

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



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Dear APF Supporter:

### **Greetings!**

It is October once again, one of my favorite times of the year. I love the cooler weather and the beauty of autumn. Plus, it is time for baseball playoffs and the football gets into full gear! Even though it is a high time for the powers of darkness with Halloween, God's goodness and blessings of life shine through. I look to the joy of the Lord to be my strength during this time, and I hope it will be for you too.

### **Praises:**

I received a note from a supporter responding to the August newsletter. In that newsletter, I addressed dealing with negative emotions. (If you missed it, you can read it at [www.apastorsfriend.org](http://www.apastorsfriend.org) in the Newsletter Archives page). The note really lifted me up, as the person said, "I was feeling 'yucky' when I received the last one (newsletter). I quickly grabbed my hammer and nailed the 'yuck' to His cross! The release was immediate!"

Praise God! What an example of the power of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross!

Praise God for His goodness and faithfulness. Again in the past month, a number of people have been freed and healed of burdens. More are in the process and in each ministry session, God has been at work!

### **Something to Consider:**

**2 Peter 1:3**—*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

Occasionally in ministry sessions, one of the struggles a person has is with discouragement. The client is feeling powerless because he or she feels that it is almost impossible to change attitudes, patterns of behavior, or even beliefs. The progress is simply not good enough, and the struggle can even cause the person to want to quit. The thought, "Why try when I'll just fail," comes to mind, and the person has to battle even more to live a Christ-like life.

The good news for all Christians is that God has not abandoned us and he does not expect us to live a holy life on our own! The passage above makes clear that God is with us and empowers us to be successful. Second Peter 1 notes that it takes our effort to live in Him as He works in us. He doesn't just zap us and bang, we are perfect Christians. We have to work at it and in so doing show that we belong to Him. We can do it because He has given us His power, a divine power, to do so.

The client may respond with, "Then why do I struggle so?" I usually look at two areas: 1) Is the demonic harassing the person? If so, then we continue to discuss Christian authority to deal with any demonic attacks. 2) Where is the person's confidence level? If the person doubts from the very beginning either that God isn't with him/her, they likely won't succeed. Even if they believe that God is there, they may have doubt about success because they believe they

themselves will mess things up. People may have confidence in God's abilities, but still doubt themselves and end up failing. Knowing that God's divine power is available and that He is with them can be very encouraging.

In Matthew 19:26, Jesus says, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." He is with us, and it is possible to overcome strongholds and burdens of life. I know how discouraging things in life can be—I hear them almost daily! However, almost daily as well, I see God do powerful works of healing deliverance. In the same way that Jesus healed, freed, and encouraged people to live for God in the Gospels [Zaccheus for example], He is doing today.

Sometimes, we expect progress to be very quick and dramatic, and can be very hard on ourselves. As someone has encouraged me to do, look for the good that was done each day...and be honest, not overly critical. With God at work in us, we do something good each day. Some days *are* worse than others, but each day is new and an opportunity to do better than the day before. We can give our effort and God enables us to do better with "increasing measure" (2 Peter 1:8), our lives can be transformed to live, as God wants us to live.

**Prayer Concerns:**

Upcoming Events: *Monday, October 11, at 6:30pm* is the next monthly Bible study at the APF office.

I believe that October is a great opportunity for Christians to witness as well as be very active in prayer. The spirits of darkness are active, but our God is much more powerful! I encourage you to be in prayer for His work and will to be done, no matter what the enemy would try to do.

**Final Thoughts:**

In previous newsletters, I shared about the need to forgive people when they hurt us. Forgiving ourselves is just as important! If you have offended yourself, it is important to choose to forgive yourself and not "beat yourself up." If one confesses his or her sins, God gives forgiveness (1 John 1:9). Since God, our Creator, can forgive us, so can we! So I encourage you to forgive yourself and believe that God is with you and that you can do whatever He calls you to do in a life living for Him. May God's blessing be on each of you this fall!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder