Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom



Newsletter—Vol. XIV, No. 2 February 2020

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

With late distribution of the January newsletter, it seems like I just finished sending a newsletter and now am sending out another. Being involved in ministry everyday makes the kind of topic that I'm sharing today seem common. However, I too have to remember the truth that my worth and value is in Christ Jesus alone. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers me to do the ministry work anyway! I hope that as you read this month's newsletter, you are encouraged to believe the truth for yourself that, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you need not worry about "being good enough."

Praises:

I praise God for the joy of lending a hand to a person who was bound by an addiction express the wonderful feeling of being free of that addiction. Like Ms. D below, this client struggled with worth and value, leading to a stressful life that was calmed with the addictive activity. Jesus set the person free!

I praise God for another good LFM oversight board meeting. The group is extremely supportive and encouraging for me, and I'm very grateful to have time to converse with them.

I praise God for how He so patiently and kindly ministers to hurting people in sessions. I'm humbled by how He always knows exactly what a person needs to hear for his or her healing. Sometimes the person can't even put into words what was expressed, but knows that the Lord has brought healing.

Short Report:

Life wasn't going well for Ms. D, and the trouble included physical maladies that medical doctors could not explain. On more than one occasion, she had to endure physical pain, and great fear from the pain because she didn't know the cause. God led her to Life of Freedom Ministries, and she made an appointment. She wanted to know if the trouble was spiritual in nature.

It turned out the problems were indeed rooted in the spirit realm. Ms. D worked through a list of sins, both personal and ancestral. The list was not that long, and did not really point to demonic affliction. The key to her troubles, however, was her believing a significant lie: her worth and value was based on her performance. Although it was not spoken or even intended from her family to be understood this way, she felt all her life that she didn't measure up to her parents' standards. She also held the belief that her relationship with God was based on performance.

When she rejected the lie and chose to believe the truth that her value is based on faith in Jesus Christ, she was freed of a number of spirits. The lie influenced the way she lived in a few different ways. As the Holy Spirit revealed these to her over the course of a number of sessions, she was freed of even more spirits. Ms. D grew in knowing her value and identity in Christ. She gained self-confidence, and the physical maladies disappeared.

Something to Consider:

Matthew 10:30-32 (AMP)—³⁰ But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered [for the Father is sovereign and has complete knowledge]. ³¹ So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Matthew 12:11-13 (AMP)—¹¹ But He said to them, "What man is there among you who, if he has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful and permissible to do good on the Sabbath."

A lie that is often encountered in working with people troubled by evil spirits is that he or she is not good enough for God to love them. Aware of the sinfulness in their lives, the clients are then tormented with the perception that God can't possibly value them because they are not good enough. When meeting with someone who struggles with this lie, I lead them through passages that address the person's place in Christ. For example, 2 Corinthians 5:17 notes that believers are "new creations." Ephesians 1-2:10 shows how we are placed "in Him," (Christ) seated at the right hand of the Father. I point out to the person that this place of being a new creation or in Him is not from anything that we have earned. Instead, it is given to us as we accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. The passages from Matthew noted above also show how God values humanity. When we don't believe this truth of our worth to God, the enemy can take advantage and bring about some problems. For Ms. D, the problems even manifested in her physical body.

It can be a daily challenge to appropriate the truth of being valuable to God. Yes, we are to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). However, we do that work in response to being in Him and being empowered by Him to do the work. As we trust in Him and His power to be at work in us, we can relax in doing the work. Even if we make some errors, we can trust in Him to help us start over again. Our place in God is not determined by performance, but our performance is determined, or at least greatly influenced, by how we view our place in God. Therefore, I encourage you to reject any lies that you hear that you aren't valuable to God. Indeed, you are so valuable He came to rescue you by laying down His life for you on the Cross! There is no greater love than this: the Lord Jesus laying down His life for you so that you may live (John 15:13).

Prayer Concerns:

Please pray for some clients who are struggling to appropriate the truth about the matter we are addressing.

Please pray for me to have the right words when I share the truth with clients.

Please pray for me to be able to surrender hurting people to the Lord and not take on the burden only He can hold. Sometimes my desire to help others creates an urgency in me to carry too much on my own shoulders.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Smyder

Ben Snyder

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