

Angels Are Our Allies

Lesson 05 of the series, "Spiritual Warfare"

A. We are involved in a spiritual battle.

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

Ephesians 6:11-13 (NLT)

B. Angels are our allies.

1. Angels fight against the devil and his demons.

"Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels... His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth." Revelation 12:7-9, 4 (NLT)

Life Application: If God is our refuge, we can be confident He has assigned powerful angels to protect us.

"If you make the LORD your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone." Psalm 91:9-12 (NLT)

Note: There are plenty of angels to protect us. "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels..."

Hebrews 12:22 (NKJV) (see also Revelation 5:11)

Life Application: When we are afraid we must pray!

"I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!" Psalm 34:7-8 (NLT)

2. Angels serve God and care for His people.

"... angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation."

Hebrews 1:14 (NLT)

- God sometimes sends angels to encourage his people. "But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.'" Acts 27:22-24 (NLT)
- God sometimes sends angels to guide his people. "In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God. One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said. Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel. And the angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received by God as an offering! Now send some men to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. He is staying with Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore." Acts 10:1-6 (NLT)

Life Application: Angels are excited to tell others about Jesus. We need to be excited too.

"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:10-14 (NKJV)

"... there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:10 (NIV)

- God sometimes sends angels to rescue his people. “The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, “Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off his wrists. Then the angel told him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals.” And he did. “Now put on your coat and follow me,” the angel ordered. So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn’t realize it was actually happening. They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. Peter finally came to his senses. “It’s really true!” he said. “The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!”

Acts 12:6-11 (NLT)

Life Application: We can be confident that God has angels working on our behalf in ways we can’t see.

“When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. ‘Oh, sir, what will we do now?’ the young man cried to Elisha.’ ‘Don’t be afraid!’ Elisha told him. ‘For there are more on our side than on theirs!’ Then Elisha prayed, ‘O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!’ The LORD opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.”

2 Kings 6:15-17 (NLT)

Life Application: Although angels are impressive, we must not worship angels or hang around people who obsess about them.

“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.” Colossians 2:18 (NIV)

Life Application: We need to practice hospitality to strangers.

“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” Hebrews 13:2 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions

1. Read Hebrews 13:2. Have you ever had an experience that led you to believe you had been visited by an angel? If so, what happened?
2. Read Psalm 91:9-12 and 2 Kings 6:15-17. How do these verses make you feel?
3. Read Colossians 2:18. Why do you think some people obsess about angels while others don't believe in them at all? Why do you think Paul warned early Christians to stay away from folks who worship angels?
4. Why do you think it's more acceptable to speak about angels than Jesus in our culture?
5. Read Luke 15:8-10. How does it make you feel to know that angels in heaven rejoice when people begin a personal relationship with Jesus?
6. Spend some time as a group praying for our nation. Ask God to send a spiritual awakening and to protect his people.
7. Discuss the following quotations:

"God's angels often protect his servants from potential enemies." -Billy Graham

"If two angels were to receive at the same moment a commission from God, one to go down and rule earth's grandest empire, the other to go and sweep the streets of its meanest village, it would be a matter of entire indifference to each which service fell to his lot, the post of ruler or the post of scavenger; for the joy of the angels lies only in obedience to God's will." - E.M. Bounds

"I had the privilege of playing an angel on 'Touched by an Angel' for many years - almost two decades, and we would deliver a message on the show. The message was that God loves them, and before filming every scene, we would come together and pray." -Roma Downey