

# *Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance*



Newsletter—Vol. VI, No. 1  
January 2012

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

## **Greetings!**

Happy New Year! It is hard for me to believe that 2012 is already here. The year 2011 went by quickly. I pray that 2012 is a blessed year for you, so that you can be a blessing for others!

## **Praises:**

I praise God that the finances for 2011 were covered by your financial contributions. God blessed *Life of Freedom Ministries* with just enough to pay the bills!

Because of the holidays, schedule conflicts tend to come about. Nonetheless, I praise God that the current group of clients felt secure and at a place that a session could be skipped. It is a sign of the work of healing that God has done in their lives.

I praise God for the blessing of Christmas, and being able to celebrate freely the sending of the Son of God. What a wonderful gift it was that God gave us!

## **Something to Consider:**

**1 Samuel 19:6**—*Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death."*

**1 Samuel 19:10**—*Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.*

At the beginning of chapter 19, King Saul's son, Jonathan, had convinced him that David was not really his enemy. David had done nothing to deserve the king's wrath. Jonathan was convincing and it seemed that King Saul was broken of his rage toward David. In fact, the relationship between King Saul and David was restored. Verse 7 says, "...and David was with Saul as before." King Saul was now doing the right thing in not trying to kill David. As a servant of Saul, David led military campaigns against the Philistines, and these campaigns were successful. By accepting David and not trying to kill him, Saul's kingdom was succeeding.

What happened? Within four verses, from verses six to ten, King Saul of Israel does a 180-degree turn. David was leading the king's army against the Philistines to victory, but Saul does not stay happy. An evil spirit was present with King Saul, and troubled him greatly. It seems that immediately, King Saul turned from accepting David to powerfully desiring to kill him. The evil spirit used David's success to cause King Saul to be jealous. The change was sudden, and if we weren't informed about the evil spirit, we might wonder why King Saul so dramatically changed. It was good that God explained that the evil spirit was influencing King Saul, showing us what was motivating his hatred.

I must interject here the reason that the evil spirit was there. King Saul was disobedient to God. In 1 Samuel 15, King Saul does not follow through with God's instruction and totally destroy the Amalekites. He allowed the king to live and didn't kill all of the animals as instructed. Therefore, God rejected Saul as king of Israel and His Spirit left Saul (see 1 Samuel 16:14). God chose David to be the new king when Saul died or if Saul chose to acknowledge David as the new king and stepped down. Because the Spirit of God had left Saul, an evil spirit was allowed to influence and afflict Saul.

As is revealed in the story of King Saul and David, evil spirits influence people's behavior. In this case, Saul seemed to have a dual personality. At one point, he was kind to David. Shortly after that, he hated David. This kind of rapid change is common when a person is afflicted by the demonic. King Saul's change was extreme: from kindness to murderous hatred. For others, the change can be more subtle and simple. For example, a person would normally be willing to sing at church. However, under the influence of a demon, that person would choose not to sing due to feeling fearful. Instead of a little anxiety about singing, the demon created a run-a-way fear. It was so subtle that the demon hid and was not detected.

Not every change like the one noted in 1 Samuel 19 is demonic. Other factors in life can cause these changes. However, if it is of demonic nature, *in Christ, we are more than able to stop it*. What Good News! King Saul knew it was a demon that was tormenting him, and he had David play the harp to cause the demon to leave (see 1 Samuel 16:14-23). Unfortunately for Saul, he didn't have the position of victory in Jesus Christ to deal with the demon. Christians do! Therefore, I encourage you to be open to the possibility of trouble being demonic and *if it is demonic*, address the situation in the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Prayer Concerns:**

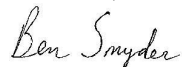
Events: *Life of Freedom Bible Studies*—The next monthly Bible study will be on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend. This Bible study will be the series of specific study on spiritual warfare. It will be similar to what a presentation would be given at speaking engagements.

Please pray for God to continue to bless and expand the work of *Life of Freedom Ministries*.

#### **Final Thoughts:**

The January newsletter is an introduction to the kind of discussions that will be held at the Bible studies in the coming months. We will look at Scripture and learn more about the ways that the powers of darkness work against humans. More importantly, we will look at Scripture and see God's total victory over the powers of darkness and how to apply God's victory in life. I encourage you to attend!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder

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