



[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 30, 2018 - Transformed into Jesus' Image

OCTOBER 30TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 30, 2018 - Transformed into Jesus' Image

Ephesians 5:1-21

TUESDAY

30

As Christians, we are called to a high moral standard, yet we may feel as if we're failing more than succeeding. Perhaps our language isn't as pure as we know it should be, or we haven't overcome some of our bad habits. It's easy to become discouraged if we don't understand what is hindering our progress.

Transformation begins in the mind, because the way we reason affects how we act. We can't expect to progress in holiness if we're undiscerning about what to allow into our thoughts. Paul admonishes us not to be conformed to the world but to be transformed by renewing the mind (Rom. 12:2). We must make an intentional effort to fill our mind with the truths of God's Word to ensure that we are counteracting the world's messages.

The influence of others is another avenue by which we can be helped or hindered in our pursuit of holiness. If we associate with people who don't share our standards, we could be tempted to compromise. Mature believers, on the other hand, can detect obstacles hindering our growth and point out adjustments we need to make. I was greatly impacted by the biographies of godly men like Oswald Chambers, Charles Spurgeon, and Dwight L. Moody. As I read, I would see qualities in their lives that I wanted in my own. These traits formed the basis for many of my prayers.

What kinds of thoughts fill your mind? Are you being influenced by friends, television, or social media more than you are by the Word of God? As the Holy Spirit helps you replace wrong thoughts with godly ones, your behavior will also be transformed.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, October 29, 2018 - Becoming Like Jesus

OCTOBER 29TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Monday, October 29, 2018 - Becoming Like Jesus](#)

MONDAY

God has a plan for every believer, and salvation is just the first step. He wants His adopted children to develop a close family resemblance, and the Holy Spirit is in charge of transforming each one into the likeness of Jesus.

The moment we trust Christ as our personal Savior, we are born again and become newborn babies in a spiritual sense. One characteristic of a newborn is a craving for milk, and the same is true spiritually. New believers need continuous nourishment from God's Word for growth in godliness, grace, and the knowledge of Christ.

As we read and meditate on Scripture, the Holy Spirit replaces our former thoughts and desires with a God-centered mindset and new longings for holiness. Instead of living to please ourselves, our desire will be to glorify God through obedience.

Like any growing child, we will stumble now and then by giving into temptation. However, our heavenly Father has given us the privilege of cleansing through confession of sins (1 John 1:9). He also exercises loving discipline by revealing attitudes, behaviors, and practices that are displeasing to Him. His chastisement is always meant to train us and produce in us the "peaceful fruit of righteousness" (Heb. 12:11).

At no point are we abandoned or rejected by our heavenly Father. He watches over every step we take, hears our prayers, comforts us, and encourages us to love and obey His Word. He promises that we'll become complete in our likeness to Christ on the day we see Him in heaven (1 John 3:1-3).

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[Go to post](#)



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Daily Devotional - Thursday, October 25, 2018 - Your Eternal Destination

OCTOBER 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, October 25, 2018 - Your Eternal Destination

Luke 16:19-26

All of us are eternal beings because we were made in God's image (Gen. 1:26). After physical death, our spirits will live forever. Where we reside—heaven or hell—will depend on whether we have accepted or rejected Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior.

Scripture teaches that all have sinned and deserve a penalty (Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23). There isn't anything we can do to earn God's forgiveness. Knowing this, our heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus to take our sins upon Himself and experience punishment in our place. In that way, we become part of God's family and look forward to spending eternity with Him in heaven. His only requirement for this amazing blessing is that we acknowledge we're sinners who need a Savior and believe that Jesus died to save us (Rom. 10:9-10). Those who reject Christ will spend life after death separated from Him, but those who believe will live forever with Him.

Every person will ultimately dwell in heaven or hell, both of which are real places described in the Bible. In heaven, we'll never again know pain, sorrow, or tears (Revelation 21:4). But hell is the opposite. A place of punishment, it will be the scene of unending agony and torment.

Today's passage illustrates this hard fact.

Eternal punishment and the reality of hell are never easy topics to consider, but they are vitally important because they will really happen. Don't let your emotions turn you away from the truths recorded in Scripture. Instead, take heed of the warnings, and be certain you are heaven-bound

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[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, October 24, 2018 - Does God Love Me?

OCTOBER 24TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Wednesday, October 24, 2018 - Does God Love Me?](#)

Psalm 145:19-21

Life can hit us with the most unexpected and undesirable circumstances. When that happens, shock and pain might make us wonder, *Does God really care about me?*

24

First of all, we know from 1 John 4:8 that “God is love,” which means His very nature is characterized by compassion and concern. Love originated with the Lord, and He is our greatest example of how to express it. This truth, combined with the reality that God is holy, means He is perfect in His love—He’ll never make a mistake in the way He loves us.

Second, we know that our heavenly Father loves us, because He calls us His children. “To those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God,” writes John in his gospel (1 John 1:12 NIV). Sadly, some people don’t have a parent who shows them love. But God is the perfect parent. It would be completely against His character to mistreat any of His children.

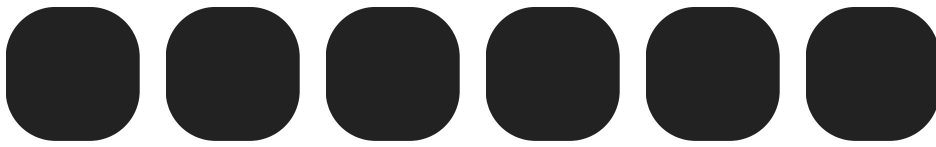
Finally, God gave the supreme demonstration of His love at the cross. We were all dead in our sins, but Christ went to the greatest length possible to give us life. The Son of God came to earth as an expression of His Father’s awesome, fathomless, infinite love and did for us what no one else could do.

After considering these three facts about God’s love, how could we not expect Him to take care of even the smallest details of our life? Look for ways He is expressing His love to you, and remember Jesus own words on the subject: “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

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[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 23, 2018 - Advancing Through Adversity

OCTOBER 23RD 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 23, 2018 - Advancing Through Adversity

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

TUESDAY

23

Adversity has a way of wearing us down, especially when the difficulty keeps going. Sometimes it feels as if we're simply moving from one problem to another without a pause in between. Although we cry out to God, the trials continue. What are we to do when we're overwhelmed and God isn't intervening?

One noteworthy trait of the apostle Paul was his determination to remain faithful to Christ through hardship. Many Christians get stuck in life's tough spots because they don't understand what God is doing. They want the Lord to rescue them from it, but oftentimes His desire is to give them "the surpassing greatness" of His power to go through the trouble (2 Corinthians 4:7).

How we respond to hardship reveals both our true character and our knowledge of God. It's easy to say, "I trust the Lord" when life is good, but unless we recognize that He is also sovereign even in adversity, our praises will soon turn to complaints and self-pity. Surrendering doesn't seem like a way to advance through hardships, yet it's essential. Otherwise, we may find ourselves resisting the Lord's good purposes.

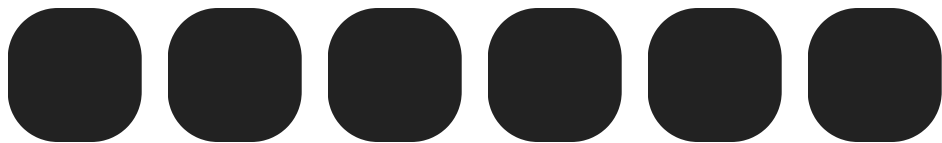
We serve a God who is worthy of our faith and confidence. Every trial is an opportunity for the light of Christ to shine through us. It's also one of the means He uses to mature our faith, conform us to the likeness of His Son, and fulfill His unique plan for our life.

When we trust in the Lord's faithfulness and sufficiency, we'll choose to focus on Him, knowing that temporary afflictions produce for us "an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

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