



**THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS**

**MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR AUGUST 2003.**

**DEDICATED TO ENRICHING YOUR MIND**

**SPIRITUALLY THROUGH GOD'S**

**INSPIRED WORDS OF THE BIBLE.**

**John 5 :24 “I say emphatically that anyone who listens to my message and believes in God who sent me has eternal life, and will never be dammed for his sins, but has already passed out of death into life.**

**Spiritual Maintenance**

**Maintenance is a word in the dictionary meaning keep in existing state. Take for instance your car, it is imperative to periodically bring it in for service or repairs. If you don't bring it in for maintenance, it will soon leave you by the roadside. How about your home's heater or air conditioner, the same principal applies. Just about everything in this world has something or some part of it that needs maintenance. As for spiritual maintenance, it is not excluded, in fact it needs daily not maintenance periodically. The main reason why so many people neglect their spiritual maintenance is because it is ongoing 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. When you look at all the effort and hard work it takes to maintain your spirituality you kind of wonder sometimes. You say to yourself what's it all about. But when you look around and see all the daily temptations that we are faced with as Christians, it becomes more clear the high maintenance needed to maintain our Christianity. There are several tools available as Christians to maintain a healthy balance. The main three are daily prayer, daily bible study, and church fellowship. Why are these three so important? Because they keep you focused on God's plan, not the world's plan or should I say Satan's plan. Just to give you a recent example of the ramifications that can arise from the lack of spiritual maintenance, take for example Kobe Bryant. Here is a man that has everything that most secular people can only dream of. He is young, good looking, rich, a national basketball superstar, he has a beautiful wife and child, and a bright future. With all the many gifts and talents he had going for himself, none of them were a match for the snare of the devil. He literally destroyed his entire career in a matter of minutes by not keeping his eyes focused on Jesus. The real problem with all of us is that we think in our small minds that we are capable of handling any situation by ourselves or we are in complete control. The more fame and money we have, the more arrogant we become. We really fail to realize who really is in control,**

and that is The Lord up above ! When you look at it in general, we all are slaves to sin. The Lord says in John 8:34-36 Jesus said “ You all are slaves of sin, everyone of you. And slaves don’t have rights, but the Son of God has every right there is! So if the Son of God set you free, you will indeed be free. What Jesus was trying to say to the doubting pharisees back in the old days is the same exact truth that applies today. Only the insulation of Jesus, can set us free from the bondage of sin. What is sin? Sin is and always will be a rebellion against God; falling short of or deviation from the standards established by God. The new testament particularly portrays sin as a corruption of human nature that makes man hostile to God, captive to baser passions and desires, and unwilling to submit to God’s known will. By understanding the biblical doctrine of sin, we can better appreciate the salvation God offers us in Jesus Christ. Sin has shattered human beings’ relationship with God and lies at the root of the distortions in human society and in people’s relationship with others. If we consciously continue to sin without confiding in Jesus for redemption, our lives will continue to grow in spiritual darkness. If we sincerely repent and turn all are sins over to God, we will automatically be transformed from spiritual darkness, to God’s spiritual light. Jesus said in John 9 : 39 “ I have come into the world to give sight to those who are spiritually blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.

Well all my brothers and sisters in Christ, the moral of this months little story is real simple. If we continue to recklessly ignore God’s plan, and think it is okay to do what ever we feel is right, all the hell and darkness that comes from this way of thinking will be on us. Don’t go around and try and blame God for all the problems that manifest from this type of behavior. Always try and remember that the wages of sin is death. But Jesus said in John 11: 25-26 “ I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like anyone else, shall live again. He is given eternal life for believing in Me and shall never perish.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father please accept my sincere plea for forgiveness at this time, for thinking only of myself and all my selfish wants and desires. Please help me starting today to keep my eye focused on Jesus and not myself. Help me to get in the habit of staying close to your will, and not mine. And if I fall, help me to repent and get back in line with your will and not mine, quickly.

## AUGUST EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

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### SERVANTS WHO SERVE

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God Hebrews 4 : 9

We are the most entertained generation in history. Television sets pull in hundreds of channels; professional sports teams and pop music groups take in ( and spend) billions of dollars; millions of people own second and third homes for vacations; our children are upset if they don't get the latest computer games for Christmas.

I believe this frantic search for entertainment is a symptom of something deeper. Some have suggested we are the most bored generation in history- and perhaps they are right. Down deep inside is an empty place in our hearts- a restlessness, a search for inner peace and tranquility- that will not go away. The irony is, the more we try to satisfy it, the less content we become.

Only Christ can fill that empty space in our hearts, and He will as we open our lives to Him. But God's Word also points us to the future- to Heaven where our restless hearts will be at peace. " There remains, therefore, a rest for the people of God." .....Billy Graham

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### SPIRITUAL CLICHÉ' FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Proverbs 10 : 23 A fool's fun is being bad; a wise man's fun is being wise !

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#### SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Anne Palma Vera Achinko Debbie Danino Anthony Palma Jr.

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IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO IS IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS AT THIS TIME AND WOULD LIKE A FREE COPY OF THIS MONTHLY JOURNAL, WE CAN BE REACHED AT THE

MINISTRY OR PRAYER LINE NO.

(609) 704-8547

Fax (609) 704-9408

E-mail

[ministry8246@netscape.net](mailto:ministry8246@netscape.net)

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