



*The Lord does not see  
as mortals see; they look on  
the outward appearance  
but the Lord looks  
on the heart*

*1 Sam 16:7*

**THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR NOVEMBER 2003**

**DEDICATED TO ENRICHING YOUR MIND  
SPIRITUALLY THROUGH GOD'S INSPIRED WORDS OF  
THE HOLY BIBLE**

### **The Storms Of Worry**

**There is a story in the Bible in the book of Matthew 14 : 22-33 about a time when the disciples were out in a boat in the middle of a storm. Jesus had sent them ahead while He went to the mountain to pray. A strong wind swept across the Sea of Galilee. It was so powerful that the exhausted disciples could make no headway rowing into it. Then Jesus appeared, walking to them across the water. The disciples were terrified. After Jesus identified Himself, Peter was skeptical. “ Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water verse 28. When Jesus said “ Come,” by faith Peter walked out on the water toward Him. But then he looked around him. He saw the power of the wind and the huge waves. He thought about the danger he was in and began to question whether he could survive in a situation like that. He began to sink. He cried out to Jesus, who reached out His hand and escorted Peter back to the boat.**

**We are all so much like Peter. His experience illustrates, why we all worry from time to time.**

**We worry because we're vulnerable. As human beings, we are susceptible to many things. Disease may strike. The economy may change. We may get stranded by an automobile breakdown or a sudden airline strike. We could get hit by a drunk driver. We're afraid someone may say cutting words or offer harsh criticism that will wound us deeply.**

**We are frail, mortal, sensitive human beings. We are vulnerable physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We can get hurt in many ways. Like Peter, we are merely human and capable of drowning. We worry because we are vulnerable.**

**We worry because we become aware of our vulnerability. Most of the time we feel relatively safe. We can make our homes secure. We can drive a reliable car and keep it in good repair. We can get regular checkups. We can buy good insurance. We can maintain peaceful relationships. We can take care of ourselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually. But then something happens that makes us painfully aware of our vulnerability. We are all really like Peter, when he saw the wind**

he became afraid. It could be an engine that begins to knock. Or suddenly one of our children become ill. Or there is pressure in our chest. Or we discover a mysterious lump. Or we hear rumors of a layoff at work. Etc. Whatever it is, it forces us to see our weakness.

The main reason why we all worry is that we distrust God!

Confronted with our vulnerability, we have a choice. We can turn our complete safety over to God and trust Him with all our apprehensions.

Or we can take our well-being into our own hands. That's the mistake that Peter did on the water. Confronted by his frailty, He lost faith in Jesus. Yet deep in his mind he knew that he could not save himself.

It all boils down to doubt which means uncertainty, hesitation to commit oneself, unbelief. In a secular context, doubt may indicate a healthy skepticism. But in the new testament doubt is a religious concept. It is typically expressed by the greek word *diakrino*, 'to judge or to evaluate. The basic idea when it is translated, this word means "to have hesitation" Essentially, religious doubt is uncertainty about what God has revealed. Such doubt seriously weakens relationship with God and blocks a full experience of His grace. The Lord says in Matthew 21: 21-22 Then Jesus told them, "Truly, if you have faith, and don't doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this Mount of Olives, "Move over into the ocean, and it will. You can get anything anything you ask for in prayer, if you believe."

Jesus' words to Peter are revealing. "O you of little faith," He said Matthew 14:31 Peter stopped trusting Jesus. When we no longer feel that we can trust Jesus with our lives, our feelings, or our future, we worry. And that is a sin because we are taking responsibilities on ourselves that belong to the Lord. We are stubbornly refusing to place ourselves in His strong hands. It's no wonder that we worry !

Let us pray: Heavenly Abba Father up above, please forgive us for all the times that we doubt you words of trust and faith in You.

Father we really are so fragile and weak without You.

Help us always when the storms of change come, to stay your course. Always remembering Your word that You will never leave us or forsake us ever. Also when our vulnerability is weakened by our situation, please extend your comforting hand to us , the same as You did for Peter ! .....Amen

## **NOVEMBERS EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING**

### **TRUE THANKSGIVING**

**Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!    Psalms 107:1**

**Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated--- if any man had the right to complain it was this man, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving!**

**This was the apostle Paul- a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Look carefully at what he wrote during the prison experience: “ Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ( Ephesians 5:19-20) Think of it! “ Always giving thanks... for everything” no matter what the circumstances. His guards and fellow prisoners must have thought he was crazy-but that didn't stop him. Thanksgiving for Paul was not a once a year celebration, but a daily reality that made him a joyful person in every situation. May that be true with us.....Billy Graham**

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### **SPIRITUAL CLICHÉ' FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

**Proverbs 14: 31 Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God**

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### **SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK**

**Jackie Farrell    Anne Palma    Vera Achinco    Debbie Danino  
Anthony Palma Jr.**

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**ALL PRAYER REQUEST, SPIRITUAL QUESTIONS, SPIRITUAL NEEDS, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A FREE COPY SENT TO A FRIEND, WE CAN BE REACHED AT THE MINISTRY OFFICE NUMBER 609-704-8547 FAX NO. 609-704-9408 OR E-MAIL [ministry8246@netscape.net](mailto:ministry8246@netscape.net)**

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