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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, May 8, 2019 How to Discern Direction From God

MAY 08TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, May 8, 2019 How to Discern Direction From God

Psalm 86:1-13

Have you been seeking the Lord's guidance on a particular issue yet still can't discern what He would have you do? We don't always know why God doesn't make everything clear when we ask for His help. But doing certain things can prepare us to hear His directions.

Seek Cleansing. We need to ask the Lord if there is anything in our life that is hindering our prayers. Then, if He brings something to mind, we can receive His cleansing through confession (1 John 1:9).

Surrender. If we have not fully yielded ourselves to the Lord, our heart will remain set on our own desires. When that's the case, we'll have difficulty perceiving His will (James 4:3).

Ask Wisely. God is committed to answering our prayers if we ask according to His will (1 John 5:14-15). Therefore, we must carefully consider if our requests align with His desires as revealed in Scripture.

Meditate. Since God's Word is a light to our path, the more we think about the truths of Scripture, the clearer the way will become (Psalm 119:105).

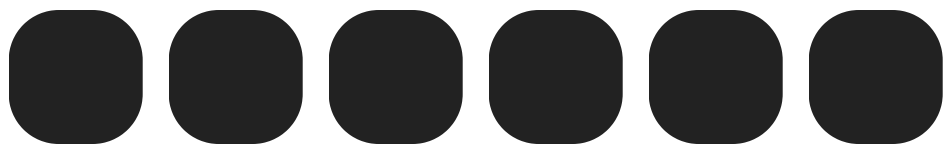
Wait. God promises to act on the behalf of those who wait (Isa. 64:4). Therefore, we must resist the urge to run ahead of Him by trying to fix the situation ourselves or manipulate circumstances to get our desired outcome.

Instead of letting uncertainty cause you to become anxious or fearful, consider these five practices. Then begin to look at your situation as an opportunity to trust your sovereign, omnipotent God who always works everything for your good (Rom. 8:28).

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, May 7, 2019 - Seeking God's Guidance

MAY 07TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Psalm 16:1-11

A correct perspective of God is vital because it determines how we interact with Him. For instance, if we think He is concerned only about the big events in world history, we won't bother to pray about our daily concerns. However, if our view of Him is grounded in the Scriptures, we'll readily seek His guidance, knowing that He cares about every aspect of our life.

Despite this assurance, there may be times when we are so determined to get what we want that we don't even ask for God's direction. Instead, we plunge ahead, thinking that He will simply stop us if our decision is not according to His will. But the Lord won't necessarily prevent us from doing that which is not His will, nor will He always come to our rescue if we have acted presumptuously without seeking His help.

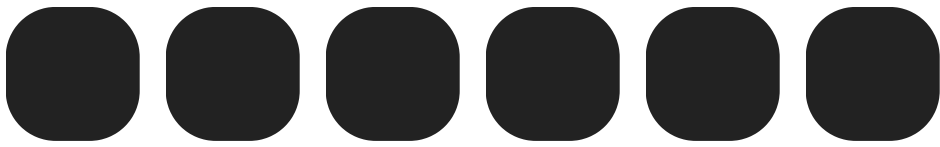
A better approach is to do as David did. He said, "I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:8). The omniscient heavenly Father has provided everything we need to live wisely through His Word and His Spirit. And as those who know and love Him, we should desire to please God by seeking His direction in every area of life.

The Lord is certainly willing to guide us through the treacherous seas of decision-making. But we must pay attention to the instructions in His Word and to the promptings of His Spirit, who is our helper, teacher, and guide. Then we can say with David, "I will bless the Lord who has counseled me" (Psalm 16:7).

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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).

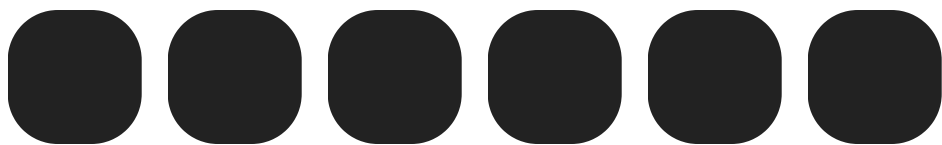
If we aren't grounded in Scripture, we'll unknowingly accept philosophies and teachings that will lead us astray. But when biblical truth has saturated our mind and heart, we'll sense a red flag pop up in our spirit whenever we encounter an erroneous concept.

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

APRIL 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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.

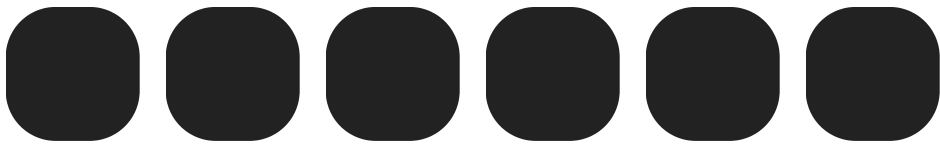
Give thanks in everything. If our minds are set on the Lord each day, we'll be able to thank Him regardless of the situation. That's because we know He is with us and will work everything for our good—if not here, then in heaven.

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

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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.

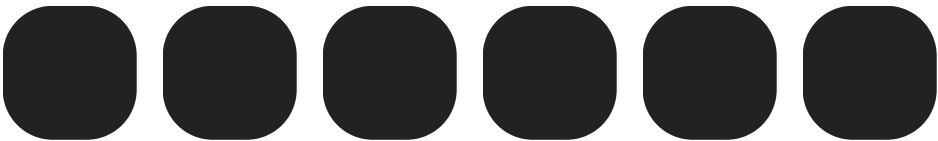
We look forward to a glorious future. When Christ is revealed, then we will be revealed with Him in glory (v. 4). Even when everything looks dismal, we have a reason to hope because our time here is infinitesimal compared to eternity with Christ.

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

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