

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR MARCH 2011

Romans 12:2: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

NOT OF THIS WORLD
By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Father, may we all continue to give You thanks, praise, and bless You Lord for Your ever present Spirit of love, grace and mercy for Your people. Father, help us to stay focused on Your Will and not the way of this world. Lord, give us the strength to fight the good fight against our foe the devil. Father, when this world tries to entice us into its alluring trap, help us to change this destructive course by turning back into Your loving and graceful arms. Father I ask this prayer in Jesus name.....Amen.

Let me start by saying, thank You Lord for another opportunity to share this Inspired Word with Your people. Father, thank You for this privilege! This month's important message has to do with helping us to distinguish the difference between being in this world, but not of this world.

In Romans 12:2 it is written; **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's Will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.** God has good, and pleasing, and perfect plans for His children. He wants us all to be transformed people with renewed minds, living to honor and obey Him. Because He wants only what's best for us, and because He gave us His Son to make our new lives possible, we should joyfully give ourselves as living sacrifices for His service.

Christians are called to **not conform any longer to the patterns of the world,** with its behavior and customs that are usually selfish and often corrupting. Many Christians wisely decide that much worldly behavior is off limits for them. Our refusal to conform to this world's values, however, must go even deeper than the level of behavior and customs—it must be firmly planted in our mind—“**be transformed be renewing your mind.**”

It is possible to avoid most worldly customs and still be proud, covetous, selfish, stubborn, and arrogant. Only when the Holy Spirit renews, reeducates, and redirects our minds are we truly transformed.

Daily we must consciously choose to center our lives on God.

Use the Bible to discover God's guidelines, and then follow them.

In every perplexing situation ask yourself, “**what would Jesus do?**”

Have you ever worried about whether or not you really are a real Christian?

A Christian is anyone who has the Spirit of God living in him or her!

If you have sincerely trusted Christ for your salvation and acknowledge Him as Lord, then the Holy Spirit has come into your life, and you are a

Christian. You won't know if the Holy Spirit has come if you are waiting for a certain feeling; you will know that has come because Jesus promised He would. When the Holy Spirit is working within you, you will believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and that eternal life comes through Him.

In 1 John 5:5 it is written; [Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.](#) Once you have reached this point, we will then begin to act as Christ directs. We will then find help in our daily problems and in our praying. Also, we will be empowered to serve God and do His Will and then we will become part of God's plan to build up His Church. Some people try to earn their way to God by keeping a set of the rules, obeying the Ten Commandments, attending church faithfully, or doing good deeds, but all they earn for their efforts is frustration and discouragement.

However, because of Christ's sacrifice, the way to God is already open, and we become His children simply by putting our faith and trust in Him.

No longer trying to reach God by keeping His rules, we become more and more like Jesus as we live with Him day by day.

Let the Holy Spirit turn your eyes away from your own performance and toward Jesus. He will free us to serve Him out of love and gratitude. This is living ["in the new way of the Holy Spirit."](#)

Without the Holy Spirit's Indwelling, we don't stand a chance against the devil. We must never underestimate the power of sin! We must never attempt to fight it alone on our own strength. Satan is a crafty tempter, and we have an amazing ability to make excuses. Instead of trying to overcome sin with human willpower, we must take hold of the tremendous power of Christ Jesus that is available to us. This is God's provision for victory over sin--He sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and give us power. And when we fall, He lovingly reaches out to help us up.

There is great tension in daily Christian experience. The conflict is that as Christians we agree with God's commands but cannot do them. As a result, we are painfully aware of sin.

The Spirit of life is the Holy Spirit. He was present at the creation of the world. (**Genesis 1:2**), and He is the power behind the rebirth of every Christian. He gives us the power we need to live the Christian life.

We should remain spiritually separated from the world's wickedness, even though we rub shoulders with unbelievers every day. It's no easy task to be holy in an unholy world, but God doesn't ask us to accomplish this on our own. He has provided help. Through the death of His Son Jesus He will "present us holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation."

(**Colossians 1:22**) With Christ Jesus in our lives, we can live in this world without having to be of this world! I will close with a great scripture that comes to mind at this time that can help us survive this evil world.

In Isaiah 41:13 it is written; **For I am the lord, your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.**

So my brothers and sisters, as believing Christians we must always be aware of sin and not fall prey to this evil world. We must not allow this world to preoccupy our minds with all its idolatry, paganism, and lusts. The Lord warns us through His Holy Spirit to be on constant lookout for these pitfalls. Without God's Holy Spiritual Indwelling, we don't have a fighting chance. In order to taste the victory of eternal salvation, we must stay close to the living Word of the Lord Christ Jesus! Amen.

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JESUS CALLING
By Sarah Young

REST IN MY PRESENCE, allowing Me to take charge of this day. Do not bolt into the day like a racehorse suddenly released. Instead, walk purposely with Me, letting Me direct your course one step at a time. Thank Me for each blessing along the way; this brings joy to both you and Me. A grateful heart protects us from negative thinking. Thankfulness enables us to see the abundance I shower upon you daily. Your prayers and petitions are winged into heaven's throne room when they are permeated with thanksgiving.

In everything give thanks, for this is My Will for you.

(Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:8)

PROVERBIAL THOUGHTS FOR MARCH

Proverbs 28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand fully.

Proverbs 28:11 A rich man may be wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.

Proverbs 20:7 The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.

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THE MINISTRY DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please pray daily with ministry for; Jonathan Baker, Al Wilson, Greg Achinko Sr, Earnie Carbone, Mom DeMatteo, Joe Lakes, Greg Dubrois, Andria Arceneaux, Joe Longo and Family, Mason Wade, Joy Valerie, The Stein Family, Mike Buettner, Dorothy Leary, Danny Turner, The DeAngelo Family, Janet Neil, Johanna Tyson and Family.

Also Please pray daily for; the sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, the hopeless, the lost souls, the poor in spirit, the persecuted, the hungry, the brokenhearted, the lame, the godless, the weary, the corruption, the anger, the hatred, the violence, the wars, the greed, the fornications, the lying, the stealing, the cheating, the selfishness, the jealousy, debauchery, contentions, etc.

Furthermore; Let us all continue to pray daily for the United States of America. May we ask God to restore our Nation to greatness once again. May God be born again in this land of plenty and may our country again become one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all...Amen!

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Well my brothers and sisters, it is my hope that this months inspired message will serve as a reminder to be in this world but not be of this world! Until next months message may God bless us all, hallelujah praise the Lord.

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