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## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 2, 2018 - Forgiveness and Relationship with God

OCTOBER 02ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 2, 2018 - Forgiveness and Relationship with God

**Matthew 6:9-15**

TUESDAY

02

When someone wrongs you, what is your biggest concern? Most of us would have to admit we are concerned mainly for ourselves or loved ones. We're filled with anger or hurt, and forgiveness is the last thing on our minds. But how often do we consider that the way we respond will affect our relationship with God?

Sometimes as we say the Lord's Prayer, we may quickly recite, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt. 6:12) without giving the words much thought. But the two verses that follow this prayer remind us how serious forgiveness is. If we don't move past our hurt and anger toward forgiveness, then God will not forgive us. For those of us who have repented of sin and by faith received Jesus Christ as our Savior, all our sins have been forgiven, based on Christ's substitutionary payment on the cross (Col. 2:13-14). Therefore, these verses in Matthew cannot mean a loss of salvation. They instead refer to the barrier unforgiveness causes in our fellowship with God.

Holding on to grievances is a sin. If we allow that to continue, our communion with the Lord will be disrupted until we confess our attitude and forsake it. We understand what this is like when a child refuses to obey his parents. Although their love for him hasn't diminished, there's an unresolved conflict in their relationship.

As God’s children, we are called into intimate fellowship with Him. Let’s not be like disobedient children who remain under the Father’s discipline and therefore miss out on blessings He wants us to have.

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## Daily Devotion - Monday, October 1, 2018 - The Foundation of Forgiveness

OCTOBER 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotion - Monday, October 1, 2018 - The Foundation of Forgiveness](#)

MONDAY

For followers of Christ, the goal is to become increasingly like Him, and one of the best ways to reflect His character is through forgiveness. Yet sometimes this is a quality we are reluctant to demonstrate because it seems so unfair, especially if the wrong done to us is ongoing or particularly painful. To forgive appears to diminish the offense and counteract justice.

Let's correct several misperceptions about this aspect of our faith:

**The foundation for our forgiveness of others is God's forgiveness of us.** Today's passage contains a parable in which a man is forgiven a sum too exorbitant to repay. Yet he turns around and demands immediate payment from someone who owes him a small amount. That's what we are like when we think others' wrongs against us must be avenged even though God has forgiven us.

**Unforgiveness torments us, not the wrongdoer.** It's a caustic poison within us that corrupts our emotions, stunts us spiritually, and stresses our bodies. When we don't release the offender, we end up imprisoned in bitterness, resentment, and hostility—and that is sin.

**Forgiveness doesn't negate the wrong done to us.** It doesn't deny the offense or the resulting pain but lets go of the right to get even. Vengeance is God's responsibility, not ours (Romans 12:19). We don't have all the facts, nor can we know the offender's true motive. Only God can judge accurately and fairly.

When Jesus suffered the ultimate injustice of the cross, He entrusted Himself to the Father (1 Peter 2:21-24). Can you follow His example and trust God with wrongs done to you?

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## Daily Devotional - Friday, September 28, 2018 - The God Who Meets All Needs

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, September 28, 2018 - The God Who Meets All Needs

**Ephesians 1:3-8**

FRIDAY

28

People tend to divide life into categories, distinguishing between issues related to work, home, faith, and leisure. Yet that's not how the Lord sees us. His interest in His children is not confined to spiritual matters; He cares about the details of daily living as well.

Scripture shows that God is in the business of keeping our bodies fed (Luke 12:29), our minds wise (James 1:5), and our hearts at ease (Phil. 4:7). And since believers are in union with Jesus Christ through His indwelling Spirit, every aspect of a Christian's existence has a spiritual connection. There's no time in the day when the believer's life separates into "sacred" and "secular" components. The anxious heart that distracts us from prayer is as much God's concern as the tired mind that easily drifts into temptation.

Scripture emphasizes God's commitment to the believer's whole self: "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). The Lord doesn't limit Himself to building godliness in us. Day-to-day particulars of life matter, too. We need never wonder if God can or wants to meet our needs. Our all-sufficient Father, whose kindness never

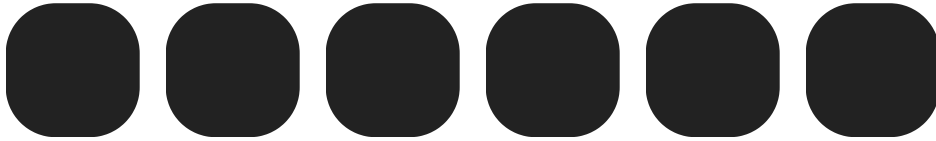
ceases (Lam. 3:22), gives believers whatever is required to grow their faith—whether that means food, comfort, knowledge, or peace.

The loving heavenly Father sees His children in their entirety, not physical beings with a spiritual life on the side. We cheat ourselves when we think God is interested solely in our spiritual needs. He has many kinds of blessings to offer, if we will but ask.

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## Daily Devotional - Thursday, September 27, 2018 - Trust God for Your Needs

SEPTEMBER 27TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Thursday, September 27, 2018 - Trust God for Your Needs](#)

Jim saved for a long time to take an Alaskan cruise. At last he was on board with two carefully packed suitcases. The first evening, when he heard “Dinner is served” announced over the loudspeaker, he took peanut butter crackers from his suitcase and sat at the table in his small cabin. Every day at mealtime, he repeated the ritual. It wasn’t that Jim didn’t like the ship’s tasty banquets. He simply didn’t know that his meals were included in the price of the ticket. For two weeks he enjoyed beautiful scenery and wildlife off the decks but ate dry, stale food in his cabin.

This sad story is a metaphor for the way some believers follow Jesus. God has promised to meet His children’s every need—His boundless riches are included in the price Christ paid for their salvation (Eph. 1:18). Yet many folks are instead trying to live out of their own resources. They don’t realize that the wealth of their Father’s love, power, and provision is on their “menu.”

A believer’s relationship with the Lord is one of complete unity. Jesus is our life. His Spirit lives through us. Therefore, we have remarkable resources available to us, as do our brothers and sisters in Christ—we have access to His power, strength, and endurance.

Jim didn’t know he had the right to satisfy his hunger in an extravagant way. Learn from this exaggerated example. Discover in God’s Word the riches you are entitled to through faith. God offers believers everything required for living well and wisely, so trust Him for all your needs.

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## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 16, 2018 - Maintaining Our Witness in Trials

SEPTEMBER 26TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 16, 2018 - Maintaining Our Witness in Trials

**1 Peter 2:11-12**

WEDNESDAY

26

You are being watched. That's always a good thing to remember as we interact with people at work or in the community. How we respond to frustrations, annoyances, difficulties, and temptations is a witness for Christianity, and the last thing we want to do is misrepresent Christ.

Many times challenging situations arise unexpectedly. Therefore, it's important that we prepare ourselves beforehand—then we'll be equipped to display Christlikeness, and our witness will not be derailed. To be ready ...

Stay in God's Word. Knowing Scripture helps you view situations from God's perspective and know how He would have you respond.

Pray. Challenge yourself to make prayer an immediate response to your problems. When you bring your concerns to God, His peace will guard your heart and mind, which is a powerful witness to a watching world (Phil. 4:6-7).

Trust and obey. When you rely on God's promises, your peace and confidence in God will stand out to those who are consumed with fear and anxiety.

Remember whose you are. You belong to God and have been purchased by the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:17-19). Your life is a display of God’s grace, and your character, conduct, and conversation should always reflect Christ.

Be gracious and kind to others. Don’t let your own troubles erupt into anger and blame. Small acts of kindness and a forgiving spirit are a tremendous witness in a world where such things are rare.

Aggravations and problems seem like hindrances to us, but our response can change someone’s life if it reflects the love of Jesus Christ.

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