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Daily Devotional - New Birth: Why?

NOVEMBER 21ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - New Birth: Why?

[John 3:1-8](#)

The most horrible mistake people can make is also the one they can never correct—namely, living without God, only to die later and face the Savior whom they rejected. Choosing to live in denial about who Jesus Christ is does not change the reality of what will happen one day. God has gone to great lengths to put His truth into written form and protect it down through the ages so we could spend eternity with Him. It is foolishness to ignore His words.

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and teacher, might have made this mistake, had he followed the thinking of his colleagues. He was a member of the Sanhedrin—the ruling council that tried to discern false teaching and make sure God’s law was upheld. Realizing the signs Jesus performed were beyond the ability of a mere man, Nicodemus came at night to ask questions. The Lord simply said that “unless one is born again” he could not see the kingdom of God ([John 3:3](#)). This must have come as a surprise to the Pharisee, who had been confident of his own religion and morality.

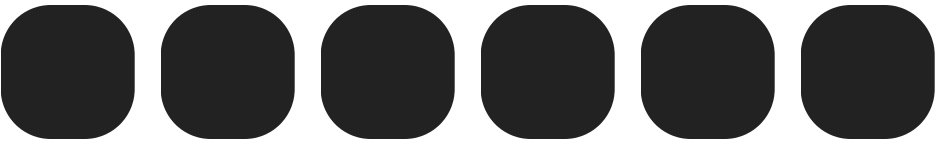
Are you like Nicodemus? In other words, does comparing yourself with others make you feel pretty good? Do you, like some people, believe good deeds and religious behavior can earn you a place in heaven? No matter how much you wish this to be true, the Bible teaches otherwise: We’ve all come into the world with a sinful nature, and our sin has separated us from God. Simply being good doesn’t bridge that gap or change the fact that “the wages of sin is death” ([Rom. 3:23](#); [Rom. 6:23](#)). There’s only one way to

salvation—through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ ([John 14:6](#)).

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Daily Devotional - Living Above Circumstances

NOVEMBER 17TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Philippians 1:12-18

While under house arrest, Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians. The apostle could receive visitors but couldn’t travel. Despite living in a home, Paul was more than likely chained to a Roman soldier 24 hours a day. Moreover, because he knew that a trial was years away, these were his living conditions for the foreseeable future—perhaps for the rest of his life.

Under such circumstances, Paul might have thought to ask the Lord to release him. After all, God had called him to preach, to disciple believers, and to reach the Gentiles. But he was stuck in Rome, unable to plant new churches or visit those whom he was nurturing by letter. Besides being unjust, the imprisonment was keeping him from important work. Surely, if anyone had a right to gripe, it was Paul, who had endured persecution, shipwreck, and beatings for the gospel. Yet he never once complained. His letter to the church at Philippi is filled with rejoicing, as focusing on God let him live above his circumstances ([Phil. 4:8](#)).

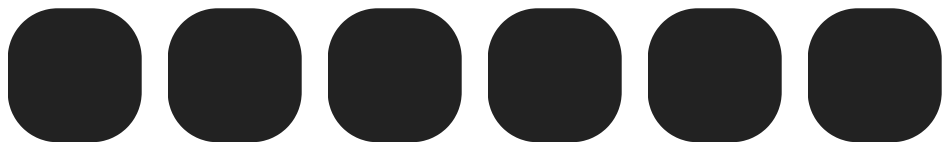
The more we talk and complain about a situation, the worse it looks, until the problem looms larger in our mind than our faith does. Conversely, carrying challenges straight to God keeps matters in perspective. The Lord is bigger than any hardship. On His strength, we rise above the difficulty.

Problems can look so big and unwieldy that they distort our perspective. God invites us to live above our circumstances by fastening our eyes on Him. The trials of this life shrink when compared to our loving, powerful Lord, who exercises His might in defense of His people.

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Daily Devotional - Praying with Faith

NOVEMBER 16TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Praying with Faith

Mark 11:20-24

In today's passage, Jesus connects two important concepts: prayer and faith. And we know from other scriptures that unless our prayers are united with faith, we shouldn't expect to receive anything from the Lord ([James 1:6-7](#)). But what is the basis for our faith? Are we to believe that God will give us whatever we ask?

Jesus began by saying, "Have faith in God" ([Mark 11:22](#)). This is the foundation for prayer—trust in the Lord. If our requests are incompatible with His teachings, we have no reason to believe He'll answer. Nor should we expect to receive if the motive is our own pleasure ([James 4:3](#)). As Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane demonstrates, ultimate trust in God says, "Yet not My will, but Yours be done" ([Luke 22:42](#)).

First John 5:14-15 tells us we can count on God answering requests prayed according to His will. Our prayers should, therefore, be anchored to Scripture because apart from the Bible, we don't know His will. But as we fill our minds with God's Word, our desires and requests begin to align with His. When that's the case, we can confidently expect to receive whatever we ask. And in those instances when we're not sure of His will, the Spirit intercedes for us ([Rom. 8:27](#)). Even the obstacles in our life are no problem for the Lord. Nothing in harmony with His purpose will be impossible for us.

God doesn't turn a deaf ear to the supplication of His children. As a loving heavenly Father, He protects, provides, guides, and cares for us. He has proven His love by sending His Son. Surely we can trust Him with all our other concerns.

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Daily Devotional - God Knows Your Needs

NOVEMBER 14TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - God Knows Your Needs

[Matthew 6:7-8](#)

I remember once watching a mother and marveling at her mastery in handling several energetic young children. It was an amazing sight. In the midst of a whirlwind of activity, this seasoned pro intuitively met the needs of her kids. A meal was served, spills were averted, noses were wiped, shoelaces were tied, hugs were distributed—all at the same time! Clearly, such a parent knows the needs of her family, even when the children cannot express them.

Sometimes it is difficult for us to think of ourselves as children. When we see little ones running around, always needing something from us, we cannot imagine that we often look and act the same way, only in grown-up bodies. Fortunately, we also have a Parent who already knows our needs. And yet we frequently act as though we must explain every detail of our problems to the Lord so He can get a more accurate view of how to provide for us.

Isn't it strange? If you asked most Christians whether they thought God was all-knowing, they would respond, "Of course!" However, if you could listen in when they pray, you

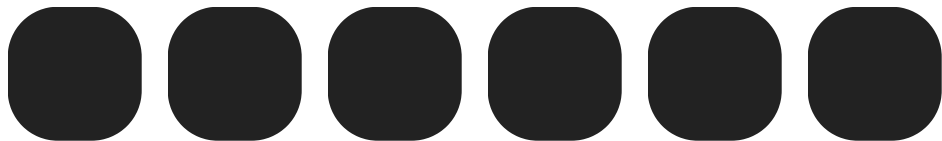
would probably often discover long, complicated explanations of why they need His help.

God does want you to talk with Him about what is on your heart. But at the same time, remember that “your Father knows what you need before you ask Him” (Matt. 6:8). Therefore, do not spend all of your prayer time repeating yourself or explaining everything in unnecessary detail to God. For a change, simply ask Him to speak to your listening heart. Remember, He’s already got the answer. Give Him the opportunity to share it with you.

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Daily Devotional - Carry the Light

NOVEMBER 10TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Carry the Light

[John 1:1-9](#)

In the Bible, light is equated with good. For instance, Jesus called Himself light—He said, “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness” ([John 12:46](#)).

In contrast, the world we live in is dark ([John 3:19](#)). However, once we trust Jesus as our Savior, He lives within us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Therefore, when we’re saved, we have the light with us ([John 8:12](#)).

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He instructed His followers to “make disciples of all the nations” ([Matt. 28:19-20](#)). This charge, known as the Great Commission, still applies. In other words, Christians must carry the light to a dark world. But how do we do this? Here are three ways.

- *God will send some of us abroad to share the truth of Jesus Christ. There are people in other countries who have never heard how to receive salvation, and we can go as missionaries to tell them.*
- *The Father also calls Christians to spread the good news of the gospel right where they are—in their neighborhoods, families, and workplaces.*
- *The Lord asks His followers to give of the resources He’s provided—whether money, talents, or gifts—so His message of salvation can be shared with the world.*

Are you willing to tell others about Jesus in whatever way the Lord has in mind? Ask God how He would like you to shine His light into the world. Then be available and obedient to carry out His plan.

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