



EVER FAITHFUL



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365 Day Devotional




JANUARY

Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

DEUTERONOMY 7:9





January 1

HE WATCHES

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

PROVERBS 15:3

As we welcome a new year, Proverbs 15 is a very helpful chapter to turn to. Every verse is applicable to our daily life. It begins with the ever-relevant advice: “A soft answer turns away wrath.” Verse 2 counsels us to speak wisely about the state of our lives and the world. Verse 3 reminds us that the Lord observes all our actions and reactions. His eyes are always open, watching both the good and the evil.

Those who don’t know the Lord never pause to think that God is observing them like bees in a glass hive, aware of all they say, think, do, and plan. Those of us who *do* know and love Him are grateful we have someone watching over us.

In 1926, George and Ira Gershwin wrote a popular song entitled “Someone to Watch over Me.” How wonderful to know we have someone watching over us every moment of the year. As Psalm 145:20 says, “The LORD watches over all who love him” (NIV). Great is His faithfulness to us!

January 2

SUCCESS—GOD’S WAY


“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”

JOHN 17:4

Success,” said General George S. Patton, “is how high you bounce when you hit bottom.” That’s not a bad definition, but here’s a better one: Success is faithfully tackling and accomplishing the work God gives us day by day. In biblical terms, success has nothing to do with wealth, position, power, respect, or awards. God promises to grant us success in life, but He views success as finishing the work He has assigned us. Colossians 4:17 says, “Say to Archippus, ‘Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.’”

The Bible tells us to persevere in obedience: “Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you . . . that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book . . . meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful” (Joshua 1:7–8 NIV).

Don’t worry about failure; just be faithful in your Christian walk and work. That’s SUCCESS in capital letters.



January 3

TRUE TO THE WORD


“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

JOHN 8:32

Christians are often questioned about their faith. It happened in the first century as well as in our day, which is why the apostle Peter encouraged believers to “be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). But what if you aren’t sure? What if you don’t know an answer to a question? You will never go wrong by simply saying what the Word says—the living *and* written Word of God.

Jesus called Himself “the truth” (John 14:6) and “He who is true” (Revelation 3:7). Therefore, saying what Jesus said is to say what is true. A Christian will never go wrong by agreeing with Jesus. But Jesus also called God’s Word “the truth.” He knew that the psalmist had written, “The entirety of Your word is truth” (Psalm 119:160), and he borrowed those words in His prayer to the Father: “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17). So Jesus called Himself the truth and He called the Word of God the truth. Jesus was the human embodiment of the eternal truth of God.

If you want to speak the truth, quoting Jesus and the Bible is the best place to begin. If what we say departs from those two sources, we have departed from the truth.



January 4

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

*Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye
will see Him, even they who pierced Him.*


REVELATION 1:7

*W*hat are you looking forward to? An upcoming trip? The end of a medical treatment? A visit with your children? A new car? The birth of a child?

A sense of anticipation is vital for mental health, and that's why the Bible ends with the book of Revelation. Without Revelation, the Bible would have no ending. Or rather, it would end with the book of Jude, which is a wonderful book about contending for the faith. But it's not a book that heralds God's future. It doesn't leave us with descriptions of the new heavens and new earth. It doesn't end with the city whose builder and maker is God.

In times like these, the swift return of Christ fuels our anticipation of coming events—and we're living in days when we need all the reassurance we can find. Peter said, "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent" (2 Peter 3:14).

Don't live in the past, and don't become so bogged down with present burdens that you forget your future glory. Things are going to get better—much better! Jesus is coming! Let's look forward to that day!



January 5

LIFTING UP CHRIST

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

JOHN 12:32

Preachers stand on platforms; flags are raised to the top of poles; signs are put high up on billboards. Raising something high makes it visible to more people and gives it a sense of importance. That’s why God told Moses to make a serpent out of bronze, set it on a pole, and raise it up so the Israelites could see it. God had punished their sin by allowing serpents into their camp, and Moses’ bronze serpent became a source of deliverance for them when they gazed on it and believed (Numbers 21:4–9).

Knowing the Jews would grasp the metaphor immediately, Jesus said that He would be “lifted up” and become a source of salvation to all who looked to Him (John 3:14–15; 12:32). By “lifted up,” He was referring to the Roman cross that lay ahead of Him. His words were prophetic—His death on a cross has drawn millions to Him for two thousand years. We continue to lift up Christ today in the Lord’s Supper, “[proclaiming] the Lord’s death till He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). We also lift Him up as we praise Him for His blessings in our lives.

Our lives should continually point the world to Jesus Christ—lifting Him up for all to see and be saved.