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# Daily Devotional, Monday, February 5, 2018 - A Divine Guarantee

FEBRUARY 05TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Monday, February 5, 2018 - A Divine Guarantee

## Matthew 6:31-34

Today's passage contains one of the most amazing promises in all of Scripture. If we truly believed it and lived accordingly, our lives would be transformed, and worry would lose its grip on us. Yet if we keep seeking our security in the things the world values—bank accounts, stable jobs, and a strong national and global economy—we will be filled with anxiety at every fluctuation.

Instead, why not take God up on His guarantee in Matthew 6:33? Make Him your number one priority, seeking both His kingdom (His rule over you) and His righteousness (His transformation of you). What that means is obeying His instructions and submitting to whatever He uses to transform your character, whether it be hardship, suffering, or ease. What I'm talking about is not a sinless life but, rather, the desire to live in God's will and become increasingly like Christ.

When we make a commitment toward that goal, the Lord promises to take full responsibility for providing whatever we need. Now, this doesn't mean He will give us everything we ask for, but aren't you grateful that He doesn't? Just think back to some of the foolish things you've requested in the past. He alone knows what our true needs are.

God has a plan for each believer’s life, and the spiritual benefits of living in His will are amazing. But our loving Father doesn’t stop there—He promises to provide for our physical needs as well. So even though each day will have its own trouble (Matt. 6:34), you can rest in the faithfulness of the heavenly Father and trust Him to keep His Word.

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## Daily Devotional, Thursday, February 1, 2018 - True Ministry

FEBRUARY 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional, Thursday, February 1, 2018 - True Ministry](#)

**2 Corinthians 3:4-8**

What do you think it means to serve the Lord? We know this is something commanded in the Bible, but at times we're just not sure what to do. Often, we don't think we are adequate for the task. Or perhaps we're so busy with all our other duties and responsibilities that finding the time or energy to serve God seems impossible.

Instead of looking at ministry through the lens of obstacles blocking our path, let's see what God says about it. True service is not something we do for the Lord, but something He does through us. This pattern was set for us by Jesus Christ Himself, who said, "The Father abiding in Me does His works" (John 14:10). The apostles' lives also show this is what God had in mind. When Jesus gave them the command to be His witnesses, He said to wait until they were "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49)

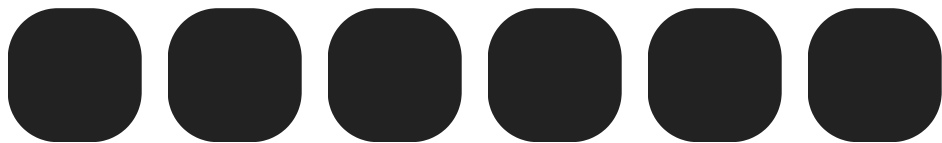
By regarding service as God's work through us, we can have confidence—not in ourselves and our abilities, but in God, who makes us adequate for whatever He gives us to do. This perspective also keeps us from taking any credit for what we accomplish. Without the Lord's directive and the Spirit's empowerment, our service is worthless in God's eyes, no matter how productive it looks from a human standpoint.

What makes an effective servant of Christ is not natural abilities, creativity, or human initiative, but total dependence on Him for both direction and adequacy. God uses those who are weak, humble, submissive, and obedient so that He alone gets the glory.

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# Daily Devotional, Wednesday, January 31, 2018 - A Passionate Faith

JANUARY 31ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional, Wednesday, January 31, 2018 - A Passionate Faith

### **Romans 6:5-14**

Paul served the Lord enthusiastically. The apostle's zeal was motivated by three things: gratitude for the amazing but undeserved gift of salvation; conviction that the gospel message was true; and the realization that through the cross, sin's power over him had been broken.

Before salvation, we were slaves to sin and unable to break free. But now, having been united with Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:5-6), we have received the power to say no to temptation and can choose God's way instead. Paul knew his old selfish nature had been crucified with Christ; sin no longer had control over him. This knowledge fueled his passion to follow Jesus and live for Him (Gal. 2:20).

Guided by his commission from Christ, Paul expressed his zeal through obedience to the Lord's direction. Our heavenly Father wants us to focus our passion on carrying out His plan (Matt. 28:19-20).

Like Paul, we are called to live a crucified life—one in which we make the Lord first in our thinking, attitudes, and actions. Such a life includes learning how to walk by faith and stand firm against temptation. While we are unable to do this in our own strength, it is possible through the Holy Spirit. He empowers us to let go of self-centered ways and replace them with godly ones.

Paul's faith and commitment to the Lord were integral parts of his thinking, conversation, and work. His passionate faith kept him moving forward, even in times of great adversity. The apostle knew that salvation brought forgiveness of the past and a way to live victoriously in the future.

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## Daily Devotional, Tuesday, January 30, 2018 - Called to Ministry

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JANUARY 30TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional, Tuesday, January 30, 2018 - Called to Ministry](#)

### **Colossians 4:7-18**

The last chapter of Colossians contains a long list of people who served alongside Paul. What's not highlighted in these verses is these individuals' talents, skills, abilities, wealth, or position in society. Instead, Paul focuses their character, their service for Christ, and his love and appreciation for each one.

We are each called to ministry in one form or another. Although we tend to think of ministry as something that's done inside a church, in reality it encompasses everything we do all week long, no matter where we are. In God's eyes, there's no division between sacred and secular activities.

For example, while Luke was a physician by profession, he was also an evangelist, a missionary, and a divinely inspired writer of Scripture. His career was not his primary source of purpose and self-fulfillment; rather, it was a means through which he served Christ by ministering to others. A faithful friend and traveling companion to Paul, Luke offered him encouragement and comfort until the day of the apostle's execution (2 Tim. 4:11).

Luke was perfectly suited for the work the Lord planned for him. He had an analytical, detailed mind which made him a skilled doctor. It also served him in carefully investigating and writing an accurate account of Jesus' life (the gospel of Luke) and the events of the early church (the book of Acts).

Each of us has been created and fitted by God to fulfill the particular ministry He's chosen specifically for us. We have been placed on this earth not simply to enjoy ourselves, accumulate wealth, and achieve prominence but to serve the Lord. Our responsibility is to respond with obedience to His call.

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# Daily Devotional, Monday, January 29, 2018 - Resisting Compromise

JANUARY 29TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Monday, January 29, 2018 - Resisting Compromise

## 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Yesterday, we saw how King Solomon's life illustrated the peril of compromise. Concession begins in a seemingly insignificant way. For instance, someone might want you to make a financial decision that you know in your heart is unwise. But you go along with the plan because you don't want to hurt the other person's feelings. You have compromised the message of the Holy Spirit, who warned you.

Small compromises lead to more serious ones. With each successive concession, our conscience is weakened. Ultimately, whenever we give way to evil—whether we let go of a doctrinal belief or simply listen to music that taints our thoughts—we always lose.

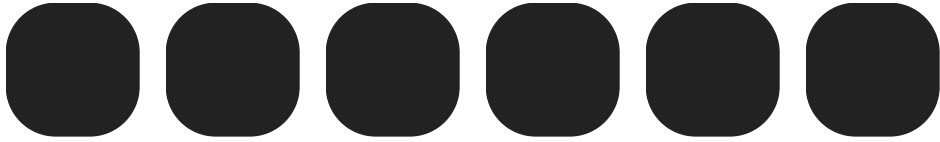
We compromise for a variety of reasons. Many do so from a fear of rejection or of being unappreciated. Some choose this route to avoid conflict. Still others may begin to doubt God's trustworthiness or goodness; as a result, they give up on Him, compromising their basic beliefs and undermining their reason for assurance.

To be men and women who are strong enough to resist making concessions, we need to develop some essential armor. First, we must have strong convictions about the Bible and depend on it as a guide for daily living. Next, we need to have faith in God's promise to supply all of our needs. Finally, we must find the courage to trust in Him, even when we are misunderstood, persecuted, or falsely accused. When we surrender our life to God, He replaces enslavement to compromise with security in Him.

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