Faith Matters

TOP

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, June 22, 2022 - A Passion to Know Him

JUNE 22ND 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, June 22, 2022 - A Passion to Know Him

Psalm 63:1-11

When David was in the wilderness of Judah, he exclaimed, "God, You are my God; I shall be watching for You; My soul thirsts for You" (Ps. 63:1). The Lord seemed distant, and David longed for His presence. Then, in verse 2, he reminisced about times that he saw God's glory in His sanctuary, when the Lord seemed more accessible. This contrast captures a common human predicament: We often don't appreciate things going well until they're gone. But in the wilderness, we quickly wither and recognize how urgently we yearn for the Lord. Many times, sadly, it's not until we experience deep thirst that we're able to taste the goodness of Jesus' living water. (See John 7:37-38.)

The trouble is that it might take years to realize we are in a wilderness. Then, because of our desperation, every new mud puddle glistens with glorious possibilities like a mirage, and we plunge in, convinced that we've finally found something fulfilling. But only the water Jesus gives truly quenches thirst and promises eternal life (John 4:13-14).

That's why we must remain sensitive to our Savior's guidance through the barren land. He promises, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will advise you with My eye upon you" (Psalm 32:8). When we heed God's call, we exclaim along with David, "My soul waits in silence for God alone; from Him comes my salvation" (Ps. 62:1).

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Daily Devotional - Monday, June 20, 2022 - A Healthy Body

JUNE 20TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, June 20, 2022 - A Healthy Body

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We tend to separate our spiritual life from our physical life, but that's not what God intended. He who carefully crafted each of us places high value on our physical being (Psalm 139:13). The human form is a masterpiece, which our Creator has entrusted to our care. And as with any other resource, He expects us to be wise stewards.

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians addresses some of the unsavory issues their city was known for. People in the church had been engaging in offensive practices, including sexual misconduct and gluttony (1 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 11:21). They incorrectly regarded this behavior as separate from their spiritual lives, as if they could do whatever they pleased with their bodies and still be considered "good Christians."

But the body and the spirit are one. In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Paul declares, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you?" The apostle reminds us that God's Holy Spirit has come to indwell every believer. If you have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then His Spirit lives in you, and your body has become a walking testimony. What does your physical being say about your walk with Christ?

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Daily Devotional - Sunday, June 19, 2022 - Sunday Reflection: The Promise of Giving Daily Devotional - Sunday, June 19, 2022 - Sunday Reflection: The Promise of Giving

In <u>Acts 20:1-38</u>, Paul met with the Ephesian church elders one last time. They all believed their next reunion would be in eternity, so the gathering closed with heartfelt prayer, tears, embraces, and Paul's final encouragement: "You must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

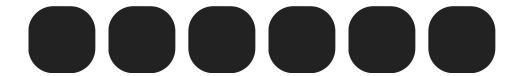
You may have heard this promise before, but have you ever put it to the test? Offering others our time, money, resources, and energy may feel risky, but Jesus Himself assured us it is not. In fact, He connected the idea of giving with blessing. What's more, one reason we are blessed with ample supply is so that we can bless others (2 Corinthians 9:8-11).

Giving was always part of God's divine purpose for us—which means we already have what we need in order to begin sharing with others. By doing so, we're actually following Jesus' example: We receive His generosity and His life and then let it flow through us like a river.

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Daily Devotional - Saturday, June 18, 2022 - God's Purpose in Our Hardships

JUNE 18TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Saturday, June 18, 2022 - God's Purpose in Our Hardships

Psalm 105:16-24

The Bible is relevant for every situation. Although the details of our circumstances differ from what we read about in Scripture, the principles still apply. As we saw yesterday, for example, Joseph's story teaches lessons to practice in our own life.

Something that stands out in Genesis 37-50 is how the Lord orchestrated events to achieve His purpose. Even though Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, God is the one who sent him to Egypt for the benefit of the Israelites (Ps. 105:17). The years of adversity positioned Joseph to become the leader who would rescue God's people from famine.

Verse 19 goes on to tell us that "the word of the Lord tested him" (ESV). When Joseph was a young man, God gave him two dreams about his future exaltation (Gen. 37:5-11), yet he would experience 13 years of humiliation and hardship before seeing their fulfillment. The Lord was faithful, however, and at just the right time, Joseph was released to assume the role God had planned for him.

Our heavenly Father is arranging the events of your life too, and in the process, you also are being tested by His Word. Your difficulties in no way indicate that the Lord is absent. Instead, He oversees the events of your life and works them to fulfill His long-term purposes for you.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, June 16, 2022 - Our Keeper

JUNE 16TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, June 16, 2022 - Our Keeper

Psalm 121:1-8

Today's Scripture is one of the psalms sung by the Jews as they journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate the Lord's feasts. Though there were many dangers along the way, they realized help wouldn't come from anyone but the Lord.

Do you wonder what dangers lurk in the future? God alone knows what we'll encounter, and He assures us that because He is our Keeper, we have nothing to fear. He never sleeps and is always attentive to our cries for help—even when we can't sense His presence.

Our loving Father cares for us physically as He guides and guards our path, but His priority is always our spiritual well-being. He watches over our steps and provides everything we need in order to avoid falling into sin. God's Holy Spirit directs and empowers us, and His Word lights our path so we do not slip. What's more, He has provided a means of escape for every temptation so

we can endure it and stay faithful (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Christians are sojourners traveling this earth to reach their heavenly home. What a comfort it is to know that the Lord will guard our steps "from this time and forever" (Ps. 121:8).

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