

# *Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance*



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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

## **Greetings!**

For a greeting this August, I'll share from Psalm 112:1—*Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in His commands.* My prayer for you is that you will find delight in God's commands and experience His richest blessings in your life.

## **Praises:**

God is so gracious! I thank Him and praise Him for how He provides in leading people to send contributions to this ministry. He graciously has provided for us to continue in ministry another month!

I joyfully praise God for the deliverance He provided over the last month to different clients. It was a blessing to see how God brought healing as clients sought Him.

The speaking sessions at a local church are going well. I'm thankful and blessed for the opportunity to share about *Life of Freedom Ministries* and spiritual warfare in general.

## **Short Report:**

This report goes back to the time of being under the instruction of Dean Hochstetler. On one occasion at his monthly Saturday morning class, he announced that the class had "work to do." A person called late in the night Friday night. The person's spouse was out running in the streets, acting, and sounding like a wild animal. Dean's instruction was that we would spend time in authoritative prayer, each person taking a turn to pray for the person who was in great need. There were about 25 of us in the class. Each one then took a turn coming against the spirits afflicting this person in the Name of Jesus Christ, binding up the spirits so they could not work. After the prayer session, we continued on with the regular plans that Dean had prepared for the day.

Later that day, Dean called and shared that he had learned that the person had returned home soon after the time the group had prayed! The family was able to come to his home that night and the next night to work through a process of deliverance, and the person was set free! I was blessed to have the privilege to join the second session of ministry. I saw first hand that the family was so thrilled and thankful for what God had done, and for the group that exercised their authority in Christ.

## **Something to Consider:**

**Matthew 12:29**—<sup>29</sup> *"Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house."*

On many occasions, I am asked how a Christian can pray for others who appear to be burdened in some way by evil spirits. Often, there is a great sense of urgency that the people have, as they care about the person being afflicted. Since the garbage that allows the demons to be in the person needs to be addressed, in a very high percentage of situations the spirits can't simply be ordered to depart. Instead, the person needs the support of a prayer group.

The short report above is a good example of the kind of prayer that is needed for dealing with evil spirits. The prayer time was not a time of begging God to free the person. Instead, it was an application of Matthew 12:29. As a believer in Jesus Christ, we had authority to “tie up” the evil spirits (the strongman in the verse) that were at work in the person. The prayers did not cause the demons to depart forever. That work was done during the ministry time at Dean’s home office. Instead, the demons were caused to not be as effective in afflicting the person, and the person could think more clearly and make rational decisions. After the prayer session, the person had a clearer mind and wanted help, returning home.

That is the point of prayers for binding up, or tying up, the powers of darkness: to cause the spirits to be rendered ineffective so that a person will want to get help. In some cases, the prayers agitate the spirits so that they end up making themselves known to the person. Either way, as long as the person seeks help and total freedom in Christ, it is worth the time in prayer. Sometimes prayers are effective and the person seeks help quickly. Other times, the prayers must continue on for years. The hold of the demons can be very strong, but we must not give up! Jesus is greater than the “strongman”!

**Prayer Concerns:**

Events: *Life of Freedom Bible Studies*—The next monthly Bible study will be on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We will discuss in greater detail prayer for those in need of freedom. All are invited to attend.

In the last few months, I’ve asked for prayer support for new contributors. As I noted above, God has graciously provided for the ministry in the last couple of months. For the coming months, however, the need is still great. Please continue to pray for new contributors and for me to be able to reach people who would like to support LFM. Again, I ask that if you are not a regular financial contributor, that you prayerfully consider donating.

I will be speaking at a local church to the adult Sunday school class in August and it will likely spill over into September. Please pray for those sessions for Christ to be honored.

**Final Thoughts:**

Matthew 18:18 also addresses the matter of binding and loosing. At the August Bible study, we will look at these passages and more to discuss praying against the powers of darkness and for the freedom of those in bondage. The demons don’t like it when we seek the Lord in prayer, and they don’t like it when we are praying in Christian authority. I say, all the more reason to do so! If you would like to hear more about this type of prayer, I kindly invite you to the Bible study on August 12 at the LFM office conference room.

*Serving the Lord Jesus Christ,*



Ben Snyder

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