

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Psalms 19:9 **The fear of the Lord is pure forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and together righteous.**

THE FEAR OF THE LORD *By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma*

First and foremost I would like to say, thank You Father again, for this months inspired words of your wisdom and hope, for all your people. May Your spiritual inspiration continue to flow, for this ministry. May Jesus always be the spring of living water, for all of us to draw from,.....Amen
When I say the fear of the Lord, the first thing that comes to your mind must be, why do I have to fear a loving God?

According to the Bible, the fear of the Lord and the wrath of the Lord was and always will be, part of God's plan to love, respect, and praise Him always. Try and put yourself in God's position! Just say for an example, that you created the heavens, the stars, the galaxies, and every living thing in it? You are in fact, the owner and master of everything created? Now after completion, you set up guidelines for the way you wanted your creation to live and act? Then you start to see from the beginning, that your creation has turned against your will, and disrespected your wishes? I don't know about you, but I would be outraged at that thought! Remember, everything that God does with respect to His fear and His wrath, has a divine plan.

We as humans, are so distracted and torn away from God's will, that it's no wonder the Lord has a fearful and wrathful side about Him.

In the Bible, fear is mentioned 251 times in the Old Testament, and 62 times in the New Testament. The word wrath is mentioned 161 times in the Old Testament, and 29 times in the New Testament. What does all this mean? The way I see it is, in the beginning after the fall, man was new and slow to understand the real meaning of God's will. The Father was more wrathful back in those days, due to the ongoing disobedient to His commandments. Due to the lack of spiritual knowledge man had back then, I believe that faith, which is the key to understand God's ways, was harder for them to understand. The only way people could ever learn what God expected of them, was through fear and wrath. Back in the days of the Old Testament, there were so many examples of disobedience to God's will. Disobedience to God's will, runs from the fall of man in the book of Genesis, to the corruption of the church of Malachi. Man's heart was so hardened to God's will, that He was forced to almost destroy the entire world, if it wasn't for Noah's righteousness. He also destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, due to man's excessive sin and corruption. Again, a change of man's way of living back then, could only be achieved, by God's fear and wrath. Back in the Old Testament, there was also a lot of God's love, that only a small percentage of God's people could ever really see. Today the

disobedience to God's will, is still running ramped throughout the entire world. The difference today, is that man does not have the same excuses as they did back then. You see our heavenly Father was and still is a wrathful God, but a loving God as well. The Bible teaches us, that He is a very loving God. In John 3:16 the Lord said: **“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.** I believe more and more from growing in God's love, that God's original plan for creation, was totally rooted in love. Try and remember always, that Adam and Eve did changed the course of God's original plan, through their absolute disobedience to His will.

The Bible teaches us in Proverbs 1:7, **that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.** Real Heavenly wisdom, can only come from our total surrender and submission to the will of God. In the Fathers prayer, the Lord clearly says that “Thy will be done”, not my will be done.

To sum it all up, the Old Testament seems to demonstrate more fear and wrath, then love. Again, this is solely because man's hearts were so hardened back then to God's will. Man did not have in there hearts yet, all the examples of the true unending love of Jesus to reflect upon.

If only man back in those days could have understood God's plan for the world, through His Son Christ Jesus! In John 1:1-4 God says: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

I believe in my heart, that with all the current knowledge and love that God has revealed to us today through His Son Jesus Christ, that there is a golden opportunity. That golden opportunity is God's final purpose for all mankind. His final purpose is, that all His people will find Eternal Salvation in Jesus. You see, this world is only temporary and will slip away someday, but eternity is forever. The Lord says in Luke 21:33 **Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.**

Let us pray: Heavenly Father and Creator of the world, have mercy on all your people. May Your words of love and hope melt the hardened heart of the hopeless. May Your light shine and reign throughout this world of darkness. May all the evil and hatred around the world, come to know the peace in Jesus. May all creation come to see, Your everlasting plan of faith, hope, and love for all mankind. And also Father at this time, may we give thanks again, for Your inspired words of hope for this month. We thank You, Praise You, and bless You, in Jesus name,.....Amen.

JANUARY'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

Above the Din By Billy Graham

Philippians 2:5 **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.**
We Christians are not to be conformed to this world in the way we think. The world by it's advertisements, it's conversation, and it's philosophy is engaged in a gigantic brainwashing. Not always consciously but sometimes unconsciously, the Christian is beset by secular and worldly propaganda, calling us to live for ourselves and to put things and selfish pleasures ahead of God. The world's sewage system threatens to contaminate the stream of Christian thought.

However, above the din we can hear the voice of Scripture: "**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God**" (Romans 12:2)

Time yourself the next time you read the Bible and pray. Compare it to the amount of time you spend watching television or surfing the Internet. Is God getting His share of your time and attention?

Is the world shaping your mind—or is Christ?

SPIRITUAL PROVERBIAL THOUGHTS

Proverbs 19:2 **It is no good to have zeal without knowledge, nor be hasty and miss the way.**

Proverbs 19:9 **A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish.**

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Roland Farries Michael Morales Virginia Marucci John Carrigan
Elmer Schum Jerry Owens Bill Storm Kim Kurd Janet Neil
Anthony Palma Jr. Debbie Danino Tom Merino. Adrienne Martino. Also,
for all the sick and broken hearted souls, throughout this world.

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May God's blessing for peace and love be upon the world. May His love outlast all the hatred around the world towards our brothers and sisters. May the Lord help us to be more caring and loving towards our neighbors. And may God's peace, grace, love, and mercy be with all His people. I ask this in Christ Jesus nameAmen.
