

## THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



### MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR NOVEMBER 2004

*Blessed are the ones who believe that all things are possible in the hands of the Lord. May they always come to the Lord with their troubles like a little child. May God's loving grace and mercy always be available to all His children, in times of trouble .....Amen*

Psalms 9: 9-10 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You.

## TOTAL RELIANCE ON THE LORD

*By Dennis A. Palma*

This month's theme is not a common one, it has to do with a story about a broken printer. When I say a story about a broken printer you would have to ask yourself, what does a broken printer have to do with relying totally on the Lord? Well it's like this! I was working on my computer one Sunday afternoon when I went to print something from my computer, suddenly a box marked error appeared on my printer. At that moment, I started trouble shooting. After trouble shooting for a bit, I noticed a small loose plastic part stuck inside my printer. For the life of me I did not have a clue what this part was, or what part it played in the function of my printer. After taking some time to look over my printer, I proceeded to start taking the printer apart. After taking some of the screws off and moving some of the internal parts around, I was then able to retrieve this part from inside of the printer. In order to get to the area where the part came from, I had to remove more screws and parts, from the printer.

When I started to take more screws and parts out of the printer, I started to feel real insecure and nervous. The thought that hit me at that moment, was that I was dismantling my printer with not an ounce of any experience what so ever. I did not have a clue at this point, what made this printer function. Another thought that came to my mind at that time, was the fact that I do not have any patience to fix anything. In order to be successful in making any repair, you need to have some knowledge of what needs to be repaired, and patience. I possessed neither knowledge or patience at that time.

After taking off as many screws as I possibly could see, I started to make an attempt to dismantle more parts of the printer. This attempt I thought, would allow me to get close to the area where this part belonged.

After several attempts on my own, nothing was coming apart at that point.

At that moment, I started to get real nervous because all I could think about was what life would be like without the use of my printer.

I use my printer for all my ministry work, and all my work for my daily job. I never realized how important that printer really was, until it stop working. It is like the old saying, you never know what you got until it's gone. At that point all of a sudden reality start to set in. I started thinking about all my ministry work and my regular job work coming to a complete halt. I started to get real nervous and anxious, at the thought of this sudden loss.

I had completely exhausted all my personal options, and started to give up hope that I could fix this problem. ( The Devil at that time was working on my mind, with all kinds of negative thoughts.)

I thought to myself, it is time to call upon the power of the Lord.

I began to pray to the Lord with a urgent plea for help with this problem.

I then started to dismantle the printer again to no avail, nothing seemed to be working whatever I tried to do. I thought to myself that the Lord has always come to me in times of trouble, and has always made clear my way.

I tried again, and nothing seem to be working. So I started to say to myself, hey Dennis, maybe I ran out of favor with the Lord in times of trouble.

I started thinking again what am I going to do, I really need this printer in working order. At that point I started to lose faith just as Peter did when Jesus called him to get out of the boat, walk on the water, and come to Him. In Matthew 14:30 it says, but when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, Lord, save me ! “ This was the same situation I was in, with respect to this printer. I cried out just like Peter did, Lord help me. All of a sudden, as God is my judge, my hand touched the printer and I had a renewed sense that the Lord was taking charge of this job.

The printer started to come undone like melted butter. After I got to the area where I thought this part belonged, I said to myself again, Lord, where and how can this part be reinstalled. I started to play around with it, nothing was happening, I asked Him again, Lord please help me to reinstall this part back where it belongs. Again same as before, I started playing around with the part and it was like I was a printer repair man, the part fell back in it's proper place, just like a glove! What was so amazing about it, you had to see where this part had to go inside the printer. For the life of me, only the Lord knows how I ever got it to go back in it's original place.

After the part was back in place, I started to get a real sense that the Lords hand was at it again. I then had a renewed sense of comfort knowing in my heart, that there is nothing that The Lord can't do when we sincerely humble ourselves in times of need. This fact of life is not only true in times of need, but also in good times. He is always there for all of us to draw upon His unending grace and mercy. The Lord is always there for all of us!

After putting everything back together there was one more thing that had to happen, and that was that the printer was back working again. After what took place in my office on that nervous Sunday afternoon, there was no doubt in my mind that the problem was fixed. Thanks be to the Lord, after restarting up the printer I touched the print button, waited a minute or so, and out came the printed page requested..... Alleluia

This is just one of the many times the Lord has come to rescue me in times of trouble and need. He is always there for all of us , if only we believe, and trust in Him. The Lord says in Psalms 5:11 But let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You.

Let us pray: Father in heaven, let us all give thanks and praise always to You, from one end of the earth to another. May Your unending glory and magnificence, always transcend throughout the world. May all this unbelieving world come to know Your unending love for all, not just some. I ask all this in Jesus name.....Amen.

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## **HOPE FOR TOMORROW FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

### TRUE THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated---if any man had a 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 had wrote during that 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( Eph. 5:19-21, NIV)

Think of it! “ Always giving thanks...for everything” no matter what the circumstances. His guards and fellow prisoners must have thought him 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 for us.....Billy Graham

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### SPIRITUAL CLICHÉ FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Proverbs 11: 2;3 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

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## THANKSGIVING HOPE FOR THE NEEDED

If you would like to make this Thanksgiving Day a real special one for the needy, there are some things to think about.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you a spirit of giving to the poor and less fortunate this holiday season. The Lord says in Luke 6:20 Looking at His disciples He said: “ Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

The Lord also said in Luke 12:33;34 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys

What the Lord is trying to say in that scripture is that whatever you give to the poor, make sure it is from your heart. It is like starting your own personal bank account for your eternal retirement plan. Nothing down here can ever touch your eternal investments. That is why some people give some of their possessions to the poor, and some give all their possessions to the poor. Whatever you give, never give out of guilt, always give from your heart with God's love.

It is my hope and prayers this Thanksgiving, that all hearts will be touched to give abundantly to the needy throughout the land.

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### SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Arlene Santarpio Anne Palma Michael Monforto Anthony Palma Jr.  
Vince Moschella Debbie Danino John Sotile Janet Neil Harry Neil  
Sal Talomo Jennifer Myers Sarah Jones

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*Happy Thanksgiving to all, from the Spiritual Connection. May God bless all the poor and needy of the world, and watch over our troops abroad.*

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