Life of Freedom MINISTRIES

Newsletter—Vol. XIV, No. 3 April 2020

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

It is with great joy that I can send out another newsletter for a month that celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the midst of a health situation that affects people worldwide, I believe it is a great opportunity for Christians to share the hope that we have. While maintaining appropriate respect for physical boundaries between people, we can share the true Good News of a Savior who came to rescue us from a broken world. Indeed, it will be an unusual Resurrection Sunday, as we'll have to celebrate in our own homes. However, let's not allow that to minimize our celebrating the victory of Jesus over the grave.

Praises:

I praise God though many have died due to the spreading of the virus, the last report I saw this morning as I write was that in the United States, though many have now died, there are many who are recovering as well.

I praise God that even though many jobs have been shut down, there are also many who can still continue to do their work at home. Certainly, the internet has been severely stressed, but some of the schools and businesses are able to continue on in their work. For LFM, some have been able to continue to meet, while others have not. The use of Skype also makes meeting possible.

I praise God for His ministering work in empowering people to cast their burdens onto Him. For some, just making the choice to follow through with an appointment is the hardest step. He gently encourages them to do so. One man shared, "I know I need to be here, even though I don't want to!"

Short Report:

The evil spirits that were tormenting Mr. U were named Fear and Lie. How did these spirits gain access to Mr. U? It was rooted in the lie that he was not good enough. The man had a number of experiences in life that the enemy used to guide him to believing the lie. First, his father was often angry, and that anger led him to think there was something wrong with him. Second, Mr. U was molested as a child. The emotional burden from the molestation made him feel like he was not good enough for someone to love him. He was just a body to be used. I led Mr. U through a time of confession, taking the burdens of these traumatic experiences to the Lord. Along with confessing the sins that were done against him, he cancelled any claims that any evil spirits could hold on him. We then confronted the spirits, and Fear and Lie were identified. They admitted their ground was cancelled and that they had to go. After the spirits departed, we spent time looking at God's Word and Mr. U's worth and value in Jesus Christ. Some of the truths I shared he had heard before, but they had new meaning for him because he could now see that they did apply to him. The presence of the demons kept him from fully grasping how significant he was to God. With them out of the way, the truth of God's word brought healing and restoration.

Something to Consider:

John 1:4—⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

1 Timothy 1:16—¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

Having significance, worth, value, and purpose are themes that I often encounter in ministry sessions. In fact, even for myself these are ideas that I must keep in mind. Many who are afflicted by the powers of darkness feel a sense of having no worth or value. They feel that their purpose is not clear even if they have one. Having significance is also seen as an impossibility. I'm not surprised by the majority of people who experience these things. The teaching of naturalism/evolution is that we have no purpose and just developed by pure chance from lesser life forms. There is no worth or value because nothing determines our worth other than what is relative to that person. Some may have value for a person and others don't. Even worse, that value may change moment by moment.

Other worldviews that diminish a person's worth are those of all other religions besides Christianity. In each of these false religions, in some way the person must work for salvation by their own strength. Their worth and value is based on what they achieve. For those who aren't successful, their self-worth can be very low. Those who do seem to have success can be so driven to get that success, or keep it, that they are never satisfied. The fear of losing the success, which determines their worth, can be overwhelming.

In different ways, I've seen how these worldviews have hurt people. Sadly, even in some Christian churches these kinds of views are entertained. Some churches minimize the orthodox truths of who God is and His creation of humanity that they take away our place of significance. Other churches over emphasize the need for Christian living so that people can feel worthless because of struggles. The Good News is that the Lord Jesus came to give us life. I know of no one else who gives us worth, value, purpose, and significance like the Lord Jesus. He came and gave up His life for us so that we can have Resurrection life and gives us purpose for our lives on earth. If you are struggling to find self-worth, look to Him and see how much He loves you. He shows that you indeed are of great worth and value, full of purpose, and significance.

Prayer Concerns:

Please continue to pray for God's intervention for those who are burdened with the corona virus situation.

Please pray for the clients who are not able to meet because of their health situation and needing to stay home from sessions.

Please pray for the farmers, as they begin the planting season.

Have a blessed Resurrection Sunday!

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Smyder

Ben Snyder

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