

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



Newsletter—Vol. 4, No. 7
July 2, 2010

Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

Welcome to summer! It has been stormy in northern Indiana the last few weeks. We've lost our "power" a few times, and it became apparent how dependent we are on electricity. It has made me appreciate how God's power never goes out! He is always faithful.

Praises:

In spite of severe storms and tornadoes in the area, no one was reported injured.

God has faithfully brought healing to those coming for ministry. He sets the captives free!

The June Bible study went well. The study was about discipline, based on Hebrews 12. I hope to put an audio recording of the session on the website.

God has continued to grow the ministry of *A Pastor's Friend*.

Also, three new board members were added: Dwight Tapley, Herb Maust, and Ken Yoder. Thank you to these men for joining and supporting APF.

Something to Consider:

Revelation 5:11—*Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.*

Last month, I started sharing about the reality of the spirit realm. [Remember, if you ever miss one of the newsletters, you can read the archived newsletters at the APF website, <http://www.freewebs.com/apastorsfriend/newsletterarchive.htm>]. The focus was on the first two parts of the spirit realm: God and humans. This month, we will look at the other two parts, holy angels and evil spirits.

First, the good guys, the holy angels. The Bible references angels numerous times. In fact the Old Testament has 108 and the New Testament 165 references. Thirty-four of the books of the Bible mention angels in some fashion. Hebrews 12:22 and Revelation 5:11 are good examples of Scripture on the reality of angels. Hebrews 12:22 shows that their number can't be counted!

In Luke 24:27-36, Jesus shares that ghosts, or spirits, have a spiritual body. Hebrews 13:1 mentions that angels can take human form. It is uncertain what exactly a "spirit body" really is. Nonetheless, the Bible notes their reality as an individual entity.

Numerous passages show the angels' task and function. First, Hebrews 1:14 notes that angels minister to believers. Other passages, such as Daniel 6:22 and Psalm 34:7, show that they protect people. Holy angels have shared messages (see Daniel 10, Luke 1, and Acts 27:23), and did such miracles as opening the prison door for Peter (Acts 12:7). The holy angels are servants of God to do as the Holy Spirit directs. They do have free will, but always choose obedience to God. I believe they have seen first hand what happens when an angel disobeys, as Satan did, and do not desire to make that choice. In ministry sessions, I have experienced the work of holy

angels in dealing with disobedient demons. More could be said about that, as many people have examples of angels at work. Sometimes, we simply need our eyes opened to see their work!

The last part in the spirit realm is often the one who unfortunately gets the attention. I want to make clear that the ministry of *A Pastor's Friend* is not about giving Satan and his host glory. Instead, the focus is on the Lord Jesus Christ and His victory over Satan and the demons. Nonetheless, in dealing with an enemy it is helpful to know a little about them. These bad guys are evil spirits, who can also be called demons, foul spirits, wicked spirits, or fallen angels. Satan is head of the evil spirits. He is very powerful, but he is not omnipotent [all-powerful], omnipresent [everywhere present], or omniscient [all-knowing] as God is. In fact, compared to God, he is puny. Therefore, he needs a host of evil spirits under him to do his work. Their intent is to wreck the crown of God's creation, humanity, and hinder God from receiving glory.

Scripture gives us some information about the evil spirits. Their strategy is to blind people of truth (2 Corinthians 4:4). They have free will and rebelled against God (Isaiah 14:12-14). They have no way of salvation from their rebellion, and they know and hate it (Hebrews 2:16 and Jude 6)! Ultimately, their destination is the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 20:10). When they worked to have Jesus crucified, they thought they had won. If they had known it was in reality their destruction, they would not have done so (1 Corinthians 2:8). Although Satan held the power of death, the Lord Jesus broke it (Hebrews 2:14-15). It has been experienced and written about demons manifesting in physical form.

Satan is called "god of the world," "ruler of the air," and "ruler of the world" (2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2, John 12:31, John 14:30, and John 6:11). He possesses and controls kingdoms (Luke 4:6 and John 5:19). The demonic is ultimately behind murder, lying, persecution, perverted sexual lifestyles, and some sickness and disease (John 8:44, 1 John 3:12, Luke 13:16, Acts 10:38, Ephesians 6:12-13, 1 Corinthians 6:9, 12-18, and Romans 1:24-27). However, this does not mean each time one of these things happen the person is demonized. It simply means demons work to influence people to do such things. They work to obstruct the work of the kingdom of God by trying to *influence* people to live as the demons want. If they can influence a person to a great degree, it appears that they control that person. However, each person has free will and is made in the image of God and has at least a shred of ability to choose against the demons. A person isn't "possessed," but falls into demonization through following the influence of demons. We need not *fear* demons, but *respect* their power. Christians should submit to God and be under His influence, resist the devil and his influence (James 4:7).

Prayer Concerns:

Upcoming Events: *Monday, July 12 at 6:30pm* is the next Bible study at the APF office.

Please pray for God's work in scheduling for all to be able to come for ministry.

Final Thoughts:

One last note about holy angels and demons must be made. Redeemed humanity, or those who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, are ranked higher in the spirit realm than both holy angels and fallen angels. Ephesians 1-2:10 show that Christians are seated in Him at the Father's right hand. That position is higher than all other positions in the spirit realm. This is a tremendous place of authority for believers that God wants us to use, and use at His direction!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder