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UPDATED EDITION

366 DAILY DEVOTIONAL READINGS



daylight

ANDREW KUYVENHOVEN

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Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Preface

Although this book was well received and often reprinted between 1977 and 1990, I had not expected a new publisher to take enough interest in *Daylight* to update and reprint it in the year 2009. But here it is.

I express gratitude to God, whom I want to glorify by this book, and thankfulness to the publisher who is taking a risk. I miss my wife, Ena, who used to critique my writings and sermons. I had her for more than 56 years and God holds her forever.

Over the years I have received numerous thankful remarks of people who were enriched by the words in this book. But I know to whom such credit is due. May the Lord continue to use it.

Andrew Kuyvenhoven
October 2009

Publisher's Note

Faith Alive Christian Resources thanks Andrew Kuyvenhoven for consenting to this reprinting of his book. This new edition of *Daylight* includes Scriptures from Today's New International Version (TNIV) and additional updates as needed. We've also added a "Reflections" question at the end of each devotional for personal reflection or discussion.

JANUARY

Your Kingdom Come

The kingdom is coming, for the King has been anointed with heavenly power. He's on his way.

daylight

Run the Race

HEBREWS 11:29-12:2

. . . Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. . . .
—Hebrews 12:1-2

We do not drift into another year like pieces of wood on the stream of time. The new year is before us like a race to be run. God calls us to the race and tells us how to run it.

“Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.” If you try running a race in your winter coat, you’ll lose it before you start. The coat will hinder your movements. And if you are out of condition, sluggish and fat, your chances are slim at best.

God’s athletes may not carry their sinful habits into the race. They must “throw off” the worldly cares that grow on Christians like extra pounds on obese North Americans. When you are called to the kingdom, you cannot run for the prize with your arms full of treasures and your heart divided by desires. You must have a single purpose, and you must train to stay in shape.

The race is very difficult. Some must “run” while they are sick in bed, others are in the race as business people bracing themselves for the after-Christmas slump. A few are persecuted for their faith by public authorities, and many are students who have just begun a new term. But all of us are in the race. And all of us must run “by faith.”

The stadium of our lives is surrounded by bleachers filled with spectators. They aren’t ordinary spectators. They are all veteran athletes who have run the race. This whole cloud of witnesses tells us to run “by faith.” That’s the secret of the runner. The whole gallery of Hebrews 11 urges us to keep running and to take all the hurdles “by faith.”

The focus of our faith is Jesus. Keep looking at Jesus. As long as the eye of our faith is fixed on Jesus, we will overcome all obstacles and receive the crown at the finish.

Take courage and run.

REFLECTIONS

Think about what drags you down in the race, and then ask God to help you throw it off.

Land of Hope and Glory

ISAIAH 35

“ . . . your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” —Isaiah 35:4

Every person has hope. A hope-less person is dead. Our expectations have just been rekindled by the start of a new year. But now we must ask ourselves what we are hoping for and on whom our hope relies.

Christians have set their hopes on Christ, and they await the coming of the kingdom of God.

As a matter of fact, all humanity, yes, the whole creation, is looking for this land of hope and glory which Bible believers call the kingdom of God.

Isaiah 35 pictures the land of hope and glory for us. The wilderness has turned into a garden, and the desert teems with life. The lame man is leaping. The mute person is singing. Sin and terror, the dragon and the lion, have disappeared. The place is secure. Sorrow and sighing are not at home in this country. They “will flee away.” This is the country of our hopes. It’s the land of everyone’s dreams; it’s the kingdom of God in the world of humans.

And here is the secret. Here is how it will come about: “Your God will come.” Therefore we must set our hopes on God and direct our prayers to him. Industry and labor, philosophy and medicine, business and banking cannot bring the land of hope and glory. “Your God will come. . . .”

God comes with vengeance and salvation. Vengeance is for the oppressors, salvation for the oppressed. Punishment is for those who hate God, and deliverance for those who long for God. With this double-edged sword of vengeance and salvation, God will open the promised land.

Nothing is more human than to hope. But we set our hopes on different things. Blessed are those who have set their hopes on God. They are the only people who will not be disappointed.

REFLECTIONS

How would you express the hope you have as a Christian?