

BE STRONG
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**JULY
DAILY
DEVOTIONALS**

BY MIKE KEYES, SR



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 01 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Acts 20:24 - THE VALUE OF YOUR LIFE

"But my life is worth NOTHING unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus, the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love." Acts 20:24 (New Living Translation). Is your life worth anything to God? The value of your life is directly tied to your witnessing activity for the Lord. The more you share your faith, the more value there is to your life in God's eyes. The less you share your faith, the less value your life has as far as Heaven is concerned. Think about that! Most believers have a WORTHLESS life, because they're SELFISH and don't RISK anything to share the Gospel with those lost in sin all around them. Is that you?

You are not called to save anyone, just to tell them the Good News about Jesus. That is what places value on your life, nothing else. What people do with the Gospel is between them and God, but if you don't tell them the truth about life and death, your life becomes nothing more than a giant waste of time! The value of your life is proportionate to the number of people you've talked to about Christ. Never forget that! Its not about anything else on this earth. God is concerned only about souls, and if you're not like Him, your life becomes totally worthless to Him. What a terrible thought! Read Ezekiel chapters 3 and 33. Let the Word speak to you. Proverbs 24:11,12 says if you know the truth and hold it back from those who need to hear, God will remember that and render to you a just judgment on the day you stand before Jesus. Be wise! Be of worth to God! Share your faith, today and everyday!



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JULY 02 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Ephesians 2:10 - YOU ARE A WORK OF ART

When you were born-again, you were spiritually recreated as a masterpiece. A one-time work of art that can never be duplicated again. You are not some bumbling, stumbling buffoon in Christ! You are HIS WORKMANSHIP! Hand-crafted quality, the likes of which can never be seen again! Is that how you see yourself? Is that how you think of yourself? The world may say you're something less than a spiritual masterpiece, but what do they know? Stop listening to their ignorance and start to appreciate the fact that as His workmanship, you are special to God, and special to others too! God wants you to realize your uniqueness, so you can find His flow and fulfill His plan and purpose in life. No one can do what you can do for God as good as you. If there was somebody else who could do your assignment better than you, He wouldn't have asked you!

So many believers live their lives with a flawed opinion of themselves. Is that you today? Do you see yourself as God's work of art, or not? Nobody is like you. You are unique. You are special. You are priceless. God molded you and made you for His glory, to be a one-of-a-kind masterpiece that can never be duplicated. As such, there are things God wants you to do that nobody can do as good as you. Understand that. Embrace that. Don't be afraid of that truth. The world will tell you people are on different levels of importance and worth. Not so with God! We're all loved equally, but are still wonderful, unique, special creations by the hand of His Spirit. Equal in value, unique in makeup. All the same in Christ, yet individual at the same time. How beautiful!



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JULY 03 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Timothy 4:6 - NOURISHMENT FROM HEAVEN

Our bodies need food to survive, grow, heal and sustain itself. Our spirits need food the same way. God's word is the spiritual food your spirit needs to get strong and stay strong. The more you feed your spirit with God's word, the healthier it will become. Many believers feed their spirits one cold snack a week (Sunday service) and wonder why they haven't got the strength to withstand Satan's temptations. Well, if you only fed your body once a week, what would be the result? When the time came to do something which required a high level of physical strength, you'd be unable to rise to the challenge because you hadn't been feeding yourself properly. How strong is your spirit man today? God's words are nourishment for your spirits and souls, enabling us to get the strength needed to fight the good fight of faith, and prevail!

Words of faith nourish your spirit like good food nourishes your body. If you want to really nourish your spirit, constantly feed it with faith. Faith declarations! Faith announcements! Faith confessions! Faith messages! The more you do this, the stronger you become in Christ. Then when you speak against the devil, or the circumstances he is the author of, the power of your words will move that mountain and grind it to power! The more faith you listen to, the more faith you will have inside, and out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth WILL speak! (Matthew 12:34)



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 04 DAILY DEVOTIONAL 2 Cor 2:11 - KNOW YOUR ENEMIES TACTICS

One of the primary ways Satan gains a foothold in your life is through unforgiveness. When people hurt you, offend you, take advantage of you or take you for granted, what are you supposed to do? FORGIVE THEM! You don't wait for them to repent; you initiate the forgiveness just like Jesus did on the cross. Be mature! Walk in love and forgive the people who have done things against you. That's the New Testament way, and that's the way of love. Jesus demonstrated it when he, from the cross, forgave those who put Him there. But he wasn't the only one. Stephen did it in Acts 7:60, and Paul did it in 2 Timothy 4:16. If they did it, you can too! And you must, because unforgiveness is one of Satan's prime weapons against you! Understand that!

To defeat your enemy, you must know his tactics. You must anticipate his next move. You must be one step ahead. When it comes to walking in love, that means developing the discipline of forgiving. Not AFTER people repent and say they're sorry to you, but BEFORE they even hint at any measure of repentance. Read Colossians 3:13 and Ephesians 4:32-5:2 carefully. The key words are "even as". Even as God forgave us, we forgive others. Did God wait for our repentance before He sent Jesus to the cross? No! Romans 5:8 says that while we were yet sinners, Jesus died for us. That means you were forgiven before you were even born! And even as He forgave you before you even asked for it, so you must do the same towards those who've hurt you. Its not easy, but its right, and it shuts the devil off, and keeps all of Heaven's blessings coming your way!



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JULY 05 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

2 Cor 1:24 - HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN FAITH?

If you want to know whether you're really in faith with God or not, check up on your JOY! Throughout the New Testament, whenever you find faith under discussion, joy is close at hand. Its either mentioned in the same verse, or in close proximity. Why? Because joy is the natural by-product of your faith! If you truly believe God's word is final authority, and that He loves you, and is for you and not against you (Romans 8:31), why wouldn't you be joyful, ALL THE TIME! Not just when the answers come, but BEFORE you see any visible indication that God is moving to respond to your faith in His Word. Philippians 4:4 tells you to rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS! Are you doing that? If not, why not? Are you really walking by faith, and not by sight?

Many believers think they're in faith when they're really not. They declare the right verses, confess the right things, but there's no joy that accompanies the declarations! Notice in our text today that faith and joy are in the same verse. Look at Philippians 1:25, where it talks about the JOY OF FAITH. How about 1 Peter 1:8 - yet believing, you REJOICE. Believing and rejoicing go together. You can't be in faith if there's no joy! Joy and faith, believing and rejoicing, they go hand in hand, always! If you're not rejoicing, you're not believing! Its that simple. Check your joy level to see if you're really in faith or not. Remember, God WANTS to bless you, so if you're standing in faith, lift your hands, your voices and your countenance! The joy of the Lord is your strength!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 06 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Joshua 1:9 - DO YOU KEEP THIS COMMANDMENT?

Many Christians don't know God is commanding them to be strong. But this command to Joshua is not just for him. Its for all of us in Christ. Why? Because like Joshua then, we've got a job to do for God now. We've got the Great Commission to fulfill (Mark 16:15-18), and a very strong and cunning enemy who's trying his best to stop us. God needs you to be spiritually strong so He can use you in meaningful ways to reach souls in the Name of Jesus. Most believers love God but can't be used by God. They're too spiritually weak. Proverbs 24:10 says that if you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small! Do you cave in when all hell seems to break loose against you? Or do you stand your ground, firm in faith? Only the strong can stand! Do you?

Understand that God loves all His children equally, but He can only work with the strong ones. He wants to use EVERY Christian, but most believers can't be trusted when the chips are down. They wilt, faint, quit, give up, complain, murmur, and cry big tears! How pitiful that must look to God! We're seated in Heavenly places in Christ, far above EVERY enemy (Ephesians 1:17-23), but most Christians don't take the time to develop, grow and mature to the place where their positional superiority in Christ translates to everyday victory in this life. God is COMMANDING you to be strong! Its not a suggestion! So get strong, and stay strong! How? Daily prayer, Bible Study and meditating on God's Word. Spending time with Him. Putting Him FIRST everyday. Believing that what He says about you is true! You're MORE than a conqueror (Romans 8:37). Act like it! Be strong!



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JULY 07 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Psalms 82:1 - ARE YOU A MEMBER OF GOD'S CONGREGATION?

There is only one congregation God stands in the midst of. Its not Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Catholic, Pentecostal, Full Gospel, Word of Faith, Assemblies of God, Foursquare Gospel, or any other denomination out there. It's the CONGREGATION OF THE MIGHTY! Read Psalms 82. God sees you much differently than you probably see yourself. He stands among, works with and anoints - the mighty ones! The strong ones! Is that you today? Are you mighty in Christ? Are you more than a conqueror? Are you on the offensive with your faith, attacking the devil and pushing him back at every turn? This is the congregation God hangs with! Are you a member?

The only church that God gets glory from is the congregation of the mighty. Its where His power is manifest, and where people experience that power in tangible, life-changing ways. Its where the members have God's anointing, and flow with the Holy Spirit to demonstrate the power of the risen Christ. First Corinthians 4:20 says God's kingdom is not in word, but power. Intellectualism has no answer for the power of God. It never has, and never will. Churches that don't flow in the power of God are cemeteries in disguise, and the members are dead and just don't know it! Don't let that be you! Join God's church and become one of His mighty ones! Go in His power, and let the world see through you that Jesus and His power are still available, the way it was when He walked the shores of Galilee.



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 08 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Romans 1:16 - THE SOURCE OF THE GOSPEL'S POWER

Paul said the gospel of God IS the power of God. It doesn't just contain God's power; it IS God's power! As such, the proclamation of God's Word unleashes the inherent power within – for anything you need, want or desire concerning the things of God in this life. The word "gospel" means "good news". The proclamation of the good news about Jesus IS the power of God. That means the power that's in the gospel is released when it is announced or proclaimed. Who does the announcing? You! In Mark 16:15-20, Jesus said believers (you) should go into all the world to preach the gospel, and then signs and miracles would follow them as they go. Jesus will CONFIRM your word with miracles, but you have to proclaim the gospel first. That's where the power is, and that's how it is released and put to work.

God's word contains His power. But that power can only be released when believers (you) speak it and announce it to the world. Like Paul, never apologize for sharing the gospel because that's the way God's power is released - when the word is spoken or preached. Satan is not afraid of you, but he's deathly afraid of the word of God within you! He's not out to stop you per se. In truth, he's out to stop you from preaching the word, because that's when God's power is released, and he has no answer for the power of God. Don't waste time praying for God's power to manifest in your life. Its already here! Its in His word, so just proclaim it as He directs, and His power will manifest for you, and for those who hear you and receive God's word by faith.



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JULY 09 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

2 Timothy 2:9 - WHAT IS THE DEVIL AFRAID OF?

God's word can't be bound. That's what the devil is afraid of. He can persecute men all he wants, but as long as the word of God continues to be proclaimed, there is nothing he can do and he's doomed to defeat time and time again. God's congregation of the mighty (Psalms 82) knows this, and NEVER lets problems, challenges, obstacles or hurdles discourage them from declaring the Word of God. It's the preaching of it that releases the power in it, and that's what the devil doesn't want because he has no answer for the power of God. Humanism, New Age, false cults, false religions, demonic oppression and deception MUST bow in defeat when you declare the Word of God. Make the devil tremble today in fear of you! **PREACH GOD'S WORD!**

Understand that when the devil attacks you, the **PURPOSE** of the attack is always to stop you from preaching God's word. No matter how he comes - with sickness, poverty, confusion, marital difficulties, rebellious children - whatever, he's after the word of God. He doesn't want you preaching it because that's when God's power is released, and when that happens, his defeat is enforced and knows it. So don't be ignorant of Satan's objective against you. No matter what you're facing today, face it with the word of God rolling out your mouth! That's the power you need, and that's the power the devil is so afraid of! Renew your mind to God's word (Romans 12:2), and train yourself to speak it, especially in the tough times! That's where you'll find victory, and where Satan finds his worst nightmare!



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JULY 10 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 8:29 - HAVE YOU TORMENTED THE DEVIL TODAY?

Contrary to what the devil may tell you, he's not as tough as he would like to you to think he is. He is a defeated foe. Jesus has already neutralized him and handed us the victory. In fact, with your authority in Christ and the Name of Jesus, you have the ability to torment the devil anytime you want. Doesn't that sound like fun? So many Christians let the devil torment them daily, but it should be you tormenting him daily! How? By praising, worshipping and fellowshiping with God in prayer. By preaching God's word, to yourself and then to others. By doing what the devil hates most, going into all the world and fulfilling the Great Commission of Mark 16:15-20. Are you tormenting the devil today? Its fun! Try it, you'll like it!

The greatest tragedy on earth is God's people allowing a defeated enemy to defeat them in life. Allowing Satan to torment you is like slapping God in the face and saying the work of the cross was of none effect against the devil. Don't allow that any longer! Rise up in faith, proclaim the word of God in the devil's face, and torment him for a change! When Jesus confronted the demons who had been tormenting the man from Gadara, they pleaded with him for mercy! They begged him not to torment them BEFORE THE TIME! What time? The time they all get thrown into the lake of fire forever. Praise God, you don't have to wait for that event to take place – you can torment them now - ahead of their time! Wouldn't that be fun? I love tormenting the devil. It makes me feel good! He deserves all the torment you can give, and in Christ, you can give him plenty! So get busy! Praise God in the presence of your enemies and find the joy that comes when you're tormenting him, rather than him tormenting you!



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JULY 11 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Psalms 23:5 - ARE YOU ENJOYING GOD IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR ENEMIES?

God wants you to enjoy the victory Jesus purchased through the resurrection. Not just in Heaven, but here on earth. In Psalms 23, God promises to prepare a table of blessings for you **IN THE PRESENCE** of your enemies! That can't be referring to Heaven, because your enemies aren't up there. They're here, on earth, in this life. What a wonderful promise! Instead of letting the devil steal your joy, victory, health, wealth and anything else that pertains to the abundant life (John 10:10), you can turn the tables on him anytime. Decide, apart from your feelings, to praise and worship God, pray, preach the word, believe God's promises, use your faith, exercise your authority, and speak and live in the Name of Jesus. Then sit down to God's table of blessing and provision, and feast to your heart's content, while the devil stands there crying and complaining! Don't you love it?

One of the greatest ways to enjoy your salvation in Christ is to sit at God's table, and in the presence of Satan, enjoy all the blessings Jesus took back from him when He rose from the dead. The louder he shouts, cries, complains and tries to accuse you before God, the sweeter the experience becomes! For so long, Satan has had his way with too many believers - tormenting them, hurting them and robbing from them. No longer! Use your authority and proclaim God's word over your life, and the life of your loved ones. Let's God's power in you crush the devil under your feet. Torment him! James 4:7 says when you resist the devil, he **RUNS FROM YOU!** Is he running from you today? Are you forcing him to stand there and watch while you enjoy the blessings of God in your life? Are you taking God's word to all the nations, and making him stand there and watch helplessly? Make him!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 12 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Corinthians 2:5 - WHERE IS YOUR FAITH BASED?

Your faith must be based on the manifested power of God in your life. This is the only foundation that can stand the test of time in your life. Intellectual Christianity can't provide the power needed when times are difficult. Faith based on intellectualism is faith doomed to fail. Only the power of God has the ability to carry you through to victory when all hell is set against you. Your faith must be based on that and nothing else. Is it?

Paul was a very educated man. He sat at the feet of Gamaliel, one of the most respected religious leaders and teachers of his day (Acts 22:3). But in Philippians 3:5-8, he says that all his training, education and zealousness is, but garbage compared to the excellence of knowing Christ, and the POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION (Philippians 3:10). Are you basing your faith on the power of the Lord's resurrection? If not, your faith is on shaky ground, and in times of intense struggle, it will fail. Build your life on the testimonies of God's power at work in you! Allow God's power to become the foundation for who you are, and what you believe. There is no substitute for this. Persuasive words of man's wisdom are no match for Satan's wiles. Only the power of God will prevail for you, so be wise like Paul. Base everything on God's power working in you and through you. It's the foundation no demon in hell can shake or destroy!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 13 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Ephesians 6:10 - ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH?

Remember these four facts. 1. You are a soldier. 2. You are in an army. 3. You are in a war. 4. You have enemies. You can't change any of these. The moment you were born; you became part of a war just by virtue of your very existence. God loves you. Satan hates you. God wants to see you saved. Satan wants to drag you to hell. Now that you're born-again, you've become part of God's army. You're a soldier, who has to fight to hold on to what Jesus has provided you and stay on the offensive for world evangelism. Therefore, you must be strong! You must be strong enough to withstand any attack your enemies throw against you. If you're not strong enough, you'll be defeated, which is where most believers are today. Don't let that be you!

To be victorious in this warfare, you must be strong in spirit, soul and body. Your enemies are very strong, dedicated, focused and committed to their cause. They are not distracted in anyway. You must be the same. And, you must know your enemy to defeat your enemy. Some of the enemies against you are spiritual. Some are mental, or of the soulish realm. Others are carnal, or of the flesh. No matter what kind of enemy is attacking you, if you're not spiritually strong you won't be able to defend yourself successfully. You'll be defeated and become just another casualty of war! You must rise up and do what is necessary to get strong and stay strong! As long as you stay weak, you are easy prey for your enemies, and God can't bless you or use you the way He wants to.



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 14 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Ephesians 6:13 - DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ENEMIES ARE?

Before you can defeat your enemies, you must know who they are. As long as you fail to identify your enemies, they have the advantage over you because your lack of knowledge is their best weapon against you. Many believers walk in continuous defeat - in part because they don't even know who their enemies are. How tragic! Here are seven enemies to be aware of in life: 1) The devil and his demons. 2) The world system. 3) Our Flesh. 4) Persecution. 5) Disappointment. 6) Defeat. 7) Discouragement. To know them is to begin the walk that leads to victory over all of them!

Some of these enemies are spiritual. Some are mental. Some are physical. All are deadly. All are very strong, and all present themselves against you on a regular basis, if not everyday. Be on the lookout for their attacks. Don't let them take you by surprise. Stay vigilant, and the moment you recognize them coming against you, rise up with the Word of God and use it to defeat them. Don't wait until they have a foothold in your life. Deal with them immediately, and ruthlessly. Give them no place, no room to maneuver, nothing to work with. Cut them off with God's Word. Quote the scriptures that the Holy Spirit gives you and use the sword that is sharper than any other sword (Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12). In the coming days, we'll take a look at each of these enemies.



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 15 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Ephesians 6:11 - ENEMY NUMBER ONE... THE DEVIL & HIS DEMONS

The devil is not only God's enemy, but yours as well. He, and all the demons who work for him, are dedicated to finding ways to hurt you, and do as much damage as they can against you, spirit, soul and body. If possible, he would like nothing better than to see you die lost and go to hell, but if you're already born-again, the next-best thing as far as he's concerned is to neutralize you so God can't use you to spread the Word and get others saved. Most Christians are neutralized, and don't even know they are. They're of no use to God and live this life in a totally defeated state. Even though they're children of God, they are defeated children of God. Is that you today? It doesn't have to be. Greater is the Holy Spirit in you, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

First of all, don't be afraid of the devil. Jesus has already defeated him through the resurrection. But at the same time, don't underestimate him. Don't pretend he doesn't exist, or hope he just goes away because you're Christian. On the contrary, he will try HARDER to find ways to neutralize you because now, in Christ, you're a distinct threat to him. He knows you have the power within to do him great damage, so he works against you proportionate to your level of enthusiasm for the things of God. If you want to do great things for God, Satan will work all the more to stop you. That's okay! Once you realize you're far above him in Christ (Ephesians 1:17-23), you can face him on the field of battle with confidence. If God be for you (Romans 8:31), who can be against you? He walks about like a roaring lion, but he's not! Jesus is the Lion; Satan is only a defeated "wannabe!" Really, he's terrified of you, the same way he was with Jesus (Mark 5:7). Make him quake with fear! You're above him in Christ. He's far below you. Act like it. Talk like it. Be the triumphant Christian Jesus wants you to be!



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JULY 16 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

2 Corinthians 4:4 - ENEMY NUMBER TWO... THE WORLD SYSTEM

Satan is called the “god” of this world. That means he’s the one who has developed, and now controls, the system all around you. The flow of the world is always in a negative vein because Satan wants to program you to think, act and talk his way, rather than God’s way. Jesus said we are in the world, but not of the world (John 17:15,16). That means we’re here to do a job for God, but while here, we’re to stay independent of the world’s ways. Why? Because the world’s system is designed to keep you under Satan’s control. He authored it, controls it, and tries to bring it to bear in your life daily. Don’t let the world’s way of doing things rub off on you. Stay above it through prayer, and constant study and meditation in God’s Word.

Jesus prayed that God would sanctify us through His Word (John 17:17). His word IS truth. It doesn’t just contain portions of the truth; it IS the truth! That means if you want to remain unpolluted from the ways of the world, you must saturate yourself with God’s word daily. Once a week in church is not enough. You have to get strong and stay strong to ward off the world’s temptations all around you. Temptations to talk wrong, think wrong, act wrong. You’re surrounded by this system from the time you wake up each day, so recognize it for what it is. It’s an enemy out to steal, kill and destroy you in anyway it can. Jesus was in the world, but He wasn’t of it. You and I must be the same, but it will take spiritual strength to get there and stay there. Are you strong enough?



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JULY 17 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Romans 7:18 - ENEMY NUMBER THREE... YOUR FLESH

Your flesh is not your friend. Its one of the enemies you must recognize and defeat, everyday of your life. In my opinion, it's the most dangerous and destructive enemy because you can't just step out of your body. As long as you live on earth, you live inside your dead-to-sin flesh. Satan and his demons come and go, and the world system is all around you, but the flesh is a part of you. It is always there, wanting to do 3 things: 1) Eat more, 2) Sleep more, 3) Sin more. If your flesh has its way, you'd sleep until Noon, eat until midnight, and sin until morning! That's the nature of the flesh. It NEVER wants to serve God, so you must MAKE IT obey you!

Paul said he had to keep his body under subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27). It wanted to do things he knew were sinful, so he had to control it. Your flesh is the same. Control it! Don't let it have its way, because if you do, it will eventually kill you! Its your ENEMY! Isn't is amazing people spend so much time pampering the enemy? With food, cosmetics, entertainment, plastic surgery, fake hair, and much more! Its okay to attend to your flesh and take care of it because it belongs to God (1 Corinthians 6:20), but don't let it control you! One of the most effective ways Satan comes against you is through your flesh (James 1:14,15)! Don't let him use it to entice you to sin!



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JULY 18 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

2 Timothy 3:12 - ENEMY NUMBER FOUR... PERSECUTION

If you want to be like Jesus, you WILL be persecuted. However, its up to you as to whether this enemy defeats you, or you defeat it. The more you do for Jesus, the more persecution comes against you. Its proportionate. If you're not being persecuted, that means you're not doing anything for God that matters. Remember, you live in a world system that Satan is the god of, so when you decide to fulfill the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20), much of the world will come against you. You can either let that stop you, or you can face it head on in the power of God and become stronger and more committed to the cause of Christ. This was Paul's mindset. The more people tried to persecute him, the more hard-headed he became towards seeing his assignment from God fulfilled on earth (2 Corinthians 11:22-33). Let persecution define you. Let it make you stronger.

In the gym, most exercise equipment works on the principle of resistance training. The harder your muscles are forced to work, the stronger they become. Applying that truth when persecution comes against you. Take what the devil is trying to use against you and turn it around so it becomes a tool God uses to make you stronger and more committed to excellence in Christ. The more you resist when persecution comes against you, the stronger you become spiritually, just like Paul. Its resistance training from a spiritual perspective! Want to pump up your body? Lift weights. Want to pump up your spirit? Rejoice when persecution comes your way! (Acts 5:41)



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JULY 19 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

2 Timothy 4:16 - ENEMY NUMBER FIVE...DISAPPOINTMENT

Because you are part of a many-membered organism called the body of Christ, you must not let disappointment defeat you. When the Bible says not to put trust in other men (Psalms 118:8), it says so with good reason. Men will let you down. They'll disappoint you. They'll break their word, forget their promises, and change their minds. Don't let that defeat you. Remember they're only human, so just forgive them and move on. God IS faithful and can always be counted upon to come through when you need Him. If somebody has proven to be a disappointment for you, just love them, pray for them, and believe that God will send others alongside you to help with life's assignments. Don't let the disappointment defeat you!

God knows you need to work with others to get His job done on earth. He designed it that way (Ephesians 4:16). Every part of the body of Christ is to do its part, everyone is important. But disappointments come. People prove to be untrustworthy. You find out that people aren't really your friends after all. Don't get upset. Don't hold grudges. Don't harbor unforgiveness. If you do, you're defeated, and this enemy has neutralized you. Do to others what you'd want them to do to you (Matthew 7:12). Do you want forgiveness when you disappoint someone? Then give it to those who disappoint you! Don't be overcome with evil, overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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JULY 20 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Numbers 14:22-24 - ENEMY NUMBER SIX...SETBACKS

When you set out to achieve something for God, setbacks will occur from time to time. Like a baseball player, always try to improve your "batting average", but realize you're not going to hit a home run every time! How you handle setbacks will determine whether it defeats you as an enemy, or you learn from it and become stronger for God. Joshua and Caleb did everything right, yet because of the unbelief of everyone else, they had to wait more than 40 years before they could enjoy the Promised Land. That's a setback! They come, but how do you handle them when they do?

Setbacks can take many forms. It could be a goal unfulfilled. A dream not realized. Sin committed. Vows broken before God. Whatever form it takes, learn from it and be a stronger Christian as a result of it. Don't let it become a tool in the hands of the devil to heap condemnation upon you. God knows your frame (Psalms 103:14). He knows you'll stumble and fall along the way, but He's right there always to pick you up, forgive you if you ask, and show you how to do it better next time. Don't let setbacks hold you hostage to the past. Be like Paul. Forget the things behind you and reach forward to things ahead of you (Philippians 3:13,14). Press on! Don't look back. If the devil reminds you of the past, remind him of his future!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 21 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

2 Corinthians 1:3-11 - ENEMY NUMBER SEVEN...DISCOURAGEMENT

Are you discouraged in your walk with God today? Have you been there before? Guess what? You'll be there again! Its an enemy that keeps coming back. Why? Because you live in an imperfect world, cursed with sin. So, the more you endeavor to do for God, the easier it is to become discouraged. Things don't happen as fast as you'd like. People tell you one thing but do another. People take you for granted and abuse your kindness. We talked a few days ago about enemy number five, which is disappointment. Enemies number five and seven work in tandem many times against you. Discouragement comes because of disappointment, and vice versa. So, have you been tempted to give up? Don't! Don't yield to this enemy. So many have, and now they're bitter, resentful, out of the game and on the sidelines of life, not useable for God's purposes and pursuits. Don't let this be you! Instead of being discouraged, be encouraged! God is for you, and has not quit on you, so don't quit on yourself!

Remember, even if nobody else appreciates you for what you're doing for God, God does! And isn't that what really matters? He sees you and knows your heart. He WILL comfort you and WILL get you back on track if you're discouraged today. Believe it! Paul was tempted to feel discouraged when the Corinthians took his love for granted (2 Corinthians 12:15). But what did he do? He went to the Lord and found the comfort in being reminded that all he was doing was being done for the Lord, and not for men! (Colossians 3:23,24) When you're tempted to get discouraged, recognize it as an enemy seeking to neutralize your effectiveness for God. Take time with the Lord in prayer and Bible Study and be encouraged all over again! Jesus sees you, knows you, appreciates what you're doing for Him, and WILL reward you someday in Heaven (2 Timothy 4:7,8). Be encouraged over that!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 22 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Corinthians 4:20 - DOES POWER CONFIRM YOUR MESSAGE?

God's Kingdom is not merely a message, but a message confirmed with Divine power. This is what separates Christianity from all other religions. We serve a living Jesus who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He wants to demonstrate to people that He is alive, and the best way to do that is with miracle power. The reason the Great Commission is possible is because the power of God confirms our message. Without that power, our task is impossible. But when you speak God's Word, all of Heaven stands ready to back up your message with confirming power. Don't be content to just share Jesus with others. Rather, share Jesus - and then believe for God's power to confirm everything you've said.

When you share Jesus with unbelievers, do you expect God's power to confirm your message? You should. In Mark 16:20, we see Jesus confirming the Word with signs following. Are signs following you? They should be. Jesus said these signs would follow "those who believe". Well, if you're a believer, those signs should be following you when you share Jesus to others. This is what makes our witness so powerful, and so overwhelming. One miracle is worth ten thousand sermons! Paul said your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:4,5). Is that where your faith is today? What has God been able to do in you, for you and through you to others? Miracles make the difference. Are they making a difference in you?



**JULY
DAILY
DEVOTIONALS**

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 23 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 - WHERE IS YOUR FAITH GROUNDED?

A man's faith must be grounded in God's power, and nothing else. Without God's power, your witness becomes nothing more than your opinion. But confirmed with God's power, your witness becomes a life-giving message that hungry sinners yearn for. All men seek the miraculous because all men are made in God's image and likeness, and He is a miracle-working God. Many seek it in the wrong places, but they seek it, nonetheless. When you confront sinners about their soul's condition, do you do it with a message coupled with a manifestation of God's power? That's the way the early church got off the ground, and that's how you must do it today.

Paul said our faith must NOT be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. He said his preaching was NOT with persuasive words of men's wisdom. Christianity is not psychology, psychiatry or philanthropy. It's the raw power of God at the disposal of men. Jesus said that if men were to doubt his message, they could look to His miracles to find confirmation about his message. Do you have your faith grounded in God's power that confirmed the message, or in just the message itself? Think about it. In this day of skepticism and persecution, you must have a solid foundation from which to witness from. It can be nothing other than God's power. When you've experienced God's power, you witness with conviction, and nothing your enemies say can sway you from your appointed path in Christ.



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 24 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Joshua 1:8 - THE WAY TO PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS

The road to prosperity and success in life is not a mystery. God tells you how to obtain both. Its not a secret, not some "get-rich-quick" scheme, or something left to chance. Its for all to read, believe and implement. What God told Joshua is just as much for you as it was for him. God says to meditate in His Word Day and night, so that you will be able to observe and do what He says in it. When you do that, God guarantees you prosperity and good success! Guaranteed! No exceptions! Are you tired of living with less than what God says you can have? Tired of experiencing failure instead of success? Then get busy and DO what God says to do and enjoy the prosperity and success He wants you to have in this life.

Do you believe God? If you do, why not take Him at His word, and do what He says. Make God's word first place in your life and become a daily doer of His Word! Prosperity and good success are guaranteed when you do this. Everybody wants to enjoy a prosperous, successful life, but very few are following God's directions. That's why very few are prosperous and successful. Are you following God's Road map to success? Do you put His Word first place daily? Do you meditate in it daily? Psalms 1:1-3 says that when you delight yourself in God, you meditate in His Word Day and night. The result? You'll be a like a tree planted near water, with deep roots that no storm can tear up. You'll be strong, and in position to experience the fullness of God's blessings in your life. Its your choice! God can tell you how to get there, but you have to decide to follow the road map!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 25 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Psalms 1:1-3 - HOW DEEP ARE YOUR ROOTS?

God wants you successful, prosperous and independent of the world's system of finance and control. The way to achieve this is simple, put God's Word first place everyday, and become a daily doer of what you observe within it. The more you do that, the less of an influence the world will have on the way you think, act or talk. And at the same time, the deeper your spiritual roots will go in Christ. If you take delight in knowing Jesus, prove it to Him by putting Him and His Word first place in your life everyday. Not just on Sundays, or once in awhile, but daily. Day and night! Everyday, for the rest of your life. This is the road to victory in every area of your life. You become like a tree that grows right next to the river. Your roots are deep, and the enemy can't get to them. Day and night, make God's Word first place in your life. Prosperity and good success await you!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 26 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Psalm 4:2 - DO YOU LOVE WORTHLESS THINGS?

Most believers are just as much in love with the world as unbelievers are. Are you? How can you tell if you have a problem in this area? Just look at where your money is being spent, and that will tell you. Everything that is of this world is worthless as far as God is concerned, yet this is where most believers have their money and resources tied up. Meanwhile the world goes to hell in a hand basket, so-to-speak, while selfish Christians enjoy their "prosperity". Prosperity is scriptural, and it should be desired and enjoyed, but for the right reasons. Prosperity is not about what you have, but rather, what you have to give to bless the world around you. That's the purpose for prosperity – funding and fulfilling your ministry, which is the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-19). Are you in love with souls, or with the world? Jesus said wherever your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). Do you love the worthless things of this world more than the priceless souls of men?

Possessions here are just things to have in order to survive and function while on earth, but as far as spiritual things go, they are worthless. God chastised the Jews because they fell in love with the world. Have you? Is the pursuit of creature comfort more important to you than obeying God and fulfilling the Great Commission? The only thing that has value on earth are the souls of men, those are the precious gems God wants you to covet after. Never mind the pursuit of more money. Or precious gems. Or bigger houses and nicer cars. All those things are worthless as far as God is concerned! Souls are priceless! They mean everything to God. Do they mean everything to you?



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 27 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Psalms 119:37,38 - WHAT ARE YOUR EYES LOOKING AT?

The more established you become in God's Word, the less of an allure the world will have to you. The less established you are in God's Word, the more of a "pull" the world will have in your life. If the world and what it offers has a significant place in your life, you need to spend more time with God and His Word. The more you do that, the more you'll be able to turn your eyes away from the allure of the world. You won't be coveting what the world offers, but rather, you'll be busy about the Father's business, just like Jesus was. Nothing of this world has any value spiritually. The only thing of spiritual value on earth are the souls of men. Never forget that!

As far as God is concerned, being rich has nothing to do with how much money or possessions you possess. Being rich towards God (Luke 12:21) has to do with your fruitfulness in winning souls and disciplining them into a closer walk with Jesus. The more people you help, the richer you become. Money, and all it can buy, is only for the purpose of financing the Great Commission and funding your particular assignment with regards to that Great Commission. Nothing else matters. Matthew 6:33 promises that when you seek first God's kingdom, and make His priorities your priorities, everything else is added. God wants you to have a prosperous, successful life, but only for the purpose of being in a better position to win souls, and disciple believers. As long as this remains your priority, the Lord won't hesitate to bless you abundantly. Just be sure your eyes are turned away from the world and focused squarely upon God and His Word!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 28 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Psalms 119:18 - PRAYING FOR OPEN EYES

God wants to open your eyes and show you wonderful things from His Word. This should be your prayer every time you open up your Bible. The Word of God is full of truths which you need to know about to live a victorious, prosperous and successful life. That's why David prayed for God to open his eyes. He wanted to see the truths he needed to understand to put him over in life, and you need to see them too. This is the "Rhema" verses the "Logos". The "Logos" is God's written word to all men. The "Rhema" is God's spoken word to YOU. Its something that leaps off the page and speaks directly to you. Pray for the open eyes which enable you to see every truth that pertains to you, and to your ability to minister effectively in Jesus' Name.

James 4:2 says you have not because you ask not. Ask God to open your eyes every time you read His Word, then expect the "Rhema" and "revelation knowledge" to flow. Expect it! God's not into keeping secrets from His children. He wants you to understand His mind, His ways and His Word. But you have to ask for the revelation. You have to ask for the opened eye. When you have it, it WILL change you. One verse, one statement, one passage can change your life, if only you've got eyes to see what God wants you to see. Believe your eyes are opened to the riches found in God's Word. Ask for it, and believe you receive it in Jesus' Name (Mark 11:22-24)!



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 29 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Psalms 25:10 - IS GOD'S PATH YOUR PATH?

Psalms says God's path is made up of two things: mercy and truth. Is this your path too? If you are His child, it should be. Mercy and truth. We're called by God to present the truth to the world, which is the Word of God. Jesus said God's Word IS truth (John 17:17). It doesn't just contain truth, it IS truth. That's what you share, the truth - the Word of God, and let God take it from there. And when men choose to resist you when you evangelize, what do you do? The same as God. Show them mercy. Thank God for His mercy! When the Bible says His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22,23), its because you NEED His mercy every morning! We all do! Be merciful with others the way God shows mercy to you. Tell them the truth and extend mercy whenever they need it. That's the path of God. Is it your path too?

Don't be like the man in Matthew chapter 18, who refused to extend forgiveness to others for small debts, after being forgiven of large debts himself. Jesus called that man a "wicked servant". Don't be wicked in God's eyes! Tell people the truth, and no matter how they respond, be ready and willing to extend mercy, kindness, forgiveness, patience, or whatever else they may require at the time. Remember, God extended all of that and more to you, so you do the same to others. This is the path God walks, and it must be the path you walk. If you want to look like, act like and talk like God, let mercy and truth be the path you take everyday.



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 30 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Corinthians 4:2 - ARE YOU A FAITHFUL STEWARD?

You are a steward of God, and God wants faithfulness from all His stewards. Qualifications are important of course, but if God has to choose, He will always select somebody because they've proven themselves faithful, whether they're qualified or not. Paul was a qualified man when God saved and called him, but he was placed in ministry because of his faithfulness (1 Timothy 1:12). No matter what the devil tried against Paul, it was unsuccessful because Paul was faithful to God's call, and to God's assignments. You must be the same. Its fine to be qualified to do something significant for God, but are you faithful first? Have you proven yourself reliable to God when He calls on you? Qualified or not, have you been available with no strings attached?

Faithfulness as a steward must be top priority. God can teach someone and make them qualified, but faithfulness comes from the heart. It's a decision you choose to make. Come hell or high water, you decide you're going to be there if God needs you. That's faithfulness, and that's what God looks for. Paul told Timothy to find "faithful men" to teach (2 Timothy 2:2), who could then teach others. Faithfulness was their pre-requisite in finding new leaders in the early church, and that pattern remains the same today. Above all else, make sure you're faithful to God. When you stand before God someday at judgment time, He will not say to you, "Well done, good and qualified servant". If you've done well, it will be because you were good and FAITHFUL! (Matthew 25:21).



JULY DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

JULY 31 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Matthew 16:23 - THE THINGS OF GOD

Jesus rebuked Peter because he was mindful of the things of men, but not the things of God. Most Christians are guilty of the same today. That means in this world, in this life, we have priorities to establish every day. To be spiritually strong and useable for the Master's use, our priorities must be on the things of God, not the things of men. To be fixated on the things of men produces three things in life. 1) Short-sightedness. 2) Narrow-mindedness. 3) Double mindedness. A short-sighted Christian has no patience in life, and as a result, is prone to quit and give up long before a faithful person sees the fruit of his faith. They can't see past the problem, and because of that, God is never given the time to develop them the way He wants. Growth takes time, but the short-sighted Christian can't see beyond the crisis! A narrow-minded Christian never allows God to be God – they fail to understand that God can produce victory in our lives in any number of ways, using people and means we may have no knowledge of as we stand in faith. The narrow-minded believer tries to fit God into a box that tries to constrain Him into pre-conceived methods of operation for our deliverance and victory. And every time we try to figure out HOW, WHO, WHEN and WHY with regards to belief that God will deliver us, we find out all over again that God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:9)! And then the double-minded believer is a person who is trying to operate in faith and fear at the same time, which never works, according to James 1:6-8!

All of our choices in this temporary life must be based upon the eternal life that follows. To focus on the things of God is to focus on spiritual things, not temporary things in this life. First John 2:15-17 tells us not to love the world, or the things in the world, which are all going to pass away. The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life – will all pass away in time. The things of God never pass away! Yes, there will be trials, tests and difficulties in this life when we follow God, just like what Jesus was telling Peter, but if you remember that all of that is temporary, you have a perspective that protects you from falling away in times of crisis. Matthew 6:33 says if we seek first God's kingdom, all the other THINGS will be added. God knows we need "things" to live and function, but He wants us to live differently than those who don't know Him and who are not born-again. According to John 6:27, the things of God are always eternal. We work not for temporal things of this life, but for the eternal things of the next life – the things of God. Don't be short-sighted. Don't be narrow-minded. Don't be double-minded.

