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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, August 11, 2021 - Spiritual Growth

AUGUST 11TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, August 11, 2021 - Spiritual Growth

Romans 5:1-5

The Holy Spirit's presence is essential for the Christian life. Despite our best efforts, we have no ability to produce Christlike character on our own. Although we've been declared righteous through faith in Jesus, we still succumb to sin, pressures of the world, and the deceptions and temptations of the devil.

Thankfully, we have a resource that is greater than any hindrance—God's omnipotent, indwelling Spirit. He continually works to transform us into Christ's image by giving us holy desires and ambitions, making us sensitive to His leading, and empowering our obedience and service. When we're submissive to the Spirit, we grow in our faith and resemble Jesus more and more.

However, this doesn't mean that we play no part in the process. The practical truth is that we must exercise obedient attitudes even if we're feeling otherwise. These include loving the unlovable, choosing joy instead of grumbling, being kind when we'd rather respond with harshness, and practicing patience despite frustration or anger. And the great mystery is that when we rely on the Spirit, our heart changes—love takes root, joy fills our heart, kindness feels right, and patience produces a peaceful spirit.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 10, 2021 - More Than a Savior

AUGUST 10TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 10, 2021 - More Than a Savior

Hebrews 1:1-4

Who is this Jesus? It's a question that has been asked by countless individuals for more than two millennia. And, to be sure, it is the most important question that can ever be asked and answered. After all, it's how we begin our journey toward salvation.

So it's essential to answer that question by saying Jesus is indeed our Savior. But He is also more—Scripture refers to Him as “the image of the invisible God” ([Col. 1:15](#)). No one has ever looked upon the face of the Almighty. In the Old Testament, some people found themselves in

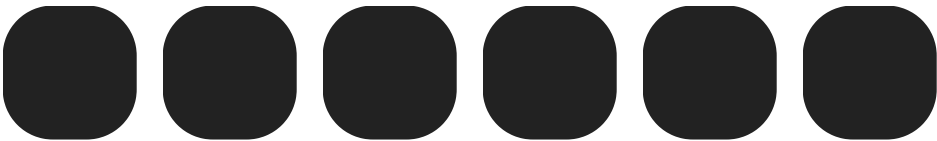
His presence, but they were never able to look fully upon His glory. However, when the Son came down from heaven, veiled in human flesh, He bridged the gap between the Father’s perfect holiness and mankind’s sinful condition. That’s why Jesus could say, “The one who has seen Me has seen the Father” ([John 14:9](#)).

The way we come to know the Father is by knowing the Son, who is the only full expression and explanation of God. Everyone who through faith trusts Jesus as Savior receives forgiveness of sins and Christ’s imputed righteousness. What’s more, believers are given divine insight into God the Father as well.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, August 9, 2021 - Was Jesus Christ Really God?

AUGUST 09TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

John 1:1-18

Some people say they're Christians but don't acknowledge the divinity of Christ. They think He was simply a good teacher, healer, philosopher, or social reformer. I want to be crystal clear on this matter: You can believe all of these wonderful things about Jesus and even laud Him as a prophet sent by almighty God. But if you do not accept that Jesus Christ is God the Son and that He died for your sins, then you do not actually know Him.

It's true Jesus was fully human, but the wonderful, supernatural mystery is that He was also fully divine. And believing this is absolutely essential to the understanding of how we are saved.

Now, you may have heard people falsely argue that Jesus never actually claimed to be God. Yet time and again in the Gospels, Jesus places Himself on equal footing with the Father ([John 10:30](#); [John 14:6-14](#)). In fact, if Jesus was not truly God's Son, then as C. S. Lewis observed, He was either a lunatic or the world's most detestable liar. Don't spend one more day believing Jesus is anything less than the Son of God. Your eternal salvation depends on it.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 3, 2021 - The Slow Process of Erosion

AUGUST 03RD 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 3, 2021 - The Slow Process of Erosion

Romans 12:1-2

When you hear the word *erosion*, what comes to mind? Most likely, you think about how land or rocks wear away over an extended period of time. In the same manner, erosion in our spiritual lives tends to happen subtly over the course of months or years.

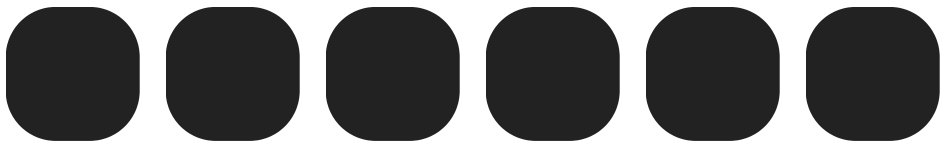
What causes this spiritual stagnation and deterioration? The answer is often conformity to the world's methods and values, plus compromise with sin. The process of erosion begins in the mind when we let our thoughts, attitudes, and desires be shaped by culture. Before long, we begin to conform to the godless and sinful behavior around us.

Is your spiritual life where you want it to be? Has it been gradually weakened by the pressures of the world? Are you letting social media, other people's opinions, and the culture shape your reasoning, desires, and ambitions? If so, the way to counteract the erosion is to turn back to the Lord in obedience and let Scripture renew your mind with His truth. As you learn to see life from God's perspective, your desires and behaviors will conform to His perfect will.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, July 29, 2021 - Developing Faith Through Adversity

JULY 29TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, July 29, 2021 - Developing Faith Through Adversity

2 Corinthians 11:23-30

Paul spent years serving Christ, yet he experienced continual suffering. It doesn't seem fair, does it? Why would God let him go through so much pain? It's a question many of us ask today about ourselves. We think the Lord should protect us from hardships, but He doesn't always do so.

Maybe our reasoning is backward. We think faithful Christians don't deserve to suffer, but from God's perspective, suffering is part of being a Christian. If we all had lives of ease without pain, we'd never really know God, because we would never need Him. Like it or not, adversity teaches us things that simply reading the Bible never will.

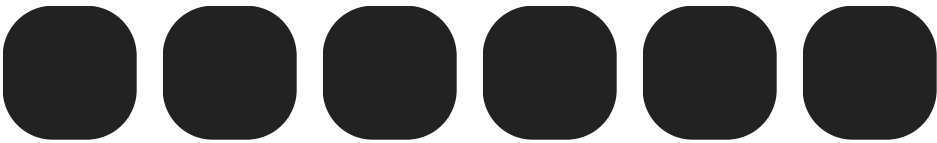
I'm not saying we don't need to know Scripture; that's our foundation for faith. But if what we believe is never tested, it remains head knowledge. How will we ever know the Lord can be trusted in the midst of trouble if we've never experienced hardships? God gives us opportunities to apply scriptural truths to the difficulties facing us, and in the process, we find Him faithful.

Trials can be a means of building faith or an avenue to discouragement and self-pity—it’s up to you. But if you’ll apply God’s Word to your situation, your trust in Him and your faith will be strengthened through adversity.

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