



[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Thursday, October 4, 2018 - The Most Important Preparation

OCTOBER 04TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, October 4, 2018 - The Most Important Preparation

**Psalm 78:1-8**

THURSDAY

04

When you hear the word *preparation*, what comes to your mind? Do you think about having enough life insurance, studying for a test, or maybe packing all the necessary equipment before a camping trip? If it makes sense to prepare for all these events, then think how much more important it must be to prepare your heart for the Lord (Psalm 78:8).

Today's psalm is a recitation of Israel's history and a warning to subsequent generations not to follow that nation's unfaithful ways. Despite all that the Lord had done for them, the people had taken God's provisions for granted and forgotten the mighty works He'd accomplished on their behalf. They lived for themselves and did not prepare their hearts to be faithful to the Lord.

We readily recognize that many of the things we do in life require preparation. But do we approach our spiritual life with the same forethought, or do we tend to take more of a haphazard approach? For instance, do you plan to spend time each day with the Lord in prayer and His Word, or do you tend to seek Him only when you're facing a problem?

It's doubtful that we'll know God very well or become the person He wants us to be unless we put effort into developing our relationship with Him. In these precious moments of prayer and

reflection, we have the opportunity to calmly dwell on the Word as we focus on an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father. These are the occasions for strengthening our faith, growing in love for Christ, and laying a solid foundation in the Word—all of which are good preparation for whatever troubles come our way.

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[Go to post](#)



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TOP

## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, October 3, 2018 - Letting Go of Unforgiveness

OCTOBER 03RD 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, October 3, 2018 - Letting Go of Unforgiveness

WEDNESDAY

It's a common dilemma: Someone has hurt us, and we know we should forgive but just can't. Despite all our promises to God about letting go of the offense, we find ourselves mentally rehearsing the event until we're once again consumed with anger and hurt.

God has not simply called us to relinquish our bitterness; He's given us the means to do it. The Spirit empowers us to forgive others just as God has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32). However, it's not always a quick process—especially if the offense is great and the hurt is deep. Sometimes we must work through steps until we can finally release the burden.

- *First, we must confess to God that we have sinned against Him with our unforgiving attitude and ask Him to help us repent of it.*
- *Next, we should acknowledge that the basis for forgiving others is God's forgiveness of us. We didn't deserve to be pardoned, yet Christ's sacrifice has released us from our guilt. And it's good to remember that while offenses against us may seem to be the most grievous, we usually underestimate the magnitude of our own sins against God.*
- *Finally, we must let the Bible renew our minds. Instead of allowing ourselves to dwell on the wrong done to us, we can surrender those thoughts to God and replace them with biblical truths about Him, His promises, and His ways.*

So how will you know when you have truly forgiven your wrongdoer? The negative emotions that once arose at the thought of the offender will subside, and you'll be at peace.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 2, 2018 - Forgiveness and Relationship with God

OCTOBER 02ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 2, 2018 - Forgiveness and Relationship with God

**Matthew 6:9-15**

TUESDAY

02

When someone wrongs you, what is your biggest concern? Most of us would have to admit we are concerned mainly for ourselves or loved ones. We're filled with anger or hurt, and forgiveness is the last thing on our minds. But how often do we consider that the way we respond will affect our relationship with God?

Sometimes as we say the Lord's Prayer, we may quickly recite, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt. 6:12) without giving the words much thought. But the two verses that follow this prayer remind us how serious forgiveness is. If we don't move past our hurt and anger toward forgiveness, then God will not forgive us. For those of us who have repented of sin and by faith received Jesus Christ as our Savior, all our sins have been forgiven, based on Christ's substitutionary payment on the cross (Col. 2:13-14). Therefore, these verses in Matthew cannot mean a loss of salvation. They instead refer to the barrier unforgiveness causes in our fellowship with God.

Holding on to grievances is a sin. If we allow that to continue, our communion with the Lord will be disrupted until we confess our attitude and forsake it. We understand what this is like when a child refuses to obey his parents. Although their love for him hasn't diminished, there's an unresolved conflict in their relationship.

As God’s children, we are called into intimate fellowship with Him. Let’s not be like disobedient children who remain under the Father’s discipline and therefore miss out on blessings He wants us to have.

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[Go to post](#)



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TOP

# Daily Devotion - Monday, October 1, 2018 - The Foundation of Forgiveness

OCTOBER 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotion - Monday, October 1, 2018 - The Foundation of Forgiveness

MONDAY

For followers of Christ, the goal is to become increasingly like Him, and one of the best ways to reflect His character is through forgiveness. Yet sometimes this is a quality we are reluctant to demonstrate because it seems so unfair, especially if the wrong done to us is ongoing or particularly painful. To forgive appears to diminish the offense and counteract justice.

Let's correct several misperceptions about this aspect of our faith:

**The foundation for our forgiveness of others is God's forgiveness of us.** Today's passage contains a parable in which a man is forgiven a sum too exorbitant to repay. Yet he turns around and demands immediate payment from someone who owes him a small amount. That's what we are like when we think others' wrongs against us must be avenged even though God has forgiven us.

**Unforgiveness torments us, not the wrongdoer.** It's a caustic poison within us that corrupts our emotions, stunts us spiritually, and stresses our bodies. When we don't release the offender, we end up imprisoned in bitterness, resentment, and hostility—and that is sin.

**Forgiveness doesn't negate the wrong done to us.** It doesn't deny the offense or the resulting pain but lets go of the right to get even. Vengeance is God's responsibility, not ours (Romans 12:19). We don't have all the facts, nor can we know the offender's true motive. Only God can judge accurately and fairly.

When Jesus suffered the ultimate injustice of the cross, He entrusted Himself to the Father (1 Peter 2:21-24). Can you follow His example and trust God with wrongs done to you?

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[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

## Daily Devotional - Friday, September 28, 2018 - The God Who Meets All Needs

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, September 28, 2018 - The God Who Meets All Needs

**Ephesians 1:3-8**

FRIDAY

28

People tend to divide life into categories, distinguishing between issues related to work, home, faith, and leisure. Yet that's not how the Lord sees us. His interest in His children is not confined to spiritual matters; He cares about the details of daily living as well.

Scripture shows that God is in the business of keeping our bodies fed (Luke 12:29), our minds wise (James 1:5), and our hearts at ease (Phil. 4:7). And since believers are in union with Jesus Christ through His indwelling Spirit, every aspect of a Christian's existence has a spiritual connection. There's no time in the day when the believer's life separates into "sacred" and "secular" components. The anxious heart that distracts us from prayer is as much God's concern as the tired mind that easily drifts into temptation.

Scripture emphasizes God's commitment to the believer's whole self: "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). The Lord doesn't limit Himself to building godliness in us. Day-to-day particulars of life matter, too. We need never wonder if God can or wants to meet our needs. Our all-sufficient Father, whose kindness never

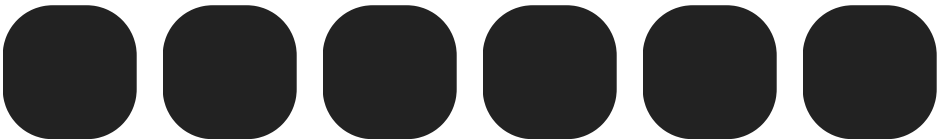
ceases (Lam. 3:22), gives believers whatever is required to grow their faith—whether that means food, comfort, knowledge, or peace.

The loving heavenly Father sees His children in their entirety, not physical beings with a spiritual life on the side. We cheat ourselves when we think God is interested solely in our spiritual needs. He has many kinds of blessings to offer, if we will but ask.

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