

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2005

James 1:2-3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

May the good Lord always bless His children when trials and tribulations come. May His grace and mercy always prevail.

May we grow and become stronger, in these trying times. Father I ask this in Jesus name.....Amen

THE VALLEY OF TRIBULATIONS

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

This month's theme is one about personal suffering. When I talk about personal suffering, I am talking about all the suffering physically, mentally, and spiritually that we must go through eventually in this life, in order to prepare ourselves for Eternal Salvation.

Yes Eternal Salvation is a free gift from our Creator! Unfortunately there are different levels of suffering we all must go through, in order to prepare ourselves for that heavenly place. There are two different kinds of sufferings, one is for all the people who are strictly of this world, the other is for the people who only live in this world, but not of this world.

The people who are of this world, are people who follow the ways of this world only, and they will eventually suffer alone. The people who are in this world, but not of this world are the people who put their faith, hope and trust in the Lord and not this world. They know that they have a Savior to go to in times of trouble, who is real familiar with suffering on this earth.

Both types of people will eventually suffer in this world, the only difference is that one will suffer in vain, and the other will suffer for the glory of Eternal Salvation in Christ Jesus.

Three of my favorite people who suffered for the kingdom of God were Paul, David, and Job.

Paul was blinded by the light of Christ, had a thorn in his side that never went away, was shipwrecked, beaten, mocked, and was imprisoned, all for the glory of God. The Lord told Paul, "My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). Having learned this lesson, Paul could then say, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10). Also Paul said, I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. (Phil 4:13)

David, another one, continuously suffered on the run from his enemy King Saul who was trying to kill him. He spent years running and hiding in caves continuously in a state of anxiety and depression. After David became King, even his own son Absalom conspired to overthrow his kingdom. These are just a few of the many trials and tribulations that David went through, during his walk with the Lord. But David writes in Psalms 23:1-4 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

As for Job, I think with out a doubt, that this man suffered more emotional and physical pain then all of them. This man was the pride of God the Father, who was a blameless man who feared God and shunned evil according to the Bible. He was blessed with seven sons and three daughters. He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousands camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the east, according to the Bible. One day Satan persuaded the Lord to let him do as he pleases to Job in order to see if Job would curse the Lord, once the devil had his way with him. The Lord agreed to let Satan have his way, only with his possessions at first. After the Lord allowed devil took in charge of Job, all his livestock was either burned up from fire from the sky, or carried off by raiders. All his servants were either burned from the fire in the sky, or were put to death by raiders. There also came a mighty wind that swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of Job's house. The house collapsed and killed all seven of Job's children, at once. After being completely wiped out in an instant, instead of cursing out the Lord which most people would have done, Job did just the opposite. In Job 1:20-21 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: " Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised". There is a lot more to this story, that was only test one, and Job passed with flying colors. If you are suffering at this time, or you would like to know more about real trials, I recommend that you read the entire book of Job. If you take a good look around, there is so much suffering going on throughout the world today. Every time you turn on the TV, read the paper, turn on the radio, there is always something somewhere to do with tragedy and suffering. As we travel to and from in this world, there is always something there to remind us of suffering. It could be someone that crosses our path that is mentally ill, it could be someone living in poverty, It could be someone who is deformed and disabled, it could be someone who is suffering from cancer or other diseases, etc. The list goes on and on! As I mentioned in the beginning, everyone of us will eventually suffer some kinds of emotional, physical or spiritual pain. If you live long enough, you are going to eventually suffer. We have two choices, we can suffer alone in vain, or we can suffer for the glory of God. The choice is up to you. Let us pray: Heavenly Father I thank You, praise You, and bless You for not letting Your children suffer in vain. Father no one likes to suffer, but suffering for Your glory and Your free gift of Eternal Salvation, makes it all worth while. Again Father I thank You in Jesus nameAmen

JUNE'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING
By **Billy Graham**

I will give you assured peace in this place Jeremiah 14:13

“Worry” says Vance Havner, “is like sitting in a rocking chair. It will give you something to do, but it won’t get you anywhere.” Worry and anxiety have hounded the human race since the beginning of time, and modern man with all his innovations has not found the cure for the plague of worry. What is the answer? Imagine in your mind a ferocious ocean storm beating against the rocky shore. The lightning flashes, the thunder roars, the waves lash the rocks. But then imagine that you see a crevice in the rocky cliff- and inside is a little bird, it’s head serenely tucked under it’s wing, fast asleep. It knows the rock will protect it, and thus it sleeps in peace. God promised Moses, “I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand”(Exodus 33:22). That is God’s promise to us. Christ is our Rock, and we are secure in His hands forever. The storm rages, but our hearts are at rest.

SPIRITUAL CLICHÉ’S FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

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 20:22 Do not say, “I’ll pay you back for this wrong!” Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Jim Flanagan Hubert Sommers Debbie Danino Anne Palma Harry Neil Janet Neil Anthony Palma Jr. Roland Faries

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Until next months journal, try and always reflect on the fact that while we are here on earth, we are going to have trials and tribulations. But the Lord says, “ Be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world”. Stay strong, and May God bless you and your family always in Jesus name.....Amen

