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# Daily Devotional - Tuesday, February 7, 2017 - When Spiritual Passion Diminishes

FEBRUARY 07TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, February 7, 2017 - When Spiritual Passion Diminishes

## 2 Timothy 1:1-11

Do you feel yourself growing cold toward the Lord? As His children, we can never lose our salvation, but it is possible for our spiritual passion to cool.

Today's passage reveals that even Timothy experienced a decrease in his excitement for God. That's why Paul wrote to him, encouraging the young pastor at Ephesus to fan the flame of his faith.

Spiritual "cooling" can happen to any Christian. Oftentimes it starts when tragedy or disappointment diverts our attention. Instead of crying out to the Lord and finding shelter in Him, we gradually cease reading the Bible. The Word of God is like wood in a fireplace: The flames can be kept alive only when there are logs to burn. As less time is spent in Scripture, other aspects of our relationship with God are affected. Church attendance diminishes, giving becomes sporadic, and prayer—which seems increasingly stale—is used only for emergencies.

At this point, we may find ourselves unwilling to stand up for what we once deemed important. The temptation to compromise can lead to guilt and defensiveness about how we're living. Finally, the joy, contentment, and peace of God are replaced by worry, doubt, and fear.

A believer who allows himself to drift will miss out on the comfort and fulfillment of a close, vibrant relationship with the Lord. Think back. Is your excitement about the things of God stronger now than ever before? Or has it diminished over time? If your fire needs stoking, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how.

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## Daily Devotional - Monday, February 6, 2017 - The Passion to Serve Him

FEBRUARY 06TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Monday, February 6, 2017 - The Passion to Serve Him](#)

[2 Corinthians 11:22-31](#)

In today's passage, Paul's description of his suffering is remarkable in two ways. First of all, he had obviously faced considerable torment for his faith. Second, he refused to whine or seek pity—if this was the price for passionately serving Christ, Paul was willing to pay. In our own faith walk, we can learn from the apostle's commitment.

We serve according to God's will, not our own. On the road to Damascus, Jesus said to Paul, "It will be told you what you must do" ([Acts 9:6](#)). We are to seek the Lord's direction and timing instead of choosing the ministry that seems best to us. Committing to do whatever He asks requires courage, but anything less amounts to putting limitations on our obedience.

We serve according to our gifts, not our talents. A spiritual gift is the special endowment God gives us to serve where He calls. Talents may be useful in His work, but His gifts equip us for success. Natural skill wasn't what made Paul a powerful preacher. In fact, he spoke of the uselessness of his abilities and pedigree in comparison with knowing and serving Christ ([Phil. 3:4-9](#)).

We are to serve with a focus on God, not on the work. Paul excelled at remaining Christ-centered, but this is where many people fall short. We get caught up in scheduling, responsibility, and accolades, which can make us lose sight of the true purpose: reaching the needy and those who need Christ.

Doing "church work" can stroke the ego but drain the body. If we keep focused and serve out of our gifts, service will be satisfying, even when it is hard or painful.

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## Daily Devotional - Friday, February 3, 2017, - Service is Not an Option

FEBRUARY 03RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, February 3, 2017, - Service is Not an Option

### [Titus 2:11-15](#)

Who is a servant of God? Ask average churchgoers that question, and they will most likely point to their pastor or some Christian celebrity. They almost certainly will not say, “We are God’s servants.” The church has a mixed-up idea that believers are separated into servants—that is, individuals in full-time ministry—and laypeople. The Bible contains no such distinction. Instead, Paul reminds the Ephesians that believers are saved so that they might serve ([Ephesians 2:10](#)).

If there were no other reason to serve God besides gratitude for salvation, that would be cause enough. We are rescued from torment and given eternal life with the Holy Spirit’s indwelling presence. Our service is but a small acknowledgment of the Father sending His Son to be sacrificed in payment of the sin debt we owed. We have no right to withhold our gifts or time.

Many people, believers included, serve the big “I.” What satisfies and pleases “I”? What is convenient for “I”? What makes “I” happy and prosperous? When a pastor appeals for help, most of his parishioners are sure he is speaking to someone else because “I” has insufficient training or a busy schedule. Here is a harsh reality: If “I” is our master, we are committing “I”-dolatry. Anything given first place over God—including selfish desires—is an idol.

Service isn’t an option. God calls us to be servants so we can invest our lives in an eternally valuable purpose: the salvation of unbelievers and their subsequent discipleship

for His glory. Our job may seem insignificant or our limitations great, but we are vessels of Christ with a role in the kingdom.

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## Daily Devotional - Thursday, February 2, 2017 - Abraham's Test

FEBRUARY 02ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Thursday, February 2, 2017 - Abraham's Test](#)

### [Genesis 22:1-24](#)

Abraham faced one of the greatest tests of obedience recorded in the Bible: God asked him to slay his son as an offering. It's hard to imagine the confusion and pain this request must have caused. However, Abraham obeyed the Lord willingly and promptly. His

response teaches us some important lessons about yielding to the Lord.

**Obedience often collides with reason.** After telling Abraham he'd have descendants too numerous to count, God asked him to sacrifice Isaac, who was to be the father of the promised line. Despite the strangeness of the command, Abraham trusted God to keep His word and so set out to obey ([Heb. 11:18-19](#)).

**Obedience means leaving the consequences to God.** Abraham had no idea how the promise could be fulfilled if Isaac was dead. But his words and actions indicate he believed in divine sovereignty. When Abraham took the boy to Mount Moriah, he told his servants, "I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you" ([Gen. 22:5](#)). He didn't say, "I will return" but expressed that both would come back. Abraham went to the holy place as instructed. At the same time, he fully expected that the Lord would somehow restore Isaac in order to keep His pledge. God fulfilled His promise by providing a ram in the boy's place ([Gen. 22:13-14](#)).

The Lord already knows how His children will respond to tests of obedience. He challenges people because He wants them to know the truth about how well they submit. A believer's willingness to obey (or disobey) reveals the state of his or her commitment to God.

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# Daily Devotional - Wednesday, February 1, 2017 - Abraham's Lesson on Obedience

FEBRUARY 01ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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## Genesis 16:1-16

The Old Testament gives us the account of Abraham's life. While the patriarch had a special relationship with God, his faith was not perfect. Over the years, he came to understand the importance of obedience—and how costly it can be to rebel.

Abraham learned the hard way that manipulating circumstances to gain a desired result can bring heartache. God had promised him and Sarah a child, but they were still waiting for that blessing when they were elderly. Already in her 70s, Sarah suggested that Abraham get an heir by having a child with her servant Hagar. The result was jealousy, family strife, and a bloody conflict that still rages today between the descendants of Hagar's son Ishmael and Sarah's son Isaac.

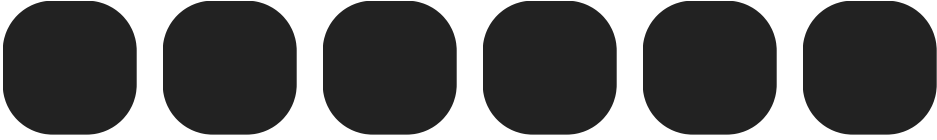
Obedience will bring the Lord's best, but it requires waiting on Him. Abraham was already an old man when God promised him descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky ([Gen. 15:5](#)). This would not be fulfilled until he was 100 and Sarah was well past her child-bearing years, which meant that all the glory for Isaac's miraculous conception and birth went to the Lord ([Gen. 21:1-7](#)). Jumping ahead of God had harsh, long-term consequences. But the good news is that the couple's mistakes could not prevent Him from carrying out His plan.

The Lord has given us His Word so we might learn from the saints of old. The story of Abraham's life teaches us that obedience is essential. When we place our trust in a sovereign God and wait upon His timing, He will always prove faithful.

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