

BE STRONG
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**OCTOBER
DAILY
DEVOTIONALS**

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

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OCTOBER 01 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Colossians 3:2-3 - ARE YOU REALLY DEAD TO THIS WORLD?

Christians must consistently remind themselves that even though we are living in this world, we are not of this world. Our love, our affections, our priorities, our focus and our energies, are all supposed to be towards the eternal things of God, not the temporary things of this world. As we see over and over again with natural disasters like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and the like, it's folly to expect anything we own or possess in this world to be permanent, or provide any measure of security. In a matter of minutes, everything we have can be lost. One day we might have everything money could buy, and the next day we could be sitting on a pile of rubble that used to be our mansion. One day we might have millions in stocks, bonds and investments, and the next everything could be wiped out in a financial crash. The earth is a cursed planet because of sin, and until Jesus returns to lift that curse, we have to live and operate accordingly. That means we must stay focused on spiritual things, because they are eternal and un-changing. To avoid the vulnerability that surely comes when men place their dependence on this ever-changing, unpredictable and cursed planet, you must do what our verses today tell us to do. You must DIE to this world's attractions and deceptions, and set your affections on things above, which pertain to the spiritual things of God. I've watched video footage of destructive events like tsunamis, typhoons and tornadoes, along with their aftermath of death and destruction. It never fails to remind me of the suddenness of such events, and the fragility of human life as we know it in this life. You see people just lounging at the beach with their families or friends, and then within minutes, they're being swept out to sea and drown because of some horrific tsunami. Most recently, in places like Texas, Louisiana, Florida and the Caribbean, we see what storms can do to bring death and destruction to multitudes of people and property owners. In November 2013, I saw firsthand the magnitude of death, suffering and destruction that super typhoon Haiyan wrought on the people of the Philippines. Thousands of people dead and gone from tragedies like these – who only a few days before had a life, and in many cases, money in the bank, a nice home and car, and all the creature comforts of success. And then – in one day or less – nothing! All of it destroyed in a matter of hours by one giant weather event. Then we see stock market crashes that wipe out billions of dollars of net worth in a matter of hours. At 8:30am people are millionaires, but by 4pm they're broke! Don't think things like this couldn't happen to you either! They can, so do what you must to eliminate your vulnerability!

Christians who set their affections on heavenly things are no longer vulnerable to ANYTHING that happens down here because they're on their way to something much better, and eternal in the heavens. Therefore, no matter what happens down here in terms of gain or loss, they keep their proper perspective and find the strength and courage to go through times of hardship and uncertainty caused by natural disasters or man-made catastrophes. Dead people feel no pain. Kick a corpse and see for yourself. They don't cry out in pain because they have no feelings because they're dead. Well, the Bible tells us to be dead to this world, but alive to the things pertaining to the next world. That doesn't mean we denounce having any and all earthly possessions, because it takes earthly resources to win souls and fulfill the Great Commission. But it does mean that our affections are in the right place, and no longer focused on things that can vanish in a matter of minutes or hours. Ask yourself: how dead am I to the things of this world? If I lost EVERYTHING today, like so many have in so many places, how would that affect me? In what ways, and to what degree? Your answers, if given honestly before God, might surprise you!



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OCTOBER 02 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Colossians 3:5 - WHAT ARE INORDINATE AFFECTIONS?

Don't worship the good things of this life! That's how the Living Bible translates our verse today. The King James translation calls it "inordinate affection". What is that? Basically, it's misplaced desires and misplaced affection. It's loving and wanting all the wrong things. Many believers are living in that place everyday. Ask them to get involved with their time, energy and money concerning the things of God, and they're too busy, too tired, too financially tapped out. But dangle a few carnal "things" in front of them, like a new car, or a bigger house (when the one they have is perfectly adequate), or another suit or dress (with a closet already busting out at the seams), or another piece of fine jewelry (with all fingers, wrists and necks already occupied), or needless membership in some club or organization, or another vacation with the family, spending thousands of dollars in the process, ad nauseum, and my God - suddenly they've got the means, the time and the desire to make it happen. If they don't have the money on hand for these things, they borrow from the bank to get it. Excuse me, but in the light of eternity, heaven, hell, and the teeming masses of lost souls out there - people like that grieve my soul! They're exactly the people being discussed in our verse today. People buried and overcome with misplaced affections for the things of this world. I pray to God you're not one of them!

I always find it pathetically humorous to watch many Christians and their purchasing habits. Example: conduct a prosperity seminar and watch hordes of Christians come out of the woodwork to attend, and buy tens of thousands of dollars of product to go home and listen to or watch. Do a seminar on missions, commitment to soul winning and obedience to obey the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-18), and see how many DON'T attend, or DON'T buy the CDs or videos about the lost millions, or our suffering brethren in other closed countries, as an example. Preach about lust, inordinate affections, misplaced priorities - nobody wants to hear you. Preach about "financial increase", and guess what? Thousands want to attend your seminars, and pay big bucks to register! What are you affectionate over? Things that gratify your flesh, or things pertaining to the eternal state of souls, and the kingdom of God? What does this verse say about those things? Mortify them! Kill them! Destroy them and don't let them have a place within you. The Amplified Bible words it this way: SO KILL THE EVIL DESIRE LURKING WITHIN YOUR MEMBERS [THOSE ANIMAL IMPULSES AND ALL THAT IS EARTHLY IN YOU THAT IS EMPLOYED IN SIN]. Do that! It couldn't be described any better!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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OCTOBER 03 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Proverbs 24:10 - HOW STRONG ARE YOU?

Everybody in Christ experiences times of persecution. Satan comes against all of us to prevent us from fulfilling our part in the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20). Second Timothy 3:12 says we WILL suffer persecution if we're Christian. But how do you respond to persecution? How do you respond to satanic attack? When all of hell seems to be coming against you, how do you handle the pressure? According to our verse today, your response to spiritual attack reveals the level of spiritual strength you have, or don't have. If you quit in the day of adversity, the Bible says your strength is SMALL. The New Living Translation says it this way: IF YOU FAIL UNDER PRESSURE, YOUR STRENGTH IS NOT VERY GREAT! So, to gauge your level of spiritual strength, you have to analyze your performance under pressure! That will tell you how strong you are in Christ, or how weak you are in Christ!

Over the years, I've referred back to this verse time and again to measure my own level of spiritual strength. September 2017 marks our ministry's 37th anniversary of missions work in the Philippines. In those 37 years, we've had plenty of attacks come against us, in all kinds of ways. But, to the glory of God, we're still standing, and still growing in Jesus! And although I've made plenty of mistakes along the way, the fact that we're still in the game after 37 years tells me something very encouraging about our level of spiritual strength. No, we're not as strong as we could be, but we're strong enough to have weathered the many attacks that have come against us. Well, we know the fight goes on, and yesterday's victory doesn't mean much today, because the devil keeps coming back, doesn't he? You have to MAINTAIN your level of strength daily. Our on-going ministry motto is "BE STRONG STAY STRONG". You have to get to a place of spiritual strength, and then you have to stay there for the rest of your life. You can't let your strength level diminish - you must stay strong! So, use persecution to measure the level of spiritual strength you've got today, and if you see this as an area that needs improvement, get busy right away to build (or re-build) yourself up in the Lord. Begin to do the 7 Priorities of Life (Worship, Praise, Prayer, Confession, Meditation, Study/Reading, Sharing) daily, and watch your strength level increase dramatically! Then when the enemy comes against you, you'll stand strong and defeat him at every turn.



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OCTOBER 04 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Proverbs 24:16 - QUITTERS HAVE NO STRENGTH!

Here is something never to forget. You are never defeated until you decide to quit fighting! Remember that! Oh yes, there will be times when it looks like you're defeated at the hands of your enemy, the devil. But, as long as you stay in the fight, you WILL prevail in Jesus' Name. Why? Because you're already equipped with every weapon you'll ever need to beat the devil hands down. You just have to get serious enough to keep your flesh in control long enough to let God's weapons of mass destruction have their way against Satan and his forces. No matter how bad things look, don't quit! Don't give up! Our verse today tells us what to do when we've been knocked down. Get up! Don't just lay there feeling sorry for yourself! Get up in the strength of God, and get back in the fight. God's mercy is new every morning for just such reasons. Strong men in Christ get up after being knocked down, and continue to engage the enemy. They don't just throw up their hands and quit, like most believers do when they've experienced a setback or two.

Another great passage to refer to along these lines would be Micah 7:8. Tell the devil you're getting up, and the fight will go on! Do this WHILE YOU'RE FLAT ON YOUR BACK ON THE CANVAS! When everything looks like you're defeated, and while the devil is laughing at you in contempt, rise up and boldly declare your victory! That's the true measure of a man's level of spiritual strength. Proverbs 24:10 says that if we faint (quit) in our day of adversity, our strength is small. So, if you're seemingly defeated by the devil today, take heart! The fight of faith goes on as long as you decide it will! We fight until we win! God is for us, not against us (Romans 8:31). He's not looking for ways to count us out, but instead, looking for ways to encourage us to get up and resume the fight! It's up to you my friend. I can't fight your fights for you, and you can't fight my fights for me. Ultimately, we're the deciding factor in any fight we find ourselves in the midst of. So, keep fighting! Strong men get up! They keep fighting! They never accept defeat. Is that your attitude today? If so, I congratulate you. If not, I encourage you!



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OCTOBER 05 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 6:27 - DON'T WORRY! IT WON'T HELP!

This verse is part of a marvelous passage which starts in verse 25, and goes to verse 33. Jesus is teaching us about the principles of faith, and one of those principles is found in this verse here. **DON'T WORRY!** About anything! Ever! Why? Because first of all, worry can't solve the problems you're worrying about, and secondly, worry is a sin. It's a sin because worry says the worrier doesn't believe God is big enough to solve the problem being worried over. That's called the sin of doubt and unbelief. And just from a realistic standpoint, you need to always remind yourself that worry has no ability to change the situation that worries you. All it does is give the devil place in your life, and create holes in your stomach called ulcers. Ask yourself this: how will sleepless nights solve my problems? The answer should be obvious. Lying awake worrying about your problems won't solve the problems, so why do it?

If you're prone to worry, you should meditate on Matthew 6:25-33 daily until that truth gets down in your heart to stay. Stop worrying! Instead, cast **ALL** your cares over to the Lord, and **LEAVE IT THERE WITH HIM**. Do what it says to do in 1 Peter 5:7. Give all your concerns to God, and then **DON'T WORRY!** Why? Because of what it says in the second half of the verse in 1 Peter 5:7. **GOD CARES FOR YOU!** Understand? Why worry when you know you've given your concerns to God, and He cares for you? What is there to worry about? The problem with many of us is that we **SAY** we cast our cares on God, but then end up worrying about the outcome. That's hypocrisy! You've not cast your cares on God if you're still worrying about them, even if you say you have. Worry won't put money in your wallet to pay the bills due, so why worry about the bills that are due? Worry won't cause the bill collectors to quit calling you and threatening you, so why worry about their threats? Don't worry friend. Instead, do the smart thing. Go to Jesus in prayer, and **RELEASE ALL YOUR CARES, WORRIES AND CONCERNS** to Him. Then, **RELAX!** If He can't help you, how can you help yourself? Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean upon your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5,6). Do it today!



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OCTOBER 06 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Ephesians 1:22 - YOU'RE FAR ABOVE YOUR PROBLEMS!

Yesterday, we spoke about the importance of letting go and casting all your cares on God. Today, we take that truth one step further by looking at our position in Christ. This passage informs the Christian of his or her position in Christ. God says we're in Him, and He's seated at the right hand of God, FAR ABOVE all demons, devils and enemies of the cross. Well, if we're in Him, and that's where He is in Heaven, then as members of the body of Christ, you need to see that all your problems are far below you! You should be reigning supreme over any and all satanic attacks and suggestions, because you're seated in Christ at God's right hand. Is this how you see yourself? It should be, but in most cases, it isn't the way many Christians see themselves. What a tragedy to see believers groveling in the dust, allowing demons and devils to torment them and harm them. NO! It should be the other way around!

When Jesus encountered the mad man of Gadara, the demons asked our Lord if He had come to torment them before their time (Matthew 8:29). That's the way it should be for you too. You should be tormenting the devil, not the other way around. Every demon, problem, ungodly situation, anything that opposes God, is FAR BELOW your feet since you're part of the body of Christ, and positionally, that puts you at God's right hand in Him. So next time the devil pops up and begins to taunt you, you just slap him with God's Word, and use the Name of Jesus to force him to bow at your feet. Don't worry about him, or his lies that he's telling you. All he can do is try to stir up your flesh, and convince you to open the door to let him into your life. But if you're tired of that, now's the time to slam the door in his face, and command him to get out of your life in Jesus' Name. It's your call my friend. You're in Christ, seated in Him at God's right hand, whether you feel like it or not. Enforce that against your enemy! Make him obey! He has to because he's far below you, not the other way around!



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OCTOBER 07 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Corinthians 16:9 - ADVANCE IN SPITE OF YOUR ENEMIES

Promotion is from the Lord, and it's right and proper to stand in faith and expect promotion to come. God expects us to grow, and to make spiritual advances as we move along from day to day in Christ. However, be aware of the fact that as opportunities for growth come to each of us, our enemy will always be there to try to hinder, disrupt and delay any efforts to grow and advance for the kingdom of God. This is not to be a surprise to us - we should be expecting it. So, whenever you begin to take steps towards advancement in God's kingdom, or whenever spiritual promotion comes knocking at your door, be on the look out for the devil. You can be sure he's nearby, waiting for an opportune time to come against you.

When God opened doors of utterance for Paul, Satan was right there to contest those openings. "Doors of utterance" simply means that there were new opportunities for him to preach the gospel to people that had not heard before. The same is true for us today. Anytime God opens a new door of utterance for you, or maneuvers you into a place where your witness for Jesus is going to be enhanced, Satan will be right there to oppose you. Expect it! Don't be alarmed by it, or surprised when it happens. Part of our successful warfare against the enemy is to know his tactics, and correctly anticipate his moves ahead of time. If you know the devil is going to launch some type of attack simply because you're being promoted by God, then you can prepare yourself, renew your mind to the scriptures that would protect you, and be ready to use the shield of faith to ward off the fiery darts of the wicked one (Ephesians 6). So, in spite of your enemies and their efforts to thwart God's plans for your life, stand tall and strong in faith, and move into those new places of promotion when God presents them to you! Just like it says in Psalms 23:5. God prepares a place for you IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR ENEMIES!



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OCTOBER 08 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Joshua 3:5 - SANCTIFICATION IS GOD'S CALLING CARD!

Joshua made a profound statement when he told the Jews to sanctify themselves BEFORE the Lord moved miraculously on their behalf. They were standing in faith for God to miraculously deliver the city of Jericho into their hands, and BEFORE God took one step into the realm of the miraculous, Joshua told the people to SANCTIFY themselves first. This reveals a powerful truth we must walk in the light of every day. When we're standing in faith for God to intervene in our lives miraculously, we need to be doing our best to stay separated and sanctified according to the Word of God, and God's perfect will for our lives.

When teaching on faith, I've always said that when we do what we can do, God then steps in and does what we can't do. It's a divine partnership - God and man working side by side, by His plan and design. God will do what we can't do when we do what we can, and one thing we can do is to stay sanctified and in daily fellowship with God. To expect God to move miraculously by faith in our lives, while at the same time living lives that are carnally dominated, is a waste of time. Of course, God will always be merciful and forgive us when we fall, as long as He knows we're serious about coming to a place of sanctification concerning His Word and His perfect will. So, if things haven't yet manifested miraculously in your life according to your confessions of faith, perhaps you need to objectively look at your level of spiritual sanctification towards the Lord. The word "sanctification" basically means "to be separated unto...". To be sanctified to God means we're separating ourselves from the old ways - our old habits and lifestyle that we lived while in sin and without Jesus in our hearts. If some of that has crept back in, judge yourself and come back to a place of sanctification. In doing so, you'll be positioning yourself for God to move in your life as He has promised to do.



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OCTOBER 09 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Titus 1:16 - DO YOUR WORKS DENY GOD?

In his ministry, Paul had seen enough to know that there will be plenty of people who claim to be Christian, but have no works and no spiritual fruit to back up their claims. He admonished Titus to teach the people that if they really thought they belonged to God, their good works would demonstrate that fact. What about you and your life? Are you professing to be a child of God? If so, are your “works” giving you credibility concerning that fact? Paul said many in his day were saying they loved God, but were denying him with their abominable works. He said their conscience and their minds had become defiled, and they were, as Paul described them, abominable, disobedient and disqualified concerning the good works of God in ministry.

I think there are many today who would fit this description nicely! I hope its not you, and I hope its not me! If we call ourselves Christian, what are the “works” we can look at which verify the truth of our claim? What are we DOING in the name of Jesus? What SPIRITUAL FRUIT can we look at in our lives? Where are the people who can say that if it weren’t for you, they might not know Jesus the way they do? Those are the works God is looking for, and those are the works that authenticate your Christian claims, and mine too. On the other hand, are there things going on your life that you know are wrong? Are there things going on that you know are in disobedience to God, which disqualify you for His anointing and power? If so, judge yourself now, and get those things out of your life today. I have to do it in my life, and you need to do it in yours. Let your works be pleasing to God, and works which glorify Christ Jesus. If you say you’re Christian, make sure your life reflects that claim!



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OCTOBER 10 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Proverbs 28:5 - ARE YOU A KNOW-IT-ALL?

Those who seek the Lord UNDERSTAND ALL THINGS! That's what our verse today tells us. If you want to have a "handle" on life, and always have the insight and perspective to see things correctly, spend time seeking the Lord. More and more, every chance you get! Spend time with Him. Read and study the Word every day. Make time and take time to wait upon the Lord. Learn to hear His voice when He speaks to you. As you do this more and more, you'll have greater and greater understanding. You'll be more able to keep your priorities straight, and stay on God's narrow pathway leading to eternal life.

How many times have you thrown up your hands in frustration because you just didn't have understanding concerning a certain person, situation or set of circumstances? If you're like me, the answer would be plenty! But to the proportionate degree we spend time seeking God - that will also be the proportionate measure of increase in our ability to understand ALL things! Not just a few things, but EVERYTHING. Truth is, the more time spent with God, the better equipped you are to stay focused, prioritized and disciplined concerning the things that really matter. What are the things that really matter? Spiritual things. Eternal things. Things pertaining to eternal life and death. Too many Christians live life without the understanding of all these things. I pray you are not one of them, and I pray you're committed to the task at hand. What task? The task of making and taking the time to seek the Lord. He's never too busy to talk and fellowship and impart to us whatever we need to live and stay victorious in this life. It's all up to us! It's up to you.



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OCTOBER 11 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Joshua 7:10 - GET UP!

Joshua was, in this verse today, doing what many of us do when things are not working out for us. Like Joshua, we get into our little corner, and proceed to hold for ourselves one big pity party. Joshua was doing it, and we do it too. Well, guess what? God doesn't attend pity parties! Never has, and never will. That's why he abruptly told Joshua to GET UP! In other words, quit whining and complaining, and DO something to change your present situation. In his case, it meant going out and finding the person who violated God's strict command, which had brought death and destruction to Israel in a time of war. For us, it may mean something entirely different, but whatever God tells you to do, DO IT! Yes, there's a time for prayer, and for seeking God's counsel. But once that has been done, and God's counsel is given, GET UP and go out there and make something happen for Jesus.

Too many believers just sit around waiting for God's blessings to fall on them like ripe cherries off a tree. That's not the way it works. God does what we can't do when we do what we can do! This is not a monopoly here. It's a Divinely-ordained partnership with God. It's not about God. It's not about you. It's about US, you and God doing something together to further His plans and purposes on earth. God can't bless what you DON'T DO! But, get up and get involved, and then God has something to work with - you! I really have a problem with ministry critics. They are people who, for the most part, always want to tell others how to do something differently or better, but they've never done anything for God themselves! People like that I have no patience with. I'd just as soon listen to someone raking their fingernails over a chalk board than to listen to people criticize me while I'm out there doing something they've never done themselves! No! If you want God's blessings, get up, get out there and get busy! Sure, you'll make mistakes, but that's okay because God's mercy is there every morning. He's well able to pick us up if we fall, but there's nothing He can do for or with those who choose to do nothing. So be a player, and no longer a spectator. Don't be a critic, be a participant! Be involved. Get active for God. When you do that, God's blessings will begin to overtake you, as He said that they would.



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OCTOBER 12 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Joshua 10:9 - ARE YOU FIT FOR WAR?

As Joshua went through the promised land taking territory and driving out it's inhabitants, there was one city that required a military tactic called a "Forced March". In order to be in a position to defeat the men of Gibeon, the Jews had to march all night. By having the strength to do this, they put themselves in position for God to work with them to bring about a great victory. What would've happened if they hadn't been strong enough to march all through the night for battle the next day? They would've missed God's timing, and thus, been out of position and unable to conquer the city on time and in due season. Many believers are there in that situation today. Spiritually, they're too weak to do anything that requires the spiritual equivalent of a forced march through hostile territory. Consequently, they're always a day late and a dime short when it comes to the blessings of God being poured out.

In military circles, a forced march is where soldiers must march at a fast pace while wearing full battle gear. Weapons, backpacks, canteens, helmets - everything. It's not easy to say the least. When track stars run their races, they shed as much weight as possible, so they can run as far and as fast as possible. Soldiers who do forced marches must run too, but with all the heavy gear a modern soldier requires. It's hard, but in certain situations, its necessary to ensure victory. In the spiritual war between heaven and hell, we are God's foot soldiers on earth. As such, we MUST do what we have to do to build ourselves up spiritually, so we can run on a forced march if God requires it of us. What would that mean, spiritually speaking? Well, perhaps overnight intercessory prayer when God needs it. Or, getting involved to help a person or family who've been hurt or devastated by some event beyond their control, for an extended period of time. Or, possible committing to supporting a ministry for an extended basis, when its all you can do to just pay bills and keep your head above water. Whatever it may be, if God asks you to do a forced march for Him, are you fit enough to do it? You need to be, because someone's life may depend upon it!



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OCTOBER 13 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 11:12 - ANGER MANAGEMENT THIS ISN'T!

Jesus said the kingdom of heaven suffers VIOLENCE! How aware of that fact are you? You should be living your life daily with the constant awareness that all over the world, believers are facing death, torture, imprisonment, and the kind of persecution we in the Western World know nothing about. So what are they, and we, supposed to do about that? The second half of our verse today tells us. Jesus says the violent (that's supposed to be you and me) TAKE IT by force! Take what? People. Take them out of the kingdom of darkness, and lead them into the kingdom of light. Would you consider yourself to be a violent individual? Most of us would, if we're honest, say we work very hard NOT to appear too violent or too extreme with our faith, and how we represent Jesus. This is the OPPOSITE of what Jesus says we're supposed to be!

So many believers are so concerned about keeping everybody happy, that they end up making God upset. Which would you rather have, in the eternal scope of things? Making everybody happy and having God mad at you or, having everybody mad at you but be pleasing to God? If I have to choose - better to offend men and please God, than to offend God in order to please men. Why would God be mad at us? Well, for starters, when you let yourself become some sort of spiritual wimp, you become directly opposed to God's plan for your life, and you forfeit the very attitude you're going to need if you're to do your part to fulfill the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20). Here's something never to forget: ITS OKAY TO BE VIOLENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD! Don't be so concerned about how people will react - they'll react one way or the other no matter what you do, so don't worry about them. Stay focused, and let God mold you and develop you into one more LEAN, MEAN, FIGHTING MACHINE! Its time we Christians got an attitude about who we represent, and who stands in our way. No, we shouldn't be purposely rude or obnoxious, but on the other hand, don't let the wimps around you convince you to lay down the fire and passion you have on the inside! Rise up, and TAKE territory, and TAKE people for the glory of God. Don't worry; you won't upset God when you do!



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OCTOBER 14 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Proverbs 28:6 - SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE

Christians need to always see the bigger picture when it comes to the lavish things of this life. Sure, it would be wonderful to be rich, and have no financial concerns whatsoever. But, at what price are people willing to come to that place of financial success? Many are willing to do ANYTHING, and that's where the problem lies. Our verse today encourages us all to see the bigger picture, and to remind ourselves that personal integrity is ALWAYS more important than external acquisitions or possessions. Bottom line is this: as far as God is concerned, what you have isn't nearly as important as the condition of your heart, because that's where He's looking!

So don't get too upset with what you see that the rich have in terms of possessions. I would be willing to say that most of them have no inner peace, and are actually more afraid of losing what they've worked so hard (and perhaps compromised so much) to get! Therefore, does God want us to stay poor? Of course not! We need to be financially independent so we can finance the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20). But, as with everything else, keep things in perspective, and remember that the treasures of this life will soon pass away. Nobody takes their possessions, assets and wealth to the grave. First Timothy chapter 6 says we came into the world with nothing, and we're going to leave the same way - with nothing! So, keep your integrity! Protect it! That's always more important than the temporary riches of this life. If you can obtain wealth without sacrificing your spiritual integrity, fine! But if you would have to give up your integrity for money, or what money can buy, forget it!



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OCTOBER 15 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

John 6:20 - DON'T BE AFRAID!

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water in the middle of the night, they were afraid. But what Jesus told them is the same thing He's telling us today. He said: "It is I, don't be afraid". Or, as the Amplified Bible says, I AM; STOP BEING FRIGHTENED! What a great statement, and what a great truth to remember, especially when you're tempted to fear. In those moments, stop and remind yourself that you are a child of God, and as such, you are the apple of His eye. And you're never alone; Jesus is with you always, even if you don't feel like he is. If Jesus is with you, and loves you with all His heart, what are you afraid of? That's what He was asking His disciples. Basically, he was saying to them: "Relax! I'm here now, don't be afraid". And we need to remember that too!

When life seems to surround you, and you're tempted to be afraid, remember that you're never alone, and that the God of the Universe lives within you. Therefore, there's nothing to fear, and nothing to get nervous over. Jesus is well able to take care of you, your situation and your circumstances. Just let Him! Walk by faith and not by sight. Don't be afraid anymore. Besides, the fear you're allowing in your heart can't change whatever it is you're afraid of, so stop worrying about it! Jesus said that our worries could not add one "cubit" to our stature, so why worry? (Matthew 6:27). Jesus is God, the second person of the Trinity. He's also our Big Brother, and the head of the Church on earth. Every knee bows at the Name of Jesus. Every tongue must confess that Jesus is the Lord (Philippians 2). When He comes on the scene, everybody else must step aside! And the good news is that when you're in trouble, He's right there with you to take care of you, just like He was there for the disciples in the middle of the lake that night. Relax. Jesus is right there with you! He'll never leave you, or forsake you!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 16 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Mark 4:19 - ARE YOU CHOKING TO DEATH?

While teaching this famous parable to His disciples, Jesus made this statement. He told His listeners not to allow the world to choke the Word, and thereby, become unfruitful for God. He listed three things which would, if allowed to, choke the Word in our lives. First, the cares of this world. Second, the deceitfulness of riches. Third, the desire for other things. Where do you stand with those three statements today? Have worldly cares and concerns choked God's Word in your life? Are you deceived with the allure of riches and lots of money? Or, have you found yourself desiring "other things" that don't have anything to do with God?

If the Word is to have free course in your life, you must guard against these three areas of carnality. The cares of this world represent an inordinate affection for temporary things of this life. It's okay to have things, but not okay for things to have you! "Deceitfulness of riches" would pertain to the allure money has on many people, and how they end up worshipping money and all it can buy. Money is just a tool to use to finance the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20), nothing more. And then third, there are the "other things". Those are the "things" that personally appeal to you, which for whatever reason, have the potential power to draw you away from God. Things like sinful sexual activity, or alcoholic abuse, or drug dependency, etc. Never desire anything that has the power to draw you away from God! Don't allow these things to get a foothold in your life. Stay on guard against them, and never allow them a place in your mind or heart. If you do, you'll find the Word of God being choked, and you'll be unable to stay strong against the temptations all around you. Remember, we're in this world, but we're not of this world. Everything here is temporary, so don't place anything of this world up on a pedestal in your mind or heart. Jesus is all that matters!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 17 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Proverbs 3:13-15 - IDENTIFY THE TRUE RICHES!

Most Christians haven't yet identified the true riches in life. They think it's the money they have, or the things their money can buy. Of course, you can expect sinners to think that way because they don't know any better. But for us in the body of Christ, we should know better. Today's passage reminds us all about what true riches really are. It's not gold, money, possessions, stocks, assets, and all of that. It's wisdom. Being a wise person in Christ is what being rich is all about. If you're not wise in God's eyes, you're spiritually bankrupt! And it wouldn't matter if you were the richest individual on earth in terms of physical wealth. Without wisdom you're poor in God's eyes!

So don't waste your time in the pursuit of earthly treasures. Of course, it's fine to be financially wise and create some wealth during our time down here, but don't be deceived by all of that. You're not rich just because you've got tons of money stashed away in bank accounts or in the stock market. You're rich when you let wisdom dominate you from the inside out. When wisdom is allowed to rule and reign within you, you become rich as far as God is concerned. Why? Because not only are you prioritized on the spiritual things that really matter, but you position yourself for earthly blessings to come and overtake you in the process. Notice our passage says that the PROCEEDS of wisdom are better than that of gold or silver. That means the net result of walking in wisdom is much better than the net results of having gold or silver. In other words, it will produce far more for you, in this life and out into eternity. So, remind yourself today about what is, and what isn't, true riches. It's not money, it's Godly wisdom! Proverbs 8 says that if you exalt or promote wisdom, she will promote and exalt you!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 18 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Proverbs 3:15 - MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANYTHING ELSE!

Yesterday we looked at the fact that the true riches on earth have nothing to do with money, or the things money can buy. Becoming spiritually rich has nothing to do with money, but everything to do with wisdom. The wiser you are the richer you are in God's eyes. And the wiser you become, the richer you become - in this life as well. It's no coincidence that Solomon was not only the wisest man that ever lived (except for Jesus of course), but also one of the richest men that ever lived too. The thing you must remember about wisdom is that as you define and obtain the true riches of wisdom, all the other stuff comes along behind it. The stuff everybody else is working so hard to obtain, like money, possessions, financial security, peace-of-mind, etc.

But read today's verse carefully, and think about what it says. Wisdom is **MORE PRECIOUS** than rubies, and **ALL THINGS** you may ever want or desire can't be compared to the value of Godly wisdom. Imagine that! I think if we all spent more time meditating on what God says here about the proceeds of wisdom, we'd be much more dedicated to seeing that wisdom dominate in our lives daily. So never mind about the rat race to get more money. Don't be like most people out there, who think that the more money they have the safer and more secure they are. That is such a lie from hell! That's why I sometimes smirk to myself when I get these unsolicited letters in the mail, trying to get me to "invest" in some program which is offering me financial "security" for the future. Of course, you can get involved with programs to invest and make money, there is nothing wrong with that - as long as you realize that's not what will make you rich or protected. Becoming wise in God's eyes is what makes you rich and safe for the future, no matter what happens in the days, weeks or years ahead. Never forget that!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 19 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

2 Samuel 5:12 - KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

In today's verse, the Bible says that David came to a place in life where he KNEW that God had made him King over all of Israel. This same awareness is something we need today. You see, its one thing to be king, but quite another to KNOW you're the king. Ecclesiastes 8:4 says the word of a king is with POWER! Why? Because he's the king and nobody else is. It also says in that same verse that you never ask a king for a reason for why he's doing something. He can do what he wants because, once again, he's king and nobody else is. Now in the New Testament, we've been made kings and priests in Christ. Jesus is the Lord, and the Head of the Church. When the Bible calls Him the King of kings, and Lord of lords, you need to know we're the kings and lords that He's the King and Lord over!

Therefore, when it comes to spiritual warfare, and the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20), understand that you're a king, and walk in a daily awareness of that truth. By doing that, you will start to not only see yourself as a king, but begin to THINK like a king as well. In truth, you'll come to the place in life, like David did in his, where you KNOW that the Lord has made you king. Romans 5:17 tells us to rule and reign in life by Christ Jesus. Only one who knows he or she is a king can do this. If you KNOW you've been made a king in Christ, you also KNOW the devil is far below your feet, as it says in Ephesians chapter 1. If he's far below you, stop letting him push you around in life! Get up off the mat, put your kingly robes on, fix that crown on your head, and then proceed to kick the snot out of the devil! Try it, you'll like it! You're a king in Christ. Know it, and then act and think like it's true!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 20 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Proverbs 4:18 - ARE YOU GETTING BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER?

This verse describes the progress all of us as believers should be making as we move along in our life after accepting Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. From the time you receive Jesus as become born-again, your race begins, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, you're supposed to be growing, maturing, and becoming more and more of a witness and spiritual light to those around you. Is this happening with you? Or, as it is with too many, are you just sort of treading water, existing in Christ but not growing in Christ?

Year by year, our personal witness should be getting brighter and brighter. That means that more and more, as time goes by, the Holy Spirit has more and more influence and control over our minds, our bodies, our conversation - everything! Again I ask: is this happening with you? For too many, they either reach a place where they're stagnant and no longer growing, or even regressing and going back to their old ways of thought, action and conversation. In reality, they're going backwards, and becoming darker and darker rather than brighter and brighter. Don't let this be you I'm talking about! Of course, we'll all make mistakes along the way, but overall, we want to keep heading in the right direction, and that means our light for Christ becomes brighter and brighter as time goes by. People should be seeing more of Jesus in you this year than they could at this point in time last year. If not, something is wrong and you need to do a check up from the neck up!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 21 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Proverbs 16:25 - CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATH

Every day, we face decisions which need to be made. Many of them are minor, but sometimes they are major. Major decisions are those that have an impact on our lives, for the present as well as for the future. Should I resign and start my own business? Should I leave my present church and go to another? Should I move to another city, or another part of the country? Should I pursue full-time ministry? Should we put our kids in public school, or private Christian school? Those are major decisions which must be made. Well, how do you protect yourself from making wrong decisions? How do you avoid the trap that our verse today talks about?

In our verse today, we see there are pathways many take that when they first start out, all indicators make it look like it was the right decision. But then in the end, they see that it was the wrong decision because everything ends in disaster. Again, how do you prevent that? When you have to make major decisions, how do you approach the issue with wisdom and correct application – to avoid ending up like what our verse today talks about? I think the answer is so simple, many people miss it. Do you want to choose the right path when you have to make a major decision? Then just ask yourself this: will the direction I'm contemplating ultimately draw me (and/or my family or spouse – whatever or whoever is going to be affected by the decision) closer to Jesus, or take me farther away from Him? In short, if you were to decide on making some kind of drastic change in your life, how would that affect your ability to serve God, and stay close to Jesus? As far as the Christian is concerned, that's really the issue in ANY decision involving change. Nothing else matters because nothing else is as important! Not more money, a better lifestyle, public recognition, or anything else this world could offer you. So when (not if) you face difficult decisions, make sure you ask yourself the right questions. It's not about whether you make more money or get some kind of "promotion" at work. It's not about saving money by sending your kids to public school instead of private school. It's not about making your life on earth more comfortable or convenient. It's all about you and Jesus, and what will help you to continue growing and maturing as a believer. That's the right path to take, every time!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 22 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Acts 20:24 - IS YOUR FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED?

To succeed in this life, you must have a firm foundation. You can't build anything of strength and integrity without it. If you want to live a fulfilled life, one that is filled with joy, contentment, peace and fruitfulness for God, follow the example Paul gives in our verse today. This was the secret to Paul's success in ministry, and it's the secret for our success in life today. Notice there are 4 steps that lead to success and fulfillment here. These four steps create the kind of spiritual foundation that the devil cannot destroy. They create a solid foundation that God can build upon for His glory. What did Paul use to create this kind of unshakeable foundation in his life and ministry?

Notice the four steps he followed. **FIRST**, he decided that no amount of persecution could pressure him to quit and turn from serving God. With worldwide persecution of Christians on the rise everywhere (including in the USA), decide you will not be moved! No matter how intense the challenges or struggles might be against us in life, quitting or compromising must **NEVER** be considered as an option. No matter how intense the persecutions and difficulties we face in this life may be or become, they must never move us away from our commitment to serve God 100%, without apology or regret. **SECOND**, he did not count his life dear to himself. To enjoy this life and all of its temporal pleasures (the things of men vs. the things of God) at the expense of God's perfect will for our lives - is nothing less than sin in His eyes. Remember that! **THIRD**, he wanted to finish the assignment God had given him. The most beautiful words we'll ever hear one day when we see Jesus in Heaven will be, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" That says it all! **FOURTH**, his desire was to preach the full gospel, not a partial, watered down Gospel. People need to hear the truth, even if it's not embraced or well-received. Ministry is not a popularity contest. In this day and age, the topic of "love" is so misunderstood and mis-applied, especially by those who live lives of sin, compromise and carnality. True Biblical love does not wink at sin and pretend it isn't there, or isn't as heinous as it is in the eyes of a holy and righteous God. No! True love **TELLS PEOPLE THE TRUTH** - whether they want to hear it or not! Read carefully Ezekiel chapters 3 and 33. They reveal our responsibilities in this sinful and apostate world in which we live. Remember these 4 foundational truths, and you'll establish a solid foundation that will take you through life without wavering, faltering or stumbling along the way.



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 23 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Timothy 4:8 - ARE YOU PUTTING IN THE TIME?

If you want to bulk up physically, you're going to have to put in the time down at the gym. It's a proven fact that if you exercise your muscles consistently with weights, you're going to get bigger and stronger. But guess what? The weights don't lift themselves! You have to decide to go down there, put in the time and do the exercises. That takes your time, and your effort. If you want to improve your level of physical strength, you must dedicate yourself and be faithful to your exercise regimen. The same truth applies to your level of spiritual strength. You don't become strong just because you love the Lord. You become strong because you decide to put in the effort and devote the time needed to lift the weights .

Years ago, God gave me a list of 7 spiritual priorities. He told me that if a person did those 7 priorities faithfully each day, they would come to a place a spiritual strength where the devil could never force his will or his desires upon them. The 7 priorities are: 1) Worship. 2) Praise. 3) Prayer. 4) Confession. 5) Meditation. 6) Study and Reading. 7) Sharing (witnessing). Performing these 7 priorities daily is the same as going down to the gym and putting in the time to lift the weights and grow proportionately stronger. And just like in the gym, the longer you stay at it the stronger you'll become. Somebody who has been lifting serious weights for 10 years looks a lot different than somebody who just joined the gym last week. And, somebody who works out 3 or 4 times a week looks a lot different than somebody who works out 3 or 4 times a year! That's right my friend. If you want to grow strong spiritually, you've got to re-prioritize and put in the time with God. There is no substitute for this, and no short-cut. You want to kick sand in the devil's face? Perform the 7 priorities of life daily. Not just occasionally, but daily. An occasional workout never produces any tangible physical results at the gym. In like manner, occasionally doing these priorities never produces any lasting or tangible results spiritually. Put in the time, today and every day! My first book was written about this subject, entitled BE STRONG STAY STRONG. I encourage you to buy it and read it!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 24 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Corinthians 9:27 - NO PAIN? NO GAIN!

If you want to get stronger with weightlifting, you've got to increase the resistance with the weights you're lifting. As you get stronger, you've got to continually increase the weight to continue to see progress. It's called the principle of resistance training. The more weight you have to lift, the more energy your muscles must exert to lift it. And the harder they work, the bigger and stronger they become. That's why your face looks like a study in pain when you're lifting an amount of weight that you've never lifted before. Why? Because IT'S HARD! VERY HARD! EXTREMELY HARD! That's where they get the phrase: No pain? No gain! In yesterday's devotional, we looked at 1 Timothy 4:8. That verse talks about exercise, comparing the benefits of physical exercise with the benefits of spiritual exercise. And no matter what type of exercise, whether physical or spiritual, it's all about resistance training. The harder you have to work, the greater will be the benefit, whether it be spiritual or physical exercise we're talking about.

To discipline our bodies, it takes effort and it takes determination. To exercise faithfully will require of us a level of discipline and pain many of us are unwilling to endure. And that's why many of us lack the kind of spiritual strength needed to defeat the devil when he comes against us. Wishing you were strong enough to defeat your three enemies (the devil, the world system, the flesh - James chapter 4) won't defeat them. You have to go through the pain that only a dedicated workout program requires. Then, and only then, will you obtain the strength needed to prevail. Of course, it's not easy, that's why so few of us actually enjoy the benefits that a disciplined life produces. It's HARD to get up early and pray. It's HARD to resist the temptation to eat donuts all day long in front of the TV, when you know you should be reading your Bible, and spending time praying in tongues. It's HARD to discipline the flesh consistently, but that's the kind of pain you must be willing to subject yourself to if you want to grow stronger in the Lord. Your flesh never wants to obey your spirit, and therefore, you must MAKE YOUR FLESH OBEY you! How willing are you to experience the kind of pain that takes you to the level of strength that automatically gives you the edge in spiritual combat? The saying is so true: No pain? No gain!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 25 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Acts 20:24 - NO RETREAT! NO SURRENDER!

In today's verse, Paul makes a great statement of faith. It's a statement that we should be able and willing to make today too. He said: "but none of these things move me"! In other words, no matter how intense the pressure becomes, or how terrible the persecution is, I'm not going to quit, give up, compromise or surrender. Is that the kind of mentality you have concerning the promises of God? It should be, but it hardly ever is with Christians. Too many of us are too willing to "throw in the towel" when the going gets tough, or when the devil exerts pressure on us in his efforts to thwart our work for God. Second Timothy 3:12 says that if you wish to live godly in Christ, you're going to suffer persecution. Not maybe, but definitely. So when the going gets tough, how do you respond or react?

Your first reaction is probably going to be fear, which is to be expected. In 2 Chronicles 20, when King Jehoshaphat heard the news about the invading army coming against him, he immediately was afraid. But he didn't stay in that place of fear. He went to the Lord, and found the strength and guidance needed for victory. What he didn't do was quit, surrender or compromise, and just let the enemy walk all over him. Today, as I write this devotional for you, I'm facing several situations and spiritual attacks against our ministry in the Philippines which are seemingly impossible to overcome. In fact, since I started writing these daily devotionals years ago, there has rarely been a time when I wasn't doing so under some form of spiritual attack – whether it be financial, physical, parental, doctrinal, cultural or whatever! So, as I'm telling you, so I must do as well. My eyes must be on the Lord, and I must purpose in my heart to go on, no matter what. God will make a way - He always has and I believe He always will. But He can't work in my life, or yours, if we just decide to quit and surrender to the enemy's wishes. I must remind myself, as I remind you, that as long as we continue to stay "in the game" with our faith, God will deliver us. It's when we choose to sit down on the bench and no longer stay in the fight, that's when our defeat is realized. So make up your mind right now - no retreat, and no surrender! Say to God, to all of heaven, to the devil, to your friends and family, and to yourself, you're not giving up or going away! You're not going to quit. You're going to prevail for the glory of God. You're going to win!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 26 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Mark 9:24 - TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE!

In today's verse, we see a father crying out to Jesus in spiritual confusion. In the hopes of having his son delivered from demon possession, he brings his boy to Jesus, but the initial results are less than encouraging. After watching all of our Lord's disciples fail at casting out the demon, he cries out to Jesus with this desperate plea: "Lord I believe, but help my unbelief!" Oh Christian! What an accurate portrayal of the fight of faith we all must fight, right there in that statement! When you choose to stand in faith, and everything indicates your faith isn't working, your mind is going to be bombarded with thoughts from the enemy. Your heart will be telling you to hang in there, while your mind is telling you many other things! I've been there many times, and I'm willing to bet you have too, if you've ever made the decision to walk by faith and not by sight! So what should we do when we're fighting the battle to believe God, or not to believe God?

What did Jesus say to the father that prompted such an impassioned response? ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM WHO BELIEVES! Wow! There it is. The statement that is too simple to misunderstand, but do we really believe it? Does Jesus really mean what He says? I believe He does. ALL things are possible when we believe. Not some things, but all things. What are you going to do with that statement? You have to either believe it, and hang in there until victory is wrought, or you're not going to believe it, and as a result, you're going to cave in to the pressure and withdraw your faith. I've been in this place many times over the years, and in all honesty, I've not always distinguished myself with my choices! I have failed to believe more than once. I have quit and laid my faith down more than once. But, I've also held my ground in faith on many occasions, and God has honored my decision by providing me the victory I've stood in faith for. And, as I go along in life, I want to continue to improve my "batting average" in this respect. It should be the same for you as well. We're not perfect, and we make mistakes as we live, move and have our being in Christ. But, by the same token, we should be growing in faith, and becoming better at making the right choice – the choice to believe! You might be like our father in today's verse, confused and facing impossible situations and circumstances. If so, take heart. ALL things ARE possible if you choose to believe God!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 27 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 11:2 - WHAT TO DO WHEN CONFUSION COMES

John the Baptist had come to a place of confusion in his life. When Jesus was water baptized in the Jordan River, John had boldly and publicly announced that Jesus was the coming Messiah (John 1:29-36), the Lamb of God sent to take away our sins. But not long after, doubt and confusion began to enter in, and now that he's been arrested and thrown into prison, John can no longer hide his doubts or his confusion. He sends messengers to Jesus with this question: "Are you really the One, or should we be looking for another?" How did Jesus answer that question, and how should you answer the same question today? Look at what Jesus said, and you'll have your answer. He said: "Go back, and tell John about the things you HEAR and SEE." So when confusion comes to you about who Jesus really is to you, do what He told John to do. Take a look at what Jesus has done, and has said, and let that be the establishing and confirming foundation for your faith, nothing else! How do you do that? By going to His Word, and meditating on the promises of God until you once again believe them!

You see, when doubt and confusion enter in, it's because we've gotten our eyes off of God's Word. Instead of looking at what God has done and said in the Bible, we're focusing all our attention on what the bank says, or the doctor says, or the economy says, or the terrorist says. When that happens, confusion and doubt will come in like a flood. Don't let that happen! When John was tempted to doubt Jesus, he was told to consider what Jesus had SAID and DONE. He was told to remind himself of what he had SEEN and HEARD from Jesus. Well, is Jesus here today for us? Yes, He is. Where? In God's Word - the Bible. If Jesus was standing next to you now, and you could see Him and touch Him, what do you think He'd be saying or doing about the problems you're facing right now? He'd only say or do what He's already said or done in His Word, nothing more or less! Do you understand that? Most believers don't. When doubt and confusion come in like a flood, they panic and let fear take over. When you're tempted to let that happen, go back to the Word of God, and TAKE TIME to read over and meditate on all the miracles and works of faith that God did for those who choose to believe and not doubt. LISTEN to the Words of Jesus, and SEE what the faith of the people produced in their lives for the glory of God. When you do that, you'll be able to avoid the doubt and confusion that robs you of your faith in God and His Word.



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 28 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Isaiah 55:8 - DON'T LIMIT GOD IN YOUR LIFE

This verse reveals a great truth we need to remember in our daily walk of faith. God's ways are not our ways. When you're standing in faith for something from God, remind yourself of this truth. If you don't do this, you'll follow the natural, human tendency to start trying to figure out HOW or WHO God is going to use to meet your needs. When that happens, you limit God and short-change your faith. You see, God has many ways to answer our prayers, and channel blessings into our lives. He's not limited to just the people you know, or are aware of. Sometimes He uses them, but many times He doesn't. It's been my experience that in most cases, when I've tried to figure out HOW or WHO God is going to use to meet my needs, He goes and meets my needs in some completely unexpected way, using sources I never would've thought of. He'll work that way in your life too.

Your responsibility in this walk of faith is to trust God, and leave the details to Him about HOW or WHO. Remind yourself that from His vantage point in heaven, He can see our situation a lot better than we can, and knows exactly how to work to meet our needs, as long as our faith allows Him to work on our behalf. For many of us though, when we're facing some faith crisis in life, we run back to all the sources God has used before to meet our needs, asking them for more help. Well, what if those sources are unable to help when you need it? Then what? Most of the time, if that happens, fear sets in and we start to panic. Why should we do that? God is still God, isn't He? His Word hasn't changed, has it? Most of the time, we go back to our old sources because it's EASY to do that. It is a quick way to obtain the help we're looking for, and it's convenient for us. But God doesn't work that way. He expects us to trust Him, and if He wants to use previous sources to provide for us, then fine, but if He wants to go another direction, then that shouldn't be an issue for us in any way, should it? His ways are NOT our ways, so don't try to figure out the way He's going to use for you. Just stay in faith by praising Him for the answer, and never mind how the job gets done. Do that and you'll stay on target and on task with your faith!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 29 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Proverbs 3:5 - DON'T TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT!

When the Bible says to trust God, it also says not to lean upon your own understanding. What does that mean? It means that we're not to try and figure out HOW or WHO God will use to meet our needs and answer our prayers. Trusting God is all about letting go, and NOT trying to figure out the details of our deliverance. That is God's job, not ours. Our job is to trust Him, confident that He knows what He's doing, and is well able to take care of our needs. So if you're tempted to take back the care of your situation and worry about it, let me encourage you to do what our verse today tells us to do. TRUST God! TRUST HIM! LET GO AND LET GOD BE GOD! Stop trying to figure everything out, and release your cares to Him.

Do what 1 Peter 5:7 says to do - cast (throw) ALL your cares upon God because He cares for you! First of all, you must do the casting, not God. Secondly, you must cast ALL your cares, not just a few of them. Third, you must remember that He cares for you. Do those 3 things and you're a doer of Proverbs 3:5! You're no longer leaning upon your own understanding. You're completely released from the cares and pressures of trying to make something happen in your own strength or ability. What a great place to be, but it takes effort to get there and stay there! The devil will forever be trying to get you to pick your cares back up, and one of the ways he tries to do that is by getting you to try and figure out how God will work, or who God is going to use. Forget all of that! Don't worry anymore about that! Take a deep breath, relax and let God do His "thing" for you!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 30 DAILY DEVOTIONAL 2 Chronicles 16:9 - GOD IS LOOKING FOR YOU!

In today's verse, we find that God is on a hunting trip. He's searching all over the earth, looking for people to show Himself strong to. When He finds you, would you qualify for His strength? Would He be able to show Himself strong to you? These are questions you must ask yourself. And if you honestly say "no", you have to find out why and make the adjustments in your heart and life. Why? Because we all need the strength of God to prevail against our enemies. Satan is very strong, cunning, wily and persistent, so we must be stronger than he is, and the only place where that degree of strength can be found is in God. The good news is that He's more than willing to give it out to anyone who qualifies for it, so all any of us has to do is get busy to qualify! How do you qualify? You qualify for God's supernatural strength by performing the 7 Priorities of Life everyday.

1) Worship. 2) Praise. 3) Prayer. 4) Confession. 5) Meditation. 6) Study and Reading. 7). Sharing. These seven things are what Jesus called the Priorities of Life when He gave me this list years ago. Now all Christians do these seven things, but the key is to be doing them consistently, everyday. Do that and God's strength begins to manifest in you and through you more and more. To the proportionate degree you spend time performing these seven priorities, that will be the proportionate degree God's strength is imparted to you. So we could look at our verse today in this light: God is looking to and fro (back and forth) throughout the earth, searching for people who are consistent with these 7 priorities daily. Those are the ones that He can show Himself strong to. So, if you're not consistently performing these 7 priorities daily, make the decision today to start! As you become consistent with doing this, you'll notice a proportionate increase in God's strength in your life. God is out there hunting for those who are qualified for His strength. I believe you are one of them!



OCTOBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

OCTOBER 31 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 10:30 - RELAX! GOD ALREADY KNOWS YOU

I love today's verse because it reminds me of God's intimate love for each one of us. Jesus was reassuring His audience back then, and doing the same for us today. There's nothing to worry about because God loves us, and is intimately aware of the smallest detail of our lives. To illustrate that truth, Jesus goes on to say that God knows how many hairs we have on our heads! Think about that for a moment. The God of all creation, who oversees the life details of billions of people all at the same time - knows you so intimately that He can tell you exactly how many hairs there are on the top of your head! In other words - relax my friend! No matter what you're facing or going through today, God knows all about it, and is ready, willing and able to help in your time of need. That's why Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to come to God boldly in times of need. We shouldn't be reluctant, hesitant or even ashamed to come to Him when we've got problems. In fact, it's in those times when we do have the problems that we should be coming to Him!

Don't run from God when you sin, or make mistakes, or face insurmountable problems. Run to Him, because remember, when you come to Him to talk about your issues, that's NOT when He finds out about them! He already knows, so just relax and be yourself in His presence. You can't fool God anyway, so just be honest and open with Him, and bring your issues and challenges to Him in an attitude of love, gratitude and appreciation. If He knows how many hairs you have on your head, He certainly has the wisdom and ability to take care of even the smallest of issues that are important to you. So, don't let the devil's lies keep you away from God any longer. God loves you deeply and intimately, and nothing can ever change that. Nothing! He's intimately aware of you and your life, and what is important to you is just as important to Him. Nothing escapes His attention or notice. He's right there, waiting for you to ask for His help, so ask!

