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Daily Devotional - Thursday, January 5, 2017 - When It's Wise to Wait

JANUARY 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Psalm 130:1-8

Timing is critical in business, science, and sports. It's also essential in a believer's life. In order to keep in step with the Lord, we need to carry out His instructions in accordance with His timetable.

In God's kingdom, waiting means seeking further direction from Him while remaining in our present circumstances. It encompasses both an attitude of expectancy—"God, what would You like me to do?"—and one of readiness—"God, I am willing to do as You direct." It is our wisest course of action because we will ...

Receive direction. Too often, we make decisions based on the influence of our friends or culture. But God is the only source of true wisdom. He knows all things and answers us on the basis of His complete understanding. He is willing to give us clear direction for any decisions we are trying to make, large or small. He wants the very best for us in our personal life, whether the issue is marriage, school, business, or friendships ([Psalm 32:8](#)).

Get onto His timetable. God will also use the waiting period to bring us in line with His perfect timing. To others, it may appear as if we are delaying unnecessarily. However, knowing we are walking in concert with God will bring His divine peace to our hearts.

Be prepared for His answer and course of action. God may use a season of waiting to help us recognize ungodly motives and sin, and to strengthen our faith. Acting wisely begins with hearing from the Lord. When was the last time you waited to receive direction from Him?

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Daily Devotional - Wed, Jan 4, 2017 - A Lifetime of Second Chances

JANUARY 04TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wed, Jan 4, 2017 - A Lifetime of Second Chances

[Romans 5:1-6](#)

Paul used a beautiful phrase to describe the believer's position in Christ: "We have obtained our introduction by faith into this *grace in which we stand ...*" ([Rom. 5:2](#), emphasis added). This is no puddle of mercy that barely wets the toes, but rather a mighty ocean. The Lord's kindness wraps around us without regard for our past mistakes and failures.

God's grace is an essential concept for believers to understand. He freely offers His favor to mankind because Jesus' sacrifice on the cross purchased forgiveness and salvation for anyone who believes. However, many people think they are enjoying God's kindness when what they are really trying to do is earn it. If we have to purchase, merit, or work for grace, then it is not a gift (Eph. 2:8-9). The Lord is very clear that works cannot save us—in fact, He compares our good deeds to filthy rags ([Isa. 64:6](#)).

On the other hand, God's grace is not license to be lazy; Christians are called upon to serve the Lord every day. From the outside, it is usually impossible to distinguish between works and service in someone else's life. But God knows the motivation of every heart. He is pleased by the things we do to show Him our love and to express appreciation for His countless blessings. Such actions bring glory to His name.

Keep in mind that serving God in order to earn His favor or ensure that He continues blessing you amounts to thwarting grace. You can do nothing to deserve the Lord's kindness! He pours it upon believers freely, so the only thing you can "do" is receive it.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, January 3, 2017 - Setting Goals for Fruitful Living

JANUARY 03RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, January 3, 2017 - Setting Goals for Fruitful Living

2 Samuel 7:18-22

In the 70s, I experienced a turning point in my walk with Christ. It started with 2 Samuel 7, which inspired me to follow in King David's footsteps. He spent time alone with God, offering praise and thanksgiving. He also listened as the Lord revealed truth and offered insight about the future. Because of what he learned, David was able to set goals and stay aligned with them.

Desiring that kind of solitude, I spent several days alone in a camper at Georgia's Stone Mountain Park. Most of the time I remained silent, listening intently for God's voice. I asked Him to speak to me regarding my future, and He answered. Using a journal, I recorded the goals He inspired. The things He communicated so impacted my choices and so greatly blessed me that I continued the discipline every couple of months.

Let's discuss how to establish aims in this manner. First, come before the throne of almighty God with a repentant heart, praise, and thanksgiving. Then, ask Him for direction in areas such as spiritual life, career, and family. In silence, wait patiently and attentively—as you read and meditate upon God's Word, He will speak. Most often, His guidance is experienced as a prodding or conviction in the heart. When that happens, be sure to write down what you're learning so you can review it later.

In order to stay on the path God intends for our life, we should plan times to stop, ask, and listen for guidance. The world throws confusing messages at us all day long, and we need to check our course frequently. These conversations with the Lord are vital for a thriving life of godly impact.

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Daily Devotional - January 2, 2017 - Setting Goals for Fruitful Living

JANUARY 02ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - January 2, 2017 - Setting Goals for Fruitful Living

[2 Samuel 7:18-22](#)

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LAST UPDATED ON JANUARY 02ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Friday, December 23, 2016 Daily Devotional -

Indifference to Christmas

DECEMBER 23RD 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Friday, December 23, 2016 Daily Devotional - Indifference to Christmas

Matthew 2:1-6

Each year, there's a predictable variety of responses to the celebrations and traditions of the holiday season. During the next few days, we will examine three reactions to Christmas. Although 2,000 years have passed since Christ was born, His birth still elicits similar attitudes.

One common response is indifference. Even if they are filled with the holiday spirit and celebrate Christmas with gifts, dinners, decorations, and parties, some people remain totally indifferent to Jesus. He doesn't even cross their minds because they've lost sight of the reason for Christmas.

In the story of the magi's search for the newborn King of the Jews, we see a surprising indifference on the part of the religious leaders. The entourage from the East caused quite a stir in Jerusalem. It wasn't every day that impressive visitors arrived with such a shocking and exciting announcement. Yet when King Herod asked the scribes and chief priests where the Messiah was to be born, they simply told him the answer but made no attempt to go to Bethlehem themselves. Their lives were already filled with their religious duties, and they had no time or interest in anything that might disrupt their positions of prominence and authority.

Sometimes it's easy to let the activities and pressures of Christmas push Jesus out of our thoughts. After all the shopping is finished, the gifts are wrapped, and the food is prepared, we might rush off to a Christmas Eve service. But even then, we often feel distracted. Though it may take deliberate refocusing, this year let's intentionally make Jesus the priority of Christmas.

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