

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR JUNE 2004

*Rejoice and be glad always in the everlasting power of the Lord.
Always give thanks and praise to Him, in everything you do.
For He is our A to Z, He is our Alfa, and He is our Omega!*

1 Corinthians 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

SPIRITUALLY RESTOREDBy *Dennis A. Palma*

When I say , I have been spiritually restored what is the first thing that comes to mind? Well the word restore means to put back into use or into a former state. When I say spiritually restored it means just that, to put back into use or into it's former state.

The only problem with spiritual restoration is that in order to be restored, you must first be spiritual to be spiritually restored.

To be spiritual, you must first be willing to give up your troubled nature to the Lord, in exchange for His nature. That means every time we want to control or handle a situation in our life, we no longer rely on ourselves, instead we give it all to the Lord to handle.

Fully trusting and believing in His total control for our lives, makes things go a lot easier.

What is so great about this concept is that if we give ourselves 100% to the Lord, whatever the outcome is, we our not responsible for it, the Lord is. On the other hand, if we only give a small percentage of ourselves to the Lord, and a greater percentage to our flesh, the outcome will always eventually turn out to be a nightmare.

From my years of walking with the Lord I have come to realize that we are really nothing, without the grace of the Lord.

Every time I take my eye off of Him, that's when all the trouble begins.

As soon as I start getting caught up with myself and start thinking that I am in control, that's when my life starts to spiral out of control.

This prideful control that we all possess, is one of our biggest downfalls.

We all think from time to time that any of our good fortunes in life, are through our own hard work.

Well let me tell you, that is your first big mistake. The Lord gives each and everyone of us different gifts and talents, it up to us how we use them.

We can either use them for our own glory, or we can use them for the glory of God.

The smart thing to do, is always use your talents to give glory to the Lord.

By always using your talents to give full praise to the Lord, you will always be blessed. But if you use your talents to feather your own nest her on earth, don't look for any blessing in eternity.

You see you can't have it both ways as the scripture on the cover page says.

Your carnal nature will try and convince you every time, that you can sit at both tables, well let me tell you that is one of the Devils great deceptions.

I have experienced that great lie so many times in my own life. After falling on my face time after time, you start to know and see the difference.

I have tried to work the system in so many different ways, only to come up dead short. I have tried to sit numerous times at both sides of the tables, but the outcome has always ended up in a complete disaster.

Our nature will continue to fight the surrendering of our secular nature, but until there is a complete and total surrender of our original nature, there is no chance for a change.

You see the Lord will never go out of His way to force us to surrender, but it seems, He will always allow us just enough rope to hang ourselves.

Before the hanging execution is complete, we all have the same opportunity to make the change! The ones with their own hard headed self convictions, will continue on to their own personal hell for eternity, and the ones who wake up and come to their senses and surrender to the Lord's will, will become part of God's elite family of believers!

Once you have become part of God's elite family, you automatically start to share in all the fringe benefits that come with the eternal package.

Some of the fringe benefits that come with your new package is the Holy Spirit. He is your earthly spiritual mentor! He will counsel you, guide you, and protect you from all the evil forces that surround you. It's like having your own personal spiritual guide with you 24-7. He will always let you know about the dangers surrounding you, when any evil starts to flourish within.

When we stay committed to the word of God, the Spirit will continue to fill us up with unprecedented wisdom from above! This wisdom will help you conquer any and all of life's challenges. Without this wisdom, we are like a ship without a rudder just sailing on the ocean to nowhere. When the Spirit dwells inside of us, it is like having an extra sense of discernment to separate yourself from the sins of the world.

Another benefit we get when we become a full time member of God's elite family is Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son. Through Him, with Him, and in Him, we learn how to become a light in a darkened world.

Through His life in the New Testament from the beginning to the end, we can learn how to become through His examples, children of God.

The Father sent His only begotten Son down to this dark and dreary world, as a beacon of hope, a light at the end of a dark tunnel.

There was no other way to bring an end for all the sinfulness of the world, then Jesus dying on the cross for all of our sins.

In the Bible it says, that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world. Jesus, was the perfect atonement for all the curses and sins of the world.

Yes sins are still ramped in the world today, but those who are part of God's family of believers that sin, are exempt from the penalties from sin due to the atonement at the cross.

The only reason that we are exempt from sin, is due to the fact that Jesus died for all our sins. He paid the ultimate price for our sins. Sin has no more power to destroy our souls when we believe.

So my friends in Christ, when the world tries to pull you from your faith in Christ, try and remember always that Jesus is and always will be, your Way, your Truth, and your Life.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father up above, we thank You, praise You, and bless You for being our light at the end of this dark tunnel. This dark world will soon pass away Father, but Your words and promises will be for all eternity. Father help us to stay strong during these dark and uncertain times. Also Father help us to stay real close to your will, and not ours.

Father we ask all this in Jesus name, Amen.

HOPE FOR TOMORROW FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Sufficient grace

2 Corinthians 12 : 9 My grace is sufficient for you

The prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane is perhaps the greatest, most moving prayer ever uttered. In it the Lord asked that the cup of crucifixion, which was about to be thrust upon Him, might be taken away. But then, in the very next breath He said, "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (Matt. 26:39) What a prayer ! What strength ! What power ! When the apostle Paul asked God to remove his " thorn in the flesh " God did not remove it, saying instead, " My grace is sufficient for you " Rather than complain or become angry at God, Paul joyfully submitted to God's will. He discovered that God's grace truly was sufficient, even in the midst of pain.

Christ desires to be with you in whatever crisis you may find yourself.

Call upon His name. See if He will not do as He promised He would.

He may not make your problem go away, but He will give you the power to deal with them and to overcome them by His grace..... Billy Graham

(SPECIAL PRAYER) SEEKING COMPASSION

Thanksgiving

O Lord, I am deeply grateful for Your wonderful acts, for Your abundant promises, and for the gift of my relationship with You through the merits of Christ.

Psalm 40:5 Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders You have done, and Your thoughts towards us no one can recount to You; Were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

Psalm 52:9 I will praise You forever for what You have done, I will hope in your name, for it is good. I will praise You in the presence of Your saints.

Please take a moment to express your gratitude for the many blessings that you have received from the Lord.

SPIRITUAL CLICHÉ FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Proverbs 28 : 6 Better a poor man whose walk is blameless, Than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

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