Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom



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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States. The fall weather has been different (wet, the leaves have seemed to turn slowly, and up down temperatures), so it seems odd to already be thinking about Thanksgiving. Nonetheless, I pray for you to have a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Praises:

I praise God for His provision for me with a faithful oversight board. We had a good meeting at the end of October. Their support for me helps me continue in ministry.

I praise God for how He prepares people for coming for help. So often when people share about the process of getting help I can see His hand in leading them to freedom.

Note of Reminder for Christmas and Year End Donations:

As we head toward the holiday season and you begin to shop for gifts, if you shop through Amazon.com, please enter Amazon through the LFM website. Any purchase through this link brings a donation by Amazon to LFM at no cost to you! Contributions to LFM from Amazon has slowly increased over the last few years, and it does help!

Also, if you give year end gifts to nonprofit organizations, please prayerfully consider LFM. Gifts such as these help our finances greatly. Thank you for your support!

Short Report:

Having a night's sleep interrupted by an overwhelming sense of being choked certainly is not any fun. Even as a child, Mr. V endured such experiences. As he grew up, he was involved in occult activities that are often thought to be harmless or silly, like children's divination games called "mash" and a "magic 8 ball." Superstitions were also common for him. Mr. V also was involved in some drug use and sexual promiscuity. Nonetheless, the blood of Jesus was sufficient to deal with Mr. V's sinfulness, and he was set free! Spirits named Lust, Worry, Confusion, and more were cast out. Mr. V was a committed believer in Jesus Christ even before he addressed these matters, but he felt that something wasn't quite right. With all of the sin base, it turned out that the root to the demonic hold was a lie that he was not good enough! Praise God! Mr. V was set free from the burdens of the sins, the demons, and the lie that he was not good enough.

Something to Consider:

Deuteronomy 18:9-13—⁹ When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. ¹⁰ Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,¹¹ or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. ¹² Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same

detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. ¹³ You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

Sharing a word of warning, and seemingly doing it often, is not that fun. However, when a person, like Mr. V, has life problems because of the presence of evil spirits, I believe it is important to share what I've learned. Since it is Thanksgiving season, I thought it would be appropriate to share about a common activity done at Thanksgiving. In this case, it is wishing on an object: the wish bone. Superstitions like wishing on objects (candles on a birthday cake, shooting stars, wells, fallen eyelashes, and more), give power to evil spirits in one's life. In essence, the person is giving power to an object to determine what happens in his or her life. Demons take advantage of such wishes and use it against the person as they see fit.

Many times, folks say that these superstitions are just things "done as children." In the inventory I use for ministry sessions, the section on superstitions says this: *This is another way of giving power to someone or something other than Jesus Christ. Even if you think you do not believe them, but have merely given lip service to them, you can unconsciously weaken your faith in Jesus.* We may not take superstitions very seriously, but demons do take them very seriously. Another example was a man who would often say, "Knock on wood." This common superstition supposedly protects a person from "jinxing" himself and causing something bad to happen. Whenever the man would say this, he would hit his head! Sure enough, a demon was with him named Stupid. The man was saying he had wood for a head.

Notice that Mr. V's superstitions were combined with a number of other issues. Superstitions often point to greater involvement in the occult in the ancestry. The demonic uses their influence to increase their hold through superstitions. By believing and practicing the superstitions, the people continue to give more and more power to the enemy in their lives.

The list that I have of superstitions continues to grow. It seems that every now and then someone will have a new one to share. Different parts of the world have different superstitions. Regardless of where you are from, I encourage you to not give power to the enemy in your life by participating in superstitions. So often, the superstitions cause a person to live a life of fear. If you to break the wishbone to see who gets the bigger half, no problem. Just don't consider the one who gets the bigger half to by "lucky" and say their "wish will come true." Instead, thank God for His blessings and trust in Him to provide, not the bigger half of the wish bone of a turkey!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Prayer Concerns:

Please continue to pray for God's protection over me and my family from retaliation from the enemy.

Please continue to pray for God's clarity and discernment for helping some particular clients.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,

Ben Smyder

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