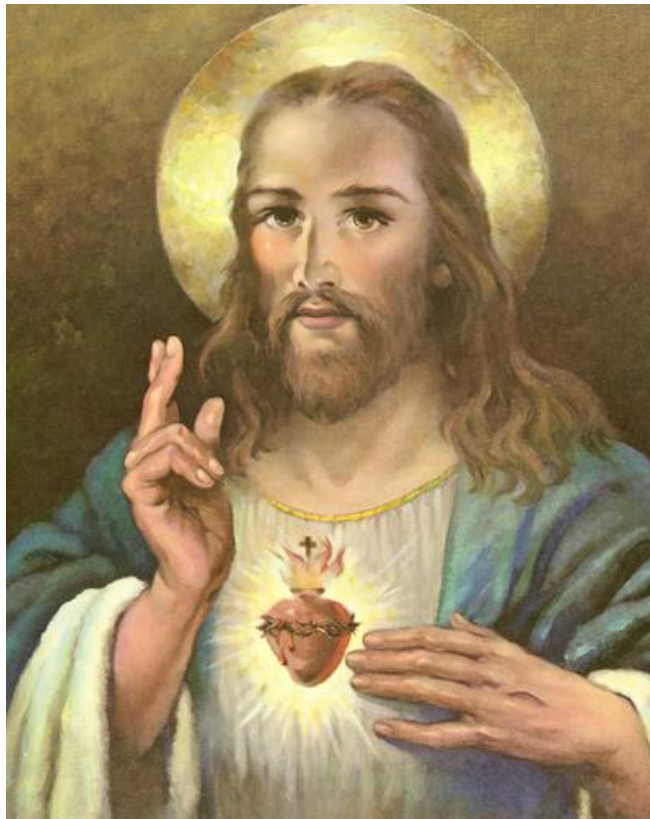


THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION'S



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR JANUARY 2017

Proverbs 3:12; Because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son He delights in.

GOD'S TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, I thank You, praise You, bless You, and love You Lord, for this Inspired message. Lord, please continue to fill up this ministry, with Your Holy Spirit's Indwelling Spirit. Father God, please help us to know You better, and walk in Your Ways. Lord Your Words of Divine Wisdom are a Light for our feet. Abba Father, please help us to stay connected to Your Holy Presence. Merciful Father, may Your Divine Light continue to shine through the darkness of this fallen world. Almighty Father, may Your Eternal Light keep getting brighter and brighter! Lord Jesus, please help us to walk together hand and hand with You; clothed in Your "Everlasting Righteousness." Father I ask this in the name of Your Son and our Savior, Christ Jesus. Hallelujah....Amen!!

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Hello my brothers and sisters in the Lord Christ Jesus, welcome to the Spiritual Connection's monthly Inspired message for January 2017. The title of this message is, "God's Trials and Tribulations." When I say God's Trials and Tribulations what do I mean? The Holy Bible tells us in **Matthew 12:1** that; Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witness, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. This "great cloud of witness" is composed of people who through hope and faithfulness are a constant encouragement to us. We do not struggle alone, and we are not the first to struggle with the problems we face. Others have run the race before us, and won, and their witness stirs us to run and win also. What an inspiring heritage we have! The Christian life involves hard work. It requires us to give up whatever endangers our relationship with God, to run with endurance, and to struggle against sin with the Power of the Holy Spirit. To live effectively, we must keep our eyes on Jesus. We will stumble if we look away from Him to stare at ourselves or the circumstance surrounding us. We should be running for God, not ourselves. When we face hardship and discouragement, it is easy to lose sight of the big picture. However, Satan loves it when we lose sight of the big picture, because He knows exactly when we are vulnerable to his vicious attacks. If we leave our door open to sin and don't put on God's full Armor of Righteousness, the devil can inject his deadly venom into all who are unprotected. However, God's antidote is simple, just quickly cry out to the Lord for help and cling to the Lord's "Big Right Hand," for redemption.

Also note, we are not alone in these trials. Many have already made it through life, enduring far more difficult circumstances than we have ever experienced. According to God's Word, suffering is the training ground for Christian maturity. It develops our patience and makes our final victory sweet. Question, why does God put us through trials? Reason, who loves his child more—the father who allows the child to do what will harm him, or the one who corrects, trains, or even punishes the child to let him learn what is right? It's never pleasant to be corrected and disciplined by God, but His discipline is a sign of His deep love for us! When God corrects you, see it as proof of His love and ask Him what He is trying to teach you. God is not only a disciplining parent, but also a demanding coach who pushes us to our limits and requires our lives to be disciplined. Although we may not feel strong enough to push on to victory, we will still be able to accomplish it as we follow Christ Jesus and draw on His Strength. Then we can use our growing strength to help those around who are weak and struggling in their faith. Many think that pain is the exception in the Christian life. When suffering occurs they say "Why me?" At that point, they feel as though God deserted them, or perhaps they accuse Him of not being as dependable as they thought. In reality however, we all live in an evil world filled with suffering, even for believers. However, God is still in control Hallelujah praise the Lord Jesus!! I could not fathom how evil the world would really be, if Jesus was not in total control of everything! He allows some Christians to become martyrs for the faith, and the others to survive persecution.

Rather than asking "Why me?" It is much more helpful to ask, "Why not me?!" God also tells us in **Job 5:17-18** that; **Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He wounds, but He also binds up; He injures, but His hands also heal.** If you think you are having problems dealing with lose, pain or suffering at this time, read the book of Job. The book of Job is one of the greatest examples of pain, lose and suffering in the Old Testament.

Whatever you are going through, God will never leave you or forsake you; this is one of His Eternal promises! It took Job a long time of suffering, to finally understand that God is in complete control of everything, not us!!

Furthermore, in **2 Corinthians 4:16-17** the Lord said; **Therefore we do not loose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and monetary trouble are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.** However, Apostle Paul of the New

Testament had also faced unbelievable sufferings, trials and

distress as he preached the good news of the Lord Christ Jesus. Also, he knew that one day it would be all over, and he would receive God's eternal love, peace, and rewards for his obedience! My brothers and sisters in the Lord Christ Jesus, as we face great troubles, it is easy to focus on the pain rather than our ultimate goal. Just as athletes concentrate on the finish line and ignore their discomfort, we too must focus on the reward for our faith and the joy that last forever. Try to always remember, that no matter what happens to us in this life, we have the assurance of eternal life when all suffering will end and all sorrow will flee away, Hallelujah, Amen!! "Thank You Lord Jesus for everything"

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LIVING IN DEPENDANCE ON ME!

By Sarah Young

LIVING IN DEPENDANCE ON ME, is a glorious adventure. Most people scurry around busily, trying to accomplish things through their own strength and ability. Some succeed enormously; others fail miserably. But both miss what life is meant to be: living and working in collaboration with God. When, we depend on God continually, our whole perspective changes. You see miracles happening all around you, while others see only natural occurrences and "coincidences." You begin each day with joyful expectations, watching to see what God will do. We accept weakness as a gift from God, knowing that His Power plugs in most readily to consecrated weakness. We should keep your plans tentative, knowing that God's plans are far superior. We constantly live, move, and have His being in Him, desiring that we live in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the intimate adventure that He offer to those who believe in Him! For further study see **2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Acts 17:28; Colossians 2:6-7; and John 14:20.**

SPIRITUAL WISDOM FOR JANUARY 2017

Proverbs 4:18:19; The Path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of the day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.

A SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

Psalms 130:3-4; If you, O Lord, keep a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

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THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION'S DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please pray with this ministry for: Little Boy Dakota, Bill Schlupp Greg Achinko Sr and Junior Michael Santarpio Theresa Wade, Zach, Warren Wisdom, Janet Young, Joe Lakes, Janelle Owens, Anne Marie Hess, Natalie Lott, Marianne Wilson, Jonathan Baker, Paige Parker and Family, Russ Holman, Kevin Palma. Adi Daza, Bill Lang, Joyce Villa Maggio, Mary Ann Fernandez. If you have someone that is in need of prayer at this time go to the Spiritual Connection's website at:makethespiritualconnection.com Also you can find on the website, updated monthly Journals, and some from our archives. Christian music, videos, and testimonials. Christian radio stations across the country, and numerous study tools and more. The Spiritual Connection, is a place to go to better understand the Word of God!!

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