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# Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 28, 2022 - The Abiding Life

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 28, 2022 - The Abiding Life

[John 15:1-5](#)

Yesterday I shared with you about a time when the Lord reminded me that *I* am not the vine—*He* is. For years I had tried to accomplish by myself what Jesus wanted to achieve through me. My desire was to impress God and earn His approval. His goal, on the other hand, was for me simply to *abide*.

The Holy Spirit's job is to live the life of Christ through us. This is known by a variety of names, including the exchanged life, the Spirit-filled life, and the abiding life. All of these describe the joyful existence Paul spoke of in [Galatians 2:20](#): "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God."

Seen from the outside, a branch does not appear to be doing anything. But that doesn't mean that the abiding life is passive. Jesus was the perfect example of a Spirit-filled life, and He certainly didn't sit around! He worked hard out of a reservoir of divine energy ([John 8:28](#)). All of Christ's wisdom, knowledge, and courage was drawn from God through the Holy Spirit.

Christians bear fruit through *surrender*. We "take root" in the Lord by meditating on His Word, praying, and serving. We reserve nothing for ourselves to control but fully rely upon Him. That's not passive living; it's an abiding life.

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## Daily Devotional - Monday, September 26, 2022 - Delight Yourself in the Lord

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[Isaiah 61:10-11](#)

The word *delight* means “to gain great pleasure, satisfaction, and happiness.” Isn’t that the kind of relationship you want with the Lord—one in which both you and He enjoy each other’s presence? Well, God also wants that kind of connection, and our part in helping it develop is through commitment, trust, and patience.

**First, a believer must commit his or her ways to God.** This means we invite Him to examine our desires and plans and alter whatever does not fit His purpose or plan for our life.

**Second, a believer must trust God.** Who is more worthy of our faith than the Father, who gave Jesus Christ to save undeserving sinners? The One who would not spare His only Son will certainly provide all that His children need ([Romans 8:32](#)).

**Third, a believer must rest in God.** When we fret, we're neither committing ourselves to the Lord nor trusting in Him. Waiting on God is rarely easy, but He alone knows when circumstances and timing are aligned with His will.

Enjoying our relationship with the Lord requires effort, but it is a labor of love—because we were made to find joy in God's presence. The greatest pleasure we can experience is to walk hand in hand with our Father.

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# Daily Devotional - Friday, September 23, 2022 - Confronting Conflict

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SEPTEMBER 23RD 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - Friday, September 23, 2022 - Confronting Conflict

### [Galatians 2:11-16](#)

When people argue, they can say harsh words, create turmoil, and cause emotional pain. But there's hope—our beliefs can positively influence how we respond in conflict. Consider God's sovereignty, for example. If you believe the scriptures proclaiming God's rule over nature ([Psalm 135:6](#)), government ([Job 12:23](#)), and mankind ([Acts 17:25](#)), then you know that nothing in heaven or on earth is hidden from Him or outside of His control.

This means our heavenly Father, who has promised to protect His children, knows when people verbally attack us. Nothing can touch us apart from His permissive will. His sovereign control also gives Him the power to work pain into something beneficial ([Romans 8:28](#)). We have hope because His will cannot be thwarted, even in bad circumstances. When we believe in the Lord's sovereign rule, our perspective on conflict changes. Instead of responding with fear, anger, or resentment, we turn to Him for guidance.

Fighting is inevitable in our fallen world. When it's our fault, we are to apologize; when others are responsible, we may have to confront them. But regardless of the circumstances, we're called to forgive without exception—and we can because God is in control. As Christ's ambassadors, the way we respond matters.

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## Daily Devotional - Monday, September 19, 2022 - Praying to Our Sovereign God

SEPTEMBER 19TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, September 19, 2022 - Praying to Our Sovereign God

Prayer is the heartbeat of the believer's walk with God, and He commands us to pray about everything ([Philippians 4:6](#)). But we sometimes wonder what kind of influence our conversations with the Lord really have, and we find ourselves asking the following two questions:

*If God controls all things, why does He want us to pray? He's self-sufficient and needs no help to accomplish His purposes, so what could any of us possibly contribute?*

*Would God's plans fail if we chose not to pray? The Lord isn't subservient to us. His plans are contingent only upon Himself. He works all things according to the counsel of His will, not necessarily on the basis of our prayers.*

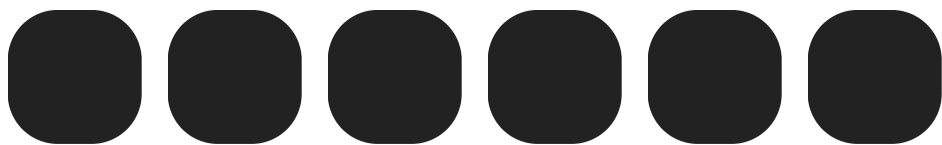
These truths reveal the Lord's grace toward believers. He doesn't need us, yet He's chosen to include us in His eternal purposes by letting us participate in His work through prayer. Though we may not understand the influence our prayers have, we know God *chooses* to use them in achieving His purposes.

So keep praying. Being consistent in prayer helps maintain a sense of humble dependence upon the Lord. And answered prayer produces increasing trust in Him, along with greater gratitude for His sovereign care and protection.

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## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 13, 2022 - God's Principle of Sowing and Reaping

SEPTEMBER 13TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 13, 2022 - God's Principle of Sowing and Reaping

[Galatians 6:7-10](#)

Today’s passage contains an important scriptural truth: Our actions and words have consequences. Or put another way, we get back what we put in. And this is especially obvious in our relationships.

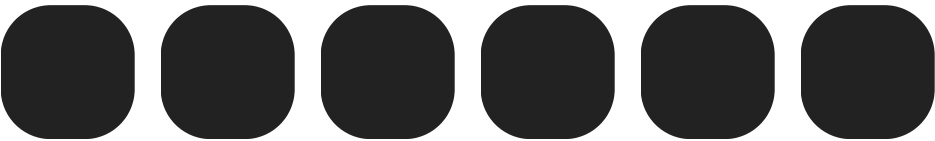
Earlier in Galatians, Paul explained that there’s a battle between a believer’s new nature, which is ruled by the Spirit, and the “flesh,” which is ruled by the sin patterns that linger in us. Then he listed some of the deeds of the flesh, many of which are relational: strife, jealousy, anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy ([Galatians 5:20-21](#)). In contrast, Paul tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)).

Which one of these lists more accurately reflects how you treat others? Admittedly, there are some people who are difficult to love, yet sowing the fruit of the Spirit in those relationships will reap a forgiving heart, godly character, and faithful obedience in us. But sowing to the flesh has a corrupting influence in our life. Before you interact with anyone, ask yourself what kind of harvest you’d like. You’ll never go wrong by letting the Spirit guide you.

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