message reflects the hope that is available in Christ Jesus.

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## Daily Devotional - Building a Life Message

MARCH 07TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Building a Life Message](#)

### [Matthew 5:13-16](#)

What statement is your life making? Every person testifies to personal beliefs and priorities by the way he or she lives. Jesus said that to the watching world, believers should be like salt and light, which simply cannot be ignored. If we add salt to soup, the improved taste is obvious, and when we bring light into a room, darkness flees. Our character, conduct, and conversation should make a loud and clear statement about the importance of God, the necessity of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

To live a life of significance that brings glory to the Lord, believers must begin by reading and studying the Scriptures. As we meditate on His Word, God reveals Himself, and we gradually absorb His principles into our daily living. This enables us to make a greater

impact on the world.

One good way to learn Scripture’s lessons is by researching the lives of great saints like Abraham, Moses, Daniel, David, Esther, Mary, and Paul. A person could spend many weeks studying each one’s life message, as revealed in the Bible. Their stories have much to teach us about the way they coped, what they discovered from mistakes, and how they interacted with God.

From these biblical accounts as well as other passages, we learn that our heavenly Father has a goal for our lives. He desires to conform us to the image of His Son Jesus Christ. Recognizing this, we can set an example of successful godly living for others to follow: “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

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## Daily Devotional - The Danger of Idle Talk

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MARCH 04TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Proverbs 12:13-22

Ask a group of people to define gossip, and most will mention something about spreading rumors about others. That is correct, but it's not the whole truth. Gossip includes any idle or malicious talk that harms someone else. In other words, damaging speech is a universal sin—one that we all are guilty of at some point in life.

For example, did you ever comment negatively on how a person was dressed? Or suggest to a friend that someone you both know is in the wrong job or involved in unsuitable hobbies? Or tell an acquaintance about another man or woman's personal life? Let me ask you a final question: Did you feel a check in your spirit while you were speaking? All of these can be examples of gossip—words that do damage and hurt others despite sounding innocent.

Idle comments are often delivered in a way that makes them seem unlike the traditional definition of gossip. People mask gossip in several ways, such as speaking in jest, offering others' personal details "as an example," and disguising the spread of information as a prayer request. Of course, not every tease or illustration is gossip. And the body of Christ is certainly called upon to pray for those facing hard times. Therefore, we must be able to distinguish between worthless chatter and wise speech.

What matters is the heart's motivation ([Ps. 19:14](#)). When the intention is to mar a reputation or create instant camaraderie with another person, lips move loosely—this often happens while discussing someone else's misfortune. But a desire to please God and reflect His grace prompts us to speak only that which builds others up ([Eph. 4:29](#)).

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## Daily Devotional - The Words We Speak

MARCH 03RD 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Words We Speak

### 2 Timothy 2:23-26, 3:1-5

Gossip is often regarded as a relatively harmless pastime, particularly when compared to “bigger” wrongs like murder or adultery. Satan has painted idle talk as innocuous, but if we peel away that deception, we discover the ugly truth. In the Bible,

God lists gossip among the most depraved sins ([Rom. 1:28-31](#)).

Nothing about gossip is harmless. Whether the talk is intentionally cruel or simply some idle musing, the target of the comments can be embarrassed or hurt. A friend of mine decided to trace a damaging story about himself back to the original source. He asked one man after another, “Where did you hear this?” Seventeen pastors later, he finally found the person who had originated the tale. This fellow admitted he had speculated aloud regarding a situation about which he knew little. A destructive chain reaction began with just one man jumping to a false conclusion while chatting with a friend.

Even if the victim never learns of the chitchat going on behind his or her back, gossip still has consequences. The people who spread a tale reveal their inner thinking: “For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart,” ([Matt. 12:34](#)). A poisonous tongue flows with the jealousy, resentment, or pride that resides in the heart of the person.

Gossip has the power to hurt feelings, destroy reputations and friendships, and divide churches. We do not have the right to bring such damage into anyone’s life. In fact, God is the only one we should turn to when we hear a story about somebody. Those facing trials need prayer and love rather than tongues wagging over their struggles and misfortunes ([Gal. 6:2](#)).

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## Daily Devotional - Walking in the Spirit

MARCH 02ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Walking in the Spirit](#)

### [Galatians 5:16-25](#)

The Holy Spirit is one of God’s most precious gifts to His beloved children. The Spirit takes up residence within the believer at the moment of salvation and empowers the individual to overcome sin and live for God’s glory and purposes. However, the Holy Spirit’s power can be “turned off” or ignored. Only those who choose to walk with Him have unhindered access to His strength and guidance.

Walking by the Spirit denotes reliance upon Him. He leads the way, and we follow Him. As He speaks, we listen, heed His warnings, and obey His directions. The Spirit’s way is a path of surrender which, although difficult, leads to fullness of life.

God's Spirit not only guides but also empowers us. The challenge of obeying Him is impossible in our own strength. The Holy Spirit supplies everything we need for living a godly life, and He produces His amazing fruit in us.

Being led by the Spirit should be the natural lifestyle of all sons and daughters of God. As you intentionally seek to maintain an awareness of His presence throughout the day, He is only a thought away. When your mind turns to Him, He gives you sensitivity to the things of God and provides understanding about the situations and people in your life.

Take a walk with the Spirit today, and learn to know His voice. Spend time in the Word and in prayer. Whenever your mind is not occupied with the duties of the day, focus your thoughts on Him, asking for His guidance and looking expectantly for His leading. When He gives direction, obey—relying on His power, not your own

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