

# *Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance*



Newsletter—Vol. VI, No. 5  
May 2012

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

## **Greetings!**

May is already here, and we'll transition to the warmer months and outdoor activities. Even if life becomes busier for you, I hope that this month will be a blessing for you and your family. Also, may God minister to you and draw you more and more to Himself.

## **Praises:**

God continues to bring people to *Life of Freedom Ministries*, and more importantly, He has been bringing healing to the hurting. Many of them come with a sense of hopelessness, but God has restored them.

New copies of the book *The Ministry of Dean Hochstetler*, are finished and are available for a cheaper price at \$10. Dean blessed me with his ministry and this book tells his story. The book has led people to seek ministry help from me and other deliverance ministers.

## **Something to Consider:**

**Joshua 7:2-3**—*Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai.*  
*<sup>3</sup> When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there."*  
*<sup>4</sup> So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, <sup>5</sup> who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water.*

The Israelites had scouted out the territory and knew their enemy. More importantly, they had God's promise that victory was theirs. All they needed to do was claim the land and fight against the Canaanites. Something went terribly wrong, and they were defeated in battle. Over the last four months at the *Life of Freedom Bible Studies*, we've studied these very issues. We've learned about the enemy as well as learning about our identity in Jesus Christ and that victory is already won. This month, just as the Israelites learned, we will study on how victory can be compromised.

The story of Achan in Joshua 7 points to the reality that personal sin can bring about curses that allow for demonic affliction. Notice that I wrote *can* bring about, not *always* bring curses. We can look at this from two perspectives. First, we need not live in fear that every sin is going to automatically bring demonic affliction. As was noted at the April Bible study, demonic holds generally happen progressively and not instantly. There are a few exceptions, and we will address those at the May Bible study. Repeated sin, especially when it has been made clear that the sin is

happening, increases the likelihood of oppression. This was the case with Israelites. The orders were clear to not take anything from Jericho and Achan disobeyed that direct order and it brought a curse. The rebellion opened up the entire group to demon oppression and they lost the next battle. His personal sin afflicted many.

The second way of looking at this issue is that we should not automatically assume that a person's demonic affliction is due to personal sin. Take note of the last sentence in the previous paragraph. Achan's sin caused others to be afflicted. Experience in ministry shows that most demonization that I address is actually due to *sin of others against the person*. Most definitely, this does not seem fair. Remember what Dean always said, "Demons are not gentlemen!" They take advantage of the troubles of life and enhance them. Dr. Charles Kraft calls it "piggy backing." The demons don't play nice at all. Since most often the issue isn't personal sin, we should be very careful about judging others, especially labeling them as *evil*. Jesus treated those who were demonically afflicted as victims, not perpetrators. Showing God's love to those who are hurting and/or demonized is essential for their healing and deliverance. Praise God that curses of sins against us can be broken in Jesus' name!

At the May 14<sup>th</sup> Bible study, we'll examine more closely causes of curses and demonic problems, entitled, "Curses and Strongholds." I'll break down the five main areas that I address in ministry: personal sin, sins of the ancestry, trauma, spoken curses/sorcery, and having demonized objects. Remember that as we study these topics, that all believers can be freed in Christ from these curses. We will address "Freedom" in either June or July.

#### **Prayer Concerns:**

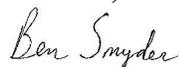
Events: *Life of Freedom Bible Studies*—The next monthly Bible study will be on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend. The topic for this Bible study will be "Curses & Strongholds." It is part five of the series on spiritual warfare, Life of Freedom Seminar: Free to Live for Jesus Christ.

While in communication with other ministers in various places, it was a common theme to be dealing with chaos and turmoil. Please pray for appropriation of Christ's victory over chaos and turmoil.

#### **Final Thoughts:**

Studying the causes of curses may take more than the May Bible study. Therefore, it is a good possibility that this section will be continued into June. If you are not able to attend these sessions, you can listen to them by going to <http://www.lifeoffreedom.org/biblestudyaudiovideo.htm>. The January 2012 audio/video begins the series. If you can make it to the Bible study, I invite you to attend!

In Christ,



Ben Snyder

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