



[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional, Thursday, August 3, 2017 - Rely on the Source

AUGUST 03RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Thursday, August 3, 2017 - Rely on the Source

1 Kings 17:8-16

From God's perspective, being in need can have spiritual benefits. For example, people often look to economies and markets as their basis for financial security. But if the bottom drops out, they're in a position to discover the reality that all provision comes from God's hand. The Lord uses various instruments to meet needs, but He alone is the source of all we have.

God can use ordinary means or remarkable methods to supply our needs. Through God's unusual ways, Elijah had learned to live by faith—such as the time he'd been fed by ravens. Now God sent him to Zarephath, to a starving widow with no ability to feed him.

Every financial need is an opportunity to learn to walk by faith, recognizing the Lord as our source. Prosperity can lead to a sense of independence that blinds us to how inadequate we actually are to provide for ourselves. We're totally dependent upon the Father whether we know it or not.

Believing God would provide, Elijah witnessed His miraculous intervention. We may not see the Lord perform a supernatural work in our financial situation. However, we can be sure that just as God fulfilled His promise to Elijah, He'll likewise be faithful to His Word in our situation, supplying "all [our] needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19

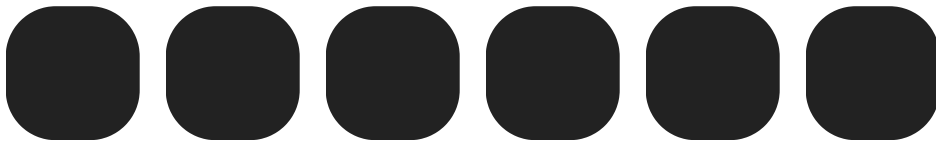
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Are you focusing on the instrument or the source of your provision? The means God uses may change, but His faithfulness endures forever. He's infinitely more reliable than any employer or 401(k). The Lord is inviting you to trust Him and live in both the adventure and security of a life of faith.

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[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional, Wednesday, August 2, 2017 - God's Ways: Ordinary and Miraculous

AUGUST 02ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Wednesday, August 2, 2017 - God's Ways: Ordinary and Miraculous

1 Kings 17:2-7

In Isaiah 55:8, God declared, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways.” And in fact, one of the biggest frustrations of the Christian life stems from a lack of understanding about God’s ways. There are times when we could really use a miracle, but He does not come through for us the way we think He should. Our unmet expectations lead to confusion, disappointment, and even anger. We might think, *Why did the Lord let me down?*

Some people don’t believe God performs big miracles at all, while others are convinced that if He’s not doing the miraculous every day, then something is wrong with their faith. Neither belief is true. We need a balanced perspective, which we find in the Bible.

God works in both supernatural and ordinary ways, and He determines the method. Elijah ate food miraculously delivered by ravens, but his water supply from a brook was completely natural. When the water dried up, the Lord could have made more spring from the ground, but He didn’t.

Sometimes God uses ordinary means to move us in a new direction. The curtailment of Elijah’s water supply opened the door for his next assignment. When the Lord withholds miraculous intervention and lets your brook dry up, He has something else planned for you.

Seeing the work of God in the miraculous is easy. But He’s just as involved in the everyday aspects of life as He is in any supernatural event. Look for His fingerprint in the day’s mundane activities. He is there, opening and closing doors, drying up one opportunity but initiating another.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, August 1, 2017 - The Authority of Our Message

AUGUST 01ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, August 1, 2017 - The Authority of Our Message

1 Kings 17:1

After encountering the prophet Elijah, King Ahab may well have thought, *Of all the nerve! Just who does this guy think he is?* Bursting onto the scene as if out of nowhere, Elijah confronted Israel's wicked king with a message that would soon disrupt life throughout the region.

The validity of the prophecy rested with the Source, not the mouthpiece. Elijah was a man of great faith who spent time alone with the Lord and listened to Him carefully. The prophet could pass the message on with boldness and authority because he knew and trusted the One from whom it came.

We can't expect our Father to communicate with us in exactly the same way that He spoke to the Old Testament prophets, but the process of receiving His message hasn't changed. It starts with being alone in His presence and listening as He speaks through His Word. But it shouldn't end there.

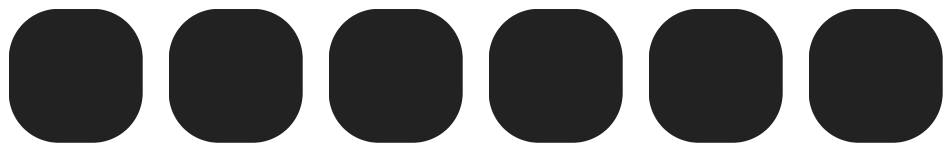
Prophets had the responsibility of telling the people what the Lord revealed to them. Similarly, we're to share with others what we learn from God's Word. Devotional time with the Lord is not just about our own interests and needs. The Father reveals His truths to us so we can share them with others.

Begin each day alone with God in His Word and in prayer, listening as He speaks to your heart. Believe what He says in Scripture, apply it to your life, and then share with someone else what He has revealed. Be bold and remember that the authority of your message comes from Him.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional, Monday, August 31, 2017 - An Ordinary Person

JULY 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Matthew 4:18-20

The apostle Peter was an ordinary person who lived in an extraordinary time. His was the generation during which Jesus Christ lived on the earth, died for the salvation of mankind, and rose again.

It was through his brother Andrew that Peter (who was originally called Simon) met the Lord (John 1:40-42). When Jesus invited him to become a disciple, he immediately left his fishing trade and placed himself under Christ's authority (Matt. 4:20). He became a passionate follower who consistently demonstrated an eagerness to be near the Savior and in the middle of whatever was going on. Whether meeting Jesus on the water during a storm (Matt. 14:27-29) or speaking to Him during His transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-5), Peter was devoted to his Master's service.

In the beginning, the former fisherman was quick to speak and to act, and this impulsiveness created many problems for him. For example, when Jesus was talking about His imminent suffering and death, Peter objected, as if he knew better than the Lord. Christ's rebuke was swift and direct (Matt. 16:21-23). The apostle, however, learned from his mistakes. He's a good example of how we should let go of personal desires, wholeheartedly embrace Jesus' way, and walk closely with Him (Mark 8:34).

The Lord chooses unexceptional people like Peter, you, and me to build His kingdom. He asks His followers to love Him above all else and fully commit to obeying Him. When we do, He will accomplish more through us than we could ever imagine.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional, Saturday, July 29, 2017 - Overcoming the Faith Barrier

JULY 29TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Saturday, July 29, 2017 - Overcoming the Faith Barrier

Exodus 3:10-17

God called Moses to do a great work for Him that would also bless the Israelites. Moses' response to this awesome invitation was to offer excuses for why he couldn't obey. This kind of attitude—which I call a “faith barrier”—can thwart us spiritually.

In Moses' life, we see areas of weakness that can create such a faith barrier:

Poor self-image. When God gave the command to go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses' immediate response was to say, “Who am I?” (Ex. 3:11). Perhaps he was thinking of his occupation as a lowly shepherd living in Midian. Maybe he was referring to his upbringing and separation from his birth family (Ex. 2:1-4). Or he might have been recalling his past, when he killed an Egyptian and had to flee (Ex. 2:12). Whatever Moses' objection was, the Lord answered with a wonderful promise: “I will be with you” (3:12).

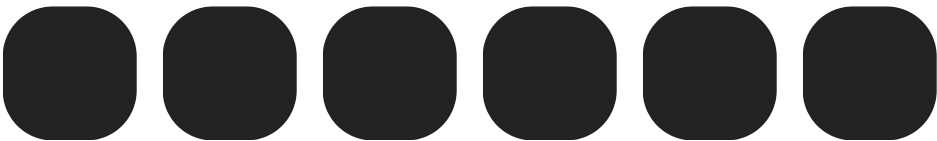
Ignorance of God's greatness. In order to carry out God's plan, we need to believe fully in the One who has called us. When Moses questioned his assignment again, the Lord answered by revealing Himself as the great I AM and the One who had promised to rescue the Israelites (vv. 14-17). By trusting in the character and promises of almighty God, Moses would be able to carry out this seemingly impossible assignment.

Faith barriers hinder the flow of divine power in our life, slow spiritual growth, and prevent us from fully carrying out the Father’s will. We must remember who He is and where power comes from. We know that our heavenly Father is sovereign over all, and His Spirit empowers us to follow through in obedience.

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