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## Daily Devotional - Weathering the Storms of Life

APRIL 07TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Weathering the Storms of Life

### Matthew 9:18-33

The disciples experienced many “mountaintop moments” in their time with Jesus: The synagogue ruler’s daughter was brought back to life; two men had their sight restored; the mute were enabled to speak; and the demon-possessed man was set free. But when the storm came that day on the sea, fear invaded their hearts. Their minds could not recollect the lessons they had learned about the power and purposes of the One they followed. Even the appearance of Jesus walking on the water did not bring them immediate relief ([Matt. 14:26](#)).

When adversity strikes, we sometimes forget our knowledge of God, too. We struggle to recall past answers to prayer, specific guidance provided by the Holy Spirit, and lessons learned in prior crises. Only the present situation seems real. As our minds spin with future implications, troubled emotions can inhibit clear thinking.

Reading Scripture regularly is a key to remembering biblical truths. Another important resource is a spiritual journal. As a written record of your pilgrimage with the Lord, it will contain the specifics of how He has previously worked in your life. It serves as a map to trace where you’ve been and how He has helped you along the way. While your current trial may be a new one, you can look back to see the Lord’s unchangeable nature over the years.

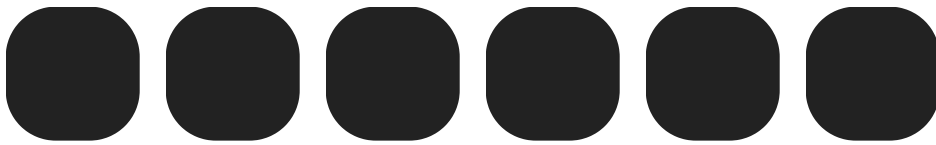
As Christians, we have an enemy who wants our focus diverted from the Lord Jesus. Let’s thwart the adversary’s strategy by spending time in the Word and by keeping a journal.

Doing so will help us remember how Jesus has provided for us personally and protected us with His divine power.

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## Daily Devotional - When Storms Come

APRIL 06TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - When Storms Come

**[Matthew 14:22-33](#)**

Storms are inevitable. In nature, powerful tempests leave a changed landscape behind them. Similarly, challenging circumstances can alter the direction of our life.

When difficulties arise, do you say to the Lord, “I am doing what You asked, so why is this happening?” Such thinking assumes that being in the center of God’s will exempts us

from problems. In Matthew 14, we learn that Jesus instructed the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the opposite shore. While they were obeying Him, high winds and waves developed. The truth is, storms can arise even when we are exactly where God wants us to be ([John 16:33](#)).

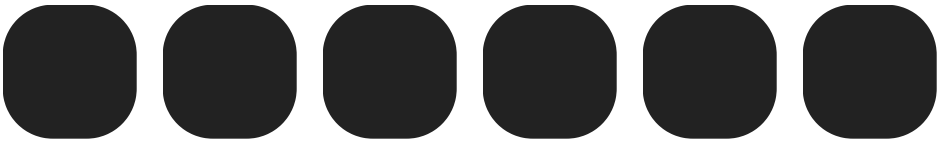
Another question we sometimes ask is, “Father, what have I done wrong?” Many of us automatically assume that we are a large part of the problem. God does use trials to correct us, but not all situations come from our mistakes. He may allow troubles to perfect us—that is, to mature us and grow us into Christ’s likeness. That was the case with the disciples. Jesus knew what lay ahead for them, and He desired to make them fit for the work He was calling them to do. The lashing winds created an environment conducive to learning key lessons for future ministry.

God uses all different ways to train and equip us, because He wants us to become strong, vital servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Realize that nothing can happen to a child of God unless He allows it. Instead of keeping our heads bent low against the struggles of life, let’s look up to the Lord and seek His purposes in our challenges.

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# Daily Devotional - Knowing God Through Jesus

APRIL 05TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Knowing God Through Jesus

## Micah 6:6-8

There's a simple message from God that is repeated over and over throughout Scripture—He delights far more in our efforts to know Him than in any gift we might offer Him. God created us with a deep desire to be known, so it shouldn't be difficult for us to understand that seeking Him expresses our love better than words ever could.

We begin to take advantage of our great privilege to personally know God when we receive His free gift of new life through Jesus Christ. From that moment on, we are filled with His Holy Spirit. Jesus, our Mediator, spanned the gap of sin that separated God and man. Through His death on the cross, He made it possible for us, as unrighteous as we were, to become children of the Lord of Hosts, whose holiness overwhelmed Isaiah ([Isa. 6:1-7](#)). It is impossible to truly know God apart from knowing Jesus.

If our focus is exclusively on our own personal concerns, we will learn very little about the Lord. To further take hold of the privilege Jesus has afforded us—that of knowing the Father—we must be interested in what interests Him. By looking carefully for His way of doing things, we can come to understand what He deems important. We know that God has great concern for people who are walking in darkness as well as for those who are sick, suffering, and dying and have no one to help them. In order to take full advantage of our privilege of knowing Him more deeply, we must share His heart for the world and daily be involved with what He is doing all around us.

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## Daily Devotional - The Privilege of Knowing

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APRIL 04TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Privilege of Knowing

### Philippians 3:7-11

While we meet a tremendous number of people in our lifetime, we sometimes feel particularly privileged to know certain individuals, such as a godly role model, a childhood hero, or someone who was there to help in our time of need. Still, as wonderful as it is to have these distinctive people in our lives, the greatest privilege of all is to know God. Even knowing the most exceptional people can never bring us the joy and contentment for which we yearn. And yet, we frequently chase after worldly acceptance because we forget the treasure of truly knowing the living God.

Oftentimes people get saved and remain satisfied with this first step—knowing a few facts about God is enough for them. If they are asked, “Do you know God?” most will say that they do. But there’s a vast difference between knowing facts *about* God and personally relating *to* Him. Believers should continually be growing closer to the Father—always learning more about who He is and what He considers important.

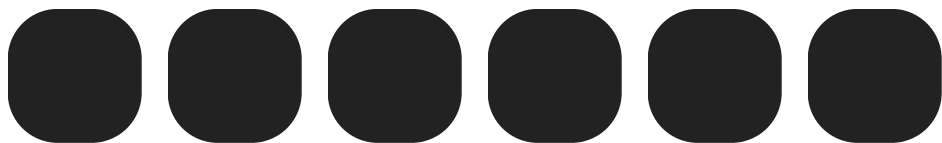
When people go through life depending on themselves, they never really *know* God—He will reveal Himself to a heart that is honest and transparent, not to one that’s full of pride and arrogance. It is in our brokenness and helplessness that we discover who the Lord is.

Do you have a genuine hunger in your heart to know God? If so, ask Him, “Who are You? What are You like?” Then open yourself to Him, not for His sake—He already knows you perfectly—but for your own sake. By spending time with Him, you’ll discover you are privileged indeed.

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## Daily Devotional - The Price of Prayerlessness

MARCH 28TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - The Price of Prayerlessness

[Isaiah 40:28-31](#)

The heavenly Father wants His children to talk with Him. Jesus gave an invitation to speak with God about anything. He said that if you have a need, ask; if you seek answers, you will find them; if you want opportunities to open up in your life, knock and He will

respond ([Matt. 7:7-8](#)). Even so, there are believers who do not bother communicating with the Lord, except in emergencies.

Forsaking prayer is costly to a person’s well-being. Those who will not make time every day for God are on a slippery slope. They slide through weariness, discouragement, and doubt, only to land in a testimony-damaging situation. Today we will focus on the first phase—weariness. Tomorrow we will examine the rest of the descent.

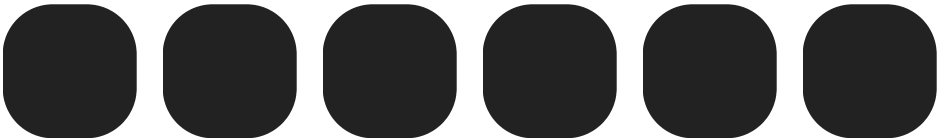
Certain situations take an emotional, physical, and spiritual toll—we call these *burdens*. Such low points can wear us out if we try to endure them alone. But God does not intend for that weight to fall on our shoulders. In fact, the Bible commands that those loads be cast upon Jesus Christ ([Ps. 55:22](#)). “Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden,” cries David in [Psalm 68:19](#). Remember, He is doing all the work to straighten out your circumstances anyway. So there’s no point in *both* Him and you carrying that weight.

Hauling all our worries and cares around is wearying because we are not built for such loads. In God’s design, His strength fills the believer to capacity. Picture Jesus’ shoulders just above your own—with Him bearing your problems. The burden does not disappear, but it feels blessedly lighter when you hand it over to the Lord.

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