

Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance



Newsletter—Vol. 5, No. 1
January 4, 2011

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

Happy New Year! Although it is just a change to a new calendar, the New Year is an opportunity to start fresh. I hope that 2011 will be a blessed year for each of you.

Announcement:

As was announced in December, the ministry name has officially been changed from *A Pastor's Friend* to *Life of Freedom Ministries*. For those who give financial contributions to the ministry, please make your checks out to *Life of Freedom Ministries*. The statements that I'll be sending out to contributors with records for 2010 will still be under *A Pastor's Friend*, since the name change didn't occur until December. For your records for the IRS and state department of revenue, the donations will still be to *A Pastor's Friend* for 2010.

Praises:

I thank God for a good year of ministry work. I've learned much and it has been a joy to see God at work healing many people.

I praise and thank the Living God for all of the faithful support I receive from you. It blesses me greatly!

Despite the holidays, ministry sessions have continued. I praise God that I am able to minister during this season.

Something to Consider:

Ephesians 1:22-23—²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The issue of being in control is something that comes up from time to time in ministry. The topic of control is very relevant for comparing our loving, living God to our enemy, Satan. Ultimately God is in control of the events of the history of the world, but He is not a controlling God.

I chose the passage above for the purpose of the first point about God and being in control. The idea that God has declared that those who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, are now His body is astounding! What a position believers are in: seated at God's right hand, in Christ (Ephesians 2:6). God has given us a great responsibility to share the gospel and minister to others. He wants to work through us to show His love to the world. In doing so, He invites us and leads us to do His will, without coercion and force. Since He is all-powerful and can take any mistake that a human can make and turn it for good, He has no need to be a controlling, demanding dictator. He has blessed us with the ability to choose to follow His leading, and then empowers us with His Spirit to follow through.

Contrast this view of an empowering, encouraging God with Satan. Our enemy cannot allow people to choose because it might hurt his plan. Since Satan is not ultimately in control and is not

all powerful as God is, he must manipulate circumstances and do his best to influence people to be under his direction and control. He certainly likes to give the impression that he is equal to God and is in control of the situation, but no matter what he tries to do, he is already defeated and God will use it for our good (Romans 8:28-39).

Satan is so consumed with trying to gain control because he is afraid and very insecure. He knows what his end is going to be: in the lake of burning sulfur (Revelation 20:10), but he doesn't know exactly when that will happen. Therefore, he is trying his best to control what he can for his purposes. His purpose is to wreck God's plan. Again, ultimately he can't do that, but he can cause damage. Praise God that He can make good out of the damage!

The demons as well are afraid and insecure because of their defeat on the cross. They very much try to intimidate believers so that we tremble before them and not appropriate Jesus' victory over them. When they realize a person is standing in Christ to resist them, they don't back down until they know that a person will continue to stand and that their ground to stay is broken. They try to influence the person they are afflicting as much as possible so the person feels out of control and doesn't choose to turn to Christ and be set free!

Insecurity and fear also drive people to be controlling. Instead of delegating tasks, a person will take on too much because he can't trust others to do the work. Others will try to control people because they are afraid that others will hurt them. The challenge in ministry is to help a person be willing to relinquish control to God, as He is the One who can make life the best for each of us. If demons are involved, they want the person to maintain a controlling attitude. Such an attitude will allow them to influence others and cause problems for more than one person!

God is a big and mighty God, who doesn't need to be a "control freak." He enables us, empowers us, and encourages us to live for Him so that we make "known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms" His "manifold wisdom" (Ephesians 3:10). To me, that is a huge "in your face" to Satan. He wanted to be higher than God (Isaiah 14:12-15). Instead, God put believers of Christ Jesus "in Him," and seated us above Satan and his host, giving us the responsibility to share His kingdom. God is so big, He doesn't have to be controlling like Satan is!

Prayer Concerns:

Events: *Life of Freedom Bible Studies* will start again on January 10, 2011 at 6:30. We will meet here in the office building. The December session was cancelled because of a winter storm. The topic this month will be on identity in Jesus Christ. All are welcome to come and share in a time of Bible reading and discussion.

Please pray for opportunities for *Life of Freedom Ministries* to have speaking engagements to share about this ministry and God's work of healing and deliverance.

Final Thoughts:

For some, the idea that God isn't controlling every situation is unsettling. If that is you, let me encourage you that He can do that because He is so great. It's not because He is weak or out of control. He knows just what to do and when to do it. We can trust fully in Him!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder