Life of Freedom MINISTRIES

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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

## Greetings!

This newsletter is coming out a little bit later than normal due to some computer/printer issues. Therefore, if you are reading it before Mother's Day, I hope you have a wonderful day, especially for the mothers. If you are reading after Mother's Day, I hope you already had a wonderful day. It likely won't be, or wasn't a normal Mother's Day, but at the very least we can be grateful for life that we have because of our mothers.

## Praises:

Because of the time off from ministry sessions, I've been able to catch up on office work that had been neglected for some time. Straightening up files on my computer has made my office work much easier.

I praise God for His presence with us through the turmoil. Certainly, people are getting restless with the restrictions, but by His grace we can make it through. I've noticed lately in advertisements for what I would call a humanist perspective. Essentially, it is saying, "We can get through this because of how great we are." These kinds of catch phrases can be encouraging, but I don't believe they reflect Christian truth. Instead, I prefer to look it as, "We can get through this as He sustains us." We'll get through it not because of our greatness, but God's.

God also deserves praise for the beauty of spring. The colorful flowers and the plants growing and turning green certainly brighten my day.

## **Short Report:**

While in bed, Ms. QQ often experienced a sense of being choked and couldn't breathe. She heard, "You are going to die!" Having been around death since childhood, she had a great of fear of death. She was certain she'd die of cancer. These disturbing thoughts nearly kept her from functioning. Ms. QQ came from a line of dysfunctional families, full of bitterness, hatred, and resentment. As a child, she'd be locked in the closet and was told she'd never be pretty. To make matters worse, in her present home, she and her family were dealing with ghost phenomena. The trauma of her life, and her spouse's life, led both to have affairs. She came to LFM to address the matter from a spiritual perspective. After taking all of these burdens to the Lord in prayer, confessing to Him the sins she did, the sins of her ancestry, and the sins done against her, we took a different approach than I normally do. Instead of confronting spirits first, I invited the Holy Spirit to show her any lies that she was believing. Three lies came to her: she was not good enough, she was stupid, and she was not worth the time like others were. She renounced and rejected believing these lies. We, then, confronted the spirits and there were six who identified themselves. Spirits named Bitterness, Anger, Resentment, Hatred, Rage, and Fear were all evicted. Their ground was due to both ancestral sin and her personal experiences. With the spirits cast out, and the lies exposed, she left in peace. Something to Consider:

- **1 John 3:8—**<sup>8</sup> The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.
- **Colossians 1:13**—<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- **Hebrews 2:14-15**—<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Christ is victor. This was a common expression that Dean Hochstetler used when sharing about his experiences in ministry. I understood what he meant as far as Christ defeating Satan as it is shown in Scripture (like the examples above). As I continue on in ministry, I increasingly see how it is deeper than I knew fifteen years ago. For the most part, Christianity focuses on the atoning work of Jesus Christ in regard to our sins. However, Christ the victor view of atonement includes payment for sins and more. It focuses on the total victory of Christ over the evil powers. Also, it is not just a matter of a person being set free from demons. Instead, the entire being of the person is rescued from the claim of Satan. This is especially true when a person has a family history of Satan worship or witchcraft, where people have been directly committed to Satan or lower ranking demons. The biggest hold Satan had on humanity was death, and the Lord Jesus has broken that power. Still, the fear of death is used by Satan greatly.

Ms. QQ was a person who had a terrible fear of death. The abundance of evil spirits at work in her life afflicted her greatly with a fear of death. I've found this to not be unusual with people burdened by evil spirits. Even though the Lord Jesus has conquered death, the powers of darkness like to hold people in bondage to a powerful fear of death. They keep the person from remembering, or understanding, the truth that Christ is victor and one not need fear death. The lies were exposed, the demons evicted, and Ms. QQ was at peace. No more fear of death and dying. She was set free of these awful burdens because Christ is victor.

## **Prayer Concerns:**

As things open up around the country, please pray for wisdom on how to proceed for each person, and for people to be understanding of others' points of view.

Please pray for me also. As things open up and people feel more secure in going, there is a good possibility that I could become very busy, very quickly.

Happy Mother's Day!

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Smyder

Ben Snyder

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