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## Daily Devotional, Wednesday, July 12, 2017 - The Power of Corporate Prayer

JULY 12TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Daily Devotional, Wednesday, July 12, 2017 - The Power of Corporate Prayer

#### **2 Chronicles 20:1-30**

When Jehoshaphat saw trouble looming, the first thing he did was turn attention to God and proclaim a fast throughout Judah. People came from all around to support their king in prayer (2 Chronicles 20:3, 2 Chronicles 20:13).

Sometimes we are too proud to ask others to pray for us. Jehoshaphat was a king, yet he didn't put on airs of self-sufficiency. Instead, he admitted his army paled in comparison to the three forces united against him. He recognized his limitations and sought divine intervention. Though Jehoshaphat reigned over his subjects, he nevertheless called on them for prayerful support.

One of the wisest things we can do in the midst of difficulty is to engage the assistance of someone who knows how to talk to God. The body of Christ depends upon cooperation. When the people of Judah began to pray, God provided a solution through a trusted prophet. Jehoshaphat was humble enough to listen and wise enough to follow his directives (vv. 14-17). As a result, the Israelites were saved. The advancing armies turned against each other and destroyed themselves completely. Without shooting an arrow or drawing a sword, Judah's forces suffered not even one casualty. Because their humble king listened, they witnessed the Lord's remarkable victory (vv. 22-30).

We have to attune our ears to God's voice in order to hear Him. Sometimes He speaks through people we would not choose to follow, and He often says things we're not expecting to hear. But He will provide us with solutions to our problems if we are willing to heed His words.

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## Daily Devotional, Tuesday, July 11, 2017 - Answers in Times of Great Disaster

JULY 11TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, July 11, 2017 - Answers in Times of Great Disaster

**Deuteronomy 29:29**

Almighty God reserves the right to reveal some things and conceal others. Although we may not know why natural disasters occur, the biblical truths we do know with absolute certainty allow us to trust the Lord even in times of great suffering. Because of the Bible, we can be certain:

**God is in control** (Psalm 103:19). Nothing in heaven or on earth is outside of His rule and authority. He does not react to events but sovereignly ordains or permits them to run their course. Although we cannot know for certain if He has sent a catastrophe or allowed it, we can trust in His goodness and wisdom.

**The Lord loves people and wants them to be saved** (John 3:16-17). Giving His Son for the salvation of the world proves without a doubt that He loves each person. This truth stands firm despite the fact that many reject the Savior. He cares for us, even when we can't feel it or won't accept it.

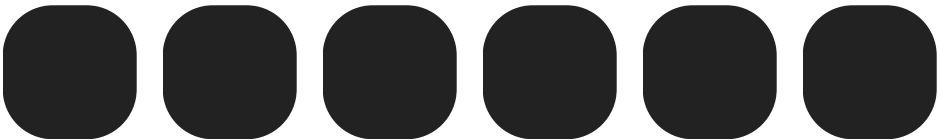
**God works circumstances for His good purpose** (Isa. 46:10). Though we can't fully comprehend what He's doing in each incident, every disaster is a wake-up call for humanity. God is alerting us to the need for repentance?so the lost can be saved and the saved can be revived to live totally for Him. The Lord wants to get our attention, and catastrophes open our ears to hear from Him.

The One who loves us perfectly is in full control, working everything out according to His plan. Knowing this should fill us with hope, even in the midst of crisis situations. The Lord promises to turn disaster to good for those who "are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

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# Daily Devotional, Monday, July 10, 2017 - Questions in Times of Great Disaster

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## Daily Devotional, Monday, July 10, 2017 - Questions in Times of Great Disaster

### Isaiah 55:8-9

Whenever a great disaster strikes, legitimate questions spring to mind. Why does the Lord let such things happen? Couldn't He have stopped this? Doesn't He care? The magnitude of death and destruction caused by earthquakes, tornadoes, or floods disrupts our everyday thoughts and causes us to seek explanations for suffering.

Often the answers people come up with are based on their relationship with God. Those who know nothing of Him have no frame of reference for understanding how He works. Believers, on the other hand, have the Bible to guide them as they wrestle through these issues. But even then, the accuracy of one's perspective is determined by his or her knowledge of God's Word. Those with limited understanding may very well reach inaccurate conclusions.

We must guard against attempts at forcing the Lord to act the way we think He should. If He does something that won't fit into the "box" we've devised for Him, we easily become upset, angry, or confused. God will never stay within the parameters we set for Him. Since we are mortal and sinful, we have a very narrow perspective and understanding of life. But our eternal, sinless, sovereign, and omniscient Creator sees and knows what we cannot perceive.

We want to be sure that our viewpoint of God's role in natural disasters comes from the Bible, not from our own limited perspective. Scripture tells us of the Lord's love, faithfulness, and wisdom. Whenever we cannot understand His ways, faith in His goodness must be our foundation.

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# Daily Devotional, Friday, July 7, 2017 - Our Unmet Needs

JULY 07TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional, Friday, July 7, 2017 - Our Unmet Needs

### Philippians 4:19

God has promised to supply all our needs, yet fulfillment is sometimes slow in coming. What could be the problem? Perhaps we are.

When our Father fails to meet our expectations, we generally look outside ourselves for the reason. But while God's love is unconditional, many of His promises are not. For example, Philippians 4:19 is a "family promise"?it can be claimed only by those who rightly call the Sovereign of the universe "Father." His unlimited resources are not available to men and women who reject salvation through Jesus Christ. Moreover, when we look at the whole framework of Scripture, we see that the Lord makes obedience a condition for fulfilling our needs. (See Psalm 81:10-12.) He will not condone sin by blessing us while we rebel against Him.

Think of yourself as part of an army at war?which is what you are, in a spiritual sense. A top military priority is to keep the supply line open, as victory is impossible if the soldiers are weaponless, cold, and starving. Our willful disobedience allows Satan to cut our supply line from the Lord. Restoring that connection is a matter of repentance. Those who walk in God's way are protected, provided for, and satisfied (Psalm 81:13-16).

Taking a promise out of its biblical context is very dangerous. And expecting God to keep a conditional pledge when we aren't meeting its requirements is even more unwise. The heavenly Father keeps His word but rightfully expects us to do our part. Thankfully, His expectations of us are not burdensome but reasonable: What He requires is that we simply love, honor, and obey Him.

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## Daily Devotional, Thursday, July 6, 2017 - The Basis for Discernment

JULY 06TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Daily Devotional, Thursday, July 6, 2017 - The Basis for Discernment

#### Hebrews 4:12-13

Spiritual discernment is the ability to see life from God's perspective. It requires that we know how He thinks and acts. The Bible is His unchanging, infallible revelation of Himself. However, the Lord doesn't simply give us a list of facts about His character and ways. All throughout the pages of Scripture, He illustrates who He is and how He operates.

Although an ancient book, the Bible is in no way obsolete. Its stories may have taken place centuries ago, but its principles and applications are still relevant, offering discernment about situations and guidance for decisions.

God's Word?which Ephesians 6:17 refers to as "the sword of the Spirit"? is active and piercing, like a surgeon's scalpel. The words don't simply sit on the page; rather, they penetrate our heart and judge our thoughts and motives. This convicting quality is why some Christians avoid reading the Bible. They prefer to live on a surface level but never understand why they react to situations the way they do. If we don't want to keep making the same mistakes, it's essential that we become discerning about ourselves. The way to do that is by approaching the Word of God with an open spirit. Then God will bring to light our hidden motives and unrecognized sins.

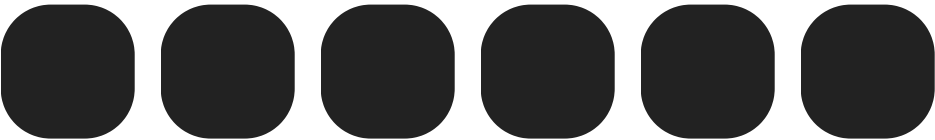
Spiritual discernment involves seeing not just circumstances but also ourselves from God's perspective. Have you learned to embrace the piercing sword of Scripture, or have you avoided doing so because it makes you uncomfortable? Remember, whenever the Lord uses a surgical knife, His purpose is always to make us

healthier.

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