

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Matthew 12:21 In His name the nations will put their hope.

*Blessed are the ones who put their hope and trust in the Lord,
Jesus Christ. May all their days on earth, be fruitful.
May their lives always be full with the hope and joy of Eternal Salvation.
I ask this in the name of Jesus.....Amen*

THE GIFT OF HOPE *By Evangelist Dennis Palma*

The secular meaning for the word hope is, desire with expectation of fulfillment. In the spiritual world, the word hope takes on a whole new idea. Hope means an ordinary desire and confidence for something, an eager confident expectation that sustains a person while he or she is waiting patiently for future fulfillment.

The Hebrew words often translated “wait” in modern versions.

Paul interrelates hope with faith and love—things that remain Hope in God in the Old Testament identifies a specific object of hope, such as a return of the exiles to the promise land.

Most often, however, “hope” expresses reliance on the Lord.

“Lord,” the psalmist says, as he looks to God for deliverance from transgressions, Psalms 39:7 “what do I look for? My hope is in you

The same is true when enemies surround us. David writes in Psalms

31:23,24 “The Lord preserves the faithful.” “Be strong and take heart, all who hope in the Lord”

In the New Testament our faith and hope are fixed on God.

Romans 15:13 says, May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now believers are invited to look ahead with confidence. We are invited to hope for a personal transformation, associated with resurrection.

If you take a good look around the world as we know it through the eyes of the media, hope for this world is very dismal. There are millions of people living in third world countries, with no hope for any tomorrow. Their life centers around what is happening today only, with no future in sight.

There are millions of people in our country today without, the gift of hope.

Without hope life really is hopeless, to say the least.

I know there are times in my own life, where life starts to wear you down so bad, that for a brief moment there are thoughts of hopelessness that enters my mind. When I feel this sense of hopelessness the first thing I automatically do, is reach for the healing power of the Lord. There is no other place in the world to turn to for real genuine help in times of need, then the hands of the Lord. So many times in my life, He has bailed me out of one problem after another. He has never once let me down, in my times of need. It's like having a bail bondsman with you, every time you get sent to jail He is always getting you out of jail. After awhile you really get dependent on the Lord, to carry you through all the tough times. I personally am much too

weak and fragile to get through this life on my own. When you get to this point in your walk with the Lord, you have taken another step in God's ladder of wisdom! I have seen myself too many times at the end of the rope, without any hope, and feeling like a dope. The Lord seems to always know perfectly, when I am at that point. At that point it seems like the Lord picks me up and carries me through the storms of life, time after time! Hope is absolutely worthless, unless you continually keep our eyes on Jesus. There is no such thing as part time hope, that is only false hope. You see if hope is not reinforced on a daily basis, it begins to tarnish in time. After a while as time goes on and the storms start to gather in our lives, if we try and rely on hope that is not reinforced, it will eventually leave us hopeless. Once we are born again in the Spirit of the Lord, real hope begins to take root in our souls, the truth about life unveils itself to us. Some great scriptures for hope for today and tomorrow can be found in John 8:12 The Lord says: When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 14:1-4 The Lord says: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going If we fully trust in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit there will always be hope. The Bible clearly tells us that it pleased God to share His mysteries and secrets to all those who truly believe in Him. We are no longer in the dark- we know where we came from, we know why we are here, and we know where we are going in a world living in spiritual darkness. For all non-believers, spiritual darkness is and will always be a place where there is no hope. What a sad state of affair, to put in all this daily hard work and energy into an existence that has no eternal future! Let us pray: Father as always we thank You, we praise You, and we bless You for the unending knowledge you share with all your people, with respect to hope. Thank you Father for always unveiling your wisdom to your people in times of trouble. Thank you Father for Your gift of hope. Father may we all continue to draw near to Your words of wisdom. Father may Your words always serve as a beacon of light, in this ever growing dark world that we live in. I ask this in the name of Jesus..... Amen

MARCH'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

Peace with God By Billy Graham

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. Colossians 3:15

Science has confirmed what the Bible taught centuries ago: There is a close relationship between our mind and bodies. Proverbs puts it this way: “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones” (Proverbs 17:22 NIV).

But there is also a close relationship between our mental and physical health and the health of our spiritual lives. Guilt, fear, jealousy, bitterness, futility, escapism- these and a host of other problems are spiritual ills, brought by the disease of sin. Like poison, they can sicken us in mind and body.

But when Christ comes into our lives, He removes our guilt and takes away our fears. He gives us love for others and a new purpose in life. His joy and peace neutralize sin's poison- and that promotes emotional and physical health. Does that mean that our emotional and physical problems will vanish? Not necessarily. But like a spring of pure water, God's peace in our hearts brings cleansing and refreshment to our minds and bodies.

A PRAYER FOR THE END OF TERRORISM

It is my hope and prayer at this time, that the Lord will touch the hearts of all the terrorist where ever they are, with a renewed sense of love for all people. Lord may the ones who choose to harbor evil instead of good, be brought to justice swiftly. Father may freedom always prevail, throughout the lands. Also Father, may your will be done always in Jesus name.....Amen

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

John Sotile, Sal Talomo, Roland Faries, Pope John Paul, Anne Palma, Vince Mostello, Anthony Palma Jr., Janet Palma, Harry and Janet Neil.

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Until next months journal, may our Lord and Savior bless and watch over you, and may the peace of the Lord, be your prize!