

## Our Allies (part 1)

Lesson 4 of 5 in the series, "Spiritual Warfare"

### A. The Bible tells us there is an unseen spiritual battle going on all around us all the time.

"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. **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 6:10-12 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** Angels are our allies in this unseen battle. "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But **for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me**, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come." Daniel 10:12-14 (NLT)

### B. The Bible has a lot to say about angels. (There are 273 references to angels in 34 books of the Bible.)

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

Hebrews 1:14 (NLT)

#### 1. Angels are intelligent, personal, **spiritual** beings.

- Angels are powerful. "That night **the angel of the Lord went out to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers**. When the surviving Assyrians woke up the next morning, they found corpses everywhere." 2 Kings 19:35 (NLT).
- There are myriads of angels who live in heaven, worshipping God continually. "Then I looked again, and I heard the voices **of thousands and millions of angels around the throne** and of the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.'" Revelation 5:11-12 (NLT) "**Countless thousands**" Hebrews 12:22 (NLT)
- Apparently, good angels outnumber fallen angels (demons) two to one. "Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. **His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth...** 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.**" Revelation 12:3-4a,7-9 (NLT)
- Because angels are spiritual beings, they do not have physical bodies, but they can appear in physical form, sometimes in great power and sometimes as ordinary people. "Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For **an angel of the Lord** came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. **His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him**, and they fell into a dead faint." Mathew 28:2-4 (NLT) "Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have **entertained angels without realizing it!**" Hebrews 13:2 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** Angels are created beings just like us. They are NOT gods, nor are they equal to God in any capacity. We must not pray to them, worship them or obsess over them. "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. **He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.** Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ...**Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things.** Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body."

Colossians 1:15-17, 2:18-19a (NLT)

#### 2. Angels are servants of God and He sends them to care for His people in many ways.

- God sometimes sends angels to deliver important messages. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem**, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10b-12 (NLT) “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 assist us in bringing people to Christ. “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) “As for Philip, an **angel of the Lord said to him, ‘Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.’** So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.” Acts 8:26-28 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** Angels rejoice when sinners repent. “... there is **joy in the presence of God’s angels** when even one sinner repents.” Luke 15:10 (NLT)

- God sometimes sends angels to protect/rescue 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)

**IMPORTANT!** When we’re afraid, need guidance, or worried about someone who is far from God, we should 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 34:4-8 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** The angels view themselves as servants of God. We should too! “I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me. But he said, ‘No, **don’t worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you** and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this book. **Worship only God!**’” Revelation 22:8b-9 (NLT)

John Schmidt • 05-17-26 • [john@centeringlives.com](mailto:john@centeringlives.com)

### Connect Group Questions.

1. Have you ever had an experience that led you to believe that God sent an angel to protect you? If so, what happened? Acts 12:6-11, Psalm 91:9-11)
2. Read Revelation 5:11-12, 2 Kings 19:35 & Psalm 34:7-8. How does it make you feel to know that the Lord has myriads of angels at His command to help us?
3. Read Acts 8:26-28, 10:1-6, 30-48 & Luke 15:8-10. How does it make you feel to know that angels assist us in bringing people to Christ and rejoice when sinners repent?

4. Read Colossians 1:15-17 & 2:18-19. Why do you think Paul warned early Christians to stay away from people who worship angels and claim to have special insight into such things?
5. How might it change our church if we all thought of ourselves as fellow servants of God, just like angels? (Revelation 22:8-9)
6. Read Hebrews 13:2. Do you think it's possible you've entertained an angel without realizing it? Why would God send undercover angels our way?
7. Discuss the following quotations:

"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 believe no angel ever appears in Scripture without exciting terror: they always have to begin by saying 'Fear not.'" CS Lewis

"The angels must often be astonished at us and think we are the strangest creatures that well can be, yet they love us, and therefore they take a great interest in that gospel that promotes our highest good."  
Charles Spurgeon