

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



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Dear APF Supporter:

### **Greetings!**

Ahh! The promise of spring is so refreshing. It is nice to walk outside and be able to sense the smell of spring air. A little extra bounce in my step is always helpful! It has been a wet season, and I hope that none of you have had to deal with any flooding.

### **Praises:**

The building is coming right along! For the building fund, \$910 has been given, and then matched by an anonymous donor. That means that only another \$1090 is need to reach the goal of \$2000! If \$2000 is reached, the total will be \$4000 with matching done by one donor. The time period for the matching ends at the first of April. Again, the only issue is that the donation must be given to me and not APF. No tax receipt can be given. The building is not APF property, so APF cannot pay for the building. The financial support should cover the completion of construction.

The ministry has grown. Since a speaking engagement to 160 people in February, the phone has been ringing frequently with many asking for help. It is exciting to be able to lend a hand to many in need.

### **Something to Consider:**

Recently, I had a discussion with some people about deliverance ministry. One of the questions brought up was that of being afraid of encountering evil spirits. I'd love to be able to say that I never was afraid of encountering demons, but that wouldn't be true. The more work that has been done in ministry, the less fear I have. It is imperative to remember that in dealing with the powers of darkness, Christians work in Christ. If we try to operate in our wisdom and strength, we will get knocked around—and hard.

It is easier said than done to just say, "I'm not going to be afraid." I've had to learn to transform myself by renewing my mind with truth. Some Scripture passages have been helpful for this transformation. These passages have also been used in ministry to support a person who is dealing with the powers of darkness as well.

First, Joshua 1:9—*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.* Knowing that God is with us wherever we go is comforting. He is the one in the battle, so we can be strong and courageous. It makes me think of an old Ray Stevens song, "The Blue Cyclone." He was beat up by a profession "wrestler," the Blue Cyclone. After he had healed, he decided he needed to pay back the Blue Cyclone. He rounded up some buddies who guaranteed they'd be there for him. When he approached the Blue Cyclone, he made reference to the "big dudes" that were with him. The Blue Cyclone wondered what big dudes he was talking about. He turned around and "son of gun, they's gone!" That is not our God. We can turn around and know He is there as we enter the battle. Ray Stevens had to spend more time mending in the hospital because his big strong buddies let him down. God does not let us down.

Similarly in the next passage, Jesus comforts His disciples to... *Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.* In Mark 6:45-56, the disciples are afraid when they see Him walking on the water. In ministry, sometimes people are afraid to have Jesus heal their wounds. It is safe to come to Him, as He is a gentle healer. Like the disciples, it is amazing to see Jesus at work when He does miracles. When dealing with demons, the fear of the unknown can come into play, which is what seemed to be happening to the disciples. With Jesus in command, we don't need to fear the unknown.

Ephesians 6:10 says, *Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.* From there, Paul goes on to describe the armor to wear in spiritual battle. With the armor on, we can be strong and exercise our authority. It is God's power that gives strength and protection. In particular with battling demons, the armor has unique importance to strengthen us. Put it on and leave it on!

The last passage is 2 Timothy 1:7—*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind* (NKJV). When a person questions his or her own abilities and strength, this passage is very helpful. God does not give anyone a spirit of fear because fear comes from the enemy. Not only do we not have fear, but we have a strong, sound mind. Demons can sense the fear and lack of confidence and will try to intimidate a person. Knowing that God has given us a sound mind works at taking away their strength and ability to intimidate.

Fear is a normal emotion. The trouble comes when fear dominates our lives. As a believer, we need not live in fear because we know we belong to Him.

#### **Prayer Concerns:**

Please continue to pray for me as I teach a class at Jefferson Brethren on Wednesday evenings, through May 6.

Please pray for God's discernment for me as I minister to people. Each person is unique, and I must be sensitive to each need.

#### **Final Thoughts:**

If you are one who often feels afraid or anxious, I encourage you to study these passages. As you meditate on them, personalize them to make it be about yourself. God is for you, so who can be against you ☺? (Romans 8:31) God is here for all of us in dealing with the demons. Demons may still attack and cause problems! Praise God, though, in Christ we can deal with these problems and we don't need to live in fear of what might happen. As my mentor Dean Hochstetler would always say, "...but Christ is Victor!" Amen.

In Christ,



Ben Snyder