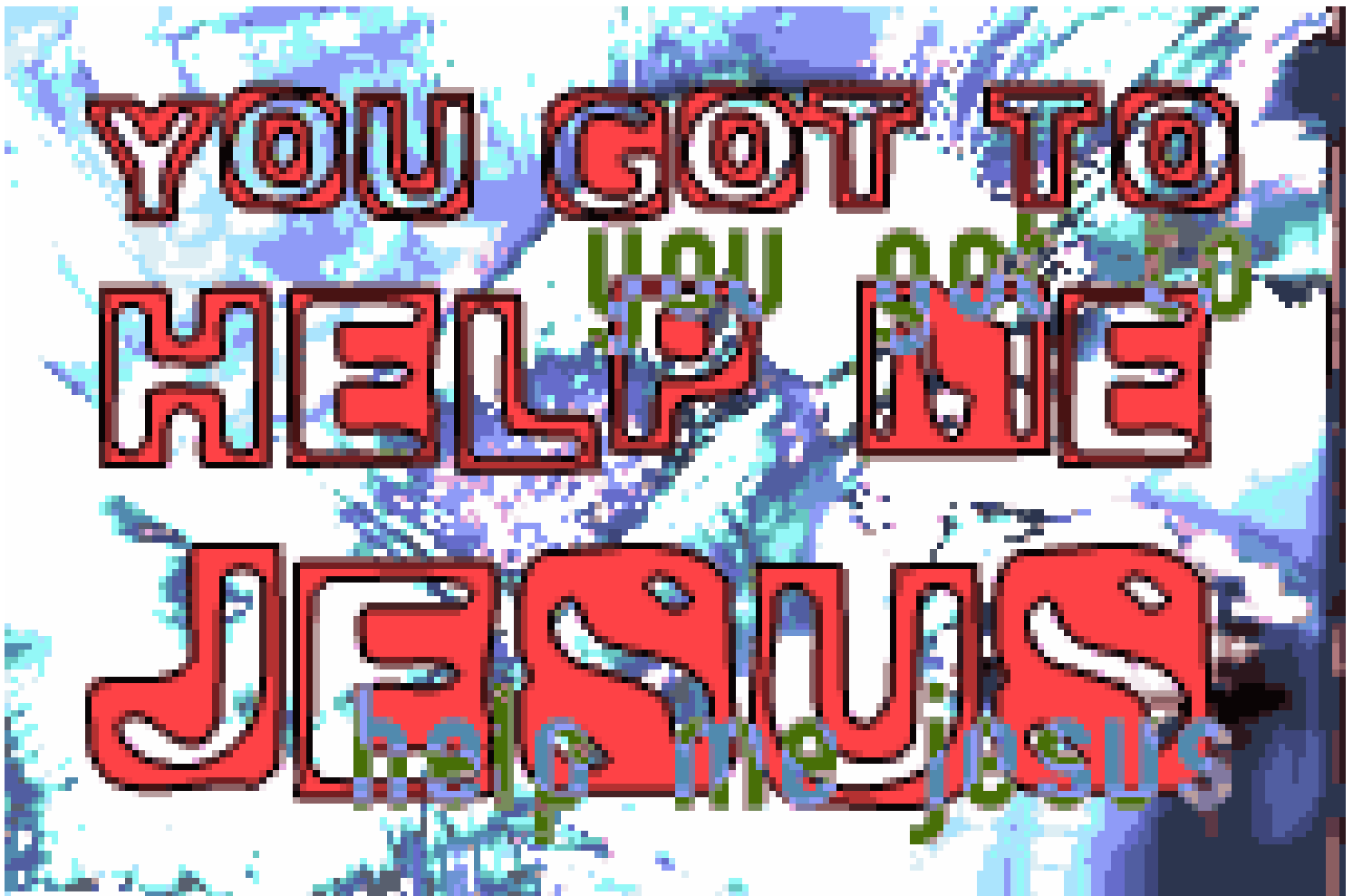


THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR MAY 2005

Hebrews 4:16 Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

Blessed are the ones who boldly come before God's throne of grace. May they always find peace and inner strength in times of troubles. I ask this in Jesus name.....Amen

SEEING THE LIGHT *By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma*

This month's message is about one of the greatest spiritual conversions of the New Testament. It is a story about a man called Saul.

Saul who eventually became Paul began as the bitterest enemy the gospel had. He was a murderer, a bigot, he hated Christianity and everything about it and he almost single-handedly drove the church out of Jerusalem.

He was on his way to Damascus to do the same things there—to find Christians and bind them and bring them back to a kangaroo court and put them to death. His plans were spoiled that day, fortunately for Saul/Paul the Lord had other plans. As the Bible tells us in Acts 9:1-19

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight. "Lord" Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priest to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their Kings and before the people of Israel I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately,

something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

I would think after reading this part of the scriptures, the first thing that must come to your mind is, why would the Lord choose such a person to spread His word ? As usual, the Lord doesn't make mistakes, Saul/Paul was absolutely perfect for the job. The reason I know that he was perfect for the job was, just look back at the impact that he made on the world.

Through Saul/Paul's conversion to the ways of Christ, he paved the way for billions of hopeless sinners like myself, to find the light of the Lord.

The majority of all the New Testament is written by Paul. When I say that the Lord does not make mistakes, truer words were never spoken. Just think what would happen if the Lord in this case, would have chosen some kind of goody two shoes to handle that job. Do you think it would have had the same magnitude ? I really believe in my heart that in a world of so many sinners, that sinners relate to other sinners. I know from my own walk with the Lord, when I was looking for a role model to help me grow, Paul was the one for me. You see, we live in a fallen world whether you want to believe it or not. In this dark and sinful world we live in, there will always be trials and tribulations. When trials become hopeless at times, problems force us to look to God. The Lord lets those problems happen for a reason, to draw us to a closer dependence on Him alone. Paul testifies to this " We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good , for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us" As Rick Warren put it, You'll never know that God is all you need, until God is all you got! Regardless of the cause, none of your problems could happen without God's permission. Everything that happens to a child of God is Father-filtered, and He intends to use it for good even when Satan and others mean it for bad. God's plan for your life involves all that happens to you—including your mistakes, your sins, and your hurts. It includes illness, debt, disasters, divorce, and death of loved ones. God can bring good out of the worst evil. He did it at Calvary!

So my friends in Christ, always try and remember that whatever trial or tribulations you are experiencing at this time, The Lord always knows what's best for us at that time. Also try and remember that He will never give us more then we can handle, because He created us and He knows exactly what we can handle!

Let us pray: Father again we thank You for this months message of hope, in these times of darkness and despair. Father pleased continue to watch over all your people and guide us to your everlasting light. May your love, grace,

and mercy be upon this world at this great time of need. I ask this in Jesus name.....Amen

MAY'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING by Billy Graham

Confidence and Peace

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You.

Isaiah 26:3

Peace carries with it the idea of unity, completeness, rest, ease, and security. Many times when I meet Jewish friends I greet them with "Shalom," the Hebrew word for peace. And often, when I greet my Arab friends I use a similar term that they use for peace "Salam."

Notice the key phrase in that verse: "whose mind is stayed on You." When troubles hit, our minds naturally focus on them. When suffering comes, all we can think about is the pain. It takes a deliberate act of the will to turn away from the problem and focus our minds on God.

When our minds are stayed on God, we won't be worried about the future, because we know it is in His hands. We won't tremble over what might happen, because our lives are built upon the solid rock of Christ.

When you and I yield to worry, we deny our Guide the right to lead us forward in confidence and peace. Don't cause Him to grieve over you by indulging in worry, but trust everything into His all-loving care

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Debbie Danino, Anne Palma, Harry Neil, Janet Neil, Anthony Palma Jr.

TO CONTACT THE MINISTRY OFFICE FOR PRAYER REQUEST, SPIRITUAL NEEDS OR QUESTIONS, OR FOR A FREE COPY OF THE MONTHLY JOURNAL, CALL THE OFFICE AT: (609) 704-8547

Fax (609) 704-9408

E-mail ministry8246@comcast.net

Until next month journal, may the Lord always bless you and all your families. And Father! thank You each month for Your inspiration, guidance, and wisdom in writing these journals. Also Father, a special prayer for Your wisdom and guidance for good Christian leadership for the new Pope!.....Amen