### **Faith Matters**

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# Daily Devotional - Saturday, November 12, 2022 - Demonstrate Love

NOVEMBER 12TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Saturday, November 12, 2022 - Demonstrate Love

#### 1 John 3:14-18

While growing up, I had several Sunday school teachers, but Craig Stowe is the one I remember most. A few times a month, Mr. Stowe stopped on his way home when he saw me delivering newspapers. He'd ask how I was doing and inquire if there was anything he could pray about for me. And before he pulled away, he always bought a newspaper—for five times its worth.

Those brief conversations with Mr. Stowe had a significant impact on my life. I knew he cared about me because he took the time to look me in the eye and make sure I was doing well. That feeling of love is one I try to pass on, even if I have just a few minutes with a person.

Believers are called to love one another "in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18). You can make a big difference in someone's life with simple acts of service and kindness—a hug, a conversation, a meal. You don't have to reach a large crowd; just let God use you to show one person at a time that you care. All it takes for someone to feel God's love is a little bit thoughtful attention.

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# Daily Devotional - Thursday, November 10, 2022 - The Ultimate Father-Son

NOVEMBER 10TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, November 10, 2022 - The Ultimate Father-Son

### John 5:18-20

God is called by a variety of names in the Bible, and each one sheds light on an aspect of His nature. When referring to Him, Jesus often chose to use the title "Father." While this name for God is used in the Old Testament, we see its use increase exponentially in the New Testament.

Many of God's names speak of His majestic and lofty attributes that separate Him from His created beings, but what's unique about *Father* is that it conveys intimacy. Jesus used this name not only because He was God's Son but also to communicate that God is a Father to all who believe in Christ.

Throughout His time on earth, Jesus revealed by example what this kind of loving relationship was like. He depended completely on His Father for daily direction, power, and provision and obediently carried out every instruction. He often found a secluded place to spend private time in

prayer.

Do you long for the intimacy with God that our Savior had? Have you entered into this kind of relationship through faith in Jesus? If so, God has given you the privilege of drawing near to Him. In fact, before the foundation of the world, He chose you to be in His family.

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# Daily Devotional - Wednesday, November 9, 2022 - Glorifying Christ at All Times

NOVEMBER 09TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, November 9, 2022 - Glorifying Christ at All Times

Psalm 34:1-3

Today's psalm calls us to continually exalt and magnify the Lord, regardless of the situation. As we gaze at God through His Word, our understanding of Him becomes greater, as if we're looking through a magnifying glass. We see the wonders of His nature and deeds more clearly and can't help but respond in praise.

To grasp this concept of magnifying the Lord, consider how Paul responded to being imprisoned in Rome (Philippians 1:12-14). Instead of complaining about the situation, he accepted it with grace, knowing that this was God's path for him. Through it all, he kept praising and exalting Christ. Even though Paul couldn't preach or start churches as he once did, the Lord opened up a new way to serve—prison ministry and written correspondence that eventually ended up in the New Testament.

Whatever is happening in your life—good or bad, long-term or short—you have the opportunity to magnify the Lord through it. This not only benefits you with a greater appreciation of Him, but it also encourages others who see your witness. When a believer passes through trials peacefully and praises the Lord, even unbelievers notice.

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# Daily Devotional - Monday, November 7, 2022 - The Gifts of the Spirit

NOVEMBER 07TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, November 7, 2022 - The Gifts of the Spirit

#### 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

God has prepared work for us to do, and He's equipped us with spiritual gifts to do it. Spiritual gifts are special abilities the Lord gives us to serve others in the body of Christ.

These gifts are given to us, but they're for the benefit of others. Though they come in several varieties, can be used in various ministries, and have a wide range of effects in the church, they all originate from the Holy Spirit. He's the One who chooses which gift each believer will receive. When all church members serve the body using their particular gifts, everyone benefits spiritually.

The Lord has a specific purpose in mind for each of us, and He's gifted us accordingly (Ephesians 2:10). Without our individual contribution, the local church will lack something. Part of living in the power of the Holy Spirit involves employing our divine endowments as God directs. By operating in our area of giftedness, we'll have the motivation, ability, and confidence needed for effective service. If you don't know what gift you have, start by volunteering at something of interest, and eventually you'll discover it.

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## Daily Devotional - Monday, October 31, 2022 - Does God Love Me?

OCTOBER 31ST 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, October 31, 2022 - Does God Love Me?

### Psalm 145:7-9

Life can hit us with the most unexpected and undesirable circumstances. When that happens, we might wonder, *Does God really care about me?* Here are three truths to remember:

- 1. Scripture tells us, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). This means His very nature is characterized by compassion and concern. Love originated with God, and He is the greatest example of how to express it. Together with the reality that God is holy, this means our Father is perfect in His love—He'll never make a mistake in the way He cares for us.
- 2. God loves us because He calls us His children. "To those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God," writes John in his gospel (John 1:12 NIV). Sadly, for some who've had a difficult upbringing, this may not be encouraging news. But God is the perfect parent, and He loves us perfectly.
- **3.** God gave the supreme demonstration of His love at the cross. God's Son came to earth as an expression of His Father's infinite love and sacrificially did for us what no one else could do.

After considering these three facts about God's love, how could we not expect Him to take care of even the smallest details of our life? Look for ways He is expressing His love to you, and remember Jesus's own words on the subject: "Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

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