

Newsletter—Vol. XVI, No. 12 December 2022

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

Over the years of helping people with spiritual problems, it has been confirmed repeatedly God's presence in our lives. He is with us. In Matthew's gospel, he quotes Isaiah 7:14, noting the name Immanuel, which means God with us. In Isaiah's time, they didn't know the depth of what that name would mean, as the people then were thinking of God being with them during conflict with a neighboring country. Matthew gives the ultimate meaning, that with the birth of Christ, God was indeed with us. He became human to rescue us from a world of darkness. I pray that this Christmas season is filled with moments that draw your attention to the Savior. I encourage you to remember that Christmas traditions in and of themselves aren't what make the season joyful. Instead, it is the One to whom the traditions point that make the season joyful.

Praises:

I praise God for a wonderful time over Thanksgiving with my family. The older two children don't travel far to college, but having them home for the weekend was fun with time around the table with lots of laughter.

I praise God for the joy I could see on faces of clients who had their lives changed just by confession of sins and rejecting lies believed. Pouring out their burdens to the Lord took away the ground of the enemy and they were set free.

Special Reminder:

Year-end giving has been tremendous for our ministry finances. The gifts that are received at the end of the year have carried us through the lean months of the following year. For that reason, I ask that you prayerfully consider giving at the end of 2022. I greatly appreciate the support that is received as I could not help out many hurting people if it were not for those who have generously donated to this ministry. Thank you very much!

Short Report:

When this couple came to meet with me at my office, they had many issues plaguing them. Life was falling apart. One spouse was bipolar, often sick, had homosexual urges, lacked motivation, and was powerless to even try to quit smoking. Also, this spouse had been sexually abused multiple times. The other spouse had been diagnosed with a few mental illnesses, which were rooted in the struggles with being extremely critical, know-it-all, bossy, and controlling. The two no longer had physical intimacy, and one said, "I'd sell my soul to the devil" for an experience of physical intimacy. Their lives had been filled with traumatic experiences, and both were troubled with suicidal thoughts as well. In their time together, they had the shared trauma of three miscarriages. It was clear they were hurting severely and were near giving up hope.

After learning of all of their experiences and taking an inventory on sinful experiences for them and their ancestors, we began pray to confess their known sins and to formally commit to God the miscarried children. (It is very healing for the parents to formally commit the child to the Lord). Normally, this would be the point where we would confront the evil spirits. Because there was so much trauma in their lives, instead we had a number of sessions working through hurt memories so the Lord Jesus could bring them healing. He brought to

both of them many memories of painful events that they had forgotten. Between sessions, life was a roller coaster for them. Some days were great, while others were full of oppression.

Finally, we were to a point where we could address spirits to evict them. One spouse was host to spirits with function names of Lust, Apprehension, Guilt, Shame, Hurriedness, Passivity, Disrespect, and Rebellion. After addressing these spirits and commanding them to depart, the Holy Spirit rapidly brought to mind some other memories that needed healing. The second spouse was also hosting evil spirits. The function names of these spirits were Deceit, Fear, Worry, Suicide, Self-Pity, Apathy, Hopelessness, Despair, Depression, Mania, Doubt, and Negativity. In addressing these, we found that for their ground to be fully cancelled, the spouse had reject some lies that had been believed. After the spirits left, they chose to start new that day as believers in Christ. This is a very brief account of almost half a year of ministry. Their issues were deep and the demonic hold was strong, but Christ is victor and He set them free of the burdens that plagued them.

Something to Consider:

Luke 8:34-35—³⁴ When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, ³⁵ and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

The man in Luke 8 who had a demon was not in his right mind. The many spirits had driven him to live in ways that were not even close to normal. When the people of the area saw Jesus had healed the man so that he was in his "right mind," the change was so dramatic it terrified them. In this case, the mental issues of the man were spiritual. The same was true for the couple in the Short Report. Although diagnosed with some mental problems, the real problem in this case was in the spirit realm. Not all mental issues are spiritual, but some indeed are. The troubles of their lives gave the evil spirits a base to continue to bring problems to the couple, and much of the torment was to their minds. Just as Jesus restored the man in Luke 8 to a right mind, he did to this couple as well. Did this mean they never had any issues or that they didn't have any struggles? No, but with the evil spirits evicted, they could think clearly and follow the influence of the Holy Spirit instead. Finally, praise God that He came to this earth, born as a human baby, grew to be a man, healed people like the man in Luke 8, and then became the Savior for us. The man wanted to stay with Jesus, but He told the man to go and share what was done for him. Just as the man shared the truth with others, when we celebrate Christmas we can do the same.

Prayer Concerns:

Please pray for those for whom Christmas is a painful time that the Holy Spirit can bring them healing.

Please pray continue to pray for a client who encounters injustice, where governing authorities do not support him appropriately with his physical disabilities from his time in serving the country.

Have a wonderful and merry Christmas!

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Snyder

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