

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR JULY 2012

Colossians 3:5 : Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, I thank You, praise You, and bless You Lord, for another inspired message this month. Father, I thank You for blessing this ministry with Your Divine Presence. Lord, may you continue to bless us each month with Your Words of profound Wisdom. Father, please continue to teach and instruct us in the things that please You. Father, please continue to bless us with Your Love, Grace and Mercy. Lord, please help us stay focused on Your Will, and not the will of this dark and evil world. Father, I ask this prayer and thank You again for everything, in Jesus name.....Amen.

When I say "*Clothe Yourself With God's Righteousness,*" what is the Holy Spirit trying to tell us? I believe He is trying to tell us that we all need to set our hearts on things above means striving to put heaven's priorities into daily practice. Also, setting our minds on things above means concentrating on the eternal rather than the temporal.

The first thing we need to do as Christians is to rid ourselves of all evil practices and immorality. Then we can commit ourselves to what Christ is trying to teach us. We need to rid ourselves of the old life and "put on" the new way of living given by Christ Jesus and guided by the Holy Spirit. If we have made such a commitment to Christ, we need to remain true. One of the things that will help us to clothe ourselves in God's Righteousness, is to stop lying to one another. Lying to one another disrupts unity by destroying trust. Also, it tears down relationships and may lead to serious conflict, etc. So don't exaggerate statistics, pass on rumors or gossip or say things to build up our own image. Be committed to telling the truth always!

In **Colossians 3:9-10** the Lord said: **Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on your new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.**

Also, Jesus wants to clean our life and our church of sexual sin and verbal sin. There is no place in the kingdom of God for hedonistic sexual experimentation or for gossip, rage, and backbiting. Instead of these sins, we are to witness to the world like a lighthouse on a stormy night by displaying love, faith, and hope. What else does it mean to clothe ourselves in God's Righteousness? It means our conduct should match our faith!

If we are a Christian, we should act like one. To be a Christian means more than just making good resolutions and having good intentions; it means taking the right actions. This is a straightforward step that is as simple as putting our clothes on. We must rid ourselves of evil practices and immorality. At that point, we can commit ourselves to what Christ teaches. If we have made such a commitment to Jesus, are we remaining true to it? What old clothes do we need to strip off? We as Christians should be in a continuing educational program when it comes to really understanding the Word of the Lord. The more we know and understand Jesus and His work, the more we are being changed to be like Him. Because this process is lifelong, we must never stop learning and obeying our God. There is no justification for drifting along, but there is an incentive to find the rich treasures of growing in Him. It takes practice, ongoing review, patience, and concentration to keep in line with His Will. Following God's Will, can help us to better serve the Lord.

Besides lying, sexual experimentation, gossip, rage, and backbiting, here are some more sins that can destroy our chance to maintain true righteousness for God. These sins are broken down in two categories, sins that come from sexual attitudes and behaviors, and sins that stem from the sins of speech. The sins that can stem from our sexual attitudes and behaviors are; sexual-impurity, lust, evil desires, greed, etc. The sins that can stem from the sins of speech are; anger, malice, slander, filthy language, etc. My brothers and sisters, whatever sins that have a grip on you at this time, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We must try to remember, that we have a God that longs to forgive us and have a personal relationship with us. Redemption from sin is only a sincere prayer away! God said in **Ezekiel 36:25-26: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.** Once we are truly sanctified by the Blood of Christ, if we happen to fall into sin and we all do from time to time, the Lord also tells us in **1 John 2:1-2: But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also the sins of the whole world.**

Also note, if we want to be clothed with God's Righteousness, we all need to live in peace as God instructs us to do. To live in peace, does not mean that all of a sudden, all differences in opinion are eliminated!

But it does require that loving Christians work together despite their differences. Such love is not a feeling, but a decision to meet other's needs. To live in love, leads to peace between individuals and among the members of the body of believers. Do problems in your relationships with other Christians cause open conflicts or mutual silence? If so, consider what you can do to heal those relationships with God's Indwelling Love.

Final thought; may we all try to remember that justice, love, and faithfulness are all a part of righteousness and they are the foundation of God's Throne. They are all central characteristics to the way God rules that summarize His character. As God's ambassadors, we should exhibit the same traits when we deal with people. Remember, that our actions flow out of righteousness, because any unfair, unloving, or dishonesty, cannot come from God!!

Let us pray: Father, may Your Holy Spirit come upon us this day, to help us to clothe ourselves in Your Righteousness. Father, instead of living for ourselves, may we live for You Lord, and You alone. Father, please continue to bless us with, Your Love, Grace, and Mercy. Father, I ask this prayer in the name of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, Hallelujah, Amen!



JESUS CALLING

By Sarah Young

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Men crawl through their lives cursing darkness, but all the while I am shining brightly. I desire each of My followers to be a Light-bearer. The Holy Spirit that lives in you can shine from your face, making Me visible to people around you. As My Spirit to live through you helps you to wend your way through this day; hold My hand in joyful trust, for I will never leave your side. The Light of My Presence is shining upon you. Brighten up the world by reflecting who I Am.

(NIV) John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Exodus 3:14

PROVERBIAL WISDOM FOR JULY 2012

Proverbs 11:28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

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THE MINISTRY'S DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please join hands with this ministry and pray for; Sal Talamo, Joe Lakes, Christine Palma, Mr McLeod, Anne Marie Hess, Rose Robinson, Janet Neil, Russ Holman, Johanna Tyson, Margaret Lapino, Bill Schlupp, Ed Young, Jonathan Baker & Family, Patty Palma, Denise Lathrop, Janelle Owens, James Palma, Anne Palma, and Family, Al Wilson, Catrina Wilson, and Family, Greg Wade, Gary Wade, and Family.

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 brokenhearted, the lame, the godless, the weary, the anger, the hatred, the violence, the wars, the unrest, the corruption, the greed, the fornications, the selfishness, the prideful, the coveting, etc, here and around the world.

Furthermore; A prayer for all the troops and missionaries in harms way around the world. May the Lord always watch over, protect, and bless them with His never ending love, grace, and mercy. Father, I ask all these prayers in the name of our Prince of Peace, Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus....Amen.

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Well my brothers and sisters in the Lord Christ Jesus, it is my hope that this month's inspired message will help us all, to better understand God's Will. According to the Bible, doing God's Will is all about His Righteousness. So in order to do God's Will, we must "*Clothe Ourselves in His Righteousness.*" Amen! Amen!!

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Until next month's message with God's help, may the Lord richly bless you! Also, to contact us, go to www.makethespiritualconnection.com

