

Supporting Pastors by Ministering to Christians in Need of Guidance and Deliverance



APF Newsletter—Vol. 2, No. 4

April 2, 2008

Dear APF Supporters,

Greetings:

Another month has gone by, and it has gone quickly! This month has been busy for me, as the cases have increased. I'm certainly glad that I can lend a hand to people in need, and I hope that God's kingdom is furthered. I hope that things are going well for all of you!

Praises:

An exciting development for us is that the office building is coming along. The exterior siding is finished and looks real nice. A couple days a week I have been able to schedule time for me to work on the interior. Working on carpentry is a nice break from ministry sessions and paper work.

As I mentioned in the greetings, the caseload has increased, and I praise God that a number of people have received healing from the Lord. A few have come, stating that they cannot go on if something doesn't change, and I had the privilege to see God work a miracle.

Some Thoughts to Consider:

In the Book of Romans, chapter four, the Apostle Paul says that "What does the Scripture say, 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness'" (verse 2). In this chapter, Abraham is the forefather of the Jews and Christians of having faith in God. His actions weren't necessarily what made him righteous but his faith that guided his actions made him righteous. Abraham is a good example to consider when ministering to believers who struggle with the concept of needing to be perfect before God. The Enemy likes to torment Christians by pouring more demands on them than what God does.

One example can be found in Genesis 15. In verses 1-9, God is establishing a covenant with Abraham, then known as Abram. In the conversation, Abraham has the audacity to question God. He asks Him, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless..." (verse 2). Satan and his host often cause confusion and consternation to believers because they feel guilty for asking God "why".

Certainly, questioning God shouldn't be done flippantly. What is the key with the way that Abraham questioned God? He recognized God's sovereignty and asked humbly for understanding. We may not know or understand "why" about everything, but I believe God does want us to have understanding and knowledge of what can happen in this world. If the enemy can keep us from questioning why an event is happening or even why God wants us to do this or that, he can keep us from being obedient to God. Also, if we don't question what is happening, we can easily be deceived into thinking something is of God when it is not.

The whole matter is based on *attitude*. Abraham's attitude was respectable and sincere. He didn't fully understand, but he trusted God. I believe we should have the same outlook. God is

approachable (Hebrews 9 and 10) and we can ask questions. We may not get answers, but we are being honest with God and expressing what is on our hearts. The powers of darkness enjoy it when we bottle up emotions and accept our circumstances without question.

Two terrific books, *War on the Saints*, by Jesse Penn-Lewis, and *The Spiritual Man*, by Watchman Nee, both elaborate that Christians must test everything. Even if something is of God, test it. He doesn't mind. Ask Him questions, and be certain it is of Him. Since the enemy masquerades as good (2 Corinthians 11:14), we must test to be sure. 1 John 4 also says to "test the spirits." God wants us to express our emotions and use our minds to cooperate with His Spirit in living in His world. Doing so is an active part of warfare against Satan's schemes.

In ministry sessions, it may be necessary for a person to fully share even anger at God. Once the emotion is admitted, we can begin to look at what the real issue is. Sometimes, the powers of darkness have deceived the person and caused the person to believe God is punishing him or her. In some cases, the person can't see what blessing God has in mind. Abraham's attitude was great in that he knew the blessing, even though he himself would not experience the fruit of that blessing on earth. We can and should talk to God and even share our questions. Test Him and be sure it is Him and not the enemy!

Prayer Concerns:

First, please pray for the open house. I also ask that you help spread the word about the open house. The open house is on April 17, 2008 at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church, starting at 6:00pm. Cookies and hot drinks will be served. If anyone desires to help with the open house by donating cookies, please contact me. I estimate that we need 200 cookies for the evening.

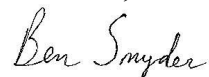
Second, please pray for Alan and Allison. They both are adjusting to having little brother Anthony at home, but some days can be difficult. I am also trying to work with them on understanding that even though I'm at home, I can't play at their desire. ☺

Final Thoughts:

You may have noticed a slight change in the letterhead. I have removed the word "counseling" from the APF stationary. Since I'm a teacher and not a counselor, I decided to change the wording to ministering. I believe that using ministering fits better with the work of APF. I don't give advice as much as I try to share what God's truth says in the Bible and what I know in dealing with the powers of darkness. The change is not that significant, but as I try to make clear what it is I do, it seemed appropriate.

Blessings to all of you!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder