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Daily Devotional, Wednesday, May 24, 2017 - The Great Divide

MAY 24TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Isaiah 55:8-9

When we picture Jesus as our bridge to God, it is natural to think about the things that separate us from the Father. Therefore, let's examine three metaphors that describe the barriers between us and almighty God.

First, we are separated by height. Scripture calls God the "Most High" and describes Him as "high and lifted up" ([Psalm 9:2](#); [Isa. 6:1](#) ESV). He is above creation and unconstrained by gravity, time, or space. Furthermore, He declares, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways" ([Isa. 55:9](#)). Without question, God is above man.

Next, we are separated by distance. Moses experienced God through the burning bush, but even in that holy moment, the Lord warned him not to come too close ([Ex. 3:5](#)). Later, when the people of Israel built the temple and tabernacle, God warned them not to enter the Holy of Holies except for a single specific time each year, and then only one person was allowed to enter under strict conditions ([Heb. 9:7](#)). There is a distance between man and God that cannot be breached.

Third, we are separated by light and fire ([1 John 1:5](#); [Deut. 4:24](#)). We know that staring into a giant spotlight can cause blindness, and standing near a flame can burn our skin. In a similar way, if we were to stand in the presence of holy God, we would be consumed.

Why did Jesus come to us? The reason is that only the perfect, sinless Son of God could reach the Father, come close to Him, and stand in His presence. And, in Christ, we can share in that intimacy.

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Daily Devotional, Tuesday, May 23, 2017 - Our Bridge to God

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[John 14:1-6](#)

The last verse in today's passage makes a powerful and unequivocal statement. Jesus clearly says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but

through Me.”

People have taken exception to that statement for 2,000 years. Some say the Lord didn’t mean for it to be taken literally. Others categorically reject His authority to make the claim at all. However, as believers in the lordship of Jesus Christ, we must take what He says as truth. So let’s think for a moment about the word picture in that verse.

When Jesus calls Himself “the way,” many people imagine a one-way street. They take this to mean that there are lots of roads, but He is the only one that leads to the Father. That’s a good image, but I think we can do even better.

I like to think of Jesus not as a road but as a bridge—our bridge to God. Consider the apostle Paul’s warning in [Romans 3:23](#): “For all have sinned and *fall short* of the glory of God” (emphasis added). The picture here is of a great chasm between us and God, and we cannot make it across. Unable to bridge the gap, we fall.

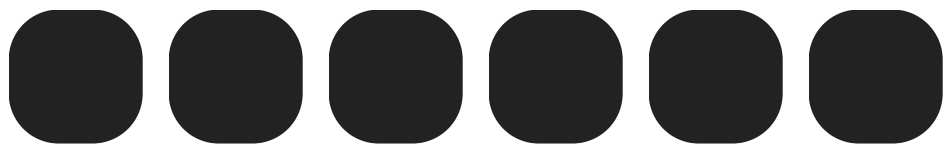
So, what is the only way across a chasm? A bridge, of course. And that’s what Jesus is for us. He stands in the gap, providing safe passage across the void and into the loving arms of the Father.

Meditate on this mental image. When we imagine ourselves helpless and lost—with heaven just out of reach, beyond a great divide—we can begin to appreciate the true power of the cross.

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Daily Devotional, Monday, May 22, 2017 - In the Fullness of Time

MAY 22ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Monday, May 22, 2017 - In the Fullness of Time

Galatians 4:4-5

In eternity past, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit planned and created heaven and earth. Yet even before Adam breathed his first breath, the Lord knew sin would enter the world, causing mankind to be separated from Him. However, a plan for our redemption was already in place, and in the fullness of time, the Son of God came as a baby and lived on the earth.

The Lord doesn't do anything haphazardly. Every plan of His is predetermined and meticulously carried out at just the right time. And this truth doesn't apply to just the big events in human history. Since He has a specific plan for every believer, He works to accomplish His goals in each Christian's life. He ordained the day of our birth, has complete knowledge of what each day will hold, and knows how long we'll live on this earth. And just as He did when Christ was born, God will, in the fullness of time, execute each part of His will for your life and mine.

However, although His plans for us are good, the only way we'll see His purposes fulfilled in our life is by submitting to Him. He's promised to work all things for our good when we love Him and are called according to His purpose ([Rom. 8:28](#)).

Are you letting the Lord have His way in your life? Even when the need seems urgent, a person with a spirit yielded to God waits patiently for the heavenly Father's plans to unfold at just the right time. The One with complete knowledge and wisdom knows what He's doing. Wait for the fullness of His time.

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Daily Devotional, Friday, May 19, 2017 - Standing on a Firm Foundation

MAY 19TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Friday, May 19, 2017 - Standing on a Firm Foundation

[Isaiah 52:7](#); [Romans 10:15](#)

When was the last time you had a Bible study on the topic of feet? In all likelihood, you haven't ever had such a lesson. In fact, you might even be squeamish at the thought of focusing on feet. The apostle Paul, however, did not avoid the subject. He made feet a focal point of one of his most powerful messages: the discussion in [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) about the armor of God. Let's take a closer look.

Four times in four verses (vv. 11-14 NIV), Paul declares that the armor's purpose—the value in putting it on piece by piece—lies in its ability to help us “stand,” “stand against the devil's schemes,” “stand [our] ground,” and “stand firm.” And of course, armor would be incomplete without shoes—which Paul identified as “the preparation of the gospel of

peace” (v. 15). Clearly, he knew Christians needed to be on a solid foundation when facing opposition.

The Roman soldier’s sandals had an often overlooked feature: a long spike at the heel of the shoe. Its purpose was to allow the warrior to plant his feet firmly in the ground when an opponent approached. With his feet secured in this way, the soldier had an obvious advantage: He would be able to stand his ground. This part of his uniform enabled him to keep his footing even as he faced the danger.

That is precisely what the heavenly Father wants for every one of His children: the ability to stand firm in the face of troubles. This is possible, however, only when we plant our feet on a firm foundation—the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Is your faith well grounded?

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Daily Devotional, Thursday, May 18, 2017 - A

Purpose of Adversity

MAY 18TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Psalm 37:23-28

When we're going through an intense time of adversity, it seems we usually focus exclusively on the momentary trouble. We frequently fail to see any value whatsoever in our suffering. God, however, has specific purposes for bringing us through times of hardship.

One reason He may allow adversity in our life is to teach us to hate evil. Now, you may be hesitant to use the word *hate* in any situation, and yet this is exactly what the Word of God instructs us to do. Psalm 97:10 proclaims, "Hate evil, you who love the Lord."

Isn't it true, however, that we often don't act as if we hate evil? In many instances, in fact, our tendency is to play around with it, keeping it close by for our own amusement, and making excuses for its presence in our lives. We may say, "Well, I can't escape evil in this world. It's all around me! I guess the best I can hope to do is to try and manage it appropriately." What a deception this is. We are not commanded to manage or manipulate evil; instead, we are instructed to hate its very presence. Psalm 37 says, "Depart from evil and do good, so you will abide forever" (v. 27). When we see evil, we are to turn around and run in the opposite direction!

Yes, we live in a world that is permeated by evil, and we cannot avoid it at all times. However, we can remove ourselves from particularly tempting situations. The heavenly Father can help us recognize the evil one's pitfalls in our life. Pray and ask Him today for the wisdom and strength to avoid such traps.

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