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Daily Devotional - Thursday, April 18, 2019 - Going Home

APRIL 18TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Revelation 21:1-21

The longer we [live](#) as Christians, the more we should feel like strangers in this world. Something within us recognizes that we're outsiders here, and we yearn for that day when Jesus opens the door of heaven and welcomes us home. Although everything that God has prepared for us is beyond our comprehension, John helps us catch a glimpse by describing the contrast between what we know in this world and what it will be like in heaven.

God will dwell among us. Throughout [history](#), no human being could see God, but that barrier won't remain, because sin will be eradicated in us. Since we will be completely righteous forever, we will no longer have to continually fight off unholy urges.

Sin's consequences will pass away. All the suffering that has afflicted us will end. There will be no more tears, death, mourning, or pain. That is when we will discover firsthand the truth of Psalm 16:11: "In Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your [right hand](#) there are pleasures forever."

Our new home will be glorious. Jesus assured His disciples He was going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house (John 14:2-3). The location is the New Jerusalem, and since it's

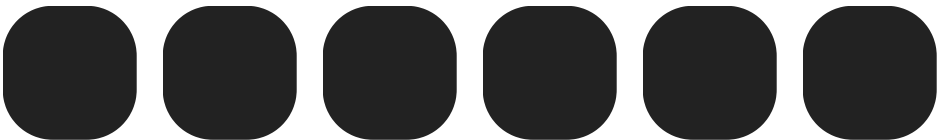
a cube 1,500 miles on a side (Revelation 21:16), there'll be plenty of room for every believer. That remarkable place radiates the brilliance of God's glory like a large multi-faceted diamond—John compared its beauty to a bride who's adorned for her husband on their wedding day.

Fix a mental image of John's description in your mind. In those moments when this life disappoints you, remember that you're not home yet.

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, April 17, 2019 - Standing in the Storm

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Psalm 62:1-8

“What am I going to do?” How many times have we all uttered this cry of despair? Sometimes the [storms](#) of life come without letup; they seem endless, successively crashing against us until we feel as though we can’t take any more. In those times of desperation, Psalm 62 offers three valuable lessons.

First, we must wait. It’s understandable that we want answers and relief immediately, but the Lord acts in His own perfect time, and He’s never late. Therefore, we must wait for Him to guide us to the next step—even when that means resisting our natural desire to react quickly and [take control](#) of circumstances.

Second, we must wait in silence. When we quiet our mind and tongue, we give God an opportunity to speak His words of hope and trust to our heart. Instead of letting anxiety and worry occupy our thoughts, we must focus on God’s promises from Scripture. Then He will give us patience, trust, courage, and the assurance that He cares and is in control.

Third, we must keep in mind the motivation for this waiting—God’s intervention. Our focus is to be on the Lord, not on our troubles, ourselves, or other people. We must learn to filter out whatever is pulling our attention away from trust in almighty God, who is working according to His will and timing.

When the storms of life batter you, [make sure](#) that your feet are planted on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. Do not despair, asking, *What am I going to do?* Rather, ask, *What is God doing?* And be assured—He is doing something.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, April 15, 2019 - How to Seek the Lord

APRIL 15TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, April 15, 2019 - How to Seek the Lord

Psalm 105:1-7

Although Scripture tells us to [seek](#) the Lord, many Christians struggle with this command. Some are so distracted by other interests and responsibilities that God is only a miniscule part of their goals and desires in life. When confronted with their responsibility to pursue Him, they often feel guilty but don't know how to begin.

When desire for the Lord surpasses our eagerness for other pursuits, following through becomes more natural. But hunger for the Lord can be like an acquired taste. The more we pursue Him, the greater our hunger will be. However, if we ignore Him, what little appetite we have will diminish even further. Do you find that the latter describes your experience? If so, ask the heavenly Father to whet your appetite for Him—and follow through by making the effort to seek Him.

Begin with the Scriptures and prayer. Set aside time each day for meditating on God's Word—listen for His voice, slowly digest what you read, talk to the Lord, ask Him questions, and apply what you learn to your life. Begin studying the Bible. Some of you may say, "I've

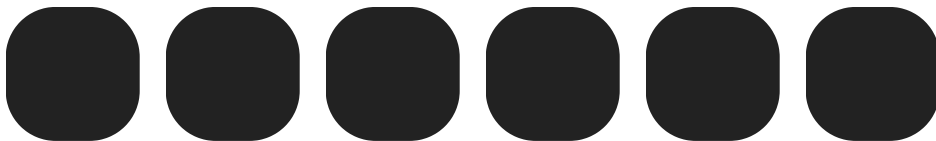
never been into that.” My advice: Get into it! The deep things of God don’t just drop into our brains; they are placed there through diligent study.

Seeking anything requires time and effort. Will you invest your life in the pursuit of the Eternal One—the source of all contentment, joy, and hope? Or will you go after that which is fleeting? By neglecting the Lord, you cheat yourself of all the benefits He promises to those who diligently seek Him.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, April 12, 2019 - Where the Battle is Won

APRIL 12TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Matthew 26:36-46

The garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives was one of the many places our Lord prayed throughout His earthly ministry (Luke 22:39). But believers [remember](#) it best as the site of a great spiritual battle. The story of Jesus pleading with His Father is extremely meaningful to Christians, in large part because His humanity is so evident. From the description in today's passage, we can see that Jesus, the God-man, experienced fear, anxiety, and dread as He prayed. In other words, He reacted to His imminent ordeal with feelings we can relate to and understand.

Satan taunts believers by telling them they can't be like Jesus because He is God. But He was God cloaked in human flesh, which means that He experienced the world as we do. Yet He won every spiritual [battle](#) he faced. The secret to His success is what He did at Gethsemane. He secluded Himself and prayed until His will was fully surrendered to the Father. The battle was won on His knees.

Jesus left the garden a prisoner, but at the same time He walked out victorious. He accepted God's will for His life, even though pain was a certainty. Our Savior had been called to die, and He knew that the potential blessings and consequences were all in His Father's hands.

As believers, we confront some fearsome trials too, and God [uses](#) these hardships to conform us to His Son's image (1 Peter 4:12-13). If we are to be like Jesus, we must learn from His actions. In the face of difficulty, we should seek God's will and leave the consequences in His almighty hands.

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, April 10, 2019 - the Source of Discernment

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, April 10, 2019 - the Source of Discernment

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Spiritual discernment is a supernatural ability, which requires supernatural power. In our human strength, we can rely only on what we see, hear, feel, and know in order to make decisions and evaluate circumstances and relationships. But when the [Holy Spirit](#) comes to live within us, He opens up an entirely new dimension of understanding. He shows us things we could never figure out by ourselves.

The Bible is one source of spiritual discernment, but without the interpreting power of the Spirit, reading it would be strictly an academic endeavor. It is the Holy Spirit who takes the words of Scripture and brings them to life in the believer's heart. He knows precisely how to apply God's Word to our exact need at the right moment. You have probably found this to be true: A passage you've read many times hasn't stood out before, but when you need a particular message, that familiar verse jumps off the page right into your heart and transforms your thoughts.

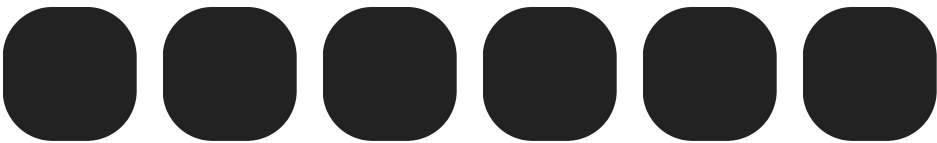
That’s the work of the Spirit—His job is to open our understanding to “the things freely given to us by God” (1 Corinthians 2:12). The Lord isn’t trying to hide His thoughts from us. Rather, He wants us to [know](#) how He thinks so we can proceed wisely.

Then what should we do if we’re struggling to understand Scripture? The Lord wants us to seek Him and ask for wisdom to comprehend. This requires time invested in Bible study and prayer. And remember, the more yielded we are to the Spirit, the more we’ll be able to hear His voice.

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