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Daily Devotional - Thursday, January 12, 2017 - Help for Our Healing

JANUARY 12TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, January 12, 2017 - Help for Our Healing

James 5:13-20

God cares about our physical well-being. After all, He made our bodies as a temple for His Spirit. And while He is able to heal sickness, His original intention was not for His perfect creation to experience disease.

But in this sinful world, ungodly choices at times lead to illness ([John 5:14](#)). So when we're afflicted, it's wise to ask God to search our heart and reveal anything He wants us to address ([Psalm 139:23-24](#)). Since sin can act like a blockage to prayer ([Psalm 66:18](#)), confessing any known wrongdoing is also a good idea.

Most of the time, though, health problems are just part of our human condition—a symptom of mankind's fallen state rather than evidence of personal sin. The truth is, disease affects just about everyone at some point. So how does God want us to respond?

Certain situations, of course, require prompt medical attention, but even in a crisis, our Father wants us to be aware of His presence and to stay in communication with Him ([1 Thess. 5:17](#)). Developing a pattern of prayerfulness *before* an emergency occurs is the best way to prepare for the unexpected.

The Bible's instructions also include praying for one another and calling the elders of the church to come and pray, anointing the afflicted person with oil in Jesus' name. (See

[James 5:14.\)](#)

Our Father is able to heal even the most deadly disease, but He sometimes chooses to allow the condition to remain. When requesting restored health, we should ask with faith and trust—faith in God’s ability but trust in His perfect will, whether that means healing or suffering-induced growth.

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Daily Devotional - Why We Fail

JANUARY 11TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Why We Fail

[Judges 16](#)

Unless weaknesses are addressed, they have potential to cause destruction. Vulnerabilities can either drive us closer to God or blind us to His love, as two Old Testament stories demonstrate. Joseph and Samson faced similar temptations but responded very differently. Day after day, Potiphar's wife tried to entice Joseph, yet he rejected her advances ([Gen. 39:7-9](#)). Samson, on the other hand, willingly gave in to Delilah ([Judg. 16:15-17](#)).

Samson had been consecrated to God, and the Holy Spirit was moving in his life ([Judg. 13:24-25](#)). Nevertheless, he chose the path of self-indulgence. Too proud to admit weakness, he lived in denial, which led to a lack of discipline and left the door open for Satan. Because Samson rationalized his weakness, it soon began to dominate his life. Listening to the lies of the devil and wicked people, he exchanged God's blessing and supernatural strength for irresponsible sexual involvement. And in the end, what did he have? Absolutely nothing.

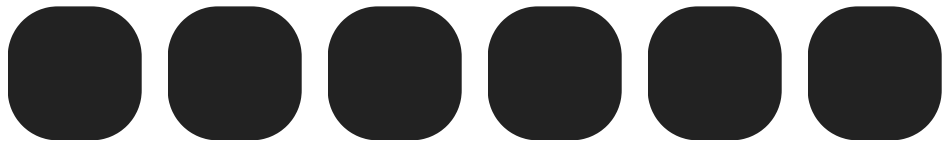
Given the slightest chance, sin will infiltrate your life and affect every aspect, including your faith, job, and relationships. Nothing is off limits. If you're thinking, *I don't have any weaknesses with the potential to destroy my life*, then Satan has already blinded you to a spiritual reality in your midst.

You have the choice to face temptation as Joseph did—or as Samson did. In times of weakness, do you depend on God, obey Him, and seek strength to overcome? Or do you make excuses and turn from His leading? How different Samson's life would have been if he'd chosen a better response.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, January 10, 2017 - Uncontrolled Weakness

JANUARY 10TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, January 10, 2017 - Uncontrolled Weakness

Judges 14

The book of Judges tells of Samson, a man so strong he could kill a lion with his bare hands ([Judg. 14:5-6](#)). He possessed physical strength unequaled by any human being. But this could not compensate for his inner weakness.

All of us have areas of weakness. God wants these character flaws to teach us how totally dependent we are upon Him. When we handle them properly, they drive us into a deeper, more intimate relationship with the Lord. But uncontrolled weakness wreaks havoc in a person's life.

Samson's Achilles' heel was uncontrolled lust. Although he was raised in a godly home and had a clear calling in life, he gave in to his desires and deliberately violated the truth he knew so well. Despite Nazirite laws forbidding involvement with foreigners, Samson pursued a Philistine woman ([Judg. 14:2](#)). Later, he met the enticing Delilah, and even though her motives were blatantly treacherous, he gave himself over—heart, mind, and spirit—to sexual indulgence. He was in such bondage to the sin that he ultimately allowed it to dictate his actions, even at the cost of his life.

Before he died, Samson lost everything: his strength, eyesight, and honor. The man who once led his country mightily became a slave to his enemies ([Judg. 16:18-25](#)).

What are your weaknesses? Personality flaws can be a powerful motivation for good or ill, depending on your response. A proclivity for sin can ruin your life—as it did

Samson's—or drive you to utter dependence on God. The outcome is up to you.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, Jan 9, 2017 - How to Walk With God

JANUARY 09TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, Jan 9, 2017 - How to Walk With God

[Genesis 5:21-24](#)

Enoch had such a close walk with the Lord that Scripture says, “and he was not, for God took him” ([Gen. 5:24](#)). This means that Enoch did not die, but was taken directly into the presence of the Lord. What a wonderful testimony!

As we seek to follow God with passion like Enoch's, let's learn some specific steps that will help us grow in our walk with the Lord.

Reconciliation. This term essentially means "God moving toward us." The joy of this step is that we bear no responsibility; it's all up to Him. Through the cross of Jesus Christ, God has already made His move in our direction. (See [2 Cor. 5:18](#).) When we place faith in the Savior, we immediately take part in that reconciliation.

Trusting God. Our heavenly Father wants us to know He is concerned with our spiritual growth. He also wants us to trust that He has, through Christ, provided the means by which we can walk intimately with Him.

Agreement. To appreciate the closeness God wants to have with us, we must agree with what His Word teaches about His Son, the church, and our problem with sin.

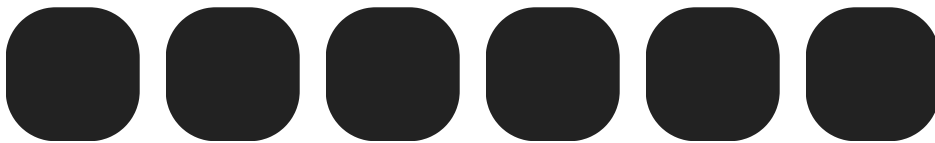
Fellowship. Just as our human relationships fall apart without regular contact, our intimacy with the Father weakens when we do not spend time with Him.

Walking with God is not an impossible mission, but it does require careful attention to the details of our Christian life. When we set our course for God, He will always be there to direct our path ([Prov. 16:9](#)).

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Daily Devotional - Sunday, January 8, 2017 - The Place of Fasting in Prayer

JANUARY 08TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Sunday, January 8, 2017 - The Place of Fasting in Prayer

Matthew 6:16-21

Jesus' words about fasting represent His invitation to a deeper experience with God. As we place our physical desires under the Spirit's control, we let go of our grip on the material in order to embrace the spiritual. Reasons for fasting include:

Cleansing from sin. When we let our spiritual guard down, we start thinking as the world does—protecting our rights instead of dying to self, or seeking to accumulate rather than sacrificing. Through these lapses, ungodly attitudes and habits can quietly take up residence in us, and we hardly notice. But God sees. They hinder our fellowship with Him, limit the effectiveness of our service, and erode our joy. Prayer combined with fasting will help us give God our undivided attention as He addresses our areas of sin. We, in turn, will find them grievous and be eager to let them go.

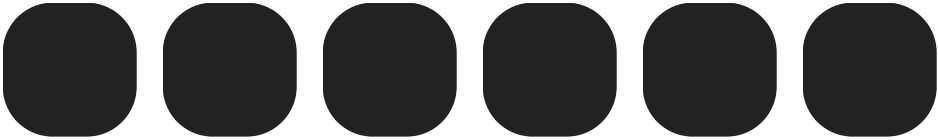
Guidance. God is willing to give us clear direction, but for some things, prayer in conjunction with fasting is more effective. That is how we gain the cleansed mind needed to hear what He is saying and a submitted spirit ready to accept His instructions.

Protection. Through fasting, we gain insight into God's ways and receive help in identifying unhealthy or dangerous situations. As we submit to His authority and confess our need for protection, the Holy Spirit will give us discernment to make wiser decisions and avoid unnecessary pitfalls.

Fasting coupled with prayer can also bring heightened spiritual awareness and more intimate communion with the Lord. Aren't these the deepest desires of our heart?

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