

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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1 Peter 1:21 Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

FALSE HOPE

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

O gracious, loving, and merciful Father, we give You thanks and praise hallelujah, for being our Abba Father. Thank You for always being there to carry us through this dark and troubled world. Also, thank You for blessing us with Your inspired word each month, so we all can grow in You. May we all continue to grow in the knowledge and love of Your Son and our Savior Christ Jesus. May this month's message, touch the hearts of Your people wherever. I ask this in Jesus name....Amen. This month's inspired message hopefully will help us all to be more aware of all the false hope that life has to offer. Things like deception, shattered dreams, lies, materialism, false idols etc. False hope is when someone or something that we believe in, creates a false sense of hope in our lives that eventually ends up in failure and emptiness. We all need to be more aware and be more focused on God ways, and not on people and things that give us a false sense of being. So many people and the media, will try and make us believe that following this or that way of living, is what it takes to make it in this world. It depends on what they really mean by making it. Let's start with money. Money is the number one root of all the evil in the world, and it can't buy you true happiness. Most people believe that if you have plenty of money, that is the cure all for all of life's problems. Nothing could be further from the truth. When it comes to being financially wealthy, there is always a heavy price to pay. The only time there isn't such a heavy price to pay, is if we are lucky enough to hit the multi million dollar lottery. This is only one example, of having a false sense of hope. How about the boss who keeps on telling us that if you keep on doing a good job, we will soon be moving up the corporate ladder. On the other hand, his real intention is to get as much enthusiasm and work out of us as possible, to make himself look good. Then we are constantly hearing from our Government about how they are growing our economy, when jobs are leaving this country at record highs. How they are working on universal health care for all of us, and the same beat goes on and on with no real solution. Then they tell us that the American dream is still there for all of us to have, mean while, rising oil prices, cost of living and inflation are going through the roof day after day with no end in site! Then there is love relationships, where time and time again a large percentage of people take their vows of marriage, only to end up hating each other in the end and eventually getting a divorce. In some bizarre cases, marriage even ends up in murder. This doesn't mean that every marriage ends up in hatred, divorce or murder, but in today's society, there is a growing chance of this happening to any marriage. Again, this is just another area in life that can have it's share of false hopes and dreams. Then there are the millions and millions of people, who put so much enthusiasm and hope, in false idols. False idols can be anything from, movie stars, recording stars, sports stars, political stars, materialism, etc. I hope by now you are getting the point, because the list can be endless. False hope can give us a sense of excitement causing our adrenaline to flow until the hope starts to fade away. After the hope has faded and the smoke starts to clear, then comes that empty raining day falling again. At that point, we are back to square one again, looking for hope again. I personally believe, that without hope, there really is nothing to look forward to in life. The problem with hope is, it's not lasting hope, it's fleeting hope. Unfortunately, fleeting hope is all there is without God's hope. In the Lord Jesus Christ not only is there real lasting hope, but also everlasting/ eternal hope. Once you have been through all the false hopes in life, you then start to realize that it's all miniscule compared to hoping in the Lord. Until Jesus came into my life, I was bouncing back and forth without any real hope. I was looking for hope in all the wrong places. When I say all the wrong places, I mean I was like a ship in the middle of the ocean without a rudder. Wherever the wind was blowing, there I was sailing. With the help of the Lord Jesus Christ, I became anchored in Him.

When I say I have become anchored in Christ, does not mean I still don't have storms in my life from time to time. It simple means that now when the storms of life start to come, instead of being blown for one wave to another, the Lord is my anchor. He makes sure that I am ready for the storm, by believing in Him. By now you are probably thinking, how can a person be anchored in the Lord by believing in something that you can not see? It all comes down to real faith and trusting God.

There is a great story in the Bible that the Lord Jesus Christ uses to illustrate how powerful a person can become when they are empowered by the Lord's Spirit through faith, and also how weak a person can become without it . In Matthew 14:22-33 there is a story about Jesus walking on water.

*The Lord Jesus Christ makes his disciples get into a boat and go ahead of Him. After the boat was a considerable distance from land the waves and the wind started to whip up and the wind was against them. During the fourth watch of the night, Jesus went out to them walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the lake, they were terrified. They thought it was a ghost and cried out in fear. Then Jesus immediately said to them to take courage, it is I. Don't be afraid. Peter replied, Lord if it is You tell me to come to You on the water. Then the Lord told him to come. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water towards Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he became afraid and began to sink crying out to the Lord to save him. Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. You of little faith, **"He said, "why did you doubt?"***

*As mortal human beings we all have our doubts and fears from time to time. Look at Peter one of God's famous disciples who not only doubted the Lord from time to time, but also denied Him three times before the Lord's crucifixion. I look at it like this, if Peter who the Lord founded His Church upon had his doubts and fears, we also will have our share of the same. After the Holy Spirit ascended upon Peter, he went from having false hope in his self, to real hope in the Lord Christ Jesus. The Lord has several scriptures to help insure our hope and faith in Him. In Isaiah 40:31 the Lord says: **Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.** Also in Romans 15:13 God says: **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.** And in Psalm 42:5 the Lord also said: **Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.** These are just some of God's everlasting scriptures of hope. Also in Acts 2:26-27 the Lord says: **My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body will also live in hope, because You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will You let your Holy One see decay.***

To sum up this months message, I will try and keep it simple. Try not to let life's temporary thrills and excitements turn into our false hopes for tomorrow. I am not saying not to enjoy our time on earth, I am simply trying say to be on our guards against life's falsehoods. Lets try and put our faith and hope in forever, and not on the here and now's. The price we all have to pay for the here and now's, can be eternally devastating to say the least! So my friends in the Lord Jesus Christ, may we all use our hope wisely and not squander it wastefully on things that are fleeting and hopeless!

Let us pray. Heavenly Father we thank You and praise You for Your message of real hope. May we all try and resist the false hopes for tomorrow and concentrate on Your eternal hope in Your son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. May You continue to bless and guide us daily through this maze of uncertainty. May Your light shine through to all the lost and troubled souls of this world. May your comfort and healing be with the broken hearted. May we all continue to grow in the knowledge of Your ways. May all your people stay strong and focused on You. I ask this in Jesus name... Amen

March's Edition of Hope for Living
In the World, Not of the World By Billy Graham
1 John 4:5-6 **They are of the world.....We are of God**

The Gulf Stream flows into the ocean, and yet it is not absorbed by it. It maintains its warm temperature even in the icy waters of the North Atlantic
Believers are in the world, and yet they must not be absorbed by it. If Christians are to fulfill their purpose in the world, they must not be chilled by the indifferent, godless society in which they live. The Bible says, " Do not conform to this world " (Romans 12:2). It is true that Jesus dined with publicans and sinners, but He did not allow the social group to overwhelm Him and conform Him to it's ways. Instead, He seized every opportunity to present spiritual truths and to lead a soul from death to life.
Our social contacts should not be pleasant, they should be opportunities to share our faith with those who do not yet know Christ. As you have contact with others this day, will they sense the warmth of Christ's presence through you?

Proverbial Thoughts for March

Proverbs 14:32 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Proverbs 15:9 The Lord detest the way of the wicked, but He loves those who pursue righteousness

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.



Let us pray, Father at this time may we all pray each day for the sick, the poor, the homeless, the persecuted, the hungry, the helpless, the broken hearted, the lost souls, the deceased, also pray for peace around the world, and for all the troops in harms way around the globe.

Lord at this time a special prayer for Robert Lambert, Anne Granata, Olivia Achinko, Marian Ortez Lucy Cartogena, Ryan Donnelly, Peg Ballerino, Nancy Flecker, Alice Mesmer, Penny Howe, Diane Cabanna, Felicia Rumbone, Sherry Arzillo, Jerry Owens, Vince Phillipelli, Jennifer Smit, Janet Neil, Candice Kiana, Tony Scarengelli, Joe Hinley, Robin Weiss, Carly Napolliello, Rene DeMatteo, Keith Ruggiero, Tim Height, Jonathan Baker, Gary Wade, Vince Bovoso, Janet Litiski, Jeff Haines, Jeff Rafter, Denise Lathrop, Anne Marie Kalogridis Vince Moschello

If you have anyone in need of prayer at this time, you can call us at (609) 410-3770 or you can fax us at (609) 704-9408 Also you can e-mail us at ministry8246@comcast.net

Until next months journal, may the Lord Jesus Christ shine in your heart and bless and protect you and your entire family. And may His words of love and hope for tomorrow, reign forever!

