



[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 11, 2018 - When Foundations are Shaken

SEPTEMBER 11TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 11, 2018 - When Foundations are Shaken

**Hebrews 12:25-29**

TUESDAY

11

Seventeen years ago, the United States of America experienced a massive surprise attack by terrorists. Our people were shaken by the realization that the country is not as safe as we once thought.

Of course, it grieved us to learn of the events that occurred and the lives that were tragically lost. But at the same time, the horrible situation led to some positive outcomes. For example, our nation unified and people served with courage and selflessness.

One of the biggest benefits, I believe, was that many of us realized our great dependence upon God. Safety in this world is an illusion. Sadly, the peace and blessings we've experienced in America have led to much complacency and self-dependence. Sometimes we need to be shaken out of our forgetfulness and into reliance upon Jesus Christ.

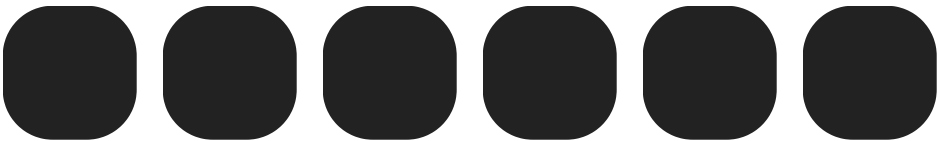
Just listening to the news these days can rattle our sense of well-being. There is always something unsettling taking place. But as believers, we should look at life from a resurrection perspective. We are children of the living God, not people who seek security only in the natural, secular world. Our hope and refuge is firm: Through Jesus Christ, our relationship with the Lord is eternal. Everything else we possess could be destroyed in a moment.

Worldly circumstances—natural disasters, wars, and assorted turmoil—may have an effect on everyone, but they can’t control the believer’s heart. Let your hope rest in Christ alone. Only by finding security in the arms of almighty God can you endure times of uncertainty.

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[Go to post](#)



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TOP

# Daily Devotional - Monday, September 10, 2018 - Unshakeable Foundations

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, September 10, 2018 - Unshakeable Foundations

MONDAY

Our world is a changing, uncertain place. Many people seek security in wealth, relationships, and power. These things, however, are not guaranteed from one day to the next. Watching the news provides enough proof that any of them can be taken away in a moment. No wonder there is such despair and fear.

For believers, thankfully, reality is not based on what we see. Nor is our foundation found in this world. We build our hope and trust on the Lord, and we believe the truth in His Word.

Even in chaotic times, our certainty is found in God's loving relationship with us as His children. Today's passage tells us that nothing can tear us away from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in the midst of turmoil and trials, we have assurance that our lives are in the grip of the almighty God. We can rely not only on His love and presence but also on His uninterrupted attention, faithfulness, and perfect care.

When difficulty arises and circumstances seem overwhelming, we can respond with confidence and strength because of Jesus. Along with the psalmist, who also lived during times of war and stressful events, we can call the Lord "my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust" (Psalm 91:2).

Consider where you find security. Is the foundation of your life built upon the solid rock of Jesus? Or is it planted in something as unstable as sand—like money or prestige? Placing hope and confidence in anything apart from the Lord will ultimately leave you feeling broken and defeated

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Friday, September 7, 2018 - The Consequences of Poor Advice

SEPTEMBER 07TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, September 7, 2018 - The Consequences of Poor Advice

**Genesis 16:1-16**

FRIDAY

07

When facing challenging situations, it's natural to turn to family and friends for help. Sometimes their kind and encouraging words may be the catalyst that turns us back to God. However, we must always be careful to examine advice offered to us. Even though the counsel is motivated by love and seems sound, if it is inconsistent with God's Word in any way, we should politely disregard it.

In Genesis 16, Sarai faced a challenging situation. Although the Lord had promised Abram a son, both of them were getting older, and Sarai had not been able to conceive. Since she was obviously barren, she became impatient and suggested that Abram have a child through her maid Hagar.

Instead of waiting and trusting God, Sarai was trying to fulfill His promise her way. Abram chose to follow his wife's advice without seeking the Lord's guidance. After all, it seemed reasonable because God has explicitly promised him a son (Gen. 15:4) but had not specifically mentioned Sarai at this point (see Gen. 18:14). However, Abram's unwise decision not to wait and trust God led to tension in his family and difficult circumstances for Hagar.

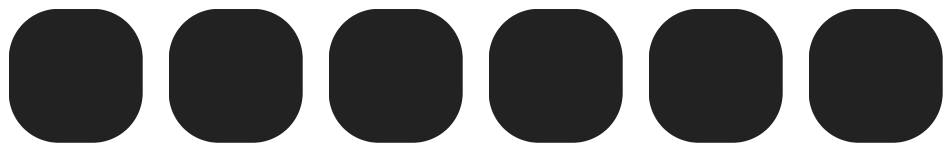
Like Abram, we tend to heed advice we want to hear. However, as we consult our loved ones for help with momentous decisions, it's important to distinguish between our fleshly desires and biblical truth. Wise counsel is always consistent with Scripture and points us to God's desires and ways.

The next time you seek an opinion from friends or family, remember that no human being knows all the unseen factors. Therefore, it's always better to trust in the Bible and God's wisdom for guidance.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Thursday, September 6, 2018 - Our Eternal Rewards

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SEPTEMBER 06TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

**Revelation 4:9-11**

THURSDAY

06

Throughout Scripture, we find references to crowns. Let's take a look at how they reveal the eternal rewards of loving Jesus Christ and following Him obediently.

**The Crown of Victory.** To finish life well, believers need Olympic endurance. Athletes in those ancient games were crowned with a perishable circlet of laurel leaves. But when we pursue our God-given ministry and triumph over sin, we'll be given an imperishable crown (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).

**The Crown of Exultation.** Any believers to whom we ministered through the power of Jesus will be "our glory and joy" before the Lord (1 Thess. 2:18-20). Just imagine how you will rejoice in heaven upon seeing and talking with the people you care about, who appreciate your spiritual investment in them.

**The Crown of Righteousness.** Following Jesus is not easy, but there is great reward for living righteously when facing temptation or hardship. Believers who pursue godliness can look forward to the life to come—and to meeting God with a pure conscience (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

**The Crown of Life.** Anguish and pain are unavoidable in this life, but we can take heart because much spiritual growth happens in adversity. Hang in there to receive the crown of life that the Lord promised to those who love Him (James 1:12).

In heaven, what will we do with the crowns God has given us? We will cast them before Jesus' feet (Revelation 4:10), laying them down as a tribute to the One who saved us, gifted us, equipped us, and lived in us. Everything good and right comes to us through the Lord, so He deserves our crowns.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 5, 2018 - A Foundation of Value

SEPTEMBER 05TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 5, 2018 - A Foundation of Value

**Matthew 7:24-27**

WEDNESDAY

05

The head of my seminary once commented that constructing anything worthwhile requires a firm foundation. So a chicken coop may not need much of a base, but a high-rise office building must be erected upon tons of buried steel and concrete.

The most valuable thing you can build is your life, which could be likened to a skyscraper. No foundation is stronger or steadier than Jesus Christ, so to build wisely, you must ...

Apply the Word of God. Believers build a lasting scriptural structure through study and application of God's Word. The Lord's principles and commandments are the blueprint for an abundant life.

Give sacrificially, forgive willingly, and love extravagantly (Acts 2:45; Eph. 4:32; 1 Peter 1:22). Pride and selfishness have no place in this edifice. Using these as construction materials results in a teetering shack that is susceptible to fire.

Use your gifts to glorify God. The Holy Spirit has equipped every believer to serve the Lord. We want to use our time on this earth courageously, glorifying our Father with our talents and resources.

Share the gospel. Telling others about Jesus Christ is the greatest service we can offer to God and to our fellow man. The Lord Himself has called us to this task (Matt. 28:19).

Kingdom builders aren't creating monuments for the world's pleasure. Rather, they are raising spiritual skyscrapers that reflect God's glory. The truth is, many acts of obedience are seen only by the Lord, but He remembers every grace-filled word and deed, and He intends to reward each one.

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