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# Daily Devotional - Friday, March 3, 2017 - Facing Our Fears

MARCH 03RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, March 3, 2017 - Facing Our Fears

## Psalm 91:1-16

Fear creeps into our life and wraps itself around our mind and heart. This can happen so subtly that we don't recognize how anxiety has affected our decision making, our health, and our spirit. Ultimately, many people miss God's best because apprehension keeps them from stepping out in faith to do His will.

The fear may seem unimportant at first, but left unchecked, it begins to interfere with our life. Physically, we may experience tension that keeps us from relaxing and enjoying the day's pleasures. Anxiety can lead to health problems, especially if it is constant. Mentally, our mind may be clouded by fear, which can limit what we are willing to think about and consider. If that should happen, our dreams and creativity will almost certainly be stifled.

But the mental paralysis that often accompanies unchecked fear is most dangerous to our spiritual life. Unless it is entrusted to God, a single fear can easily rule over us, coloring our attitude with a general sense of disquiet. We become indecisive, worried that we will make the wrong choice. So we are trapped, trying to avoid anything that might make us anxious. Consequently, we stop growing as Christians and are usually hindered in our work and family life, too.

If you allow yourself to be paralyzed by worry, you cannot be placing complete trust in God and following Him wholeheartedly. Make an honest assessment of your life, and ask

the Lord to reveal places where fear is holding you back.

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# Daily Devotional - Thursday, March 2, 2017 - The Value of God's Word

MARCH 02ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, March 2, 2017 - The Value of God's Word

## 2 Timothy 3:14-17

From the opening verse of Genesis to the final words of Revelation, Scripture is divinely inspired; every word has purpose. In today’s passage, we are told that the sacred writings are “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be ... equipped for every good work.” In other words, they offer

preparation for whatever we will face in life ([2 Tim. 3:16-17](#)). No other book holds such value for living.

The Old Testament introduces us to God's nature, ways, and power; it lays the foundation for us to understand the Lord's holiness and humanity's desperate need for a Savior. The New Testament explains that Jesus sacrificially became our "bridge" to the Father ([John 14:6](#)). Its writings clarify why we must trust Christ for salvation, how to live as God's children, and what to expect in this life and after death.

[Ephesians 6:13-17](#) compares the Word to armor, and for good reason: In the battle of life, we have a real enemy who wants to destroy us. But God's power is greater ([1 John 4:4](#)), and dressing in war gear prepares us for the temptations, lies, and decisions we will encounter daily.

We should be excited about the Word of God, for it is our hope—and the only instruction that leads to victory, in life and after physical death.

The Bible predicted that many people would reject the truth, and a glimpse at our world today shows that to be the case. Don't let yourself fall into the same trap. Life without His truth is destined for failure, so meditate daily on Scripture, and ask God to speak to you.

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# Daily Devotional - Tuesday, February 28, 2017 - Walking Wisely

FEBRUARY 28TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, February 28, 2017 - Walking Wisely

## [Ephesians 5:15-17](#)

When Paul exhorts us to walk wisely, he gives three instructions to help us make godly choices. First, he says to “be careful how you walk” (Eph. 5:15). Because we live in a morally corrupt society, we must be vigilant about the way we think and act. Unless we deliberately choose to guard ourselves, we will simply do what comes naturally and go along with cultural influences.

Next, in verse 16, the apostle instructs us to make the most of our time. The Lord has entrusted each of us with 24 hours per day and various opportunities to participate in His plans for us. But so often we are tempted to squander our time and energy on our own pursuits without a thought of what our heavenly Father may have in mind for us.

In verse 17, Paul lays out the final exhortation: to “understand what the will of the Lord is” ([Eph. 5:17](#)) In its broadest sense, God’s will for us is that we would each become the person that He created us to be and do the work He has planned for us to accomplish ([Eph. 2:10](#)). Knowing this, we should look at every decision with consideration of whether our choice will further or hinder our heavenly Father’s purposes for our life. To live thoughtlessly outside of His will is foolish.

The Lord wants us to walk wisely so that we can enjoy all of the marvelous benefits that He’s promised in His Word and longs to give us. Wasted opportunities and time misspent can never be reclaimed. Let’s commit to make each and every day count for Jesus Christ instead of merely living for ourselves.

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## Daily Devotional - Monday, February 27, 2017 - The Foundation of Wisdom

FEBRUARY 27TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, February 27, 2017 - The Foundation of Wisdom

### [Proverbs 9:7-12](#)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” ([Prov. 9:10](#)). Initially, the connection between these two concepts may be difficult to grasp. How can fearing God make us wise?

First, we need to understand what it means to fear the Lord. This term is used to describe an awesome reverence for God that moves us to acknowledge Him as the sovereign ruler of heaven and earth, submit to His will, and walk in obedience. The result of such a response will be the acquisition of wisdom.

If we commit ourselves to living for God’s purposes rather than our own, we will gain greater understanding of Him. The Holy Spirit will enable us to see circumstances and people from His divine perspective. This kind of wisdom reaches beyond human perception and gives us discernment to make decisions that fit into the Lord’s plans for our life. Knowing that He always works for our best interests, we are empowered to walk

confidently through both good and bad times.

But if we reject God's instructions, we dishonor Him with our refusal to acknowledge His right to rule our life. It's foolish to rebel against His authority and think we can ever win. Those who won't fear God will never know real wisdom.

What is your attitude toward the Lord? If you truly revere Him, you will listen for His directions and heed His warnings. A desire to honor and please Him will motivate you to turn from evil and seek to live in obedience. The result will be wisdom beyond human understanding.

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## Daily Devotional - Friday, February 24, 2017 - Learning Contentment

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FEBRUARY 24TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Philippians 4:10-13

We usually associate contentment with good conditions. When our family relationships are great, work is fulfilling, and we have no health or financial problems, then we feel at ease. But if something goes wrong, our satisfaction vanishes.

That's not what today's passage is talking about. Paul had learned to be content no matter what his conditions were. This is wonderful news for us because it means we aren't at the mercy of our circumstances; we, too, can learn to be content regardless of what we're facing. We should remember:

**Paul was content because he rested in God's faithfulness.** He knew the Lord was in full control ([Psalm 103:19](#)) and promised to work all things for His children's good ([Romans 8:28](#)). In any and every circumstance, Paul rested in the security of God's sovereign, loving hand. The apostle also trusted that whatever he needed would be provided in the Lord's time.

**His contentment also flowed from a focus on Christ.** Although he was writing from a Roman prison, Paul wasn't feeling like a victim or wallowing in self-pity. Throughout the letter to the Philippians, he talked about Jesus. In fact, his greatest pursuit in life was to know Christ, His power, and the fellowship of His sufferings ([Romans 3:10](#)). No circumstance could hinder that pursuit. On the contrary, every situation—even when painful or difficult—was an opportunity to know Christ more intimately.

We'll never be able to find lasting contentment in our circumstances, but we can find it in Christ. When we surrender our life to Him, our situation may not change, but we will. No matter what we face, we can be content.

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