Faith Matters

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, May 18, 2022 -Our Eternal Home

MAY 18TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

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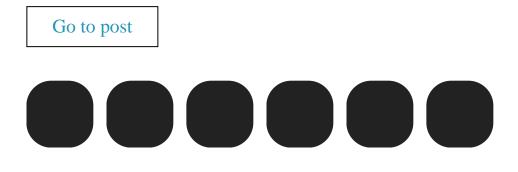
John 14:1-6

When Jesus told His disciples He was going away, He promised to return and take them to His Father's house, where He had prepared a place for them. This confirms that heaven is a real place, not some ethereal cloud where we play harps.

We tend to think of anything heavenly as less tangible than earth, but Scripture suggests the opposite. <u>Hebrews 11:10</u> tells us that by faith, Abraham "was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." And <u>Revelation 21:10-27</u> describes this city—called the New Jerusalem—in great detail. Unlike earth, the kingdom of heaven cannot be shaken (<u>Hebrews 12:27-28</u>). It exists forever, and we'll be worshipping and serving the Lord there.

As Christians, we know our citizenship is in heaven. When we die, our spirits immediately go there (2 Corinthians 5:8), into the presence of the Lord, awaiting the immortal body we'll be given at Christ's return. That new body will be perfectly suited for heaven and free from the temptations, trials, heartaches, pain, and death that make life on earth so wearying. There will be rest, not from activity and fulfilling work, but from the consequences of sin that plague us here. I believe the joy we'll experience when we finally see our Savior face to face is beyond our imagination.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, May 17, 2022 - A Strong Foundation

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Psalm 62:1-12

In a tumultuous world, where can stability be found? We can't count on political leaders, financial institutions, healthcare providers, or any other human institution to keep us safe and secure. There is only one sure foundation, and that is the Lord our God.

David, who wrote today's psalm, lived with many dangers and trials. But he knew that with God as his stronghold, he would not be deeply shaken by earthly events. And that is true for anyone who knows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He's characterized by love, justice, and faithfulness in His

interactions with us. We can have great confidence because our God is self-existent and unchangeable. He knows all things, has all power, and is present everywhere.

Is your faith grounded on these truths about your Rock? Do you believe God is completely dependable in His dealings with you? Can you trust that He loves you during hard times when you're still waiting for prayers to be answered? Do you accept that His guidance is based on His unlimited knowledge and love for you, even when you don't understand or like His choices for your life? This is what constitutes a strong foundation of faith.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, May 16, 2022 - Standing Firm

MAY 16TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Ephesians 6:10-17

Did you know that you're in a battle every day of your life? The enemy's goal is to weaken, deceive, and lead believers astray. God protects all who belong to Him, so wicked forces can never touch our salvation (<u>1 Peter 1:3-5</u>). But they can lead us into sin, cause discouragement, ruin our witness for Christ, and bring about other damage.

The main charge in today's passage is "Stand firm," and it's mentioned three times (Eph. 6:11; Eph. 6:13-14). Paul says the purpose of the armor of God is to enable us to stand our ground in the battle, and his list of armor would not be complete without the footwear mentioned in verse 15. The soles of a Roman soldier's sandals were studded with iron hobnails, which enabled him to stand his ground against an enemy assault.

Today our anchoring footwear is faith in the gospel, which not only grants us peace with the heavenly Father but also makes us Satan's adversaries. So plant your feet and anchor yourself on a solid foundation of faith. When we don't avail ourselves of the protection provided through Christ, we're more likely to give way in the fight and yield to Satan's temptations.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, May 13, 2022 - Telling It Like It Is

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Daily Devotional - Friday, May 13, 2022 - Telling It Like It Is

Psalm 26:1-12

Most of us have heard testimonies of believers who were saved from a lifestyle of horrendous sin. After listening to such accounts, have you ever felt that your less dramatic testimony is somehow not as valuable? In reality, the salvation God has worked for each one of His children is equally extraordinary. No matter how good or bad one's life appears, every person is born sinful and in dire need of a Savior.

Psalm 26 is a testimony from David about his integrity and trust in the Lord. He walked in God's truth, avoided the company of evildoers, and proclaimed His delight in the Lord. We would hardly call this psalm unimpressive. Few people can speak so honestly and confidently about their walk with the Lord, and it's a great encouragement for us to hear from a lifelong believer.

David's testimony reminds us to express what God has done and is doing in our life. A personal faith story is a powerful tool, both for arousing an unbeliever's curiosity about spiritual matters and for motivating a believer to pursue holiness. No matter how commonplace our words may sound compared to someone else's, the Lord can use them to impact listeners. You have no idea how far-reaching your "ordinary" testimony can be.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, May 12, 2022 - Your Hope Journal

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2 Chronicles 20:5-12

Yesterday we saw that when facing an intimidating military force, King Jehoshaphat immediately sought the Lord in prayer. But he didn't begin with anxious requests for deliverance. Instead, after focusing attention on God's power over all earthly kingdoms, he recounted the Lord's past faithfulness and mighty acts on behalf of Israel. Jehoshaphat also recalled God's promise to hear and save the nation when they cried out for help. Only then did the king make his request.

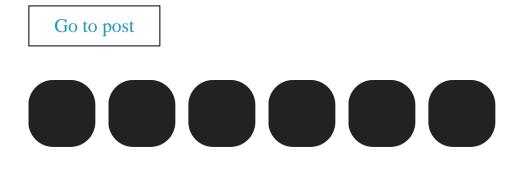
This is a good pattern for our prayers as well. Unfortunately, we at times have a short memory when it comes to the Lord's interventions on our behalf. If that's the case, then later, when we're fearful again, it's hard to remember specific ways God has already proven Himself.

This is why I encourage every believer to keep a journal—a written record of the Lord's faithfulness. During times of helplessness, we want encouragement, not just from how God has worked in history or in the world, but from the particular ways He has worked in our own life.

When you take time to record specific things that your heavenly Father has done, you'll gain greater understanding of His loving purposes. He will begin to reveal how He's been working to make your life a beautiful display of His glory.

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