



Angels

Women's Discipleship Class – October 23, 2019

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Verses Covered This Week

Acts 8:26 – 29, 12:5 – 8

Daniel 6:19 – 22

2 Kings 19:35

Hebrews 13:1 – 2

Matthew 22:29 – 30, 28:1 – 5, 18:10

1 Corinthians 11:3 – 10

Psalms 18:10

Joshua 5:13 – 14

Isaiah 6

Ephesians 5:21

We're going to talk about, and really it shouldn't be too long, angels tonight. It's another one of the words that, I don't know why there are so many words in the New Testament that are not translated. This is the Greek word. If you sound it out, that's exactly it. So we obviously drop the ending. We say angel. So the word is not translated. The word literally means, *angelos* means, messenger. You remember, we use the word the Gospel, good news, that word is a combination of this. It means good message. So the Greek word is not translated. So when you have, for example, in Revelation 2 and 3 it will say, to the angel of the church at Thyatira, to the angel of the church. But really, the reference is probably pointing to the pastor of that church. He's the one that delivers the central message in that day. Particularly since they didn't have the Word. And so it's a statement to the pastor. It's not really an angel. And so there are times in the New Testament when it's difficult to know which way it goes.

We're going to look at some that I think are absolutely clear. Now there are a couple things we're not going to go back into so I want us to simply remind ourselves. We looked at Revelation and the fact that God created millions upon millions of angels: seraphim, cherubim. I do want you to remember, obviously, one-third of the angels fell. So two-thirds stayed. So there are more, in a sense, good beings than bad beings. The bad beings are outnumbered by the good beings, two to one. Now obviously that doesn't have a lot of bearing. For example, when Michael has to help Gabriel get through the prince of Persia, this demon is obviously capable of conquering Gabriel and he requires extra help to get through. So we have the same, and I think you'd see the same

organization. If Satan has organized his demons, I can assure you God has organized His. So they're in a set situation and we'll look at one of those verses tonight.

So I want you to go to a couple places. Number one, we're going to start in Acts 8:26 – 29. We actually looked at this earlier. But I wanted to look at it again to remind ourselves. This is one of those odd places, verse 26:

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south

And then when you drop down to verse 29:

²⁹The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

So in Acts here, you have both angel and Holy Spirit communicating to Philip about leaving a revival in Samaria and getting on this desolate road. Now the question is, and I don't think the Bible answers it, did he know it was an angel. Obviously the person, Luke, who wrote Acts, the Holy Spirit led him to understand it was an angel and the Holy Spirit. Maybe Philip knew that. We don't know. But there are obviously times in our life that one of the functions of an angel is to communicate to you. Now that's going to be one of their functions and that is to speak to you and help direct your life. Now look at Acts 12:5 – 8. Now listen to this.

⁵So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church of God. ⁶When Herod was about to bring him out on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers,

It's one of my favorite verses in the Bible. He knows he's going to die and he's sound asleep. This guy's got some tremendous faith. And it's really the only way you shut him up is to make him sleep.

Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷Behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to them, a light shone on the cell; and he struck Peter on the side, woke him, "Get up quickly." The chains fell off his hands. ⁸The angel said to him, "Dress yourself, put on your sandals."

The angel takes him all the way. So, they rescue. Now that's the second thing they do. Obviously he rescued Peter from a tremendous danger. It's one of those tough things if you're James' wife, remember there were three main guys: Peter, James, and John. If you're James' wife, your husband's killed out of the box. Peter's going to live until 68 A.D. John's going to live all the way to around 95 or 100 A.D. So you have the three main guys. They all have a different destiny and Peter is rescued where James is not. It's one of those tough theodicy questions and I would imagine you've got the church praying and I would imagine James' widow is going, "Why was my husband not saved and Peter was?" It's an interesting theodicy issue. But none the less, they rescue.

Now slide over to Daniel 6:20. We know this story. You've been to any kind of Bible school, we know this. He's in the lion's den. Look in 19.

¹⁹At the break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰He came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²²My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless.

And then the guys had Daniel put in there are thrown in with the lion who has not eaten all night and he eats them. So they also protect us. Now go to 2 Kings. We looked at this earlier, but I just wanted to repeat this and remind us.

³⁵That night the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians;

They will attack for you. Now I want you to understand some of what they’re doing here. I have a purpose to my madness. They’re capable of telling you what to do. They can rescue you. They can protect you. They can go on the attack for you. Now go back to Hebrews 13. I make you do this so you understand where the books of the Bible are. Hebrews 13:1 – 2. This is a Baptist verse. All Baptists love this verse. I don’t know why, but they do. It says:

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

So they may be present without your knowledge. So you are not always going to know or recognize an angel. Now look at Matthew 22:29. Now there’s a weird place in Genesis where it talks about the Nephilim, the giants of the land, and that the sons of God came down and had sex and created the Nephilim. And so there are a lot of people that misconstrue that as being angels. Here’s why we know that’s not true. Listen to what Jesus says.

²⁹But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, you know neither the Scripture nor the power of God. ³⁰For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

In other words, they do not reproduce. So their number is limited. Ours is not. We change our number. God’s given us that creative ability in His image. We have the ability to reproduce. Our number is not set. Yet theirs is set. So whatever’s been done, they cannot alter. God, obviously, can add to or take away, but they cannot alter their number. The do not have the privilege that we have of reproduction.

Slide over to Matthew 28:1 – 5. Now finally this last time when we did the Easter pageant, we did the angels right. Every other pageant we’ve ever done; the angels are women. They have glitter, little wings, they’re up there like this. Here’s a real angel.

¹After the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look to see the tomb. ²There was a great earthquake for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him, the guards trembled and became like dead men.

They are, and virtually every time they're met in the Scripture, they are frightening. They are not sweet, little beings. And I'm going to show you why here. There's a really interesting verse in the Old Testament we're about to look at. But this is, if you really saw them, if they were in here, you would cower. They don't float with toilet paper on clouds. They are distinct. Go to 1 Corinthians 11. Now Paul's addressing head covering in church. I don't want to get into a lot of stuff about this. Head covering for a woman in that century was the same as a ring for you ladies in this century. A ring is symbol and a statement that you're in submission to a man you've married. The head covering was that for them. It was a sign of their submission to their husbands. So listen carefully, verse 3.

³But I want you to understand the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, the head of Christ is God.

So he starts this section out with that idea of submission.

Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵Every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head since it's the same as if her head was shaven. ⁶If a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. ⁷Men ought not to cover his head since he's the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. ⁸Man was not made from woman, but woman from man; ⁹man was created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head because of the angels.

Odd statement. The only explanation I have. We tend to look at the angels in the Bible as stoic and set beings because the Bible, the problem with reading anything, including the Bible, it's flat. There's no emotion to it. You have to feel your way into the text. These beings are obviously emotional beings. God's emotional. He gave them the same concept of emotion. And so when he says, so when they look down, you've got to remember, they're emotional and they lost a third of their friends because they quit being submissive to the Father. When they look down in church and you have guardian angels, Matthew 18:10, just real quickly before I finish this. I meant to go there first. Look at Matthew 18:10 because this is correlative to this.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

So you've got guardian angels from a child. Now these beings have lost a third of their friends due to a lack of submission to the Father. So when they're in church and they see you ladies married to a husband, but living out of submission to him, it breaks their heart. You wound your angel when you live in a way, in the same way, that they lost their friends. I think they mourn the loss of their friends. We saw some of the emotion in them when Jesus cast them out of the Gadarene demoniac, and they're were terrified. So they have the ability to be emotional. And I think what this is indicating is all of us have a guardian angel, maybe more than one, but we have at least one guardian angel. And they are emotionally wounded when, ladies, you don't live in submission to your husband or if you're single, you don't live in submission to God's call inside

His kingdom. They're wounded. And so Paul says, when you're in worship, particularly, let's not wound those who are guarding you.

The obvious question is, and we're almost done so I'm actually pretty quick tonight, the obvious question is going to be if they do communicate and rescue and protect and attack for me, help with my knowledge, they don't reproduce, but they are frightening, and they are a guardian for me, what in my life do I do that allows them to work for me? Now you can stop them. So I want you to look at a couple verses. Go to Psalm 34:7 and then we'll also look at Joshua 5:13 – 14. That's one of my favorites in the entire Bible. And I think it explains Psalm 34. So go to Psalm 34:7. Listen to what he says.

⁷The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

So if I don't fear the Father, then I don't get delivered. My ability for them to act and bring this into my life, is contingent on whether or not I fear the Lord. Now the reason for this is in Joshua 5. So go to Joshua 5:13 – 14.

¹³When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand, Joshua went to him and said, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴He said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord, now I have come.

They don't serve you even though Hebrews talks about them being ministering spirits sent to minister to you as a child of God. That is true, but that ministering is based on this. They don't live for you. They live for their King. And if you fear the King, then they deliver you. If you don't fear that King, they don't take care of you. Oddly enough, I guess the best way to say it is you are not their interest. They're interested in whatever the Father wants. And so if you honor the Father, they honor you. So if I want these things, obviously I am assigned one, here's the interesting thing, this talks about the fact that they guard you, but the face of the Father they see all the time. So they're in your life but they are connected to the Father. So you have this guardian angel that serves you, but sees the Father. So there's this connection and so what that means is he will serve you as long as the One he sees says, "Yes, because they fear Me." Now I'm going to tell you something, and again, I don't want you to go home and drop pills or quit taking whatever medicine the doctor's given you, don't do that. But I do want you to understand that I think a lot of times, in America particularly, we don't depend on God we don't even live for Him all that much. If these things are happening in your life, they're going to lift a lot of depression. If these things are not happening in your life, you're going to have a lot of depression. And so it may well be that your depression a lot of the times isn't tied to a chemical imbalance or anything else, it's tied to the fact that the angel is not going to respond as long you do not fear the Father. So all of this together, they are active in your life, I think you do have a guardian angel, I think they can be active, I don't think they ever leave you, I don't think they always serve you. If you look at the Father and say, "You know, I know what You say, but don't care." Then that angel's still with you, but they're withdrawn. It's interesting to me with Joshua he says, he had his sword drawn. So he's ready to do whatever he wants to do for Joshua, but he's very clear to Joshua, even Joshua, he says, "I'm not on your side. I'm not for you or against you. I'm for the Father and I'm against whatever the Father's against. So my swords drawn. I'm always ready to be there for you, but if you leave the Father, I will not serve you." And remember, what did God tell Joshua in chapter

1? Be strong in the Lord and meditate on this word so that you may obey it and then you will be prosperous and have success wherever you go. So if you want, and that doesn't mean American success, if you want spiritual success, I do think you have to have angelic blessing. I think without that you are limited in a spiritual realm and if you want them maximizing, that particular guardian angel, maximizing in your life, then you've got to fear the Father. Because you are not their care, He is. And if He says, "They fear Me, draw your sword, use it." Then he's going to use it for Joshua. If Joshua turned away from the Father, he would have failed. And here's the thing. Joshua would have failed and assumed that they simply weren't physical able to conquer the Canaanites when the failure would have been because the angel of the Lord stood back and did not back him.

So I think they're organized. I think there are twice as many as demons. I think they're there. They serve you if you fear the Father. So if you want to maximize spirituality in your life, it's interesting to me, right, what does this say? That I fear Him? You don't fear Him because you read your Bible and pray. You fear Him because you are submitted to Him. That's the concept of fear. I'm trembling. And so I yield to Him. Classic example of that: Isaiah 6. I would go home and read that. Isaiah's terrified. Sees who he is, sees who the Father is, and once it's over and He forgives him, his fear then drives him to say, "God wherever You want me to go, I'll go." And then God begins to bless him all his life. I think you do have angelic beings. I think they're in here. I think they travel with you everywhere you go. Always ready to serve you. But their service is contingent on where you are with the One they love. And I think that is, particularly in this day when they watch friends quit on that Father. They stayed with that King and they will not value anyone who doesn't value the King. So let me say this and then I'll open it up for questions. Can't tell you how many times I've preached somewhere and it's just dead. The church is dead, spirit in the church is dead, it's just dead. It is because you have a group of people whose angels in that worship are wounded. I think we can feel in worship the wounding of angels as we break their heart because we're not living in submission.

So ladies, I know this is difficult for you, but here it is. We men have to live in submission to Christ. I want to be careful here. Beth Moore got popped, I don't know if you saw it, by John MacArthur out of California. MacArthur's overwrought, the flip side is that Beth Moore made a statement this year at the ERLC just about a month ago. Let me back up. There are two ways for women to view their status in the kingdom. I shared this Sunday morning. There's egalitarian which means you and I are totally equal in every way so you can be a pastor as much as a man can be. Or there's complementarian which goes back to 1 Timothy 2, that a woman cannot usurp authority over the man. The passage we just read right here is so abundantly clear. It doesn't mean that you're less than a man, but you definitely have roles and that's a complementarian position. Beth made the statement about a month ago that it is the complementarian position in Scripture that is causing the abuse of women in the Southern Baptist Convention. So there are two sides to this little argument that's going on. Beth, to me, has impacted millions of women in a powerfully great way. And she has never intimated that she wanted to be a pastor. She's never intimated anything like that. But I remember years ago when Dr. Patterson was at Southwestern, the attitude of the seminary was that she was way out of step with Scripture. I think Beth's been beaten up by so many preachers, some of whom are simply jealous because she's a really good speaker, and they've beaten her up so badly that I think part of what she's saying is a response to all that she's faced and have been beaten up by so many men that I think really we're quasi-jealous of who she is. But no matter what John MacArthur says or Beth Moore says, this is pretty clear. I have to live in submission to the Father or my angel is grieved. You have to live in submission

to your husband, if you're single you live in submission to the kingdom. If we don't live in the submission of the areas we live in, then we would our angels.

So let me flip this around. Ephesians 5, one of the things I'll look at when we walk into Ephesians 5 with the, it's interesting, I think it's 5:21, I want to show you how we have to submit as men. 5:21 in the Greek it says:

²¹Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ

The Greek word's actually a military word that means to totally obey. But then look at what he says. But then the word submit doesn't reappear in the passage. But it says

submitting to one another

So I have to submit to my wife. How do I submit to my wife when I'm the head of the home? Here's how. Listen to what he says.

The husband's the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her that He might sanctify her.

If I give myself up for my wife, then the decisions that I have the right to make as head of the home will not be based on my heart; they will be based on hers. So I submit to her by making the final decision based on what she wants. Now if she wants a Ferrari, and I'm making \$10,000 a year, she is not getting a Ferrari. As a matter of fact, I did make my wife get out of one car. She bought this little Spyder thing. It was about this high. And some poor guy backed into it because he didn't see it. And I realized one day when it was next to my truck in the garage, that the roof was below the hood of my pickup. So I looked at her and said, "You're out." We're getting another car. I say, no, to my wife when it's best for the family, best for her. Maybe there are times I need something she doesn't want me to get, but I can't because of my walk with Christ. Whatever those things are, there are obviously some exceptions, but on the whole, if we can't compromise on an issue, I have to submit to my wife by making the final decision if everything else is equal on what she wants, not what I want. So as a husband, if I don't live in that submission, I wound my guardian angel.

Questions

Q. You were talking back in Matthew what were the Nephilim in Genesis?

A. Probably Goliath may have been descended from them. Very big beings. We have no idea what they are. I just know they're not a product of angels and men. To be honest, here's my honest answer. I have no clue. I really don't. I've read that a zillion times. All I know is that it's not angelic. So they're not some weird supernatural, weird, spiritual-dimension being. But honestly, I have no idea what they are. That's my honest, biblical, and I would tell you I would look it up but there'd be no point because I've studied it and I still don't know.

Q. What happens to your guardian angel when you die? And is an angel in charge of more than one person?

A. I think when you die they're reassigned. I think they'd have to be. They're not going to follow you into heaven. Their work is here for right now. Does an angel have more than one person? I don't think so. Because this seems to be in the singular. So I think by being in the singular I think it would mean they have one person. In my case, I have several guardian angels. They run on shifts. As a matter of fact, they're one hour shifts.

Q. So in a case where a woman is married to a non-Christian should she still submit to her husband?

A. We're not there yet. I am going to talk on men and women, whatever little I know about women. I know men really well. I know enough to know I don't know anything about women, but I'm going to attempt to explain a couple things about you that I don't know. There's my best way to put it. I will address that there. I think it's too much tonight. I do think, let me just answer one perfunctory thing. I think you're still bound in submission in some ways, even if he's not a believer. And the reason I think that is Paul makes a statement in 1 Corinthians, he can leave you, but you can't leave him. Which would imply I'm bound in some sort of submission. I don't think you're bound spiritually to him. If he says, "I don't want you going to church." Then I don't think you're bound there. But I do think there's some submission binding there that you have to find. It's one of the reasons you need an angel to help you understanding the Holy Spirit to communicate to both of you because that's a difficult position. We'll address that when we get there.

Q. If you have a guardian angel and they're being overwhelmed in your life, do they call on Michael or do they call on the Lord who then sends Michael or Gabriel?

A. I think they would have to call on the Lord. I don't think they have the right to control what other angels are doing. If they're organized under the Father, then I think they'd have to call on the Father. I think that's part of why in Jude, Michael says to satan, "The Lord rebuke you." Even in his own authority as the archangel of God, he didn't have the right to rebuke satan. And I think at that point, when Gabriel's not getting through, I think God would have dispatched Michael. Because he may be over here involved in something else and he can't leave. And I don't think Gabriel would have the authority, peer to peer, to command. I don't think they all have the same rank. I think the strength varies, I think the rank varies, I think there's a real similarity to us.

Q. I was driving home and it was dark. It was a two lane road, one way, a guy pulls out of Haswell. He turns right, he was supposed to turn left so he's going the wrong way. I'm in that lane. I look down one second to try to find the Astros game and something made me look back and there he was, and I got to move over. So it wasn't my time, but did God tell an angel to move me or did the angel just protect me? What do you think?

A. No, that's a great question. But I think it goes back to here. I think, obviously, God did protect you. I would never diminish that. Whether it was an angel or the Holy Spirit, I don't know. At the end of the day, it doesn't really matter, as long as He speaks and I

respond. So I think absolutely. I think we've all been through those, I think we all know Jon Perrot died this week. I was visiting with Lisa yesterday and she was telling me that not long ago he rolled his jeep. Really bad. Should have been dead. Got out, walked out fine. As a matter of fact, she was laughing saying that he's standing there with the bystanders and they're going, "Where's the guy?" And he said, "That's me." But then, obviously, when he died the other day slumped in his car, no foul play, not any external damage, then obviously, I think He protected him there, and took him here.

A. That is correct. Nothing God has created is going to die. I don't think the Bible answers that. That's a great question. I don't think they're capable of injury. They're only capable of being overpowered. Gabriel was overpowered by whatever demon who's running Persia and he can't get through. So I think there's overpowering explained in the Scripture. I don't think there's anything about their injury. I don't think they can make him flee because they're locked into an area. The prince of Persia is, obviously his assignment was the nation of Persia. Now that Persia's gone, once it went into oblivion, I don't know if he stayed in the same geographical area or if he's got a new assignment. So I don't know that one. But I don't think you can make them flee from wherever they're assigned. I think God's given a certain leeway to demons until the end of time. Let me back up. We gave that leeway to demons when we sinned. He's sovereign, but this is called satan's world. So we gave it to satan. So we opened that door. We gave the leeway. God curtails it bit by bit. Satan could come and kill Job's family, torture him, but there was a limit to that. Same with Jesus and Peter. Satan was allowed to sift Peter to a degree, but not to where his faith totally failed. It's one of those reasons why no matter what you face in your life... Today was one of my top 5 worst days in the ministry. It will come out here in a few days, but I sat with a lady all morning with what she's facing. It's horrific. And so for her, I know her, she'll lean on the Father, but at this point that's all she has. So we face some hard times. A particular man is allowed some things in his life. I'm going to have to address it Monday night in the sanctuary. I do believe that two things are true in my life. If I fear the Father, and I'm as consistently as I can be, filled with the Holy Spirit, his ability to mess with me is almost gone. He can put bad circumstances in my life, I will tell you, I'm not going to miss this part of the ministry. When I see what he does to people it kills me. And particularly when I see what he does to people because they let him. I don't think satan can do anything to me I don't let him do. And I think the angels bear some work in there. I think I can diminish demonic influence in my life with angelic intervention. And then the Holy Spirit can fill me to allow me to do what I need to do. And I think that's all my choice. How all that works in there with them, can't explain it all. I just know it's there.

Q. You don't think he can do anything to you, you don't allow him. We are talking on a spiritual, emotional, not circumstantial, illness, and things.

A. He doesn't control circumstances. Only God controls circumstances so he has no bearing on those. He's not omnipotent so, yes, I'm talking mainly spiritual.

Q. But in Job's children, were they killed because of physical, the earthquake

A. But God allowed that. His ability to kill them was based on God allowing it. So that was a whole different ballgame. The book of Job is to me the most difficult book in the Bible to explain en masse and understand and work through.

Q. In what ways do they communicate?

A. I don't know. I mean all it says is, he spoke to Philip. There are times, obviously, there are verbal communications because Joshua is standing there and he's there and they obviously have a verbal communication. Don't know if that happened with Philip or not. Now that I think about it, I'm trying to process it in my head. I don't think I can think of an angelic encounter that wasn't verbal. So maybe it's always verbal. I can't think of one that's not.

A. I think you can communicate back to them. Joshua did that. We see that with some things. And then you have this other interesting thing that says, the angels brought Moses the Ten Commandments, so you have some intervention there. I think you can carry on a conversation as far as they will allow. I think what you find when you look at the New Testament and people encounter angels, they don't want to talk long. These guys are frightening. And I think when they see them, they tend to back away. It's why people have taken the phrase, the angel of the Lord, in the Old Testament and said it was Jesus pre-incarnate. That's been a standard definition. I don't think that's true. I think Jesus can't be pre-incarnate. He's the third person of the Trinity. He's not incarnate until Mary is old enough and the Holy Spirit puts Jesus in her womb. So there's no pre-incarnate, but the angel of the Lord is so strong and unique in the Old Testament that people have attributed it to Christ and I think that's a real problem. For example, I don't like ever using, in Hebrews chapter 1, it talks about to which of the ministering Spirits did he ever say there is Son and there's this huge gap between the angels and God's Son in the book of Hebrews. That's the other reason I don't think you take the angel of the Lord. But there is obviously some communication in there. But on the whole, the angels are so frightening that communication always in the Old Testament is very limited. So I think if you knew they were in the room and you saw them, you wouldn't want to talk to them.

Q. You said that you could wound the angels, so they're emotion must be very positive, there's got to be some loving.

A. I think they have the same emotions we do. I think they have the same emotions God has. They have an emotion of terror with Legion. They have an emotion of hurt there. You can grieve the Holy Spirit. I think you would be grieving that guardian angel as well. But I think the same thing is if He encamps around those who fear Him, if I fear the Father, and I'm filled with the Spirit and I'm submitted to where I need to be, I think they feel good about my life.

A. That's a great question because satan is obviously capable of impersonating any angel. I think you go back to this right here. Anytime a being, there's no way a demon acting as an angel is going to tell me to obey this at all. I think the most insightful thing I ever did, it was the worst thing I ever did, but I walked off, if you know anything about New Orleans, you have New Orleans and Bourbon. But if you walk off those streets, real deep into the paganism of the French Quarter, you get into some real volatile stuff. So right after I was called to preach, I was heavy into Hal Lindsey and he'd written a book, Satan Is Alive and Well on Planet Earth. I went into a voodoo store and found on a rack a satanic Bible by Anton LaVey and Satanic Rituals that went with the bible. So I took it home. I actually four years later threw it out of my office because I sensed some evil with it. But when I read it, it was intriguing to me because what Anton LaVey does with the scripture is where Jesus would say, for example, "He that follows Me must deny himself and follow Me." He will reverse it and say, "He that follows satan must honor himself and deny Jesus." And he reverses all the scriptural standpoints. And the same thing in the rituals. All the things you did to pull demons up. But it was interesting because it made me realize anytime anything in me senses stepping away from the parameters of Scripture, that should be my warning there's a demon trying to influence me. Jesus quoted it but He also stood on it. That was the key point. I think quoting it doesn't do any good because the enemy knows more than I do. But I think I have to stand on it.

A. It's hard to know what he means when he says you can entertain angels unawares. It's hard to know what he means. This is my own take, I think sometimes we walk by a homeless guy, it could be an angel. You have somebody that comes to you that really needs help, it maybe an angel. I just don't know what that means. And the problem is, whoever wrote Hebrews, didn't explain that. I think it is absolutely a test. I think Hebrews 13 is hinting at a test. If you entertain angels unawares, I think that is exactly what it is.

Q. So does that mean that sometimes angels can take on human form?

A. They can take on human form. I think they probably do most of the time. But who knows what that is. You've got the uniqueness in the gospels of them shining, being bright. There is a distinctiveness to the human form they take on that's obviously enough like us that they weren't freaking out. But distinct enough that they were terrifying.

A. I think that may well be. I think angels and demons are probably going to play the same role in overt and covert. I think that may well be.

Q. What if some religion wants you to pray to angels?

A. You ignore that. You don't ever pray to anything except the Father. You pray to the Father through the access of the Son, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

- A. Yes, I think every person has a guardian angel. But the difficulty with that is, and I think this is where you begin to see the demonic and angelic onslaught, is when a kid goes through, he's molested, he's abused, I think when you say, "Why did the guardian angel let that?" I think we gave the world to an enemy. We've got to live inside that dynamic. I do think, though, that there are kids that are abused that don't go crazy because they yield to the Father and that guardian angel helps move them as best he can along the difficulty of what happened to him. We had, I think I shared with you, we had a girl who lived with us for 9 months. In college she was raped by two guys one night. I watched her heal through that. She wound up marrying, having kids, watched her heal. And I think there was angelic intervention for her. Even though not protection, at a certain point there was intervention afterwards.
- A. If you're not a believer, I think that guardian angel is trying to bring you to Christ. It's the other reason why I don't think, I always hear the question, "What about people born in Africa and have never heard the gospel?" I think guardian angels are at work trying to let them know. You've got two aspects. Somebody asked the question earlier. You've got Romans 1 that says, every person is born with a knowledge of God. How I react to that knowledge depends on what God then does with that reaction. And I think part of that reaction is also you have a guardian angel pushing you toward the knowledge you have inside you. So I think that's their role. I think it's evangelistic and aiding in a believer.