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Wednesday, December 7, 2016 Daily Devotional - Equipped to Do His Will

DECEMBER 07TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 Daily Devotional - Equipped to Do His Will

Exodus 3:1-14

I've met people who know the Lord has called them to do something, but they are so focused on their perceived lack of ability that they keep telling Him, "I just can't." Did you realize this is a form of rebellion? It amounts to telling God that He isn't powerful enough to equip you—and that His will being done on this earth depends upon your natural skills.

On being called to lead the Israelites out of slavery, Moses complained that he was the wrong person for the job and offered an excuse of not being a good speaker (Ex. 4:10). God's response underscores that not only was He more than able to equip His chosen leader, but He also planned to accomplish His purposes with or without Moses.

The Lord is the one who gives us the ability to live within His will. It's a divine promise: If we believe Him and move forward in obedience, He'll show us what we're to do and then will energize us to get it done. [Philippians 2:13](#) says that God Himself "is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." There's nothing to fear: You never have to take on His work in your own strength, and He won't ask you to do anything that He will not enable you to carry out. The Father is committed to equipping His children to do whatever He asks.

As a follower of Christ, you have a personal responsibility—first, to say yes when God calls, and second, to allow Him to achieve His purposes through your life. He won't let you down. Watching Him work through you will strengthen your faith and further the process of conforming you to His Son's image.

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Tuesday, December 6, 2016 Daily Devotional - How to Deal with Unforgiveness

DECEMBER 06TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Tuesday, December 6, 2016 Daily Devotional - How to Deal with Unforgiveness

[Matthew 18:21-22](#)

God's Word clearly teaches that we're to forgive those who hurt us. So let's identify practical ways to confront the matter of unforgiveness head-on. You may want to keep this list in your Bible or some other handy place for easy review.

Take it seriously. Unforgiveness is an issue that shouldn't be dismissed.

Assume full responsibility. Don't blame anyone for your feelings or actions.

Confess it honestly. Be specific and direct with God about what you feel, and acknowledge that unforgiveness is sin. Don't "soften" the matter or let yourself off the hook.

Lay down your anger. Unless you deal with your resentment, bitterness can re-enter your life later on.

Pray for the other person. This may feel impossible or unnatural, but do it anyway. Praying is a choice to act lovingly, regardless of how you are treated. This will impact your relationship with that individual—and your outlook.

Ask that individual to forgive you. If the other person knows that you've been harboring bitterness, you need to ask for his or her forgiveness.

Do something nice for that person. Let a loving gesture demonstrate your desire to restore the relationship.

Don't allow Satan to throw you back into unforgiveness. Once the matter is resolved, watch out for stray thoughts that could stir up memories of how the other person hurt you.

This process isn't easy, but it works. If you go through these steps every time you are hurt, God will truly work miracles in your relationships.

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Monday, December 5, 2016 Daily Devotional - Consequences of Unforgiveness

DECEMBER 05TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Monday, December 5, 2016 Daily Devotional - Consequences of Unforgiveness

[Hebrews 12:14-15](#)

Scripture stresses the importance of pardoning those who have offended us. While it may feel natural to pull away from hurtful people, refusing to forgive has consequences far worse than the pain of being wronged. Unforgiveness ...

Harms family interactions. Have you ever tried to maintain a growing relationship with an individual who's rooted in bitterness? You can't do it, because that person is fixated on unhealthy feelings about someone else. Moreover, it's hard to spend time with anyone consumed by resentment, because such people simply cease being likable.

Hinders prayer life. Unforgiveness is sin, and unconfessed sin creates "static" in a believer's relationship with God. So it's important to forgive others before prayer or worship ([Matt. 5:23-24](#)).

Damages one's personal witness. The highlight of your testimony is salvation, which centers around the truth that the Lord has forgiven all your sins. How can you stress the importance of this if your listener can't see even a hint of forgiveness in your own life?

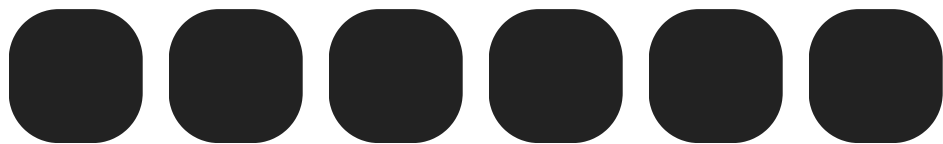
Thwarts spiritual growth. God will not bless sinful actions. And so, if you are living a life mired in unforgiveness, you cannot expect Him to shower you with His blessings. By persisting in disobedience, you disrupt intimate fellowship with the Lord and put yourself in a dangerous position.

Is there anyone you need to forgive today? Don't let another day pass without granting that forgiveness. There is more at stake than you may have realized.

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Daily Devotional - David's Devotion

DECEMBER 01ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - David's Devotion

[Psalms 3](#)

Do you want to know who God is and what He cares about most in your life? You may have stored up lots of intellectual information about the Bible, and that is important, but it's not the main issue. You may serve the Lord, which is also necessary. And you may give generously to the church—another significant aspect of Christian life. But what matters most is the depth of your personal relationship with the Lord. Knowledge, service, and tithes can never replace intimacy with God.

The psalmist-king understood this truth, and it strengthened him in times of trouble. When his son Absalom tried to take over the throne, David fled to the wilderness, where he wrote these words: “But You, O Lord, are a shield about me ... I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about” ([Ps. 3:3](#), [Ps. 3:6](#)). He knew that even in raging adversity, he could count on God's unfailing love and protection.

Throughout David's psalms, we repeatedly see his unwavering dependence on the Lord. It was that passion—not his brute strength, charisma, or ability to command an army—that made him a great man. And even though he had a number of failures, the Bible describes him as a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14; [Acts 13:22](#)).

It's not enough to read the Bible, volunteer your services, and give money to kingdom work. God wants to know you personally. While tangible expressions of our devotion are important, they should be the result of a mature relationship with God. When we seek Him first, the rest will follow.

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Daily Devotional - Being Ready in the Tough Times

NOVEMBER 28TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Being Ready in the Tough Times

1 Peter 1:13-14

The apostle Peter knew hard days lay ahead for his fellow believers. So he reminded them about their security as children of God: They were chosen by Him, born into a living hope, given spiritual protection during this life, and guaranteed eternity in heaven with their Father (1 Pet. 1:1-5). Then, in today's reading, Peter gave them specific ways to prepare for the coming trials. His words, divinely inspired by the Lord, can guide us as well.

His first instruction relates to our mind: What we believe has a direct impact on our response to life's problems. If we trust that God is looking out for us, then we will feel less threatened by hard circumstances. But if we decide we must rely on ourselves, then we are more likely to react poorly to situations beyond our control. A negative attitude—whether from anger, fear, worry, or jealousy—can make a hard time worse. Preparation for the future starts with developing biblical thinking.

A second lesson from Peter is to be “sober in spirit”—in other words, to maintain our balance in the midst of crises (1 Pet. 1:13). That requires resisting quick fixes to problems and refusing to embrace ungodly ideas or philosophies. Our enemy Satan is quick to offer suggestions designed to trip us up or turn us away from God's path. With the Spirit's help, we can learn to stand firm in a crisis and steadfastly follow the Lord.

Our culture is increasingly distancing itself from Jesus Christ and opposing His followers. Are you preparing spiritually for whatever the future may bring?

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