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Daily Devotional - Thursday, August 26, 2021 - Growing Faith

AUGUST 26TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, August 26, 2021 -Growing Faith

Faith isn't a one-time event with the single purpose of ushering us into salvation. Sadly, some Christians never progress beyond this initial level of faith. But God wants our relationship with Him to continually grow. [2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4](#)

Willingness to trust the Lord affects every area of our life—how we feel, what we do, the way He blesses us. In some ways, it comes down to our focus: When you face difficulties or heartbreak, do you notice the impossibility of the circumstances, or do you see the greatness of our Father? Another way to ask the question is, Whose voice are you listening to?

Our focus also affects our emotions. Those who choose to believe God experience peace and joy. But when we doubt, it's easier for anxiety and fear to creep in. Then, instead of resting in Christ, we fuss and fume, trying to anticipate all possible outcomes and solve problems in our own strength.

We need to realize that our faith is of utmost importance to God, and He takes joy in seeing it grow. He can move heaven and earth to act on our behalf and answer our prayers—and He delights in our choosing to believe that. By trusting Him, we will discover new excitement and adventure in life. We'll also see that our Father is always faithful.

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, August 25, 2021 - God's Loving Outreach

AUGUST 25TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

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John 4:1-42

The Lord's encounter with the Samaritan woman is a wonderful example of His loving response to hurting individuals. Although this meeting may have appeared accidental, it was really a providential appointment with the Messiah.

As the woman approached the well, Jesus initiated conversation by asking for a drink of water. Since Jews and Samaritans didn't fraternize with one another, His direct approach surprised her. But it opened the door for dialogue.

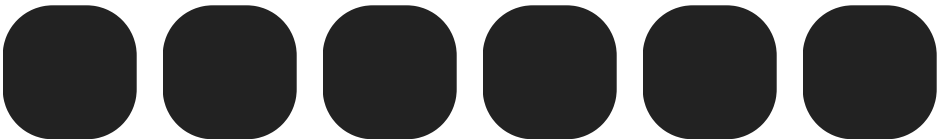
Throughout the exchange, Jesus wanted to help the woman recognize her greatest need so He could meet it: salvation. It seems she'd been looking in the wrong places for love and acceptance, but now Christ was offering her the living water of the Holy Spirit—the only thing that would quench her spiritual thirst.

Like the Samaritan woman, we can at times be so intent on getting our immediate needs met that we fail to see God's hand reaching out in love, offering true satisfaction. The world makes all kinds of promises about love, acceptance, and self-worth, but they never last. Only Jesus can fill our empty souls for eternity. So when your well runs dry, look for Christ and let Him quench your thirst with His Spirit.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 24, 2021 - Becoming a Patient Person

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Acts 25

Continuing our discussion on patience, we can learn a lot about the topic from the story of Paul's trial. Instead of letting his accusers stir him up, the apostle patiently went through the legal process. He refrained from attacking the opposition or decrying the injustice of the charges. And eventually Paul's peaceful manner won favor with the governor and earned him a hearing for the gospel (Acts 25:24-25).

We need the Lord's help to grow in patience like Paul. This will involve our ...

- **Thoughts.** We should try to shift our attention away from circumstances and onto our heavenly Father. His Spirit will help us gain the right perspective.
- **Emotions.** When we notice negative feelings, it's good to pause and ask the Holy Spirit to guide our reactions. Then we can request that He empower us to respond in a godly manner.
- **Speech.** Pray for self-control over your tongue. A timely word can defuse a situation ([Prov. 15:18](#)).

The Lord will answer our prayers and provide what we need, just as He did for Paul when the apostle faced Festus and King Agrippa. Despite the injustice of those situations, Paul remained unprovoked. Imagine what God will do through you as you grow in the virtue of patience.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, August 23, 2021 - Developing Patience

AUGUST 23RD 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Colossians 3:12-17

On any given day, we may encounter frustrating people and situations, such as a mischievous child, uncooperative coworker, or slow commute. We might feel like lashing out, but God wants us to stay calm and be patient with everyone ([1 Thess. 5:14](#)). Scripture has a number of things to say about believers developing this important attribute.

First, it is our calling. God urges us to be tolerant, kind, and bear each other's burdens ([Eph. 4:1-3](#)). Second, the Lord has set an example for us: He demonstrated patience toward Peter's actions, the crowd's demands, and the leaders' false accusations. We should aspire to such composure. And third, we should recognize how damaging impatience is. It can hurt others and close off dialogue. Responding calmly gives people room to confess wrongdoing, explain their attitude, and make changes.

Patience is part of the spiritual fruit that increasingly develops as we're conformed to Christ's image ([Gal. 5:22-23](#)). When we rely on the Holy Spirit, He empowers us to wade through moments of waiting and provocation—without becoming agitated. A calm demeanor in times of delay or adversity can be a powerful witness to the transforming work of God.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, August 20, 2021 - Our Firm Foundation

AUGUST 20TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, August 20, 2021 - Our Firm Foundation

Psalm 62

At certain moments throughout history, God literally shook the earth. The ground quaked as His Son died on the cross ([Matt. 27:51](#)), and there will be an even greater upheaval in the future when Christ returns ([Zech. 14:4](#)).

But even in our present day, the Lord often lets the various foundations of our world shake—whether political alliances, financial systems, or other forms of human security. That's

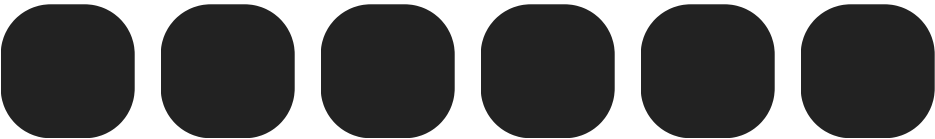
when we can see the flimsiness of the institutions on which we’ve based our hopes. Not to mention that our personal lives can also be rocked by financial crises, relational conflicts, illness, or loss. If we’ve relied on the fragile footing of human wisdom, achievement, or pride, things may look good for a while, but a weak foundation cannot withstand the storms of life.

The believer, however, can have peace even in the midst of instability. That’s because we know God always has a purpose for the upheavals He allows to occur. Hardships have a way of shaking us out of our apathy and self-centeredness, and they serve as reminders not to trust in ourselves or the temporary institutions of this world. There is only one secure foundation: a genuine, saving relationship with Jesus Christ, which will carry us through any and all turmoil.

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