

WORKING WITH ANGELS

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1. ATTITUDES AND WORDS

I have been believing God for about seventeen years for the healing of my eyes. And there has been remarkable improvement. Recently a few months ago I was asleep and then in the middle of the night I was wide-awake and was spending time with the Lord. There was an angel that came and didn't say any word. And he took a round ball of light. It looks more to me like an eyeball. He took it and came straight at me and put that ball of light into my left eye and it went inside of me. I could feel it going inside of me and it became like a fire on my inside. In view of that I felt that I should teach on the working with angels.

First I will quote a few experiences of people working with angels. And then I will go to the word of God. You can never know something until you have experienced it first. Christian life is not a creed. It's not just a theology although we want to develop the best theology possible in Christendom. We always recognized one fact that it is the revelation that comes from God. It is not because we strive or we acquire on our own ability that we can understand anything of God. The wisest man in the world in the sight of God is like a fool. The wisdom of God is so great and high above the reach of man. We can never understand Him by our ability or anything of His manifestation. The foolishness of God is so powerful that it confounds the wisest man. That is how great our God is.

And there is a spiritual law in principle that we don't really know anything until we experienced it. You can know something about those things. You know about those things through somebody else sharing what their experience or through reading the word of God. But we don't really know it until we experienced it. God is a person and He wants us to experience Him as a person. Your relationship with your wife is a legal relationship. But at the same time is a personal relationship. A house is a house but it is the relationship within the things that takes place called a house that makes it a home. Christianity is a true life relationship with God. When you experience a person you experience him in the spiritual world which has a side effect on our soul and on our body. And so in working with angels we can never really understand them until we experienced them.

However we cannot base theology on experience. Theology must be based on the word of God. But the experience helps us to look at the word in a different way. Without the experience I believe none of us will look at the word in a different way. There are many people who were former hard nut anti Charismatic. One day they were hungry for God. God touched them and all the theology and arguments and persuasions in the world that could not persuade them to change their view. One experience changed them. And they re-align the whole thinking. One good example is the apostle Paul a great intellect in his time. No amount of arguments, no amount of reasoning could have converted him. But one awesome experience with the Lord Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus was enough to change him. Paul did not base his theology on experience. Because of the one experience he went back and re-studied his theology. Our theology needs to be re-studied from time to time. Because sometimes our theology hinders us from the experiences of God, especially when it is a wrong theology. So we do not base theologian experience. But we recognize that experiences help us and inspire us to look at the word of God in ways we never look at before.

In Kenneth Hagin's biography in "I believe in vision" he described a visitation from an angel. I like to read some extracts from that before we look into the word. And see some principle on working with angels. Reading from the book "I believe in vision":

My fifth vision occurred in Texas in 1958 while I was holding a revival meeting at the First Assembly of God Church. One night as we were praying around the altar a great spirit of prayer of intercession seem to come upon the whole church. We prayed together for quite some time and then I got up and sat in a chair on the platform. I was sitting there with my eyes opened singing in other tongues. Suddenly he Lord Jesus

appeared on the platform. And about three feet behind Him stood an angel. Jesus said to me, "I send my angel to speak to you nearly a year ago in California." I remember the occasion says Kenneth Higgins and I have not responded to him. One afternoon I was lying across the bed in my house trailer resting. I was meditating and reading my bible getting ready for the service that evening. Suddenly I had a feeling that someone had come into the trailer. I looked but couldn't see anybody. But I was positive that someone had come in through the door. It even seem as if I had heard the door open and close. I sensed that someone came and stood beside the bed. I reached out my hand to feel whatever might be there. And I said I know you are there. Who are you? There was no response. Although I never saw anyone I sensed that someone stood there for a few moments. Then he turned around, re-trace his steps to the foot of the bed went up through the trailer and out the door.

He missed his angel's visit. I wonder whether you have missed the angel's visit.

Then I seem led by the Spirit to open my bible and read about the ministry of angels. I felt that an angel had come to me but I have not opened my heart to the visitation. We continued our ministry in the state of California. The children were traveling with us at this time doing their schoolwork through correspondence courses which we helped them with. As they have been traveling with us for about a year we decided that it was too hard on them. They were doing a great deal of traveling. We were doing two services a day as well as trying to keep up their studies by correspondence. Therefore we decided to return to our home in Garland so that the children could attend a public school. The people who have been renting our house moved out so that we could move in. But we have sold all our furniture when we bought our house trailer. So we have to buy a whole house full of new furniture. Of course we have to go in debt to do so. This made our monthly payment extremely high. We were still making payments on the trailer, the house, the car and then the furniture, not to mention our living expenses. For more than a year we lacked for about a hundred dollars every month in getting enough money to meet our budget. Therefore we have to go in debt for that much. I had to borrow a hundred each month just to pay expenses to keep operating. Back in 1956 the Lord had spoken to me warning me that a recession was coming. Not a depression but a recession and that I should prepare for it. Then fifteen months later the Lord appeared to me in Texas. I was still bearing the consequences of not getting ready for the recession.

And back to this vision where he saw the Lord and the angel standing three feet behind him. And he was remembering the incident when the Lord says, "I sent my angel to warn you again when you were out in California because I saw you haven't listened to the leading of my Spirit and didn't respond to my warning. If you had yielded to the spirit and if you had responded to the Holy Spirit then you would have been able to see into the realm of the spirit. By the discerning of the spirit you would have seen the angel and he would have delivered his message to you. If you would have received it, you would have been spared all of this financial troubles."

As fifteen months have passed since this time. And I was going in debt each month for a hundred dollars. This now total a debt of one thousand five hundred dollars. The Lord continued, "I am going to help you however." I sold the trailer with the help of the Lord. He also said I am going to help you in your ministry as well. And he talked to me about my ministry admonishing me to be faithful. Then pointing to the angel standing beside him, He says, "This is your angel." "My angel?" "Yes your angel, and if you were to respond to him, he will appear to you as I will at times. And will give you guidance and directions concerning the things of life. So angels are ministering spirits who are sent to minister for those who are the heirs of salvation. Everything that the Lord has shown to me in this vision concerning my finances, my ministry came to pass within ninety days.

In other books he talked about how when he look at the angel. The angel said my angels are working to bring the finances to you. Then he asked the angel what do you mean by my angels. That angel said he has other angels working with him. This is the statement you see often, *if you respond, if you yield, if you open yourself.* Now God will speak to you first through the word of God and the Holy Spirit. And he will complement it with the working of the angel. But many times when we are not listening carefully and we are not fully yielding and we do not respond to them, your supposed visitation becomes nothing.

And the Lord spoke to me and said, "Tell the people in your church that my angels have been working with them and some of them have not been responding to the angels therefore they are in financial problem. But if they were to listen to what my Holy Spirit and my word is saying and respond to the instruction that I sent my angels to bring to them, they will prosper."

Therefore I am teaching on working with angels so that we will not fail to respond when the angels are working in our lives. Another experience from, the book "War beyond the stars - Angelic encounter" Here is a different occurrence where one day there was this business man who was taking a rabbi to visit a church. Let me read that story to you. He was showing a Jewish Rabbi to his home church one morning. The Rabbi has been baptized in the Holy Spirit and was to share his testimony in a local F.G.B.M.F.I Chapter that evening. As they toured Tom's church, it was the time of the morning prayer meeting. When they came to the prayer room, they passed quietly so as not to disturb the men who were praying. As they approached the door to leave the room, one of the men began praying very loudly in his heavenly language. Tom moved on as he was accustomed to this type of prayer. However the Rabbi lingered at the door. After a few moments Tom approach the Rabbi to remind him that it was time to continue as they were to speak before a ladies luncheon and must first return to the hotel to dress. But the Rabbi placed his finger across his lips. For some ten to fifteen minutes Tom waited. Surely the Rabbi has experienced such a thing before, an intercessor praying in tongues. As he approached the Rabbi again, he noticed that the Rabbi's countenance had changed. He looks like someone who had seen a ghost. His complexion was white. "What's wrong?" Tom asked. "Silence" the Rabbi commanded. For a full thirty minutes the Rabbi stood in the doorway listening intensely to the prayer of the man in the prayer room. After a while there was silence. Who was the man praying? What language does he know? The Rabbi queried. Tom said, "He is an uneducated man here in the church. He knows no language other than English. I know him well. I will introduce you so that you can see for yourself." The Rabbi then explained that he had just listened to the most beautiful and perfect Hebrew. The man switched from Psalms and began calling angels by name and sending them on missions. Angels were called by their Hebrew names and were sent out on specified mission to aid those who needed help. Some were sent to aid missionaries in troubles. The names and vocation of the missionaries were also being mentioned in the Hebrew language. The Rabbi was visibly shaken. Never had he even remotely dreamt that such a thing could be possible. And of course Tom required some time to regain his composure.

That is a true story here. Now what does the word of God say about working with angels? We need to understand that angels are real beings and they have laws by which they governed and which they function in. Some of the laws are initiated from God's side. Some of the laws are on our side. From Kenneth Hagin's testimony I showed you that there are some things from our side. How we respond to them. We know that there is a law in the spirit that is irrevocable. God only interferes when man pray on the affairs of his life. It is the prayers that allow God's intervention on this earth. How He interferes, some of the how is through angels.

So as we work with angels I want to point very clearly to those facts that the words that we speak and the attitudes of our hearts will cause and affect our success in working with angels. Angels are beings of God who carry specific mission and specific gifts that God sends. And if our attitudes and response to them is not correct and wrong, it will also hinder their ministry. So the first area is the attitudes of our hearts. The second is that our prayers and our words are affecting the spirit world in ways that we never realized.

And we need to look at the word of God to establish that fact. The first fact that I want to establish from the word of God and establish the theology based on at least three scriptures is that the words that we speak in our mouth affect the work of the angles in our lives.

Look at the book of Daniel, the Lord also impressed me to share this that some of us are about to enter into the newness of ministry. And this is the word that God gives that the prophetic has always worked with angels. And the time that God is going to start working closely with us through angelic visitations has come. And the Lord says to open his heart to it and to open his life to them and we will enter into a new phase of ministry. But for some of us there is as new dimension that you will enter into that you will began to work with angels. We have been working with the word of God, with the Holy Spirit and with the angels invisibly. We have come to the point where we need to understand them working with us so that we could flow and fine-tune some finer things that God wants to do.

In the book of Daniel 10: 1 onwards. *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel his name was called Belteshazzar. (The message was true but the appointed time was wrong. And he understood the message and the understanding of the vision.) In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself till three whole weeks were fulfilled. Now on the twenty fourth day of the first month as I was by the side of the great river that is the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked and behold a certain man clothed in linen whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz. His body was like beryl, his face looks like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I Daniel alone saw the vision. For the men who were with me did not see the vision. But a great terror fell upon them so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone. When I saw this great vision and no strength remain in me. Yet I heard the sound of his words. And while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face to the ground. Then suddenly a hand touched me which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hand. And he said to me, "O Daniel man greatly beloved understand the words that I speak to you and stand upright for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking these words to me I stood trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not fear Daniel for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard and I have come because of your word. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty one days, and behold Michael one of the chief princes come to help me. For I have been left alone here with the king of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision refers to many days yet to come."*

I want to focus on verse twelve. He says do not fear Daniel for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard. Then the last phrase that says I have come because of your word.

There is a law in working with angels how important our confession even under your normal life, even under your normal conversation. The words of our mouth are of vital consequence to the work of angels in our life. Now it works both ways. It is through wrong confession that people have allowed demonic powers to work in their lives and in their families. And the opposite is true. In confessing the right words, speaking words that are in line with God's word and with the will of God it somehow affect the working of angels with our life. Here is an important key. If Daniel did not say any word or pray any prayer, there would have been no angelic work here. The only reason he came was not because it was initiated by God. It was because Daniel had a heart for God. He wanted to understand something and he prayed and he cried and he fasted. He must have prayed many words and his words were heard and God initiated the angelic visitation. The angel didn't say I came because God send. He says I came because of your words. Your words allowed God to send me here. There is a relationship between our words that we speak and the work of angels.

Now our words can come in many forms. It can come in normal conversation. It can come through prayer. Or it can come through a Holy Ghost anointed prayer and command. I want to make it very clear here. Angels will not obey every whim and fancy of our words. Angels will not listen to any words, any prayers or respond to anything that is outside the will of God. It must be in line with the will of God. And angels are not for you to order them or call them to do anything at your whim and fancy. So the first point is that angels will not work outside of God's perfect will.

What happen if it is in line with the word of God? What happen if it is God's will? Do we need to initiate the angels or not? There is an extreme view that says we don't need. God will initiate it. It is not true my friends. If angels do not need to be initiated Moses need not have his hands lifted high by Aaron and Hur in the battle that Joshua fought. Every time Moses lifted his hand high with the rod of Moses the angels were released to work. Because that rod was anointed, by lifting it up he was yielding to God's call and anointing in his life. And every time his hands were coming down Joshua was being defeated. And Aaron and Hur had to lift his hands up. And every time his hands were lifted up the angels were working powerfully. Every time his hands were down the angels were not working powerfully for him. So it is not true that we have no part in initiating the work of angels.

It is the same theological question as to say whether healing is initiated by God or initiated by man. God initiate healing in Christ is God's will, but man plays a role. The same way with miracles. Every miracle needed something to be done to release it. And that's the theological principle that stands true for all avenues of theology when God and man work together. The same way angels are part of the process of God working with man. We cannot put it to the sovereignty of God we will miss something. It is just like putting healing to the sovereignty of God. Putting salvation to the sovereignty of God. Long ago they have put salvation under the sovereignty of God. Because of that people were not saved. When they realized that God is the one who save but we need to respond, salvation came forth and justification by faith. And people who have learned about the Holy Spirit say if the Holy Spirit want to come let him come they never bother to pray. But when they realised that we need to get ourselves ready, the Holy Spirit came.

And in our times the revelations about working with angels and we need to get the right theological perspective. If we put it to the sovereignty of God there are a whole lot of things that we missed out. It is just like healing. It is just like salvation. There is a part that God plays. There is a part that man plays within the will of God. In working with angels in these last days and as we enter the last days there will be more and more work of the angels. Just like beginning of the gospel there was a lot of hyper activities among the angels. The last closing ages will be and we need to know how to work with them. So within the dimension of the will of God it is God and we working together. Not throwing it into the sovereignty of God and leave it at that. It won't work that way.

In Daniel's time the angel came forth and said it is because of your words. If he had not spoken anything there won't be any appearances of angels. There is something like Moses would not have his face shining like light bulb if he did not initiate and ask God I desire to see your glory. We need to understand that there is an aspect of that to receive that which God has.

In the book of Daniel 9: 21 *Yet while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly reached me about the time of the evening offering.* And the Hebrew word links the prayer to the flying swiftly. Here is another point the work of God with the angels and us is partly God initiated partly how we respond and how we work with God in prayer and in our confession in words that will bring it to pass. More than that how fast and how quick and how effective the angels will work in our life depends on our continual prayer and confession. Look at it very carefully, angel Gabriel was going on an assignment on his way to Daniel. Daniel didn't know what was happening in the spirit. He was probably praying his heart out. And as the angel was coming to Daniel and as Daniel prayed Gabriel was caused to fly swiftly. Now you know why some of your angels came very slow. Not enough prayer, not enough confession of the word of God for God to work.

Look again Daniel 9: 21 *While I was speaking in prayer the man Gabriel whom I had seen in a vision at the beginning being caused to fly swiftly reached me about the time of the evening offering.* The speed of the work of angels is related to our prayer. In the book of Matthew 26: 53 *Or do you think that I cannot now pray to my Father and He will provide me with more than twelve legions of angels.* Now I believe that was a possibility. Just like the temptation of Jesus. When satan said turn this stone into bread. Jesus could really do it. If He couldn't really do it, it wouldn't have constituted a temptation. Now for Jesus this authority was real. He could actually have done that. But He didn't because he wanted to suffer the cause for us. But there is a point here. He says do you think that I cannot now pray and my Father will send the angels.

Now here is the question. Who initiated the angels? We could pray and initiate the angels. You don't pray you don't initiate the angels. They don't work automatically. People have thought one thousand years ago the salvation was automatic. People have thought that the baptism in the Spirit was automatic. People have thought that healing was automatic. But it is not. You have to accept the teaching, accept those things to be filled with the Spirit. It is the same way with the angels. So this is a real situation where he says He could have done that. If it is not real He didn't have the authority. If He didn't have the authority He was telling a lie. He could have actually done that. And He laid the ground rules for the principles on working with angels that if we pray God initiate it forth. The angels are there but they are also dependant on our response and how we work for God to bring them forth.

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed until his blood flow out. God sent an angel to strengthen Him. Question would God have sent an angel to Him if He had not prayed to that extent. On the Mount of Transfiguration we are told that Jesus prophesied that there will be some who will not see death until they see the Son of Man coming in His glory. Three days later they went up to the Mount of Olives and the bible says as He prayed He was transfigured. Although it was a promise of God yet it takes obedience to bring it to pass. Same like prophecy. If you receive a prophecy is it that you don't do anything, no. Some prophecies are unconditional but ninety nine percent of prophecies are all conditional. There is a part in how we respond to it. How we yield to it. How we allow our lives to flow along with it.

It is important for us to see here that there is that initiation that we have in God through our prayers that brings forth the work of the angels in our lives. God would not have sent an angel to strengthen Jesus if there was no Gethsemane prayer. But because He has moved to the fullest possible way of God's perfect will God added the angels in. So there was an obedience and response on man's side.

Now in Matthew 26: 53 the Greek word '*provide*' is a very special word. The Greek word *provide* is the word '*paristemi*'. *Paristemi* doesn't mean *send*. Some of us got it this way. I will pray to my Father and He will send me more than twelve legions of angels. The Greek says I will pray to the Father and He will provide me more than twelve legions of angels. And the word *provide* is the same Greek word used in Romans 6: 13, 16, 19 as the word *yield*. And the way we could translate it in Romans 12: 1 is the word *present*. *I urge you brethren present your bodies as a living sacrifice*. Now that was the word *paristemi* which means that God didn't just send the angels to do something. Jesus could have prayed to God and God would have *paristemi* the angels. God would have presented the angels to him. That means the angels will be there ready to obey his words.

Do you remember when Elisha was surrounded buy the Syrian army. The boy was afraid and Elisha said don't be afraid those who are with us are more than those who are against us. He looked around and saw these multitudes of Syrians soldiers. Then he look around again and say one, two. What does this mean we have more here? And Elisha knows that he was only looking in the natural and say Lord open his eyes. He opened his eyes and he saw thousands of angelic beings there more than the Syrian army. And what were the angels waiting for? All the angelic soldiers were there. Why won't they do anything? They were waiting only for one thing. For Elisha to give the word.

Your angels have been presented to you. They are waiting. They want you to speak a word. Not out of God's will but the word that is in line with the will of God, in line with the word of God. God wants us to co-operate and work with the angels. The angels don't work for us. They work with us. If they work with us means there is some co-operation. If they work for us there is nothing you and I can do. Even though we have these angels they were waiting for one word. If your words are outside God's will and outside God's words they are powerless. But when you are in the will of God and you are walking in line with the will of God and the Holy Ghost is on you. Every word that you speak is in line with God. It has an authority that is equal to God Himself speaking the word because it came from God. It came from the Spirit of God. That is why the writings of men anointed by the Holy Ghost become the inspired word of God, the bible. These are words spoken by the human beings but they were words that God gave.

So Elisha just say, "Lord, slay them." And the angels worked. All the Syrian soldiers were there, proud, arrogant, so many people against one prophet. And all the soldiers were waiting to charge. What they didn't see was that there were bigger angels next to them. They were not doing anything. They were just waiting. Waiting for what. Didn't God send them, yes. But He provided Elisha with the angels. When you present your bodies as a living sacrifice you are waiting for God to do something. When God present His angels to us He is waiting for us to speak the right words for the angels to work. What happens if Elisha says I surrender. What happens if Elisha waits and say, "God you are supposed to initiate." Nothing would have happened. He has to take his God given authority, anointed by the Holy Ghost, in the will of God and speak forth the word. God slay them and the angels were waiting and all the Syrian soldiers were blinded. Was it God initiated or man initiated, God and man.

There is something that they will work for us. Those things are called the blind spots. There are blind

spots in everyone's life. Areas where you have no knowledge and you are not responsible to answer to God for those things. Angels will work for you in that area. But there are things that we are responsible for. We are responsible in our obedience, in our words, in our prayers that if you fail the angels cannot work. Areas outside our blind spots we become responsible. God could have presented the twelve legions Jesus never asks them. The fact is He could.

Look at Luke chapter one there was a man named Zechariah who had been praying to God for a child so long that he forgot his prayers. Now was he in the will of God, yes. One day as he was serving God an angel appeared to him in verse eleven. *Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zechariah saw him he was troubled and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid Zechariah, for your prayer is heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you shall call his name John."*

Here is another question I ask again. Was this angel God initiated or man initiated? Let me tell you it is man. He came to answer a prayer. If Zechariah didn't pray there would be no Luke 1: 13.

Remember Cornelius an unbeliever. It says that his alms and his prayers had come before God. And finally because he was so hungry for God, God wanted him to be saved. Angels cannot preach the gospel but they can direct you to where the gospel is preached. And in Acts 10: 4 *The angel appeared and said your prayers and your alms have come for a memorial before God.* There would have been no appearance of an angel if Cornelius had not been constantly seeking after God and giving alms. Because of his actions and his words there was an initiation of angels working in his life. Luke 1: 13 *The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid Zechariah for your prayer is heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you shall call his name John".* Our prayers and our words help and give the angels the authority to interfere in life's affairs. God needs us to say the word. God needs us to say the prayer. Without them they do no work. They will be standing by but they won't be able to work.

And just to show you how important the speaking of the word was. Zechariah was full of doubt and unbelief in Luke 1: 18 *"How shall I know this for I am an old man and my wife is well advanced in years."* Verse nineteen *and the angel answered and said to him. I am Gabriel who stands in the presence of God and was sent to speak to you and bring you this glad tidings. Behold you will be mute and not able to speak until the day this thing takes place.* You know why he made him mute? Because he *did not believe the my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.* The other reason not recorded is so that he won't have to speak some dumb thing and the angel would have to cancel every work because it is so important to have the right words coming out from our mouth for our angels to work with us. Silence is so much better than saying the wrong word. If you can't say the right word, keep quiet. And that incident tells you how important the work of angels is in connection to the words we speak.

Look at the book of Hebrews 1: 14 *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those unto whom they will inherit salvation.* Now there is an interesting use of the Greek word here. The word *dianoia* is found in the word to minister, that is to serve. But the use *ministering spirit* which is found in the Greek word *'leitourgikos'* which is a combination of two Greek words the *'leito'* part talks about a public work. The *'ourgikos'* part talks about works. So it is like an assigned public work that God has given to his angels. And the way it is phrased is very interesting. In the Greek there are three possible ways *leitourgikos* could be phrased. *Leitourgikos* which means a person or property who perform a public duty or service to the state at his own expense. A minister or servant like Romans 13: 6. One who minister release like Philippians 2: 25. Of *leitourgi* which means to perform some public service at one's own expense. In the New Testament to officiate as a priest to minister in a Christian church. Second Corinthians 9:12 which is for the minister to the needy. It talks about a sort of service. But in Hebrews one it says *leitourgikos* which means engaged in subordinate service. In other words the angels have presented themselves and they are waiting to serve you. Although they are beings they are great in power, great in glory. But they are here to serve you by being subordinate to serve you.

It doesn't mean they have to be lesser in power. There are many types of angels. When you want to worship, you must work with worship angels. When you want to enter God's most holy place, you must

understand the work of seraphim and cherubim. When you are in spiritual warfare taking authority over nations, you must understand warring angels, Michael. Then there are angels that are in charge of revelations, Gabriel. And there is a whole group of angels and these are called the ministering angels. And they have the ability to take on the form and the shape of human beings. When the bible says be hospitable. Sometimes you are entertaining angels unaware. These are the angels who have been assigned to live with us all our life. These are the angels who have been helping you find a house, helping you to sell a house, helping you with your finances etc. These are the angels in charge of that. Now these angels have been *leitourgikos* to us. And of all angels these angels need you to say especially the right word. Like if you are praying God you know I need transportation. You know I need a motorbike to transport people here and there. When you pray that pray these angels go forth and start looking a motorbike for you. You see they could work invisibly. But when you know how they work. You could work in a more direct sense. You could have lift up your hands and say God send forth your ministering angels in my life and help them bring a motor bike to me. I am saying that they are there to wait on you.

Again remember, anything outside the will of God, anything outside God's word, they are not going to help you. It must be a part and parcel of your life. And your attitude must be right, your life must be right with God. So these conditions are already met. And your words have an impact on these angels. I challenge you to every morning you lift up your hands and say God send your angels forth to aid me, to help me in my finances, to help me in my business, and see the difference for one month.

Lets look at the book of Romans 8: 25-26 *Now we know from all the other scriptures that our prayers and our words affect the work of angels. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses, for we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the heart knows what the mind of the spirit is because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* And that explains why when some people go deep in intercession, it is no more them who are praying. It is the Holy Spirit speaking through their life. And as much as you can have a prophet say thus says the Lord. We could say how dare the prophet speaks like he is God. What he is saying is God is speaking to you here.

Now in this book "War beyond the stars" that person didn't have the understanding of what is going on. What happens when you have an understanding? There have been times when I have prayed, I sensed an urge of the Spirit to come forth and say in Jesus' name go ministering angels. God could have spoken it from heaven. He could have spoken it through my lips through the Holy Spirit. So lets see how we are flowing with the Holy Spirit, working with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not our servant. He is our helper. Those of you experienced know that when you work with the Holy Spirit, He doesn't do it for you. He does it with you. It is the same way with angels. They don't just work for you. They work with you. We need to learn how to respond and work with these angels whom God has sent. We have established the theological fact that angels' work are not just initiated by God. It is a co-operation between man and God. And some how our prayers, our words, our confession, affect the speed of their work, and even their ability to work. The limitation is it must be the will of God, in line with the word of God and your life must be right with God. If your life is not right with God don't try all these stuff.

As we work with angels two things our words and our attitude. Now our attitude is affected by what we believe. If you believe that somebody is dishonest your attitude is affected. What we believe affects our attitude. If you believe the wrong theology, your attitude is affected. Based on your belief your attitude is formed. Zechariah's beliefs were wrong. So his attitude became an attitude of doubt. The same way if you believe correctly according to the word of God, it will help you to respond with the right attitude. And may we not miss it when the angels come calling. You don't have to look for the angels. They don't want much attention. In fact they want you to give all your attention to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But we need to know how they work and co-operate with them. You don't have to pray for an angel because satan can appear as an angel of light. And not everything that is bright and shining that comes to you is God. What we need to do is to live your life according to God's word, be filled with the Spirit, walk the best you know in the will of God. Have prayers so that God could initiate the work of angels. Speak the right words in your life. Have the right attitude. When they do come to you initiated by God open yourself to them. And God will begin to give you the instruction.

2. SENSITIVITY TO ANGELS

As we look at the ministry of angels, we want to point to two facts that we have to keep at the back of our mind so that we don't go to extremes. On one extreme are those who don't believe in the work of angels and don't understand how to work with them and don't realize that there is a way that we can co-operate with them. On the other extreme are those who are so susceptible that they would be immediately deceived if satan were to appear as an angel of light. Now not every being who comes in the light form is necessarily from God. Those who value angels above the importance of the word of God and their devotional prayer life may end up being deceived.

There are two warnings in the bible that we need to take heed of. One of them is found in the book of Galatians in chapter one Paul says here about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1: 8 *but even if angels from heaven preach any other gospels to you than what we have preached to you let him be accursed.* Number one bear in mind that angels do not contradict God's word. They cannot come and tell you something that is not in line with the word. And if any being or any appearances come that are not in line with the Word, then we ought to reject them. And in point one we realize that it must be in line with the word of God. All visions, prophecies, dreams, angelic appearances must be in line with the word of God.

Secondly in Colossians 2: 18 *Let no one defraud you of your reward taking delight in false humility and worship of angels intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.* Secondly we do not worship angels and we do not give them the glorification that is due to Jesus Christ and to God the Father. We just need to give the proper respect that we need to. We do not give them praise and worship at all. That is the other extreme that needs to be avoided. Bear in mind these two points as we look at the ministry of angels.

Angels co-operate and work with us and are dependent on our confession and on our prayers. Our words and confession in our prayer are related to work of angels in our life. How important it is to guard our tongue. We are looking at the different aspect on responding to angelic work and ministration. And I want to quote again the testimony from Kenneth E. Hagin and his angelic visitation that he missed. Is it possible that God sent an angel and he missed it? The answer is yes. Some of us think that if God was to send an angel to send a word to us, that we will definitely receive it. No. We may miss it the same way we miss the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit can be speaking to us and we are not paying attention. We may miss it the same way we miss the word. Just as the word is talking to us but we don't pay attention to the word of God. So likewise with the angels we can miss it too if we don't learn how to open ourselves to it. We need to be opened but not deceived. We need to be opened but not be imbalanced. And so the Lord Jesus appeared to him together with the angel. And the Lord Jesus said these words to Kenneth E. Hagin. The Lord said to him, "I sent my angel to warn you again when you were out in California because I saw that you haven't listened to the leading of my Spirit and didn't respond to the warning. If you have received it you would have been spared all of this financial troubles. If you had responded to the Holy Spirit than you would have been able to see into the spirit realm by the discerning of spirit you would have seen the angel and he would have delivered his message to you."

Then he had another encounter with an angel which he recorded in the same book. He says, "One night as we were all interceding in prayer. I was kneeling on the platform and suddenly Jesus appeared before me. Again an angel stood about three feet behind him. This angel was quite tall. He must have been seven feet tall or more. Jesus began to talk to me about my ministry. Just a short time before this my wife has written to me concerning my sister who was just been told by the doctor that she had cancer of the bladder. I have been praying for my sister interceding for her that night just before the Lord appeared. He said your sister will live and not die. There is no danger of immediate death. He said that she will live another five years and she did. When she died after five years exactly, she did not die from the condition at that time. Her death was caused by something else. After the Lord told me that my sister will live (now here is the word) then every time I look up at the angel, he looked at me as if he was going to say something. But then I would look back to Jesus and the angel wouldn't say anything. Finally I said to the Lord who is this angel and what does he represent. He has a message for you the Lord said." Now Jesus was appearing in a vision. Then he began to talk to the Lord. "But Lord you are here. Why can't you deliver the message?" After all I want it to be scriptural. The Holy Spirit is to be our guide. He is the one that is to give us guidance as well as

the word of God. So I said you know that I am a real sticker for the word.

Jesus said to him, "Didn't you ever read in the bible when an angel of the Lord came and awaken Peter when he was in jail and in answer to prayer led him out of jail? The angel of the Lord appeared to Philip and gave him direction after the great city wide meeting in Samaria telling him to go down by the way of Gaza. And there you will remember that the Ethiopian eunuch was converted to Christianity and carried the gospel back to Ethiopia. Don't you remember that the angel of the Lord appeared to Paul when he was on board the ship on his way to Rome to appeal his case before Caesar a storm had risen and all the merchandise had been thrown away in an attempt to save the vessel and the passengers. All hope that they should be saved was gone. Paul stood and said I exhort you to be of good cheer for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God saying fear not Paul thou must be brought before Caesar and God will give me all of them that sail with you. And the Lord said didn't the angel give Paul the direction. Didn't he have a message for Paul? The Lord reminded me of the time when Paul was praying in the temple of Jerusalem and fell into a trance and saw Jesus who told him make haste and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem (Acts 22:18). Then after Paul was arrested before appealing his case to Caesar the Lord appeared to him one in Jerusalem and told him not to be afraid for he was to bear witness before the kings and authorities. So we see that although Jesus had appeared to Paul and had given him word of comfort and direction, the angel of the Lord also appeared to him and given him direction."

By now Kenneth Hagin was very quiet. Seeing this Kenneth Hagin said to the Lord, "Now I understand. Then I look to the angel and said what is it that you have to say to me." And the angel said, "I am sent from God to tell you that the money will come by October and you will have four thousand dollars. So you can set up your own office. Other money will come and you will handle it all yourself. I do not want you to be controlled by someone else. I will speak to you and direct you in your ministry. You will be the head of it not someone else. Not only will you have this four thousand dollars in three months time. But other money will come also for my angels are at work now to cause the money to come." Kenneth Hagin looked up at the angel and said, "What do you mean your angels?" He said, "I am the head over a number of angels."

The Lord had also pointed out the scripture, *are they not ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation* (Heb 1: 14). The Lord said you didn't lose your angel just because you grow up. So here is an interesting story about angels and what they do and how they work. Every single one of us was born with a guardian angel. They are not just fable or myth. We do have our guardian angel including those who are not born again. Every human being born into this planet earth was assigned a guardian angel. Those guardian angels in the bible were called ministering angels. They minister to us. On the top of that there are ministry angels; there are angels over churches, angels over nations etc. There are many divisions and orders of angels.

When God calls you to ministry, He usually assigns a ministry angel to work with you. In the book of Revelation chapter two and three, when God delivered the message to apostle John to deliver to His body, He addressed His message to the angel of the church of Ephesus, to the angel of the church of Sardis and etc. It is always addressed to the angel. We have always interpreted it symbolically. We always say the angel could be the pastor of the church. The angel could have been any messenger. I personally believe, now it is scriptural, I personally believe that it is an actual angel who carries the message for the church. And when God has a message for that particular church in Ephesus, He works through the Holy Spirit. He will work through the people there. He also gives to the angel assigned there with some special message to deliver to the church. And there is an angel over every church in town. There is an angel that God assigns over every ministry. Those are reality.

The question is how do we work with them? I want to point to the fact that angels speak in the first person. They speak just like a person is prophesying, "I the Lord your God..." That doesn't mean that the person had become God. It just means that the person has become the mouthpiece of God. Now angels speak in the same way. When Moses met God in the wilderness, he met an angel who had a message about God's name and who gave God's instruction. Moses worked with angels. Exodus 3: 2ff *And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the flame of fire in the midst of a bush. So he looked and behold the bush burning with fire but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great*

sight why this bush does not burn." So when the Lord saw that he turned aside the Lord called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses," and he said, "Here I am."

Now suddenly it looks like God is speaking. It looks like God is in the bush. Let me tell you God was not in the bush. An angel representing God was in the bush. Now the bible has a way of recording things like that. It looks like God was saying it directly. God was saying it indirectly through the angel. And we know the amount of revelation given was tremendous. God revealed His name as *I am the I Am*. Cross reference to the book of Galatians 3: 19. There is a summary of the revelation that Moses received at the burning bush where he met an angel of God. It was on the Mount of Sinai that Moses began to meet God face to face. Galatians 3:19 *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions till the Seed to come to whom the promise was made. And it was appointed (notice this word) through angels by the hand of the mediator.* Now the mediator was Moses. It summarized the work of Moses' primary interaction with angels. Now you see God didn't speak the messages Himself but assigned an angel to deliver them in such a way that it appeared that He Himself is speaking. That is the way the bible records things.

For example Moses didn't actually talk directly Pharaoh. But you find that in the bible the arrangement was this between Moses and his brother Aaron. This was the arrangement in Exodus 4: 15, 16. *Now you shall speak to him (that is Aaron) and put the words in his mouth and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and I will teach you what you shall do. So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you. And you shall be to him as God.* So Aaron was a spokesman. Whatever Moses wants to say he just tells Aaron who would deliver the message for him. And while they were encountering Pharaoh Moses was just standing not saying anything. Aaron was the one who was saying everything. But you read in the encounter between Moses and Pharaoh it looks like Moses was the one doing the talking. Moses said etc. etc. there were many of such incidents. But it was more Aaron doing the talking.

Turn to Exodus 6: 29-30 and 7: 1 *The Lord spoke to Moses saying I am the Lord. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you. And Moses again said I speak with faltering lips how shall Pharaoh believe in me. So the Lord said to Moses see I have made you as God to Pharaoh and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I have commanded and Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh that he set the children of Israel out of this land.* Now in all the encounter it looks like Moses was talking directly to Pharaoh but it was not. It was through Aaron. Aaron was an invisible medium.

This is the way God does it. When an angel comes, he speaks in the first person. It's like a prophecy. The prophet of God or someone functioning to give a prophecy don't say, "The Lord says..." Sometimes they do say that but sometimes they begin to speak in the first person, "I am the Lord your God..." Now they are not saying that they have become God. But they have become the mouthpieces of God. We need to bear that in mind as we function and work with angels that when they bear a message, they bring that message in the first person.

Let me point to the relationship between an angel bearing a message and a prophet bearing a message. There are a lot of similarities that we need to take note of. Deuteronomy 18: 17 ff *And the Lord said to me, "What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren and will put my words in his mouth."* (Now this is a prophecy about Jesus Christ. You find it fulfilled in the book of Acts. And this same scripture is quoted in the book of Acts.) *I will put my words in his mouth and he shall speak to them all that I have commanded him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear my words which he speaks in my name I will require it of him. But the prophet who speaks in my name in which I have not commanded him to speak or he speaks in the name of other gods that prophet shall die.* Now in verse 18 it says that we have to hearken to the prophet as he speaks in the name of God and he speaks as a mouthpiece of God. The New Testament did say that when you receive a prophet as a prophet you receive a prophet's reward. When you reject a prophet as a prophet you receive God's judgment and punishment for rejecting the prophet of God. It's important for us to understand the consequences of rejecting a messenger from God. Jesus when he sent his disciples two by two to every city, He tells them that those who receive them receive Him. Those who reject them reject Him. "They don't reject you. They reject Me because you are now representing Me." So that is happening in the church age.

Now that also applies to the angels that God sends to work in our midst. Look at the book of Exodus 23 There is also judgment for not paying attention to the message the angel brings. Most of the messages come from the Holy Spirit. But there are some messages that are reserved to be delivered by the angels to our lives. Exodus 23: 20 as He prepares them to cross the land of Canaan, He says, *"Behold I sent an Angel before you, to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him (God was warning them. You must be very careful how you treat this angel) and obey His voice. Do not provoke Him for He will not pardon your transgressions, for My name is in Him. But if you indeed obey his voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies, an adversary to your adversaries. For my Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites and I will cut them off.*

Why should God warn them about the angel? He must have been a very special angel sent into their midst. There are different authorities that angels carry. There is a group that is ministering angels. We will look a little bit more at them later in this series. But we need to understand that there is one level of angels who are guardian angels and ministering angels who know our lives from babies. From the time we were babies they were with us and they will continue to be with us until we go back to be with God. But as we acquire different responsibilities and different work from God, different angels are assigned to work together with us.

For example, let says this church. There is an angel assigned over this church. And I will have to be sensitive to the angel whom God sends in our midst to work in this church. There is an angel assigned to a ministry. If God calls you to a ministry, He will assign an angel to your ministry to help you, besides giving you the Holy Spirit. And you need to learn to work with your angel. If these things were automatic why should God tell them to beware of the angel and to hearken to his voice? Obviously there is a human responsibility in how we respond to them. And obviously if we don't respond to them as we saw some of the incidences here in Hagin's visions, if he didn't respond to them he would have missed the whole message and got into trouble. It is interesting that we need to respond when God wants to give a message through the angel. And that is the part and the reason for this series. Because as I have said God has an angelic visitation on ministries and our lives are being built around that besides the Holy Spirit work.

One of the messages that God gave me to teach this series says that He had sent His angels (He didn't specify which part probably different category) to speak to some of us. And we are not responding to them nor are we yielding to the Holy Spirit or opening ourselves to them, we could be missing some of our greatest opportunities to receive some of God's best plans for our lives. And that is the reason why we teach this series in order to teach us how to respond and how to recognize the work of angels and the messages that they carry and what they are trying to do in our life.

Now we know the word of God. We know the Holy Spirit but we know there is as part of our life that belongs to the angels who work with us and are working to establish us in different areas. We need to recognize that and open ourselves to that for them to have a freedom to work with us. And we will summarize that in a few points in how to respond to the work of the angels. Bear in mind that you cannot make them to appear to you or speak to you whenever you like. It has to be in God's perfect will. And they will not obey our whims and fancies. But when you are living in the perfect will of God, the Holy Spirit can come upon your life and you can begin to speak God's word with an anointing and it will cause an angelic initiation in your life. We want to talk about the fact that when God began to move by His angels in our life, or when an angel comes and brings a message for us to hearken, they are usually supplementing the work of the Holy Spirit. Angels never replace the work of the Holy Spirit. The prime work that God does in our lives is through the Holy Spirit. They supplement the work of the Holy Spirit. We need that as humans because we tend not to obey at the first prompting. It takes time to train us to obey His every prompting. And so He supplements it with the work of angels. And when the angels have a message for us, it is not necessary that you will see them. Some of us could be missing it if we are not trained in this area. And that is why we are teaching in this area.

When there is an angelic visitation, how do we respond? Or when we sense that it was an angelic visitation, how do we respond? Remember the first two points that we raised earlier. It must be in line with the word and you don't worship angels. They have their place and you don't go to that extreme. So how do

we respond?

Acknowledge the Angel's Presence

Number one to acknowledge their presence. When you reject their presence, they will not give you any other message. If you doubt their presence it also prevents them from giving you the message. A lot of people are doubters when it comes to the spiritual realm. It is every much like the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit gives you a gift and you doubt the gift, the gift becomes inoperational in your life. It doesn't matter what kind of gift. But if the Holy Spirit gives you something in your life and you start doubting it, it will grieve the Holy Spirit and it will cease working in your life in those areas. But if we recognize that those are gifts given by the Holy Spirit, you honor what the Holy Spirit gives you. And you put it in its proper place. Then the Holy Spirit will make use of it more frequently and teach you how to operate those gifts more accurately.

The angels want you to recognize them. Number one, acknowledge your angel. But you may say, "How do I know if it is not the devil?" Basically you will know by the presence. If you can't tell by the presence then probably it is not time yet for a real visitation. Because if the devil comes there will be a sense of evil and a sense of fear and there is a lack of the presence of God. If the presence of fear is not there, and you felt the presence of God there, the love of God is there, the joy of God is there, the Holy Spirit within you confirms and you still say, "Who are you?" It will be no wonder that the angel doesn't want to work and doesn't want to give the message. It requires faith on your part for the angels to work. Once you work with them for a while, they know you are confident of their work and they know you recognize them.

We need to number one acknowledge them, acknowledge who they are. What does that acknowledging the angels imply Exodus 3: 2 *The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in the midst of the bush. So he looked and behold the bush burn with fire and the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said I will now turn aside and see this great sight why the bush does not burn.* Now it includes turning away from natural things. He turned aside from what he was doing to see this bush burning. Acknowledging the angel's presence involves giving him your full attention. Turning aside from whatever that is taking your attention and giving it your full attention. There is a spiritual law called the law of focusing. Like when you look at something it becomes more detailed. It's just like you could be passing a lot of scenery and you are not really paying any attention. But then when you focus on this plant and you began to see its condition, you begin to pay attention. It is the principle of focusing. And when you don't put aside those things and focus on what God is bringing to your attention you may lose it. Sometimes it is just a telephone ringing. There is no message yet but the telephone is ringing. You got to pick it up. You got to pay attention and focus. Picking it up is like paying attention to those things. Sometimes in the spirit world you could be praying. And as you are praying your attention is drawn towards something. Your mind and your will have a free choice. You could choose not to be drawn towards that. The bush could be burning and you could choose not to be drawn towards that. You may lose it. He wants you to turn aside and focus your attention on that something He has drawn you to. There is something that catches our attention first and we need to focus on this thing. You acknowledge by turning aside and paying attention to whatever is catching your mind. And God gives you a free choice. You want to take this call. If you respond then He would respond.

Now how did Moses respond? As he drew near to the burning bush, the Lord called out from the burning bush, "Moses, Moses." After that there are many responses possible. One of the possible responses is to run. To some of you as you walk by a tree and the tree call you, you may wonder, "Who was that?" You may respond differently. You could run away or you could find out what is that. Somehow Moses responded, "Here I am." He doesn't even know who is there. But whoever that was knew him. If you walk by a bush and the bush called you by name my advice is to go near and find out. Say, "Yes here I am." Because how many people know your personal name. Some may think it might be the devil hiding behind the bush trying to trap you. Why should the devil trap you? If you hear your name being called it is always that whoever call you by name knows you. If you are in a supermarket and some stranger calls you, you don't challenge them, you respond. Yet because they are invisible we don't respond the same way. If a human being call you by name you don't challenge them first, you respond first to find out. In the same you should give them the same respect when they call you by name. Don't be afraid if you go near and find it is a devil. Point your finger at him and say, In Jesus' Name, I command you, devil, come out and do not disturb people."

But usually it is the manifestation of God in your life. And our response should be: "Here I am." The

angel may not make himself visible to our eyes. All we may receive is an audible call. If anybody calls you by your name better acknowledge that and find out what is that. And Moses said in Exodus 3 The voice in the bush says Moses, Moses, he said here I am. Now he is waiting for Moses to respond.

There is another case in the bible in the book of First Samuel. God calling Samuel and he didn't recognize that it was God and there was no continuation until he recognized. First Samuel 3: 4 Samuel was sleeping. In verse four the Lord called Samuel and Samuel thought it was Eli. And he went to Eli and said why do you call me. And Eli said I didn't call you, go back to sleep. Then verse six the Lord called again. And Samuel went to Eli and said you called me. He said I did not call my son lay down. Then the Lord called the third time. Again he went to Eli and said what do you want. And he didn't realize that the Lord was trying to call him. And the next time you must acknowledge the Lord. The next time when He calls you, you must say, "Speak, Lord for your servant is here. Here I am what do you wish to speak to me?"

If you take the position of pride, the angels do not like that. They have their place. And some of us may say, "We are born again, the redeemed of the Lord." Look at it this way, even if you are born again redeemed of the Lord, anyone small or big, rich or poor who comes with a message from God, we would have to listen. Whether we are senior pastors, whether we have a title before our names, if anyone comes, even if a young boy prophesies, if it is the Lord, we got to recognize that is the Lord speaking. We don't approach the angel arrogantly and say, Yes what do you want to speak? Or what do you want to give?" We don't approach them that way.

Now don't treat your angels that way. Too many of us have the teaching until it is so imbalanced, that we know our position in God so well and have been blessed with the Blood covenant in a different way from them that we put the angels so low, even though they have great authority and great might and power. But when they carry the message of God, they are coming in the place of God. If you reject them you reject God. If you despise them you despise God. You put them down on them you put God down. He is using the angels as His vessels. Don't treat them that way. Acknowledging them means to turn aside from everything else to give them undivided attention. We respond to angels with our lips and with our hearts and saying, "Here I am." Not in a questioning way but in receptive way which involves a submissive position.

Do we have to take submissive position? Yes we do. Even among human beings, when people carry the word of the Lord we respect them. In the same way in Exodus 23 points to the angel warning again. Exodus 23: 21 *Beware of him and obey his voice. do not provoke him for he will not pardon your transgression for my name is in him.* He is talking about a very powerful angel. That is a warning about obeying the angel's voice and instructions. Now in what position did Joshua take when he saw his angel? In the book of Joshua 5: 13-15 *And it came to pass, when Joshua was near Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and he looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries? So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come. Immediately Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped. (Now although it said worshipped, he didn't worship the angel; he was worshiping God.) And said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.* Look he takes a submissive position. Although Joshua was now the head of his people replacing Moses, we need to have a healthy respect and healthy working relationship with the angel. Let them take their place when they are bringing forth the word from the Lord. You always take a position of submission. When William Branham worked with his angel, he took a position of submission. In the end there was co-operation. We can be friendly but we must know where each person's place is.

Even David understood the place that the angels have in his life. In the book of First Chronicles 21: 15-16 *And God send an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the Lord looked and relented of the disaster and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the Lord stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.* David was a powerful military leader and king. When he saw the angel of the Lord he fell down on his face. Acknowledge means to turn aside, to respond and to submit to the message. And that is our relationship when angels carry a message of

God.

That is why I have to mention the first two points earlier. There is a relationship we have but we don't go to worship angels. And that explains why when God send some of His angels to give us a message we don't receive it. We doubt, we question, we are in unbelief. And the angels find it very hard to communicate to us. We need to have a vital living relationship with these spirit beings whom God has assigned to work together with us. Number one acknowledge, three sub-points there, turn aside, respond and submit.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit

The second is to yield to the Holy Spirit. The reason for this is angels and you are communicating through the person of the Holy Spirit. There is no contact possible in the spirit world without the Holy Spirit. So at the same time in our life we must be yielding to the Spirit and learn how to yield to the Spirit. There is a way we yield to the Spirit of God.

Lets look at Ephesians 5 talking about the filling of the Spirit or the Spirit controlling our life. Ephesians 5: 18-19 *Do not be drunk with wine in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Notice how he confessed being filled with the Spirit as being drunk. There is a relationship there. See when someone is drunk, intoxicated by natural wine, they don't walk in a straight line. And people who are partially drunk tend to yield to a lot of their temptations because their resistance has been lowered down. Wine lowers a person's resistance. And we need to realize the effects of alcohol on people.

Now I want to illustrate it in a specific way. When we yield to the Spirit of God, we allow Him to take control and help us to flow. Some who worship God allow their hands to flow in various ways. What are they doing? You are yielding to the Spirit as you sense it. And you learn how to yield to Him. You learn how to flow with Him. And sometimes in our life as we worship God there is a desire to do certain things. Sometimes when there is such a good joy and you really want to lift the joy and dance, why don't you? You didn't yield. You say if God want me to dance He will lift my feet. Really? If God wants you to speak in tongues, He will move your tongue then, which He doesn't. He will only intensify the desire and the longing to do it and the joy to do it. And the moment you yield it is easy. So that is the way that you yield to the Spirit of God. I don't mean that you make it up. It has to be real from inside. Yet at the same time it won't come out until we yield. It is the same with laughter. Sometimes people laugh because others laugh. Laughter is contagious. Sometimes it is from the inside wanting to come out, and then you try to prevent it. When you do you make more funny faces. It's better to let go and just enjoy it. The problem is when you let go you can become a bit drunk. Sometimes you when you pray when there is a heavy anointing of God, you could feel like your legs vibrating and your hands shaking. When there is a real heavy anointing of God sometimes you could feel those things coming up. Your voice goes up and down accordingly. And your feeling goes up and down accordingly. And your hands and body vibrate as you pray in the spirit. That is a part of yielding to the Spirit of God. So we learn how to yield to the Spirit of God. We learn how to give way.

It's like a surrendered stage. It is not a passive state of mind. It is a very active state of mind when it is surrendered. If you don't pray in tongue long enough your mind takes over. If you pray in tongue in long hours you find your whole body began to respond. These are ways that you are filling yourself and yielding to the Spirit. Let Him flow through to do whatever He wants in your life. Paul says do not be drunk with wine, natural wine, but be drunk in the Holy Spirit. And a lot of us are not drunk enough in the Holy Spirit. We are too rational. We allow the Holy Spirit to control up to a certain point. Then my mind wants to be in absolute control. Our minds have never brought us closer to God before and it never will after. Our mind is only an instrument for us to submit to the Spirit for understanding to come. We have never come to know God because of our minds. We came to know God because of the experience of Jesus Christ in our life. And we will never go closer to God just through our minds. It will be through the Spirit filling us and renewing our mind. So be drunk with the Spirit. And it is those who are filled with the Spirit that respond to the spirit world easier when God manifest. Paul says be drunk with the Spirit. He says yield to the Spirit of God; allow Him to fill your life. The angels you acknowledge but you need to yield to the Spirit of God.

Yielding has various qualities. Number one filling and drunkenness. A sense of surrender to him whatever subjective feelings those are. If you are one of those when you pray your mind think too much your mind is not submitted yet. You see your mind will hinder what the angel speaks if your mind is not submitted. When the angel has a message your mind is too questioning and critical. The angel knows it and he would not give that message. So that is why we need to be completely submerged in the Spirit and let our mind is submissive.

When you pray in tongue, the first few minutes your mind may tell you a lot of things. You keep on praying until your mind is quiet. That is the state where the feeling or drunkenness in the Spirit is taking place. The second is the consciousness of the presence of God. As you meditate on the presence of God on your inside, the anointing in you responds. Let me point to Luke 24. See when the angel is speaking it is not just an external message. Your inward witness will confirm everything that God does. And we have to be sensitive to our inward witness in our life. Luke 24 The two disciples on the way to Emmaus. They were with Jesus all along the way. Although they didn't recognize Him because their eyes were closed to it, later they did recognize that it was Jesus and He vanished from their sight (verse thirty one). In Luke 24: 32 *They said to one another, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"* Did not our hearts burn within us? Now that ties you to First John 2: 27 *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, that is true, and is not a lie, just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

So there is a consciousness of God that you yield to. And every time you yield to the presence of God on your inside and you meditate, it has an effect on your physical body and of your mind. In whatever way it flows in your life, just let it flow. For some of you your hands began to feel warm. And we Christians need to learn to yield to the presence of God from our inside. Some of you have sickness on your body that you have been praying for. And you have been trying to get healing. If you only realize that the key is not a struggle but rest in God and just allow the Spirit from your inside to reach out and touch you, you will get your healing. It is more a yielding than a grabbing. When you are yielding, you are not trying to see some angels. You are just yielding to your anointing within. And it takes you wherever it wants. There is a consciousness of the presence of God on your inside.

Praise and Worship

And thirdly, we offer the sacrifices of praise. We need to worship. In the Old Testament they had to give the sacrifices and that enhance the work of the angels in their lives. In the New Testament our sacrifices are the sacrifices of our lips and of our worship to God. So when the angel of God is visiting you and giving you a message, you need to be in an attitude of praise and worship to God. The consciousness of the presence of God is on your inside so that the gifts of the Spirit can work in your life. And one of the gifts is the discerning of the spirits. If God sees it fit He will let it operate through your life.

Number one, acknowledge the angels presence. Number two, yield to the Holy Spirit. And there are three sub-points we talked about yielding to the Holy Spirit. And all those things will bring you to a readiness for the angels to work a message especially for your life. Like Mary she says be unto me according to your word. She took that submissive position. Look at Luke 1: 30-35 *Do not be afraid Mary for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son which you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that the Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.* To summarize the attitude of Mary, it was about the yielding to the Holy Spirit. If you struggle to get a message you don't get it. But if you rest in God and you worship God the message just sort of float to you. So that is the same position you must be in. Not a position of struggle but a position of rest. And you will very easily receive the message that the angel delivers.

3. THREE KEY PRINCIPLES

There are three points on angels that we want to speak about. As we look at this topic we want to make it very clear that it is not right to try to see angels. Now it will not happen that way. Although we teach a series on angels which produces a desire to understand them better but to have visions of them must be according to God's perfect will. Sometimes it is not necessary that we ever see one. But we must be aware that we are working with the angels in our life. And we want to make this statement that it is not right for us to try to see them.

In fact in the spirit world there is a strange law. Whatever you try to do or to get you will never succeed. The spirit world works more by yielding than by trying. And every time you try too hard you won't succeed. In the spirit world it is more achieved by yielding and receiving rather than trying and grabbing. And if it is not God's will for us to have a manifestation, then let's not force God's hand. So I want to be very careful to make it clear that we do not try to see angels. We don't seek after an angel at all. You just live in God's perfect will and do your best that you know how to do whatever God's will is in your life and leave it up to God. And be aware of how to work with angels that's all.

What we are going to share in these three points is the pre-requisites to angels manifesting to some of these people. What were their positions like? What were they doing? We know that God sometimes manifest in a big prayer meeting or in a big worship service. We know that He is not limited to that. When we are doing God's perfect will we could be doing anything and suddenly God will send an angel or some spiritual manifestation to our life, because we are in God's perfect will. We want to look at some Christians' lives and show forth from their lives what they were doing and where they were when the angels came to minister to their life. We have to treat the ministry of angels as a bonus. Not something you seek for. They will work any way whether you know it or not. But treat it as a bonus. When you go for a job. You don't consider the bonus. You consider the actual job itself. What are you supposed to do and what is the basic salary etc. The bonus may be considered but it is not your main consideration. You don't take a job because of the bonus. There has to be a lot of other factors involved. In the same way treat the ministry of angels as an extra bonus that God has given for this life on earth. We have to seek after God, the word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit etc. these are our main call.

Seeking God for a Revelation

The first point the correct position to be when the angels minister to our life is, number one, to seek God for an understanding or a revelation. Many of us have got visions that we don't understand. Dreams that we couldn't interpret. Revelations that we couldn't fully digest. Prophecies that we couldn't make head or tail. Many of us have all those things. hanging somewhere in our dairies, in our devotional book, in our file, somewhere are some of these things. The interesting thing is Daniel has all those things but he went one step further. He sought God for an understanding of his vision, of his dreams, of the prophecies. He was a seeker. Angels love to work with seekers after truth, people who are hungry for more of God. Now many of us have some dreams, some prophecies, some vision, some revelations that we don't fully understand piled up somewhere in our files on our shelf. But we never bother to take the time to seek God about it. We never took one day off to fast and pray over those things. We never spend time over those. We are too busy. And we may take the attitude; they are the extreme attitude, while if those things are from God they will come to pass by themselves. Yes to a certain extent. But when you work with God for long, you will realize everything is a union with God. There are something that are done on God's part and there are something that needs to be done on our part. And if you go on for the next five years or the next ten years not seeking God about some of these things, you will find that after five or ten years you are still in the same position where you were. God likes people of initiative. God likes people to take initiative to love Him, to seek Him. And Daniel was such a person.

Let's look at the book of Daniel. The book of Daniel is divided into two sections. The first section is called the historical section from chapter one to six. The second section is from chapter seven to chapter twelve, which are all prophecies and visions and revelations. So on one side is history and on other side is revelation. And it seems that in Daniel's life that he had his first few visions in the latter days of his life. His first one is mentioned in Daniel 7: 1. *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon*, now that was in his latter years. He was an old man by that time. Be patient with God, don't be impatient with yourself or with God.

Daniel was faithful to the word of God, faithful in prayer. Three times a day he prayed all his life. Be faithful in what God is doing in your life. Never get impatient. And as we patiently seek after God one day those things will begin to work out in God's perfect time. So Daniel had a dream and vision on his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream telling the main fact. From verse two to verse fourteen was a description of it. It is one of the many visions and dreams he had. Daniel 7: 15 *I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body and the visions of my head troubled me.* We are not sure whether he was still in the vision and then he came to these people whom he saw in the vision and ask them some questions, or whether it was some days later that he had a vision and then he asked these people. But the fact in verse fifteen that he was grieved in his spirit within his body and the visions of his head troubled him seems to imply that he had them sometime before. And there was a time gap for may be several days. But what was happening to Daniel. Daniel sought to understand. He didn't just ask people to interpret. He didn't just look for counsel. Seeking counsel is good for in the multitude of counselors there is safety. But many times we seek after everyone except God. We seek after every manifestation except God. We need to learn how to seek God personally, individually on our knees. And Daniel must have been seeking after God for an understanding.

Seek to understand that is point one. When you seek to understand whatever God has given you which could be a vision, dream, prophecy, you do encourage the ministry of angels to work in your life. What would have happened if Daniel didn't seek the angel? It would be what I called the normal ministry. There would be no extra special ministry of the angels in his life. Because he sought God the angels interpreted for him some of his dreams in verse sixteen onwards. Then in Daniel 8: 1 here is another vision. *In the third year of the reign of king Beelshazzar, a vision appeared to me.* And he described the vision in detail. And this time it is very clear in chapter eight that there was a time gap. It was only implied in chapter seven but now in chapter eight it was very clear. Daniel 8: 15 *Now it happened when I Daniel had seen that vision.* Now many of us stop at that part. Maybe ours is a different thing. We have heard the prophecy. Or we have dreamt a dream or we have received a revelation that we couldn't fully understand. We stop at that point. We never went further. We kept it in our diaries or on our shelf. Remember God loves seekers. And we need to take the initiative to seek after God.

Remember the parables that Jesus told. A major portion of His sermons was in parables. He would preach to the multitudes and He would tell one parable after another. And the disciples of Jesus came to Him and said asked Him why does He speak in parables. The reason they ask Him is because when He speaks to the disciples He doesn't speak in parables. But when He is preaching in public He speaks in parables. And Jesus made a profound statement that is found in the gospel: *to you it is given to understand this mystery but to other it is not given, that hearing they may not hear, seeing they may not see.* When you look at it, it is very strange. Why did the Lord make it difficult? If you study it the purpose of the parable was just the telephone ringing for them to pick it up. It was just like the burning bush burning for them to come nearer. He gave them a little bit and see how they react to the parable so that the parables will separate the hungry from those not hungry for God. Jesus said blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled. Implying that those who are not hungry and thirsty for Him will never receive His ministry. Even if Jesus were to come this year and appear somewhere, do you know it would still be only those hungry and thirsty for God who would go to Him? And there will be people who will be too busy for Him. Even in Noah's time people were buying and selling and giving in marriage and involved in all kinds of activity. Jesus' parables was to separate those who are hungry for more of God from those who are not hungry. Although He chose twelve apostles there were a whole group of people who followed Him because they were hungry for God. He wants to minister only to those who are hungry for God. So to the multitude some who are spectators, some who came were out of curiosity, some who are there just to watch and see, some who are trying to check on Him like the Pharisees. Jesus wanted to separate them out from those who are hungry.

And here we see in the bible that principle is true in Daniel's time. Whenever God gives you a prophecy it is not just to keep on the shelf. Now everything will be revealed in His time. There is something that cannot be revealed until its time. Even if you ask an expert, they can try to decipher and interpret but it will never really be revealed. Remember towards the end of the book of Daniel, Daniel had some special visions and revelations. And he wanted to understand them. And the angel told him these things are shut up until the future. In Daniel 8: 15 *I Daniel had seen a vision* (It was in the past tense. He had seen a vision. For those of us who had heard a prophecy or had dreamt a dream or revelation shouldn't stop there.) *And was seeking* (God loves seekers) *the meaning.* Now what happens if he did not seek for the meaning? Nothing would have happened. Maybe that is the story of our life. We have received something. Maybe God has given us a dream, or a vision of your life, of your profession, of your ministry. That is our destiny. We should be seeking God to reveal more understanding of this.

Remember when Joseph had a dream, the dream showed him his destiny. God may have given you the revelation of your destiny in one prophecy, in one vision, in one dream. You are like Joseph the dreamer. That one dream covers your destiny. You could have thousands of revelation but that one dream that you had was like the Joseph's two dreams that cover the destiny of his life. What are you going to do about that? Seek God for its meaning. Seek God for its fulfillment. Don't just leave it there. Like Daniel seek God to understand its meaning. When you understand its meaning, you will know how to flow with what God is trying to direct your life with.

As Daniel sought for the meaning, there suddenly came one having the appearance of a man. It was an angel. Look at why the angel came in verse nineteen. You see you can enhance the ministry of angels to your life. You can increase their ability to minister to your life. Not just the normal way but special way. Daniel 8: 19 *I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.* The whole purpose of the angel ministry to him was because Daniel sought for the meaning. Some of us read the book of Daniel and we think that it was God who sent the angel to him. If Daniel was not a seeker after God for its meaning, some of those angelic visitation and interpretation would not have taken place. Definitely there is a possibility that Daniel chapter seven would not have taken place. It would be just as a dream that's all. It is implied that he sought God for the vision. In chapter eight the angelic visitation would not have taken place and all he would have was a funny dream. He would not have an angelic visitation if he did not seek God for its meaning.

Daniel 9: 20-22 *Now while I was speaking, praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I have seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said (look at Gabriel's words to Daniel), "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. You must be a seeker after God. In verse twenty three at the beginning of his prayer God has already started initiating. Now what was interesting is Daniel 9: 2 *In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord given through Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Then I set my face towards the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications with fasting, sack-cloth and ashes.* The most interesting thing was that Daniel was seeking God because of the bible reading that he read in the scroll of Jeremiah that he partially understood and he thought that he fully understood. And because of the revelation of Jeremiah from the word of God, he sought after God. Daniel was a seeker after God. And because he sought after God, the Lord granted him to understand all that he could understand according to his time in history. Now we all don't understand everything perfectly. We understand a little bit at a time. When Daniel read the book of Jeremiah which was already written in his time and saw the prophecy of seventy years, he understood that it should have to pass. And he sought God for the meaning of the prophecy, which according to his understanding, should have come to pass. As a result, God sent Gabriel to tell Daniel that it will come to pass but there is more meaning than that. It also points to the coming of the Messiah where the seventy years represent seventy times seven years.*

When we look at Daniel 9 I would dare to say this fact: if Daniel had not been a seeker after God for the meaning of the bible, the whole of Daniel chapter nine would not have happened. So don't ever say angels will just move as they will. There has to be some response from our part. And if Daniel had not been a seeker after God and after truth, the whole Daniel chapter eight would not have been written. We would have two chapters short. I wonder whether in our life story, some chapters have been cut short because we did not take the initiative to seek God. As you can seek God about a vision or a dream, don't expect that God must reply immediately. Let God take His time. But for you, you must set aside time to seek after those things to understand the visions and prophecies and their meaning and fulfillment.

In 1979 I started praying for God to give me an understanding of the book of Revelation since I knew that the Body of Christ needed to understand the book of Revelation before the last days come. It was only in 1989- ten years later - that God started to make things clear to me. I believe God would not have revealed if I have not asked. Ask that your joy may be full. Ask for what? He didn't say just ask for a car or something natural or carnal. Ask God for His revelation, His truth, His visions and dreams of His destiny in your life. Ask God for the revelation that is hidden in His word that has special relevance to your life. And there are not

enough people doing that. Some of us are not people who are very visual. But we are people who are very studious. We know a lot of scriptures. We read the word. You could seek God about the scripture just like Daniel sought God over the scripture of Jeremiah. In whatever area God will speak to you through prophecy, through the word, through vision, through your inner witness about your life and your destiny, we need to take time to seek God about those things. And they will activate not just the normal work of angels. The angels will quicken the work in a more special way in your life because you have become a seeker after God.

Lets look as Daniel 10: 1-3 *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.* So he had a partial understanding of what he had received. *In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks, (he was fasting twenty-one days), I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth nor did I anoint myself with oil till three whole weeks were fulfilled.* For twenty-one days he was spending time with God even though he was a Prime Minister and a busy man. He took all the free time that he had to seek God. Over what? He was not seeking God for more riches. He was not seeking God for more position. You see a lot of us taking a lot of time to pray for carnal things. If you only knew, when you receive spiritual things the carnal things will be added to you. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. The question is did you seek after the kingdom? What do you mean by seeking after the kingdom? We need seeking after truth, seeking after God, seeking after the things of God. And all these things will be added to your life.

I believe that Daniel was fasting for twenty-one days for more revelations. He had some revelations but he needed more. By now it had become a habit with Daniel to seek God about those things. Some of the difficult passages in the bible have taken me years to pray over and to ask God to help me to understand them. Whatever visions or dreams or prophecy we have we need to take time to seek after God. Angels love people who seek after God and they do special work for people like that. You don't seek after angels. You seek after God and you look at what He has done. We are not seeking for something new. We are seeking to understand to what He has been speaking to us. Not a single one of us can say God has not been speaking to us. But it is true when God speaks to us we don't understand what He speaks. What must we do if we don't understand all that God speaks to us? Seek Him, which is what many people don't do. They are looking for more new things instead of understanding all the old things God has revealed and seeking God for an understanding. And when you take time to do that God loves you. God loves seekers.

I believe Daniel was taking twenty one days to seek God for that. We know by the ways the angel say to him in Daniel 10: 11 *"O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words the I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you."* Verse twelve tells you what he was seeking for, for twenty-one days. He was not seeking for more riches, or more position, or more gold and silver and definitely not for any carnal things. He was seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Daniel 10: 12 *Do not fear Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand.* Point one, seek to understand. In the spirit world understanding doesn't come just by a lecture. Understanding doesn't come just by study. Understanding comes by revelation as God gives more light for us to see. It comes by seeking. *From the first day that you set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.* The angelic instructions lasted from Daniel chapter 10 till chapter 12. There would have been no angelic visitation if Daniel had not been seeking to understand. We know chapter nine would not have been there if Daniel had not been seeking to understand. And we know chapter eight would not be there if Daniel had not been seeking to understand. And we know chapter seven implied may not be there if Daniel had not been seeking to understand.

We look at our modern twentieth century. It is no different from Daniel's time in a sense. And we ask ourselves why there is so little angelic manifestation working in our midst. And you have the answer. There are not many seekers after God. There are not many who seek to understand. So you don't seek for angel, you don't seek for all these things. Examine your life what God has been speaking to you that you don't understand. Why not you take time to write those things down and take time to fast and pray like Daniel and seek God to understand the meaning, the fulfillment, the appointed time and everything else about those things. And when you sincerely do it with all your heart, you will activate the special ministry of angels.

Do Your Best

Point two, do your best. If we have not been doing our best with all that we know how with all that God has given us, the angels will not be activated either. Angels are not here to replace us. There are here to intervene not to interfere. To help us. When we say help, it is implied that we are doing something and then they are helping us. Let me give some examples of people who have reached the point of maximum obedience. They have done all that they know how to do and yet help is not coming. That's when you can trust that God will let His angels work mightily for you. If you have not done all your best the angels will not be activated in that sense. I mean they will be work all the time in the normal way but I am talking about the special way. The normal work of the angels still continues whether we ask or don't ask God. But there is a special work where because of our obedience and our initiation, the angels are commissioned because of our drawing close to God.

In the book of Genesis 16 I bring the story of Hagar and Ishmael because they are imperfect people. Many times when we illustrate principles with the lives of men or women of God, we may say they are like that but I am like this. They are so perfect so that is why this and that happened to them. That's not for me. So I want to use an example when you know this person is imperfect. Hagar was imperfect and so was Ishmael. They also have made mistakes in their lives. Ishmael's mistake was that he did not respect his master's son. And Hagar's mistake was that instead of being happy that she bore a child for Abraham, she started to have a wrong attitude towards Sarah, her mistress.

Genesis 16: 4 *So he went into Hagar and she conceived. When she saw that she had conceived her mistress became despised in her eyes.* That's a nice way of saying she became proud. Whenever you despise people it is because you feel that you are higher than them. And person can become proud after God blessed him or her. That is why when you have just got a blessing from God, quickly bend your knees and thank God. When people fall into trouble they are very quick to bend their knees. But when people are blessed they forget to bend down their knees quickly to God. Whether you are blessed or stricken, God will protect you from being stricken if you know the word. You are redeemed from the curse of the law. But in your blessing remember not to be proud. Humble yourself before God. Remember this you were born into this world without a title. You got your title because of your love ones or your uncle or you partially help yourself to achieve your education. But no one can be where they are without somebody else's help. Even for people who say that they are a self made person but nevertheless, they had an opportunity to make of themselves something. There are a lot of people who never had the opportunity, who never had a recommendation. Remember to thank God. Anything we got in this life is because of His grace.

And Hagar was judged and was punished. Sarah was angry, she wouldn't mind even if Hagar died. She sent her off. That looks cruel too. Sarah was also wrong. This is an imperfect situation. Thank God in imperfect situation your angels still can work. If angels were to wait until we are perfect to work they will have no job to do. In Genesis 4: 6 Sarah dealt harshly with her. I mean she treated Hagar cruelly. And Hagar suffered until she couldn't take it any more and ran off. Genesis 4: 7 *The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness on the way to Shur. And the angel said, "Hagar where have you come from, where are you going. I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarah. Then the angel said, return to your mistress, submit yourself under her hand. I will multiply your descendants so that they shall not be counted for the multitude.* She is a woman who is suffering for the mistakes she has made. And God is a God of compassion. God loves the needy. No matter even if they suffer for their own sins and their wrongdoings, God is still grieved.

Do you remember when the world was being judged in Noah's time and it was to be punished, it says in Genesis 6 God grieved. See God loves those who are suffering, those who are needy. The suffering of mankind touches Him. He knows somehow in the whole chain of events, it all came because of the fall of man. You know why the angel came. Hagar had no other road to turn. And her best was not really the best in God's sight. She thought that the best was running away. The best was not running away. Let me tell you in some of our lives, some hardships, some difficulties, sometimes we think the best is running away. The best in our mind or in our understanding may not be God's best. When she had done her best in her situation; when she couldn't take it any more and rather die, God sent an angel. She reached a point of maximum tolerance. And the angel said, "Go back."

Now look at the second time the angel appeared to Sarah. After Isaac was born and something else happened which was sad and should not have happened. Genesis 21: 9 *Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.* That is like despising Isaac. So the root attitude was not dealt with yet. Sarah was very unhappy. And she wanted to chase out Hagar again. This time Abraham was the one with compassion. Sarah didn't even give her anything. In Genesis 21: 14 *Abraham rose up early in the morning, took bread and a skin of water; and putting it on her shoulder, he gave it and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away.* Sarah wasn't even around. No thank you for all years that Hagar had been serving her. Just one moment of strife and she forgot all the good things of the past. We should never do that. No matter how you misunderstand somebody, no matter how you fight and quarrel, remember this every one has some good in them. Maybe you have not tasted some of the good things in their life that they maybe helping somebody else. Because when God made us He saw something good in all of us. We may not be perfect. And maybe the person that you are trying to get rid off could have been a blessing to somebody else. Remember there is goodness in every one of us that needs to be drawn out. No matter how tough the situation always remember Philippians 4 think about the good things.

In verse fifteen the water in the skin was used up. She placed the boy under one of the bushes because she didn't want to see the boy die. Think about the situation. She had one little baby. Don't look at her from Sarah's point of view. In every situation there is always two ways to look at it, positively or negatively. All things work for good to those who love God. In every situation look for the positive. Always choose the positive way. Hagar could have been middle aged by now. All she had was a skin of water with no place to go and apparently no natural future. She was sent away from a place which provided her food, clothing shelter and everything that she needed. While she is out there in the wilderness, there was no man to help. Isn't this sometimes your last situation? Remember this: tough times may come but tough times don't last. Tough people do. Be stronger than your tough times and you will pull through the tough times.

And there she was without any more water, without any man to protect her, without any knowledge about desert survival and her son was dying. As if she was not suffering enough, her son was now dying. In that situation many people don't mind dying that the son may live. She put her son in the bush and went away because she cannot bear to see her son die. How far can a person go? What is the maximum tolerance? How far can a person stretch? Remember when you have done your best, even with all your mistakes; the best in your situation may not have been God's best. When you have done all that you know how to and there is not one more ounce of strength or energy or finances or anything else in you to go forth and it looks like as if you are going to die off and that is the last muscle, that's when God's angels will work: when you have done your best in your situation.

And the angel of God appeared to Hagar. In Genesis 21: 16-17 *Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad.* It looks like a tragedy story with a sad ending. But in God all things work for good to those who love God. When she reached the maximum best shot that she could have God heard the cries of the lad in verse seventeen. Genesis 21: 17-18 *The angel called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad and hold him in your hand, for I will make him a great nation. Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water.*

The bible says in Ephesians 6 having done all stand. Now if it is one more thing that you haven't done: do it first. When you reached your maximum and done everything you know how and have prayed to the Lord, you can expect a miracle with God. You can expect God to send a special work of His angel and God Himself to work miraculously in your life. The question is have we done our best. That is a question that only you can answer in your private closet with God. Point two do your best and let God take care of the other things. But as for you and your household just do your best in your circumstances, in your knowledge which may not be the best in God's sight but the best in your understanding and you leave it in the hands of God. God will take care of the rest.

In the book of Acts 27 here is the apostle Paul. He is a prisoner for the Lord. It's obvious that he had done the best that he knows how. He has testified for Jesus. He has obeyed God by going to Jerusalem even though he was warned that he would be imprisoned. Yet God will always put the right people in your

path when you do your best. In Acts 27: 1 Paul was on his way to Rome. *And when it was decided that we should set sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment.* Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care. When you do your best God's angels are working invisibly arranging all the circumstances.

Joseph did his best in the Old Testament and God arranged all the right people across his path. I believe the story of Ruth where she did her best and God's angel, although they are not mentioned, must have been working to arrange all the circumstances. Do your best as much as you know how.

Then as they were about to sail in Acts 27: 9-10 Paul sensed danger. He says in verse ten, *"Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss.* He did his best to warn them and God will take care of the rest. Against Paul's wishes they set sail. And immediately disaster struck. A lot of cargos were lost and everyone was thinking that they are going to die. There was no one who could save them and God sent an angel because He has done his best. An angel appeared to Paul in Acts 27: 23-24 *"For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'* This means that not a single one will die. See angels work in a special way when you have done your best. You don't expect a miracle until you have done your best. Sometimes we hold back different things and then we wonder why God didn't work. And then we complain. Actually we were the ones who cause those problems.

King David said I have been young and I have been old but I have not seen anyone who loves the Lord forsaken. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger but those who love the Lord never lack any good food. I like to make this statement. I don't believe that there is any single individual on earth in this life or in the life of those before us in history that have done their best as much as they know how in God spirit, soul and body and did not see God come through for them. If it takes a miracle, God will work a miracle. If it takes opening the Red Sea God will open the Red Sea. Sometimes God work through circumstances. He brings people across your path like he does to Joseph. But if you have done your best, then you deserve God's best. Point two do your best to your maximum in prayer as God helps you and God impresses upon you every prompting that you need to obey and leave the result in the hands of God.

Dedication

Point three is to understand of what I call dedication. Dedication is to surrender something or some situations or whatever to the Lord. When we dedicate a place to the Lord it gives the angels special permission to interfere in the protection of the place. When you dedicate your business to the Lord, it gives the angels special permission to intervene in the affairs of your business. When you become a tither and a person who gives God offering, you are dedicating your life to God. The covenant that we make with God requires that we give something to God. When you have dedicated your life to God in whatever way, it gives the angels a special permission at different points of their lives. It works both ways, good or bad. In the evil spiritual realm demons powers have permission to interfere and to oppress and suppress lives because they have been dedicated to satanic forces. Now that happens in the negative. Sometimes children that are affected are innocent because the adults have dedicated themselves and their families to satan. Now the reverse is true. When we dedicate ourselves to God there is a special angelic protection in our lives and intervention because of our dedication to the Lord.

Lets look at Paul's life in Galatians 1: 15 *But when it please God who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace.* Do you notice here that something happened when Paul was in his mother's womb? We know according to Ephesians 1 that the call of God is in predestination. Before we were born He has called and chosen us. So what is this thing taking place in his mother's womb. I believe when Paul's mother was expecting him. Paul's mother must have dedicated him to the use of Almighty God. From that day forward the angels started working. And they made arrangements invisibly such as Paul was brought up under the best teacher of his time. When we look at other lives and see why God work through Moses and ask how come the angels worked in his life quite mightily, we find that in the letter to the Hebrews we are told that the parents have somehow dedicated him. Look at Hebrews 11: 23 *By faith Moses when was born was hidden three months by his parents because they saw he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's command.* Now that implied that they saw something in him that they must have dedicated to God. The mother may have prayed a prayer when she put the child in the

basket and let it float down the Nile. And the angels started working in his life right up to the time in the burning bush because he was dedicated to the Lord.

The Jews in this world have prospered in many areas. Do you realized that on the eighth day when the Jew is circumcised as a Jew, that is also their dedication ceremony, that they were actually dedicated to Yahweh God. And it is because of the dedication that had got God working in his area. Now as Christians we are a new race, new people, new breed that we learn the art of dedication. We dedicated our business, we dedicated our house, we dedicate our children. In the Old Testament they dedicate a house by saying, "Lord, although this is work of our little hands, yet we now surrender it to you. It is yours." That's dedication. Setting it apart for God. It can be people, persons, houses, or anything in your possession, which you dedicate it to God. The dedication gives the angels special permission to intervene. Point one seek to understand. Point two do your best. Point three the law of dedication.

4. MINISTERING ANGELS

Hebrews 1: 14 *Are they not all ministering (leitourgikos) spirits, sent forth to minister (diakonia) to those who will inherit salvation.* We have earlier mentioned that the Greek word *ministering* is a very special word that comes from the word '*leitourgikos*' which means that they are spirits sent to minister in subordination to us. Not that they are not great in power, or not great in position, but they were sent to serve. The word *ministering* is not the word *diakonia*. The other word *diakonia* in Hebrews 1: 14 is the same Greek word for *deacons* as found in the book of Acts 6 who are people who were appointed to minister to the widows. But the word *leitourgikos* as found in ministering spirits is a stronger word than servant. It's a word that implies somebody coming and subordinating under you, coming under your command.

Not all the angels are in this category. There are worship angels and they work differently. There are warring angels and they work differently. There are messenger angels and they work differently. There are angels that stand in the presence of God. All these are different beings that God has made throughout his creation. Now ministering angels are especially sent to minister to all our physical needs. All that we ever need in this life, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, education. These necessities of this earthly life are in the jurisdiction of these ministering spirits. And that means a few things here. We have to respect them. We don't just simply order them. Secondly they will not obey our command when it is not in line with the word of God. We cannot tell them to do something that is outside God's will. Now having fulfilled those conditions, the angels are sensitive to our spoken words to what we confess. And sometimes under the leading of the Spirit we will encourage you in your life to lift up your hands and to say words like for example, 'go ministering angels'. You are not talking to all angels. You are only talking to *leitourgikos* angels, the angels that are ministering to you. And you could lift up your hands and say, "Go ministering angels. Go forth and bring all that I need in my business, in my ministry." You can say generally. You are not asking them to do some special assignment that is up to God. You could say go forth ministering angels and bring forth your clients if you are in the business world. If you are in the ministry you could ask the angels to go forth and open all the right doors. Or if you are winning souls you can ask the angels to go forth and prepare the souls that God wants you to witness to, to share the Good News. So we can do that only to this particular group of angels.

And sometimes people misunderstand our position in two ways. One, they go over board and they do things that they are not supposed to be doing. Or secondly, they tell the wrong group of angels, warring angels or other angels which are in the different group altogether. The other day I told you about somebody praying in Hebrew although he doesn't know Hebrew. And a rabbi was there and he heard that person speaking in tongues, calling angels by name and sending them forth to different places. That was the Holy Spirit speaking through human lips. That can happen under the leading of the Holy Spirit. But bear in mind that ministering angels minister to our needs. They are interested to help you find a job, to find an open door in the ministry, to take care of your food, clothing and shelter. And if we were to learn how to co-operate with them, you will never ever lack of any good things. Because God will make sure that the angels bring them across your path. He can ask the angels to bring people who have those things into your path or He can bring them directly.

There are four different works of these ministering angels. The first is what I call education. These ministering are in charge of teaching us how to handle this life. If you are businessman they will teach you how to do business. If you are in the ministry they will teach you how to minister the way God wants you to. And the Holy Spirit is our ultimate teacher. But some of those things the Holy Spirit have instructed the angels to educate us and help us to function in those things.

Look at Genesis you see angels teaching Jacob how to prosper. Jacob was actually struggling in his work. He was being cheated ten times. His salary was changed by Laban. And it looks like there is no way he could prosper in that situation. And God taught Jacob what to do. In Genesis 30 we see Jacob doing a very strange thing. We realize that we can be educated in this life. We receive an education in the natural world. We receive spiritual education through Bible College. But there is something that we need to be personally trained in. God may have a special skill in your life and the angels may be giving you a special instruction in some way. I was reading in one article about how this professional golfer used to play golf in a certain way and then he reached his maximum potential. One day in a dream he saw that he should hold the golf club differently. And so when he woke up and started playing golf professionally, he started holding the golf club in the way he saw in the dream. And suddenly he began to do things that he couldn't do before. I believe that in such occasion these are the little skills that the angels sometimes are in charge to teach us. The schools don't teach us and the angels teach us. The main teacher is the Holy Spirit. Even the angels teaching are through the permission of the Holy Spirit. When you were little babies you not only have your father and mother you have your guardian angel. Just because we grow up doesn't mean that we lost our guardian angel. They are still teaching us a lot of things.

Jacob in Genesis 30 was not prospering. He was working very hard but he was not prospering because he was under Laban who was cheating him all the time. And he did a very strange thing. No human being taught him that. Look at Genesis 30: 37-39 *Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and of the almond and chestnut trees, and peeled white stripes in them, and exposed the white which was in the rods. And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flock in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive when they came to drink. So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth striped, speckled and spotted.*

Somebody taught him how to make those things and put it there, the angels of God. In verse thirty nine so the flocks conceived before the rods and the flocks brought forth striped, spotted and speckled. An interesting phenomena where somebody taught Jacob to do that. The angels of God will sometimes give you ideas especially in the line of your profession or in your food, clothing shelter, education all these areas. A lot of our physical work in this life have been assigned to angels to help us in those things. In chapter thirty Jacob tells us how he learned all those things. Genesis 31: 6-12 *And you know that with all my might I have served your father. Your father have deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. If he said thus: "The speckled shall be your wages," then all the flock bore speckled. And if he said thus: "The streaked shall be your wages," then all the flocks bore streaked. So God have taken all the livestock of your father and given them to me. And it happened at that time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' And He said, 'Lift up your eyes now and see, all the rams which leaped on the flock are streaked, speckled and gray spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.*

And it is this same angel that is implied that taught Jacob how to do these things in the physical realm. These are all the little education that the angels are assigned to bring to us. They minister to our needs. The first area of ministering is under education. They educate us in our food, clothing shelter etc. And because the angels are working in all these areas that the angels will make every good professional help in all the different areas. Because they are skillful, God in all those different areas assigns them. And if we were to hearken to those angelic help that is given to us, it can come in a dream. It can come in an idea. And you experiment in those things. You will find some new things that man has not discovered yet. Mankind hasn't discovered everything yet. There is still a long way to go for many different things. The world is still open to new ideas. There are still new inventions that you can do. There is no end to it. Sometimes the world looks like it is stagnant. That is because they lack fresh ideas. And if God call you to a professional area. Be sure that the angels of God will teach you to prosper in your profession. Their first role is what I call education.

They teach us in all the needs of this life.

The second area is direction. Turn to the book of Matthew chapter one. This is a love story. Joseph loved Mary very much and they were both engaged to be married. And suddenly Mary was found with child of the Holy Spirit. And she had a tremendous testimony. But Joseph found it hard to believe that it actually happened. An angel appeared to Mary and say that she has a conception that is unique. In verse nineteen Joseph was troubled. Then Joseph her husband being a just man and not wanting to make her a public example was minded to put her away secretly. Now he was thinking and thinking what to do. He still loved Mary but he couldn't accept her experience. He couldn't accept what she was saying. And he didn't want to make her ashamed. And in his mind he was thinking of putting her away. He probably has made up his mind that he is going to do that the next morning. Verse twenty *while he thought about these things behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is that of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a son and you shall call His name Jesus. For He will save His people from their sins. Verse twenty four Joseph when he woke up being arouse from sleep did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.*

So angels could be involved in our direction. We need to be opened to them. Sometimes you may be making a wrong decision in your life. And you have already made up your mind and the next day you are going to take the action. That night God may speak to you through an angel in some way or in some form. But sadly sometimes when we received those messages we treat it as a dream and not an angelic message and we never follow through and we suffer the consequences. The angels have been directing Joseph also at other times in Matthew 2: 13 *When the wise men had departed an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying arise take the young child and his mother and flee to Egypt and stay there until I bring you word. For Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.* He went, who will want to shift the location of your home just because of one angelic message through a dream. Not many of us will want to shift to another city to live just because of an angelic message or because of a dream.

Now we don't just go by dreams or by angelic message. It must be confirmed in our inner witness. These are all I call supplementary messages to strengthen what God is already speaking on our inside. If it is a major thing make sure you seek counsel and don't just go by every dream or vision. It has to be in line with the will of God. Some people who are not solidly grounded in the word will just make a sudden decision which is not in line with the word of God. On the other hand, some will just try to follow a dream or vision which goes against other principles in the word of God. The point we are making here is that it is significant that the direction that Joseph received was all from an angel and it involved his entire life and family. It meant pulling out his roots from his home town and going to another nation to live until it was time and God send him back again through a dream.

Angels can give direction. In the book of Acts 8 the Holy Spirit and the angel worked together. An angel of God told Philip go and stand at the crossroad. So it was not the Holy Spirit who gave Philip the direction here but it was an angel. As Philip was standing at the cross road the Holy Spirit told him go and join himself to the chariot. So there was a Holy Spirit and there was an angel. Why should we receive direction from angels? It is still the Holy Spirit who happens to use what I call the means to direct us. Some of us say when angels direct us we work. I don't think so because many times we doubt. We just cannot believe that God will want us to do some of those things. In fact by the time angels moved and work they are supplementary. It is because God has been working on our inward witness and we are not fully flowing with it. God will always speak through the Holy Spirit and direct us through the Holy Spirit. But God uses the Holy Spirit as a second line of direction or second line of guidance to strengthen what we already received in our inward witness. And this is where the angels come in. God knows that we don't change easily. And we are not creatures willing to change especially when it comes to a major area. And He supplements the direction of the Holy Spirit through angelic help.

Number one education, number two direction, number three protection. Lets turn to the book of Daniel 6: 7 There was a law that these have come out with that says all the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the adviser have consulted together to establish as royal statute. And to make a firm decree that who ever petition any god or man for thirty days except you O king shall be cast into the den of lions. We all know the story of Daniel and the lions' den. People can always rationalize what took place down there. Sometimes people say the lions are very old. Others say the lions were very well fed so they

didn't feel like eating Daniel. But all these are wrong stories because we know in Daniel 6: 24 that when the other people were thrown down into the lions' den, they were overpowered and killed. When the other people were thrown in, (Daniel's accusers) when they cast them into the den of lions and the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den. These were wild lions and yet when Daniel was thrown, Daniel was found alive and he said in verse twenty two. *My God send his angels and shut the lions' mouth so that they have not hurt me because I was found innocent before him. And also O king I have done no wrong before you.* Angels were protecting Daniel all the time.

Angels work in education, direction, protection and number four provision. Angels guide us to find food, clothing and shelter. Angelic help is always involved. Turn to the book of First Kings 19: 4, angels are interested in providing for us. *Elijah was discouraged and he was down. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die and said it is enough, now Lord take my life for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him.* Now Elijah didn't realize the things he was facing. Number one he had loneliness. Number two he was exhausted. God send him an angel and the angel said, "Arise and eat." Look at what he ate in verse six, *then he look and there was a cake baked and a jar of water.* He never asked where it came from. Verse six tells you angels can be very good cooks. Don't go around your kitchen and order the angels to cook. They will not obey your every whims and fancies. In verse seven *the angel of the Lord came back a second time touched him and said arise and eat because the journey is too great for you. So he arose and ate and drank and he went into the strength of that food, forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb the mountain of God.* I love that kind of food which allows you to eat once in forty days.

There is an interesting incident in the gospel of John 21: 5. The disciples were in the sea but the distance was near enough for them to communicate and Jesus said to them, children have you any food. They answered him no. Then he said to them cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. So they cast and now they were not able to drag in because of the multitude of fish. Therefore the disciples of Jesus said to Peter it is the Lord. And Peter dive in and swam to the Lord but the other disciples have to slowly come because the boat was full of fish. In verse nine and as soon as they come to land they saw a fire of coals there and fish laid on it and bread. The Lord made breakfast for them. Jesus said in verse ten bring some of the fish you have just caught. And Peter went and dragged the net to land full of large one hundred and fifty three. Then in verse twelve Jesus said come and eat breakfast. God is interested in our provision and he has assigned angels to take care of provision.

In some of the stories you see in Hagar there was no food and the baby was dying. The angels were in charge of the provisions for them. Angels were in charge of education and to teach us how to get the things of this life. Angels are in charge of our protection and our provision and our direction. These are the four areas that we are touching on, education, direction, protection and provision.

Now lets look at the common element that takes place so that these four areas of angelic help can work in our life. Lets start looking again at Jacob and draw some pointers how he co-operated with those angels in order for these things to work. In the book of Genesis 31: 10 *He lifted up his eyes and he saw in his dreams spotted, speckled, stripes and the angels talking to him in verse twelve saying, lift up your eyes now and see all the rams which leaped on the flocks are stripes, speckled, spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.* Now why did the angel work in his life? Because in verse thirteen it says, *"I am the God of Bethel where you anointed the pillar, where you made a vow to me. Now arise get out of this land and return to the land of your kindred."* There was a special thing in that message. The God of Bethel is a new name that God took because Bethel was nothing before Jacob's time. Bethel was a name that Jacob gave to the place where he had a dream of the angels ascending and descending on Jacob's ladder.

Lets look at Genesis 28: 12 as he was running away from his brother he dreamt. *And behold a ladder was set up on the earth and its top reached to heaven and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold the Lord stood above it and said I am the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.* Jacob had actually been dedicated to God when Isaac laid his hands on him. He had been covenanted to God. The covenant life was now flowing to him. That's why the angels were now working in his life. Its important to dedicate ourselves to God. And the message of the Lord continues in verse fifteen. *Behold I am with you and will keep you*

wherever you go and will bring you back to this land for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you. Now look at what Jacob replied to God in verse sixteen. *Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.* Is it possible to have the Lord in a place? Yes, it is possible to have something spiritual and not knowing it. It is possible to have some special manifestation, visitation or blessing and not knowing it.

Verse seventeen he also prayed and said, *how awesome is this place there is none other than the house of God and this is the gate of heaven. And he called the place Bethel house of God.* That was a name given by Jacob and later on in his life some twenty years later the God whom he had met here appeared to him again. In verse eighteen *he rose early in the morning took the stone and put it on his head set it up as a pillar and poured oil on it and he call the name of the place Bethel.* Now God didn't ask him to pour oil. He of his own initiative did it. Now there are some more messages here that teach us about angels providing for us and educating us and teaching us. We see first of all the name is special I am the God of Bethel the house of God. For us to be educated by angels we must be faithful to the things of God's house in other words of God. There is no point if you don't want a proper education. You want to be self-taught and everything is through tuition. We realize that at least there must be a basic before we can go on. The angelic education is supplementary its not supposed to be the main one. We should be faithful to the education we can receive in God's house, with the word of God, through books, whatever we must be faithful to educate ourselves in that area then the angels of God will supplement.

Second is the work of anointing. He anointed the pillar with oil. Oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit. We must learn from the Spirit of God who will teach us and lead us into all truth. In the book of First John 2: 27 *the anointing within you is able to teach you.* We must be faithful to the anointing within. Now angels will not educate us if we didn't do our best. We must do the best that we can first then we can expect angelic help. You notice that when the angels came to Jesus at Gethsemane and in the gospel of Mark 1 when He was in the wilderness they didn't come at the beginning. And Jesus for forty days and forty nights was tempted by satan. The angels never came to help Him. The angels only came when He completed the temptation. You see don't expect the angels to short-circuit the process and your life is just a fatso life, just lying down and say yes angels bring this here and we don't do anything. No we are not on this for vacation. There is a work of God to be done. We are here as pilgrims on a journey helping others to know God. We must do our best in all that we know and the angels will supplement.

Turn over to the gospel of Mark 1: 13 and this is a similar thing in Gethsemane. And he was there in the wilderness for forty days tempted by satan and was with the wild beasts and the angels ministered to him. The scenario was the same as the story in Gethsemane. The angels came towards the end. Angels were not allowed to interfere on what was going on. He had to complete that and do His best before the angels could come in. We need to follow the inward witness as much as we know how. and obey the anointing within. First John 2: 27 indicates that the anointing educate and teach you all the things you need to know about this life. And the angels will supplement what is necessary. So the oil represents the anointing of God and the Holy Spirit.

Number three Genesis 28:20-22 *Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that you will give me I will surely give a tenth to you."* He made a covenant with God. A tithe is a symbol of covenant you have with God. And that is why the angel came to help him. In the book of Genesis an angel appeared in a dream when he was being cheated. Jacob had obeyed God as much as he knows how. And he was at the end of himself and then God started working in his life through the angels.

Joseph's life in Matthew 1 the angel gave him direction. There are certain conditions for angels to direct us. Matthew 1:19 *Joseph her husband being a just man.* Number one we must want to do right. If in our heart we intend to do wrong don't expect angelic direction. We have to deal with our own flesh. Joseph was a just man and he really wanted to do what was right. But what was right in his mind and in his calculation happened to be wrong. He didn't understand why these things were happening. He didn't understand and couldn't accept Mary's experience. But he was a very righteous man and was true to his conscience. He didn't want Mary to be put to shame. And he just wanted to cover and protect everything and just quietly go off.

Number one the direction will come if we are desirous to do the right thing. Verse nineteen *being a just man not wanting to make her a public example*: he was, number two, a man of love and compassion. When you always seek the ways of compassion and the ways to walk in life God will direct your path. The way of love and compassion is the best way. He could be angry with her and do anything. He never did any of these things because he love Mary. Joseph was a man of love and compassion. When we have hate, anger and all the other things, angels cannot help us because our life is not right. But out of love you want to do the most loving thing possible and sometimes the most loving thing may also be the wrong thing; it may actually cause more hurt, even though your intentions are right. All of us can make mistakes like that. Sometimes the way they express their love to you is not received. Just like sometimes a man may have his good intentions misinterpreted when he gives something to his wife on a special occasion like her birthday or anniversary. Instead of buying her flowers he bought her a washing machine. You may have remembered all the times she slaved in washing clothes but she can be very upset. "Who do you think I am, a washerwoman?" When a man does that he may be doing it out of love. Sometimes we intend something in love but it is not expressed in a way that the other person understands. Sometimes our heart is full of love but when we express it, it is not received as love. It is received as interference, received as busybody, received as all kinds of wrong things. So here Joseph had good intentions, what he wanted to do was wrong in God's sight. It was the wrong method because he got the wrong understanding. But basically he loved Mary still. If he didn't love Mary he would have chased her out. That is number two he had a heart full of love and wanted to put her away secretly.

Number three verse twenty four *Joseph being aroused from sleep did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took him his wife and did not know her till she had brought forth her first born son and he call his name Jesus*. Now he was a very upright man. He respected what was going on here. And the third point in receiving direction was he was willing and obedient. When you are willing and obedient you will eat the good of the land. It is important to note that to receive direction we must have righteousness in our conscience. We must have love and compassion and we must be people who are willing to obey. And because of these things the angels found it good to work with him. That is why sometimes angels don't seem to direct our life because we didn't fulfill all these conditions.

Let's look at Daniel 6 for God to protect you it should never be a last minute thing. There are principles behind God protecting in our lives through angels that we must adhere to. I mean Daniel didn't start his prayer life as he was about to be thrown into the lion's den. He was thrown into the lion's den because of his prayer life. So sometimes people start their prayers too late. They don't look for God all their life and suddenly they are in trouble. At the last minute they look for God for protection. It would just be like Daniel being tied up and about to be thrown into the lion's den. As you are being thrown into the lion's den, you start saying your prayers. You got only a few seconds from the top of the pit to the bottom of the den to say your prayers. I don't think you would have much time. There must be some principles behind angels protecting us. Number one consistency. A consistent prayer life and word life. That means whether there is danger or no danger, whether there is crisis or no crisis, you maintain a good devotional life with God. Don't wait till the last minute. In prosperity or adversity you maintain your prayer life with God. You watch how God protect people with angels. You will find that those are the same people who are very consistent with God. In season and out season they are very consistent in their prayer life with God. In revivals and between special revivals they will always be consistent. Number one consistency. Daniel was consistently praying all his life. Lets look at verse ten. *Daniel knew that the writing was signed and he went home and in his upper room with his windows opened towards Jerusalem. He knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks before his God as was his custom since early days*. Number one consistency that is why the angels protected him.

Number two look at verse twenty two. *My God send his angels and shut the lion's mouth so that they have not hurt me*. And he give his reason: *because I was found innocent before him*. Number two obedience to God's law and God's command. He has not broken any of God's law. When you break God's law you don't expect angelic protection. If they ever protected you it is because of His mercy and His grace that will cover you for sometime until you reach a point where He will not cover you any more. Number two Daniel was obedient to God's law.

Number three is also important. Also in verse twenty two. *Also O king I have done no wrong before*

you. Number three blameless. He has not broken man's law. These are the kind of people that God loves.

Finally in First Kings 19 we see angelic provision. The angel provided Elisha with special food. 1 Kings 19: 3-4 *When he saw that he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba in Judah and left his servant there. He himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers! We also need to cross reference to verse fourteen, And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of Hosts because the children of Israel forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left and they seek to take my life.* The plus point for Elisha was that he was zealous for God. For God to provide for us number one we must not be halfhearted people. God doesn't like to prosper people who are half hearted. God prosper people who love Him with all their heart, with their entire mind, with all their soul and with all their strength. Number one zeal for God. When you are zealous for God you do things different from other people.

Do you know that two Christians can do the same job differently? You can do the job with zeal and without zeal. When you look at Christians doing a job without zeal just like they got no heart to do it, they never prosper. God don't open more doors to bring prosperity. Christians who are zealous, whether to sweep the floor or even if they are working in a little job that earn them a few hundred dollars a month, they do it with great zeal, with great joy. They do it not onto man but onto God. God prosper them. So why didn't God prosper because we are half hearted. We don't give our whole heart to do whatever needs to be done. If you are a road sweeper make yourself the best road sweeper. If you are an engineer make yourself the best engineer. Not because of your company but because you are serve as if you are serving onto God. Whatever job you are doing you are doing as unto the Lord and that is in the writing of Paul in his epistle we do it as unto God. So if we don't do what we need to do zealously, we will have no promotion, no blessings, no more open doors, no more prosperity coming. Whatever we have we are stuck, we are stagnant.

Number one is zeal for God. Why did God love to provide for Elijah? He had zeal. Even his prophetic ministry was because of his zeal. Look at 1 Kings 19: 7 The angel said to him, *"Arise and eat because the journey is too great for you."* Number two you must stretch yourself to your limits and then God will provide the extra. If you believe God for anything and you have not stretch yourself to the best of your limits. God doesn't seem to operate through his angels in provision. But when you have done all you know to give away and to do the right thing. I don't mean giving just foolishly. Or by whims and fancies. The best type of giving is planned giving. When it becomes too great for you the angels will come and supplement. Because planned stretching is stretching which is for a consistent period. It is just like once in a blue mood you go for a marathon run. You don't do it that way. You should be running a little bit every two days and building your stamina up. That is better for your body and for your health than once a year go for marathon run when you never run before. That kind of over stretching is wrong. It is not planned not disciplined and not proper. Sometimes people stretch themselves without planning. So when we stretch ourselves to the limits and we have done our best God will add the extra grace. That is number two.

And number three in 1 Kings 19: 11 *Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord."* And as he stood there different things happened but finally in verse twelve after the fire a still small voice and he ask him the same question in verse thirteen. *What are you doing here Elijah?* This is not the first time. The first time was found in verse nine. *What are you doing here Elijah?* And He revealed to him special things in I Kings 19: 15-18. He reveals His will for him, what he must continue doing. So our third point is the will of God. When we do the will of God and keep consistently doing the will of God, God will provide for you. When we are outside His will then we run into trouble. So the angels of God work in providing education, direction, protection and provision. And each has its proper principles to bring us to the position for the angels of God to work in our lives.

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