### **Faith Matters**



# Daily Devotional - Tuesday, June 28, 2022 - A Servant's Rewards

JUNE 28TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, June 28, 2022 - A Servant's Rewards

#### Hebrews 6:10

In His grace, God freely gives salvation to those who believe in Jesus. We can't earn it, nor do we deserve it. However, our Father does notice when we live according to His will, and He promises to reward us according to what we have done for Him.

Revelation 22:12 says, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves." Whether large or small, service done in Jesus' name will be blessed. We must be careful, though, that our actions are for Christ's glory. If motives are self-serving, the only benefit we receive is the praise (if any) that we hear from people in this life.

While we look forward to rewards that will be given in heaven, some blessings can be experienced now. For example, there's great joy in allowing God to bless others through us. In addition, there's a profound sense of fulfillment when we lead a person to Jesus and teach him or her how to walk by faith.

Serving others is both a great benefit and a responsibility. We should prayerfully consider our motives to make sure that our goal is to glorify Christ. Only then will we receive God's full blessings—rewards given not just in eternity but on earth as well.

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# Daily Devotional - Sunday, June 26, 2022 - Sunday Reflection: The Promise of Love

JUNE 26TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

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To get the most out of this devotion, set aside time to read the scriptures referenced throughout.

God loves us. It's a wonderful reality, but one we hear about so often that the idea can actually become stale in our minds. And sadly, if this truth becomes simply information, it loses the power to transform lives. On the other hand, if we make a daily practice of receiving God's unconditional love and letting it wash over us, our faith will change dramatically. Then the impact will spread, as we'll also be positioned to love others well (John 15:5; 1 John 4:19).

So today, let's remember: God is love, and He is both everlasting and unchanging. His unconditional commitment to us comes from who He is; it has nothing to do with who we are or what we've done. No matter how many mistakes or good deeds we've tallied, they could never influence Him to change His mind about us. Our heavenly Father loves us just as we are, even before we receive His gift of eternal life (Romans 5:8-10). Meditate on His words today: "I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands" (Isaiah 49:15-16).

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# 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

JUNE 19TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

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

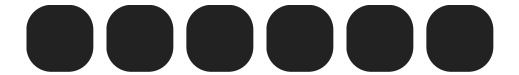
In <u>Acts 20:1-38</u>, Paul met with the Ephesian church elders one last time. They all believed their next reunion would be in eternity, so the gathering closed with heartfelt prayer, tears, embraces, and Paul's final encouragement: "You must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, 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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