



THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR JANUARY 2019

Romans 8:21; The creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.



SPIRITUAL FREEDOM
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 monthly Inspired Journal for January 2019. Before I get started, I would just like to say that it is my hope that you and your family had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Years! My prayer is that we all learn and grow together this New Year, as one body in Christ! This month's inspired message has to do with Spiritual Freedom. What does spiritual freedom mean? The word freedom in one sense means, having the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. On the other hand, the word spiritual has to do with relating to religion or religious belief. Where can we find spiritual freedom? Spiritual Freedom can only be found in one place, and that place is in the Holy Presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All roads to spiritual freedom seem to lead to Jesus! For without Jesus, we are only swimming up stream without a paddle! **Galatians 5:1** tells us that; **It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.** Christ died to set us free from sin and from a long list of laws and regulations. Christ came to set us free—not free to do whatever we want because that would lead us back into slavery, to our selfish desires. Rather, thanks to Christ, we are now free and able to do what was impossible before—to live unselfishly. Those who appeal to their freedom so that they can have their own way or indulge their own desires are falling back into sin. But it is also wrong to put a burden of law keeping on Christians. We must stand against those who would enslave us with their rules, methods, or special conditions for being saved or growing in Christ. Trying to be saved by keeping the law and being saved by Grace are two totally different approaches. Christ will be of no help to us if we are trying to save ourselves by keeping all of God's Laws; this only separates us from God. According to the Holy Bible, we are saved by faith, not by deeds. But love for others and for God is the response of those whom God has forgiven. God's forgiveness is complete, and Jesus said that those who are forgiven much, should love much. Because faith expresses itself through love, you can check your love for others as a way to monitor your faith!

Freedom or license to sin is no freedom at all, because it enslaves you to Satan, others, or your own sinful nature. Christians, by contrast, should not be slaves to sin, because through Jesus sacrifice on the Cross, they are now free to do right and to glorify God through loving service to others.

When we believers lose the motivation of love, we become critical of others. We then stop looking for good in them and see only their faults. Soon we lose our unity. Have you focused on others' shortcomings instead of their strength? When you become critical of others and stop looking at our own faults, ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of Jesus command to love others as you love yourself. **Matthew 22.37-39**; **Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.** Jesus said, if we truly love God and our neighbor, we will naturally keep the commandments. Also, the key to spiritual freedom from sin can be only found, in people who live by the Holy Spirit's Indwelling. **Galatians 5:16-18** also tells us; **So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is in contrary to the sinful nature. They are in contrary to each other, so you do not do what you want. But if you are not led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.** There are two forces conflicting within all of us—the Holy Spirit and the sinful nature. (Our evil desires and or inclinations that stem from our bodies/flesh.) I am not trying to say that these forces are equal—the Holy Spirit is infinitely stronger. But if we rely on our own wisdom, we will make a lot of wrong choices. If we try to follow the Spirit with our own effort, we will fail. Our only way to spiritual freedom from our evil desires is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit. We all have evil desires, and we can't ignore them. In order for us to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, we must deal with them decisively. The Holy Bible tells us in **Galatians 5:19-21** tells us that; **The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissention, faction and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep step with the Spirit.**

My brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, try to remember, are acts of our sinful nature come from Satan not Christ. The only defense we have against the devils lies and deception's, is the Word of the Lord. When the devil comes a knocking at our doors, hold unwaveringly to the Hope that is ours to profess, for God is faithful! **1 Corinthians 10:13** God tells us that; **No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape , that you maybe able to endure it.** When all kinds of troubles surround you, hold on to Jesus Hand, don't let go! The harder the trials are, the tighter God wants us to hold on to His loving, merciful, and graceful Hand.....Amen!!

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JESUS LIVES

By Sarah Young

WEAKNESS

THANK ME FOR YOUR WEAKNESS. Even better boast gladly about your weakness. Boasting can be either good or bad, depending on the object of the boast. People who brag about their wisdom, strength, or riches, are offensive to Me. David was on the right track when he wrote about his soul boasting in the Lord. I want you to express pride in Me, just as the child of a good father likes to brag about his big strong dad.

People who are well aware of their weaknesses are less tempted to boast about themselves. However, they are more vulnerable to other temptations: indulging in self-pity, and complaints. So it is essential for weak ones to take pride in Me—rejoicing about who I Am.

Children tend to feel good about their self when they are bragging about their fathers. Similarly, you can feel glad when you boast about Me: proudly proclaiming My Praises! Awareness of your weakness has deepened your dependency on Me and helped you know Me more fully! So you can be joyful about these afflictions that have blessed your relationship with Me. As you rejoice in your weaknesses, you open yourself to My Power. Let this sacred Power rest upon you, displaying My delight in you.....Amen!!

A SPIRITUAL THOUGHT FOR JANUARY 2019

The Holy Bible tells us in **Isaiah 32:17** that; **[The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.]** My brothers and sisters, God acts from above to change man's condition here on earth. Only when God's Holy Spirit is among us can we achieve true peace and fruitfulness. We can have God's Holy Spirit with us right now through prayer. He is available to all believers through our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus!! Hallelujah, praise the Lord!!!!

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SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Proverbs 11:28;Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Proverbs 28:20; A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 11:14; wealth is worthless on the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION'S DAILY MINISTRY PRAYER LIST

Please pray for: Joyce Vella Maggio, Mary Ann Fernandez, Bill Lang Elena Logan, Humberto, Jeff Ron,, Lynn, Michael Santarpio, Theresa Wade, Seth Lutz, Zacary, Anna Marie Croce, Warren Wisdom, Janet Young, Isaac Strong, Joe Lakes, Russ Holman, Janelle Owens, Anne Marie Hess, Jeanine Carlson, Janis, Wendy, Natalie Lott, Mariane Wilson and Family, Jonathan Baker and Family, Marie Barros, Taylor Paige Dennis= Yolanda Corso, Tania Lititski. Patricia Palma. Juan La Bay

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Please note, monthly Journal messages are meant to be helpful to you in better understanding what God's love, grace, and mercy is all about! If you like this month's message, please pass in on to family and friends!! Until next month's inspired message, with God's help, may the good Lord richly bless you!!

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