



[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Thursday, March 17, 2022 - The Problem of Pride

MARCH 17TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

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#### 1 Samuel 13:1-14

Pride is a condition that's common to all mankind. It doesn't matter our age, ability, social status, or culture—we're all prone to exhibit aspects of this self-promoting attitude.

As Israel's first king, Saul was to lead by following God's instructions under the power of the Holy Spirit. To be successful, he needed to remember two things: Any authority he had came from the Lord, and his responsibilities included executing God's plan, leading the people by example, and obeying divine commands. But like so many of us today, Saul acted as if he were in charge rather than the Lord. Because of prideful self-reliance, he broke God's commandment and exercised priestly duties, which were not rightly his.

You may be thinking this doesn't apply to you since you don't have a high position. But in reality, you do. As Christians, we've been chosen to be God's people ([1 Peter 2:9](#)), and He has special work for each of us to accomplish ([Ephesians 2:10](#)). That's why His Holy Spirit dwells within believers: to guide and empower us for our part in the divine plan.

Do you sometimes think your way is better than God's? Independence flows from pride, but a humble heart lives in complete reliance upon God.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 16, 2022 -The Damage of Prayerlessness

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[Colossians 4:2-6](#)

Prayer should be a priority in the life of every Christian. If Jesus, who was the Son of God, often slipped away to talk to His Father, then we surely need it even more! Without prayer and Bible reading, believers are prone to feel discouraged and distant from God.

When troubles loom, do you seek man-made options in place of taking your concerns to the Lord? Chasing counterfeit solutions only leads you away from God and His will. What's more, they are

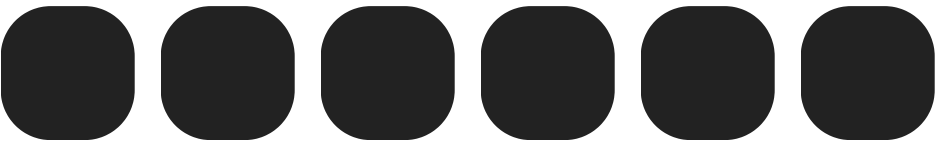
short-lived at best and utter failures at worst. Under such conditions, discouragement is unavoidable. But a believer who's immersed in prayer and Scripture reading finds security in God's power and presence.

Even though a habit of neglecting prayer has negative consequences, the direction can be reversed at any time. First, confess your prayerlessness. Then ask the Lord to give you the strength and desire to make communication with Him a regular discipline. Then set aside time every day to read your Bible and pray. In those moments of communion, He'll make burdens lighter, offer encouragement, and fill you with confidence in His faithfulness and care for you.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - The Price of Prayerlessness

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Isaiah 40:28-31

Our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him with all our concerns. Even so, there are believers who do not bother communicating with the Lord, except in emergencies. Unfortunately, neglecting prayer is costly because it often results in weariness and discouragement.

Certain situations take an emotional, physical, and spiritual toll on us—we refer to them as “burdens.” These low points can wear us out if we attempt to endure them alone. For one thing, we aren’t built for such loads, so trying to haul them around will deplete us. What’s more, 1 Peter 5:7 tells us, “Cast all your anxiety on [God] because he cares for you” (NIV, emphasis added). There’s no point in both the Father and us carrying that weight, especially when He wants to handle it on our behalf. In God’s design, His strength supports us in our weakness, and He is in fact glorified by this arrangement (2 Corinthians 12:9).

As you pray, picture Jesus’ shoulders just above your own—with Him bearing your problems. Even if the burden doesn’t disappear, it will feel noticeably lighter when you hand it over to the Lord. Then, like David, you can say, “Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden” (Psalm 68:19).

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[Go to post](#)



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# Daily Devotional - Monday, March 14, 2022 - The Moments That Sustain Us

MARCH 14TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - Monday, March 14, 2022 - The Moments That Sustain Us

When difficulties arise, what becomes your main focus—the problem, its impact on you, or its effect on others? When trouble occurred in David's life, he meditated on the Lord's sufficiency and His good, pleasing, and perfect will. That focus is evident not only in today's psalm but in others as well: throughout his life, David poured out his troubles to the Lord and also continually turned his attention back to the Father. The result was strength and hope for his soul.

Because David had a trusting relationship with God, he dealt with trials by anticipating divine help. For example, his impending fight with Goliath brought to mind God's past and present delivering power ([1 Samuel 17:37](#)). In facing King Saul's murderous threats and advances, David relied on the Lord's protection as his refuge and fortress ([Psalm 18:2](#)). And when grieving over the loss of loved ones, he let God's presence and comfort fill his heart and mind ([1 Samuel 30:3-6](#)).

As was the case with David, our circumstances can also serve as valuable prompts for meditation. God has given us His Word, a wonderful resource where His character, works, and purposes are clearly displayed. When your next difficulty comes, use it as a reminder to meditate on some attribute of the Lord—and draw the strength and hope to sustain you.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - Overcoming Worry

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MARCH 09TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - Overcoming Worry

[Matthew 6:25-34](#)

What do you worry about most? Is it your health, family, or maybe finances? Though we believe that our heavenly Father cares for us and His promises are dependable, many of us continue to worry.

We all have responsibilities that demand our attention, but anxiety can act like a corrosive poison that eats away at our trust in God. So, then, what can we do about it?

To start with, we need to grow in both our knowledge of God and obedience to Him. As we become increasingly familiar with Scripture and our Father's true nature, we'll be more fully convinced that He cares for every detail of our life. Then, when we make decisions based on this knowledge and obey, our trust in Him will strengthen.

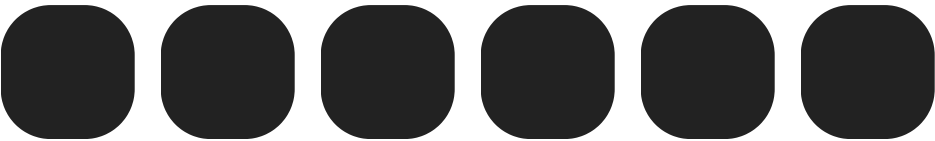
Whenever anxiety starts to creep in, remember who your heavenly Father is and what He has promised. Fill your mind with verses about His character, power, and love. Recite His promises and turn your worries over to Him. Since He's told you not to be anxious, ignoring this command is

actually a form of disobedience. But if you ask Him for help, He will enable you to reject worry and live in peace.

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