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## Daily Devotional - Thursday, August 4, 2022 -The Trials of Life

AUGUST 04TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Daily Devotional - Thursday, August 4, 2022 -The Trials of Life

#### 1 Peter 1:3-9

Have you ever wondered why God lets bad things happen to you or your loved ones? Hardships and suffering are a consequence of sin and the fallen condition of the world, but why is He allowing distress in your life? Though trials are painful, understanding the Lord's purpose can bring joy and hope.

When a person is saved, he or she begins the lifelong process of becoming holy. And few things build character like sorrow. Unfortunately, our spiritual growth may be slow during pleasant times, but pain brings us to our knees in dependence upon God as we seek His help, strength, comfort, and grace.

Another reason the Father allows trials is to test and refine our faith. When we go through the fire of affliction and remain true to the Lord, we'll come out more sure of our salvation. Not only that, but we will have greater trust in God's character and dealings with us. Then when the next difficulty arises, we will remember His faithfulness during the previous trial and be able to rest confidently in Him. If we submit to the Lord, He'll use our hardships to mature us, and that's reason to rejoice.

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## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, August 3, 2022 - God's Tools for Making Us Holy

AUGUST 03RD 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

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[1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#)

The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord, "We are the clay and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand" ([Isaiah 64:8](#)). Comparing God to a skilled craftsman, Isaiah describes how He shapes believers so they increasingly resemble the Savior. Some of the tools our Father uses to mold and perfect His creations are ...

- The Bible. Jesus prayed for us, saying, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" ([John 17:17](#)). As the Holy Spirit illuminates what we read, we're slowly transformed.

- The church. As part of Christ's body, we learn of God's ways from the pastor and teachers who have been called to minister. Fellowship with one another is also a method the Lord uses in our sanctification as we encourage and hold each other accountable.

- Suffering. Painful circumstances teach us submission, humility, and dependence on God so we can emerge from the difficulty with deeper faith, greater spiritual maturity, and refined character.

The Lord is forming us into vessels that honor and reflect Him. Are you yielding to His shaping tools?

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## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 2, 2022 - Sanctification: God's Grand Plan

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AUGUST 02ND 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 2, 2022 - Sanctification: God's Grand Plan

[Jeremiah 29:11](#)

The Lord has a grand plan for the life of every believer, and it can be summed up in the term we looked at yesterday: sanctification. This refers to the process by which something is made holy—in other words, separated from its former common usage and dedicated to God for His purposes.

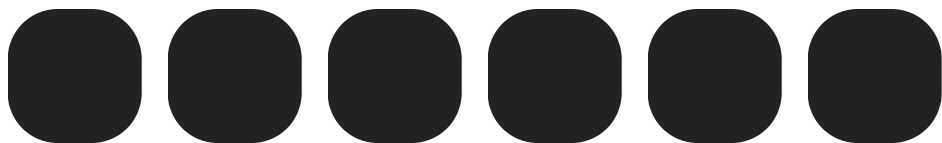
Every person is born spiritually dead and an enemy of God ([Ephesians 2:1](#); [Romans 5:10](#)). But the moment we trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, our sins are wiped away, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us, and we're adopted into God's family. From that moment on, we are set apart as God's children for His sacred purposes.

This means we are here on earth not to chase after pleasure and personal gain but to serve and obey the Lord. And in so doing, we bring Him honor and glory. As members of God's family, we are called to reflect Christ's character. The Lord now calls us saints—a term that shares its root with sanctification—not because we live sinlessly, but because that's our position in Christ and should be our practice as well. No longer are we to give ourselves to sin; instead, we should present ourselves to God as slaves of obedience.

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# Daily Devotional - Monday, July 1, 2022 - Set Apart for God

AUGUST 01ST 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - Monday, July 1, 2022 - Set Apart for God

### Romans 12:1-3

When a person places faith in Jesus Christ and becomes a believer, he is sanctified—that is, set apart for God's purpose. Unlike salvation, which takes place in a single moment, sanctification is a lifelong process. As the Word of God and the Holy Spirit work in our life, we are being sanctified. In other words, we're progressively maturing in our faith.

In [Romans 8:29](#), the apostle Paul explained God's purpose for believers: "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son." Our character, conduct, and conversation should be reflections of Christ. On our own, we'd place too much emphasis on behavior and get caught up with following rules and rituals that look Christian without truly reflecting Jesus. Thankfully, we have been given the Holy Spirit, who works through God's Word to renew our mind. But we must cooperate in the sanctification process by filling our mind with Scripture.

You'll never be perfect this side of heaven, but the Lord shows you how to think and act so you can "walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called" ([Ephesians 4:1](#)).

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

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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 [Proverbs 18:24](#); [1 Peter 5:6-7](#); [1 John 3:1](#); [Revelation 3:20](#).)

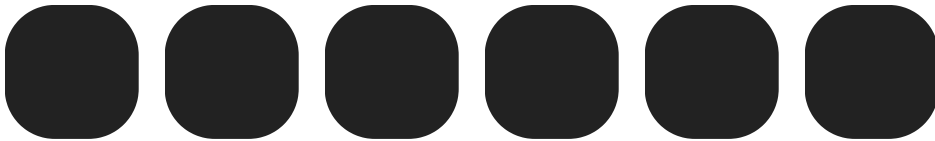
Think about it

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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