

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



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Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

Fall is rapidly rolling along. Stores are already putting Christmas items on their shelves! Thank you all for supporting *A Pastor's Friend*. Your support has blessed many people, as they have been set free by Jesus Christ through this ministry. Your financial and prayer support makes it so this can happen!

Praises:

A client agreed that I could share this praise from a ministry session. This middle-aged man had a traumatic experience as a boy about seven years old. One Sunday evening, as was typical, the topic was on the return of Christ and the need of being certain of salvation. On this particular night, he had fallen asleep on the pew. Sure enough, the parents left him on the pew and the whole congregation cleared the room. He awoke all alone and thought that Jesus had returned and he was left behind! The story may seem comical to us, but after over forty years, this event seriously troubled the man. I invited the Holy Spirit to reveal to him where Jesus was in the memory. The Lord Jesus, walked him through the memory, comforted him, and healed him of the hurt. The man didn't realize how that event had scarred him, but when he was healed he was relieved and at peace. The gentleman was also set free from evil spirits of anxiety and fear. Praise God!

Something to Consider:

Romans 8:28—*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Over the past few months, I have been reading through the Old Testament books of Daniel, Esther, and Ezra. Something stood out to me from each book. It wasn't the first time I noticed, and I'm certain I wasn't the first to notice as well. What I saw was that time and again when the powers of darkness tried to work through humans to cause difficulty for or destroy God's people, God took that event and actually made the outcome even better for the Jews! There are more examples in the Bible of God turning good out of what appeared to be bad, but I'm only sharing some of them.

Starting in the Book of Daniel, I note three events. In Daniel 1, Daniel and his three friends are to eat food that is not allowed by Jews. What could happen to them if they didn't eat the food? The person in charge of them said he'd himself be killed (verse 10). They too would likely have been punished for not eating the food, possibly even be killed. God blessed their obedience and they were elevated to the status of working for the king. So God turned a subtle attempt to kill these four men on its head and used it for good.

Similarly in Daniel 2, 3, and 6, Daniel and/or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced death if they did not do as the king demanded. In chapter two, Daniel had to interpret a dream that he hadn't even heard, or they would die. I especially enjoy chapter three, the story of the fiery furnace. The people were to worship the golden statue made by King Nebuchadnezzar, and but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't do it. In verse 8, it was made clear that it was astrologers, people who are occultists, who came to get these Jewish men in trouble. I see that as

an attempt by the demonic to destroy God's people. The men responded that they believed God would save them, and even if He didn't, they wouldn't worship an idol (verses 17-18). What courage and faith! Finally, in chapter six, the other leaders, jealous of Daniel, trick the king into passing a law that forces idol worship and bans prayer to God. Daniel disobeys and is thrown into the lions' den. In each case above, God protects and helps the men. In the end, instead of dying, the men were promoted in position and, more importantly, the worship of the One True God was promoted in the empire. What Satan tried to do harm to God's people, God used for His purpose and made the final result better than it was before.

The story of Esther showed the same thing. Haman, an advisor to the king, hated the Jew, Mordecai, and was incited to try and kill all of the Jews—an influence of Satan. God had already put Esther in position as queen, and she obediently stood in the gap for her people before the king. In the end, Mordecai is given a position in the king's service, Haman was killed, and the Jews in the empire were blessed. An attempt for evil is turned on its head. Fabulous!

In Ezra, the Jews were rebuilding the Temple. However, opposition of their neighbors brought the work to a halt (Ezra 4-5). God turned the situation around, and those who opposed the building of the Temple were ordered by King Darius to pay for the expenses! How great is that! Satan didn't want God's place of worship to be restored and worked through men to stop it, but God made those same men actually sponsor the building. Tremendous!

In ministry sessions, I often see similar things. When the enemy afflicts a person, God turns it around and hurts the enemy. For example, a couple came because they were ready for divorce. I'm not a marriage counselor, and I did not address their issues in that fashion. Instead, we addressed their personal hurts and pains and unconfessed sin. Demons were cast out of both husband and wife. The demons worked so hard causing them problems, and enjoying the problems they caused, that the couple wanted to get help. God used the demons affliction against themselves, and lead the client to freedom. God turned the pain from the demons into something good and the couple was blessed!

Prayer Concerns:

Upcoming Events: *Monday, November 8, at 6:30pm* is the next monthly Bible study at the APF office. The Bible study is open to all. Last month, we had a couple new faces, and it was an enjoyable time. It was requested that we discuss generational curses, and I plan to do so.

November is the month of Thanksgiving. Therefore, let's spend this month recognizing God's goodness to us and show Him our gratitude.

Final Thoughts:

I want to make clear that I am not coming from a perspective that demons afflicting people is "good." Not at all! I believe that when Daniel was praying for God to reveal to him the truth of the dream in Daniel 2, the stress was severe. It was a painful time for Daniel, and that part isn't necessarily good. What I do believe is that God is so big, He can take *any scheme* of the enemy and make good come out of it. God allows these events will use the stressful time to increase our faith. I'm sure Daniel's was increased after these events! Isaiah 61:3 says, "...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes..." This passage describes how God makes beautiful what Satan intended to be for our harm. What a great and loving God we have!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder