Faith Matters

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, May 1, 2019 - Holding Fast the Faithful Word

MAY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, May 1, 2019 - Holding Fast the Faithful Word

Titus 1:5-9

Today's passage describes God's requirement for elders and pastors in the church. Every believer, however, should aspire to the qualities mentioned, because they exemplify the spiritual maturity Christ desires for all of us. While everything listed is praiseworthy, the last item—"holding fast the faithful word"—is the foundation for all the rest (1 Timothy 1:9).

To hold fast means "to adhere, cling, or be devoted." The phrase implies not only believing God's Word to be true but also doing what it says by applying scriptural truths to every area of life. Peter described such devotion this way: "Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

A consistent intake of Scripture is essential for our spiritual growth, and it enables us to distinguish between truth and error. The Bible is called "the faithful word" because it's reliable and true. The Word of God is the means by which those who hold fast to it can "exhort in sound doctrine and … refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9).

If we aren't grounded in Scripture, we'll unknowingly accept philosophies and teachings that will lead us astray. But when biblical truth has saturated our mind and heart, we'll sense a red flag pop up in our spirit whenever we encounter an erroneous concept.

God's Word is the compass for our life—not something we read only occasionally. It's nutrition for our spiritual growth, a guide for life, protection from sin and error, and a means of knowing God better.

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National Day of Prayer to be Held at Dexter City Hall

APRIL 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

National Day of Prayer to be Held at Dexter City Hall

Dexter, Missouri - The National Day of Prayer event will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at the Dexter City Hall building located at 301 E. Stoddard Street across from the downtown fire station. If rain they will move across the street at the First Christian Church.

The public is encouraged to attend this free event.

"The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman."

In 2018, their theme will be Pray for America - UNITY, based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, "Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Our hope is that individuals, churches, and spiritual leaders in America, will humble ourselves and unify in prevailing prayer for the next great move of God in America. We can come together in clear agreement that this is our greatest need. We can become a visible union, standing together in prayer. We can pray more than ever before, and practice extraordinary prayer for the next great move of God in America that will catapult the message of the gospel nationally and internationally.

Pray with us. Sponsor an event in your community. Become a volunteer. Order resources to help promote an event in your area. Support the National Day of Prayer financially. Together, we can mobilize unified public prayer for America!

"There is no great movement of God that has ever occurred that does not begin with the extraordinary prayer of God's people." Dr. Ronnie Floyd

For more information click HERE!

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 30, 2019 - An Awareness of God

APRIL 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 30, 2019 - An Awareness of God

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The three commands in today's passage may look simple because they're short, but many people find them challenging to obey. Our lives are so full of responsibilities and activities that it's all we can do to keep up our schedules, let alone live as these verses command. There's only one way to succeed—not by trying harder but by focusing on Christ. When He becomes the center of our attention, our attitude and behavior will change.

Rejoice Always. The realization that our omnipotent God is constantly with us puts troubling circumstances in their proper place—under His authority. It also helps us sense the incomparable joy of His companionship, even in difficulties and suffering.

Pray without ceasing. It's important to set aside time each day to come before the Lord with our problems and requests. But believers also long for an ongoing attitude of prayer, which, like a continual conversation, is expressed either verbally or in our thoughts. Then if a decision is required or trouble comes, our first thought is to turn to God for help.

Give thanks in everything. If our minds are set on the Lord each day, we'll be able to thank Him regardless of the situation. That's because we know He is with us and will work everything for our good—if not here, then in heaven.

These three admonitions are a call to become preoccupied with Christ. If we are consumed with other thoughts, it's easy to feel irritated, worry unceasingly, and complain about everything. But when we begin each day in God's Word, we are reminded of His instructions and His care.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, April 29, 2019 - A Mind Set on Christ

APRIL 29TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, April 29, 2019 - A Mind Set on Christ

Colossians 3:1-4

What occupies your thoughts? That's a challenging question and one we should not ignore. In many ways, we are what we think. If our thoughts are focused on the concerns of this world, we will become like the world. But if our minds are set on the things above—in other words, where Christ is—we'll become more like Him.

The point isn't merely to think about heaven but to think on Christ, who is in heaven. When we do this, changes will start to take place:

We will gain an eternal perspective. Instead of being distracted by trivial pursuits and discouraged by hardships and pain, we'll be devoted to living for Christ. Then we will be able to rest in our loving Father's choices for us.

Things of the world will lose appeal. The more aware we are of Jesus, the less we tolerate sin, because we know it doesn't fit us anymore. Instead of chasing the passing pleasures and goals of the culture, we'll pursue a lifestyle of obedience to the Lord.

We'll realize our security is in Christ. Right now we are "hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). This speaks of our eternal security and also gives us a sense of safety since nothing comes our way without passing through God's hands.

We look forward to a glorious future. When Christ is revealed, then we will be revealed with Him in glory (v. 4). Even when everything looks dismal, we have a reason to hope because our time here is infinitesimal compared to eternity with Christ.

Your beliefs determine your perspective on life, and that shapes your priorities and attitudes.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, April 25, 2019 - God's

Faithfulness

APRIL 25TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, April 25, 2019 - God's Faithfulness

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Ever since the heavenly Father created time, everything has been in flux—everything, that is, except God Himself. The environment changes with the seasons, and in a similar way, our life also goes through seasons. Some are filled with joy, while others are characterized by difficulty. But the Lord is faithful, and we can always take comfort in knowing this.

Faithfulness is one of God's unchanging attributes. It means that He always does exactly what He says He will do and acts in accordance with His nature. He can never deny Himself, so when He promises to "sanctify you entirely" (1 Thessalonians 5:23), you can count on Him to make you more like Christ—even using the painful seasons of life to do so.

God's unchanging nature and faithfulness are the foundation of our hope. Because He won't change His mind about our salvation, we have the assurance of eternal security. Since He is the sovereign Ruler of the universe, we never have to fear that our world is out of His control. His plans were formed long ago with perfect faithfulness (Isa. 25:1), and no one can frustrate them or turn back His hand (Isa. 14:27).

Because God is faithful, we can have peace of mind in any circumstance—even in the face of death. Although we will change with time and the seasons of life will come and go, our faithful God is always the same. Since we belong to Him through Christ, He will never forget, neglect, or abandon us. He has promised to preserve us "complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23), and He will do it.

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