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Daily Devotional - Saturday, September 12, 2020 - The Desires of Your Heart

SEPTEMBER 12TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Saturday, September 12, 2020 - The Desires of Your Heart

Psalm 37:1-6

Context is important to our understanding of God's Word and His ways. But I repeatedly hear one promise quoted without consideration of surrounding ideas that explain it. People often tell me, "God said He would give me the desires of my heart, so I'm trusting Him to do that." Before we can lay claim to this promise, we must notice one of the conditions in the first half of the We are to delight ourselves in the Lord (Psalm 37:4).

What does this mean? Delight is a high degree of pleasure, satisfaction, and gratification. Although we may readily claim that we feel this way about God, the proof is in our desires and actions. Do we long to know Him and take time each day to read His Word? Are we eager to meet with Him in prayer? Is He in our thoughts throughout the day, or do we forget about Him for long stretches of time?

We must also read this promise in the context of the other verses that speak about trusting the Lord and committing our ways to Him. In other words, God is the focus—not our desires. When we truly delight in Him, His desires become ours, and we want only what is in line with His will.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, September 11, 2020 - Never Take Your Own Revenge

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Daily Devotional - Friday, September 11, 2020 - Never Take Your Own Revenge

Romans 12:14-21

Why do we have such a hard time extending forgiveness to others? Perhaps one reason is that it doesn't seem right. Justice demands that there be repayment or punishment for wrongdoing. However, we are not the ones who have the authority to retaliate. To do so amounts to usurping God's role, which is just as sinful as what was done to us.

This ungodly attitude is evident in the hearts of many—sadly, including Christians. So let's uncover the dark truth behind it. This destructive landmine of unforgiveness ...

Demonstrates an unwillingness to extend to others the forgiveness the Lord has graciously extended to us (Eph. 4:32).

Plants a root of bitterness in our heart, which poisons us, causes trouble, and defiles others (Heb. 12:15).

Hinders God's sanctifying process in our life, because we grieve the Spirit by holding onto anger, resentment, or vengeance (Eph. 4:30-31).

Instead of demanding justice now, Paul encourages us to bless and do good to those who persecute us. We can never overcome evil with sinful attitudes and actions, but only with good. For now, we must trust God and leave vengeance to Him.

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 9, 2020 -

God Is in Control of Our Salvation

SEPTEMBER 09TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 9, 2020 - God Is in Control of Our Salvation

Ephesians 1:3-14

God's sovereignty extends over all things. He is omniscient (all-knowing), so nothing is hidden from His sight. And since He is omnipotent (all-powerful), no plan of His can be thwarted. Everything in both the natural and spiritual realms—including our salvation—is under His complete control.

Since sin has darkened minds and hardened hearts, man is excluded from the life of God (Eph. 4:17-18). Therefore, we can take no credit for our salvation. Our rescue began in the heart and mind of God, who chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4). God is the one who opened our minds to understand the truth of the gospel, convicted us of our sin, and gave us the faith to believe in Jesus as Savior. From first to last, all of salvation is God's gift to us.

Why did He reach out to save us? Several repeated phrases in today's passage give the reason. It was "according to the kind intention of His will" and "to the praise of the glory of His grace" (Eph. 1:5-6). We are the beneficiaries of God's kindness and salvation, by which the spotlight falls on His glorious grace—not on us.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 8, 2020 - God's Purpose

SEPTEMBER 08TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 8, 2020 - God's Purpose

Romans 8:28-30

What is the purpose of life? Throughout human history, people have been trying to answer that question. Books have been written on the subject, and philosophers have postulated many answers. But for Christians, God's purpose is concisely outlined in today's passage.

Believers are called according to His purpose and are foreknown by Him. God's foreknowledge is much more than His ability to see future events in advance. It also includes bringing to pass what He has chosen to do for those He has called. He has predestined them to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). This will be fully accomplished in the resurrection, but until then, God is progressively transforming His children right now. These are the ones He calls, justifies (declares righteous), and ultimately glorifies.

If you are a Christian, this is God's purpose for you. That means everything He allows into your life is designed to shape you into a glorious reflection of Christ. Although you cannot fully understand how God brings about salvation and how believers are responsible to respond in faith, there is great comfort in knowing that He who began this good work in you will be faithful to complete it (Phil. 1:6)

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Daily Devotional - Friday, September 4, 2020 - God's Perspective of Our Work

SEPTEMBER 04TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, September 4, 2020 - God's Perspective of Our Work

Colossians 3:22-25

Workplace conversations often revolve around achievements, recognition and advancement—as well as the energy people put into reaching these goals. Although the culture values a spirit of competition and the drive it takes to win accolades, these are not the qualities by which the Lord evaluates our work.

God calls His children to a different way of thinking and working—one that marks us as belonging to Him. It is called *servanthood*, and it is the Lord Jesus Christ whom we serve. However, we do so by selflessly serving others, whether they appreciate us or not.

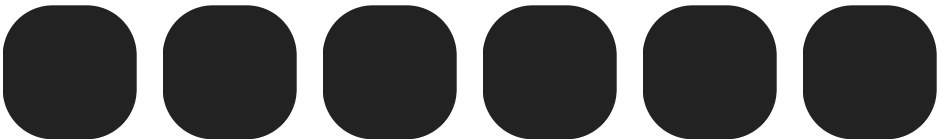
Christ Himself is our model. He left the glories of heaven, took on human flesh, and humbled Himself to become an obedient bond-servant to His heavenly Father, even to the point of dying on the cross. As those who belong to Him, we are to imitate His humble obedience to the Father (Phil. 2:3-8).

Whatever job we may have, we should remember that we’re accountable to the Father for our attitude and diligence. He is pleased when our focus is to “work heartily, as for the Lord” (Col. 3:23) and to benefit others. With that servant-like approach, we’ll place less importance on ourselves and more on the people around us, who are likely to sense a reflection of Christ in our actions.

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