

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Philippians 4:7 **And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

GOD'S ETERNAL PEACE

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Dear Lord, we thank You, praise You and bless You for another opportunity to study and learn from Your Son Jesus. May we all take this time, to reflect on Your words of peace, love, and joy that only you can give. Father, bless us with Your wisdom, and help us to have a closer relationship with You this year. Lord, help us this new year, to be eternally peaceful from within. Father, help us to overcome the evil one's plan to destroy our souls. Lord, please keep us close to You. Father I ask this prayer in the name of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, Hallelujah, . . . Amen.

As I continue to learn and grow more aware of the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, I am finding more sins in myself that I thought were not sins. The latest one, is the sin of worry. It's not something that I do everyday, but it is something that keeps on coming up from time to time. When everything is going good in my life, I feel real peaceful. As soon as I get too complacent, fear and worry starts to unravel in my life.

Most people have fears and worries about something. My fears / worries mainly have to do with things like health, money, flying, snakes etc. the list goes on. The most troubling one at this time that many of us are now faced with, is money problems.

Money like the Bible says, is and always has been the number one root of all evil.

When it comes to money, thoughts can infiltrate our minds like, what am I going to do if I loose my job? What am I going to do if I can't pay my bills? Are me and my family going to loose our home and be put out in the street with no place to live? Will we loose our family car or cars and have no means of transportation? If things get too bad, how are we going to afford to eat? The list of worries can go on and on. At that point, we must find a way to shut off those evil negative thoughts. The vast majority of people in this world including myself, when worry starts to gets a hold of us, the first thing we tend to think when our minds start to unravel, and our bodies starts to react to the stress, maybe we have some kind of medical problem? At that point, we make an appointment to see the Doctor because we don't feel good. When we go and see the Doctor, he will ask us what is bothering us or what is your reason for coming to see him. Depending on what part of your body is not functioning properly, you will probably tell him things like, I am getting headaches. I have been having stomach problems. Lately I have been having strange body aches, pains, etc. From that point on he will either give you a prescription for whatever is bothering you, or He will recommend that you go wherever, for tests relating to your symptoms..

According to the Bible, worrying is a sin. In Matthew 6:25 the Lord gives us a direct command not to worry. After understanding clearly that we are not supposed to worry and that it is a sin to worry, why then do we all still worry?

The reason why we all worry from time to time, is the fact that our faith is weak and fragile from these evil thoughts, and we are not in tune with the word of God.

It is so true because every time I have let myself fall prey to fear and worry, was when my faith was weak and weary. I find myself going back and forth with this problem so many times that I wonder sometimes why this must take place in our lives. The only thing that I can think of, is that God wants us to totally trust and rely on Him for all our needs. Also, we are being tested with different trials and tribulations so that some day all our doubts, fears and worry will be no more. This is all part of God's love for His people. When the Holy Spirit finally helped me to figure out the reason for this question, the answer He gave me, made me feel completely fulfilled knowing that the Lord has everything under His control, Hallelujah, praise the Lord..

When it comes to God's Eternal Peace, there is no place on this earth that it can be found, except in the Lord Jesus Christ. You can search high and low in this sinful world and you will never find eternal peace, only eternal darkness outside of God's word. To help insure our peace in this dysfunctional world we live in, God has given His people His inspired words in the Bible, to study and reflect upon to find His peace. God says in Psalms 32:7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

In Psalms 46:1-3 it is written that God is our refuge and strength, and ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountain fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountain quake with their surging.

In Jeremiah 17:8 God says again that: "He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worry in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit"

God says again in Nahum 1:7: The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust Him.

In John 16:33 it is also written: "I have told you these things, so that in Me you will have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." This scripture in John 16 has been for many years one of my favorite scriptures that I use to help people who are down and out from the trials of this world. It is bold, precise, and to the point and that point is what on earth do we really have to worry about, if God has already overcome the world? There is really nothing that we have to fear, when our faith is strong according to the word of God.. But on the other hand, when we are separated from God because of sin, that is when we have cause to worry.

So in closing for this month's inspired message, there are a couple of points that I would like to make. Point 1 is the fact, that it is only when we are totally in tune with the word of God, that we will have the proper insulation against the devil. Point 2 is the fact, that in order to survive the trials and tribulations of this dark world, we must

trust and rely solely on the Lord's power and not on our flesh. Point 3 is the fact, that we will never find God's Eternal Peace that is available for all of us, without God!

JANUARY'S EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING

THE SUN STILL SHINING By Billy Graham

Exodus 16:10 They looked.....and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

Without the clouds we wouldn't be shielded from the burning sun. Without the clouds there would be no lavish sunsets, no rain, no beautiful landscapes.

The same is true with life's clouds. When hard times comes we easily get discouraged. But behind the clouds God is still present, and can even use them to water our souls with unexpected blessings. Longfellow once wrote: "Be still, sad heart, and cease repining; behind the clouds is the sun still shining."

As God's people wonder in the wilderness, He declared, "Behold, I come to you in a thick cloud" (Exodus 19:9)

Each of us experiences clouds in life---Sometimes slight, but sometimes dark and frightening. Whatever clouds you face today, ask Jesus, the light of the world, to help you look behind the cloud to see His glory and his plans for you.



THE MINISTRY PRAYER LIST

Please pray daily with this ministry for: Jerry Palma, Evan Goldglantz, Arlene Santarpio, Chris Valques, Jamie DeCosta, Russ Holman, Robin Weiss, Vince Philipelli, Mike Buetner, John Longo, Robert Lambert, Marian Ortez, Sherry Arzillo, John McGibbon, Rose Robinson, Greg McGlade, Marian Ortez, Anna Granato, Lucy Cartogena, Rene DeMatteo, Peg Ballerino, Jeff Rafter, Nancy Flecker, Felicia Romboe, Penny Howe, Janet Neil, Jeff Haines, Candice Kiana, Joe Hinley, Johnathan Baker, Marian Wilson, Jim Flynn, Michael Monforto, Keith Ruggero, Anne Kolgridis, Dennis Lathrop, Carl Napolliello, Marian Johnson, Jim Rich, Also a special prayer for all the The sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, the broken hearted, the weary, The poor in spirit, the hopeless, the hungry, the restless, the persecuted, The lost souls etc. Furthermore, a prayer for our troops in harms way, a prayer for all the hatred, violence, and genocide throughout the world, a special prayer for our new President, and a prayer for peace throughout the world. Father I ask this in Jesus name.

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