

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION'S



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR AUGUST 2015

**John 1:16:** For the fullness of His Grace we have all received one blessing after another.

## **GOD'S GRACE**

*By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma*

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Hello again my brothers and sisters in the Lord Christ Jesus, welcome to the Spiritual Connection's inspired monthly Journal for August 2015.

This month's inspired message has to do with God's Grace. When I say God's Grace what am I trying to say? God's Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings. In the Holy Bible, there are numerous examples of God's Grace all through both the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.

God says in **Titus 3:5-7** that; **God saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His Grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.** My friends, after we have been spiritually transformed, God

moves us from a life full of sin to one where we are led by His Holy Spirit. All our sins, not merely some, are washed away. Washing refers to the water of baptism, which is a sign of salvation to those who are truly saved.

In becoming a Christian, the believer acknowledges Christ as Lord and Savior and His saving work. We then gain eternal life and all its treasures!

We have renewal by the Holy Spirit, and He continually renews our hearts. None of this occurs because we earned or deserve it; it is all God's Gift!

We become born again Christians through God's unmerited Grace, not as a result of any human effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part. However, out of gratitude for this free gift, we will automatically seek to help and serve others, with kindness, love, and gentleness, and not merely to please ourselves. While no action or work we do can help us obtain eternal salvation, God's intention is that our salvation will result in acts of service. We are not saved merely for our own benefit, but to serve Christ Jesus, and build up His Church here and now, and on into eternity!!

The Holy Bible also tells us in **Ephesians 2:6-7** that; **God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His Grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

The Bible goes on again to say in **Ephesians 2:8-10** that; **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

Question! When someone gives you a gift, do you say, “That’s very nice—how much do I owe you?” No! The appropriate response to a gift is “Thank you.” Yet how often do Christians after they have been given the gift of salvation feel obligated to work their way to God. Because our salvation and even our faith are gifts, we should respond with gratitude, praise, and joy. Did you know that even though Jesus was rich, yet for our sakes, He became poor! It is written in **2 Corinthians 8:9** that; **You know that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.**

There is no evidence in the Bible, that Jesus was any poorer than most first-century Palestinians; rather, Jesus became poor by giving up His right as God and becoming human. In His incarnation, God voluntary became man—the wholly human person, Jesus of Nazareth. As a man, Jesus was subject to place, time, and other human limitations. However, He did not give up His eternal power when He became human, but He set aside His glory, and His rights. In response to the Father’s will, He limited His power and knowledge! Christ became “poor” when He became human, because He set aside so much. Yet by doing so, He made us “rich” because we received salvation and eternal life. What made Jesus’ humanity unique was His freedom from sin! In His full humanity, we can see everything about God’s character that can be conveyed in human terms. The incarnation is explained further in these Bible passages/applications; **(John 1:1-14;) Romans 1:2-5;) (Philippians 2:6-11;) (1 Timothy 3:16;) (Hebrews 2:14;) (1 John 1:1-3.)**

Last thought: My friends in the Lord, I believe that there is nothing greater in life, than to experience Christ Peace and Joy through His gift of Grace.

It is written in **Romans 5:1-2** that; **Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.**

My friends, through God's unmerited Grace, we are now at peace with the Lord, which may differ from peaceful feelings such as calmness and tranquility. Peace with God means that we have been reconciled with Him. There is no more hostility between us, no sin blocking our relationship with Him. Peace with God is possible only because Jesus paid the price for our sins through His death on the cross. As believers, we now stand in a place of highest privilege, ("this grace in which we now stand"). Not only has God declared us not guilty; He has drawn us close to Himself. Instead of being enemies, we have become His friend! Our relationship with God begins with faith, which helps us realize that we are delivered from our past by Christ's death through His Grace. Also, hope grows as we learn all that God has in mind for us; it gives us the promise of the eternal future that awaits all who believe in the Lord Christ Jesus. Then, God's Love fills our lives and gives us the ability to reach out to others living in darkness.....Amen!!!

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### **SPIRITUAL WISDOM**

**WHENEVER YOUR HEART CONDEMNS YOU, CALL OUT TO ME: "JESUS, HELP ME!"** My friends, our hearts and minds are battlefields: targets for the evil one's flaming arrows of accusations. In order to extinguish those fiery missiles, we must use our shield of faith skillfully. When you cry out to Me for help, you demonstrate genuine faith and at that point, I join you in the battle. I remind you that I have already paid the full penalty for all our sins. It is crucial to understand that your conscience is imperfect. Many of its accusations are based on lies. You need to listen less to those evil thoughts and more to Me through My Holy Spirit and My Word. We will all continue to sin until we leave this world, but I have provided an effective way of dealing with sin, by having Godly sorrow! The Bible tells us in **2 Corinthians 7:10** that; **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regrets, but worldly sorrow brings death.** So my friends in the Lord, when your heart condemns you, please remember that I am greater than your heart and I know all things. Come confidently and gratefully into My Loving Presence, Amen!!

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**A SPIRITUAL THOUGHT: Proverbs 13:24** tells us; **[[He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.]]**

It is not easy for a loving parent to discipline a child, but it is necessary. The greatest responsibility that God gives parents is the nurture and guidance of their children. Lack of discipline puts parents love in question because it shows a lack of concern for the character development of their children. Disciplining children can avert long range disasters. Without correction, children grow up with no clear understanding of right and wrong and with little direction in their lives. Don't be afraid to discipline your children, it is an act of true love! When in doubt: ( Pray to the Holy Spirit for parental guidance.)

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### **THE MINISTRY PRAYER LIST**

**Please pray for:** Elena Logan, Michael Santarpio, Seth Lutz, Anna Marie Croce, Warren Wisdom, Janet Young, Isaac Strong, Joe Lakes, Russ Holman, Janelle Owens, Anne Marie Hess, Natalie Lott, Mariane Wilson and Family, Jonathan Baker and Family, Marie Barros, Taylor Hydman, Tom Messick, Page Parker, Yolanda Corso, Tania Litiski. Patricia Palma.

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Web site: [makethespiritualconnection.com](http://makethespiritualconnection.com) [[ For **direct access** to the website, go to **Bing Search!** Please note, monthly Journals are updated each month! Well my friends, it is my hope that this month's inspired message is helpful in better understanding what God's Love, Grace, Mercy, Compassion, and Faithfulness is all about! If you like it, please pass in on to family and friends.

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