

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR OCTOBER 2008

Matthew 6:14 **Jesus said, "If you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you."**

FORGIVENESS FROM GOD

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Lord, may we all give you thanks and praise daily, for Your unending Love for Your people. May we all give You thanks and praise in good times and in bad.

May we all stay centered in Your word always. Also Lord, we thank You for all Your unending grace, in times of trouble and need. Furthermore Father, thank You again for this month's inspired word. Father, we thank You in the name of Christ Jesus....Amen.

This month's inspired message, has to do with an article I wrote back in Dec 2004.

This article had to do with God's forgiveness. God's forgiveness plan, came to man approx 2,000 years ago, when God send His only begotten Son Jesus, to died for our sins.(John 3:16). Most men and women alike, have never completely understood, what God's real purpose was with respect to Jesus death on the cross. In the Old Testament, there was first the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Then God handed out to man the law, that law was the Ten Commandments. These commandments, were handed down to Moses for God's chosen people the Jew's. These commandments gave them laws to follow, and to live their lives, as God commanded them to do. Throughout the entire time that the law was put in place, man continued to sin and break the law with no regard for God at all. After the law was put in place when man sinned, God punished man for his sins. When man could not take God's punishment any longer, man begged God for forgiveness. Being the merciful but wrathful God that He is, He forgave them their sins through sacramental sacrifices offer to Him. These sacrifices were rituals that were only performed by a high priest.

In Israel, a male descendent of the family of Aaron of the tribe of Levi, were charged with the responsibility to supervise Israel's worship center and to offer sacrifices called for in the Law of Moses. As the Bible tells throughout the Old testament, man continued to go back and forth with God, testing Him all the time with their sinful ways. As much as man struggled to keep the law, he continued to fall short, falling into the hands of the devil's traps. By the way, are you thinking what I am thinking? Isn't this the same problem that we all struggle with today? Absolutely, the only difference is that, we as believing Christians, have our High Priest Jesus Christ. Jesus is the High Priest of the New Testament. Jesus ratified all our sins with God the Father, through His death on the cross on Calvary. Christ fulfills the mediatory role given to the Old Testament high priest. Christ communicates God's will to us, for under the New Covenant which Christ administers, God puts His laws in our minds and writes them on our hearts. Christ's guarantees salvation and forgiveness of all sins, being "able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them" Check Hebrews 7:25 7:26-28 sums up the significance of Christ Priesthood. Also check 4:14-16 5:1-10 7:1-8 :13.)

*As I reflect back on my own uncertainty about forgiveness, God has shown me His forgiveness so many times that I have come to realize, it's not because I deserve to be forgiven, but the fact that He is a loving and forgiving Father. As I continue to sin from time to time, He has ensured me through His divine words in the Bible, that He will always forgive my sins, as long as I am sincerely in His Spirit. Once we come to realize how forgiving and loving the Lord is to all of us, from that point on, we will want to be obedient to His Word. We will also start to develop a steady conscience when we sin. This in turn, will help us to stop whatever sin or sins we are involved with at that time, because we want to please the Lord always, for forgiving our sins. The one's that have rejected God's open invitation for forgiveness, will always be condemned for their sins, and will never be able to overcome the darkness of this world. For the almighty Lord above, will not be disrespected or blasphemed for long. As I have spoken before, the Lord God above is very loving, gentle, patient, graceful and merciful. But, when anybody tries to make a fool out of the Lord, He can and will be our world's greatest nightmare. Throughout the entire Bible it talks about how God when provoked can be very, jealous, vengeful and wrathful all in one stroke. A destructive force that no man or army could handle if they could put the entire world's forces all together, it would be like an ant, trying to overcome an elephant. I have read too many things about the Lord's infinite power, to ever doubt His wrath. Now that I better understand His ways, I prefer the loving and gentle side of the Lord. I am a firm believer that God's omnipotent infinite power to rule the earth and the universe as He does, is mind boggling. The Bible teaches us, that anybody who defies and disrespect the Lord's word, can expect that soon God's wrath will be upon him/her. The forgiveness of God can be found in numerous scriptures. In Nehemiah 9:17 it reads, **You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.***

*In John 1:9 it is written, **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

*In Psalms 103:12 it reads, **I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"-- and You forgave the guilt of my sin.***

*Romans 8:1-2 it is written, **There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.***

So my friends in the Lord Jesus Christ, try and remember always that we have a very loving, forgiving, graceful, and merciful God, who wants only the best for His children. The ones who stay defiant to the word of the Lord, will reap what they sow.

Try not to be mad but be glad with God for His eternal rules for righteousness. Just remember always, that He is our Lord, Creator and God above all the universe!

OCTOBER'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING
GOD WANTS OUR FELLOWSHIP *By Billy Graham*

James 4:8 Come near to God and He will come near to you.

What a blessed promise and provision this is! It means each of us can come close to God, with the assurance He will come close to us----so close that we become conscious of His presence. This is the greatest experience we can ever know.

But for most of us this isn't easy. Life presents us with too many distractions, and the last thing that we have time for is to be alone with God. Children, work, television, the internet, even church activities drain away our time.

Maybe you will have to readjust your priorities. Maybe you will have to say "No to certain activities or demands. Whatever it takes, make time to be alone with God. Remember: He wants your fellowship, and He has done everything possible to make it a reality. He has forgiven your sins, at the cost of His own dear Son. He has given you His word, and the priceless privilege of prayer and worship. He will come near to you, if you come near to Him.



THE MONTHLY PRAYER LIST

*Please join with this ministry daily in prayer for our brothers and sisters who at this time, are going through some trials and tribulations. Please pray for; Dennis Rafiel, Jim Flynn, Jimmy Rich, Patricia Ruggero, Marian Johnson, Carl Napolliello, Denise Lathrop, Anne Marie Kalogridis, Keith Ruggerio, Marian Wilson, Joe Hinley, Johnathon Baker, Candice Kiana, Jeff Haines, Janet Neil, Penny Howe, Jeff Rafter, Felicia Rumbow, Nancy Flecker, Peg Ballerino, Rene De Matteo, Lucy Cartogeno, Marian Ortez, Anna Granata, Greg McClade, Rose Robinson, John McGibbon, Robin Weiss, Robert Sommers, Robert Lambert, John Longo and Family, Mike Buettner, Russ Holman and Family, Jamie DeCosta, and Chris Vasques. Also, a special prayer for all the sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, the weary, the persecuted, the hopeless, the broken hearted, the lonely, and the lost souls around the world. Also, a prayer for all troops around the world in harms way. A special prayer for our country at this time, for all the financial corruption around the world and the moral deterioration of the world. Lord I ask these request, in Jesus name Amen. **Please note ,that the Spiritual Connections web-site will be coming soon.***

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