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Daily Devotional - Monday, April 2, 2018 - Going Against the Flow

APRIL 02ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, April 2, 2018 - Going Against the Flow

Psalm 62:1-6

A majority may rule in the culture, but in your personal life, there should be only one ruler—and that's God. It makes no difference if 10,000 people tell you what you ought to do. Once you have decided to follow the Lord, it's best to stand right where you are until you get marching orders from Him.

Does this mean we should never take godly counsel? Not at all. It simply means that when we know God hasn't said to move, we shouldn't yield to the temptation to please others by following their directives or timeline. In other words, while seeking scriptural advice, believers should also listen for the Holy Spirit's promptings and warnings. For example, when dealing with your children, you may sense there's a time to bring up an issue and a time to hold off (Eccl. 3:7).

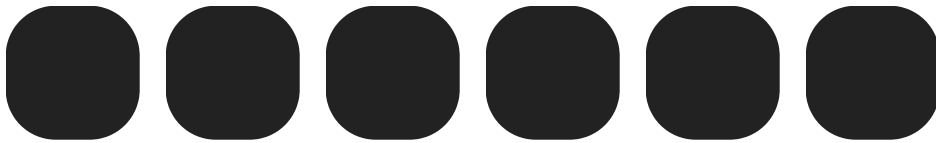
Sometimes, however, a fear of failure may discourage us from doing things God's way, making us think, *What if things don't turn out as I planned? What if I'm ridiculed by my peers?* But ultimately, we must ask ourselves whether we're going to listen to God or the world. Remember, you don't have to fear failure when you obey the Lord. He's the one who intervenes in times of hardship. And He promises to act in behalf of the one who waits for Him (Isa. 64:4).

Remaining steadfast takes courage. That's why Paul said, "Be strong in the Lord" (Eph. 6:10). All the pressure in the world can't make you budge when you trust the Rock upon which you stand. With God's guidance, you can act with complete confidence of a successful outcome.

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Daily Devotional, Thursday, March 29, 2018 - A New and Living Way

MARCH 29TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Thursday, March 29, 2018 - A New and Living Way

Hebrews 10:19-23

Have you ever considered what a privilege it is to live in the era after the cross? Today every believer has instant access to God through His Son Jesus Christ. We don't need to adhere to any religious rites before coming to Him in prayer. Wherever we are, we can call on Him for forgiveness and help.

In the Old Testament, the law prescribed exactly who could approach the Lord and how it was to be done. The temple area was divided into a courtyard, an inner chamber called the Holy Place, and the innermost chamber called the Holy of Holies. Any Israelite could come to the temple to pray to God or to bring an offering, but only the priests could sacrifice animals on the altar or burn incense in the Holy Place. The Holy of Holies was entered once a year and only by the high priest to offer blood for his sins and the sins of the nation.

When Jesus Christ died on Calvary's cross, the curtain in front of the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom as God opened a new and living way to approach Him: through the blood of His Son. When we trust in Christ and His sacrifice on our behalf, He cleanses us from all sins and invites us to draw near to Him.

The way to the heavenly Father is open, but are you drawing near to Him? Even those of us who have trusted the Lord for salvation may not be taking advantage of this invitation to come even closer. In James 4:8, the author makes a promise every believer should claim: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 28, 2018 - The High Cost of Sin

MARCH 28TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 28, 2018 - The High Cost of Sin

Hebrews 10:1-14

Anyone who has read through the book of Leviticus can't help but notice the emphasis on sacrifices. There were prescribed animals for different kinds of personal and national offerings, as well as for occasions like the Sabbath and feasts. Why did God require this? And why was He so specific about the details of worship?

There were three lessons God was teaching Israel through His law.

- *God is holy and separate from sinful man.*
- *Sin is costly, requiring a payment or sacrifice.*
- *There is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.*

All the laws, ceremonies, priests, and offerings in the Old Testament were a shadow of the good things to come. None of the animal sacrifices could actually take away sin. While serving as a reminder of sin, those offerings also pointed ahead to the Lamb of God: Jesus Christ came to be the final sacrifice. He gave His life at Calvary, bringing complete forgiveness for all sin.

We who live on this side of the cross may be tempted to think too lightly of our sins because we have never sacrificed an animal or seen blood flowing from the throat of an innocent lamb because of our wrongdoing. Nor did we watch the crucifixion of our Lord as He hung on the

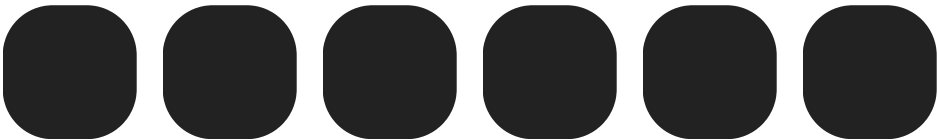
cross, bearing God’s judgment for our sins. The only cost we actually see involves the consequences we suffer for our rebellion and disobedience.

As difficult and painful as it may be, let’s seriously consider what our sins cost the Savior. If we allow our hearts to be broken, our worship and gratitude will overflow, and we’ll respond by living a holy life.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 27, 2018 - My Assurance: God Is In Control

MARCH 27TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 27, 2018 - My Assurance: God Is In Control

Jeremiah 32:17

During one of the most trying seasons of my life, I would sit by the fire with a dear friend and pour out my heart to him. Since this man was a good listener, he could sense when I felt discouraged, and he would remind me that the Lord is in control. This truth became an anchor in my life—no matter how much the adversity intensified, I found solace in knowing that my heavenly Father is sovereign.

The Lord has supreme and absolute rule, control, and authority over the universe and everything in it. The Scriptures state that there is “one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:6).

Consider the assurances that this truth provides for believers. First, if God created everything and has complete power over all, then nothing can happen apart from His direction and permission. Second, we know from the Bible that He is intimately involved in our personal lives and cares about the details of each day. Third, Romans 8:28 guarantees that He makes something beautiful for His children in every circumstance—even in situations that seem painful and wrong. If our loving Father protects us in this way, we can experience peace in the present and confidence about the future.

In painful times, how do you view the Lord? Especially during hardships and heartbreak, it’s important to remember that He is in control. Focusing on His sovereignty will give you the confidence to carry on. Reread today’s passage, and spend time meditating on the power, love, and ability of your heavenly Father.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, March 26, 2018 - God's Sovereignty

MARCH 26TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, March 26, 2018 - God's Sovereignty

Ephesians 1:11

Some people question whether the Lord is truly in control. They learn about tragedies in the world and wonder if perhaps God isn't powerful enough to overcome all evil. Or they encounter what seems like an insurmountable obstacle in their own life and come to the conclusion, *Maybe His power is limited.*

My friend, we do not understand everything that happens in this life. But we know from Scripture that God has ultimate authority: "The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all" (Psalm 103:19).

Consider the far-reaching implications of these words. The Lord has complete control in all the universe—He reigns over everything and everyone, and His power is greater than all other strength. The terms *omnipotent*, *omnipresent*, and *omniscient* are frequently used to describe Him. In other words, our God is all-powerful, He exists everywhere, and He is all-knowing—which means there is nothing beyond His awareness or His ability to direct and manage.

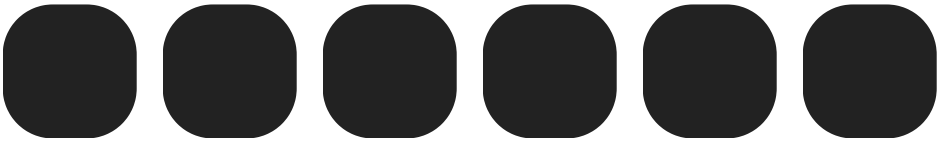
And this limitless, unfathomable God, who is unhindered and fully in control, adopts us as His children. What an amazing thought! As we begin to grasp this truth, peace and rest will flood our soul.

If you believe the Lord is all-powerful, is that idea simply “head knowledge,” or does it affect the way you think and feel? When you realize that nothing happens apart from God’s awareness, direction, and loving purpose, it becomes possible to lay down worry and fear and truly experience His peace.

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