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# Daily Devotional, Thursday, April 6, 2017 - How to Handle Pride

APRIL 06TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Thursday, April 6, 2017 - How to Handle Pride

## 1 Samuel 24

Pride causes us to think that we can manage life's situations ourselves and make our own plans. The first two kings of Israel—Saul and David—illustrate different approaches to handling pride.

Saul's high opinion of himself resulted in decisions that were contrary to the Lord's commands. For example, having defeated the Philistines, the king reasoned that he should take some spoils of war, even though God had said otherwise. When confronted by Samuel, he replied that his plan was "to sacrifice [the animals] to the Lord" ([1 Samuel 15:15](#)). God saw through his words to a heart of pride. If self-centeredness controls our thinking, we'll seek ways around divine commands in order to serve ourselves. When caught, we may try to justify our disobedience, as Saul did.

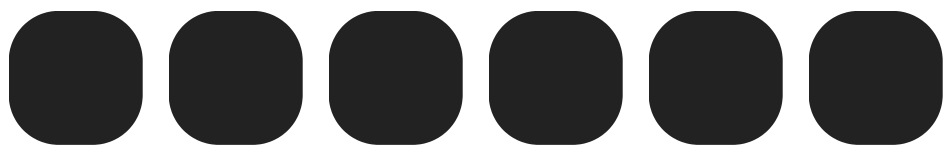
David—Israel's second king, chosen while Saul was still on the throne—didn't try to initiate his own reign. Instead, he waited for God's timing. That meant enduring Saul's jealous rages and murder attempts, but still he wouldn't retaliate. In fact, even when he had the opportunity, David refused to seize the throne; he didn't allow pride to dominate his thinking. Later on, he coveted another man's wife and committed adultery, but when he was challenged, his humble heart prompted repentance ([2 Samuel 12:13](#)).

To prevent prideful behavior, we must refuse to act independently of the Lord. Like David, we should handle self-centeredness by turning to God in confession. David's sins were forgiven. Saul, on the other hand, never admitted he'd made any mistakes, and that led to his downfall.

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## Daily Devotional, Wednesday, April 5, 2017 - Our Glorious Hope

APRIL 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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[1 Corinthians 15:20-58](#)

When we hear the word *resurrection*, most of us instantly think about Jesus rising from the dead, but His victory over the grave shows what's going to happen to us as well. One day every believer who has died will experience a bodily resurrection like His, and those who are alive when Christ returns will be changed from mortal to immortal in the twinkling of an eye.

One of the first questions that spring to mind is, What am I going to look like? I can't answer that specifically, but all I know is, you're going to look as good as the Creator can make you. And that's pretty good! These humble earthly bodies will be transformed into glorious bodies like His—minus the divinity, of course. The apostle Paul provides some hints about their characteristics: They are imperishable, glorious, powerful, and spiritual. As such, they will be fit for life in heaven. We'll never again experience sin, sickness, pain, suffering, weakness, exhaustion, or death.

At times people ask me if we'll be recognizable—that is, will we know our loved ones, and will they know us? Consider this: How could such powerful, glorious bodies be limited in this area if they are so much more advanced in every other way? I'm fully convinced that all our senses and mental abilities will be enhanced, not diminished.

A glorious future lies ahead of us, but the joy of a new body and a reunion with loved ones will be surpassed by the thrill of seeing Jesus face to face. He is the One who made all this possible. Out of gratitude, let's faithfully love and serve Him while we remain on this earth.

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# Daily Devotional, Tuesday, April 4, 2017 - What if There is No Resurrection?

APRIL 04TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, April 4, 2017 - What if There is No Resurrection?

## 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

On a very cold November afternoon, I sat under a green tent with my mother's coffin in front of me. How many times had I stood in cemeteries, offering comfort and the Word of God to those who had lost a loved one? But this was my first experience being on the other side of the casket. As I sat there, a shocking thought popped into my head: *Suppose there is no resurrection!* This idea was quickly driven away by my faith and confidence in Christ. But it had lasted just long enough for me to feel the despair and hopelessness of such a belief.

To help us appreciate Christ's victory over the grave, let's consider what the outcome of life and death would be without the resurrection. First of all, Jesus would still be dead. That means our faith in Him would be worthless and our message to the world would be a lie. What's more, Jesus Himself would be proved a liar since He claimed that He would rise from the dead.

There would be no forgiveness of our sins, no possibility of reconciliation with God, and no hope of heaven. All deceased believers throughout history would have perished. Without the resurrection, there would be nothing positive for anyone to look forward to. Everybody's destiny after death would be hell.

Thank God, none of these scenarios are true. Our Savior lives, our sins are forgiven, death has been defeated, and believers in Christ have assurance of eternity in heaven with Him. After considering how hopeless we would be without a resurrection, let's rejoice all the more in the greatness of our salvation.

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## Daily Devotional, Monday, April 3, 2017 - Seek God Early

APRIL 03RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Monday, April 3, 2017 - Seek God Early

### **Psalm 63:1-8**

You've probably heard people say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. A similar concept applies to our heart and mind. The fuel we give them each morning greatly affects the remainder of the day. Think of time in God's Word, prayer, and meditation as spiritual nourishment for your relationship with the Father.

David began his day with the Lord. In Psalm 63, he described seeking God early (the literal translation of *earnestly*). He woke up ravenous for his Creator, and after filling his yearning soul with the fullness of the Lord, he broke out in thanksgiving and praise to Him. Even while lying on his bed at night, David was still thinking about his heavenly Father.

Just imagine having a day like that—filled with joy and gratitude to God. This is possible when we set apart the beginning of our day to spend with the Lord, listening to Him speak through His Word and talking to Him in prayer. Our blessing will be even richer when we stay mindful of God throughout the day and into the night, contemplating who He is and how He works. Seeking the Lord not only fills our empty soul; it also increases our hunger for more of Him.

Do you find it a struggle to set apart time with the Lord each morning? Realize that lifelong habits begin with baby steps, not overwhelming resolutions. Start today—set aside 15 minutes this morning. Then try doing so for a few days, and see if the Lord begins to satisfy your soul and increase your hunger for Him.

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## Daily Devotional, Friday, March 31, 2017 - Our Awesome God

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MARCH 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Revelation 4:9-11

In our culture, God's name is often mentioned with little reverence. In fact, many people actually use it as a curse. Even among those who love Him, it is far too common to use His name casually, without taking time to ponder who He is. When you say a blessing at mealtimes, for instance, do you realize that you are talking to the almighty God who created and rules over all things?

Our view of the Lord impacts three areas of life. First, it affects our prayers. As we come to know Him better and better, our desires will start to look like His goals for us, and our petitions will align more closely with His purposes. What's more, as we recognize His greatness and power, we'll become more confident that He can accomplish mighty things—and we will venture to “pray big” ([Eph. 3:20](#); [James 4:2](#)).

Second, our understanding of His righteousness and goodness influences our behavior: If God has these attributes, surely it's in our best interest to obey gladly. And as we, too, desire righteousness, we'll be quick to repent of sin.

Third, our faith is impacted. Grasping that Jesus is holy, good, and powerful grows our trust in Him. Knowing our awesome God and remembering His great works will further build our confidence in Him.

Do you personally know our loving and holy heavenly Father? He invites you into an intimate relationship with Him. But as with any good friendship, time and intentionality are necessary to understand Him and learn His ways. Make these characteristics your priority, and watch how your prayers, behavior, and faith are impacted.

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