#### **Faith Matters**

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### Daily Devotional - Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - The Benefits of Choosing Wisdom

APRIL 20TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - The Benefits of Choosing Wisdom

#### **Proverbs 2**

The world often evaluates decisions in terms of pros and cons, benefits and drawbacks. What happens if we apply that same thinking to spiritual matters: What are the benefits of following God's wisdom? Or, in other words, Why should we seek to obey the instructions given in Scripture?

First of all, in seeking God's wisdom, we acquire a deeper understanding and knowledge of Him (Prov. 2:4-6). Our perception of life changes when we know the Lord intimately. He gives us the ability to see ourselves, others, and situations from His perspective. And as biblical principles permeate our mind, they shape our response to life's challenges.

Second, God promises to guide and guard us when we walk wisely (Prov. 2:7-9). Nothing outside His will can penetrate the shield of protection around those who seek to obey Him. When we let His wisdom enter our heart, discretion prevents us from engaging in foolish or sinful relationships that would draw us away from Him (Prov. 2:11-20).

Godly understanding doesn't become ours simply because we want it. Such benefits must be sought out. If you receive the words of Scripture and let them fill your heart and mind, the Lord will reveal Himself to you and give you His discernment.

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## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 19, 2022 - Thoughtful Living

APRIL 19TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 19, 2022 - Thoughtful Living

#### Psalm 25:8-15

Are you living thoughtfully or automatically? It's easy to get up each morning, do our work, enjoy some relaxation or entertainment, and fall into bed each night without giving any thought to God's involvement in our lives. But consider the benefits of keeping our spiritual eyes and ears open throughout the day—to see how God has blessed, guided, protected, and warned us.

Being aware of the Lord's presence reminds us He is always in control and working to accomplish His good purposes. When we look for God's footprints in our days, we discover the scope of His involvement in our life. Maybe He strengthened you for a task or opened a door of opportunity. Perhaps He guided your decisions or helped you respond in a compassionate way to a difficult person. Furthermore, if our ears are attuned to the Lord's warnings and instructions, we're less likely to repeat our mistakes.

Each night before you go to sleep, take some time to reflect on the day's activities. Know that the Lord is constantly with you, guarding you and offering guidance. He wants you to understand life from His perspective as you rely on His wisdom and power to face any challenge.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, April 18, 2022 - David's Path to Servanthood

APRIL 18TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

#### Daily Devotional - Monday, April 18, 2022 - David's Path to Servanthood

#### Psalm 89:19-29

The Lord chose David to be His servant and actively prepared him for that calling. By following the various stages of his life—from the things he experienced as a simple shepherd boy to his achievements as a heroic ruler—we can trace how the Lord prepared David to be used mightily.

**Shepherd:** At the time when David was actually anointed king, he hadn't yet been in authority over anything besides sheep (<u>1 Samuel 16:1-13</u>). His humble position was the starting place for training to become God's servant as king of Israel.

**Psalmist:** David suffered many afflictions on his way to the throne, and his writings reveal how those troubles drew him to God. His psalms provide intimate glimpses of the God he knew and trusted deeply.

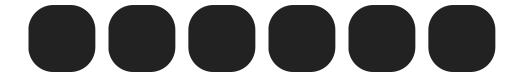
Commander: King Saul put David in charge of his army but later turned against the young man. While hiding from Saul, he led a band of mighty men (1 Chron. 12). Long before David became king, God used these soldiers to defeat foreign enemies and protect the people of Judah.

The Lord is working in your life as well, shaping you into His servant. Your hardships and setbacks have a place in His plan, and He's using them to train you for what lies ahead.

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### Daily Devotional - Friday, April 15, 2022 - The Cosmic Dilemma

APRIL 15TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, April 15, 2022 - The Cosmic Dilemma

John 3:14-21

Most people go through life unaware of the great cosmic dilemma—namely, how can a holy God be reconciled with sinful humanity? Nor do they give much thought to the solution that God Himself provided at Calvary: The cross was the place where both His love and His justice were on full display.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord, they exposed the entire human race to sin. Humanity's condition stood in opposition to the perfectly righteous God who created them.

The Lord could have abandoned mankind to condemnation. But in love, He wanted to forgive sinful people and reconcile them to Himself—while remaining absolutely just. His solution was to provide a perfect sacrifice to atone for their sins. That meant a flawless substitute was needed to take the punishment sinners deserved. So God sent His Son into the world to bear mankind's sin and appease His own justice.

The cross of Jesus represents the only answer to this cosmic problem. God was satisfied by Christ's sacrifice so that in eternal love He could welcome redeemed mankind into His holy presence. Have you trusted Jesus as Savior and acknowledged the sacrifice He made on your behalf?

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# Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 12, 2022 - Weathering Our Storms

APRIL 12TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 12, 2022 - Weathering Our Storms

#### Mark 6:45-52

Yesterday we saw what happened when the disciples encountered a storm on the sea. They'd experienced many miraculous moments in their time with the Lord, but when waves battered their boat, it was as if they'd forgotten who He was. Their minds couldn't recollect what they had witnessed about His power and purposes. Even the appearance of Jesus walking on the water did not bring immediate relief.

When trouble strikes, we too sometimes forget what we know to be true about the Lord. We struggle to recall past answers to prayer, God's faithfulness in earlier situations, and lessons

learned in previous crises. Only the present seems real as our minds struggle with fears about the future and our troubled emotions prevent us from thinking clearly.

Reading Scripture is the best way to remember biblical truths, but another helpful tool is a spiritual journal. It's a place for you to document your pilgrimage with the Lord and specific details of how He's worked in your personal life. This kind of written record can serve as a map to trace where you've been and how God has helped you along the way. Your current trial may be a new one—but you will be encouraged to look back and see God's faithfulness and unchangeable nature over the years.

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