Life of Freedom MINISTRIES

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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

# **Greetings!**

We have entered the season of Lent, where we reflect on the extreme level of love God has shown us through His Son's death on the cross and resurrection. This season is quite appropriate for a ministry like this because without Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection, we'd not be able to deal with evil spirits as we do. We all needed to be rescued from the corruption that is in the world, and God graciously intervened and rescued us Himself. My gratefulness for His loving intervention has increased over the years, and I have appreciated Lent much more. I pray for you, that Lent will be a meaningful time of reflecting on God's love for you.

# Praises:

I praise God for a recent email from a client who noted that after a ministry session she felt so much lighter and free. Even the burden and pain had left her body.

I praise God for freedom for a client who had some powerful spirits at work in her life. The confrontation with these spirits was more dramatic than usual, exhausting her. (I try to minimize the drama as much as possible). However, it was wonderful to know the spirits, who were angry and not happy at all, were evicted.

# Short Report:

Although there have been times where people who have to come to LFM for help are set free and seem to have no more issues, that is not what is most common. Sometimes a person is still in need of inner healing for the wounds of life. Others have some lingering spirits that were not addressed in the previous session. Many times it is a combination of both. Ms. AAA was one who had more evil spirits present because of wounded memories of traumatic events in her life. She had two specific memories from her childhood of being tormented and trapped by people. A spirit, with the function name Torment, continually tried to torment her whole being. This spirits would even force her to feel violently ill at times. The second spirit caused her to make a mess of her life, and his name was Sabotage. When we directly confronted him, he tried to be sneaky, telling her that he was Jesus. We put into practice 1 John 4 and put the spirit to the test, asking him, "Are you the Lord Jesus Christ who has come in the flesh?" He quickly admitted that he was not Jesus. He also admitted his work was to cause her to sabotage all that was good in her life, making it a mess. Ms. AAA had confessed to God the hurt and pain from the traumatic events. We again confronted the spirits to see if they had a right to stay, and they soberly told us they did not. Both spirits were then evicted, and the true Lord Jesus Christ, who did acknowledge that He came in the flesh, ministered to Ms. AAA, bringing her healing.

# 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.

In my conversations with people about spirit realm matters, such as deliverance, inner healing, or hearing from the Holy Spirit, I often encounter those who go to one of two extremes. First, there are some who totally reject the notion of people operating in the power of the Holy Spirit. The assumption is usually that if there is a spiritual manifestation of power, revival, or a spirit movement, it surely must be the working of an evil spirit. This is especially believed if there is a certain level of drama involved. The result is for it to be common to assume and declare to others that what is going on is evil. Unfortunately, this kind of assumption has influenced others who do need help or have a spiritual gift to keep quiet because they don't want to be considered evil. They don't want to be included in the crowd that is "deceived." For instance, a person can have a legitimate ability to speak in tongues, but hides it out of fear.

The second extreme is to assume that everything that appears to be good is of the Holy Spirit. I've helped a number of people who shared the "Holy Spirit" told them to do this or that, and it is clear that it was not the Holy Spirit. At best, it was their own thinking. People who struggle with this often are attracted to the more dramatic events, and even insist that there must be drama in a ministry session for freedom. If there is no dramatic power encounter, they will feel like it's not real. As I noted in the Short Report, I try to limit the drama and manifestations of spirits as much as possible. Dramatic power encounters do happen on occasion, but they are not necessary. Allowing them to happen, or even insisting or forcing them to happen is very hard on the client. It often allows the spirits to do more abuse to the person. Also, it assumes all spiritual gifts are of God. So any tongue that is spoken is assumed to be holy.

The Apostle John's first letter gives good instruction: test the spirits. This happens often in ministry sessions. I will challenge the spirits: do you acknowledge Jesus Christ has come in the flesh? Evil spirits will try to claim to be the Holy Spirit or Lord Jesus. We promptly test them, and when they fail they are evicted. Some people have false gifts of speaking in tongues because the spirits will not acknowledge Jesus has come in the flesh. Sometimes, the Spirit behind the tongue does. The main point is to not be quick to assume or judge what is, or is not evil. Satan and his host are good at deceiving and masquerading as angels of light, but God has given us a good test to discern what is and is not of Him. Let's follow the instructions to put the spirits to the test.

# **Prayer Concerns:**

Please pray for a client who has been burdened by abuse and not much support in life. The client is learning to believe the truth that one's worth and value is in Christ and not in what others say.

Please pray for a client who is trying to discern the root of internal spiritual turmoil.

Please pray for a number of clients who are continuing to grieve the loss of loved ones or the loss of loved ones that will come soon.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Smyder

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