

RUNNING TO WIN

Running To Win

365 Daily Devotions

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INTRODUCTION

In the race of life, we are not left to run alone. Reflecting on the Scriptures and the wisdom of Dwight Lyman Moody, I am reminded that our journey is not about a creed or a myth but a Person—Jesus Christ. This collection of 365 devotions is designed to draw you closer to Him, equipping you to run with endurance and purpose.

It is my joy to share what the Lord has graciously taught me alongside Moody's timeless wisdom. D.L. Moody's devotional material is taken from *The D.L. Moody Year Book: A Living Daily Message from the Words of D.L. Moody*, compiled by his daughter, Emma Moody Fitt, and originally published in 1900. I've revised and updated some of his text for modern readers but kept as much of Moody's original voice and charm as possible, which includes retaining some British English spelling of words such as Saviour.

Each day, we are encouraged to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. I'm convinced, more than ever, that only the Word of God has the power to transform us from the inside out.

Let us embark on this year-long journey with humility and gratitude as we look forward to the world to come. As you engage with each devotion, take time to reflect on the Scripture passage, allowing it to speak to your heart. Pray earnestly, seeking God's guidance for your response to His Word. As you learn and grow, share these insights with a friend, inviting them to join you in this spiritual journey. Together, let us bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a broken world, pointing others to the only One qualified to save us and able to bring us all the way to the finish line.

JANUARY 1

YOUR ANXIETY FOR HIS PEACE

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:27

D.L. MOODY

Did you ever think that when Christ was dying on the cross, He made a will? Perhaps you have thought no one ever remembered you in a will. If you are in the kingdom, Christ remembered you in His. He willed His body to Joseph of Arimathea, He willed His mother to John, the son of Zebedee, and He willed His spirit back to His Father. But to His disciples He said, “My peace, I leave that with you; that is my legacy. My joy, I give that to you.”

“My joy,” think of it! “My peace”—not *our* peace, but *His* peace!

They say a man can’t make a will now that lawyers can’t break...I will challenge them to break Christ’s will; let them try it. No judge or jury can set that aside. Christ rose to execute His own will. If He had left us a lot of gold, thieves would have stolen it in the first century; but He left His peace and His joy for every true believer, and no power on Earth can take it from him who trusts.

ERWIN LUTZER

The peace of God is better than gold, yet we’ve all found it difficult to accept this gift when anxiety overtakes us. Anxiety is like a warning light on a car, highlighting that which we have not put under God’s complete authority. Or perhaps we haven’t yet fully cast our fears upon Him, surrendering every corner of our lives to Him. Christ offers His peace to us *personally*. There is a real sense of well-being and stability from knowing our life is in God’s hands.

Jesus gave us the gift of His peace at a time when, in His humanity, He Himself needed peace, for this was the last night before He would be cruelly hung on a cross. Yet even then, he was still the Prince of Peace.

Choose peace this year. Christ’s promise of peace, belongs to you.

PRAYER

Father, I transfer my anxieties unto your shoulders.
Today, I choose to walk in the peace Jesus promised.

JANUARY 2

AMEN TO GOD'S PROMISES

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.
That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

2 Corinthians 1:20

D.L. MOODY

Is there any reason why you should not have faith in God? Has God ever broken His Word? I defy any infidel to come forward and put his finger on any promise God has ever made to man that He has not kept.

I can show how, for six thousand years, the devil has lied and how he has broken every promise he has made. What a lie he told Adam and Eve! Yet, I can find a thousand men that will believe the devil's lies sooner than I can find one man that will believe God's truth.

ERWIN LUTZER

Dwight L. Moody approached the promises of the Bible with a simple, unquestioning faith, and was blessed with a ministry that continues to this day, all because he took God at His Word. Scripture gives us many examples of those who believed and were blessed because of their faith. Abraham believed God when the Lord promised that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

There are many promises for us in the Scriptures but the clearest have to do with our eternal salvation. He who believes in Jesus will have "eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28). We can always trust God's promises. Our prayers, whether answered or unanswered, are a declaration of our dependence on Him and His promises.

PRAYER

Father, when I feel insecure, may I cleave to your promises.

When I feel angry, may I submit to your will.

Thank you for your sure promises I can rely upon.

JANUARY 3

A DISCIPLE'S FRAGRANCE

By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.

John 13:35

D.L. MOODY

How are you going to tell whether you are a Christian or not? What did Christ say? "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

When I was first converted, I used to wish that every Christian would wear a badge, because I would like to know them; my heart went out toward the household of faith. But I have got over that. Every hypocrite would have a badge inside of thirty days if Christianity should become popular. No badge outside; but God gives us a badge in the heart. The man that hasn't any love in his creed may let it go to the winds; I don't want it. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Love is the fruit of the Spirit. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9).

ERWIN LUTZER

I agree with Moody: Wearing a badge would not convince me that someone was a Christian. A better test is love, that fragrance which says to the world, "I may disagree with you, but I love you."

Charles Weigle, best known for writing the hymn, "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus," was preaching at a conference in California. He spent an afternoon visiting some rose gardens in the city. When he went to preach that evening, a number of people asked him how he enjoyed the lovely gardens. He was mystified as to how they knew where he had been until one explained, "You have brought the fragrance of the roses with you."

People will only know we have been in the presence of Jesus when we bring the fragrance of Christ's love along with us. Today, show someone around you Christ's sacrificial love, which is much better than wearing a Christian badge.

PRAYER

Jesus, love through me; care through me; live through me.

JANUARY 4

YOUR FUTURE HOME

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Hebrews 13:14

D.L. MOODY

Surely it is not wrong for us to think and talk about heaven. I like to locate it and find out all I can about it. I expect to live there through all eternity. If I were going to dwell in any place in this country, if I were going to make it my home, I would inquire about its climate, about the neighbors I would have, about everything, in fact, that I could learn concerning it. If soon you were going to emigrate, that is the way you would feel. Well, we are all going to emigrate in a very little while. We are going to spend eternity in another world, a grand and glorious world where God reigns. Is it not natural that we should look and listen and try to find out who is already there and what is the route to take?

ERWIN LUTZER

We should take Moody's advice! People who plan a trip to Europe spend hours reading travel books and studying maps about the places they hope to visit. Should we not be even more motivated by the fact that we are traveling to another world? We are leaving the land of the dying for the land of the living.

Death is not the end of the road, it's just a bend in the road. When you go from this life into the next, you are immediately in that realm beyond.

A poor, little boy gazed longingly at toys in the store window. When he was finally gifted a toy for the first time, he exclaimed, "There's no glass between!" In heaven, there will be a whole new reality—a new way of seeing. "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

You were made for another world. Live today for eternity.

PRAYER

Father, may I live today to give you glory.
You are my hope and eternity is my focus.

JANUARY 5

NO ONE LIKE HIM

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:11–12

D.L. MOODY

Him—mark you—not a dogma, not a creed, not a myth, but a PERSON!

ERWIN LUTZER

Read Moody's sermons and prayers and you will soon discover there is no fluff, no unnecessary words, just the truth. This devotional has but a single sentence, "Him—mark you—not a dogma, not a creed, not a myth, but a Person." Blessed is the preacher who makes little of himself and much about Jesus.

Moody knew, and we all agree, that only the Jesus of the New Testament is able to save us from our sins. He alone has the qualifications to cleanse our hearts, give us the gift of righteousness, and welcome us into our eternal home.

Jesus is qualified because of His divinity. "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). Jesus is the intelligibility, the message, and the communication of God. The Word existed from all eternity. The Word (Jesus Christ) was and is God.

Jesus is also qualified because of His humanity. "The Word became flesh" (John 1:14). This truth shatters the philosophical and religious world. Jesus was a sinless human being, to be sure, but He became one with us. He bridged the gap between God and man. What a beautiful, saving mystery!

What a tragedy to know Isaac Newton, but not as a scientist; to know William Shakespeare, but not as a poet or playwright; and to know Jesus, but not as your Savior. Have you received Him?

PRAYER

Father, help me to see the uniqueness, the credentials,
and the beauty of Jesus. There is no one else like Him.
I don't just admire Him, I receive Him by faith.

JANUARY 6

AN APPETITE FOR GOD'S WORD

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Matthew 24:35

D.L. MOODY

Notice how that statement has been fulfilled. There was no shorthand reporter following Jesus around taking down His words; there were no papers to print His sermons, and they wouldn't have printed them if there had been any daily papers. The leaders of the people were against Him.

I can see one of your modern freethinkers standing near Christ and hearing Him say: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." I see the scornful look on his face as he says: "Hear that Jewish peasant talk! Did you ever hear such conceit, such madness? He says heaven and earth shall pass away, but His words will not pass away."

My friend, I want to ask you this question—has it passed away? Do you know that the sun has shone on more Bibles today than ever before in the history of the world?...They tried in the Dark Ages to burn it, to chain it, and keep it from the nations, but God has preserved it and sent it to the ends of the Earth.

ERWIN LUTZER

Moody was right. When you hold the Bible, you hold a book from God. Without it, we wouldn't know how to prepare for the eternity we intuitively know awaits us. We'd have no objective knowledge of right or wrong nor the ability to discover God's purposes. We can be thankful God made Himself known through His Son, Jesus Christ, revealed in the Scriptures.

God's Word is dependable, shedding light as we take our next step of obedience and preparing us for our eternal destiny. It is Spirit-given. Its authors wrote under divine supervision and inspiration, showing us God's intention for the redemption of all who believe.

Let us rekindle our hunger for God's Word through meditation, memorizing its promises, and personal worship. Become a lover of God's Book, and you'll be a lover of God.

PRAYER

Father, help me to love the Bible, believe it,
memorize it, and be changed by it.

JANUARY 7

PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE

Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Isaiah 65:24

D.L. MOODY

We talk about heaven being so far away. It is within speaking distance to those who belong there.

ERWIN LUTZER

Moody often surprises us with his directness and obvious simplicity. Think of it: Of course, heaven is close to us, as close as God's description given to us in Scripture, and as close as our next breath, which could be our last.

In fact, the Scriptures teach that legally, believers are already in "heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus is raised above every principality, power, and name that is named. When we were converted, God legally and judicially put us "in Him" so that we are, even today, with Christ on God's right hand. He loves us, making no distinction between His love for His Son and His love for us. We are invited to draw near to the throne of grace because we belong to Him.

No believer should ever say, "I'm a hopeless case." Instead, we should pray with confidence supported by our Advocate, Jesus. Is it any wonder the apostle Paul prayed that the church might be able to see themselves through God's eyes? (Ephesians 3:14–19).

Jesus is before the throne of God the Father, continuously interceding for us. When we pray, we become a prayer partner with Christ. We join Him before the throne of God on behalf of others. What a privilege to draw near to God in full confidence because of the person and work of Christ.

PRAYER

Father, in my struggles with prayer, may I remember
the privilege and priority of coming before you.

