



[TOP](#)

# Daily Devotional - Tuesday, February 19, 2019 - When Fear Comes Calling

FEBRUARY 19TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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## 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Fear is an emotion that can be helpful or harmful. For instance, it's helpful to have the fear—or reverence—of the Lord, which keeps us from sin. And it's also beneficial to have a healthy fear that warns of dangers. But oftentimes we are plagued by a different kind of fear, which keeps us from obeying God; this kind is usually rooted in self-focus rather than faith. As Paul wrote to Timothy, we may have “a spirit of timidity,” which originates in faulty thinking (2 Timothy 1:7 ).

**Adequate vs. Inadequate.** When adverse circumstances arise, we may become anxious because we are convinced we're inadequate for the situation. However, it's not the situation but an error in our thinking that is causing the fear. Our adequacy is never in ourselves but in God, who makes us adequate for whatever He brings into our life (2 Corinthians 3:4-5).

**God's Standards vs. Our Standards.** Many of us set goals for ourselves that are unrealistic. Such standards impose undue pressure and generate anxiety when we fail. Although we may believe these goals are what God expects, they could be our own expectations. We must let the Lord direct our steps so *His* plans are accomplished, not ours (Prov. 16:9).

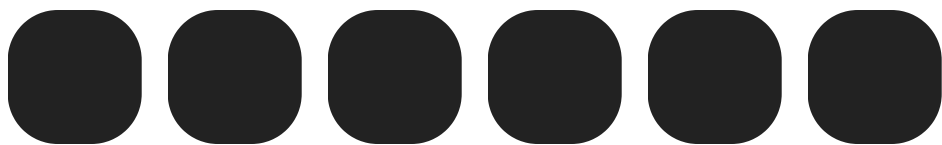
**Grace vs. Guilt.** Some of us are afraid of making a mistake, because we live with guilt over something we've done in the past and assume God is still displeased about it. However, Scripture assures us that in Christ, all our sins are forgiven and our guilt has been removed (Rom. 8:1).

The next time fear comes calling, take your eyes off yourself, answer it with the truth of God's Word, and let faith take its place.

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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Monday, February 18, 2019 - The Right Perspective

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FEBRUARY 18TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Philippians 1:19-26

The way we perceive our situation often has a greater impact on our life than the situation itself. You've probably seen this for yourself in those who profess to know Christ. One Christian goes through debilitating medical treatments with such trust in God that contentment and joy overshadow the suffering, whereas another believer becomes anxious and resentful.

The setting for today's passage is Paul's house arrest. Although the apostle had committed no crime, he found himself unjustly locked up. But despite such dire and seemingly hopeless conditions, he knew he had nothing to lose. If Caesar decided to have him executed, he'd immediately be with Christ, and that was a much better option in Paul's eyes. If, on the other hand, God allowed him to live, then he could continue a fruitful ministry for the kingdom. His conclusion was, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

When we are saved by the blood of Christ, Paul's statement is true for us as well. Our life is intricately bound up with our Savior, and we can never be separated from Him by any circumstance—not even death.

The word *circumstance* comes from two Latin roots meaning "around" and "to stand." Therefore, our circumstances are those things that stand around us, but Christ is the person who dwells within us. Everything we face, He faces. Our difficult and painful situations are an invitation to let Christ shine through us. When He is our life, then no matter what happens, we have nothing to lose and everything to gain. So let's fix our eyes on Jesus as He leads us through whatever lies ahead.

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[Go to post](#)



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## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, February 13, 2019 - A Gift for Every Believer

FEBRUARY 13TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, February 13, 2019 - A Gift for Every Believer

**1 Peter 4:10-11**

WEDNESDAY

13

Even though the Bible clearly states that every believer receives a spiritual gift, some people nevertheless think they were overlooked. So these men and women meander through life refusing opportunities to serve. Other folks are so busy wishing they had a different ability that they do not use the one bestowed by the Holy Spirit. Both of these attitudes hinder the body of Christ.

God has a specific purpose and ministry for every Christian. Our spiritual gifts help us to fulfill His plan. We learn which one (or ones) we possess by getting involved in the life of the church. In other words, a believer will know his divinely appointed abilities when he begins to exercise them.

Moreover, the Lord has a purpose in mind when He bestows spiritual gifts on His children. Christians are to exercise their special skills for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7), and everyone profits when believers do God's work through the power of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are used in a variety of ways, including to equip, edify, and encourage one another (Eph. 4:11-13).

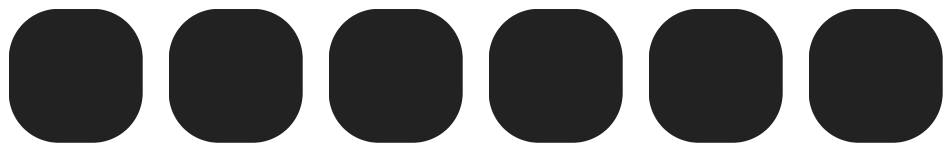
To appreciate how various gifts work to build up the body of Christ, we may have to broaden our understanding of words like *evangelist*, *prophet*, and *teacher*. Biblically, these terms describe co-laborers who share Christ, spiritual mentors who explain biblical truths to new believers, friends who uplift the discouraged, and others doing similar work.

Every member of the Christian fellowship is important, and each one has a task to do. Where God has gifted us and opened doors of opportunity for ministry, He also provides the strength and courage to exercise our abilities.

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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, February 12, 2019 - The Holy Spirit: Giver of Gifts

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FEBRUARY 12TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

**Romans 12:1-13**

TUESDAY

12

Do you feel ill-equipped to serve the Lord? A sense of inadequacy is one of many excuses people use to avoid ministry and service, but it's not a valid one. Evading the Father's call can affect His work on earth, prevent the blessings that come from obedience, and keep us from eternal rewards in heaven.

Jesus Christ knew all about the human tendency to feel inadequate. That is why He assured His followers they would receive a Helper—the Holy Spirit—who would come to abide in them forever (John 14:16). The Spirit enables, energizes, and equips believers to serve the Lord. One of the ways He aids us is by providing spiritual gifts, which are capabilities given to believers.

Our heavenly Father has a ministry in mind for each of His followers. Therefore, necessary spiritual “equipment” has been selected to help us carry out His work, and these gifts were planned by our Creator before we were born. It is His purpose that we embrace our gift and combine it with other believers' gifts in order to serve Him wholeheartedly as the body of Christ. Even the smallest job contributes to the Great Commission and the strengthening of Jesus Christ's body, the church.

The Lord has a plan for every believer. To ensure that we can meet His expectations, He first builds natural talents into us. At salvation, He adds a spiritual gift. Then the heavenly Father opens doors of opportunity and the Holy Spirit manifests His power so that we can carry out the work set before us.

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[Go to post](#)



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## Daily Devotional - Monday, February 11, 2019 - When God Says No

FEBRUARY 11TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, February 11, 2019 - When God Says No

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

MONDAY

11

We've all made foolish requests of God, which we're now glad He didn't answer. But this is easily forgotten when He's presently withholding something we think is good. With so many scriptural promises to answer prayer, why is God saying no? According to His Word, there are several possible reasons.

**God has forbidden it.** God won't contradict His Word or will, so praying for something prohibited in Scripture is futile. Because of Moses' disobedience, God had decreed the leader wouldn't enter the Promised Land. Moses asked Him to reconsider but was told not to speak of it again (Deut. 1:37; Deut. 3:23-28).

**It's for our protection.** Because of the divine revelations Paul received, God allowed a "thorn in the flesh" to remain in order to keep him from exalting himself. The Lord prioritizes our spiritual protection over physical comfort.

**God has a higher goal for us.** Christ’s power was displayed in the weakness caused by Paul’s thorn. Knowing the higher goal for his suffering allowed Paul to be content and even appreciative of his weakness for Christ’s sake.

**The Lord has something better for us.** Jesus didn’t immediately heal Lazarus. Mary and Martha couldn’t yet understand that He was going to do something even greater—raising Lazarus, which would glorify God (John 11:1-44).

**Our motives are wrong.** James says one of the reasons we don’t receive our request is because we’re asking for selfish reasons and not according to God’s will (John 4:3).

Many times we won’t understand the good that God is doing by withholding what we desire. But these examples let us know we can trust Him.

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