

# *Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom*



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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

## **Greetings!**

Have you ever felt discouraged or overwhelmed by the evil that is around you? Perhaps during October it is even worse for you. I pray that the beauty of the fall season is not ruined for you because of the celebration of darkness that is around us. Let's remember that Christ is victor over the powers of darkness. Also, let's remember to have compassion for those who are deceived into participating in pagan celebrations and not be judgmental. Being attitudinal toward them will likely only drive them deeper into the darkness!

## **Praises:**

Praise God for opportunities to share about ministry. I had good experiences in the last few months to share with a local church.

Praise God for ministering to me through a conversation with a friend/colleague in ministry. By discussing similar experiences and giving advice, the time with this friend was extremely affirming.

Praise God for reports from clients from the past that show they are able to withstand the attacks of the enemy. In the past, these attacks would be overwhelming. Now, they are able to overcome!

## **Update on the LFM Website:**

The LFM website hasn't been functioning quite right for over a year. The repairs are under way, and hopefully soon a new and improved website will be available. I apologize for the inconvenience it may have caused anyone.

## **Short Report:**

Having blasphemous thoughts is deeply disturbing for any believer. For a person in ministry, it is usually even more disturbing. Mr. GG suffered from these tormenting thoughts as well as some issues with OCD in relation to the thoughts. He battled them for many years, but also realized these thoughts were not from himself. Still, even with his battling he wasn't gaining freedom. In discussing the experiences he had in life, I encouraged him to confess to God experiences he had that may have given the enemy a right to him as a child. He did so, and cancelled any claims any spirits had to him. The main issue that had developed for him was that he feared the Holy Spirit. On the one hand, he wanted to be full of the Holy Spirit and live a life fully for God. On the other hand, he feared that the Holy Spirit would cause him to do the bizarre things that some people, who were said to be full of the Holy Spirit, did in his presence. He feared being out of control as these people were. After unloading all these events and the feelings that went with them, we confronted the evil spirits. None of them gave their names, but they admitted they had no right to stay. They were ordered out in Jesus' name and they left promptly. I then asked the Holy Spirit to minister to him, checking to be sure the Spirit who did minister acknowledged that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (1 John 4). He certainly did minister to Mr. GG, and even showed him how he was surrendering to the enemy by doing the obsessive activities to try to keep the thoughts from tormenting him. Mr. GG confessed these to God also, and another spirit admitted he now had to go. Relief was on the man's face after this, as he now experienced the truth that he had known his whole life, that God was safe.

**Something to Consider:**

**1 Corinthians 14:33**—<sup>33</sup> *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.*

**1 John 4:1**—*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.*

The Short Report above has potential to come across as condemning churches that are charismatic in nature and are open to more dramatic workings of the Holy Spirit. Instead, the point is that it is necessary to test the spirits to confirm the spiritual activity is genuinely of the Lord and not a counterfeit. First John 4:1-4 shares that the Holy Spirit will acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. In ministry sessions, He does so promptly. The powers of darkness will reject the incarnation. They may not be quick to deny, but they will try to misdirect and not fully answer the question. Therefore, if the response in challenging the source of the spirit’s power is not a quick affirmation that Christ Jesus has come in the flesh, the spirit at work is not of God. More than once a client has believed that a spirit leading him or her was the Holy Spirit, but in fact was a demon acting as if he was the Holy Spirit.

To comment further about Mr. GG, his fear was legal ground because it was not a legitimate fear of God. He truly did, and still does, want to be obedient to God. However, his mistrust of the situation was appropriate. The trouble was that he was believing a lie that it was God who would want him to behave in such a bizarre manner: less than human. The people’s behavior that he saw was indeed less than human. It was animal-like in nature. My experience from conversing with many clients is that, generally, the more animal-like the behavior, the more likely the chance will be that the source is demonic. This statement is not intended to indict anyone or group of people. The issue is the reality that evil spirits counterfeit the work of the Holy Spirit, and some people have been deceived by these spirits. Just because something happens in a church setting doesn’t automatically mean that it is of God. Also, I do not agree with those who deny the working of the Holy Spirit in more dramatic, charismatic ways, as some churches have done. If there is a counterfeit, there must be a genuine article! We tend to like it to be black and white: either the all the charismatic gifts are of the Holy Spirit or there are none. We must not go to either extreme, but be willing to do the work of testing the spirits to determine what is or is not of God.

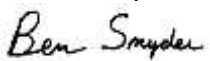
**Prayer Concerns:**

Please pray for a few clients who struggle to come to sessions because spirits cause illnesses, making them not feel well enough to come for help.

Please pray for clients who need assurance of their place in Christ and authority over demons.

Please pray for me in the next couple of months, as the season can have more intense spiritual conflict.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,



Ben Snyder

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