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Daily Devotional - Monday, March 6, 2017 - Dealing with Distractions

MARCH 06TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Nehemiah 1:1-11

When Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king, his heart was deeply stirred over the plight of the Israelites back home and the condition of their city. With the king's permission, he set out to rebuild Jerusalem. He encountered numerous obstacles but refused to let them distract him from the task.

From his example, we learn the importance of:

Being in the center of God's will. When Nehemiah cried out in prayer about his people and homeland ([Neh. 1:4-11](#)), the Lord showed him exactly what to do. Then God caused the king to be favorably disposed toward the request and to provide everything needed. Knowing we are right where God wants us will give us confidence to move through trials without being sidetracked.

Remembering what the goal is. Nehemiah knew that the Lord's priority for him was to rebuild the city. God has also planned things for us to do, and His work is always of great value. We are not to underestimate our part, no matter how small it seems to us.

Accomplishing each task. Following every crisis, Nehemiah returned to the task at hand. By keeping the Lord's goal in mind, we'll be able to stay in our God-appointed place, carry out each step, and remain on course.

Accurately identifying our distractions. Those who seek to interrupt our work, divert our attention, or attack us personally are not from God. With the Father's help, Nehemiah recognized whom to heed and whom to ignore.

Think about people and situations that are likely to distract you. Being aware of their potential to get you off track can help you stay focused.

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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

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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