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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 23, 2019 - Is Your Faith Genuine?

APRIL 23RD 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Matthew 7:13-27

During my first pastorate in the mountains of [North Carolina](#), I traveled throughout the area meeting people, telling them about the Lord, and inviting them to church. They all claimed to believe in Jesus even though many had no interest in church or the Bible and their lives showed no evidence of salvation. I feared that whatever faith they had would not take them to heaven.

Believing in vain is probably more common in the church than we'd care to admit. Some people assume they are Christians simply because they were raised in a Christian family or have attended church since childhood. Sometimes they merely believe the facts about Jesus in the same way that they're confident George Washington existed.

However, there are also many people who deliberately limit what they believe about Christ and His Word. They don't want a faith that [requires](#) them to forsake their sins and change their lifestyle. If asked what they believe, they may respond that their faith is a private matter.

Other people have been led to think they are saved because of an experience. They may have heard a nebulous invitation to make Jesus a part of their life, or perhaps an encounter at a conference made them feel close to God.

Today's passage is a sobering warning. How can we be certain that our faith is genuine and our salvation is sure? Jesus said the proof lies in our obedience to God's Word. If we are in Christ, then as He works to conform us to His image, the evidence will be displayed in our character, conduct, and conversation.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, April 22, 2019 - Solving Problems Through Prayer

APRIL 22ND 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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2 Chronicles 20:1-32

Problems are an inevitable part of life whether a person is saved or not. The difference is that once a man or woman becomes a believer, the Father strengthens His child to face every difficulty.

Our omniscient and omnipotent God is greater than any problem. He knows our future circumstances and equips our heart and mind to withstand the coming trial. The moment we encounter a problem, we can turn to His omnipotence. He promised to meet believers' needs and, therefore, is under His own divine obligation to give guidance and direction. Our first response should always be to call out "Father!" and pray. Immediately, two things take place: The problem's growth is stunted, and God's child is reminded of the unique position given those who trust in the sovereign Lord.

God always provides when we face problems. However, that doesn't mean we should be sitting back and waiting for Him to work out the **details**. His provision may require an act of faith from us in order to reach a resolution. Experience and Scripture tell us that His solutions are always best, but human strength may falter when we hear what He asks of us in response to our prayers. Thankfully, He also offers the courage to act at the right moment.

Long before a crisis arises or a solution is needed, a wise believer will be seeking God in prayer. In trouble-free times, we can build a foundation of trust and communion with Him that can withstand any hardship. Problems are unavoidable, but as we seek our Father in prayer, He is faithful to deal with our difficulties.

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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

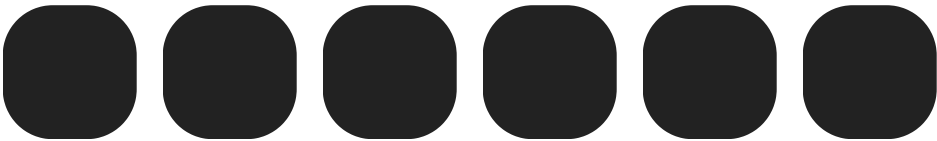
diamond—John compared its beauty to a bride who’s adorned for her husband on their wedding day.

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

APRIL 17TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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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.

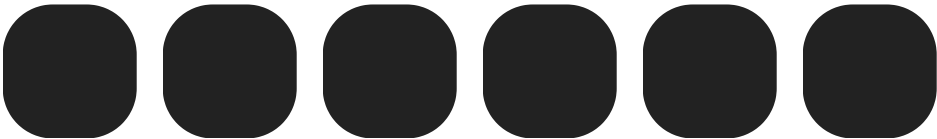
Begin with the Scriptures and prayer. Set aside time each day for meditating on God's Word—listen for His voice, slowly digest what you read, talk to the Lord, ask Him questions, and apply what you learn to your life. Begin studying the Bible. Some of you may say, "I've [never been](#) into that." My 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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