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Daily Devotional - Monday, August 30, 2021 - Dead Men Walking

AUGUST 30TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, August 30, 2021 - Dead Men Walking

Ephesians 2:1-5

Zombie movies are science fiction, but did you know that, spiritually speaking, there actually are dead men and women walking around on earth? They look like everyone else, but deep down inside, their spirit is dead. Truth be known, everyone begins life as a spiritual “zombie.”

Human beings are composed of a body by which they interact with the world around them, a soul with which they relate to themselves and others, and a spirit through which they can commune with God. If the spirit is dead in “trespasses and sins,” the person may still lead a successful earthly life, but he won’t be able to connect with God or make himself acceptable in the Lord’s sight. In that way, the dead can do nothing.

It’s easy to imagine how this is true of someone who has given himself fully to debasing sin. But sadly, there are many moral church-going folks who are spiritually dead even though they are externally religious. However, the good news is that no one has to stay dead. Whenever anyone turns from sin and trusts in Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation, God in His mercy makes that person alive with Christ.

And the change is permanent. In [John 5:24](#), Jesus Himself says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come

into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

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

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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

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

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

AUGUST 24TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

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

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.

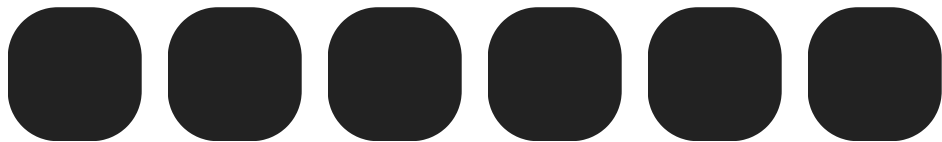
- **Speech.** Pray for self-control over your tongue. A timely word can defuse a situation (**Prov. 15:18**).

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

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

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.

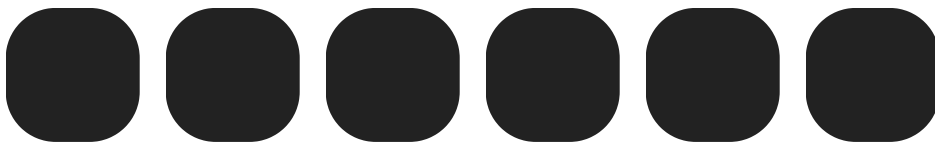
First, it is our calling. God urges us to be tolerant, kind, and bear each other's burdens (Eph. 4:1-3). Second, the Lord has set an example for us: He demonstrated patience toward Peter's actions, the crowd's demands, and the leaders' false accusations. We should aspire to such composure. And third, 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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