

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



Newsletter—Vol. 3, No. 5
May 4, 2009

Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

I hope that each of you is experiencing God's blessing in your life. I am glad to be able to send another newsletter, and hope that it is encouraging to you.

Praises:

God continues to bless the ministry as it is growing. Many are calling for help, and sessions are being planned for teaching events. More information will be coming next month on the teaching sessions.

The building keeps getting closer and closer to being done! Sometimes I simply stand in the middle of one of the rooms and marvel at what God has done, and how He worked through so many people to bless me. I can't thank Him or you all enough!

May 30, 2009...ten years since Angela and I were married. I praise God for her and the support she gives to the ministry.

Something to Consider:

Psalm 42:9-11

- ⁹ I say to God my Rock,
"Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?"
- ¹⁰ My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
"Where is your God?"
- ¹¹ Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

The powers of darkness love to cause people trouble—all people trouble—but especially Christians. Even Christians who live humbly in obedience to God and sin very little will encounter trouble in this life. People make choices, and sometimes those choices are bad, very bad. Evil spirits work hard to entice people to make bad choices. Whether demons have taken residence in a person or not, they work to influence people to cause destruction.

As believers, how we handle these bad experiences is crucial to our witness and how we fellowship with God. We have a choice: we can either get bitter or better. Many years ago, my dad taught me this truth, and I'm still learning how to apply it in my life. I can choose to allow

the troubles of life to make me be a victim, whining and complaining. I can also choose to say, "Christ is victor, and know He's working for me!"

The passage above describes well what Christians can experience. Many don't recognize that the troubles are due to the hidden work of the powers of darkness, as is noted in verse 10. The key is verse 11: the choice to praise God and worship Him. When we respond with worship and praise of God in spite of what the enemy has done, it is a rejection of the enemy. The powers of darkness want us to literally think, "Where is God?" and question His love for us.

When we choose to praise and worship God, we are choosing to believe He does love us, at least to a very small degree. In ministry, some people have very severe troubles in life, and it causes them to doubt God's love. My hope is to encourage each person to learn how much God loves each one of us. Using passages like the one above is very valuable. The author did not hide the emotions, but expressed them to God. It is not a sin to express one's emotions to God, as long as those emotions don't cause the person to hurt others. The author shared the hurt and pain, and expressed why there was hurt and pain. Nonetheless, he chose to worship God because He is his savior. Somehow praising God works against the powers of darkness and the person can continue on to freedom.

Everyone from time to time will have down times. If this is happening to you, or when it does, I encourage you to think of passages like Psalm 42. Make the choice to praise God. He hasn't abandoned you. The enemy may have seemed to be victorious, but ultimately God is in charge. Christ defeated the powers of darkness on the cross (Colossians 2:13-15), and we can praise Him for being our savior.

Prayer Concerns:

As people become busier during the spring and summer, pray for God's working in schedules to allow people to come for ministry.

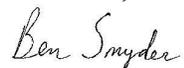
Please pray for the transition into the office building (mostly for me to be patient!).

Please pray for those who are believe that God doesn't want him/her to receive spiritual healing.

Final Thoughts:

Depression and sadness isn't a sin, nor does it mean a person is demonized. Life can be difficult and we can be down. I believe God is there for us even in those times. It doesn't always make sense to me how and why God responds as He does. Making the choice to praise Him and look for Him to make good out of something bad is contrary to the world's standard, and some days may be difficult. I encourage you to make that choice: allow God to use the circumstance caused by the enemy and/or others to make you better instead of being bitter.

In Christ,



Ben Snyder