

## THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



### MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR NOVEMBER 2012

**James 1:12:** Blessed is the man who preserves under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

## **GOD'S GRACE THROUGH SUFFERING**

*By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma*

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, may we all give You thanks, praise and bless You Lord, for Your Divine Presence. Lord may Your Spirit come upon us, and bless us with Your inspired message this month. Father, please keep us close to You, and help us to do Your Will. Lord, may we always remember to give You the glory and not ourselves. Father may this month's inspired message help us to better understand Your Will for us. Abba Father, I ask this prayer in the name of Your Son and our Savior, Christ Jesus Hallelujah..... Amen!

The Holy Spirit has inspired me this month to talk about suffering and God's Grace. Suffering on one hand has to do with pain, while grace on the other hand, has to do with God's Sovereign Power to suffice our suffering.

In the book of **James chapter 1:2-4** James tells us to; **Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever we face trials of many kinds, because the testing of our faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

In this scripture, James doesn't say if you face trials, but whenever you face them. He assumes that we will all face trials in this fallen world, and it is possible to profit from them. The point is not to pretend to be happy when we face pain and suffering, but to try and have a positive attitude. It is not easy by any standard to be joyful when we are in the midst of suffering. I believe what James is trying to tell us is that there is no gain to strictly focus on our trials, but to try and use our pain and suffering to develop a better sense of what God has in store for those who believe.

Also, James tells us to turn our hardships into times of learning. Tough times can teach us perseverance. We can't really know the depth of our character until we see how we react under pressure. It is easy to be kind to others when everything is going well, but can we still be kind when others are treating us unfairly? God wants to make us mature and complete, not to keep us from all pain. Instead of complaining about our struggles, we should see them as opportunities for growth. Thank God for promising to be with us in hard times. Just try and take a moment and think about how much harder it would be if we did not have God's loving arms to sustain us from our trials and sufferings. From having my own share of trials from time to time, I believe by not having the Lord to call on for relief from life's sufferings, our trials would in turn become a hopeless situation!

The Lord is our light in the darkness. He is our shelter through the storm. He is our A to Z. He is our Alfa and Omega. He is our Lord of lords. He is our King of kings! Although God is our Hope when troubles come our way, there will be times when we can not feel His Presence. When mild trials start to flare up, generally there is a calm that usually comes quickly when we ask for God's help. However, when a spiritual tsunami sets into our life, it is a whole different picture. At that point, you can pray and pray to no avail. Sometimes you can start to feel spiritually lost and confused! This spiritual disconnect from God, generally comes because our faith has been weakened by the devils relentless attacks on our mind, body, and souls. For further information on suffering, pain and trials, read the book of Job.

There is a story in the Bible about when Jesus calms the storm! In **Matthew 8:23-26** the Lord said: **When He got into the boat and His disciples followed Him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples woke Him, saying, "Lord save, us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.**

The problem with most believers myself included, is when things are going good in our lives and our faith is generally steady. But when the spiritual tsunami or should I say the perfect storm sets in, our faith tends to falter quickly. Who would ever think that the Lord's own personal disciples would fail when faced with the perfect storm! It is kind of refreshing to know that according to the Bible, if we are faced with overwhelming circumstances, God will always be with us through the trials. I some times get frustrated when my faith gets weak at times, due to being overwhelmed in this fallen world. I believe that the devil plays a big part in our sufferings, so that God can further test our faith and trust in Him alone. I also believe that when we are going through extreme trials, is when the devil tries to pull us down even further. Satan's main goal is to bring us all down to a level of hopelessness and despair, causing our faith to falter from the storms of life. Try and remember that, no matter what kind of storm we are going through at this time, God has blessed His people with His Grace to survive any storm. Also, try and remember that the God that brought us *to it*, (Eternal Salvation through Christ), will surely bring us *through it!* We all need God's Grace! God's grace means; (1) The freely given unmerited favor and love of God. (2) The influence or Spirit of God, operating in humans, to regenerate or strengthen us. (3) A state of Grace, the condition of being in God's favor.

So my brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, try and be patient. God is right next to all of us during our trials and sufferings. Don't let Satan bring you down to a level of spiritual despair. There is nothing more rewarding to the devil then to see one of God's Children fall from the Lord's Grace. Without God's Grace through suffering, none of us would have a prayer. In fact, without God's Grace period, this fallen world would have long been gone! God's Grace is the only thing that keeps this world functioning. If you happen to fall from God's Grace for whatever reason, quickly repent of your sins and ask the Lord to restore you back to His Grace. Try not to ponder your fall from God's Grace too long. Because the longer you wait, the harder it is to come back home to the Lord!! Well my brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, that's just about all for this month's inspired message. It is my hope, that this message will help us all better understand the spiritual correlation between grace and suffering. In God's Plan, we need both suffering and grace to refine our sinful nature! So until next month's journal, may the Lord continue to watch over and bless all of us with His unending Love, Grace, and Mercy.....Amen.

=====



**JESUS CALLING**  
*By Sarah Young*

ANXIETY IS A RESULT OF envisioning the future without Me. So the best defense against worry is staying in communication with Me. When you turn your thoughts towards Me, you can think much more positively. Remember to listen, as well as to speak, making your thoughts a dialogue with Me. Be vigilant at all times from focusing too much time on the future. If you must consider upcoming events, follow these rules: (1) Do not linger in the future, because anxieties sprout up like mushrooms when you wonder there to long. (2) Remember the promise of My continual Presence; include Me in any imagery that comes in mind. The reality of My Presence with you, now and forever, outshines any fantasy you could ever imagine!

## PROVERBIAL WISDOM FOR NOVEMBER 2012

**Proverbs 15:3; The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.**

**Proverbs 14:31; He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needed honors God.**

---

---



### **THE MINISTRY'S DAILY PRAYER LIST**

*Please join hands with this ministry and pray for;* Joy Valerie, Joe Lakes, Christine Palma, Sal Talama, Anne Marie Hess, Edward Young, Bill Schlupp, Jonathan Baker, Rose Robinson, Janelle Owens, Denise Lathrop, Marian Wilson, Al Wilson & Family, Theresa Wade & Family. Patty Palma, James Palma, Anne Palma, & Family.

---

*Also a prayer for;* 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 wars, the unrest, the greed, the corruption, the fornications, the selfishness, the prideful, the coveting, etc.

---

*Furthermore, a prayer for;* our troops and our missionaries in harms way. A prayer for our economy and the economies around the world. Finally a prayer for a spiritual revival in our country and abroad!

---

**If you have enjoyed this month's inspired message, please forward it to all your family members and friends. The Lord's Blessings will increase, to all who spread the Word of God, whenever or wherever possible!**

---

**For additional journals, inspirational videos, study tools, prayer requests, etc, go to [www.makethespiritualconnection.com](http://www.makethespiritualconnection.com)**

---

**From the Spiritual Connection, may you and your family have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving Day! Also, May God bless you always!**

