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## Daily Devotional - Friday, October 14, 2022 - The Joy of Friendship

OCTOBER 14TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Daily Devotional - Friday, October 14, 2022 - The Joy of Friendship

#### Proverbs 18:24

How many true friends do you have? At first, a lot of names may come to mind, but the longer you consider the question, the more likely it is that the number will dwindle. The reality is that we do not have many genuine friends—in other words, the ones who remain loyal no matter what circumstances arise.

Most people long for intimate friendships. In fact, God created us to need relationships with one another. Without them, we can easily suffer from loneliness and depression. Yet healthy friendships don't just happen. They require intentional effort.

For Christians, the goal is to choose godly friends who share our faith and seek to walk obediently with the Lord. Our closest companions need to be people we can depend upon for good advice, support, and encouragement. Another important component is mutual commitment. As today's verse says, we need "a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

This dependable, intimate closeness is what the Lord wants for us, but it's a rare treasure. If you have such friends, express to them your appreciation and admiration. And thank God for giving you such a valuable gift.

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## Daily Devotional - Thursday, October 13, 2022 - Giving Jesus First Place

OCTOBER 13TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

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[Philippians 3:7-16](#)

Paul's priority was to know Christ. The apostle spoke of counting all things as loss in comparison to His relationship with the Lord, and he was given spiritual blessings that surpassed anything the world had to offer.

When we seek Christ through His Word, we too can expect the following spiritual blessings:

**A Quiet Spirit.** As we read and meditate on God’s Word, He restores our souls ([Psalm 19:7](#)). Then, instead of having stress and worry, we’ll experience peace of mind.

**A Stronger Faith.** Studying Scripture enlarges our view of God and gives us insight into His desires, ways, and will. The bigger the Lord becomes to us, the more we will trust Him in every circumstance.

**A Purified Heart.** God’s Word reveals our sins so we can repent and receive forgiveness and cleansing ([1 John 1:9](#)).

**A Renewed Mind.** When we read Scripture and apply its principles, our mind will be renewed to think biblically about God, ourselves, and the world.

Because Christ was the pursuit of his life, Paul knew joy amidst trials and received the strength to face turmoil and difficulty. These blessings are ours as well when knowing Jesus is our highest goal.

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# Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 11, 2022 -The Hard Way or the Easy Way

OCTOBER 11TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 11, 2022 -The Hard Way or the Easy Way

### [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

No one likes the pain of discipline, but parents know it's necessary. In a family, there may be one child who learns lessons the hard way—through disobedience and the resulting penalty—while another child observes, learns, and does what's necessary to avoid painful discipline.

The same is true for us as believers—we can be trained by our heavenly Father the hard way or the easy way. Because we aren't perfect, it's impossible to avoid all discipline, but we can lessen it. By diligently studying the Scriptures, we learn what pleases and displeases God.

The Word teaches us who God is and how He wants us to live. It also rebukes us when we sin and shows us how to correct course. Then it explains how to live in a manner worthy of the Lord. Being part of a sound biblical church is also a safeguard. We need godly people to counsel us and hold us accountable.

You needn't fear God's discipline. Though His correction may hurt, it brings great spiritual benefit. So whenever you sin, be quick to humble yourself, admit your wrongdoing, and turn back to the Lord with a heart of obedience.

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## Daily Devotional - Thursday, October 6, 2022 - Grace-Filled Speech

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OCTOBER 06TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, October 6, 2022 - Grace-Filled Speech

[Ephesians 4:29-32](#)

Words are powerful. They can either tear down or build up. As we saw yesterday, harsh remarks can cause a destructive chain reaction—like the damage a lit match could do to a forest. In contrast, kind comments feel like a light summer rain that brings relief from the day's heat.

We should always be careful about what we say. Scripture clearly condemns gossip, deception, complaining, slander, angry outbursts, foul language, and vulgar joking. Yet the goal isn't simply to avoid all bad speech; it's to speak truth in an uplifting manner. After all, even correction can be delivered in a way that's encouraging.

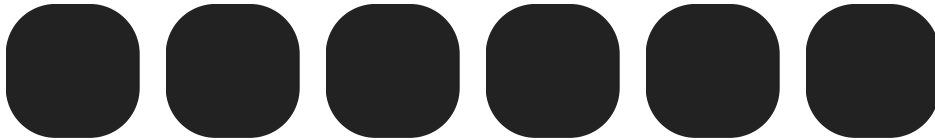
Sometimes the problem is not so much *what* we say but *how* we say it. Oftentimes our tone of voice and body language convey much more than our words do. Nonverbal signals can reveal impatience, resentment, anger, malice, and bitterness—all of which tear others down. But wordless signals can instead edify by showing love, compassion, appreciation, and gratitude.

In terms of godly behavior, we all fall short of perfection, but if we saturate our mind with God's Word, He'll transform our heart, attitudes, and speech. And when our words are gracious, others are blessed and God is glorified.

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## Daily Devotional - Monday, October 3, 2022 - The Holiness of God

OCTOBER 03RD 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, October 3, 2022 - The Holiness of God

[Revelation 4:1-11](#)

The scene in today’s passage gives us a glimpse of a holy God who is worthy of mankind’s worship. He’s perfectly pure in His thoughts, motives, choices, and actions, and His holiness is also revealed in His separateness from all evil and transgression. Since God cannot tolerate or ignore sin, every wrong must be punished—with the penalty paid either by the offender or by an adequate substitute. And Jesus Christ is the fully sufficient substitute who paid what every one of us owed. What’s more, He’s the only one who can reconcile sinful mankind to God.

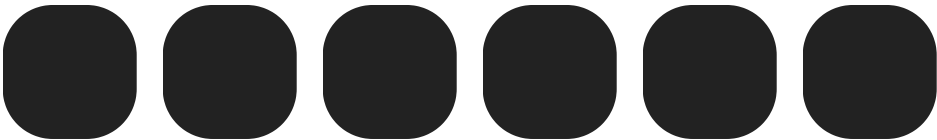
The Son of God took on human flesh and lived a sinless life. Then, as 1 Peter 2:24 (NIV) tells us, Jesus “bore our sins in his body on the cross” to pay the penalty of divine wrath. His resurrection is the proof that the sacrifice was acceptable to His heavenly Father. All who trust in Christ as their substitute are reconciled to God, but those who reject the Savior must themselves bear God’s wrath for their sin.

If we’ll acknowledge our unworthiness, confess our sins, and trust in Christ and His sacrifice on our behalf, our sins will be forgiven. The Judge of all humanity declares us not guilty. What’s more, He also credits us with Christ’s righteousness. And someday we’ll join the saints in heaven praising our gracious, holy God.

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