# Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom



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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

# **Greetings!**

The last few weeks, I've been studying a great deal in 1 & 2 Samuel, as our church is doing a Bible reading over that section. I've noted how since the death of Joshua, the Israelites struggled to do things God's way, and just did as they saw fit and were involved in idol worship. The result was bondage: a king took control of the people with a great tax burden and they were in spiritual bondage. The kingdom was torn in two and both parts eventually were taken captive. The same is still true today. If we get involved in the ways of the enemy, the product is bondage! I've worked with so many persons who have suffered because of their own choices and the choices of others to reject God's way. Thankfully, not all is lost, as there is redemption through Jesus Christ. The heartache that comes with the suffering due to not doing it God's way can be replaced with His healing and joy.

#### **Praises:**

I praise God for the growth and progress that clients have made in the last month. When the spiritual battles are deep and dark, the progress can seem small. These clients have been growing in freedom!

I praise God for the number of opportunities I had to share the Gospel while in ministry. Not everyone who attends sessions fully knows the Gospel, and it is nice to have them choose faith in Christ.

I praise God for His hand of protection and how His angels guard us. When demons are angry because of angels around me and the client, I'm delighted and very grateful!

#### **Announcement:**

Now available to purchase online is the book *The Ministry of Dean Hochstetler 1974-2005*. This book is a compilation of case reports, letters, transcriptions of lectures, and writings by Dean Hochstetler. He was an ordained minister in the Mennonite Church for 40 years, and was my main mentor for ministry. You can purchase the book through Amazon (and support LFM) by clicking here:

https://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=nb sb noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-

<u>keywords=the+ministry+of+dean+hochstetler&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Athe+ministry+of+dean+hochstetle</u>r. Also, the book can be purchased through Lulu.com. You can click here for that:

https://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=dean+hochstetler&type=. Previously, I had to order books and have them printed. Now, you can order them directly!

## **Short Report:**

Inner healing for wounded persons is a powerful part of ministry. For this couple, Mr. AA had the joy of visualizing the Lord Jesus ministering to Him. In a ministry session, I'm sure to test the spirit to make sure that it is the Holy Spirit behind the vision, thought, picture, or word the person has. If the person has a vision of Jesus, I ask, "Are you the Lord Jesus Christ who has come in the flesh" (1 John 4)? Sometimes it is not the Lord Jesus, but a demon who is masquerading as Him. In the session with Mr. & Mrs. AA, it was Him, and He brought the man healing. A while later, while praying "Jesus" came to him again, telling him that a gift the man had was too much of a burden and would be taken away. Mr. AA did feel that the gift was at times too much for him, so he didn't object. After that experience, a

number of issues developed for the family. His wife had feet pain. They had some issues with their daughter. Things did not seem right. After sharing this with me at another session, I suggested that we double check that it was really Jesus. I asked, "Does the Jesus that Mr. AA saw acknowledge that he is the Lord Jesus who has come in the flesh?" The man groaned. It was not the Lord Jesus but an imposter. Mr. AA took the matter to the Lord, confessing how he was deceived and the demon had to go. Before going, the demon admitted to causing the foot pain and other issues in the home. The Holy Spirit brought another vision of Jesus, and this Jesus did acknowledge that He came in the flesh. The couple felt relieved and at peace. It was a good reminder to test the spirits and not just assume that one who says he is Jesus is actually the Lord Jesus Christ who has come in the flesh.

# **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.

**2 Corinthians 11:14**— $^{14}$  And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

Inner healing ministries from time to time encounter opposition from believers. Wanting to honor God and not be involved in anything of the enemy, those in opposition reject the inner healing ministry because of the visualization that can take place. The New Age movement has used visualization as a healing technique, and therefore all visualization should be rejected. However, the enemy's work is a counterfeit of what God actually does. Therefore, if there is a counterfeit, there must be a genuine. God does use visualization, which can be a powerful experience. The key is to test the spirit. Does the spirit acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh—God Incarnate? If not, it is a work of the enemy and needs to be rejected. If the Spirit says yes, then I step aside and allow Him to minister. The focus of this is for you to be reminded that when you have a spiritual experience—seeing or hearing spirits, seeing something supernatural, having a dream/vision, or the like, it is good to test the spirit behind the experience. The enemy wants to deceive us and bring destruction. In our authority in Christ, we can make sure that it is of God! We don't need to limit the work of the Holy Spirit, but let's be sure to test and be sure it is Him!

## **Prayer Concerns:**

I mentioned last month about some clients from a long distance away who need help, but are having trouble making arrangements to be here (or to another ministry). Please be in prayer for them for the ability to get the help they need.

Please pray for a particular client who is full of self-blame when childhood abuse and trauma was great.

Please pray for a client who many days just wants to quit the battle.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Snyder

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