# *Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom*



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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

# Greetings!

Since we relocated two summers ago, I'm not able to talk to my dad as much. I sure miss it! The physical distance of being in separate towns has caused me to reflect upon how greatly blessed I am to have a dad that I do. Obviously, I appreciate him very much, and am so grateful to God that I do have a terrific dad, as not everyone does. My prayer is that for those who don't have, or didn't have, good dads that you can be healed of the hurts you have. Instead of a day of burden, it can be a day of remembering God's work of healing! Indeed, I hope that the fathers have a wonderful Father's Day!

#### Praises:

I praise God for some breakthroughs! It has been humbling to see how powerfully God has been at work in changing peoples' lives.

I praise God for how He provides opportunities for me to share about ministry. I'm not always real excited about the pressure from the potential controversy this kind of ministry can cause, but He continues to put me it places where others can learn and then get help. In the last month, I had two opportunities to speak with pastors and future pastors. It sure was a relief and a blessing that they were receptive to the idea of deliverance ministry.

# Short Report:

This report goes back to the time of being under the instruction of Dean Hochstetler. On one occasion at his monthly Saturday morning classes, he announced that the class had "work to do." A person called late in the night Friday night. The person's spouse was out running in the streets, acting and sounding like a wild animal. The family had no idea where this person had gone, and needed help desperately. Dean's instruction was that we would spend time in authoritative prayer, each person taking a turn to pray for the person who was in great need. There were about 25 of us in the class. Each one then took a turn coming against the spirits afflicting this person in the Name of Jesus Christ, binding up the spirits so they could not work. After the prayer session, we continued on with the regular plans that Dean had prepared for the day.

Later that day, Dean called and shared that the he learned that the person had returned home, soon after the time the group had prayed! The family was able to come to his home that night and the next to work through a process of deliverance, and the person was set free! I was blessed to have the privilege to join the second session of ministry. I saw first hand that the family was so thrilled and thankful for what God had done, and for the group that exercised their authority in Christ.

# Something to Consider:

Matthew 12:29—<sup>29</sup> "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house."

#### Matthew 18:18—<sup>18</sup> "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

A very common question I am given is this: "What can I do to help my.... I know they are burdened by spirits, but they are not willing to deal with the problem." In some cases, a person has come to LFM and has been helped. In other cases, I've been sharing about the reality of the spirit realm and issues the demons cause in our lives. After learning about or experiencing such things, people identify friends and family members who are burdened by spirits. Naturally, they want to help the person to come to freedom.

The first issue is that the person must want help. We cannot force someone to address these kind of matters. Evil spirits do not want to go, and will work hard to keep a person from getting help. The Holy Spirit must be at work in the person to open one's eyes to the need of spiritual care. For this to happen, the spirits of darkness must have their hold on the person minimized. This is how we can help the person, by using our authority in Christ to "bind up" the demons and keep them from being as effective in burdening the person.

In Christian authority, we could give orders, as Jesus did, for the spirits to leave. Experience has shown, though, that God wants healing more than just the eviction of demons. The real matter actually, is not the demons, but why the demons are there. Whether it is personal sin, ancestral sin, or being sinned against, the person must address these matters for healing and freedom. Therefore, our authoritative commands for the spirits to be bound, tied up, to stop it, to stand down, or something of that nature is necessary so their work in the person is reduced. Then the Holy Spirit can work freely to influence the person to seek help.

The case report above showed a very rapid working in the person. It can be rapid, but it can also take years of coming against the spirits in this way for the person to be at a place to get help. We must continue to stand against the works of the enemy in those we love so that they can be set free. I often suggest to give these commands three or four times a day, out loud, against the demonic host. It doesn't have to done loudly. Even a whisper is good. Bind up the demons from their work. Loose the person from the grip of the demons. Loose upon the person the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in him or her. Bind the person's mind to the mind of Christ so he or she can grasp better God's truth. Also, pray blessings of the opposite of whatever the struggle the person has. We can ask for holy angels to minister to the person as well.

Finally, prayers and commands of this sort may make life more difficult for the person. The spirits will battle for sure, and that battle just might cause the problems to intensify. I encourage you to not quit or let up, but fight for the person in the spirit realm. Continue to pray and command until the person has been set free.

#### **Prayer Concerns:**

Please pray for the rain to be minimized for the ground to dry so that planting can happen.

Please pray for discernment. New, challenging cases require patience as I try to discern how to help.

Please pray for those coming to LFM to experience the joy of Christ despite the demonic attacks.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ren- Smyder

Ben Snyder

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