

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

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Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

It's August, and in the past, summer would be winding down and I would be gearing up for teaching another year of school. I almost forgot about the fact that school would start soon until my son, Alan, asked when it would start again. Life in ministry is so much different from a routine of school. It keeps me hopping! Nonetheless, it has been a joyful time of ministry this past month.

Praises:

Praise must be given to our God, for His goodness has been evident. A number of people that I have been ministering to had tremendous relief and growth. God has been at work in great ways. It's a wonderful thing to see the twinkle in a person's eye when a Scriptural Truth hits home.

Also, even in the short time from the last newsletter that was sent out late, more clients have called for help.

I again want to praise God for the prayer and financial support we have received. From time to time I get a message of encouragement and reminder of prayer support. It is so much appreciated, and I cannot really express how grateful I am. In a sense, I feel like I represent all of you, and I want to do a good job of presenting the ministry for you!

Something to Consider:

Recently, a question has surfaced a number of times in a number of different places. It goes something like this: "How do you know for sure that a person is free from demons?" In some cases, when a demon manifests in an obvious way in a person, it can be clear that a demon is gone. For most though, it is not always so obvious, so how can we tell?

The basic test is to look at the fruit in a person's life. Galatians 5:19-26 gives a definition to show life that is lived for Jesus Christ.

19The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;
20idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions,
factions 21and 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.

22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24Those who belong to Christ
Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

If a person shows generally a life that produces good fruit, it is likely that the person has been freed of a demonic hold. However, this does not mean that if a person sins or has a sinful desire that a demon is in a person. Demons may be around and tempting the person, but not necessarily inside. Being set free from demons is not an end in and of itself. From that point on, the freed person must continue to choose to make Christ-like choices.

In John 15, Jesus addresses remaining in Him. If a person chooses to be a part of the vine, good fruit will come forth. God will continue to prune the person, and dealing with demons is just

part of that pruning. As Paul says in Galatians 5:24 that the believers are to have crucified the sinful nature, which is a process as the aspects of the sinful nature are revealed. God reveals them to us in time, making it a pruning process.

When demons are cast out and a person is free, good fruit should follow. Not having demons makes producing good fruit much easier. Nonetheless, the person must still work at making good choices to produce the fruits of the Spirit. I do not stop meeting with a person when demons are gone. Meetings are held at least two times after that to ensure that a person is growing in Christ and has an understanding of living in Him. Support and encouragement from friends and family is very helpful for a person freed of demons.

A danger that comes in evaluating a person based on the fruit produced is that believers begin to judge, criticize, and condemn. When looking for good fruit, it must be done with compassion and without arrogance or superiority, realizing it is the same for all of us. As noted earlier, a person sinning and making a mistake should not have to fear others believing that he or she is demonized or has even lost salvation. Going to such extremes is not good fruit itself!

Sometimes, spiritual matters are not nice, neat, and compartmentalized. However, we can have a general idea of how a person is doing by looking at the fruits of the Spirit and how much it is evident in a person's life. Being open and honest about oneself is important. Often, those who come for help are ready to be that transparent, and God can do a mighty work!

Prayer Concerns:

Please continue to pray for God's protection for me and my family as we do this ministry. Also, please pray for protection for all who are supporting this ministry and that God would richly bless you all.

Please pray for those who are contemplating calling for help, but are afraid to call.

Please pray for those who are coming for help, that God will continue to do great things for them.

Final Thoughts:

John 14:23—"Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him...'" My encouragement and blessing for all of you is to obey the teachings of Jesus Christ, and show your love for Him!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder