



Living's Spring

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JESUS

connection

The Only Dependable Connection

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24th

ANNIVERSARY
celebrations

- Interview with Bishop Nwachukwu
- You Still Have A Future
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In times like these when so many people are looking for stability and hope, it is good to know that a particular connection exists that is unlike any other. It will never fail, never weaken with time; it always makes a positive change and there is no dark side of it. I'm talking about the Jesus Connection.

Life is all about connections. So-called “success” and “failure”, open doors or frustrated opportunities, the joys and sorrows of many of us are determined by who and what we are connected to, as well as how weak or strong these associations are.

For us to walk through life with purpose and achievement, we must realise that every man-made connection has in-built potential for failure; every negative spiritual connection has a hidden and deadly agenda. These human and spiritual linkages have led to so much distress: the best of friends have let us down; dreams have been shattered by close family members; promises have been forgotten almost as quickly as they were made; betrayals have woken us up in the morning, while depression has sent us to sleep at night. The world of connections is treacherous indeed.

In times like these when so many people are looking for stability and hope, it is good to know that a particular connection exists that is unlike any other. It will never fail, never weaken with time; it always makes a positive change and there is no dark side of it. I'm talking about the Jesus Connection. It is only this Connection that can turn everything in our lives around for good and bring us face to face with the changes we need and desire. A close look at a familiar incident in John 9:1-41 will highlight what this Connection is and why we need it.

Some of you reading this may be passing through very stressful moments and your life is in turmoil. There are deep issues that others are facing right now which cannot be shared

with anyone. Jesus Christ knows all about these. I assure you in the name of the Lord that your circumstances will not take you down. If you will make the connection to the Master, the testimony of the man you're going to read about can also be yours. If you are connected to Jesus but your disobedient and willfull choices have weakened this bond, there is still opportunity for you to strengthen them again as you return to your first love.

The scriptures tell us of a man born blind, whose pitiable state immediately opened him up to rejection and a degree of social ostracization that was painful indeed. None of us welcomes rejection with open arms, especially when it is directed at us from our kith and kin. This man's family had obviously turned their backs on him to the extent that he had to beg for sustenance; his social support was virtually non-existent. Is this your story? Has life placed you on the “abandoned” list? It doesn't have to remain this way.

Interestingly, Jesus' disciples became part of this man's difficulties as they joined society in questioning why he was so badly positioned. “Surely such things don't happen to the good and innocent! We are not deceived. There's a secret somewhere, a hidden skeleton; there is never smoke without fire. If his hands are clean, such calamity could not arise. Things don't just happen!” It was such thinking that informed the disciples' question, “*Rabbi, who sinned...?*” (verse 2)

Similar erroneous thoughts and hurtful accusations and rebuffs are still commonplace among us. We are good at judging matters before their time but our incomplete

understanding often leads us to the wrong conclusions. There can be smoke without fire and Jesus pointed this out. Whoever would have imagined that a man would be born blind in order to have a one-day encounter that would manifest God's glory? Surely there must have been a mistake, a mix-up somehow. Can God work out a testimony of wonder through such awful circumstances? Yes, He can. He did so then and He has not changed.



I wonder what people are murmuring over your life? What are you being accused of? Who has turned their back on you? There can be a turn-around in your age-long situation when the Jesus Connection is made. The wrong social labelling that has befallen you on account of self-righteous people can be removed.

The emotional trauma you are enduring will not last forever; your change will still come. Those who have labelled you a "sinner" will have to keep their mouths shut as the Jesus Connection brings about remarkable changes in your life and they will begin to wonder how all these good things are now happening to the person they once called names.

What else did the Jesus Connection do for this man? It brought about physical healing of his blindness. You may have seeing eyes but

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you need Jesus' healing touch in some other area of your life. He is more than able. Now I want to emphasize something else here. If you have not made the Connection to Jesus, you are spiritually blind. No, this isn't the voice of religion speaking so consider this seriously. It is God's desire that you receive insight concerning the real issues of life and these can only be spiritually discerned. This world is far more spiritual than you can ever imagine and the Jesus Connection will enable you not to be caught in any spiritual cross-fire. Don't allow your ego to becloud your need of healing in this vital area, for it is greater than physical healing.

Life is disappointing to many of us when we have make own appointments which eventually fall through. Wrong perception, a faulty mindset often lead to such disappointments and we stumble when confronted with life's challenges. We shrink back and turn inwards when we should be more courageous. Isn't it incredible how the Jesus Connection altered this man's mindset and he astonished the people with a new-found boldness?

He had suffered from soul-wrenching circumstances but disappointment did not smother him. The Jesus Connection made an awesome difference, transforming this man into someone bold enough to take on the feared religious authorities (verses 25-29). Their condemnation and religious bigotry could no longer intimidate him. He even asked them if they wanted to follow Jesus

since they were making so much fuss about Him!

For those of you who claim to be connected to the Lord, are you afraid to declare who you are in Christ and what you believe in? Have you chosen the way of least resistance, the path of compromise like the parents of this man? If you understand what the Jesus Connection is, you will stand and boldly answer your accusers because you realise that whatever dignity your circumstances had stolen or marred, has been restored. This is also what the Jesus Connection does: it fully restores your lost dignity. Nobody who is truly in Christ Jesus is insignificant anymore. No child of God is a social wretch, because your former shame and humiliation have been

It is awesome and will make all the difference you need.

How then can this unique Connection be made? What should you do? First you need to acknowledge your need of the only Saviour, Jesus Christ. You are a sinner who needs to be saved and your life cannot be changed without Jesus. Then you need to reach out to Him in prayer and ask Him to take over the life you are now ready to surrender to Him. Jesus Christ will never withhold Himself or turn away from being connected to you when your heart is sincere, and He cannot be deceived. He knows those who truly desire to be connected to Him.

Jesus Christ is Lord of all and wants to lead

When the scourge of the enemy is removed in this way, you move to another level of realisation. In Christ Jesus, you become indestructible. The words and actions of other people, no matter whom they are, can no longer keep you in bondage.

taken away by Jesus. Imagine the Lord of the Universe, the God of all creation, entering into relationship with mortal man. If such disparate connections can uplift you on the mere human plane, then the Jesus Connection has infinitely more to offer when you make it.

When the scourge of the enemy is removed in this way, you move to another level of realisation. In Christ Jesus, you become indestructible. The words and actions of other people, no matter whom they are, can no longer keep you in bondage. Men and demons can only destroy the body but it is God who holds the power to destroy the body and cast the soul into hell. The Jesus Connection gives you an eternal hope and an inner strength that no devastating situations can remove.

Those of you who are afraid of every little thing that moves, who flinch at the slightest threats of others, need this Jesus Connection.

you into a better tomorrow. He will never force Himself on anyone. Right now He is waiting to hear your voice inviting Him into partnership. The Jesus Connection needs to be made and you can do it right now.

If you are willing, sincerely pray this prayer: *Oh! Lord, I acknowledge that the decision for my being was first made by You. I confess my rebellion and seeking other gods. I now decide to surrender my life, my will to your Son Jesus Christ. I ask you to forgive me my sins because of Jesus Christ. I invite Jesus Christ into my life as Saviour and Lord. Oh! Lord, make me your child, baptize me into your body by the Holy Spirit and get me connected to Jesus Christ. I thank you for answering my prayers in Jesus Name. Amen.*

This is an adaptation of a Jesus Connection (Musical Concert) Message by Bishop A. O. Nwachukwu and is available on audio CD.