

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR JANUARY 2015

Ephesians 1:7; In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's Grace.

TRY JESUS

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Abba Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, may we thank You, praise You, bless You, and love You always. Lord Jesus, please inspire us to make You and You alone, our New Years resolution this year. Father, please inspire our minds this year, to not focus on our fleshly ways, but on doing Your Will, not ours. Father, may Your Holy Spirit come upon us, to help us stay clear of the things that cause us to sin. Lord Jesus, help us to make a fresh start and a new direction this year, towards Your Divine Presence!! Father God, I ask this prayer in Christ Jesus name....”Hallelujah”...Amen.

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Hello my brothers and sisters, welcome again to the Spiritual Connections monthly Journal for January 2015. The title of this month’s inspired message is; **[[TRY JESUS]]** The Holy Spirit has inspired my heart this month, to talk about starting a new spiritual direction for our lives in 2015. How do we start a new spiritual direction for our life? First we must come to the end of our flesh and secular ways of living. Secular ways of living are totally worldly and controlled by our flesh, and not by God’s Holy Spirit. In-order to make the necessary spiritual changes needed, we must follow Christ Jesus and not the world. To follow Christ Jesus, we must first sincerely repent of our sins. Without sincere repentance for our sins, there can be no forgiveness for our sins, according to the Word of the Lord.

The Holy Bible tells us in **Acts 3:9**; **Repent, then, turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshment may come from the Lord.** When we repent, God promises not only to forgive our sins, but to bring us spiritual refreshment. Repentance at first may seem painful, because it is hard to give up certain sins. But God promises us a better way. Let us acknowledge the Lord; may we press on to acknowledge Him. Hosea tells us that; as surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth. **(Hosea 6:3)** Also the Holy Bible tells us in **2 Chronicles 7:14**; **“ If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land,” says the Lord.**

In 2 Chronicles chapter 6 King Solomon asked God to make provisions for the people when they sinned. God says that there are four conditions for forgiveness: (1) Humble yourself by admitting your sins, (2) pray to God, asking for forgiveness, (3) seek God continually, and (4) turn from all sinful behavior. True repentance is more than talk---it is our changed behavior that really counts. Whether we sin individually, as a group or as a nation, following these four steps will lead to forgiveness. God will answer our earnest prayers. After true repentance for our sins has been completed, then redemption follows. The Bible tells us about God's redemption as a spiritual completion for our sin. What is redemption mean in a spiritual sense? Redemption means the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil. Redemption is God's overall plan, to save mankind from damnation. As fallen people, we are all struggling from our evil inherited nature, thanks to our original parents, Adam and Eve. The only antidote from the evil forces and principalities we all struggle with, is redemption through repentance in Christ Jesus. The Lord says in **Ephesians 1:7; In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's Grace.** To speak of Jesus' blood was an important first-century way of speaking of Christ's death. His death, points to two wonderful truths—redemption and repentance. Back in the Old Testament days, redemption was the price paid to gain freedom for a slave. (**Leviticus 25:47-54**). Forgiveness on the other hand in the Old Testament time was on the basis of shedding animals' blood (**Leviticus 17:11**). Now we are forgiven by the shedding of Jesus blood—He died as the perfect and final sacrifice. (See also, **Romans 5:9; Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 9:22; Colossians 1:20 1 Peter 1:19**)

Final thought I would like to make at this time, has to do with God's Grace. Through repentance and redemption, God's Grace is available to all of those who believe in Christ! Grace is God's voluntary and loving favor given to those He saves. We can't *earn salvation*, nor do we deserve it! No religious, intellectual, or moral effort can gain it, because it only comes from God's mercy and love. Without God's grace, no person can be saved! To receive it we must acknowledge that we cannot save ourselves, that only God can save us. Therefore, the only way to receive this loving favor is through faith in Christ Jesus, our Savior, our Lord of lords, and our King of kings!! My brothers and sisters, I believe that the greatest New Year resolution we can give ourselves, is the gift of the Holy Spirit's Indwelling Spirit, through sincere repentance and redemption. Any and all secular resolutions, can never last. Reason being is that one is only temporary and secular, while the other is spiritually based and eternally secured by God's Promises!!

Let us pray: Father God, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, Lord, please help us to recommit and reconnect to your Holy Spirit this coming New Year. Lord, please help us to renew our minds spiritually. Lord God, may we all rest in Your Peaceful and Holy Presence, through sincere repentance and redemption. Abba Father, please help us to focus on all the evil and dark forces of this world with a Your discerning eyes, not ours. Lord, please teach us Your Way, Your Truth, and Your Life in this fallen world we live in. Father God, may your Holy Spirit touch the hearts and minds of all the unsaved souls living in darkness. I ask this prayer in Jesus name.. Amen!!

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JESUS CALLING
By Sarah Young

RELAX IN MY EVERLASTING ARMS. Your weakness is an opportunity to grow strong in awareness of My Almighty Presence. When your energy fails, do not look inward and lament the lack you find there. Look to Me and My sufficiency; rejoice in My radiant riches that are abundantly available to help you. Go gently through this day, leaning on Me and enjoying My Presence. Thank Me for your neediness, which is building trust-bonds between us. If you look back on your journey thus far, you can see that days of extreme weakness have been some of your most precious times. Memory of those days, are richly interwoven with golden strands of My intimate Presence. **(Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 27:13-14)**
[[My brothers and sisters, going through trials can be painfully unpleasant at times. Problems like, money, work, health, marriage, family, religion, confinement, and so on, can really bring us down. If we live long enough, we all will encounter troubles in time, especially as we get older. When trials start to manifest themselves, we are always looking, for a quick fix. The only permanent fix for life's problems, is to have Christ in our life!

A SPIRITUAL THOUGHT FOR JANUARY 2015

The Holy Bible tells us in **1 Peter 5:7-9**; **Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.** My brothers and sisters in the Lord, lions attack sick, young, or stragglng animals; they choose victims who are alone or not alert. Apostle Paul warns us to watch out for Satan when we are suffering or being persecuted. If you are feeling alone or weak, helpless, and cut off from other believers, or if you are so focused on your troubles that you forget to watch for danger, those are the times when we are especially vulnerable to Satan's attacks. During times of suffering, seek other Christians for support. Keep your eyes on Christ, and resist the devil, then "he will flee from you". See **(James 4:7)** for more information about this scripture!

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PROVERBIAL WISDOM

Proverbs 3:11; **My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resist His rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son He delights in.**

Proverbs 3:33; **The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the righteous.**

Proverbs 11:5; **The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.**

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THE MINISTRY PRAYER LIST

Please pray for: Donna Walters, Isaac Strong, Phil Hinman, Joe Lakes, Russ Holman, Warren Wisdom, Paige Parker, Brad McNamara, Tom Messick, Marie Barros, Jonathan Baker and Family, Janet Young, Anne Marie Hess, Taylor Hyndman, Michael Avarone, Seth Lutz, Bob Lambert, Theresa Wade and family, and Janelle Owens.

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To contact this ministry you can email us @ ministry8246@comcast.net
Website is www.makethespiritualconnection.com use BING search!
If this month's message has encouraged your spirit, please forward it!!

