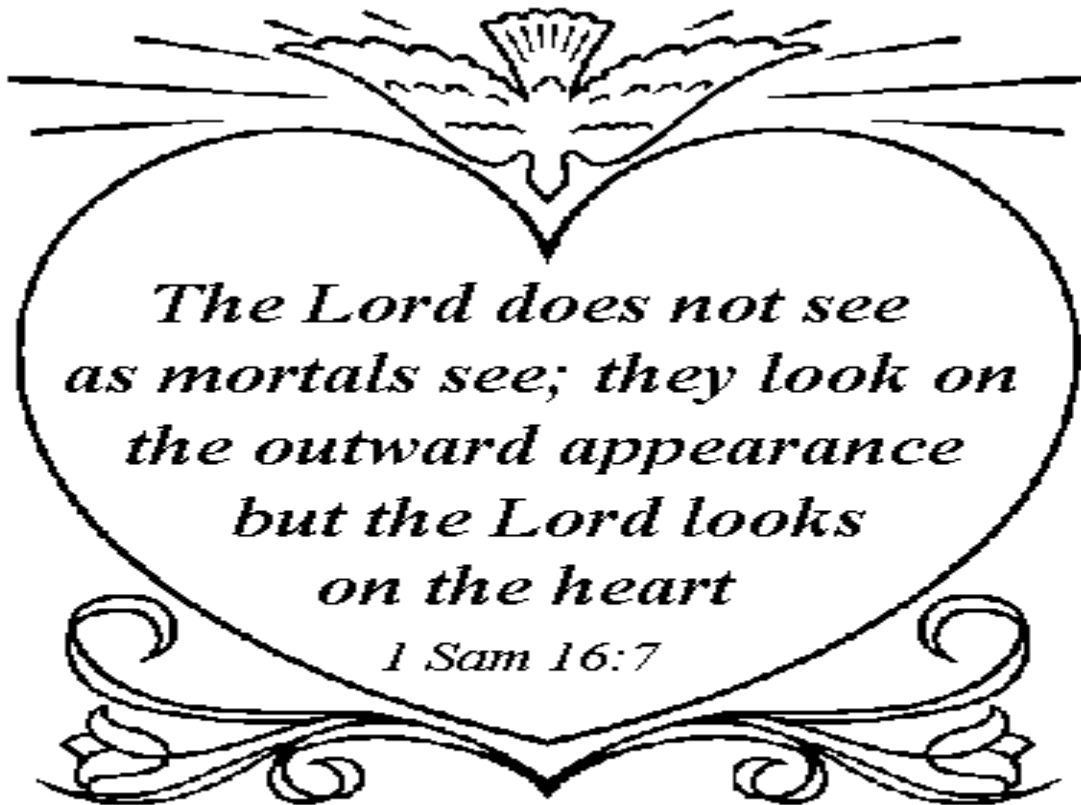


THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR FEBRUARY 2008

Deuteronomy 15:11 **There will always be poor people in this land. Therefore I command you to be open handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.**

The Poor and Needy

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Dear and gracious Heavenly Father, we thank You, we praise You and we bless You again, for this time of spiritual renewal. May we all take this time to reflect on all our selfishness and self centeredness, when it comes to the poor and needy. May you touch all of our hearts this month, to be more caring and sharing with our less fortunate brothers and sisters. May our hearts be renewed with a greater sense of compassion and generosity towards the poor and needy. Father, help us all to be better examples to the world, of Your unending compassion and love for all people. Father, may we all learn and grow together in You! I ask all this, in Jesus name,Amen.

*This month's inspired message, is one of personal compassion for the less fortunate people in this world. As you read my opening scripture from the book of Deuteronomy chapter 15, verse 11 the Lord is very clear and straight forward when it comes to the poor. **He said that there will always be poor people in the land,** When you take a look at the world as a whole, there always has been poor people. Poor people have been a part of the world, since the beginning. Then the Lord goes on to say **I command you to be open handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.***

In this scripture, the Lord isn't pulling any punches. He is very stern and forward with respect to how He feels for the poor. There are a lot of scriptures in the Bible, where the Lord continues to express how he feels regarding the poor and needy of this world.

*In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 the Lord says; **Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

How do any of us become a cheerful giver? The way to become a cheerful giver, can only be accomplished, by drawing closer to the word of God. You see when you start to take God more serious, He becomes more personalized. He actually starts by showing you His own personal heart, through His Holy Spirit! Once we draw closer to His word, we then start by wanting to please Him more than we do ourselves. From that point on, it then starts to grow the same as faith, it starts like a mustard seed as the Bible teaches us. We can become more cheerful about giving by having a renewed sense that we are pleasing the Lord first, and that He will always bless us for our kindness.

*There is the other side of the coin called greed and selfishness.. When I talk about greed and selfishness, there is a story that comes to mind about a rich man and a poor soul named Lazarus. This story can be found in Luke 16:19-31 The story goes like this! **"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury everyday. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side.***

The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire." But Abraham replied, son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.

He answered, then I beg you Father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.

"Abraham replied, they have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.

"No, Father Abraham he said, but if some one from the dead goes to them, they will repent." He said to him, if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

I believe, that this story about the rich man and Lazarus, is one of the best examples God has given us, to help prevent us from falling into the trap of greed and selfishness. You see, everyone of us can fall prey to this sin, without ever knowing it's happening. I can remember how I was, before Jesus was in my life. I was very selfish, stingy, and greedy. By knowing that the Lord ask us all to be generous to all our brothers and sisters, is all I needed. He has softened and changed my heart for the better.

*I now give with a cheerful heart and not a compulsion, only because the Lord showed me the other side of giving. When we give with a cheerful heart, the Lord blesses us in many ways. First of all, when we give, we break the chains of greed and selfishness. Second, when we give, we know deep down inside that we are pleasing God and doing His will. Third, when we give, the Lord showers us with blessings beyond our imaginations. In Malachi 3:10 The Lord says: **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this, "says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it.***

So my friends in the Lord, try and remember a couple of things that may be helpful in achieving more spiritual growth. Remember that Our God is very loving, graceful, and caring, to all who obey His will. Also remember that God makes it very clear through the Bible, what is expected from all of us regarding how we take care of the poor. Always remember, when it comes to our personal belongings that God owns everything that we possess. Last but not least, God is omnipresent and watches to see how we obey His will when it comes to how we treat our brothers and sisters.

Let us pray, Father we thank You, praise You and bless You again, for this time of spiritual understanding, with respect to the poor and lowly. May we all take this time to examine our hearts. Lord please touch and soften all of our hearts to be more generous in the future, to the less fortunate souls. I ask this always in the name of Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ.....Amen.

FEBRUARY'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

A Formula for Peace By Billy Graham

*Psalms 119:165 **Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.***

God has a plan for peace, and it is found in His Son, whom the Bible calls the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). But we have rejected God's plan. Wars still ravage our world- and our lives. Why?

Jesus said the problem is within us: "Out of the heart.proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness" (Mark 7:21-22). What a list! Our real war is a rebellion against God- and it brings unending misery.

But God longs to see this rebellion cease. That is why Christ came. By His death He provided a way for us to be reconciled to God. And when we have peace with God, we have peace in our hearts- and peace with others.

This happens as we repent and receive Christ. The war is over, for God extends a peace treaty to all who come to Christ!

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Father, please touch our hearts to pray for the sick, the poor, the homeless, the persecuted, the hungry, the helpless, the deceased, the lost souls, for peace around the world, for our country and all the governments around the world, for all the troops around the world, etc.

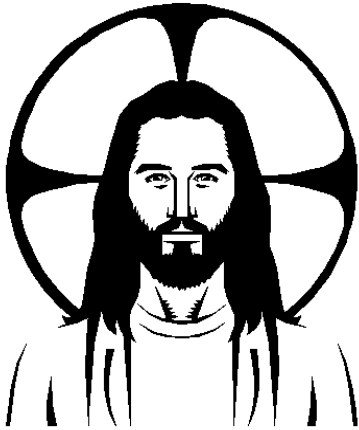
Also Lord we pray for Jonathan Baker, Denise Lathrop, Vincent Bovoso, Janet Lisitski, Jeff Haines, Jeff Rafter, Anne Marie Kalogridis, Gary Wade Tim Height, Keith Ruggiero, Rene De Matteo, Carly Napolliello, Robin Weiss, Joe Hinley, Tony Scarengelli, Candice Kiana, Janet Neil, Jenifer Smit Vince Phillipelli, Jerry Owens, Sherry Arzillo, Felicia Rumbone, Dianne Cabana, Penny Howe, Alice Mesmer, Nancy Flecker, Peg Ballerlino, Ryan Donnelly, Lucy Cartogena, Marian Ortez, Olivia Achinko, Anne Granata, Robert Lambert.

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If you have anyone in need of prayer, you can call us at (609) 704-0634 or you can Fax us at (609) 704-9408 Also e-mail us at ministry8246@comcast.net

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Helping the poor and Jesus at the same time, can lead to extra blessings. For more information on these benefits, turn to the last page.



The Spiritual Connection and the Atlantic City Rescue Mission have come together in an effort to help clothe the poor people in that area. The Holy Spirit has touched my heart with the desire to donate as many Spiritual Connection Jesus shirts as I can donate. Jesus is the Spiritual Connection! As the shirt goes on to say keep the faith with a beautiful picture of Jesus with thorns in His head on the front of the shirt. On the back is written John 14:6 where Jesus says in boldness that He is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Him! These shirts are a complete evangelistic shirt. You don't have to speak, the shirt says it all. I have had a ongoing drive to evangelize as many people as I can, through boldly wearing these Godly shirts.

These shirts make you feel special and proud to profess your belief in Jesus.

People tell me that every time they wear these shirts it gives them a sense that they are doing God's work without even opening their mouths. Also, it gives them a sense of joy, and spiritual boldness, to proclaim the word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

By wearing these shirts or donating these shirts, you are helping to let the world know that Jesus is not dead, but is alive and well.

At this time I am asking for some help financially to purchase and distribute more of these shirts wherever the Lord see fit. Right now the Holy Spirit has touched me to help clothe the poor people at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. There are over 200 poor and needed people that come into this mission daily. By donating some money for these shirts helps in several ways. First it helps to clothe the poor. Second it helps to evangelize not only the people who they come in contact with, but it helps to give hope to the poor soul wearing it. Finally, anytime you help the poor, you are pleasing God!

So my friends in the Lord, if you would like to donate whatever you can to help this cause, please send whatever your heart can spare, and make a check out to Roadside Graphics. Put it in an envelope and mail it to 1877 S. Blackhorse Pike. Williamstown NJ 08094 or if you would like to use your Visa or Mastercard call (856) 875-5755 Ask for Tony Fennen he is my designer. Also your donation is 100% deductible.

Don't forget to leave your name and address for your deductible return slip.

What ever you can do, thank you and May God Bless You Always.

