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Daily Devotional - Monday, October 17, 2022 - God-Centered Prayer

OCTOBER 17TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

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2 Chronicles 20:1-18

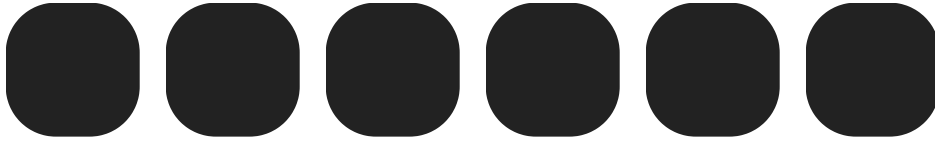
Once, when someone once asked if I'd ever heard myself pray, I decided to record my voice as I prayed about a matter of deep concern. After listening to the recording, I realized it was filled with negative descriptions of how bad the situation was and how discouraged I felt. My focus was all wrong.

On encountering a fearful situation, Jehoshaphat chose a different approach: God-centered prayer. Instead of coming to the Lord with a "woe is me" attitude, Jehoshaphat began by focusing on God's power and sovereignty (2 Chron. 20:6), His past faithfulness to Judah (2 Chron. 20:7-8), and His promise to hear and deliver His people (2 Chron. 20:9). Only after strengthening his faith through these reminders of God's adequacy did the king make his petitions (2 Chron. 20:10-12).

In prayer, we can choose to magnify either the Lord or our difficulty. Are you concentrating on the faithfulness of almighty God or your overwhelming problem and negative feelings? Let's keep our eyes on Him and wait with complete confidence until we see the great things He'll do for His glory and our good.

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Daily Devotional - Sunday, October 16, 2022 - Sunday Reflection: Many Parts, One Body

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

It's often at this time of year that church members gather to tend to their buildings and grounds, preparing for winter and giving everything a thorough cleaning. There are many tasks to accomplish, and no one person is meant to do them all.

The strongest workers tackle the heavy jobs like moving furniture or hefty tree limbs, while those with nimble fingers clean the dust from tiny spaces. Energetic little ones run supplies, while others can prepare refreshments for all to enjoy. When the congregation labors as a team, all the tasks are completed, and everyone benefits.

The key is mutuality. In mutual relationships, we aren't always equally equipped, but we should be equally committed to helping as best we can with the skills and talents God has given us. As the apostle Paul said in [1 Corinthians 12:14-18](#), "The body is not one part, but many," and "God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired."

Think about it

Are you fulfilling your role in the body? If not, how can you begin to do so in a more robust and fulfilling way?

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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

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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.

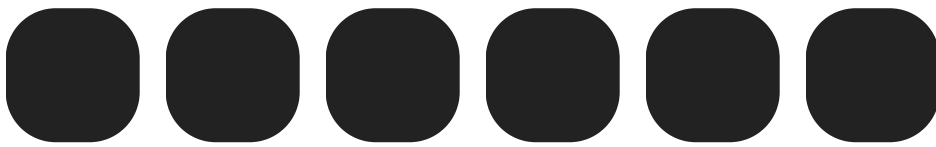
Because Christ was the pursuit of his life, Paul knew joy amidst trials and received the strength to face turmoil and difficulty. These blessings are ours as well when knowing Jesus is our highest

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.

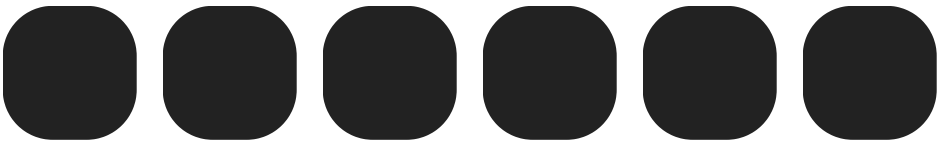
The Word teaches us who God is and how He wants us to live. It also rebukes us when we sin and shows us how to correct course. Then it explains how to live in a manner worthy of the Lord. Being part of a sound biblical church is also a safeguard. We need godly people to counsel us and hold us accountable.

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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