

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR FEBRUARY 2009

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep My laws.

THE INDWELLING

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Almighty Father above, may we all give You continual thanks and praise always, for what You have done for all of us. Lord You gave us eyes to see Your glory unfold, and ears to hear the voice of Your Holy Spirit. Father, You have given us sinners Your Son Jesus, to be our Good Shepard . May we all at this time reflect upon our daily sins, and ask God to forgive us for our self centeredness, selfishness, and foolish pride that we all have. Father, help us all to understand that there is no other place on this earth to go to with our problems, but You Lord. Also Father, thank You again for Your Divine Inspiration for this month's inspired journal. Lord, we ask this prayer and give thanks in the name of our Savior, Christ Jesus..... Amen. In this month's journal, the Lord has inspired me to talk about The Indwelling. You must be thinking, what indwelling am I talking about? The Indwelling I am talking about is, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Another question you must be thinking is, what is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit The indwelling of the Holy Spirit happens, when we finally give up our personal fleshly battle with God, and ask the Lord to forgive our sins. Then, we must truly believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins. Last, we must be ready to have a full time ongoing personal relationship with the Lord! The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit was called to duty by God, after Christ death and resurrection on Pentecost. Pentecost was an Old Testament Feast of Weeks that marked the grain harvest. It was a joyful thanksgiving festival acknowledging God as the source of blessing for the harvest. The Feast of Pentecost was held 50 days after the Passover. The prophet Joel from the Old Testament promised that there would be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to all of God's people. (Joel 2:28-32) In Acts chapter 2, describes an event that took place on Pentecost, immediately following Christ's resurrection. Jesus had told His disciples, do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father has promised.... In a few days you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4,5) The promise was fulfilled on Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4 tells us that **When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from Heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.** The question we may all ask ourselves is, why tongues of fire? Well according to the Bible, tongues of fire symbolize speech and the

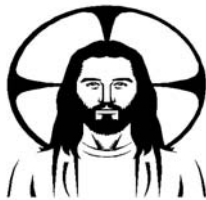
communication of the Gospel. Fire symbolizes God's purifying presence, which burns away the undesirable elements of our lives and sets our hearts aflame to ignite the lives of others. On Mt Sinai, God confirmed the validity of the Old Testament law with fire from Heaven (Exodus 19:16-18). At Pentecost, God confirmed the validity of the Holy Spirit's ministry by sending fire. At Mt Sinai, fire had come down on one place; at Pentecost, fire came down on many believers, symbolizing that God's presence is now available to all who exclusively believe and trust in Him. This is just a brief history of the Holy Spirit. To learn more about the Holy Spirit, read Acts 2.

At this time, I like to talk about what the Holy Spirit means to me in my personal life and spiritual walk with the Lord. As I reflect back on my life, I can see so many sinful things I did back then that were not spiritually correct. At that time, I was completely living and relying on my flesh. Since the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God has given me now a greater awareness of my sins. Through God's Indwelling Spirit, I have been gifted with a discrete sense of discernment towards sin. Before I sin now, the Holy Spirit will first warn me of any impending sin. Then He gives me, a moment of personal response to his warning. Then He waits to see if I am going to be obedient to His warning. Then if I allow sin's temptation room to grow, I will eventually fall into sin! Once we have fallen short and have sinned, the righteous thing to do, is to ask the Lord to forgive our transgressions. After asking God sincerely for His forgiveness for our sins, we must then ask the Lord to help us with whatever sin we are struggling with. If we continue to ignore the Holy Spirit's warning, then the Lord will unleash His just punishment on us, for whatever sins we have committed. You see, there can never be any lasting peace, when we continue to sin. Once we have truly received God's gift of the Holy Spirit, we will begin to experience a daily sense of peace, and hopefulness in our lives. Also, once we start to incorporate this Godly peace into our daily lives, we will never ever want to go back to that previous life of confusion and hell. When I say a life of hell, I am talking about the overwhelming feeling that comes when we live outside the realm of God's Holy Spirit. Living outside of the Spirit, will reap emotional fear, anxiety, depression, hatred, jealousy, pride, self righteousness, egoism, resentfulness, guilt, confusion, despair, hopelessness, restlessness, etc, the list goes on and on. My brothers and sisters, please don't think that once we are born again in the Holy Spirit of the Lord that there will be no more struggles, pain, or sorrow. This can never be, do to the fact that we are all living in a fallen world. plus, with all the ongoing sin surrounding us daily, it's impossible not to sin!

But, as long as we are obedient to the word the Lord and stay focus on His will for us, those sinful moments will only be short lived, not permanent. In John 16:33 the Lord says: **“ I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”**

So my brothers and sisters in the Lord, I pray that this months message opens all our minds and hearts to the fact that without the Holy Spirit’s Indwelling from within, there can never be any consistent peace of mind. So let’s ask ourselves this question, do I have daily peace of mind ? Let us pray. Lord thanks again for this months inspirational message. Father please soften all our hardened hearts, and draw us to Your Divine Spirit. May we all come to have a greater awareness of Your Will Lord. Father, may Your daily grace, love, and mercy be with us all. I ask this prayer in the name of our Savior, Christ Jesus..... Amen.

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JESUS CALLING
By Sarah Young

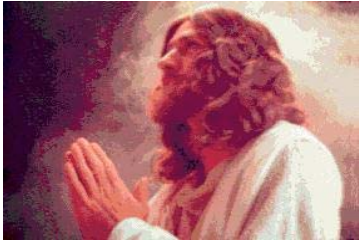
STRIVE TO TRUST ME in more and more areas of your life. Anything that tends to make you anxious is a growth opportunity. Instead of running away from these challenges, embrace them eager to gain all the blessings I have hidden in the difficulties. If you believe that I am sovereign over every aspect of your life, it is possible to trust me in all situations. Don’t waste energy regretting the way things are or thinking about what might have been. Start this present moment-- accepting things exactly the way they are—and search for my way in the midst of those circumstances.

Trust is like a staff that you can lean on, as you journey uphill with Me. If you are trusting in Me consistently, the staff will bear as much weigh as needed. **Lean on, trust, and be confident in Me with all your heart and mind.** Seek My face, and you will find more than you ever dreamed possible. Let Me displace worry at the center of your being. I am like a supersaturated cloud, showering Peace into the pool of your mind. My nature is to bless. Your nature is to receive with thanksgiving.

PROVERBIAL SCRIPTURES FOR LIVING

Proverbs 3:5 **Trust in th Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.**

Proverbs 10:12 **Hatred stirs up dissension, but love cover over all wrong.**



THE MINISTRY DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please pray daily with this ministry for, Anthony Collings, Joe Collings, Keith Reggerio, Mike Buetner, Patrick Zinck, Rose Robinson, Barbra Teto, Scott Eckenoff, Rose Robinson, George Slawter and Family, Theresa Wade, Jerry Palma and Family, Helen McKean, Jonathan Baker, Janet Neil, Karen Fulginetti and Family, Joe Longo and Family, Alexandra Barone, Jimmy Palma and Family, Donna DeAngelous and Family, Justin Chambers, Jennie D'Lppolito, Adolph D'Lppolito, Cindy Hogman and Family, Irina Ratkevitch, Elena Ratkevitch, and Patricia, Sculi.

Also a daily prayer for, the sick, the poor, 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, etc.

Furthermore a daily prayer for all, the hatred, the violence, the wars, the corruption, the unrest, the unemployed, the ailing economy, etc.

And, a special prayer for all the people in Haiti at this time. May we all open up our hearts and give generously as the Lord leads us, to help in the enormous cost to help take care of all the necessary needs of the Haitian people at this urgent time of need. I ask these prayers, in Jesus name. Amen.

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UNTIL NEXT MONTHS JOURNAL, MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU.