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## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 26, 2019 - Be Careful How You Walk

MARCH 26TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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### Matthew 18:1-7

We might think our sins affect no one but ourselves, yet that's not true. What we do impacts others whether we know it or not. And Jesus used strong terms to warn us: He said causing another person to sin would leave us worse off than if we were "drowned in the depth of the sea" with a millstone around our neck (Matt. 18:6).

People observe what we do, and who of us is without sin? We may try to excuse ourselves by claiming that most of our sin is trivial—hardly a blip on the screen—so such small indiscretions will not be noticed by others, let alone be damaging to them. But let's consider how some of our common sins can lead others down the wrong path.

- *Our lack of forgiveness towards someone could cause a close friend or family member to take up our cause and feel resentful too.*
- *Anger that flares up in us at regular intervals may be copied by our children, who then think they, too, have the right to express their tempers whenever they want.*

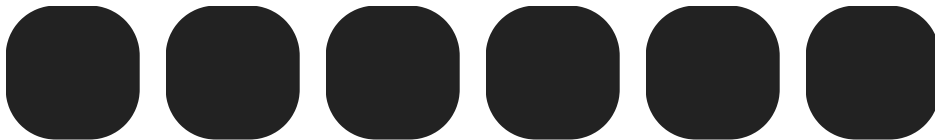
- *Lies we tell to get out of tight situations send a message—especially to children—that truth is optional, depending on the circumstances.*
- *Conversations rife with gossip can severely damage the reputations of other people and cause listeners to sin by spreading the rumors.*

The Lord’s warning should be taken seriously. We should consider the consequences of our actions and attitudes and then turn toward Jesus in confession and repentance. When we ask, He will give us the grace and strength to walk in His ways and influence others toward righteousness.

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## Daily Devotional - Monday, March 25, 2019 - A Decision to Follow Jesus

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### Luke 5:27-28

Yesterday we saw how Scripture answers the question *Who is Jesus?* Once we have that information, we must decide what to do with it. Some may choose to ignore what they have learned, but the truth is that we have only two options. We can either accept or reject Jesus as Savior; avoidance is actually a form of rejection.

So how, exactly, do we accept Jesus in our life? The answer is that we must believe in Him. This means placing confidence in the person of Christ, knowing that His death on Calvary's cross paid for all our sin. This is not merely an intellectual understanding; rather, it is a total surrender to Jesus as the only one who can forgive our sins, thereby bridging the gap between us and the Father. And when we receive Jesus as Savior, we immediately become children of the King.

Believers must also follow Christ's ways. Allowing Jesus to live out His lordship through our life means yielding our will and desires to His. In addition, Christians are to worship Him. We should be so overwhelmed by His presence that our heart and lips overflow with adoration.

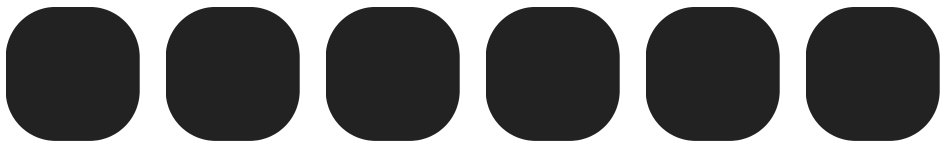
One last thing, of course, is that we're to share the truth with others. Just before ascending into heaven, Jesus commanded His followers to spread the good news of salvation to the entire world (Matt. 28:19-20).

We are blessed to have ready access to God's Word. Once we know who He is, we must decide whether we'll wholeheartedly yield our life to Him. He longs to have an intimate, personal relationship with you. Will you say yes to His offer?

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## Daily Devotional - Friday, March 22, 2019 - Reasons to Believe the Bible

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MARCH 22ND 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, March 22, 2019 - Reasons to Believe the Bible

### 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Have you ever wondered if you can trust what the Bible says? Although Scripture testifies to its own inspiration, there are also other evidences that affirm that the book we hold in our hands is the true and accurate Word of God.

**Jesus believed Scripture.** Our Savior affirmed the validity of the Old Testament by quoting passages as He taught. He used Isaiah's prophecies and the Pentateuch to poke holes in the Pharisees' false piety (Mark 7:6-13). And after His resurrection, He explained the things concerning Himself that had been written by Moses and the prophets (Luke 24:25-27). Finally, because Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit would teach the disciples and remind them of His words, He insured the accuracy of the New Testament as well (John 14:26).

**Scripture is inexhaustible.** Like a well that never runs dry, the Bible offers a fresh taste of living water each time we open it. People who have dedicated their lives to studying this amazing book admit they have only skimmed its surface. Personally, I can't count the times that a passage I knew by heart suddenly yielded new insights.

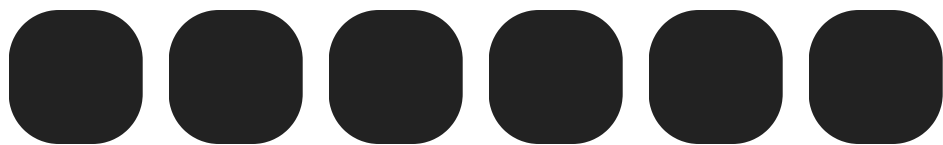
**Scripture is indestructible.** Over the years, various governments and leaders have tried in vain to destroy the Bible, or at least restrict access to it. And yet this polarizing—and well-loved—book keeps circulating and winning hearts for Christ.

The Bible truly is the most amazing book ever written because it comes directly from God. Not only does it accurately predict the future; it also has the power to save sinners and transform them into saints.

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## Daily Devotional - Thursday, March 21, 2019 The Lord Comforts Sinners

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MARCH 21ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

## John 8:1-11

We expect a loving heavenly Father to care for His children when they are hurt, persecuted, or misunderstood. But you might be surprised to realize that God comforts believers even when they have sinned.

Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save anyone who believes in Him (John 3:17). Consider His response to the woman whom the Pharisees caught committing adultery. They brought her behavior to Jesus' attention and wanted to stone her. But instead of taking up a rock, Jesus offered forgiveness. The Lord did not defend her actions or completely erase all consequences of her choices. However, He did offer compassion as well as an opportunity to turn her life around and live in the forgiveness He granted: "Go. From now on sin no more" (John 8:11).

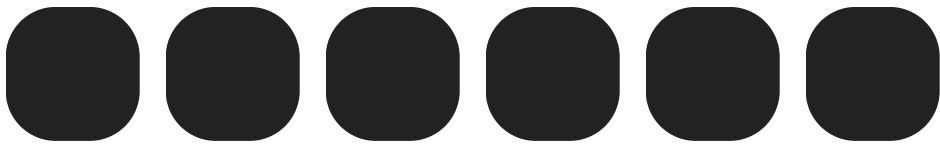
The Lord understands our human frailty. And even before we do wrong, He knows the poisonous harvest that we will reap from sin. We certainly want a lot of comfort when we are suffering from our own foolishness. A loving heavenly Father does not abandon His children at their hour of great need—His Spirit wades into the mess we have made. He offers to guide us out of the pit, soothes our broken heart, and provides reassurance that He is always close by.

Sinning against the Lord makes us feel unworthy of His care and solace. Yet God's forgiveness is based on His great mercy rather than our conduct. If Jesus Christ sacrificed His life to save you from your sins, then He will love and comfort you, no matter what.

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## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 20, 2019 - The God Who Comforts

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MARCH 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 20, 2019 - The God Who Comforts

### 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Look up comfort in a dictionary and you'll find a definition like "something that promotes a state of ease or provides freedom from pain and anxiety." But according to God's Word, when consolation is needed, the only true solution is the indwelling Holy Spirit. In Greek, He is called *parakl?tos*, which means "he who stands at one's side; he who comes to one's aid." Believers don't have to rely on outward remedies or distractions to ease their mind, because help is available from the ultimate Comforter.

Even before the Holy Spirit was sent to indwell believers (John 14:26; Eph. 3:16), Scripture identified God as the one who comforts His people (Isa. 40:1; Isa. 49:13). The Lord personally provides consolation and reassurance because no one knows our hurts the way He does.

I like this anonymous quotation: "When we have gone into the furnace of affliction, His hand is on the thermostat and His eye is on the clock." God allows hardship, and as a result, we become stronger believers, wiser servants, and more humble people. But He stays by our side through the entire experience, sustaining us and limiting the intensity and duration of our distress. The Spirit's reassuring whisper to our heart gives more comfort than the solace of family or the

encouragement of friends.

People who fail to understand the true source of comfort try to escape their pain. They seek out pleasures, material wealth, or drugs and alcohol to soothe them. Only God can offer lasting relief from the crushing pressure of heartache. He even brings joy into periods of mourning.

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