Life of Freedom MINISTRIES

Newsletter—Vol. XVII, No. 8 August 2023

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

# **Greetings!**

I pray that this summer is going well for you. If you're like me, the summer has seemed to pass quickly. For this month's newsletter, I'll be addressing the work of the enemy to bring confusion and indecision. In the inventory that I use, one of the questions for the clients is whether he or she struggles with indecision. It often amuses me that those who struggle with indecision are quick to admit that it is a problem. Then those who generally don't have an issue with indecision have to pause and think about whether they do have issues with indecision before realizing it isn't a problem. It gives me a good chuckle. It isn't funny though, when the enemy can bring confusion and indecision to people, creating torment for their lives. Praise God, though, we can combat the enemy in the victory of Jesus Christ. In Him, we can confront the confusing spirits and get them out of the way.

#### Praises:

I give praise to God for His working to bring a whole extended family to freedom from generations of affliction from hatred and anger, due to abuse in the family background. The spirits were at work to cause anger and confusion to multiple generations.

I give praise to God for His ministering to a man who was struggling to totally surrender to forgiving those who hurt him.

I give praise to God for a good report from a client who had been overwhelmed with depression, that the struggle was being overcome.

### Short Report:

When going through a difficult situation where a tough decision must be made, a believer usually wants to have clear direction from the Lord. Such was the case for Mr. TT. He was greatly burdened to make an appropriate decision that would affect his life, as well as others. He spent time in prayer, wanting to confirm that what he was sensing was accurate. The burdened was increased because there was confusion. It seemed the Lord was telling him the opposite of what he sensed to be the right decision. He'd pray repeatedly, seeming to hear the Lord giving the same answer. Mr. TT came to me for help, wanting to discern if there were evil spirits attacking him. We followed the instructions given in 1 John. I said to the spirit realm, "Does the spirit who tells Mr. TT to do this, do you acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh?" Mr. TT quickly shook his head. No, the spirits did not. They admitted to him that they were there to bring confusion, which caused him to be in great turmoil. We addressed the legal ground of the spirit, an inherited curse, and ordered it to leave immediately. Then, I asked the Holy Spirit to minister to Mr. TT and give him the confidence to do what he knew was right. He was then able to make a decision with a good clear conscience. Even though it was a hard choice to make, he could act on it because he knew the Lord was leading him.

# Something to Consider:

- **1 John 4:1-3**—Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
- **1 Corinthians 14:33**—<sup>33</sup> For God is not the author of  $\square$  confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Although Mr. TT was in great consternation, he still had a sense that the enemy was at work. He had good reason to anticipate the enemy's presence. The confusion was a good indicator that his mind and emotions were being messed with by dark spirits. As 1 Corinthians 14:33 says, God is not the author of confusion. Some translations say "disorder." Having disorder or confusion in one's mind certainly does not bring peace, and that was how Mr. TT was feeling. It was clear that there was a sense of peace as soon as it was clear that it was an evil spirit at work. The wicked spirit was found out, and the truth set Mr. TT free of the turmoil.

A major caution I give to believers who seek to hear from the Lord is that they test the spirits. Some believers, unfortunately, reject that the Holy Spirit speaks to Christians today. My experience in ministry has proven to me that He does. However, experience has also shown that we need to be very careful to test the spirits. Evil spirits try to masquerade as angels of light, trying to deceive us (2 Corinthians 11:14). On numerous occasions, I had clients share how the Lord told them to do a certain thing, and it turned out to be a deceiving spirit. They had not even thought about testing the spirit to make sure it was the Holy Spirit guiding them in their choices, and the choice they made caused problems.

Testing the spirits is made clear in 1 John 4. "Spirit, do you acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh?" This test has been very helpful in confronting spirits on many occasions in ministry sessions. The test is most often done best with another believer. Another caution in this, though, is to not just assume that we are to do the opposite of what the evil spirit is telling us. Mr. TT knew the right thing to do in this case. Sometimes, though, more prayer, personally and corporately, is needed to discern the Lord's direction. The Spirit of God is with us to guide us in our thinking, but we must not neglect the instruction to test the spirits.

### **Prayer Concerns:**

Please pray for those who are returning to school in the coming weeks.

Please pray for a client who is greatly being tormented by spirits, to the point of barely being able to function. The client's spouse is graciously giving care, but life has been very difficult.

Please pray for discernment for LFM board members as we consider expansion of the ministry.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Smyder

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