

Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance



Newsletter—Vol. V, No. 7
July 9, 2011

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

I hope that as you read this letter, life is going well for you. Even if life is difficult, may God bless you and be very real and evident to you in your life. Sometimes the heat of summer causes tension for people. I pray a blessing of peace on all those reading this newsletter!

Announcements:

At the last *Life of Freedom Ministries* Board Meeting in June, the Board approved of an addition to the ministry staff. Natalie S. Abigail was approved to join the ministry staff as volunteer. We are excited to have her “on board.” Natalie also has her own ministry, Natalie’s Christian Wellness Center (www.natalieschristianwellness.webs.com).

Praises:

God continues to work powerfully in ministry sessions, and I’m so grateful. He is always faithful!

I am thankful again and praise God for His grace and mercy. He doesn’t give up on me!

Something to Consider:

1 Corinthians 10:19-20—¹⁹ *Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?* ²⁰ *No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.*

Exodus 20:3-6—³ *“You shall have no other gods before^a me.”* ⁴ *“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.”* ⁵ *You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,* ⁶ *but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

^a Or *besides*

Idolatry. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, this word means either “the worship of a physical object as a god,” or “immoderate attachment or devotion to something.” In the Old Testament of the Bible, idolatry was the number one sin. In the Ten Commandments, God commanded that the people of Israel have no other gods and make no object to worship. Much of the Old Testament story, after the giving of the Law, is the battle for the people to worship God and not the pagan gods of Canaan. In fact, the practice of idolatry, and the acts of occultism that accompany idolatry, that caused the nations of Israel and Judah to either be destroyed or taken captive in Babylon. Idolatry is serious business to God!

If idolatry was serious business to God in the Old Testament, is it still today? A common answer to that question, and I believe an accurate one, is that Christians today can still practice idolatry. No, they may not be involved in making an object to worship and do the horrific practices that go with the worship (such human sacrifice). However, the second part of the definition comes

into to play: being devoted to something more than God. In other words, something, or even someone, is more important to a person than God.

Yet, I believe there is a link between the two types of idolatry. The passage above from 1 Corinthians 10 makes clear that the spirit realm is involved in the idolatry. When people worshiped an object, the object represented a demon! For example, when Elijah was confronting the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18, the confrontation was actually a spiritual power encounter between God and the demon Baal. The spirits behind the Baal worship were active and did supernatural activities. However, in the event told in 1 Kings 18, God intervened, as He is superior and sovereign. So evil spirits were behind the motivation of, and practice of idol worship.

My experience in ministry leads me to conclude that the motivation behind the second idolatry that is often practiced today also comes from demons. The main battle for Christians in regard to idolatry today is worshiping one's self. Selfishness leads to rebellion, manipulation, pride, arrogance, and more. Evil spirits love to influence people to act and think in selfish ways. If a person knows what God wants done, but does what he or she selfishly wants to do, it is the same rebellion as those who worshiped idols! Just as worshiping idols in the Old Testament increased the presence of the demonic, selfish and rebellious acts basically invite the demonic presence to increase with the person.

For freedom from selfishness, one must have a contrite heart and be open to God's discipline (Proverbs 3:11-12). A person must be willing to listen and have a pure heart to change. The Good News is that we can confess this sin and repent! The blood of Jesus Christ on the cross is more than sufficient to wash us clean of this sin and we can have peace with God. Not only that, a believer can choose with his or her will in Christ to repent and turn from the practice. Praise God! He does not leave us alone, but His spirit is with us to empower us to choose what He wants! We don't have to listen to demonic influence, and we don't have to follow the way of the sinful nature. Praise God for His deliverance! (To see more about this read Romans 5-8.)

Prayer Concerns:

Events:

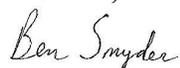
Life of Freedom Bible Studies—The next Bible study will be on Monday, July 11 at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend.

Please pray for God to open doors to more speaking engagements. Sharing about this ministry is productive in bringing people to freedom.

Final Thoughts:

Even if a person today is not involved in worshiping an object as an idol, the person may hold something else in a higher place than God. If selfishness is a struggle for you, I encourage you that you can address it! We don't have to continue with the practice of idolatry and the worship of self.

In Christ,



Ben Snyder

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www.lifeoffreedom.org