

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



I Believe It!

MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR JANUARY 2013

Psalm 26:4 I do not sit with deceitful men, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

HYPOCRISY

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, may we give You thanks, praise, and bless You Lord, for being our Light in the darkness and our Hope for salvation. Lord, please teach us how to come to Your Throne of grace, love, and mercy, with a contrite heart. Father, please help us to avoid the snares of the evil one. Lord, please cover us with Your full Armor of Righteousness. Father, I ask this in the name of Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ.....Amen.

This month's inspired message has to do with hypocrisy. What are the signs of hypocrisy? (1) Hypocrisy is, knowing the truth and not obeying it. People can say they follow Jesus, but not be obedient to His Word. (2) Hypocrisy is living a self serving life. People may desire leadership only because they love position and control, not because they want to serve others. (3) Hypocrisy reduces faith to rigid rules. People can end up worshiping their own set of rules and regulations about what they think God wants instead of worshiping God himself. (4) Hypocrisy is outward conformity without inner reality. People can obey the details, but still be disobedient in their general behavior. For example, a person may carefully tithe his or her income, but be rude, obnoxious and disrespectful to his or her coworkers.

Many non-Christians use the supposed (or real) hypocrisy of Christians, as an excuse to stay away from God and the church. Look carefully at your life! We are not perfect; therefore, at times an action or behavior might provide the ammunition for someone to label you a hypocrite. However, you must discern your own heart. Consider the signs of hypocrisy noted above and make sure you are not guilty. Then ask God to help you live rightly.

Fear of opposition or ridicule can weaken our witness for Christ.

Often we cling to peace and comfort, even at the cost of our walk with God. Jesus reminds us that we should fear God, who controls eternal, not merely temporal consequences. Don't allow fear of a person or group to keep you from standing up for Christ. Jesus talks against hypocrisy in the Bible in, **Luke 12:1-12. and Matthew (23:5) (23:15) (23:23) (23:25) (23:27)** As Jesus watched a huge crowd waiting to hear Him, He warned His disciples against hypocrisy—trying to appear good when one's heart is far from God. The Pharisees back in those days could not keep their attitudes hidden forever. Their selfishness would act like yeast, and soon they would expose themselves. Pharisees, were really power hungry impostors, not

devoted religious leaders. They put great effort into winning converts and then would corrupt them. They concerned themselves with the minor details of God's Law, and ignored its more important issues. They were concerned with external and ignored the heart. They tried to appear righteous to others but inwardly were wicked. It is easy to be angry at the blatant hypocrisy of the Pharisees, but each of us must resist the temptation to settle for the appearance of respectability when our hearts are far from God.

We disown Jesus when we (1) hope no one will think we are Christians, (2) decide not to speak up for what is right, (3) are silent about our relationship with God, (4) blend into society, (5) accept our culture's non-Christian values. By contrast, we acknowledge Him when we (1) live moral upright Christ honoring lives, (2) look for opportunities to share our faith with others, (3) help others in need, (4) take a stand for justice, (5) love others, (6) acknowledge our loyalty to Christ, (7) use our lives and resources to carry out His desires rather than our own. Our real value in life should never be in the hands of our peers, because our true value is God's estimate, not theirs. As Christians, it is so easy to become hypocritical while we are still in this secular world. It can happen quickly, if we take our eyes off of Jesus. I know in my personal walk with the Lord, that living outside of God's Presence is the quickest way for me to become hypocritical myself. Reason is that when we become secularly distracted from this fallen world, we start to think the same as the world. I have finally come to realize, that I am only insulated from hypocrisy and other sins, when I am living in harmony with the Lord. But as soon as I get distracted and start acting secular again, the Holy Spirit reminds me of my sins. I believe as a whole, that this secular world in general, is hypocritical, as the Bible tells us. I don't believe for one minute that there is anyone of us on this earth, that hasn't been a hypocrite at one time or another. In fact, I believed that the only person, that is not, and will never be a hypocrite, is Jesus Christ Himself! Jesus is the Perfect Lamb of God, sinless and unblemished, who takes away the sins of the world! If you are sitting back at this time and saying to yourself, what is this guy taking about? I am no hypocrite! Then you are not being honest with yourself! The more we turn our backs on sin, the easier it becomes to sin. As sinners, we seem to come up with more excuses to justify our sinful ways. We can all continue to turn a deaf ear and a blind eye on our sinfulness, but God does not miss a thing. I know what I am saying is true, because I was the king of denial, until God made me aware of my sins!

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Let us pray; Heavenly Father Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit, thank You Lord for another inspired message this month. Father, please help us all to be aware of our sinfulness. Lord, please teach us Your Ways and protect us from the snares of this secular world. Father, may we all adhere to Your Will, and repent quickly when we fall out of Your Grace. Lord, may Your Love, Grace, and Mercy shine down upon us always. Father I ask this prayer In the name of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, “Hallelujah”Amen.



JESUS CALLING

By Sarah Young

I AM LEADING YOU along a path that is uniquely designed right for you. The closer to Me you grow, the more fully you become your true self—the one I designed you to be. Because you are one of a kind, the path you are traveling with Me diverges increasingly from that of other people. However, in My mysterious wisdom and ways, I enable you to follow this solitary path while staying in close contact with others. In fact, the more completely you devote yourself to Me, the more freely you can love people. Marvel of a life intertwined with My Presence. Rejoice as we journey together in intimate communication. Enjoy the adventure of finding yourself through loosing yourself in Me!

2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 4:7-8; John 15:4

10 WAYS TO LOVE

(1) **LISTEN** without interrupting. (2) **SPEAK** without accusing. (3) **GIVE** without sparing. (4) **PRAY** without ceasing. (5) **ANSWER** without arguing. (6) **SHARE** without pretending. (7) **ENJOY** without complaint. (8) **TRUST** without wavering. (9) **FORGIVE** without punishing. Last but not least. (10) **PROMISE** without forgetting.

PROVERBIAL WISDOM FOR JANUARY 2013

Proverbs 10:23; A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.

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



THE MINISTRY'S DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please join us in daily prayer for; Bob Lambert, Jeanine Carlson, Nick Samba, Allen Saline, Scott Saline, John Aqualino, Denise Lathrop, Janelle Owens, Rose Robinson, Jonathan Baker, Patty Palma, Bill Schlupp, Christine Palma, Anne Marie Hess and family Sal Talama, Joy Valerie, Joe Lakes, and George Slawter.

Also a prayer for: the sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, the hopeless, the lost souls, the lame, the godless, the weary, the angry, the hatred, the violence, the wars, the unrest, the greed, the corruption, the fornications, the selfishness, the prideful, the coveting, etc.

Furthermore: a special prayer for all the victims, families, friends, of the Sandy Hook school massacre and for all the victims of hurricane Sandy.

If you enjoyed this month's inspired journal, please forward it to your family and friends. For past journal, inspirational videos, Bible study tools, prayer request, etc. go to; www.makethespiritualconnection.com

