

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



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Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

May God bless you as spring comes! I hope that life is good for all of you today as you receive this newsletter. Life has been difficult for me lately with sickness in the home, but I try to keep God's truth in mind. Certainly, we all have down days, but "take heart, I [Jesus] have overcome the world" (John 16:33). I'm looking forward to the freshness of spring!

Praises:

God is so faithful. The main praise I have today is recent number of people set free from the powers of darkness and the physical afflictions that came from the demons.

Something to Consider:

Mark 2:3-5—³Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

The ministry of *A Pastor's Friend* occasionally encounters a person in need of help as much as the paralytic in Mark 2. Instead of a tremendous physical burden, the person has emotional and spiritual burdens. When the situation is this extreme, the person is at wits end. As the person has hit rock bottom, life seems hopeless. In some cases, the person really doubts that God will minister to him or her, as many years of prayers for healing have not brought the desired outcome.

As the paralytic needed friends to help him to Jesus, these people who come for help need someone to help him or her to Jesus. I try to carry the same faith those men had as I help a person to Jesus. The main way to help the person to the Lord Jesus Christ is to begin breaking curses that are on the person. Jesus told the paralytic that his "sins are forgiven." In some cases, the curses are due to personal or ancestral sin. When the sin is confessed, relief can come quickly [There are some occasions where the person struggles to forgive himself/herself, and the emotional pain continues]. The guilt and shame from life's sins cause the person to have emotional turmoil.

Other times, the emotional turmoil is due to nothing done by the person. He or she is a victim of something. The Lord Jesus healed a woman with infirmity caused by a demon (Luke 13:10-17). He made no note of forgiveness of sins, but that she was healed from an affliction from Satan. In the same way in ministry, I help a person to Jesus for healing of the emotional wound. In some cases, evil spirits are involved in making the emotional burden worse. In other cases, no demons surface, though they may have fled!

In Mark 2, the friends didn't heal the man; their faith or actions didn't heal the man. The Lord Jesus healed the man. The friends knew what needed to be done and did it. The ministry of *A*

Pastor's Friend is the same thing. I don't do the healing, or have the "gift of healing." Instead, I've been blessed to learn how to help people to Jesus, and *He does the healing*. In fact, I try to stay out of Jesus' way when He is ministering to a person. He knows each person's needs better than I, and I don't want to get in His way!

Indeed, Jesus still heals today! It is a tremendous blessing to watch Jesus heal a person. The men in Mark 2 seem to have much greater faith than I have! He is *always* faithful, and is as gracious and merciful as He was to the paralytic and his friends. In the process of ministry, my faith and confidence in Him has grown. Also, I have learned from experience that if the person doesn't receive the healing touch of Jesus, we have more work to do in the area of confession of sin and breaking curses. [Unforgiveness especially needs to be addressed.] I know He is there to heal. Although it may be difficult, the person needs to "come clean" and confess the sins and break the curses. The peace that only God can give is reward! Mark 2 does share if the man and his friends were joyful after his healing. I believe they were overwhelmed with joy!

Prayer Concerns:

Upcoming Events:

March 3-5—I'll be attending the biennial DeeperWalk Ministries Conference in Indianapolis, IN. [Deeper Walk was formerly known as International Conference of Biblical Counselors. My mentor, Dean Hochstetler, was a board member.]

Please continue to pray blessings on those who are coming to *A Pastor's Friend* for help.

Final Thoughts:

A number of times in ministry I've heard something like, "Jesus may heal others, but I really don't think He will minister to me." In fact, I've even been there myself. "God loves other people, but He won't bother with me because I'm not worth His time." I *know* God loves each person and wants to bring healing to each person. I cannot give an answer why He doesn't intervene and stop all of life's problems [He certainly does intervene on some occasions]. Joyfully, though, I can assure a person seeking help that Jesus does want to minister to the person and bring restoration.

Isaiah 61:3 says: *and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of **beauty instead of ashes**, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.*

He can take the ashes of life and make something beautiful!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder