

Principles Of The Faith - 8

Angels & Demons

Angels – 1

- ▶ Ministering Spirits: Hebrews 1:14, Ps. 34:7, 91:11 hence "guardian angels" Mt 18:10, Acts 12:15 (care needed w. this doctrine..)
- ▶ Created by God: Neh 9:6; Ps. 148:2,5, Col 1:16
- ▶ Not To Be Worshipped: Col 2:18; Rev 19:10
- ▶ Can Sin: 2 Peter 2:4 Jude 6
- ▶ Can Speak & Sing: Matt 28:5, Rev. 4:11
- ▶ Good Angels Are Holy: Ps. 89:5,7
- ▶ Sons of God: Job 1:6, 2:1
- ▶ Watchers: Daniel 4:13,17,23
- ▶ Judged By The Saints: 1 Corinthians 6:2,3
- ▶ Enforced the OT Law: Acts 7:53, Gal 3:19, Hebrews 2:2-9, 14,15;
- ▶ Do Not Marry: Matt 22:30; Lk 20:34-36

Angels - 2

- Cherubim – throne angels, seem to be guardians of God's glory Gen 3:24, Ps. 18:10, Ezek 10:1-22, Ex. 25:18-22
- Seraphim – worship angels Is. 6:2-7
- Living Creatures: Ezek 1:5-14; 3:13; 1:15,17,20; Rev. 4:6-8, 5:6, 6:1; 7:11; 14:3; 15:7; 19:4 - mighty heavenly beings, complex, prophetic, possibly the same as cherubim or the chief cherubim
- Archangel – Michael the only angel so called Jude 9, Daniel 10:13,21; Rev. 12:7-8, 1 Thess 4:16
- Gabriel – messenger angel sent from God with prophecy etc. Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Lk 1:19; 26-27
- Limited in power and location: Dan 10:12-14
- Greater in power than humans: 2 Peter 2:11, Matt 28:2, Heb 2:7, Ps 103:20,

Angels - 3

- ▶ Angels Carry Out God's Plans & Judgments: Rev. chap. 16; Acts 12:23, 2 Chron 32:21
- ▶ Bear God's Messages: Acts 8:26, 10:3-8
- ▶ Patrol The Earth: Zech 1:10-11
- ▶ War Against Demons: Dan 10:13, Rev 12:7-8
- ▶ The Unseen World is Real 2 Kings 6:17
- ▶ Is All Around Us: Heb 12:22-23
- ▶ We Can Entertain Angels: Heb 13:2; Gen 18:2-5; 19:1-3
- ▶ Angels Can Protect & Deliver Us Dan 6:22, Acts 5:19-20, 12:7-11, Ps. 91:11-12
- ▶ Angels Get Involved In Ministry: Acts 8:26, 10:3-6, 12:6-11, 27:23-24;
- ▶ False Doctrine From Fallen Angels Galatians 1:8; 2 Cor. 11:14; Col 2:18;
- ▶ Do Not Worship Them: Rev 19:10

The Rebels Against God

- The **angels** who sinned (2 Peter 2:4) and are now kept in chains awaiting judgment
- Those who are '**principalities and powers** in the heavenly realms' and 'of the air' (Ephesians 6:10, 2:1-4) and which influence mankind today (2 Thessalonians 2:7,9)
- The **demons and unclean spirits** that dwelt in human bodies and even seek water. (Matthew 8:28-34, 12:22-28, 43-45)
- These beings only have the authority that we grant them through sin because they have no authority from God
- They do have a certain amount of power and wicked energy



Satan

- ▶ Satan, Lucifer (Day Star), the Devil, the Accuser of the Brethren, The Serpent of Old.
- ▶ Was an anointed cherub (Ezekiel 28:1-19, Isaiah 14:12-20)
- ▶ Is the head of the demons ("Lord of the Flies –Baal-zebul")
- ▶ Was cast down from 3rd Heaven to 2nd Heaven at the Fall, from 2nd Heaven to 1st Heaven (air) at the Cross, is now Prince of the power of the air, will be cast to earth in an end-times battle with the angels, and incarnate in a human body as the Anti-Christ, will be cast into the Pit, and finally into the Lake of Fire.



Demonic Influence

- Best to avoid the term "possessed" as it is not a biblical term and implies total control of a person's will and total subjugation.
- The Biblical term is "to have" a demon and this demon may have a greater or lesser degree of influence.
- A Christian cannot be totally under the control of a demon.
- A Christian can be attacked and deceived and influenced by demonic powers and we must wrestle against their desire to get a foothold in our lives e.g. through bitterness.
- Exorcism is using Christ's authority to break demonic strongholds in a person's life and to cast out any demonic influence.
- Pre-conversion strongholds (occult involvement, idols, witchcraft, drugs, pornography etc) need to be repented of and broken. (See *Prayer For Spiritual Cleansing brochure*)



Our Role...

- We **cast out** demons (Matthew 10:1,8; Mark 3:14,15; 16:17; Luke 9:1,2, 10: 17,18)
- We **wrestle against** principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- We will **judge** the fallen angels (1 Corinthians 6:2,3)
- We will **crush** Satan under our feet (Romans 16:20)
- This is done by the delegated authority we receive from God and by His power and assistance



Miracles

- ***A miracle is a less common kind of God's activity in which He arouses awe and wonder and bears witness to Himself.***
- Sign: (heb 'oth, Gk: semeion) something that points to or indicates something else, especially God's activity & power
- Wonder: (Heb: mopeth, Gk: teras) an event that causes people to be amazed or astonished
- Miracle / Mighty Work: (Heb: geburah, Gk: dynamis) an act displaying great power, especially divine power.
- Signs and wonders can be a stock term to refer to miracles.
- Ex 7:3; Deut 6:22; Ps. 72:18; 135:9; 136:4; Matt 11:4-5; Luke 4:36-41; John 2:23; 4:54; 6:2; 20:30-31; Acts 2:22, 4:30; 5:12; Rom 15:19; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb 2:4



The Purpose of Miracles

- ▶ To authenticate the message of the gospel (Jn 3:2; 4:29, Heb 2:4, Acts 9:35,42)
- ▶ To bear witness that the Kingdom of God has come in power (Matt 12:28; Matt 10:7-8 & 4:23; Matt 9:35; Lk: 4:18, 9:1,2; Acts 8:6,7,13)
- ▶ To help those who are in need: Matt: 20:30,34; 14:14, Lk 7:13
- ▶ To remove hindrances to people's ministries: Matt 8:15, Phil 2:25-30, Acts 9:36-41 and to edify the Church I Cor 12:7; 14:4,12,26)
- ▶ To bring glory to God: Matt 9:8, John 9:3



Miracles Today?

- ▶ The power of God has not ceased
- ▶ The need to glorify God has not ceased
- ▶ The need to cast out demons and heal the sick has not ceased
- ▶ The need to confirm the gospel has not ceased
- ▶ The need to testify to the arrival of the Kingdom of God in power has not ceased.
- ▶ The need for mighty works of grace and compassion has not ceased
- ▶ Therefore miracles have not ceased (but perhaps our faith has?)



False Miracles

- ▶ The Bible clearly says that there will be great deceptions and false miracles in the End Times
- ▶ 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12
- ▶ Revelation 13:11-14, 16:14, 19:20
- ▶ Matthew 7:21-23
- ▶ Matthew 24:24 and Mark 13:22
- ▶ False teachers and false prophets (2 Peter 2:1) , false apostles with false gospels (2 Cor 11:1-15) and false miracles (2 Thess 2:9).
- ▶ Magicians can do some low-power signs: Exodus. 7:11,22; 8:7; 8:19; Acts 8:9-13; 16:16-18
- ▶ Protection: I John 4:4, 5:18,19
- ▶ False workers deny the gospel and have lives that do not indicate the presence and fruit of the Holy Spirit.



Spiritual Discernment

- We are not to reject all spiritual phenomena because we can end up quenching the Spirit, instead we are to discern them. Holding fast to the good and rejecting the evil.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, 1 John 4:1-6
- Maturity Protects Us: Eph 4:13-15
- Discernment is a result of the Holy Spirit, prayer, the Word of God and practice can be a spiritual gift of the Spirit: 1 Cor. 2:14-16, 12:10; Heb 4:12; 5:14; Philippians 1:9-11; Eph 1:17, Col 1:9;
- 7 Tests From 1 John:
 - Faith in Christ (1 Jn 5:11-13);
 - Receiving Apostolic Teaching: 1 Jn 4:1-6
 - Love of the Brethren 1 Jn 3:14-16; 4:7-8, 16-17;
 - The Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Matt 7:15-23;
 - 1 Jn 4:13, Rom 8:9, Gal 5:22,23) ;
 - Obedience (1 Jn 2:3-6);
 - Righteousness (1 Jn 2:28,29);
 - Practical Christian Living in Love (1 Jn 3:16-24);

