

## THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



### MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2005

Ephesians 4:32 The Lord says: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (NIV)

*Blessed are the ones who forgive one another, may God's blessing be with them always. May their example of forgiveness to one another, help set the standard of forgiveness for the world to see. May they always rely on the Lord's words, for guidance and the strength to forgive. I ask this in Jesus name.....Amen*

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

*By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma*

When I say to love your enemies, the first thought that usually comes to mind, is not to love your enemy, but hate or hurt your enemy. This is a very normal reaction, when someone is trying to hurt you or a member of your family. The hurt could be emotionally, physically, verbally, spiritually, etc. When you read and research the Bible, it gives a totally different approach how to deal with your enemies. The Lord says in Luke 6:27- **“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.** What is the Lord trying to tell us as Christians? I believe what the Lord is trying to tell us with this verse, in order to make a difference in this hateful world, we must be examples of love. If everyone of us went around hating our enemies instead of loving them, there would never be any example for love to exist, the world would be more hateful than it already is. Jesus, when He walked this earth, had more reason to hate the people of this world than any of us. But He came down to earth, to teach us all about love and forgiveness. The Lord goes on to say in Luke 6:28 **Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.** By blessing and praying for your enemies, you will eventually find peace within yourself to deal better with you enemies, who are living in darkness. Luke 6-29 **If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic** I believe that this verse is the hardest one to follow, simply because our nature is so full of pride and egoism. But try and remember what happened to Jesus at Calvary. As many times as Christ was beaten, whipped, mocked and spit on, not once did He strike back, while hanging on the cross. He even said to His Father above, Father forgive them, for they know not what they do. I believe in my heart, that if someone was trying to hurt or injure me or one of my family members, I would be left with no choice, but to defend myself and family. I believe that this scripture does not include self defense or when your life is in jeopardy. With respect to Jesus at Calvary, He did not strike back or defend Himself because He was doing His Father's will by suffering and dying on the cross for all our sins. The Lord was on a mission from His Father and that mission was already predestined according to the Bible. So, if you are ever in a striking back situation, and you or one of your family members life is not in jeopardy, swallow your pride, and Ask the Lord to help you. Luke 6:30 **Give to everyone who ask you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back** This is another hard verse for the

average person today to swallow, again our pride and egos will always do the opposite. This is the time again, to pray to the Lord for guidance.

Luke 6:31 **Do to others as you would have them do to you.** What the Lord is trying to say in this verse is, that no matter how they treat you, always treat them as you would like to be treated. If you don't, there is no way that lost souls can ever learn, except by your example.

Luke 6:32 **"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.** What the Lord is trying to say in this verse is, that there is no example of God's real love being demonstrated by only loving when you are loved. The real example is to always love both your enemies as well as your friends, this way we are doing God's will.

Luke 6:33 **And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.** What the Lord seems to be saying in this verse is again, what example are you setting to the lost souls of this world by only doing good to those who are good to you. Try and do good to people who are not doing good to you for once, and you will feel God's peace and love empower you to do it more and more.

Luke 6:34 **And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even "sinners" lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.** What the Lord seems to be saying in this verse, if He can be kind and generous to the ungrateful and wicked, so can you. How will they ever change their evil ways, if we are just as evil as them. And please try not to go around comparing the degree of evil from one person versus yourself, because evil is evil regardless of the degree!

Luke 6:36 the Lord says: **Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.** As God is ever so merciful to all us sinners, we should be merciful to our brothers and sisters. Again always try and remember with these 9 verses from the book of Luke, that the only real way for all lost souls to find themselves in Christ Jesus, can only be accomplished by our example!

Let us pray: Heavenly Father above we thank You, praise You, and bless You, for all grace and mercy you extend to all us sinners. May You continue to be patient with all of us sinners, and help us do your will. Father please continue to show us your ways, so we can continue to grow in You.

I ask this in Jesus name .....Amen.

**AUGUST 2005 EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING**  
**An Attitude of Gratitude**

By Billy Graham

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...And be thankful. Col 3:15 NIV

Thankfulness isn't our usual response when something goes wrong. We may have a hundred good things for which to be thankful—but let one bad thing happen, and it's all we think about!

But the Bible says, "in everything give thanks" ( 1 Thess. 5:18). No matter what happens, we are to give thanks. Cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving in your life. Thank God for every blessing He gives you. Thank Him for Christ and what He has done for you. Even when things go wrong, thank Him that they aren't worse, and you are still in His hands.

Having an attitude of thankfulness in all of life's circumstances will help you react as old Matthew Henry did when he was mugged. He wrote in his diary, " Let me be thankful first because I was never robbed before; second, although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."

I wonder if I could be that thankful!

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**SPIRITUAL WISDOM FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

Proverbs 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

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**SPECIALS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK**

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*Until next month's Journal, May our Lord and Savior richly bless you  
and your family, always.*

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