

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Psalms 21 :1 The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Eternal Father above, may we always give you thanks and praise for Your everlasting love, and faithfulness You have for all Your people.

May You continue to touch all the hearts of this world, with Your eternal love and wisdom. May we all continue to grow in the love of Your Son, Jesus.

May Your inspired message this month, touch people's hearts wherever.

May we all continue to grow in Your knowledge and love for one another.

I ask this in the name of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ....Amen.

The word shepherd in a practical sense, means one who tends sheep, or is a guardian of his flock. The word shepherd is derived from the Hebrew word meaning, "to pasture or tend". In the Old testament in Jeremiah 31:10 the Lord says: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over His flock like a shepherd. In Ezekiel 34:12 the Lord says: As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after My sheep. I will rescue them from all places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. In the psalms of David, one of my favorite scriptures about my Shepherd is Psalm 23;1-4 when David said, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in the path of righteousness for His name 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 staff, they comfort me.

*These Old testament scriptures should confirm the fact that, even in the old days before Jesus, our Heavenly Father, was our **original Good Shepherd.***

*Moving forward in time to the New Testament, Our Father up above, clearly reminds us through His words of wisdom, that **Jesus Christ**, is our **Good Shepherd.** When I say good shepherd, I mean just that. He is one who will never leave you or forsake you.*

In the book of John chapter 10, Jesus clarifies that He is the Good Shepherd.

The Lord says in verse 1-2" I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep.

Jesus goes on to say in verse 3-5 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, He goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize his voice".

What is the Lord trying to tell us in that scripture? What does He mean when He says His sheep follow Him because they know His voice? Also, what does the Lord mean when He says that they will never follow a stranger, in fact they will run away?

In order to fully understand what God is trying to tell us in this scriptures, you must be part of His flock. Being part of His flock, means that we must come to the end of our flesh. For there is no understanding of God's word, while living by our flesh. Coming to the end of our flesh means, instead of depending on our sinful nature, we depend totally on God's eternal nature. Without having a good shepherd guiding us daily, we seem to fall prey to sin automatically. Every bad choice we make has consequences, some more serious than others. Some bad choices, can even lead to death. Death not only on the body, but also the death of the soul! The problem with people who don't have the Lord as their good shepherd, is the fact that they believe in there secular minds that they have everything under their control and their control alone. That way of thinking, is the reason why there is so much darkness in the world today. As a born again believer in the Lord, you automatically avoid doing what the world wants you to do. As the scripture says, we don't recognize the voice of the world. We don't follow the worlds ways. We even run away from it, because we know it is not coming from our Good Shepherd. We know where it comes from, an that is from the bad shepherd of this world, the devil. He is the one who is leading this world directly into the slaughter house, instead of to green pastures as the Lord leads His people. The struggles the world has with evil, can only be over come by good. There is no other way in the world, to change this cycle of madness. If you think that it is going to heal itself, or go away some day, you are only kidding yourself and living in denial. Dion Warrick said it best, when she sang the song, what the world needs now is love sweet love, it's the only thing, that there's just too little of. So my brothers and sisters in the Lord, try and always remember that, there is no getting through this life by ourselves. That way of thinking, is a formula for disaster to say the least. We need the Lord more and more each day, to find our way through this crazy world that we live in. You see, without His loving care and guidance, we are just ships in the night, lost at sea, a ship without a rudder! We all have a choice, we can continue to rely on ourselves to guide us through this dark maze in life, or we can surrender our flesh to our Good Shepherd and trust fully in His ways, and allow Him to take us by His Divine hand and lead us to the prize. That prize is the peace, wisdom and understanding to deal with this world, and a promise of Eternal Salvation with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....Amen. Let us bow our heads in prayer at this time. Lord we thank You always, for being our Good Shepherd. We thank You and trust Your Divine way that You care and watch out, for all Your people who love and respect Your will. May we all take this time and reflect on all the blessings that You have bestowed upon us. May we all see how empty and lost we really are, without Your love and care for us. May we never get too prideful and self dependant on our flesh no more. May we all continue to grow in Your love, grace, and mercy. Last but not least Father, may we always stay connected to our Good Shepherd and Savior, Jesus Christ.....Amen....Amen.

MAYS EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

Relinquish Control

By Billy Graham

Psalms 48:14 This is God, our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death

The story is told of a little girl whose father was an airplane pilot. As they crossed the Atlantic, a storm came up. The flight attendant awakened the little girl and told her to fasten her seat belt because they were in some turbulent weather. The little girl opened her eyes, saw the lightning flashing around the plane, and asked, "Is Daddy at the controls?" The flight attendant replied, "Yes your father is in the cockpit." The little girl smiled, closed her eyes, and went back to sleep.

God is at the controls of our lives. Or, rather, He wants to be at the controls. But He gives us the freedom to pilot ourselves as we wish. The problem is that we often crack up, much as we could expect to do if we took control of an airplane we had not been taught to fly. God knows us. He knows our strengths and weaknesses, and He knows what is best for us. If we will relinquish the control of our lives to Him, He will see us safely home.....AmenAmen, I say to that !

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SPECIAL PRAY INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK AND THE LOST SOULS

*Carl Wiemer-----Joe Hinley-----Frank Sarnese-----Al Wilson-----Janet Neil
Janet Litiski--Vince Philipelli---John Aquilino-----Tony Scaregelli-----Candice Kiana
Mrs Arena-----Jon Corzine-----Sherry Arzillo-----Jerry Owens-----Eddie Hillman*

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Also special prayers at this time, for all the sick, the hungry, the homeless, the helpless, the hopeless, the persecuted, the broken hearted, and all the lost souls wherever.

Special prayers for all the victims, family members and friends of the massacre at Virginia Tech., and for the perpetrator and his family.

Also a special prayer for our country, our troops in harms way, and are divided government at this crucial period in time.

Last but not least, a special prayer for all the terrorist around the world living in denial and darkness. May they all come to know God's peace for one another!

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To get in touch with the Spiritual Connection for any prayer request, spiritual questions, spiritual needs, or for a free copy of the monthly journal either mailed to your residence or e-mailed to you, e-mail us at ministry8246@comcast.net or you can call the ministry office after 7:30 PM at (609) 704-8547