

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR OCTOBER 2014

John 14:21; Jesus said, “Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him.”

DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Eternal Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, we thank You, we praise You, and we bless You, for being our Abba Father. Lord, thanks for always being there for us in times of trouble. Father we thank You, for never leaving us or forsaking us. Father we thank You for being our Light in the darkness. Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your Gift of eternal salvation for all who love and believe in You. Father please help us put on Your Holy Spirit's full armor of righteousness each waking day. Father, may Your Holy Spirit lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Father I thank You for everything, in Jesus name, Hallelujah.....Amen!

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Hello again my brothers and sisters, welcome to the Spiritual Connection's monthly Journal for October 2014. This month, the Holy Spirit has touched my heart to talk about, not loving the world. Why should we not love the world? Because, the Lord commands us not to love the world, but to love only Him! In **1 John 2:15**: it is written; **Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** Some people think that worldliness is limited to external behavior—the people we associate with, the places we go, the activities we enjoy, and so on. Worldliness is also internal because it begins in the heart and is characterized by three attitudes. (1) the cravings of sinful man—preoccupation with gratifying physical desires; (2) the lust of the eyes—craving and accumulating things, bowing to the god of materialism; and (3) boasting of what he has and does—obsession with one's status or importance. When the serpent tempted Eve, he tempted her in these same areas. Also, when the devil tempted Jesus in the desert these were his three areas of attack. (See **Genesis 3:6**) (See **Matthew 4:1-11**)

By contrast, God values self control, a spirit of generosity and a commitment to humble service. It is possible to give the impression of avoiding worldly pleasures while still harboring worldly attitudes in one's heart. It is also possible, like Jesus, to love sinners and spending time with them while maintaining a commitment to the values of God's kingdom.

What does it mean to be worldly? To be worldly means partaking in the values, desires, perceptions, and behavior that characterize, unredeemed human cultures.

The worldly person is one who has been squeezed into a worldly mold from years of living in a fallen world. Also, it is a person who blindly accepts the values and assumptions of a society that has no place for God. In contrast to worldly thinking, there is another, whose whole world view has been transformed by God. 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.** What values are most important to you? Do your actions reflect the world's values or God's values? When the desires for possessions and sinful pleasures feels so intense, you probably doubt that these objects of desire will all one day pass away. It may be more difficult to believe that the person who does the Will of God will live forever. But this was Apostle John's conviction based on the facts of Jesus life, death, and resurrection and promises. Knowing that this evil world will end can give us the courage to deny ourselves temporary pleasures in this world in order to enjoy what God has promised us for eternity. Instead of always trying to please ourselves all the time, we should enjoy trying to please God. How do we please God and not the world? The Bible tells us in **Job 22:21-22**; **“submit to God and be at peace with Him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Accept instruction from His mouth and lay up His words in your heart.**

Another way to please God and not the world is through obedience. Obedience to the Lord is one of God's favorite pleasures. I believe that following God's Will with love, fear and obedience, are the keys to the mystery of life itself. In **Deuteronomy 5:29** God says; **Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear Me and keep My commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!**

Also it is written in **John 15:10**: **If you obey My commands, you will remain in My Love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His Love.** If we disregard the Father's commands but not obeying His Will, is a clear sign that you are part of this world. When you are part of this world, all the hatred, corruption, etc, becomes part of us. The Bible tells us that, as Christians we are to be in this world but not of this world. You are probably thinking to yourself, how can I be in this world, but not of this world? We can be in this world but not of this world, by obeying God's commands and doing His Will, and not the will of the world. I am no stranger being of this world! For most of my adult life I was in this world, and of this world period!

Back then before Jesus, I use to automatically sin without giving sin a thought. Sin felt good to me, for the most part. Suddenly, one day Jesus came into my life and saved me from all the sin and madness of this world.

At that time of my life, I never knew that there was a difference between being in this world but not of this world. Also, I never really knew that I had a choice to make. Due to my fallen nature, I was blinded by Sin. I had no eyes to see or no ears to hear. Try and remember that, sin does not come from God, He is sinless; it comes from the devil himself. Most people think that the devil does not exist, or he is some kind of cartoon character or action figure and so on. It's a real bad mistake to ever think for one moment, that the devil does not exist or is only a harmless cartoon character or is a friend. In fact, all the sin, hatred, violence, murders, and madness, of this world, is all planed and engineered by Satan himself. Once his plan of attack is in place, then he passes it on to his demons to seek and destroy as many of God's people's minds, bodies, and souls as possible!

So my brothers and sisters, there is a choice we all have to make when it comes to worldliness. We can continue to go through this dark and fallen world, by being in this world and being of this world; or we can live in God's Holy Presence, by being in this world, but not of this world!!!

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GOD'S PROMISE

By Sarah Young

I HAVE PROMISE to meet all your needs according to My glorious riches. Your deepest, most constant need is for My Peace. I have planned Peace in the garden of your heart, where I live; but there are weeds growing there too: pride, worry, selfishness, unbelief, I am the Gardener, and I am working to rid your heart of those weeds. I do My work in various ways. When you sit quietly with Me, I shine the Light of My Presence directly into your heart. In this heavenly Light, Peace grows abundantly and weeds shrivel up. I also send trials into your life. When you trust Me in the midst of trouble, Peace flourishes and weeds die away. Thank Me for troublesome situations; the Peace they can produce far outweighs the trial you endure.

(See **Philippians 4:19**) (See **2 Corinthians 4:17**)

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A SPIRITUAL THOUGHT FOR OCTOBER 2014

The Bible tells us in **John 12:8-9** that; **“I tell you, whoever acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns Me before men will be disowned before the angels of God.**

My brothers and sisters, 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 ours!!!

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SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Proverbs 21:21; He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

Proverbs 21:23; He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

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THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS PRAYER LIST

Please join hands with this ministry and pray daily for; Tom Messick, Russ Holman, Richard Keller and family, Vince Moscello, Anthony Palma Jr., Joe Lakes, Warren Wisdom, Paige Parker, Brad McNamara, Marie Barros, Jonathan Baker, Anne Marie Hess, Janet Young, Taylor Hyndman, Seth Lutz, Bob Lambert, Janine Smeltz, Nicole Palma.

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So my brothers and sisters, until next month’s edition, with God’s help, may the good Lord richly bless and watch over you and your family, always!!

