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Daily Devotional, Thursday, June 1, 2017 - Our Protector

JUNE 01ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Thursday, June 1, 2017 - Our Protector

Psalm 121:1-3

Psalm 121 describes the safety that is found in the Lord. Today and tomorrow, let's look at several verses to better understand our security.

“I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord” (vv. 1-2). When this psalm was written, robbers dwelled in the mountains, waiting for innocent travelers to become their unsuspecting victims. Not only that, but wild animals also posed a threat. Needless to say, journeying on these remote hilly roads must have caused anxiety and fear.

Our lives can be like mountainous territory. Do you look to the future and wonder what dangers lurk? The Lord is our helper; He alone is able to protect us, regardless of what lies ahead. Friends and relatives can offer limited assistance, but God knows everything and has all the power necessary to rescue us.

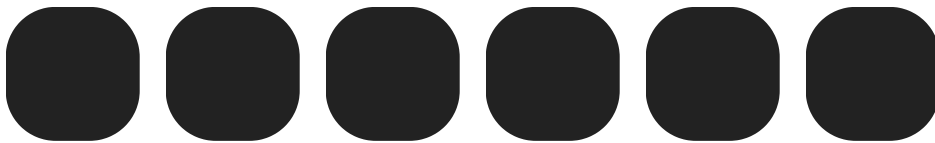
“He will not allow your foot to slip” (v. 3). God has provided everything we need in order to avoid sin. The Holy Spirit directs and empowers us; the Word lights our path so we do not slip. Yet at times, we choose to sin. Almighty God could stop us from disobeying, but He doesn't interfere with our free will. Instead, He upholds us, enabling us to walk in His way.

These opening verses focus on the Lord's ability to protect us in treacherous times. Whether trouble originates with others, external circumstances, or our own sin, we can find ourselves in danger and afraid. Thankfully, we have a loving Father who leads us to safety.

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Daily Devotional, Wednesday, May 31, 2017 - The Blessing of Loving Others

MAY 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Wednesday, May 31, 2017 - The Blessing of Loving Others

[1 Peter 1:22](#)

If we responded simply from natural impulses, we'd probably be nice when people were kind. At other times, though, we would likely be vengeful, angry, or hurtful.

Yet Jesus clearly teaches us to love even when those around us seem unlovable. And He lived out what He taught: Christ loved us enough to die for us while we were still sinners ([Rom. 5:8](#)). Surely, out of gratitude for what He did, and with His strength, we—His followers—can love others ([1 John 3:14](#)).

While it's hard to respond to unkindness with love, such godly behavior can lead to great blessing in our life. First, the Father is pleased. This realization should bring His children joy, peace, and a sense of accomplishment. Next, believers ought to feel excitement and anticipation to watch how God will move in the relationship. Finally, there will be an awareness that the Holy Spirit is working from within, enabling divine love to flow through yielded human lives.

[John 13:35](#) tells of an important benefit: Jesus said, “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Since unconditional godly love is uncommon in our world, people will notice.

Treating others as we want to be treated is what builds the deep, satisfying connections that all people desire. Without significant relationships, life lacks meaning—regardless of how many possessions or acquaintances we have. So think about the people you come in contact with throughout the week. Are you treating them the way that Jesus modeled?

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Daily Devotional, Tuesday, May 30, 2017 - How to Love Others

MAY 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, May 30, 2017 - How to Love Others

[Matthew 22:35-40](#)

Jesus told His disciples, “In everything ... treat people the same way you want them to treat you” ([Matt. 7:12](#)). Most of us refer to this code of conduct as the Golden Rule.

In theory, we’d probably agree that this is a good foundation for a healthy relationship. Yet it’s tough to live up to such a standard. If we made a list of the ways we hope to be treated and compared it with our own behavior, we’d likely fall short.

And of course, it’s easy to love when others treat us well. But how do we respond when their behavior is hurtful or unpleasant? The truth is, Jesus meant for us to love others all the time, not just when they’re lovable. Regardless of their attitude toward us, we are to think about the relationship qualities we value—like loyalty, trust, encouragement, forgiveness, acceptance, and protection—and let these flow from us in the other person’s direction.

Unfortunately, our society breeds selfishness, greed, and pride, which are enemies of the love Jesus commanded. But when we care for others in the way the Lord prescribes, relationships can thrive and deepen.

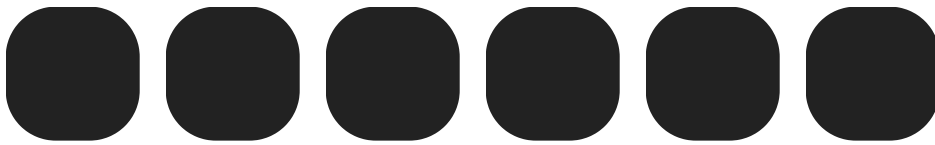
Treating others with this kind of love isn’t natural or easy, especially when people are unkind. In fact, loving as Jesus commanded is impossible on our own. But when we trust Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit empowers us and lives His life through us.

Take time to list the ways you hope others will treat you. Then ask, *Is that how I treat people?* Pray for God to reveal one area where He will help you apply the Golden Rule.

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Daily Devotional, Friday, May 26, 2017 - The Exalted Lord

MAY 26TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Friday, May 26, 2017 - The Exalted Lord

[Revelation 1:9-17](#)

Revelation may be the most ignored book of the New Testament simply because it can be difficult to understand. But to avoid the treasures found in its pages is to miss some of the richest descriptions of our Lord that Scripture offers. We love seeing Him as the baby in

the manger, and we recognize the importance of His death and resurrection, but the story doesn't end there.

John was given a dramatic vision of the exalted Lord as He is now in heaven. Even though the apostle had shared an intimate friendship with Christ on earth, the sight of His Lord in this glorified state caused him to pass out in fear ([Revelation 1:17](#)).

In the heavenly scene, Jesus is portrayed as the Lord of His church, which is represented by the seven lampstands surrounding Him. He watches over them, preserving, protecting, and admonishing when necessary.

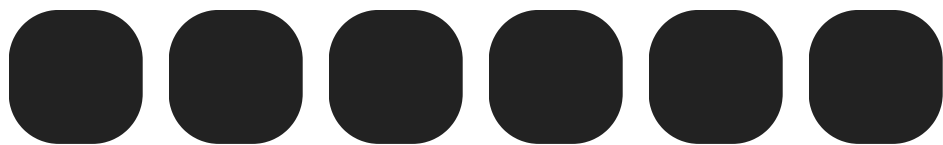
A few chapters later, Jesus is shown to be the Lamb of God, who, as our High Priest, sacrificed Himself on our behalf ([Revelation 5:1-14](#)). His blood purchased redemption for people from every place and time, so that they could become citizens of His kingdom. All heaven erupts into praise and worship when Christ is found to be the only one worthy to end this age and set up His righteous kingdom (v. 13).

If you believe in Christ, these chapters are about your future. Picture yourself in both scenes, seeing Jesus as the exalted Lord and Lamb of God. The praises described in [Revelation 5:9-14](#) are coming from your mouth! Let this glimpse of the future shape your worship and focus this weekend.

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Daily Devotional, Thursday, May 25, 2017 - Our God of Comfort

MAY 25TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Thursday, May 25, 2017 - Our God of Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

God's care for us extends even to the details of our lives. He knows when His children hurt, and He longs to offer comfort ([Isa. 49:13](#)).

The Lord's compassion is personal, continuous, and always available. We receive His comfort through the Holy Spirit, who lives within us. There is no situation or time when He is inaccessible to the believer—we can be consoled and reassured at any moment, day or night.

Consider how the compassion of God was demonstrated through Jesus' life. He interacted even with the “untouchables”—people whose bodies were infected with a contagious disease ([Luke 17:11-14](#)). And no sickness of ours will prevent Him from caring for us.

When Jesus saw people with medical conditions, in compassion He not only healed them physically but also gave an even greater comfort—new life through the forgiveness of sins. And while our infirmities may remain, the Lord lovingly strengthens us to persevere ([2 Corinthians 12:7-9](#)).

As for the messes we get into, notice how Peter's betrayal of Christ was met with forgiveness and reinstatement ([John 21:15-17](#)), and Thomas's doubts were answered by Jesus Himself ([John 20:27](#)). Our mistakes won't stop Him from loving us. Even to His enemies, Jesus left the way open for repentance.

God's comfort and care are adequate for anything we face, whether it's poor health, insufficient finances, or family trouble. Then, once we've experienced His consolation, we're to become bearers of comfort to others ([2 Corinthians 1:4](#)). Remember, people everywhere are in great need of His compassion.

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