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Daily Devotional, Wednesday, February 7, 2018 - God, The Greatest Lover of All

FEBRUARY 07TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Wednesday, February 7, 2018 - God, The Greatest Lover of All

Jeremiah 31:3

God's love is totally different from ours. For one thing, His love is everlasting. He bestows it on us continuously, and there is absolutely nothing that can interrupt or interfere with it. This is because His love is not based on a feeling but flows from His very nature. Therefore, it is perfect, unchangeable, and trustworthy (1 John 4:8). In contrast, disagreements and other circumstances can cause human love to fluctuate or fail.

What's more, God's love is unconditional—there's nothing we can say or do to either deserve or deter it. We never have to wonder if the Lord still loves us. Every day you and I walk under the canopy of His love, which remains unaffected by our behavior, whether good or bad. Even if we wander from His will or fall into disobedience, we don't have to worry that the canopy will be removed. We did not build it, so we can't dismantle it. The source of God's love is God Himself, and His love is eternal, perfect, and without any conditions whatsoever.

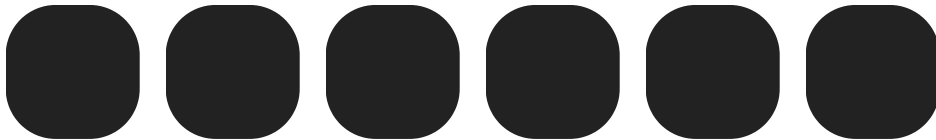
Notice I did not say you would necessarily enjoy life because He loves you; nor did I say that God would overlook transgressions. Disobedience is a matter of grave consequence for the Christian. Yet even in our foolishness and sin, the Lord is our loving Father, who faithfully disciplines His children. We must always remember that sin does not affect God's boundless love for us.

The heavenly Father has always loved you, and He always will. As you release any misconceptions about His everlasting love, you'll be able to rejoice under His canopy.

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Daily Devotional, Tuesday, February 6, 2018 - Faithful Messenger

FEBRUARY 06TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional, Tuesday, February 6, 2018 - Faithful Messenger](#)

Ephesians 6:21-24

What's the most valuable item you've ever transported? We usually associate value with an expensive physical possession, but Tychicus brought something far more precious than gold from a Roman prison to the church in Ephesus. He carried God's Word, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by the apostle Paul while he was imprisoned.

Tychicus is one of those behind-the-scenes people who worked with Paul. His home was originally in Asia Minor (Acts 20:4), and he is mentioned five times in the New Testament. In all but one of these passages, he is sent somewhere by Paul. Running errands may not seem like a glorious job, but his service for Christ was essential: He delivered Paul's letters to the Ephesian and Colossian churches along with encouragement and information about the apostle's circumstances (Col. 4:7-8).

These letters have been instructing, challenging, and encouraging Christians throughout the world ever since. And the job Tychicus had—to deliver Scripture—is a task still entrusted to believers today. God has given us His Word for our benefit but also so we can share it with others. It's the only sure source of absolute truth because it came directly from God through men who were inspired by His Spirit.

The Bible is our most precious possession. We should treat it with care and share it with fellow believers as well as those who need to know our great God and Savior. The next time you open the Scriptures, ask the Lord to make you like Tychicus, a faithful messenger of His Word.

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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.

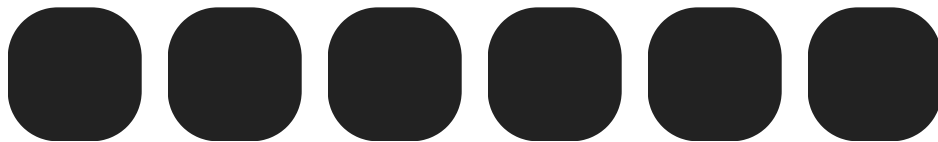
Instead, why not take God up on His guarantee in Matthew 6:33? Make Him your number one priority, seeking both His kingdom (His rule over you) and His righteousness (His transformation of you). What that means is obeying His instructions and submitting to whatever He uses to transform your character, 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)

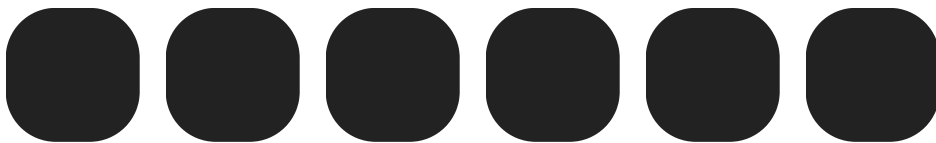
By regarding service as God’s work through us, we can have confidence—not in ourselves and our abilities, but in God, who makes us adequate for whatever He gives us to do. This perspective also keeps us from taking any credit for what we accomplish. Without the Lord’s directive and the Spirit’s empowerment, 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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