Faith Matters

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Daily Devotional - Sunday, July 31, 2022 - A Safe Place

JULY 31ST 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Sunday, July 31, 2022 - A Safe Place

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

We're currently enjoying the warm, seemingly endless days of summer, but this season isn't all sunshine and beauty. It's also known for severe storms that bring lightning, thunder, and heavy rainfall. When they pop up, isn't it wonderful to be able to run into a dry, comfortable shelter and be protected until the sun begins shining again?

Life is like that, too, sometimes. All is well until, suddenly and often without warning, difficulties arise. Our lives are full of "storms" of one kind or another. Regardless of what caused them, there's seldom much we can do to stop them from running their course. All we can control is how we respond moving forward. Rather than face these troubles alone, we run to our heavenly Father, the One who deeply loves and cares for us—and waits with open arms. (See <u>Proverbs</u> 18:24; 1 Peter 5:6-7; 1 John 3:1; Revelation 3:20.)

Think about it

How would you describe your relationship with God? Does He feel distant or is He close, like a loving friend ready to listen? Spend some time in prayer this week, asking God to help you sense just how near He is.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, July 26, 2022 - Confident About Conversion

JULY 26TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, July 26, 2022 - Confident About Conversion

Colossians 2:5-14

If we hope to resist the Enemy's schemes, it is important to clear up any confusion regarding salvation. So let's consider three crucial steps of the conversion process.

1. We must know something. The first step is that we must grasp what our condition was, apart from the Savior. Ephesians 2:1 makes it clear that, left to ourselves, we were all spiritually dead. Without the sacrifice of Jesus, there wouldn't be eternal life for anyone.

- 2. We must believe something. The good news is that God provided a means of salvation that is open to all people. Scripture explains that our loving heavenly Father, of His own initiative, made a way for our sin debt to be paid so we could dwell with Him forever (Ephesians 2:4-9).
- 3. We must receive something. In order to claim any gift, we must first open our hands and receive it. The Father is reaching out to mankind, offering His free gift of salvation. Once we have taken it, it is ours to keep—forever (Romans 10:8-13).

Are you a believer who is empowered by God's Spirit and completely confident about salvation? Then you are a force to be reckoned with! If you have known, believed, and received God's gift of salvation, you can stand in full assurance today.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, July 25, 2022 - Clearing Up Conversation Confusion

Daily Devotional - Monday, July 25, 2022 - Clearing Up Conversation Confusion

1 John 5:10-15

We have an Enemy who wants to undermine our confidence in salvation. We've all been there—joyfully moving along through life, sure of our standing as God's children, when all of the sudden we sin and our feelings take over. Satan can use our remorse and conflicting emotions to eat away at our assurance. We think, There's no way I can be saved. If I were truly saved, I would never have done such a thing. Overwhelmed by feelings of regret and shame, we find our faith coming under fire.

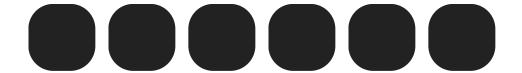
It is amazing how effectively our fleeting human emotions can undermine our certainty about God's promises. We should remember that feelings can be unreliable; the Lord, however, says only what is true and never seeks to confuse us. Anytime your emotions contradict the Word of God, you can be sure the Scriptures are reliable. For a believer, "feeling saved" is like a husband or wife "feeling married." You either are or you're not; your feelings do not make it so.

Has a sense of regret stolen your confidence in God's eternal salvation? Lay your feelings before the Lord today, and embrace the certainty that comes only with His truth. Our loving Father longs for you to trust Him without wavering.

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Daily Devotional - Sunday, July 24, 2022 - You Never Walk Alone

JULY 24TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Sunday, July 24, 2022 - You Never Walk Alone

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

Every day likely begins in a similar way: You wake up, get ready, and say good mornings and goodbyes. But the second you step over the threshold into the world, you face a host of challenges that vary from one day to the next. Thankfully, you have the Holy Spirit to guide and help as you navigate whatever comes your way. He is your Helper, the Spirit of truth, the One who is with you forever (John 14:16-17).

Isn't it comforting to know there is Someone who loves us beyond all measure and stays with us always? With the Spirit's aid, we can travel through life with confidence, our hearts filled with the peace that surpasses all comprehension (Philippians 4:7). So each morning when you rise, remember you aren't walking into the world alone. He is there, and He is even more constant and radiant than the sun shining through your windows.

Think about it

Spend some time in Scripture this week, examining passages that describe the Holy Spirit. Is there one that speaks to your heart? Place it somewhere prominent where you can see it each morning and be reminded of His presence.

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Daily Devotional - Saturday, July 23, 2022 - Friendship: A Help to Holiness

JULY 23RD 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Saturday, July 23, 2022 - Friendship: A Help to Holiness

John 15:12-15

Of all that God created, one thing did not meet with His approval. With regard to Adam, He said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). The Creator designed people for emotional, mental, and physical intimacy—to share their innermost selves with one another.

Jesus taught His disciples that they should love each other as He had loved them. (John 15:12). In a God-honoring friendship, two people build each other up and spur one another toward Christlikeness. Many people, however, don't have relationships that sharpen their faith (<u>Proverbs</u> 27:17). They instead settle for the trivial talk of casual acquaintances, about things like the

weather or world news.

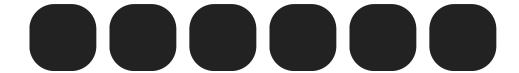
But the best relationships don't shy away from vulnerable conversations. Fruitful friendships can begin when men and women risk their pride and comfort to discuss accountability, biblical living, or anything meant to motivate one another in holiness. When there's trust and submission, two people can confess sin, offer gentle reproof, and share burdens.

The walls we build to keep people at a distance are often defenses against God as well—to keep Him out of our dearest personal business. But if we share openly with a brother or sister in Christ, we will learn to be more honest with God too.

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