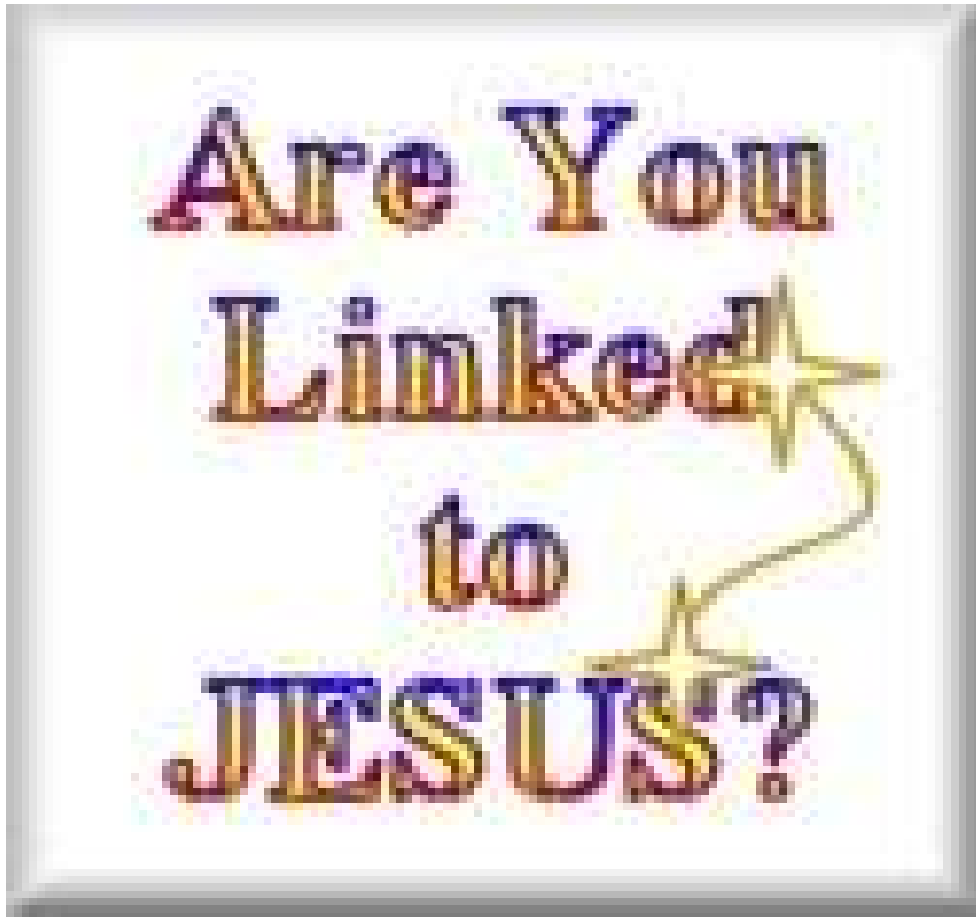


THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR FEBRUARY 2011

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

OUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

O Heavenly Father, we thank You, praise You and bless You Lord, for the gift of Your Son and our Savior Christ Jesus. May we always remember what Jesus has done for our sins. Help us Lord, to find our true identity in Christ Jesus. Father, give us the strength to lift up Jesus for the whole world to see His Infinite Glory. Lord, please forgive our sinfulness, and help us to repent of our sins. Father, continue to renew our strength daily, and teach us how to better serve You Lord. Father, I ask this, in Jesus name... Amen.

This month's inspired message has to do with Our True Identity in Christ. When I say our true identity in Christ, what am I really trying to say? Identity has to do with a sameness of essential character, individuality, or the fact of being the same person or thing as claimed.

God wants all His children to model ourselves in a oneness with Jesus. When someone gives you a gift, do you say, "That's really nice—how much do I owe you? No, the appropriate response to a gift is, " Thank You." Yet how often Christians after they have been given the gift of salvation, feel obligated to try to work their way to God. Because our salvation even our faith are gifts, we should respond with gratitude, praise and joy.

We become Christians through God's unmerited grace, not as the results of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part. However, out of gratitude for this free gift, we will seek to help and serve others with kindness, love, gentleness, and not merely to please ourselves. While no action or work we can do can help us obtain salvation, God's intention is that our salvation will result in acts of service. We are not saved merely for our own benefit but to serve Christ and build up His Church. We are God's workmanship (work of art, masterpiece). Our salvation is something only God can do. It is His powerful creative work in us. If God considers us His works of art, we dare not treat ourselves or others with disrespect or as inferior work. Through faith in Christ, we stand acquitted , or not guilty, before God. The Lord says in **Romans 3:21,22** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. God does not take us out of the world or make us robots—we still feel like sinning, and sometimes we will sin. The difference is that before we became Christians, we were dead in our sins and were slaves to our sinful nature. But now we have both our true identity and are alive in Christ all at once.

It is written in **Galatians 2:20** [I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.](#)

Our true Identity in Christ has numerous benefits to draw upon. Things like; [We are justified \(declared “ not guilty” of sin \). No condemnation awaits us. We are set free from the law of sin that leads to death. We are sanctified \(made holy \) and made acceptable in Jesus Christ. We are righteous and holy in Christ. We will be made alive at the resurrection. We are new creations. We receive God’s Righteousness. We are one in Christ with all other believers. We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. We are holy and blameless. We are adopted as God’s children. Our sins are taken away and we are forgiven. We will be brought under Christ’s authority. We are identified as belonging to God by the Holy Spirit. We are raised up to sit with Christ in glory. We are God’s work of art. We have been brought near to God. We share in the promise of blessings through Christ. We come with freedom and confidence into God’s presence. We are members of Christ body the church. We are made complete in Christ. We are set free from our sinful nature. And last but not least. We will have eternal glory.](#)

God’s Words have a Divine Way of transforming us from one way of living for ourselves (secularism), to righteousness, living for Jesus.

This transforming power has got to be exclusively from a Divine and Infinite Nature in order for it to have survived the test of time!

Here are some great examples of before Christ and after Jesus was a part of our lives. Before Christ, we were dead in our transgressions. After Jesus, we were made alive in Christ. Before Christ, we were objects of wrath. After Jesus, we are shown God’s mercy and are given salvation. Before Christ, we followed the ways of the world. After Jesus, we stand for Christ and truth. Before Christ, we were God’s enemies. After Jesus, we become God’s children. Before Christ, we were enslaved to Satan. After Jesus, we are free in Christ to love, serve, and sit with Him. Before Christ, we followed our evil thoughts and desires. After Jesus, we are raised up with Christ to glory. Satan has such a grip on this world. He loves to keep our minds connected to our sinful nature. By keeping us connected to our sinful nature, we get side tracked from the truth and we miss all the fringe benefits that are awaiting all who believe in Christ Jesus.

So my friends in the Lord Christ Jesus, until we can disconnect ourselves from this world and reconnect ourselves to Jesus, we will be missing out on

a lot of spiritual benefits that come from being one with Christ. When I say disconnect ourselves from this world, I am not saying that we should become reclusive and hide away somewhere far from the world's existence. No, what I am trying to say is that while there is still life in us to live, live it by the standards of Jesus, and not the standards of this dark and evil world. In the Bible, the Lord tells us to be in this world, but not of this world.

In **Ephesians 2:1-5** it is written; [As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sin, in which you use to live when you followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we by nature were objects of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved.](#)

It is my hope that this month's inspired message will help us to better understand the importance for all of us to be focused on being one with Jesus, and not this world. You see, this secular world and all its sin and darkness, is passing us all by, but not Jesus. He is with us for eternity!

=====



JESUS CALLING

By Sarah Young

TRUST IS A GOLDEN PATHWAY TO HEAVEN. When you walk on this path, you live above your circumstances. My glorious Light shines more brightly on those who follow this path of Life. Dare to walk on the high road with Me, for it is the most direct route to heaven.

The low road is circuitous: twisting and turning in agonizing knots. There the air hangs heavy, and dark, ominous clouds predominate.

*Relying on your own understanding will weigh you down. **Trust in Me absolutely, and I will make your path straight!***

PROVERBIAL THOUGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

Proverbs 12: 25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.

Proverbs 13: 9 The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.

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

=====



THE MINISTRIES DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please pray daily with this ministry for; Al Wilson and family, Greg Achinko Senior, Greg Dubrois and family, Earnie Carbone, Joe Longo, Andria Arceneaux, Keith Regerio, Joy Valarie, Janet Neil, Joe Lakes, Johanna Tyson and family, Mike Buettner, Dorthy Leary, Danny Turner, The DeAngelo family, The Stein family, Mon DeMatteo and family.

Please pray daily for all the; sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, The hopeless, the poor in spirit, the lost souls, the persecuted souls, The hungry, the broken hearted, the lame, the godless, the weary souls etc.

Also let us pray for all the; corruption, hatred, anger, violence, wars, greed, fornications, lying, stealing, cheating, selfishness, jealousy, debauchery, contentions, heresies, etc, sins of the world.

Furthermore; May we all pray for all our troops in harms way. Also, may we all pray daily for the United States of America to be spiritually restored and again become, one Nation under God.....Amen!

=====

If you find this month's journal inspirational, please pass it on to your family and friends or other believers in the word of the Lord Christ Jesus.

You can contact this ministry at: www.makethespiritualconnection.com

=====

