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## Daily Devotional, Wednesday, July 5, 2017 - Seek Spiritual Discernment

JULY 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Daily Devotional, Wednesday, July 5, 2017 - Seek Spiritual Discernment

#### **Proverbs 2:1-7**

At one time or another, everyone feels confused, uncertain, or misled. When that happens, we can live victoriously and confidently only by possessing spiritual discernment?the ability to see life from God's perspective. We need His help to distinguish between right and wrong, good and best, truth and error.

Each day we make many decisions?some trivial, others critical. The Lord doesn't want us to form judgments based on mere appearance or human reasoning. But the world is so full of deceptive information that we, on our own, couldn't know what to believe. And so God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us see the reality of each situation as He does.

We can fully trust the Lord with our relationships as well. Since He knows every person's heart, the only way we can wisely interact with others is to be sensitive to the leading of God's Spirit within us.

Although the Father gives each of His children the capacity for spiritual discernment, many Christians are unaware of it. They stumble through life, doing the best they can, but fail to use this wonderful provision. Others may not think they need it. They make choices according to their own knowledge and reasoning, never giving the Lord a second thought. Unless we cooperate with God in the development of His gift of discernment, it will lie dormant within us.

A discerning spirit begins with a humble, teachable attitude. If you've been handling decisions, situations, and relationships through your own wisdom, confess this to God. Then ask for His perspective and search His Word for direction. Your wisdom will grow, and discernment will protect you.

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## Daily Devotional, Friday, June 30, 2017 - Releasing the Holy Spirit's Power

JUNE 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Friday, June 30, 2017 - Releasing the Holy Spirit's Power

**Romans 8:26-27**

God's Spirit indwells believers at salvation, which means His power is available from that moment (Eph. 1:13). God created a simple way for us to access that strength every single day.

First, we must accept the truth that in and of ourselves, we are powerless to live out God's will. No matter how capable we may be, our own strength and wisdom are insufficient. Sometimes Christians become prideful about the good they have done or the number of years they've been saved. Imagine how much more we could serve the Lord if we would humbly get out of God's way and let Him work through us.

Second, we surrender our entire life to the guidance and governing of the Holy Spirit. In other words, we choose to conduct our spiritual walk—as well as our vocation, finances, family, and relationships—as God desires. His Spirit is not going to release supernatural power into a life that is continuing in rebellion.

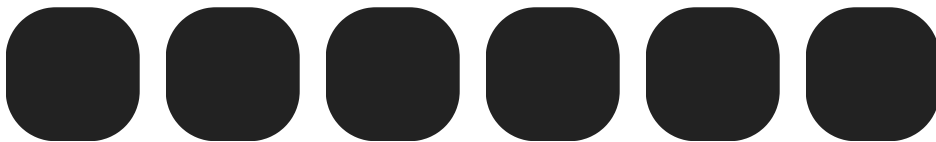
Third, we exercise faith, which means demonstrating belief and trust in the Lord. Faith is the "switch" that releases the Spirit's power. It's like saying, "I believe You've got a plan, God, so I'm going to trust You to give me what I need in order to do Your will." Then He will move heaven and earth to provide for your need, whatever it may be.

Merely memorizing and reviewing the steps isn't enough. Instead, commit to these principles as a way of life. Get used to thinking, *I can't but God can? I'll submit to His will because His plans are for my good and His glory.* That's the kind of life that overflows with the Holy Spirit's power.

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## Daily Devotional, Thursday, June 29, 2017 - The Power Within

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## Daily Devotional, Thursday, June 29, 2017 - The Power Within

### Ephesians 3:14-21

Bertha Smith, a missionary to China, once pronounced some of the most discouraging words I'd ever heard: "Charles, I want to tell you that you're as good as you'll ever be. You're as good as you've ever been, and you won't ever be any better than you are."

I had grown up believing a falsehood?that believers were to pour effort into turning their flesh around and doing right all the time. Thankfully, Bertha wasn't finished. "God never intended for you to get better, because you can't improve flesh," she said. "But the Holy Spirit, who is living inside you, will enable and live through you."

She was right. My flesh hasn't changed one bit. But as the Holy Spirit releases His supernatural power in my life, I find myself going beyond what is inherent to the nature of man. And the indwelling Spirit intends to do the same with every follower of God.

Although the works of the Holy Spirit are many, four are basic to the life of faith: The Spirit illumines the mind, enabling believers to understand the things of God; He energizes physical bodies to serve the Lord; He enables the will to follow through on doing what is right; and He quickens emotions to feel and express the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

Bertha Smith passed on an important truth to me: Flesh is insufficient. Only the Holy Spirit living inside us has the strength and wisdom to live out the Christian life victoriously. That's why God gave us His Spirit, through whom we reap all the benefits of a righteous and godly life.

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## Daily Devotional, Wednesday, June 28, 2017 - The Privilege Corrupted

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JUNE 28TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Daily Devotional, Wednesday, June 28, 2017 - The Privilege Corrupted

#### **Romans 1:21-32**

God has revealed Himself to mankind and provided all that is necessary for a relationship with Him. Yet many people foolishly refuse His offer.

By choosing to live without God, a person will spiral downward into sin and a skewed view of the truth. As ignorance overpowers the capacity for intelligent understanding, an ever-darkening heart develops. The individual hungers for something to fill his emptiness but fails to recognize that only the Lord can satisfy his longing.

Desiring to fill his spiritual void, the person will look for an idol to worship. It won't be a statue of wood or gold, but rather something on which to focus his affections. "Idols" occupy a person's passion, time, and energy; in today's world, they often take the form of money, prominence, and relationships. The "worshipper" begins to indulge in earthly pleasures and desires, yet nothing can satisfy the emptiness. Eventually, as Romans 1:28 makes clear, the Lord will turn such a person over to a depraved mind—one that can no longer make right judgments.

Remember, the heavenly Father desires a relationship with us. He even gave His own Son to make this possible. It is man who rejects Him and begins the journey toward godlessness and emptiness.

Look around. Notice the manifold evidence that points to a holy, loving God who desires an intimate friendship with you. Don't put off accepting His offer of relationship—the consequences of rejection are far too dangerous, and the benefits of saying yes are beyond what you can imagine (Eph. 3:20).

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## Daily Devotional, Tuesday, June 27, 2017 - The Privilege of Knowing God

JUNE 27TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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**Psalm 19:1-6**

There is no greater privilege than knowing God?and no greater tragedy than failing to develop a relationship with Him. Yet many people live their entire life apart from Jesus, and therefore, when they die, they are separated from Him eternally.

While on earth, both the righteous and unrighteous enjoy benefits of divine blessing (Matt. 5:45), so those who choose to live without Christ probably have no clue how dreadful a godless eternity will be. Some people seem to ignore the Bible's warnings about "outer darkness," "weeping," and "gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30). Or perhaps they've simply never heard the good news of salvation. Yet Romans 1:18-20tells why such an excuse won't hold up: Creation offers so much evidence of God that man is held accountable for unbelief. Consider nature's design, beauty, and order?these things don't just evolve.

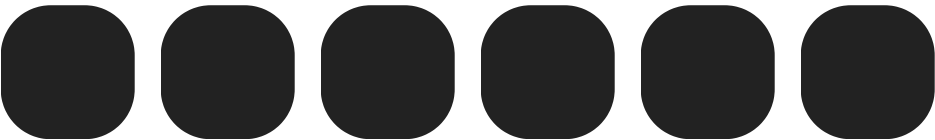
Furthermore, God reveals Himself in the human conscience (Rom. 2:14-15). Even societies with no access to Scripture forbid ungodly behaviors like rape, murder, and theft. And as if all that weren't enough, we also have God's revelation of Himself through both His Word and the incarnation of Jesus (John 14:7-9). Christ, who was fully God, became fully man. His life perfectly demonstrates the heavenly Father's character and heart.

Can you recognize evidence of the Almighty in creation and in the "law" written on your conscience? Do you seek to know Him better through His Word and the example of Christ? The Lord desires a relationship with you and is calling. Answer with a seeking heart, and watch for God to show up.

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