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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, May 2, 2018 - Heirs With Christ

MAY 02ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, May 2, 2018 - Heirs With Christ

Romans 8:12-18

How often do you think of yourself as an heir of God? It's not usually the first thing that comes to mind as we consider the blessings that are ours when we accept Jesus Christ as Savior. Perhaps this is because we don't really know what it means to be God's heir. Nor can we begin to comprehend what awaits us in eternity or when that will be.

Being an heir is usually associated with family ties, and the same is true of our relationship to God. When we were born again by His Spirit, we became His adopted children, and as such, we are heirs along with Christ. In Colossians 1:15, Jesus is called "the firstborn of all creation." In the ancient world, the firstborn son had a place of prominence in the family and was the chief heir of all that his father owned. In the same way, Jesus Christ holds the position of firstborn and is the heir of all creation.

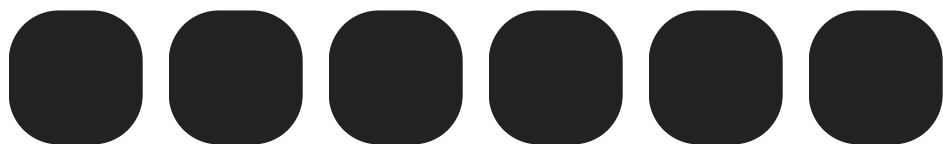
What's truly amazing is that He has promised to share His inheritance with us. When He returns in glory to take up His rightful place as King of Kings on earth, we will rule with Him, under His authority (Revelation 2:26-27). The Christian life is filled with undeserved favor. What we experience now of God's grace is only the tip of the iceberg.

Realizing all that Christ has done and will do for His followers should prompt us to live for Him today. The Holy Spirit dwells within us, empowering us to put to death our fleshly desires and to follow God in obedience, even when it's costly. Anything we suffer here for Christ's sake is insignificant compared to the glory that awaits us.

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National Day of Prayer to be Held at Dexter City Hall

MAY 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

National Day of Prayer to be Held at Dexter City Hall

Dexter, Missouri - The National Day of Prayer event will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at the Dexter City Hall building located at 301 E. Stoddard Street across from the downtown fire station. If rain they will move across the street at the First Christian Church.

The public is encouraged to attend this free event.

"The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman."

In 2018, their theme will be [Pray for America - UNITY](#), based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, "Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Our hope is that individuals, churches, and spiritual leaders in America, will humble ourselves and unify in prevailing prayer for the next great move of God in America. We can come together in clear agreement that this is our greatest need. We can become a visible union, standing together in prayer. We can pray more than ever before, and practice extraordinary prayer for the next great move of God in America that will catapult the message of the gospel nationally and internationally.

Pray with us. Sponsor an event in your community. Become a volunteer. Order resources to help promote an event in your area. Support the National Day of Prayer financially. Together, we can mobilize unified public prayer for America!

"There is no great movement of God that has ever occurred that does not begin with the extraordinary prayer of God's people." Dr. Ronnie Floyd

For more information click [HERE](#)!

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Daily Devotional, Tuesday, May 1, 2018 - Our Inheritance

MAY 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional, Tuesday, May 1, 2018 - Our Inheritance

Ephesians 1:3-14

Do you ever feel as if the Christian life is nothing but sacrifice? After all, Jesus said those who follow Him must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). If we look at salvation only from an earthly perspective, it may seem costly, but today's passage opens our eyes to the vast riches of grace that God has lavished upon us in Christ Jesus.

From start to finish, our salvation includes an abundance beyond imagination. The climax of these spiritual blessings is found in Ephesians 1:11: "We have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose." At the moment we come to faith, we receive every benefit mentioned in today's passage, along with the promise of future blessings. The Holy Spirit within us is the pledge, or deposit, guaranteeing our inheritance.

Let's consider just one aspect of our amazing legacy in Christ—our physical form. Philippians 3:21 says that when Jesus returns, He will "transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory." Right now we groan in bodies weakened and corrupted by sin, but these will be changed in the twinkling of an eye when Jesus comes for us.

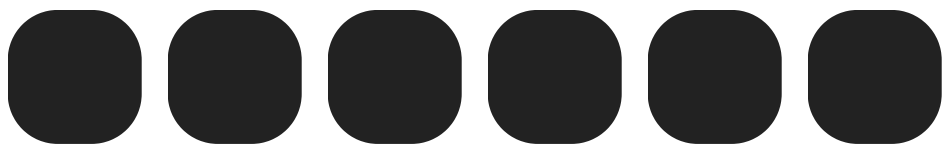
John describes it this way: "We know that when He appears, we will be like Him" (1 John 3:2). God's purpose of glorifying His Son in us will then be accomplished as we are fully conformed to Christ's likeness. So how are we to live in light of our coming inheritance? John summarizes

the answer quite nicely in the next verse: “Everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

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Daily Devotional - Monday, April 30, 2018 - The Spiritual Fruit of Patience

APRIL 30TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, April 30, 2018 - The Spiritual Fruit of Patience

Romans 5:1-4

The list known as “Fruit of the Spirit” includes patience (Gal. 5:22-23), but that does not mean the Holy Spirit wills it into the believer’s life. Instead, He acts as our ever-dependable teacher

and the one who enables our growth. Spiritual fruit is something that matures over time as we obey the heavenly Father and surrender to His will.

Patience with both God and our fellow man is an outgrowth of deepening faith. The Holy Spirit urges believers to take note of the Lord’s handiwork on the journey through life. Our confidence in Him is nurtured by answered prayer, the rich blessings that arise unexpectedly from difficult circumstances, and every trace of good that God salvages from a bad situation. As our trust in His goodness and sovereignty grows, we find ourselves more willing to wait for God’s solutions and outcomes.

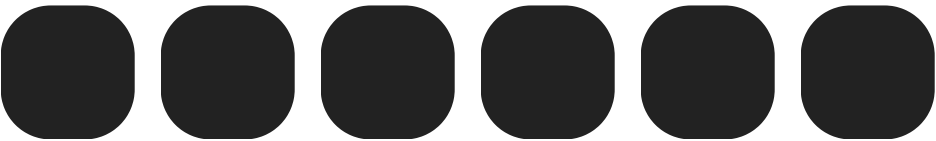
In fact, I believe that recognizing God’s sovereignty is key to developing patience. A significant part of surrendering to His absolute control is waiting upon Him to do what He will. It is wisdom to realize that our lives unfold according to His master plan—exasperated toe tapping doesn’t make Him speed up one bit. God expects His children to step into His timeline and practice patience no matter what pace He sets.

Patience doesn’t come naturally. That’s why we have the Holy Spirit. He strengthens our resolve to endure without complaint when progress seems sluggish. After all, God is slow only from a human standpoint. From a divine, eternal perspective, He’s always working at the perfect speed.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, April 26, 2018 - Overcoming Life's Ups and Downs

APRIL 26TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, April 26, 2018 - Overcoming Life's Ups and Downs

Philippians 4:10-13

Contentment is something we all desire yet too seldom have. If it comes, it usually seems short-lived. And often we think that contentment is possible only if all our circumstances are comfortable and there are no conflicts or misunderstandings in our relationships.

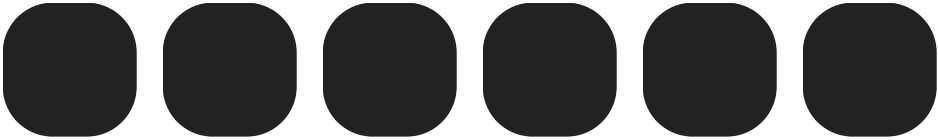
The apostle Paul proves that perfect conditions are not the source of contentment. He wrote his letter to the Philippians while he was in a Roman prison. Contentment was something he had to learn, not through comfort but through hardship and suffering. Paul relied on spiritual truths to enable him to face his difficulties God's way—without complaint, worry, or fear.

In every trial, we have a choice to view the situation from our perspective or from God's. Depending on our focus, we either react emotionally or respond spiritually, based on God's Word and promises. Inner turmoil and outward agitation result when we focus on feelings instead of spiritual principles. But when we habitually see every matter from God's point of view, then irritation, anger, and blame will be replaced by an inner quietness and confidence.

Is it really possible to face serious trials and have God's peace? According to Paul, the answer is yes. We can be content in all circumstances through Christ's strength (Phil. 4:13). This isn't a natural response but a supernatural one, which God alone can produce in the lives of His children. If we'll let divine truths interpret our trials and trust the Holy Spirit to empower us to respond in faith, our heart will find rest no matter what goes on around us.

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