



[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 10, 2018 - Our Financial Security

APRIL 10TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 10, 2018 - Our Financial Security

### Matthew 25:14-28

Feeling safe is a basic human need. Many people think they are financially secure until a little blip comes along in the economy or their personal circumstances. Then the reality that they are vulnerable hits home. Contrary to what the world says, financial security is found not in a bank account or a retirement fund but in a relationship with the One who owns everything in heaven and on earth.

God is not too busy running the universe to be concerned about your financial situation. The truth is, He cares about every detail of your life, including your need for economic security. By trusting His directions about how to acquire and use money, you can experience peace, contentment, and joy.

When it comes to finances, three basic truths should govern our thinking:

1. *God owns it all.*
2. *We are managers of His possessions.*
3. *We are responsible and will one day give an account to Him for the way we used His resources.*

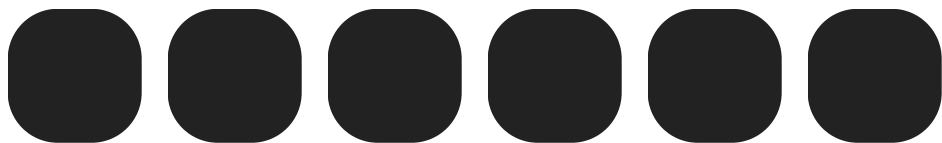
True financial security comes only when we use God's money His way for His purposes. He alone knows the future and has the power to provide for our needs, whereas any financial strategy we might devise is backed only by human effort and wisdom.

Don't you want to experience the stability of internal peace, even during an economic earthquake? Trusting in the Lord's provision and obeying His instructions will fill you with confidence when others are gripped by fear and uncertainty. Rest in the knowledge that God provides for His children.

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[Go to post](#)



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**TOP**

## Daily Devotional - Monday, April 9, 2018 - Praying in God's Will

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APRIL 09TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Colossians 1:10-14

Paul fervently desired that the body of Christ—individually and corporately—become spiritually mature. Knowing the Lord had planned for such growth to impact the world, the apostle asked that believers would know God's will and then ...

**Live a godly life** (Col. 1:10). Paul prayed for our character, conversation, and conduct to be consistent with the Lord's. Christians are Jesus' representatives, so our lives ought to be an extension of His—with eyes that look compassionately at others, hearts that offer forgiveness and love, and hands that are engaged in service. A believer's character, while imperfect, should increasingly reflect Christ's righteousness.

**Make our life count** (v. 10). In God's eyes, not everything we do is fruitful—much of our activity stems from a desire to please self or others. All that truly matters is what's done in obedience to our Father. Jesus spoke about the importance of bearing much fruit, which is possible only when we stay connected with Him (John 15:5).

**Experience God's power** (Col. 1:11). Through the Holy Spirit's presence, we have all we need for carrying out our Father's will.

**Remain committed and grateful** (Col. 1:12). God answers according to His perfect timing. We must be steadfast in prayer and thankful for everything He's done.

Whether we pray these verses for ourselves or for others, we can know that our petitions are in accordance with the Lord's will. And 1 John 5:14-15 tells us praying in this way carries the wonderful assurance that God is going to respond affirmatively.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Thursday, April 5, 2018 - The Gift of God

APRIL 05TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, April 5, 2018 - The Gift of God

### 1 John 4:7-10

Is there someone in your life you're struggling to love? In other words, is there a person for whom—despite your good intentions, effort, and awareness of how you ought to act—it just seems impossible to muster any affection? Knowing that we should love doesn't automatically make us adequate for the task. However, being a Christian opens the door for God to enable us by pouring His love into our hearts through His indwelling Spirit (Rom. 5:5).

First John 4:19 says, "We love, because He first loved us." What a relief to know that love is a gift from God and not something we must manufacture within ourselves. What's more, the love He produces in us is not just for others but also for God Himself. He is aware that we have no resources within ourselves to love Him unless He enables us through His Holy Spirit.

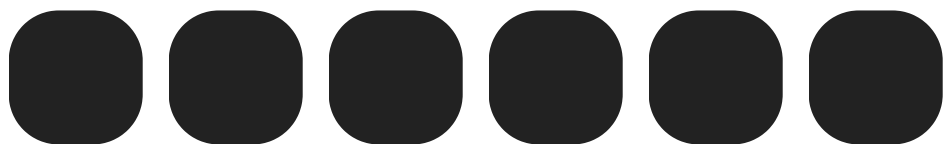
The Lord doesn't give us a command without providing whatever obedience requires. When we trust Christ as Savior, we receive not only forgiveness of our sins and adoption into God's family but also the ability to love as He does. In fact, His love in and through us is evidence that we are born of God and know Him (John. 4:7). As we submit, Christ's life is displayed in us through selfless, sacrificial care for others.

Although the Lord has richly poured His love into our hearts, we have the responsibility to grow in it. Every unlovable person in our life is an opportunity to let God teach us to love (1 Thess. 4:9-10). And every time we learn to know Him more intimately through His Word, our adoration of God increases.

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[Go to post](#)



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TOP

## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, April 4, 2018 - Why Should We Love God?

APRIL 04TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, April 4, 2018 - Why Should We Love God?

**Mark 12:28-34**

Most of us are familiar with what is commonly called the Great Commandment—to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Yet none of us feel adequate for such a task. Our hearts are fickle, our souls are often self-absorbed, our minds are easily distracted, and our strength falls short. We have an earthly existence that demands our time, attention, and energy. As a result, we often fail to focus on the One who is worthy of our wholehearted devotion.

So, what can we do to better obey this Great Commandment? In any relationship, love develops as we learn to know and appreciate the other person. Therefore, our starting place for loving God is His personhood—knowing who He is. The Old Testament provides magnificent views of His nature, power, and love, but the most tangible, understandable picture we have of God is His Son. When we examine Jesus’ character, words, and actions in the Gospel accounts, we perceive the heavenly Father more clearly.

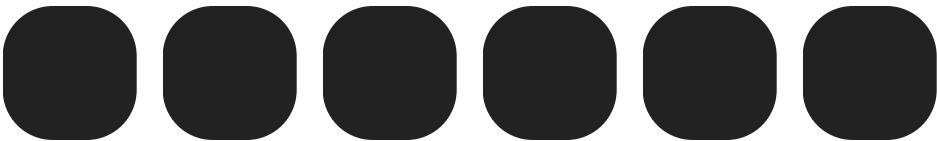
The second reason to love God is because of what He has done. He’s not only our Creator but also our Savior. Through Jesus, the Father has rescued all believers from eternal destruction. We’ve been transferred from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His Son and made heirs with Christ (Col. 1:12-13).

What distracts you from seeking to know and love the Lord? Have you carved time out of your busy schedule to read His Word and talk to Him in prayer? By doing this, you’ll discover that the saying “to know him is to love him,” will prove true of your amazing God and His Son Jesus Christ.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 3, 2018 - Loving God

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APRIL 03RD 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 3, 2018 - Loving God

### **John 14:21-24**

If you ask a young man how he knows he's in love with his girlfriend, there's a good chance he won't be able to explain but will simply say, "I just know it." And those of us who have experienced the joy of falling in love will understand what he means.

But how do we know if we love God? Even though we can't physically see, hear, or touch Him, our life should contain evidence that testifies to our love for Him.

Jesus' love for His heavenly Father was perfectly demonstrated by His obedience. Every word, thought, and deed—from the time He left heaven to be born as a baby until His ascension—was done according to His Father's will and instructions. Their relationship was so intimate that Jesus not only knew exactly what His Father desired but also delighted in obeying Him. (See Psalm 40:7-8; John 6:38.)

If we want to grow in our love for the Lord, we must draw near to Him through His Word. As we learn to know Him intimately, our love will increase and we'll desire to obey. Unless we invest in Scripture, our fervor for the Lord will fall short of what it could be.

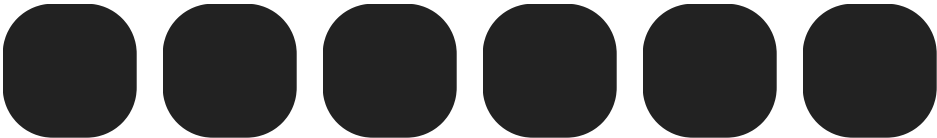
What does your lifestyle reveal about the depth of your devotion to Christ—can others see it clearly in your conversation, character, and conduct? And if you ever feel disappointed that

your love for Christ seems small, open the Word of God and obey whatever He says. He will abide with you and disclose Himself, thereby increasing your capacity to love and know Him more.

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