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# FCA Collecting for Hurricane Harvey Relief

SEPTEMBER 01ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## FCA Collecting for Hurricane Harvey Relief

Dexter, Missouri - Kim Waldner and Amy Simmons have challenged the Fellowship of Christian Athletes to step up to help Hurricane Harvey victims. They are collecting over the Labor Day weekend much needed supplies that will be transported to the Houston area via Hope International.

One truck load has already been sent and a second is scheduled to leave late next week. Hope International appreciates everyone's efforts and still needs volunteers to help sort clothing before transport.

Items needed are dry goods such as paper towels, toilet paper, deodorant, mosquito wipes/sprays, baby wipes, diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels, and then of course any kind of snack food that does not required cooking. You can donate crackers, peanut butter, pop tarts, granola bars, health bars, juice boxes, water, cookies, potato chips (small bags), raisin boxes, peanuts, Cheese-Its, etc. Things you can eat on the go!

And please don't forget the animals: collars, leashes, cages, treats, dog food, and cat food. Just remember these people lost everything!

Have students bring items to school on Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

"We plan to match whatever is donated by FCA," stated Simmons. "We challenge them to bring in as much as they can. It is devastating in Texas and we want to help."

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## Daily Devotional, Friday, September 1, 2017 - Listening to God

SEPTEMBER 01ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Friday, September 1, 2017 - Listening to God

### Proverbs 2:1-5

Learning to listen to God is an essential part of following His will. The Lord regularly speaks to His children through...

**Scripture.** The Bible is our guidebook to God's thoughts and actions. It is the primary source for Christians to discover His character and learn to trust Him. This means we ought to read more than just a little bit every day. Our goal should be to absorb the message and then listen for God to offer instructions on how and where to apply His Word.

**Prayer.** Like all real friends, the Lord desires give-and-take in His relationships. Therefore, prayer is not complete when we're done talking. We must quiet our mouth and thoughts so that our spiritual ears can open.

**Circumstances.** In the Bible, the Lord often revealed His ways to men and women through their circumstances. He still works that way today. Situations differ, but our God does not change. He uses everyday life to reveal errors in thinking, to open or close doors of opportunity, and to prove His promises true.

**Others.** Pastors, friends, and mentors can all speak truth into a person's life. The Lord places believers in community so they can be supported and helped by those nearby. He doesn't hesitate to send a message from the mouth of someone we know and trust.

God does not use just one or two of these methods to reach a believer; He speaks through all four. We need to attune our spiritual ears, always remembering that a message from the Lord must agree with His holy Word. The Father is talking to you. Are you listening?

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# Daily Devotional, Thursday, August 31, 2017 The Expression of Faith

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AUGUST 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional, Thursday, August 31, 2017 The Expression of Faith

### Mark 11:20-24

If you made a request of God and then time passed without results, it is understandable you might start wondering if He ever heard you at all. Do you remember thinking, *What happened, Lord? You said that if I asked in faith, You would do it. Didn't You hear me?*

Stop to consider this question: Can you think of a time you brought a petition to the Lord and it apparently went unanswered? What was the situation? What did you pray about it? What did you say to others about it? What did you do about it?

I believe one of the most common reasons we experience a crisis of faith is that our words and our attitude get out of line with each other. We tell ourselves that we are praying to the heavenly Father, seeking His will, and requesting His intervention, but what we're really doing is just complaining to Him.

We say, "Lord, I really messed this up" or "I don't deserve this." We might pray, "How did this happen?" Or perhaps we even cry, "How did You let this happen?" We moan about the situation, reveling in every ounce of anguish, and then petition God to fix it. Is this a prayer that honors God?

In Mark 11:24, Jesus explains that if we ask for something, we should believe in our hearts that it has already been granted. This level of faith is found not in our whines but in our praises. God absolutely wants us to cry out to Him and to lay our petitions at His feet (1 Pet. 5:7). But we must be careful to do so in a way that focuses on God's glory—not our own.

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## Daily Devotional Wednesday, August 30, 2017 - The Process of Belief

AUGUST 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional Wednesday, August 30, 2017 - The Process of Belief

**James 2:14-17**

We express faith every single day, in all kinds of situations. We *believe* we'll get to work safely, or we'd never get in the car. We *believe* our love will last for a lifetime, or we'd never get married. We *believe* our favorite chair will support our weight, or we'd never sit on it. Faith flows out of us all the time, even when it has nothing to do with God.

There is a process that shapes our beliefs—a progression that turns the hint of faith into measurable action. First, it begins in the mind. We think about the issue, nurse that thought, and

visualize not only the need but also the solution.

Second, we begin to discuss the issue with other people and, hopefully, with the Lord. Talking through the matter with someone we trust is a way to better understand what is happening, collect fresh insights, and process the information.

Then, after discussing the matter, we come away with a better sense of what's involved. This leads us to the third step, in which we take action. We must *do* something. If belief doesn't produce a measurable result, then something has gone wrong, and we need to seek God's help. Faith that never gets beyond the mind or conversation accomplishes nothing. But when the faith-building process results in action—no matter how simple—then we truly begin to see the power of the Lord displayed.

Are you struggling with a faith issue today? Prayerfully ask God to show you if you've gotten stuck somewhere in the process.

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# Daily Devotional, Tuesday, August 29, 2017 - Evidence of a Growing Believer

AUGUST 29TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional, Tuesday, August 29, 2017 - Evidence of a Growing Believer

### James 4:8

I have a friend who was, at one point, a self-confessed shopping addict. Recently, his family realized that this activity had stopped, though he hadn't intentionally curtailed it. Why did his longing to acquire more goods dissolve?

The reason was that my friend had become more satisfied with the Lord. He no longer needed fulfillment from what the world had to offer. What a terrific illustration of growth in Christ.

In addition to finding fulfillment in God, there are many other growth indicators that are noticeable to the believer. For instance, offering forgiveness becomes easier over time. Consider our Savior, who asked God to forgive even those who crucified Him on the cross (Luke 23:34).

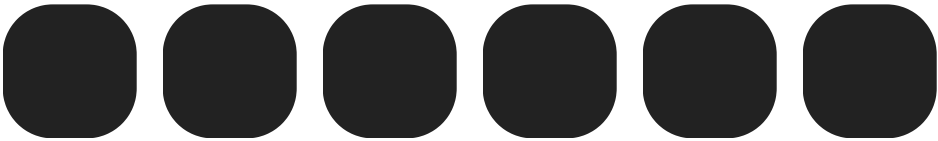
Also, as we mature, our faith will increase. God loves us, and He gracefully and gently builds our confidence in Him. Then, as our trust grows, we realize how faithful He truly is—which makes our assurance even greater.

Finally, as our relationship with the Lord deepens, we will increasingly desire to obey Him. We will be able to confidently proclaim, "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). The desire is born not out of fear but out of love for our heavenly Father. Similarly, when we do sin, our heart will become saddened and repentant.

Are you satisfied spiritually? Or do you have a growing, insatiable hunger for more of Jesus? Friend, if you think that you've come far enough in your journey with Christ, you have made a terrible mistake. You are missing great fulfillment and excitement that come from getting close to Him.

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