

Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance



Newsletter—Vol. V, No. 5
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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

It has been a rainy spring, but may God bless you with warmth and sunshine in your heart! I hope that each of you was able to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord in a special way. I learned a song as a boy, “Every morning is Easter morning from now on...” I encourage you to remember that new life in Christ means that every day is truly a day of resurrected life in Him.

Announcements:

A rumor has been circulating that *Life of Freedom Ministries* charges a minimum donation of \$25 for services. I need to make clear that **no charges or donations are required!** Thanks to the blessing of supporters like you, anyone in need of ministry help can come. Thank you!

Praises:

What a wonderful God we have! He has blessed us with a great salvation that is based on His grace and mercy and not our merits. I’m so thankful for that!

The first two sessions at Roselawn Conservative Mennonite Church have gone well and have been enjoyable. The group has been receptive and attentive.

God continues to heal and bring deliverance to those in need. On more than one occasion, God brought freedom to people who were there to accompany a person coming for ministry. These people realized that they too had some burdens to address and found freedom through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit!

Something to Consider:

Job 9:23-24—²³ *When a scourge brings sudden death, he mocks the despair of the innocent.* ²⁴ *When a land falls into the hands of the wicked, he blindfolds the judges. If it is not he, then who is it?*

As Satan used deception with Eve in the Garden of Eden to cause her to believe a lie, he uses deception to cause believers to believe lies today. By twisting truth just a little bit, he misleads believers into error that can cripple them spiritually. In the passage above, Job is sharing with his friends his view of God. Job believes that *God* is the one who is afflicting him, when in reality it is *Satan* who is behind the great turmoil he is enduring. The lie Job believes is, “God is punishing me and He hates me!” I hear this from time to time in ministry sessions, and it is indeed a lie. However, I do not believe that it is the root lie that is being believed.

The root lie that Satan has spread is that Christians “can’t be touched by Satan or demons!” Some will say that since the Book of Job was before the cross of Calvary, it does not apply today. I personally do not see anywhere in the New Testament that says that what happened to Job cannot happen today. Satan and demons can afflict us. Romans 8:39 declares that they cannot separate us from God and steal our salvation. However, Romans 8 also shows that great deal can be done to us in the physical realm. If a tormented and afflicted Christian is told (often repeatedly) that Satan and demons can’t touch him because he is a Christian, then he will probably come to one of

two conclusions: 1) “I’m not really a Christian,” or 2) “I may be a Christian, but a bad one that God really doesn’t like. Therefore, He must punish me.” It is very likely that demons encourage this thinking to torment the person...deceive and then accuse!

A demonic attack “does not just fall out of the sky” (a favorite quote of my mentor, Dean Hochstetler ☺). Sin is usually the cause. The trouble is that the afflicted person may not be the one sinning! Sins of the ancestry and sins done against the person often are the reasons behind the affliction. The Good News of Calvary is that now we can address each situation victoriously and Christ can bring freedom and healing. Great relief often comes to individuals when they learn the truth! They aren’t bad and God isn’t punishing them. The affliction is from demons. Even if one’s own sin brought about the demonic attack, in Christ there is forgiveness and freedom!

With Job, there was no sin on his part to allow Satan to afflict him. Instead, *because of God’s confidence in Job to be righteous*, God allowed Satan to afflict him. If Job understood that it was not God hurting him, perhaps his despair would not have been as severe. Yet, even when it was simply an attack of the enemy, a great deal of pain came, and it wasn’t much fun for Job! It still isn’t fun for us today, either.

Why does God allow such things that are not fair? I don’t know. He didn’t really explain to Job either why He allowed Satan to torment him. God told Job there is more to the creation than he can understand, which is true for us. For us now, though, since we are in Christ, when the enemy attacks we have all that we need for warfare (see Ephesians 6). We can trust Him to make beauty out of the ashes (Isaiah 61:3).

Prayer Concerns:

Events:

Life of Freedom Bible Studies—The next Bible study will be on Monday, May 16 at 6:30pm. Generally held on the second Monday of the month, for May, I needed to move it to the third Monday.

Wednesday’s, May 4 & 11, at 7:00pm, teaching spiritual warfare at Roselawn Conservative Mennonite Church.

A majority of clients recently come from a beyond the local area, which can make scheduling for them more difficult. Please pray for God’s intervention for scheduling to work.

Final Thoughts:

One thing to keep in mind when it seems that the enemy is at work against you: Satan might not be happy with what you are doing! If you are serving the Lord and bring Him honor and glory, Satan will not like it and will want to stop it. Just as God was pleased with Job and had confidence in him, it might just be that God has that same confidence in you! God might be allowing the attack to show Satan, and the world, your faith and to develop your perseverance. Again, in the midst of the event, it usually isn’t fun, but I trust that God’s blessing in the end will be great. It was for Job!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder

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