

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS!

MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR APRIL 2011

Hebrews 12: 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and prefecture of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

RUNNING THE GOOD RACE

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma



O Graceful, Loving, and Merciful Father, may we all continue to give You thanks, praise, and bless You Lord for sharing Your Son Jesus and Your Holy Spirit with your people. May we all continue to grow in Your Divine Wisdom. Lord, may we take this time to learn more about Your Divine Will. Father, please help us to run the good race that You set before us, with more faith and determination to get over the eternal finish line together with You Lord. Father when this world tries to bring us down, please give us Your Divine Strength, to finish the eternal race with victory. I ask this Father in the name of Your Son and our Savior Christ Jesus..... Amen.

Long distance runners work hard to build endurance and strength. On race day, their clothes are lightweight and their bodies lean. To run the good race God has set before us, we must also strip off the excess weight that slows us down. How can we do that? (1) Choose friends who are also committed to the race. Wrong friends will have values and activities that may deter you from the course. Much of your own weight may result from the crowds that you run with. Make wise choices! (2) Drop certain activities that maybe excess weight at this time. Try dropping them for awhile; then check the results in your life. (Activities that are not in line with the will of God.) Get help for addictions that disable you. If you have a secret “weight” such as pornography, gambling, or alcohol, admit that you need to get help. The Christian life involves hard work. It requires us to give up whatever endangers our relationship with God, to run with endurance, and to struggle against sin with the power of the Holy Spirit. To live effectively, we must keep our eyes on Jesus. We will stumble if we try to look away from Him to

stare at ourselves or at the circumstance surrounding us. We should be running for Christ, not ourselves, and we must always keep Him in sight. When we face hardship and discouragement, it is easy to lose sight of the big picture. But we are not alone; there is help. Many have already made it through life, enduring far more difficult circumstances than we have experienced. Suffering is the training ground for Christian maturity. It develops our patience and makes our final victory sweet.

The Lord tells us in **Hebrews 12:7; Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father.**

God is not only a disciplining Father but also a demanding coach who pushes us to our limits and requires our lives to be disciplined.

Although we don't feel strong enough to push on to victory, we will be able to accomplish it as we follow Christ and draw on His strength. Then we can use our growing strength to help those around us who are weak and struggling. We can respond to discipline in several ways. (1) We can except it with resignation; (2) we can accept it with self-pity, thinking that we really don't deserve it; (3) we can be angry and resentful against God; or (4) we can accept it gratefully, as the appropriate response we owe a loving Father.

Who loves his child more- the father who allows his child to do what will harm him, or the father who corrects, trains, and even punishes the child to help him to learn what is right? It is never pleasant to be corrected and disciplined by God, but His discipline is a sign of His deep love for us.

When God corrects you, see it as proof of His love and ask Him what He is trying to teach you in whatever trials that you may be going through.

Sin always blocks our vision of God; so if we want to see God, we must renounce sin and obey Him. Holiness is coupled with living in peace.

A right relationship with God, leads to right relationships with fellow believers. Although we will not always feel loving towards all other believers, we must pursue peace as we become more Christ like.

Like a small root that grows into a great tree, bitterness springs up in our hearts and overshadows even our deepest Christian relationships.

A bitter root, comes when we allow disappointment to grow into resentment, or when we nurse grudges over past hurts. Bitterness brings with it jealousy, dissension, and morality. When the Holy Spirit fills us, however, He can heal the hurt that causes bitterness.

In order to **Run The Good Race**, we must always be looking unto Jesus and not at our doubts and fears. The more we look at them, the larger they appear, until they swallow up our faith, our strength, and our joy.

But if we look away from them to our Lord Jesus, who is the truth (**John 14:6**) the doubts will scatter in the light of His presence like a cloud before the sun. We need to look unto Jesus and not at our sins, neither at the source from which they come (**Matt 15:19**) nor the chastisement which they deserve. Let us look at ourselves, only to recognize how much need we have looking to Him; and looking to Him, certainly not as if we were sinless; but on the contrary, but because we are sinners. We need to look unto Jesus and not at the obstacles which meet us in our path. As soon as we stop and consider them, they amaze us, they confuse us, they overwhelm us, incapable as we are of understanding either the reason why they are permitted, or the means by which we may overcome them. We need to look unto Jesus and not at our troubles, to count up their troubles, to reckon their weight, to find perhaps a certain strange satisfaction in tasting their bitterness. Apart from Jesus, trouble does not sanctify, it hardens, or it crushes, it produces not patience, but rebellion; not sympathy, but selfishness; not hope (**Rom. 5:3**) but despair.

These are some of the key points to think about while preparing to **Run The Good Race** that the Lord has set before us to run. It is not for self absorbed. It is not for the prideful. It not for the godless. **It is only for the hopeful believers!**

So my brothers and sisters in the Lord Christ Jesus, try and always remember that the world will eventually crumble, and only God's Kingdom will last. Those who follow Christ are part of this unshakable kingdom, and they will withstand the shaking, shifting, and burning!

When we feel unsure about the future, whatever happens here our future is built on a solid foundation that cannot be destroyed.

Don't put your confidence in what will be destroyed; instead, build your life on Jesus Christ and His unshakable Kingdom, Hallelujah....Amen!

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JESUS CALLING

By Sarah Young

TRUST ME, and don't be afraid. Many things feel out of control. Your routines are not running smoothly. You tend to feel more secure when your life is predictable. Let Me lead you to the Rock that is higher than your circumstances. Take refuge in the shelter of my wings, where you are **absolutely secure!** (**Psalm 61:2-4; Isaiah 12:2**)

PROVERBIAL THOUGHTS FOR APRIL

Proverbs 11:18 The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

Proverbs 13:3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

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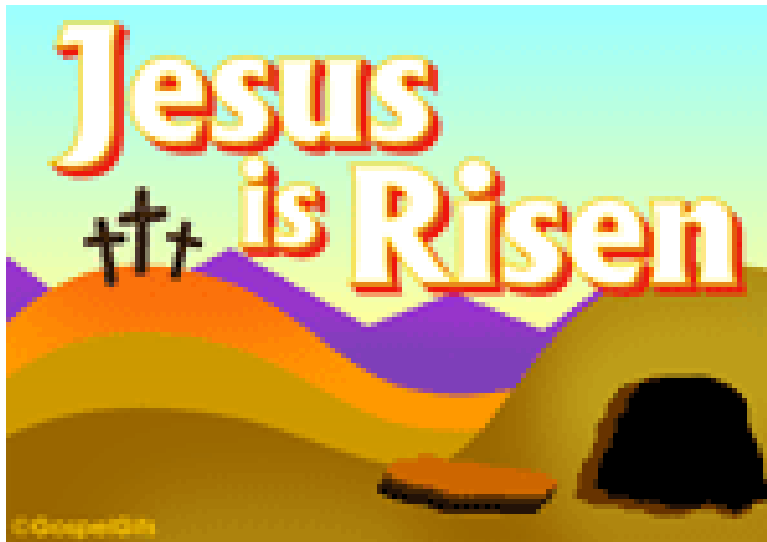
THE MINISTRY DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please pray daily with this ministry for; Johanna Tyson and Family, Janet Neil, The De Angelo Family, The Stein Family, Danny Turner, Dorthy Leary, Mike Buettner, Joy Valeri, Marianne Wilson, Al Wilson, Dennis E Palma, Joe Longo and Family, Joe Lakes, Greg Dubrois and Family, Andrea Arceneaux, Earnie Carbone, Jonathan Baker and Family, Greg Achinko Sr.

Also a daily prayer for all; the sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, the hopeless, the lost souls, the poor in spirit, the persecuted, the hungry, the broken hearted, the lame, the godless, the weary, the anger, the hatred, the violence, the unrest, the wars, the corruption, the greed, the fornications, the lying, the stealing, the cheating, the selfishness, the jealousy, etc.

Furthermore; may our hearts, prayers, and support go out to Japan at this time, for the massive earthquake and sunami devastations that this country is going through. May we all sincerely pray that the Lord be merciful and graceful and help the Japanese people through this unprecedented tragedy. I ask this special prayer in Jesus name.....Amen.

IN CLOSING, PLEASE SEE THE EASTER MESSAGE BELOW!



What does it really mean when I say Jesus is Risen? Most people throughout the world understand the symbolism but not the true intent and purpose. Symbolically speaking, most people believe from Christian history, that Jesus was crucified, died, buried, and rose miraculously from the dead on the third day. Most people also believe that Jesus was innocent of all the trumped up charges that were alleged against Him. But they still condemned Jesus to die. But most people that I have run across in my lifetime, do not truly understand the real intent and reason for the death and resurrection of our Savior, Christ Jesus.

In **Mark 24:7** Jesus said; **The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.** When Jesus said He must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, means that His true intent and purpose was predestined from God the Father, and not symbolic of anything that was of this world. So my brothers and sister in the Lord, this Easter Season, may we all ask God to help us embraced the teachings of Christ Jesus, with a spirit of thankfulness for what He has accomplished for us sinners! Most of all try and remember that **Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!** Until next months inspired message, have a blessed Easter.