

# *Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance*



Newsletter—Vol. VI, No. 3  
March 2012

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

## **Greetings!**

I'm glad to once again share with you a monthly newsletter. February seemed to fly by, as the month was busy with many ministry sessions. I've been looking forward to this newsletter in preparation for the next Bible study, and I hope the newsletter will increase your interest in attending!

## **Praises:**

God continues to expand the reach of *Life of Freedom Ministries*. During February, numerous new people contacted LFM for ministry, and it has been a blessing to lend a hand.

Not only have more people come for help, it was a great joy to see God work powerfully in their lives to bring healing and freedom. Some ministry sessions were more dramatic than others, but regardless of the intensity, God was at work and I praise Him for what He has done.

Teaching sessions have gone well also, and I've received positive support for the meetings.

## **Something to Consider:**

**Numbers 13:17-18**—*"When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. "See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.*

At the February *Life of Freedom Ministries* Bible study, the topic was Christian authority. One of the closing points of the night was that believers couldn't exercise Christian authority if we don't recognize that we have an enemy. I often hear that the best way to deal with the devil and his demons is to ignore him. "If we just let him alone, he won't bother us!" Sadly, this is the stance of many Christians. The reality is, ignoring him does not cause him to leave us alone. Ignoring him allows him to operate freely and do damage without being caught!

Since it is March, and March is the season for basketball tournaments, I'll use basketball as an example. Ignoring Satan and his host would be like a basketball team that is on offense ignoring the defense. For instance, if the player with ball ignores the fact that he had a defender right in his face and tries to shoot the ball, the result would likely be a blocked shot, and likely the opponent then getting the ball and scoring. In basketball, the offense needs to be aware of their opponent and how to maneuver accordingly. Similarly, Christians need to be aware of their opponent, their life long enemy, Satan.

We see a Scriptural example of learning to know a little bit about the enemy. In the Book of Numbers, Moses instructed twelve men to spy out the Promised Land (see above). Notice he wanted the spies to determine the strength of the opponent and their numbers.

They were not going to invade the land God had promised to the Hebrews without at least some idea of what they should expect. The spies weren't to study too much or too little, but enough for what was necessary. In terms of spiritual warfare, it is valuable to learn about Satan and his host and how they operate. Learning how they hinder the spread of the gospel, how they hinder a Christian's growth, and how to battle them helps believers to live fully for Jesus Christ. Not everyone needs to study and learn of their works to the same degree as everyone else, but a basic understanding is good. In 2 Corinthians 2:11, Paul notes that "*For we are not unaware of his schemes.*" It seems that the people of the time that Paul was teaching were aware of Satan's workings, and it was valuable to them. The same is true for us today, and the focus of the March LFM Bible study will be "Knowing Your Enemy."

One danger does come from learning about our enemy, and it too is seen Numbers 13. The spies returned from the Promised Land, and ten of the twelve were afraid. In essence, they said, "Man, those guys are huge!" They were afraid to enter the land God had promised to give them because they didn't think they could win. It is very important to remember that when we are looking at the enemy, we are looking at it from a position of victory in Jesus Christ. Yes, Satan and demons are powerful, more powerful than us even. However, in our position in Jesus Christ, we have authority over them. *Therefore, we learn about the enemy for the purpose of being able to exercise our authority and appropriate the victory of Jesus Christ.* We don't learn to be fascinated with them or learn out of fear of them. We learn to declare that God has won and walk in that victory!

#### **Prayer Concerns:**

Events: *Life of Freedom Bible Studies*—The next monthly Bible study will be on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend. The topic for this Bible study will be "Knowing Our Enemy." It is part three of the series on spiritual warfare.

As the ministry grows, the enemy works hard in opposition. Please pray for protection for me, my family, and those who come for help.

Some speaking engagements are on the horizon, and I ask for prayer in preparation for them.

#### **Final Thoughts:**

Learning about the opponent in basketball helps to win the game. After the game, players from both teams can be friends. In life, the matter is more serious. We can't be friends with the demons after the game, and the battle continues. Not dealing with the enemy can have eternal consequences for a person and his or her family. If it were important enough to study the opponent for a game that has little to do with our eternal destiny, would it not be important to learn some valuable things about the enemy who desires our destruction? I believe it does and I encourage you to join us in our studies in the coming months!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder

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