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# Daily Devotional, Saturday, December 9, 2017 - Be Strong and Courageous

DECEMBER 09TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Saturday, December 9, 2017 - Be Strong and Courageous

## Deuteronomy 31:1-8

Have you ever faced a challenge that left you feeling inadequate and afraid? The great men and women in the Bible weren't superhuman, so they undoubtedly experienced the same weaknesses we do. Though Joshua was a strong military leader, he probably felt inadequate to fill Moses' shoes. After all, Moses had talked with God face to face, performed amazing miracles, and led the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. How could Joshua ever expect to live up to that?

But remember, Moses didn't start out as a mighty man of faith. When God first called him to deliver the children of Israel, he focused on his own inadequacy and begged the Lord to send someone else (Ex. 4:10-13). I think Moses knew exactly how Joshua felt. That's why he exhorted his successor to be strong and courageous.

However, the strength Joshua needed was not going to come from positive thinking or puffed-up self-confidence. What he needed was assurance that the Lord would go ahead of him every step of the way and give the nation the land as promised.

Confidence for God-given challenges never comes from within ourselves. But when we believe the Lord and rely on His Word instead of our feelings, He'll give us the ability and courage that

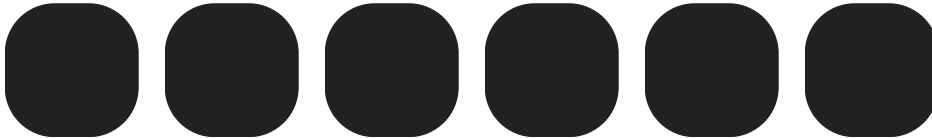
we need to accomplish His will.

If your life were always easy, you'd never need strength and courage—and you would miss great opportunities to get to know the Lord intimately. Only as we face one faith-stretching challenge after another and experience God's faithfulness will we learn to depend on Him instead of ourselves.

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## Daily Devotional, Friday, December 8, 2017 - Clean Feet, Clean Heart

DECEMBER 08TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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# John 13:3-15

Israel can be a dusty place, and sandaled feet get filthy walking to and fro. In ancient times, a person entering a home removed his sandals and cleaned his feet. Or if the homeowners were wealthy, servants would do the washing. This distasteful but necessary task fell to the worker of lowest position in the household. Imagine the disciples’ surprise when the Son of God put Himself in the role of a lowly servant and knelt to wash their feet. The need for such a service was great, but not one of them offered to do it. Jesus was the last person they expected to take on such a demeaning task.

Jesus did more than fill a need—He offered an object lesson. As He explained, “I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you” (John 13:15 NLT). Some churches have incorrectly interpreted this as a command to make foot washing an ordinance. But it’s possible to clean someone else’s skin without contemplating the significance of Christ’s actions.

In fact, the act itself is not the main point; attitude is what counts. Jesus desires that we be willing to humble ourselves to serve others. He is looking for men and women who will ignore pride, position, and power in order to do whatever must be done, wherever it needs doing, and for whoever requires assistance.

Jesus performed His greatest and most humble acts of service within 24 hours of each other. He washed dirty feet, using two hands that would be pierced by nails the following day. The message here is that every task God gives us is important to His kingdom.

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## Daily Devotion, Thursday, December 7, 2017 - The Pattern for Servanthood

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DECEMBER 07TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotion, Thursday, December 7, 2017 - The Pattern for Servanthood

### **Matthew 20:25-28**

In the world's thinking, great men are the ones with authority, prominence, and power. Though Jesus Christ had all that, He surrendered it to become a servant (Isa. 42:1; Phil. 2:7).

Jesus gave Himself completely to fulfill the Father's plan of redemption, even though the beneficiaries—namely, each of us—were undeserving. God, who is holy and righteous, has eyes that “are too pure to approve evil, and [He] can not look on wickedness with favor” (Hab. 1:13). Therefore, He must separate Himself from those who are stained by wrongdoing. That includes all of humanity (Rom. 3:23).

Everybody is born captive to fleshly desires (Rom. 6:16-18). When someone claims to be living on his “own terms,” he is serving whatever his human nature craves. The penalty for that false sense of liberty is death (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus' ultimate act of service was to give His life as a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). The word *ransom* describes the price paid to set a slave free—Christ voluntarily purchased our liberation. There was only one way our holy God could remove our guilt yet remain true to His own law: Someone sinless had to pay our sin debt for us.

Jesus' sacrifice spared us the penalty we deserve. Instead, we receive grace and have been declared not guilty. Moreover, we are elevated from slaves to children of the Almighty! Jesus served the Father's purpose faithfully. He gave up His righteousness to carry our wickedness—and endured a crushing separation from God. To meet our needs, the Savior held nothing of Himself back, and thereby set a powerful example of servanthood for us to follow.

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## Daily Devotional, Wednesday, December 6, 2017 - Walking in the Light

DECEMBER 06TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Wednesday, December 6, 2017 - Walking in the Light

## Ephesians 5:1-17

If you've ever lost power at night, you know how disorienting it can be to try and find your way to a flashlight or candle. You think you're heading for a doorway but unexpectedly bump into a wall. This is what our life was like before we met the Light of the World. In fact, we didn't even know what real light was and had become comfortable in the darkness because it kept us from seeing how sinful we truly were.

An amazing transaction occurred when we finally believed the gospel, repented of our sins, and confessed Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We were rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of Light. And now Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has come to dwell within us (Col. 1:13; Eph. 3:17). So how are Christ's followers supposed to live? Today's passage outlines three basic responsibilities:

**1. Walk in love** (Ephesians 5:1-2). As the Savior sacrificially loved us, so we are to love others. If we are at odds with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we can't claim to be walking in Light (1 John 1:7).

**2. Abstain from sin** (Eph. 5:3-7). Believers aren't sinless, but they don't habitually practice deeds of darkness.

**3. Learn what pleases God** (Eph. 5:8-17). The fruit of Light is goodness, righteousness, and truth. These are displayed in our character, conversation, and conduct when we are living out our faith.

Let's make it our aim to move ever closer to the Light, letting Jesus expose and remove any areas of darkness so we can reflect His glory and goodness.

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## Daily Devotional, Tuesday, December 5, 2017 - Praising the Lamb of God

DECEMBER 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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### **Revelation 5:1-12**

In heaven, there is unceasing worship and praise of God. Revelation 4 and 5 describe John's vision, in which four living creatures proclaimed God's holiness day and night. The apostle then heard 24 elders respond with a declaration of God's worthiness (Revelation 4:8-11). He listened as they sang a new song of praise, declaring that the Lamb of God had purchased men for God—and then witnessed multitudes of angels proclaiming Jesus' worth (Revelation 5:9-12).

What was it about Jesus that motivated such heartfelt worship? It was who He is, what He has done, and what He will do. He is ...

- *God the Son, who laid aside His divinity so that He might rescue us (Phil. 2:6-7).*
- *The Savior who took on human form and died so that we might be saved (Phil. 2:8).*
- *The only One who revealed God the Father to us (John 14:9).*

- *The Son of Man, who chose to identify with us because of His great love (John 1:14, John 15:13).*
- *The Lamb of God, who took away the sins of the world (John 1:29).*
- *The Lion of Judah, who will return as the judge, the ruler, and the authority over all (Revelation 5:5).*

These same attributes should motivate our praise and worship of Jesus. Ask the Lord to help you establish a pattern of praising Him and responding in adoration each time you think of Him. Heavenly music is to be sung by the redeemed on earth for all to hear.

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