

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



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Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

Summer is fast approaching, and with the recent heat, it sure feels like it is here now. My children are glad, as school is out and they can play in the water. It is a joy to watch them run and jump and enjoy themselves *for hours* on a sunny and hot afternoon. I hope for all of you that you can experience the same kind of joy they have when playing.

Praises:

God has continued to fill my schedule in lending a hand to those in need. Word of the ministry is spreading, and I'm honored to help those in need.

God, as always, remains faithful in bringing healing and deliverance to hurting people. Just as Jesus showed compassion to those in need in the Gospel accounts, He does so today!

Something to Consider:

John 4:24—*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.*

Over the last month as I was pondering what to address in the June newsletter, I realized that I have never written on a basic principle of the ministry of *A Pastor's Friend*. That basic principle is the reality of the spirit realm. Therefore, at least these next two newsletters will address the reality of the spirit realm. For some people, the existence of angels and demons is common and there is no question of their reality. Others may believe they play no part in our lives. My purpose isn't to prove someone wrong if they don't believe in the spirit realm. Instead, I hope to give some biblical and experiential background to show why I do what I do!

The Bible has many examples of the reality of spirits, but for the purpose of introduction, I'll select two. One passage comes from each of the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, 2 Kings 6:8-23 is a story of a dire situation. The army of the king of Aram had surrounded the city where Elisha the prophet was staying, and it doesn't look good for him. The king wanted Elisha dead because he would tell the king of Israel every move the army of Aram made. Elisha's servant was terrified when he saw the army, but Elisha stayed calm. He asked God to open the servant's eyes, and the servant saw horses and chariots of fire...a heavenly army ready to fight.

Elisha prayed for the army to be blind, and it was done. He then led them to the king of Israel and told him to feed them a great feast. That army discontinued their raids into Israel. The servant didn't need to be afraid because the warfare in the heavenly realm was being fought, and it affected the warfare on the physical realm!

In the New Testament, 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 gives another example of spiritual activity affecting the physical realm. In this passage, the Apostle Paul is writing how he wanted to travel and meet with the Thessalonian believers again. He could not do it. Something, or rather, someone, was preventing it. He made it very clear: Satan stopped him from being able to go. Again, these passages are just two examples of many of spirits being involved and affecting life in a physical way. With this background, I will break down four "players" in the spirit realm.

This month, I'll address two.

First, the most important part of the spirit realm is God. John 4:24 (as noted above) says that God is spirit and we are to "worship Him in spirit and truth." God has always existed and always will exist. He never had a starting point. If you want to get a migraine, try to figure out how that can be! I believe it is beyond our comprehension. He is all-powerful (omnipotent), all-knowing (omniscient), and everywhere at the same time (omnipresent). Again, this is beyond what humans can fully comprehend.

Colossians 2:8-16 says that Jesus, the Son of God, was fully man and yet at the very same time fully God. Many debate how much of His "divineness" He used while on earth. I don't intend to debate that. He was fully God and fully man. I believe this is something only the Creator of the universe could do! Also, each person is born with a drive to worship something. God's desire is for us to worship Him. We will worship something, even just ourselves, if we choose not to worship God!

The second "player" in the spirit realm may surprise you. It is human beings! Yes, humans are spirit beings, but our spirits are "housed" in a physical body. First Corinthians 4:7 shows that it is a temporary home for us. Also in 1 Corinthians, this time in chapter 15, it is noted that we will have spiritual bodies in resurrection. The rank of the believer in Jesus Christ is second only to God. We are higher than the other beings. In fact, 1 Corinthians 6:3 says that we will judge the angels!

Some may wonder why I write about God and humans in a spiritual warfare sense. Both are very much a part of spiritual warfare, just as angels and demons are. Next month, we will look at angels and demons. We will start with angels first, and then address demons. If the writing about angels consumes too much paper, demons will be pushed back to August. It will make the summer go fast as you anticipate reading the next newsletter! ☺

Prayer Concerns:

Upcoming Events:

Monday, June 14 at 6:30pm. I will host a Bible study and sharing time at the APF office. All are invited to come. The focus of the Bible study won't necessarily be about spiritual warfare, but it is quite possible that it will be discussed. The topic will be new each month, so feel free to come when your schedule allows. It will be a time of Bible reading and discussion, similar to the "Something to Consider" part of the newsletter. The difference is we can talk in person!

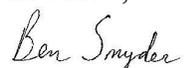
Please pray for more opportunities for speaking and teaching engagements.

Please pray for those hurting individuals who come for ministry that they might receive full healing and deliverance.

Final Thoughts:

Sometimes discussion of the spirit realm, especially demons, causes fear. I started this discussion with God as the first player in the spirit realm because God is *so* superior. Romans chapter eight makes very clear: the demonic cannot separate us from God. They want us to think they can, but they can't. First John 3:8 says that Jesus came to destroy the devil's work. We can trust in His victory and not be afraid!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder