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Daily Devotional, Saturday, August 5, 2017 - Our God is Able

AUGUST 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Ephesians 3:20-21

Jesus knew firsthand what it meant to have limited financial resources, to have those closest to Him question His actions, and to be rejected by those He sought to serve (Matt. 8:20; Mark 3:21; John 6:66). However, He never allowed such circumstances to control His emotions or dictate His actions. Instead, He chose to trust that the Father was able to carry out His Word.

We are called to follow Christ's example and believe that God is able to do what He has said. For example, the Bible promises eternal salvation for everyone who requests forgiveness in Jesus' name (Heb. 7:25). The Son satisfied His Father's justice by dying on the cross for all of mankind's sins—from white lies to vile acts. God will pardon everyone who has genuine faith in Jesus, and He makes each believer a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Regardless of the trouble we have caused or the mistakes we have made, He invites us to draw near in faith and receive the gift of everlasting life.

Having saved us, God says He will establish us in truth (Rom. 16:25); after giving us a firm foundation in Christ, He builds us up in righteousness. Through the ministry of His Spirit and the Word, we start to see things as the Father does and learn what pleases Him (Rom. 12:2).

By believing that God keeps His promises, we will become stronger in our faith and more at peace. Hardships that once would have thrown us off course will lose their power to shake us. Hope will replace discouragement, and trust will overcome doubt. Each time trouble comes, focus your attention on your loving heavenly Father and His ability to care for you.

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Daily Devotional, Friday, August 4, 2017 - Made for Praise

AUGUST 04TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Friday, August 4, 2017 - Made for Praise

Psalms 100:1-5

Think about the husband who doesn't communicate with his wife unless he wants her to do something for him. If the only time he interacts with her is when he has a need, then the wife is not being loved; she's being used.

But don't we often treat God the same way? We lift prayer request after prayer request and yet fail to give Him admiration and praise. How frequently do we attempt to use the Lord to fulfill our selfish desires?

1 Peter 2:9 says God's people should "proclaim [His] excellencies." Our concerns are of great importance to Him, but He also wants us to come to Him with a worshipful heart, not an attitude of self-centeredness.

You may ask, "What's the point of praise?" When you begin to extol the Lord, your focus shifts to Him. Then you'll begin to recall the ways in which He has impacted your life. As Psalm 105:5 says, "Remember His wonders which He has done."

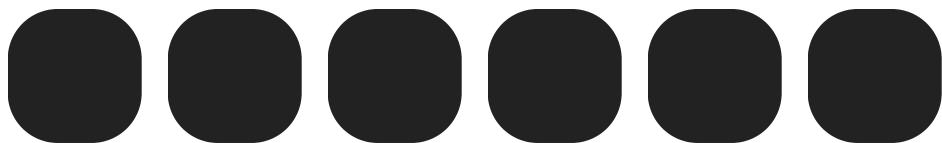
Praising the heavenly Father is one of the principal themes found throughout Scripture. We're told to do so joyfully (Psalm 100:1), all throughout the day (Psalm 113:3), and in the presence of others (Psalm 108:3; Psalm 111:1). The Lord truly created us to praise Him.

Take some time today to reflect on the Lord's mighty work of salvation in your life. Instead of coming with a list of requests, simply praise the Father for His faithfulness and righteousness. When your heart is full of praise, worries will dissipate, and you'll trust God to provide for your needs in His own timing.

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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.

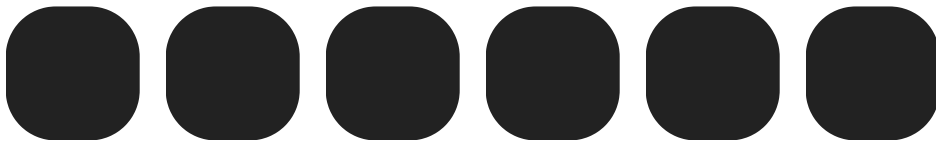
Believing God would provide, Elijah witnessed His miraculous intervention. We may not see the Lord perform a supernatural work in our financial situation. However, we can be sure that just as God fulfilled His promise to Elijah, He'll likewise be faithful to His Word in our situation, supplying "all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

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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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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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.

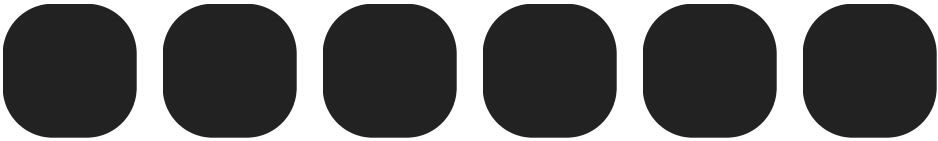
Prophets had the responsibility of telling the people what the Lord revealed to them. Similarly, we're to share with others what we learn from God's Word. Devotional time with the Lord is not just about our own interests and needs. The Father reveals His truths to us so we can share them with others.

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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