

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



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Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

Christ is victor! If there is anything that I need to remember this month, it's the simple truth that Jesus Christ is already victorious over the powers of darkness. October is a month that evil appears to prevail (just go to some area stores and see what is for sale!). However, no matter what the enemy appears to have, we can trust in the fact that the Lord Jesus on Calvary's cross defeated Satan and his host. Let this greeting be an encouragement to you during this month.

Praises:

I praise God for a good speaking engagement at Bethel Mennonite Church, in Nappanee, IN, on September 11. A fair sized crowd attended, and a number have contacted me for follow-up ministry.

Another praise is that we are off to a good start at Griner Mennonite Church on Wednesday evenings meeting with the youth. The group is engaging and interactive. A bonus is working with my good friend, Pastor Jason Miller. It has been fun!

Praise God for His unending grace and mercy. Each day I'm thankful for His forgiveness and love. It is a joy to watch Him bring healing to wounded people.

I praise God for how scheduling has worked. Again, after the last speaking engagement, a number of people have called. Our schedules worked so that we could meet.

Something to Consider:

1 Kings 18:25-29—²⁵*Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire."*
²⁶*So they took the bull given them and prepared it.*

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷*At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened."*²⁸*So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, **as was their custom**, until their blood flowed.*²⁹*Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention*
[bold added]

As I was packing up after speaking at Bethel Mennonite Church, a number of people chatted with me, making comments and asking questions. One gentleman in particular was extremely encouraging and supportive. I greatly appreciated his words. As he was sharing, he mentioned the passage above, and my jaw nearly hit the floor! He shared some thoughts on the passage that were exactly as I believed. Now, it is quite possible that we both heard or read commentary on the subject before, but I don't remember any. His words of agreement were even more encouraging to me, and I wanted to share what he said.

At most of my speaking sessions, I address the issue that not all supernatural happenings are of God. Usually, I point to Exodus 7 & 8, where the Egyptian sorcerers were able to do some of the plagues that Moses and Aaron did. Then I work through the Bible with other examples. If time permits, I include 1 Kings 18, the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel, one of my favorite Bible stories. It may seem like an odd passage to include because the pagan prophets of Baal were not able to call down fire. Baal did not respond.

What the gentleman said that astounded me, and I agree with fully, is that God intervened in this instance. In looking closely at the passage, it is noted (as I underlined), that the prophets of Baal were doing a common practice. They did not challenge Elijah and say, “What are you crazy? No god can do that!” I believe, as the man expressed to me, they fully expected Baal to respond because he did in the past. On this occasion God intervened, either by His direct work or from the demons fleeing just because Elijah, a man of God, boldly confronted them.

In present day, people do similar things: cutting to draw blood, chanting, and dancing to bring up the spirits. I believe God wants believers to exercise their authority against the works of darkness as Jesus did (1 John 3:8) so that God’s sovereignty can be seen as it was on Mount Carmel. God is sovereign and He has put us in Christ and given us victory and authority over evil spirits. Just as Elijah confronted the demon worship, so can we. Indeed, the demons may even flee from our presence. I have been told of accounts where people trying to use a ouija board or do water divining were not able to simply because of the presence of a Christian. The Spirit of the Living God was present *in a powerful way*, and the demons fled. May God give us all the courage we need to submit to Him and resist the devil so he and his host flee!

Prayer Concerns:

Please continue to pray for the class at Griner, especially for understanding of the topic instead of fear.

Please pray for all believers to stand against the works of Satan and his host during this season.

I encourage everyone to pray blessings on others, even those with whom you might be at odds. Pray the Lord’s blessing over people, asking for the work of the Holy Spirit in each person for renewal and restoration.

Final Thoughts:

In the near future, I hope to have open houses in the new office. I want to share the blessing that God has done for me in finishing the building. I’m deeply humbled by His great provision. I especially want to thank Yellow Creek Mennonite Church for allowing me hold ministry sessions in the church house until the office was completed. It was greatly appreciated!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder