

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



Newsletter—Vol. 3, No. 8
August 10, 2009

Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

It may seem that this newsletter is early in the month...and it is! I'm hoping to get back to sending out the newsletter in the first week of each month, as I was not able to do so when I was finishing up the office. Hopefully, the September newsletter will be sent in the first week.

Praises:

Praise God for His work of setting the captives free. Again in the last month I had the joy of working with people and seeing God deliver them from the powers of darkness. Some have been delivered in person, and others have been over the phone. Regardless of location, Christians have authority over the demons.

I also give praise for a good speaking engagement at Griner Mennonite Church on July 24-25. The discussion of occult practice in relation to alternative healing was very positive and enjoyable.

I also am thankful for a very enjoyable "weekend away with the guys." My softball team traveled to Avon, IN for a softball tournament. We did well, finishing second, and had a good time together playing ball and watching ball.

Something to Consider:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10—⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

For many years, my weaknesses bothered me. I was ashamed that I couldn't do what needed to be done for God. My expectations for perfection and doing God's will was extremely high, and quite often I failed. Then following the failure came personal disgust, even hatred, for my inability to do good. The above passage amazed me. How could the Apostle Paul actually take pride and delight in his weakness?

Working in deliverance has helped me to understand how Christ is my strength. First, in dealing with demons, I have no ability to deal with them on my own. It is only in the Name of Jesus Christ that I have authority over the demons. Because of my sinfulness as a human being, I have no way to deal with the demons. With my righteousness from being in Christ, my sinfulness is washed away and I can deal with the demons.

Second, I have a plan in a ministry session, but I must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. He knows what the person needs most. If I get rigid in following my plan, the person may not receive the Lord's healing completely. This is very freeing, because I can trust in God to do the healing work instead of putting pressure on myself. It is exciting to see God at work!

Third, the battle can make a person very weary, and here is where the above passage is very relevant and special to me. Some days, I feel that I cannot go on and the battle is too much. It reminds me of the prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19. He was exhausted and simply couldn't go on fighting against Ahab and Jezebel. God sustained and strengthened him to continue. It is at these times that I realize that now is really when God's power is evident. I wonder why I try to do so much on my own strength instead of turning to God's power from the beginning!

Andrew Murray's book *Abide in Christ*, addresses this topic of Christ as our strength. He notes that God doesn't fill us to aid our efforts. Instead, He gives us His life in us, so His power can be used. He doesn't take away our feebleness and make us feel strong, but causes us to feel His strength. Again, as in dealing with demons, it is a matter of being "in Him." In Christ, we have strength, power, and wisdom.

I've learned, and still am in the process of learning, how to delight in my weakness instead of feeling ashamed. When I fight and try to live in my own strength, I'm actually limiting God's power in me! Why don't I just surrender from the start and recognize my feebleness and need for His strength? This ministry is a constant reminder that I need to remember that I am in Christ, as are all believers.

I encourage all of you to recognize your dependence on being in Christ. It is ok that on our own we fail because then our success will be in Christ and bring Him honor and glory. We can delight in Him and He will bless us!

Prayer Concerns:

Pray that God will send those who need ministry, so that He will be glorified.

Final Thoughts:

Ephesians 6:10 says to "be strong in the Lord and His mighty power." Even my best power is nowhere near the mighty power of the Lord Jesus Christ. I must submit to Him and let His strength empower me to do the ministry He has called me to do.

In Christ,



Ben Snyder