

Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance



Newsletter—Vol. V, No. 12
December 2011

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

It is already here! No, this isn't one of those dreadful Target commercials you may have seen on television, but indeed, the Christmas season is here and has come quickly. I hope that this season is a joyful time for you and that you can celebrate God's sending of our Savior.

Praises:

God continues to minister healing and bring people for help. I continue to ask Him to do so, and He routinely answers that prayer.

I praise God for how He touches and teaches me in ministry. Whether in sessions or preparing for newsletters and Bible studies, He draws me closer to Himself.

I praise God for His unbelievable love, grace, and mercy He shows to us *daily*.

Something to Consider:

Judges 2:20-22—²⁰*Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, ²¹ I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. ²² I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their ancestors did."*

In the years of learning about spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry, it has been often noted that faith takes action. It is like a muscle that needs to be exercising. One example that Dean Hochstetler gave was a bit comical. He would say something like this: "We all exercise faith all of the time. You are doing it right now! You are putting faith in that chair you are sitting in that it won't collapse underneath you." Statements like that usually brought a smile or chuckle, but it did prove a point. If a person has faith, that person's actions should prove the faith. Faith in Christ would mean living for Him.

The faith of the Israelites in the Old Testament was shown to be inconsistent in Judges chapter two. After Joshua and the leaders died, the people actually put their faith in other gods. Verses 11 and 12 made clear that they worshiped Baal and Asherah instead of the One True God. Because of their idolatry, God declared that the nations who lived in Canaan prior to their invasion would not be driven out. There was no guaranteed peace for them in the land. Instead, the heathen nations were there and would be used by God to prove the Israelites' faith to Him. If they did obey God, they would have peace. Otherwise, it would be turmoil. When I read this passage, I grieve that they failed to follow God fully and they disobeyed Him. Nonetheless, they still had the opportunity to prove their faith to God in the face of the enemy.

The Book of Joshua and the beginning of Judges is a parallel with the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The issue is exercising faith in God against the enemy. In the Old Testament, the enemy was seen to be the people of the Canaanite nations. The New Testament, it was made clear

that it was the demons behind the people that were actually the enemy. Ephesians 6:12 was extremely blunt: the battle was with forces in the heavenly realms. The evil spirits' presence gave believers an opportunity to stand up against the trial and tribulations and be obedient to Christ. Just as the Canaanites tested the faith of the Israelites, the evil spirits tested the faith of the believers. The battle that the Israelites had was actually with the powers of darkness because the demonic was manifested in idol worship. The powers of darkness were God's enemy for sure, and they hated everything about Him, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. For all ages of those believing in the One True God, the evil spirits tested their faith.

It is the same situation in this present day. The enemy is at hand, trying to burden the believers and keep them from living for Jesus Christ. We sometimes struggle. It grieves me when I read about the sins of the Israelites in the Old Testament and the enemy often tries to get me to feel regret for the sins I've done. It is an opportunity to prove my faith in the face of the enemy. I can choose to put my faith in the truth of God's Word that I am forgiven of my sins when I confess them. I can move on and live for Christ! Perhaps in one way or another the enemy has burdened you as well. I encourage you to confess your sins to the Lord and exercise your faith in Him that you are forgiven and can now live for Him. Your faith has been tested, but Christ has defeated the enemy and you can walk in victory!

Prayer Concerns:

Events: *Life of Freedom Bible Studies*—The next monthly Bible study will be on Monday, December 12th at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend. The study will be on 2 Kings 23. Hot drinks will be available, and possibly some cookies!

Please pray for God to continue to minister to hurting, troubled people through Life of Freedom Ministries.

I noted this last month, but I need to share it again in December. As we approach the end of 2011, please prayerfully consider a year-end contribution to Life of Freedom Ministries. Year-end contributions help to get the following year off to a good start with a base for the times when giving is down! Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of contributing to this ministry. I am extremely blessed and honored by the financial support for this ministry.

Final Thoughts:

When the Israelites invaded the Promised Land, God gave them the "tools" for warfare. He didn't send them in without His protection. If they obeyed, victory was theirs. Ephesians 6 gives us the "tools" for the warfare we have today. The spiritual armor is listed in this chapter and itself is a topic to discuss, and I encourage you to take note of what is written. We can exercise our faith in Christ and walk in victory against Satan and his host!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder

Life of Freedom Ministries

22422 COUNTY ROAD 46 NEW PARIS, IN 46553

574-831-2669

lfmdirector@gmail.com

www.lifeoffreedom.org