Life of Freedom MINISTRIES

Newsletter—Vol. XVI, No. 2 February 2022

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

Is it snowy where you are? In this first week of February, we were hit in northern Indiana with a snow storm. It is cold, and has made travel difficult, but it sure is beautiful. The snow on the pine trees behind the office, with the birds feeding on the feeder is a peaceful sight. Thankfully, we are blessed with ability to clear the driveway and the roads are open so we can continue with life.

Praises:

I praise God for how He works through the body of Christ. In conversation with friends and clients this past month, I was made more aware of people who follow the Lord's leading to help those in need. It moves me how when people partner with God, many people can be helped. It has encouraged me to continue to be willing to help those in need of spiritual freedom.

I praise God for how He gives strength to do His will. He doesn't just tell us what to do and then abandon us, but gives us gifts to do the task. Plus, He's always with us as well!

Short Report:

When evil spirits are involved, it shouldn't be surprising for a person to have difficult life experiences. Ms. FFF struggled with nightmares and suicidal and unclean thoughts. She also saw evil take over family members' faces when they would yell at her and others. Increasingly, her whole family began to hate her and treat her horribly. The family members were not believers in Christ, and had a background of involvement in occult practices (using a pendulum, Freemasonry, and superstitions), drug and alcohol abuse, and being abusive. She herself was involved in a number of occult practices: astrology, fortune telling, using a pendulum, visiting a psychic, trying to use psychic power, yoga, superstitions, and even magic healing by drawing out sickness from others. She also struggled with drug use, sexual sins, and behavioral sins, like being rebellious. We went through the normal process of confessing to God all the known sins we found in the inventory and cancelling the ground any evil spirits would hold for these experiences. We next confronted any evil spirits that were with her, but none identified themselves. Since none were cooperating, I invited the Holy Spirit to bring healing to hurt memories. There were many hurt memories that flooded her mind, and these memories consisted of her being betrayed by many people, especially her family. She also was believing many lies from these experiences. By the third session, she was increasingly feeling anxious and depressed, to the point she'd thought she was going to die. Finally, the evil spirits did respond to the orders to identify themselves, and seven made it known they were there. I did not press them on the names of their helpers, but simply bound them together and ordered them out in Jesus' name when they admitted they had no more right to stay. The root of the spirits' rights was through inheritance and due to the abuse from the family. Their names were: Stupid, Molester, Suicide, Going in Circles, Xian (she was mocked for being a Christian), Idolatry, and Violence. These spirits were evicted and sent to the abyss. I invited the Holy Spirit to fill the voids in her where the evil spirits once were, and asked His blessing on her. Ms. FFF had loads of spiritual garbage, and a large majority of it was not even due to her own actions. Thankfully, the Savior, Jesus Christ, was more than mighty enough

to set her free from the burdens that came from her family and she could have peace in her heart.

Something to Consider:

Psalm 27:10—¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

Luke 15:20—²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

One thing that has been increasingly impressed on my heart since starting full time ministry is how great God's love is for humanity. Time and time again, He ministers to the broken hearted, abandoned, and rejected person. He shows them how a True Father cares for and loves His children. Even though they (or really, we) all had their own sins to confess, He did not reject them. Just as the lost son returned to his father in the parable Jesus told in Luke 15, we all can return to Him. It is also fascinating to me how He ministers to each unique person in the way that person needs. We certainly can trust an all-wise God who knows our needs. Trusting in Him with our burdens is the only way to go.

In fact, in ministry sessions, only two issues keep a person from being freed of burdens. One is to not fully be honest with God. Hiding sins or even sins done against a person is like the lost son not returning to his father. Just as he didn't get to receive the gifts of his father unless he returned home, the clients aren't set free unless they address the issue. Sometimes a person isn't initially aware of the problem, but once they are and are willing to address the issue, they too can be set free.

Second, the client must be willing to forgive others. For Ms. FFF, there wasn't an issue with forgiving her family. She longed for them to come to saving faith. Sometimes it is a struggle for a client to choose to forgive, but when they do, the Lord is quick to minister to them and bring the healing to the wounded heart that is needed. He knows just what gift we need (Matthew 7:11), and heals in exactly the way the client needs.

I've been humbled by how patient, loving, kind, and gracious God is to clients. It has made me be even more aware of how He is the same with me. Wanting to be more like Him, I pray for His working in me so that I too am patient, loving, kind, and gracious to others, not just the clients, but everyone (even basketball officials!). I encourage you to be looking for how God is at work, showing His love to you and those around you.

Prayer Concerns:

Even though there have been some good developments with a number of clients, there still are some big hurdles. Please pray for a couple clients that have difficult situations.

Please pray for some coming speaking opportunities to share about LFM.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Smyder

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