

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY EDITION FOR DECEMBER 2005

Luke 2:11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

Heavenly Father ,I pray this season that the peace, joy, and love of your Son Jesus, be with all mankind this holiday. May His birth, bring the hope of Salvation to all believers. Also Father, may all the lost sheep of this world , come back home to You. I ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus.....Amen.

DAILY DISTRACTIONS *By Evangelist, Dennis A. Palma*

First and foremost, I would like to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you Father for this month's spiritual message of enlightenment and encouragement, for Your people. As the Holy Spirit guides me, so shall I preach. The subject of daily distractions is one of grave importance in our spiritual walk. You see as we live daily in this dark world of sin and corruption, we can get very distracted from God's purpose for us. God's purpose for us, is defined by two easy to understand commands, in the Bible. God's two main commands as the Bible teaches us, can be found in the book of Matthew. The Lord says in Matthew 22: 34-39 **Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"** **Jesus replied: "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your soul and with all your mind."** **This is the first greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."** At this time, you are probably saying to yourself, what do these scriptures have to do with daily distractions. Well let me tell you brothers and sisters, it has every thing to do with these scriptures. You see when we become distracted with worldly things, we tend to be overwhelmed by basic personal needs and wants and we tend to lose the meaning of these scriptures. As I reflect on my own daily walk with the Lord, I see so many numerous distractions in my own personal life. I think, that is why the Holy Spirit put this theme on my heart to write about this month! With respect to daily distractions, I don't even know where to start, so let's start with survival. Survival, consist of basic things such as food, water, and shelter. Food, water, and shelter all cost money. In order to get money, you need to get a job. If you don't manage to get a good job, the food, water, and shelter, may be in jeopardy causing distractions. Survival alone at times, can be very distracting. What about trying to maintain our physical and emotional health, that can be overwhelming at times to say the least, all the ups and downs of life. And how empty and lonely would our lives be, without some form of entertainment. If you think basic survival, emotional, and physical health is distracting, entertainment can be even more distracting, with all the things going on in this country today. Things like movies, tv's, computers, updated technologies, vacations, parties, sports, flashy cars, music, etc. We seem to always be striving for more ways to entertain ourselves, so we can be happy.

You see my friends in the Lord, it not all about being happy all the time, for all that eventually ends up in complete loneliness in the end! It's really all about, longing to do the will of God. The only way that you will eventually and hopefully understand that, is to ask God to help you break away from all the distractions of this world. When you really examine all the different distractions from entertainment in the world today, all they really are is man's folly and his foolish wisdom inspired by the devil himself. This foolish wisdom, is Satan's way of distracting us from the word of God. The Lord speaks about man's foolish wisdom in 1 Corinthians 3 :19-20

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written:"He catches the wise in their craftiness"and again,"The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

Distractions can also take us away from the Lord dwelling within us. When I speak about the Lord dwelling within us, I mean when we are born again by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, our bodies become the Lord's Temple. His temple is absolutely sacred! The Lord says in 1 Corinthians 3: 16-17 **Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him: for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.**

This months holiday season is more of a reason to take time daily and refresh yourself in the word of God. For the distractions this time of the year, intensifies, with all the additional pressures of Christmas. I believe, that mans way of celebrating Christmas with all it's glitter, and materialism, is only another way the devil distracts us from the word of God. You see the real way to celebrate Christmas can only be found in God's way, not man's way. God's way of celebrating Christmas can only be found in my opening scriptures and that **is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself!**

Let us pray, Infinite and Eternal God of all creation, help us this season and from here on out, to try and disconnect ourselves daily from all the distractions of this dark world. Dear Abba Father up above, teach us all Your ways to maintain Your Spirit within. Help us Father, to always be the light of this darkened world, for all non- believers to see the love of God waiting for them through our example to receive.

And Father may Your peace be apron this world of hatred and deception this season. And for the world to see the reason for this season, can only be found in the living power of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ....Amen.

DECEMBER'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

Room for Jesus *By Billy Graham*

Luke 2 :7 **She brought forth her firstborn Son,...and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

No room for Jesus? No room for the King of kings? No, but room for others and for other things. There was no room for Jesus in the world that He made- imagine!

Things have not really changed since that Bethlehem night over two thousand years ago. God is still on the fringe of most our lives. We fit Him in when it is convenient for us, but we become irritated when He makes demands on us. If God would only stay in His little box and come out when we pull the string!

Our lives are full. There is so much to be done. But in all our busy activities are we in danger of excluding from our hearts and lives the One who made us? "Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus; there is room in my heart for you."

SPIRITUAL PROVERBIAL THOUGHTS

Proverbs 21:13 **If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.**

Proverbs 22:2 **Rich and poor have this in common; The Lord is the Maker of them all.**

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Adreinne Martino Debbie Danino Tom Marino Anthony Palma Sr.

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Michael Morales Virginia Maruchi John Carragan Elmer Schum

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May all the blessings of the Lord, be with all His people this Holiday Season. May the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ and the free gift He gave to all mankind, always serve as a reminder of the special love He has for all of us. May this be a great time to reflect on the true meaning of the birth of Christ, and not man's show and tell version!.....Amen.
