



[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, April 25, 2017 - The Enemy of Security

APRIL 25TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, April 25, 2017 - The Enemy of Security

1 John 5:1-9

Sin can shake our faith in eternal security. God promised that anyone who believes Jesus Christ died on the cross for his or her sin will live forever in heaven ([John 6:40](#)). But because unconfessed sin creates a barrier between the Lord and the believer, it short-circuits faith and assurance.

When a believer confesses wrongdoing, the Father forgives and cleanses His child (1 John 1:9). But by failing to admit to sin, a Christian will experience estrangement from God. He or she may feel unworthy of the Father's love and can even struggle with a sense of rejection. Ask people in this situation if they are certain about their eternal future, and you'll probably hear, "I used to be." Sometimes they will go so far as to tell me that they are no longer saved—but that is impossible. While we can lose our assurance, we can never lose our salvation or our place in heaven.

Too often, people mistake the Lord's chastening hand for confirmation of their lost condition. "God wouldn't put me through this if I were saved," they'll say. Actually, the opposite is true. The heavenly Father disciplines those He loves, so correction is proof that we are His children ([Heb. 12:6-7](#)). Chastisement is His way of guiding the wayward believer back into fellowship with Him.

Jesus is our advocate before God. Like ancient Israel's high priests who offered blood sacrifices, He atoned for our sins by His own death on the cross. We can't sin our way out of His grace. The minute we confess our wrongdoing, estrangement dissipates and assurance comes flooding back into our hearts.

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 25TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/v78b/Daily-Devotional-Tuesday-April-25-2017--The-Enemy-of-Security>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

TOP

Daily Devotional, Monday, April 24, 2017 - What is Your True Purpose?

APRIL 24TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Monday, April 24, 2017 - What is Your True Purpose?

1 Samuel 16:6-13

What do you live for each day? A pay raise? Retirement? Then perhaps you've discovered the reality that basing aspirations on getting ahead in this world typically ends in disappointment. People with a misguided sense of direction often wonder why they feel unfulfilled.

Maybe you've already achieved a goal of saving for the future or moving up the corporate ladder. You give to charity and volunteer at church, but somehow still feel a sense of insignificance or aimlessness. If so, there is a truth you need to hear: God gives each of us life for a very specific reason—namely, to serve Him. Nobody finds inner peace without reconciling this fact. Our society teaches us that pleasure, prosperity, position, and popularity will make us happy. But living in the service of self always leaves an emptiness no earthly reward can fill.

Besides, worldly philosophy won't stand the test of time. Few of us are going to live even 100 years. So whatever we'll become in this life, we are in the process of becoming that right now. Consider David: He was anointed king long before actually assuming the role (1 Sam. 16:12). He spent many years serving the purpose of God in insignificant places while developing into a great man. As his story shows, discovering God's purpose for your life is the surest path to success.

Our Father's purpose for us comes from His heart of love—which is perfect. None of us can know the things He has in store for us, but we can trust His plan. Surrender to Him and say, "Not my will, Lord, but Yours be done."

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 24TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/v77s/Daily-Devotional-Monday-April-24-2017--What-is-Your-True-Purpose>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional, Thursday, April 20, 2017 - Seeking Guidance: The Pattern

APRIL 20TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Thursday, April 20, 2017 - Seeking Guidance: The Pattern

Matthew 7:7-8

As we've seen, there is a pattern to seeking God's guidance. The first step—cleansing—is actually important throughout the entire process. In fact, all but one of the remaining steps have no particular order and can fit together in many ways.

The exception is surrender. The Lord cannot share His plans for our life until we are committed to following Him no matter what. He certainly knows whether we are seeking direction in order to obey or merely to consider what He suggests. Therefore, surrender must precede even our prayers for guidance. First John 5:14-15 says that the Lord hears and grants our petitions when we ask according to His will. It's possible to make requests that are not of God, but believers who yield themselves will find their way to the right request and the best possible answer.

Most of the time, God guides believers to an answer through His Word, which is why I encourage people to meditate upon it ([Psalm 1:2-3](#)). Our reading can take us to the very passage that deals with our situation or reveals a principle that applies. Sometimes God speaks a crystal-clear message to a person's heart that nobody else would glean from those particular verses. The key is to believe that the Lord is going to guide you, and to live out that faith ([Mark 11:24](#)).

The process of seeking guidance is often slow, so we must wait. Running ahead or manipulating circumstances can be a costly mistake. Our omniscient, sovereign God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him ([Isa. 64:4](#)). Those who seek direction will

receive—that's a promise ([Matt. 7:7-8](#)).

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 20TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/v77h/Daily-Devotional-Thursday-April-20-2017--Seeking-Guidance-The-Pattern>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional, Wednesday, April 19, 2017 - Seeking Guidance: The First Step

APRIL 19TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Wednesday, April 19, 2017 - Seeking Guidance: The First Step

[1 John 1:8-10](#)

By forsaking the worldly way, believers have chosen a narrow path ([Matt. 7:13](#)). However, we're not wandering blindly on it. The Holy Spirit is our guide. He directs our steps toward new opportunities and offers discernment so we can make wise decisions that keep us on course for God's will.

It is the nature of this journey that we have to stop often and seek guidance. God is pleased to respond to earnest requests for direction, as He wants to keep His followers in the center of His will. But I've discovered that many Christians wonder how to pursue divine guidance.

Seeking God's direction involves a pattern that begins with cleansing—in other words, the first place to look is at ourselves. Ask, "Father, do You see anything in my life that might interfere with my understanding what You are saying?" Sin shuts down the guidance process: It impedes the power flowing from the Holy Spirit and thereby clouds our judgment.

The Bible teaches that God cleanses unrighteousness when we confess our sins ([1 John 1:9](#)). It also contains a clear warning for those who refuse to relinquish a rebellious habit or attitude—the Lord doesn't hear their cries ([Psalm 66:18](#)). As He reveals problem areas, we should lay them before the cross.

Cleansing is actually woven into the entire process of gaining divine guidance. The Lord brings sin to our attention as we're equipped to deal with it. So on the way to receiving His clear direction, we may revisit this first step often and in that way can continually experience a time of rich spiritual growth and renewal.

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 19TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/v77b/Daily-Devotional-Wednesday-April-19-2017--Seeking-Guidance-The-First-Step>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

TOP

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, April 18, 2017 - Sent to Serve

APRIL 18TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, April 18, 2017 - Sent to Serve

John 17:18

Too often, people fall into a wrong belief that they have no real purpose in life. They get up, go to work, come home, and zone out in front of the TV. Then it's time to go to sleep and start all over. Where in this routine are they making time to fulfill their true purpose?

This isn't the model Jesus set for us. When we look at the life of Christ, we can clearly see that His coming was no accident and His time was not wasted. He lived His life on target. Scripture shows without a doubt that Jesus came to accomplish a goal.

Many times in the Gospels, Jesus refers to having been sent by the Father. That word implies focus and intent. Our Savior didn't stumble upon the earthly scene. His coming was not an accident or a happy coincidence. The idea is not that Jesus just appeared; He was sent into the world for a clear purpose.

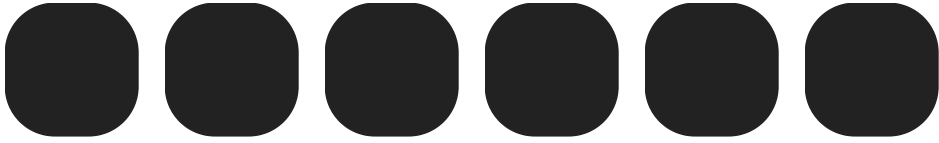
And what was that purpose? [Matthew 20:28](#) reveals that Jesus came not to conquer, but to serve. His life reveals a clear mission, and everything He does in the Gospels points back to His purpose: to reveal the Father, die for sin, save the lost, and provide abundant life.

No matter where He was, who He was with, or what He was doing, the Lord was always mindful of the reason for His coming. What's more, just as Jesus was sent by the Father, so we are sent by Christ—to carry His message of hope throughout the world. Is this purpose evident in your daily routine? Pray for clarity and focus as you serve the Lord today.

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 18TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/v777/Daily-Devotional-Tuesday-April-18-2017--Sent-to-Serve>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:



SUBSCRIBE TO "FAITH MATTERS"

ShowMe Gold Sponsors