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Daily Devotional - Thursday, September 23, 2021 - Ministers of Comfort

SEPTEMBER 23RD 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, September 23, 2021 - Ministers of Comfort

Psalm 72:12-14

When you hear about a calamity, how do you respond? As believers, we should approach such situations with a selfless and compassionate attitude. True compassion not only tries to understand the pain of others but also provides practical help.

In times of disaster, remember that you and I have the privilege of touching anybody anywhere through prayer. No matter how far away victims might be, they can be comforted by God as He responds to your heartfelt cries. So as soon as word of a tragedy reaches you, start praying. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in petitioning for protection, provision, comfort, and awareness of His presence ([Rom. 8:26](#)).

Next, remember that donations (whether money or goods) and hands-on assistance are usually high priority. It is wise to team up with dependable relief organizations and consult trusted sources about what's needed. In local situations, you can also provide words of comfort, a warm embrace, or simply a listening ear.

We should take care to notice others' needs and to reach out with Christ's love. Through these actions, the world will recognize the light of Jesus, who was anointed to bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and comfort all who mourn ([Isa. 61:1-2](#)).

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 22, 2021 - Worship God Only

SEPTEMBER 22ND 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 22, 2021 - Worship God Only

James 4:4-8

When reading in the Old Testament, we might not understand why people would bow down before idols they had made. But we make a similar mistake, placing too high a value on things like money, relationships, appearance, and power. Though not bad in themselves, these can become objects of worship if we prioritize them above God. That's why He is jealous for our heart.

There are two reasons the Lord doesn't let His children's devotion stay out of balance. First, He deserves the glory, and second, He loves us and wants the best for us. Praising God above all else is actually in our own best interest, so when our heart does not belong solely to Christ, He disciplines us. This might mean He allows challenges to remind us who is the one and only God. Hardships are not pleasant, but we can be encouraged that God is making us complete in Him.

This week, notice where you spend your time and money and what dominates your thoughts. Even if your pursuits seem good on the surface, ask the Lord to reveal whatever has become an idol in your life. Confess any misplaced affection, and ask for help in making God the object of your devotion.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 21, 2021 - The Reward of Relinquishment

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Genesis 22:1-18

When God asks us to surrender our will to His, it's our job to trust He will show us the way ([Prov. 3:5-6](#)). I've learned that, while it's a struggle to put everything on the altar, we don't have to understand *how* God will accomplish His plans. Telling God "no" because we first want to understand *why* amounts to getting in our own way. But when we say "yes," He can pour out His goodness and reward our obedience.

Today's passage shows a remarkable example of relinquishment. Abraham's deep faith in God's trustworthiness allowed him to obey and offer up what was most precious to him: his son Isaac. As a result, the Lord provided a substitutionary sacrifice that day and also promised Abraham countless descendants, one of whom would be Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind.

God shouldn't be mistaken for a parent who withholds a treat until the child complies. Rather, obedience positions us to receive what He is already trying to give us—and to accomplish what He has in mind for our life. So, when we fail to trust God enough to do what He says, we could be closing ourselves off from those good things.

What has the Lord told you to do? Have you only partially cooperated, or have you relinquished your need to understand and obeyed completely? If the Lord says to give, know that you too can trust Him to provide.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, September 20, 2021 - The Freedom of Relinquishment

SEPTEMBER 20TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, September 20, 2021 -The Freedom of Relinquishment

Matthew 19:16-26

We may think we have no attachments that come between us and the Lord, but He knows our heart better than we ourselves do. One Sunday as I was about to preach a sermon along those lines, God showed me something I had prioritized too highly. Then He let me know I needed to reconsider the place it held in my thinking. So I was glad when the choir's song took a while, because I had time to come to the place of being able to say, "Lord, if that's what You desire, I want to commit it to You. It's Yours right now."

It's difficult to be obedient if we're holding onto something too tightly. The Lord wants our attachment to be exclusively to Him so we can shine His light in the world. You may have multitudes of things that God has blessed you with, but the moment any of it controls you, His work is stunted. When you open your hands, however, you allow the Holy Spirit's power to flow freely through you.

Think about what captivates you, and honestly consider whether it also enslaves you. Is there anything you feel you could never give up? I challenge you to release the relationship or situation to the Lord right now so He can have your full devotion.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, September 17, 2021 - Gratitude in the Storms of Life

SEPTEMBER 17TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, September 17, 2021 - Gratitude in the Storms of Life

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

Jesus told us that we would have hardships ([John 16:33](#)), and He was right, wasn't He? As unpleasant as trials are, there's still reason for giving thanks. Yesterday, we looked at three provisions believers can count on during adversity: God's presence, a pathway through the trouble, and potential to grow. Today, let's explore two more.

1. Protection. God doesn't keep believers from suffering or disappointment, but He does offer protection by staying with us in the struggle. Once we trust in Jesus, God's Spirit indwells us and will never leave. What's more, we have assurance that nothing can separate us from His love (**Rom. 8:38-39**). So our ever-present God walks with us through the hardships, providing guidance and speaking truth into the situation.

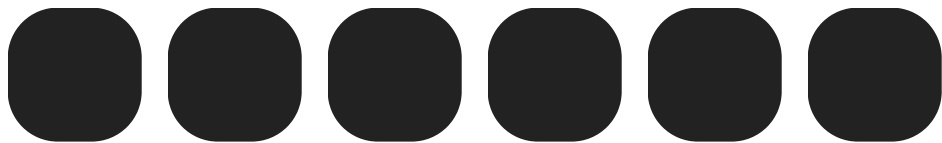
2. Peace. While difficulties cause many people anxiety, God's peace is available to His followers. This inner serenity doesn't depend on whether circumstances improve; it's a result of our relationship with Him. For this reason, we should be more concerned about relying on God than about fixing the problem.

As we recognize the Lord's provision, we can genuinely express gratitude, which will fix our eyes on Him rather than on our circumstances. We may not know what the purpose is for each trial, but we do know that our God is good and trustworthy.

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