

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Isaiah 32:17 **The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.**

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Sovereign Father of the Universe, let us all thank You, praise You, and bless You always. Father, You are truly our A to Z and our Alfa and our Omega.

Lord, only in You eternal life is possible to find. Only in You is there a peace that surpasses all of man's finite understanding. Only in You, can we be born again through Your Divine Spirit. Only in You Lord, is there any true hope for this dying world.

Only in You Lord, is there true forgiveness for our sins. Only through You Lord, can Your Holy Spirit dwell within us, and Your Divine wisdom and knowledge be found. Father again, thank You for another inspired message for this month's journal.

Lord, I thank You in the name of Your Son and our Savior Christ Jesus.

This month's inspired message, is about one of man's greatest misconceptions, that misconception has to do with understanding the will of God. God's will, has been distorted, and taken out of context since the beginning of time. A great story with respect to misunderstanding God's Will, can be found in the book of Job.

Job was a man of faith, patience, and endurance. He was a very wealthy generous and a caring person. He was probably one of the most righteous man of his time. Job also was a very wealthy land and livestock owner. He had a wife and ten children at that time. As it is written, Job's life of wealth and comfort, was about to dramatically change. According to the Bible, in Job 1:6-7 it is written: One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." In verses 8-11 it goes on to say:

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face. At that point, Satan was trying to put doubt in God's Sovereign mind about Job. Verse 12 goes on to say: The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. From that point on all hell broke loose in the life of Job. Every blessing that God had bestowed upon Job, was rapidly crumbling all around him. In verses 13-22 it goes on to say: One day Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and

the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you."

While he was speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put your servants to the sword, and only I am the only one who has escaped to tell you."

One of the hardest of all of Job's suffering, has got to be the next chain of events in test number one. Verse 18: While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the older brothers house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" At this Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell on the ground in worship and said: "Naked I come from my mothers womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." In this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrong doing.

Could you imagine having to go through a tragic ordeal like this, and still being able to praise God? There is no mortal man that I have ever heard of in my lifetime, that can compare to the ongoing sufferings that Job was afflicted with, especially with all that he possessed at that time. It was a custom back in those days, when extreme emotional loss, sadness or grief fell upon someone, that they would tear their robes, signifying some kind of an emotional protest. This was a way, to vent one's disturbing emotions. After being hit with a cluster of tragic events all at once, Job was about to get hit with another bomb. In Job 2:1-10 it is also written about a second attack from Satan, directed straight at Job. This second attack from Satan, was Job's second test.

It is written; On another day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before Him. And the Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" There is no one on this earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

“Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands, but you must spare his life.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, “Are you still holding to your integrity? Curse God and die!” He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Job had a third disappointing blow handed to him from his friends. The name of Job’s friends that came to comfort him in his time of despair, were Elipaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, Zophar the Naamathite, and Elihu the Buzite. Job’s friends all sat in silent for seven days as was customary in those times, until Job finally spoke.

Not one of his friends had a clue what Job was really going through and why, but they all had something to say about why Job was suffering so much. Elipaz believed that Job was suffering because he sinned. Bildad believed that Job’s sufferings were because he would not admit that he sinned that was why he was still suffering. Zophar believed that Job’s sin, deserved even more suffering than he was having at that time.

Elihu comforted Job, with the need to be content even though he did not know why he was suffering. Overwhelmed by suffering, Job was not comforted but condemned by his friends, all except Elihu, who comforted him.

Each of their views represents a way to understand suffering. God proves in the end, that the explanation given by Job’s friends, was less than the true answer.

God rebuked Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, but does not directly address Elihu.

God also rebuked Job in the end, for thinking that He owed him an explanation, or a chance to debate Him. What Job failed to understand until the Lord answered Job out of the storm, in Job chapters 38-41, was the fact that who is Job or any of us, to think in our finite minds, that God owes us an answer for anything that He does. We all seem to forget so easily, how Almighty and Sovereign the Lord really is. In chapters 38-41, God really lays it on Job with only some of the things that Job was missing about the Almighty Power and Infinite Creativity that the Lord possesses. The devil can sometimes make us believe that we are on the same level with God, through financial success, political success, entertainment stardom, sports accomplishments, scientific discoveries, academic achievements, religious self righteousness, etc. You see, Satan at one time believed that he was on the same level as God, that’s why he is where he is today, fallen and roaming through the earth, also going back and forth in it just awaiting for his eternal destruction for his evil ways.

Are you out there just going back and forth through life without knowing God's Will? If you are, the time has never been better or the opportunity been any greater than now, to understand God's Will. To really know God's will and apply it to our lives we must; First believe that God is all Sovereign, Almighty, and Omnipresent. Second, we must repent of our sins, and surrender all our fleshly ways to the Lord. Third we need to ask God to come into our lives and be our way our truth and our life. Fourth we must take time daily, to pray, study the Bible, and meditate on God's word. For only when we pray, and study the Bible, can we truly understand the Will of God. Once we truly start to understand the will of God, the real meaning and purpose of life will start to unfold, giving us a proper perspective and real hope for living. Just as Job misunderstood God's will, so do all of us. This misconception, causes us all to misjudge what God is doing for us, especially when we are confronted by hard times. We all need to learn from Job's indignation and painful circumstances, to stop thinking that we know God's will, without first, truly knowing His will. Every time we think that we got troubles and God is on vacation, make it a point to read the book of Job. The book of Job is a one of a kind, when it comes to suffering! To sum up this month's inspired message, the main point that we all need to understand is, that none of us no matter what set circumstances we are face with, should ever question God. There are times in all of our lives, that we think that God owes us an explanation for the way our lives have turned out, and why does a loving God allow bad things to happen to good people and good things to happen to bad people, etc? The main thing to try and remember instead of driving ourselves crazy trying to figure the Lord's reasoning is, that God works all things out for good, for those who are in Him.. A great example how God works all things out for good, was the fact that whatever sufferings God put Job through, in the end, the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. So my brothers and sisters in the Lord, try and always remember that no matter what happens to us in this world, God has us all under His Sovereign Infinite Control!

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JESUS CALLING

By Sarah Young

COME TO ME

Come to me, and rest in my loving Presence. You know that this day will bring difficulties, and you are trying to think your way through those trials. As you anticipate what is ahead of you, you forget that I am with you now and always. Rehearsing your troubles results in experiencing them many times, whereas you are meant to go through them only when they actually occur. Do not multiple your sufferings in this way! Instead, come to Me, and relax in My Peace. I will strengthen you and prepare you for this day, transforming your fear into confident trust.

Matthew 11:28-30; Joshua 1:5, 9

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW

This is not a suggestion, but a command. I divided time into days and nights, so that you would have manageable portions of life to handle. My grace is sufficient to you, But it's sufficiency is only one day at a time. When you worry about the future, you heap day upon day of troubles onto your flimsy frame. You stagger under it's heavy load, which I never intended you to carry.

Throw off this oppressive burden with one quick thrust of trust. Anxious thoughts meander about and crisscross in your brain, but trusting Me brings you directly into My Presence. As you thus affirm your faith, shackles of worry fall off instantly, Enjoy My Presence continually by trusting Me at all times.

Matthew 6:34; 2 Corinthians 12:9 Psalms 62:8 (NKJV)

PROVERBIAL SCRIPTURES FOR LIVING

Proverbs 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Proverbs 27:8 Like a bird that strays from his nest is a man who strays from his home.

Proverbs 29:6 An evil man is snared by his own sin, but a righteous one can sing and be glad.



THE MINISTRY'S DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please pray daily with this ministry for; Keith Ruggiero, Janet Neil, Johathan Baker,

Arlene Santarpio, Theresa Wade, Tony Scarengelli, Vince Phillipelli, Anna Hansen, Mindy and Mike Baker, Serge Vdalovas, Chuck Lakes, Kevin Palma, Robin Weiss, Jimmy Palma, Donna De Angelous, Mike Buettner, Marian Wilson, Jerry Palma, Anthony Lakes, Anthony Palma, Alexandra Barone, Diane Moore, Scott Echenoff, Joe Lakes, Joe Longo and family, Karen Fulginetti and family, Helen McKean.

Also a daily prayer for all; the sick, the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the weak, the weary, the broken hearted, the poor in spirit, the lost, the lonesome, the lame, the hopeless, the restless, the persecuted, the emotionally distraught, etc.

Furthermore a daily prayer for all; the hatred, violence, wars, corruption, and unrest around the world. For the ailing economy, and for all the unemployed people throughout the country that can't find a job. For the President to follow God's will, and not the will of the politically correct. For all our troops who are in harms way, to come home safely, soon. Lord, I ask these daily prayers, in Jesus name...Amen.

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Well my brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, I hope that this months inspired message helps us all have a better understanding with respect to knowing God's will. May we all try and understand the importance of knowing more about His will. By knowing more about the Lord's will, helps us all to have a greater appreciation and respect for what God has done for us, through His Son and our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Also, by knowing more about God's will, we can better understand the reasons why there is so much suffering throughout this fallen world.

Until next months journal with God's help, may the Lord richly bless you.

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