

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Proverbs 11:25 **A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.**

MAN'S SELFISHNESS

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Heavenly Father above all creation, we thank You, praise You, and bless You, Hallelujah, for being our Abba Father. Father the more we can learn from You, the clearer life becomes. May we all find the time in this busy world, to draw near to Your word. May we all remember Father, that without Your love, grace and mercy, none of us would have a chance in this treacherous world. So Lord God above, thank you again, for always caring and sharing Your blessings with us. And Father, may your inspired message this month, touch the hearts of Your people wherever.

Father, I ask all this in the name of our Savior, Christ Jesus.....Amen.

This month's inspired message, is about our own personal selfishness. Where does this personal selfishness come from? Well being that we all have a thing called free will, then it cannot be coming from God. If it didn't come from God, then where could it be coming from? The answer is, it comes from our own selfish nature. By the way, this is not an attack on anyone individual, it is just a reflection on selfishness for all of us to dwell upon. Being that the majority of the whole world, has this flaw, how can we all turn the tide of selfishness? The only real solution, is to ask our Father above to help us be more sharing and caring with our neighbors. You see, selfishness can eventually turn into greed when left unchecked, then we can become cold and inhumane.

A prime example of being cold and inhumane can be found in Luke 16:19-31

The story is about a selfish rich man, and a poor man named Lazarus.

The Lord says: There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 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 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, 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 someone 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 be convinced even if someone from rises from the dead.

This story, is got to be one of the greatest examples of man's selfishness, in the Bible. Every time I read this story, I start feeling sorry for all these so called million and billionaires, who think in there confused minds that making tons of money, is the only way to go. I have nothing against making a lot of money, because everybody that I know including myself, would like to make as much money as possible. The real problem with money, is the fact that money is the root of all evil. I believe that we all need to have a greater awareness of this evil, and ask our Lord to help us all be better stewards with God's money, and to help us all be more caring and sharing to the poor and needy. When I say be better stewards, I mean having some compassion for the needy. If we ask Our Father above for His help, He will teach us all how to be more giving, to our neighbors. Whatever we share with the less fortunate, will be treasures that we store up in heaven. Whatever we hoard here on earth selfishly, will still be here after we are gone. According to God, there will be no credits in heaven for this selfishness!

When I talk about the less fortunate, I am not taking about people who have elevated there life styles by going into debt and are losing their homes. No, I am taking about people in this country and abroad, who are dying by the thousands everyday from starvation, and having no place to live, etc. These are just a few examples of some of the problems that trickle down to the poor, from man's constant greed and selfishness.

When we become one of God's children, the Holy Spirit seems to find ways of showing us from time to time how selfish we all really are. Once the Lord shows us our selfishness, at that point, it is up to us to either respond to the need, or ignore the call. To help us deal with this problems, God shows us different scriptures to help us, like in Proverbs 22:9 the Lord says: A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. In Matthew 6:3-4 Jesus said," When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what the right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who see's what is done in secret, will reward you."

In Proverbs 28:27 God says: He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

Remember, if we give to the less fortunate from our hearts, we will be pleasing the Lord, and when we please the Lord, He in turn, will share His blessings with us.

The Lord says, in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that, **Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

Last but not least, remember again what the Lord says in Proverbs 11:25, **A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others, will himself be refreshed.**

Let us pray, Father please help us all to be more generous to others. Lord, help us to control our selfish ways. May You touch the hearts of the rich wherever, to give generously to the poor throughout the world. I ask this in Jesus name,Amen.

September's Edition of Hope for Living
The Proper Proportion By Billy Graham

1 John 2:15 **Do not love this world or the things in the world.**

Christians are warned not to love the world----but what is worldliness?

Some have misunderstood it. Worldliness is an attitude, a spirit, an atmosphere that permeates the whole human society. It is an attitude that puts self first and ignores God and His commandments. Its horizon in this present world, and it never gives a thought to God or to eternity. It exhibits itself in a thousand different ways—in habits, in selfish pleasures, in a grasping for material things, in driving ambition in exalting oneself at the expense of others.

We must avoid everything God has labeled sinful; of that there can be no doubt. But some elements of daily life aren't necessarily sinful in themselves; they only become sinful when abused. Pleasure isn't always wrong—unless it is abused. Ambition is an essential part of true character—but if abused, it can destroy us.

Be on guard, lest a spirit of worldliness creep into your life. The Bible warns, “Do not love the world, or the things in the world”

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Let us pray, Father we come gracefully to your throne of grace, love and mercy at this time and each day for all the sick, the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the helpless, the persecuted, the weary, the hopeless, the lonely, the broken hearted, the lost souls, etc people of this dark world. Also Father, a prayer for all the corrupt governments throughout the world. For all the hatred, violence, and all the sins of this of this world. Father may we all constantly draw upon your wisdom and knowledge, to

help us all defend ourselves from the devils advances. Furthermore Lord, a prayer for all the troops in harms way, and for all the deceased souls of this world. I asked this always in the name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ...Hallelujah amen.

Also' please pray for all the people on the ministry prayer list.

*Alexandria, Chris Vasques, Jamie De Costa, Russ Holman, Mike Buetner, Joe Hinley
The Longo family, Robert Lambert, Robert Sommers, John Mc Gibbon, Robin Weiss
Rose Robinson, Greg Mc Glade, Anna Granata, Marian Ortez, Jeff Rafter,
Lucy Cartogena, Rene DeMatteo, Peg Balleriono, Nancy Flecker, Felicia Rumbow,
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