

The Ministry of Angels

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Most people in the Church today have never seen an angel. I believe that many of you will see an angel after you read this article – it always seems to happen whenever we write or preach about them. The ministry of angels is like so many things in the Body of Christ and the Kingdom of God – we cannot recognize it nor have faith for it until we're taught.

Now I want to caution you, however, that we are not to seek angelic visitations or encounters. I have seen angels and different *types* of angels since I was a four year old child, however, I never once prayed for such an encounter; they all happened unexpectedly. My friend from Nigeria, Emmanuel Omoobajesu, has a teaching message titled *The Ministry of Angels* that focuses on demonic angels and their appearance to humans – as you know they are often sent to deceive. Their appearance in this case is normally done, however, through invocation and is not the subject that the Lord wants me to deal with but you should know that there are *many* demonic angels with the same names as God's authentic angels, e.g., Ariel, Gabriel and Michael.

The Word of God says in Hebrews 1:14 concerning angels: "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" *Why* are they ministering for us? The answer is simple, it's because "We wrestle not against flesh and blood." If they are ministering *for* us in many situations we should sense their presence or see them from time to time. In the commentary on the Book of Hebrews the Lord first gave me the commission to write in 1997 I listed some of the different *types* of angels I've seen in the spirit in visions and through the Gift of the Spirit known as *Discerning of Spirits*. Sometimes, also, one can sense or feel an angel come into the room or know they are there without seeing them. This most often happens in worship services. There are worship angels whose mission is to help us worship God properly and destroy hindrances to that pure worship.

My wife had such an encounter when we were in JB, South Africa, to speak at a convention 12 years ago. It was March 29, 1997, and she sensed the presence of an angel on the stage and told me about it later. We were both there at the convention centre that day but not together. The very angel she sensed there I saw come down from Heaven in a beam of light about 8 feet wide exactly where the preaching podium would be set up the next day for the convention to begin. He was completely dressed in white and had white wings. He was carrying a book that was gold with gold pages and I could see the title on the cover of the hardbound, gold book – it read “The Book of the Proclamations of God.”

You probably don't know it but The Latter Rain Movement of God was birthed by an angelic encounter. Brother William Branham received his first of many visitations from The Angel of the Lord on May 7, 1946. Like many encounters of this type that I am familiar with either with angels or the Lord he also brought Brother Branham a spiritual gift that enabled him to begin the world-wide restoration of the healing ministry. Brother Branham's faithfulness in ministry birthed others such as T.L. Osborn (to whom the Lord spoke while he was attending a Branham meeting in Portland, Oregon, in November of 1947), Oral Roberts, A.A. Allen, Gordon Lindsay and F.F. Bosworth.

Brother Branham was praying on May 7, 1946, and about 11 P.M. a ball of light appeared in the room and began to spread. As he looked up from his chair he saw what he described as a “great star.” But he said “it did not have five points like a star but looked more like a ball of fire or light shining down upon the floor.” He then related that he “Saw the feet of a man coming toward me ... who would weigh about 200 pounds clothed in a white robe.” Most of the angels I've personally seen are clothed in white robes or tunics. The Lord Himself is normally dressed this way and has a very wide gold belt, probably about 10” or a foot in width, about his waist.

Brother Branham goes on to explain his first encounter with the Angel of the Lord by saying, “He had a smooth face, no beard, dark hair down to his shoulders, rather dark-complexioned, with a very pleasant countenance. The angel spoke to him and said, “Fear not. I am sent from the presence of Almighty God to tell you that your peculiar life and your misunderstood ways have been to indicate that God has sent you to take a gift of divine healing to the peoples of the world. If you will be sincere, and can get the people to believe you, nothing shall stand before your prayer, not even cancer.” Because Brother Branham's ministry gifts and calling were in the area of healing, most all of his visions had to do with healing and he learned what his gifts were and

how they operated – something we all must learn to do if we want to fulfill the purpose and plan God has for us.

A photographer by the name of Ayers was in Houston at a Branham meeting and he actually took a photo of Branham which shows a halo of light just above Branham's head which is the angel. No doubt this is why so many of the ancient Christian painters painted halos above the heads of Jesus and the Saints – somebody must have seen this supernatural phenomenon back then as well.

The Hunters – Charles and Frances – that I knew well because they attended our church in Houston back before they started The City of Light – wrote a book with Pastor Roland Buck, an Assembly of God pastor from Boise, Idaho, titled *Angels on Assignment* in 1979. This book details angelic encounters that Pastor Buck had with a group of angels on many occasions as they came to his home to bring him messages. I also met Pastor Buck's daughter at a meeting back in the '80s who verified the accounts given in the book.

One of the things these angels revealed to Pastor Buck concerns the ministry of angels to humans regarding salvation. They are assigned to each human and their mission is to help bring that person into the Kingdom of God through salvation and a knowledge of Jesus Christ. They work in the circumstances of that person's life to bring them to a point of either accepting or rejecting Jesus as Lord and Savior. If they reject Jesus, the angels begin the cycle all over again to bring that person once again back to making the correct decision.

CCI has been involved in Africa for over 20 years. We received a testimony from a ministry in South Africa several years ago that “a man came into their offices and handed a copy of *Mysterious Secrets* to the receptionist and told her that they needed to read it.” They had never heard of the book before this mysterious man just appeared suddenly. She picked up the phone to intercom back to the office where the minister was and her testimony was that she only looked down for a second but when she looked up the “man” who had been standing at her desk had completely vanished! Actually, we've received several testimonies like this.

What are some of the examples of ministry God's true angels that we see in the Scriptures? If we are aware of them and how God uses them then we are more able to recognize their presence.

■ Angels are not only sent to minister *for* us but also *with* us – a clear example of this is given in Acts 10 with Cornelius and the Apostle Peter.

■ Angels bring messages of revelation from God; there are many examples of this in both the Gospels and the rest of the Bible

■ Angels often are sent to warn us of danger

■ Angels – the ministering angels who are assigned to each Christian – protect us from harm or death by demonic attack (Dan. 6:22). We see this throughout the NT. You’ve probably experienced some instances in your own life when you were protected. I’ve spoken to many people who have and I can remember many times when I was protected. One time I was driving back from Baytown, Texas, on the freeway at 70 mph when an 18 wheeler passed me and then I saw in the headlights its rear tires hit a 4x4 piece of wood about 5 feet long and it shot up into the air and it was coming right for my windshield in front of my face! There was no time to swerve but I just quickly prayed and it got right to the windshield in front of my face and something deflected it over the car! I had no doubt it was an angel!

One of the “kids” from our Christian school in Arizona who is grown with children now was on the T.V. program titled “It’s a Miracle” a few years ago. She phoned to tell us the testimony and that she and her family would be on the program so we made a point to watch the program. While they were living in Idaho their young son fell out the window of their home to the concrete below. Just before he hit the ground he reported that his “grandfather caught him.” His fall was completely broken and he was not injured yet his grandfather had been dead for many years!

The first time we ever ministered at a church in British Columbia was in the town of Vernon. After Sunday night service one of the elders had dinner at his home and we accompanied the pastor, his wife and others over to this man’s house. He was originally from Sweden and he gave me a testimony of WWII when they were fighting the Germans. He was in a foxhole and heard one of his fellow soldiers calling him in Swedish from about 100 yards away to come help him because he was wounded. He crawled out of the foxhole and when he got about 50 yards from his foxhole he heard the sound of an artillery shell come over his head and he looked back to watch it explode inside the foxhole he had only vacated a few minutes before! He never saw or heard his fellow “soldier” who had called him again.

■ The warring angels such as Michael are huge angels; they are about seven feet tall and weigh 400-500 pounds. There are many encounters of them helping Israel during the 1967 war and I’m sure they will be called on again by the Holy Spirit in the near future to once again protect Israel from destruction.

In the OT we see that God sent them before Israel to fight against the Canaanites, etc. (Exodus 33:2). When the Lord sent me to the Philippines in 1996 to the island of Siquijor which is the seat of witchcraft in Southeast Asia He told me when I was praying in Austin before the trip: “When you get there, fast and pray for 3 days and I will give you the battle plan.” You see God always has a battle plan! And if churches only knew this and would work with the Spirit of the Lord and His angels to *follow* the correct plan they would always be victorious against the forces of darkness in their communities.

Just as in the physical world the battle plan is never the same; it may be similar but never exactly the same. That’s why it does no good (unless the Lord sends you for some reason) to go to Pensacola, Toronto, or wherever there’s a move of God going on – it won’t be the same for your town and also it won’t happen unless some people have paid the price through intercession to break open the heavens and drive back the forces of darkness.

When I arrived on Siquijor I shut myself up in a Nepa hut, fasted and prayed for 3 days as the Lord told me. Late afternoon on the third day an angel appeared to me. He introduced himself as “captain of the host of the LORD” and said he was the same angel that helped Joshua (Joshua 5:13). Praise the Lord! God gave me the battle plan that was very specific regarding prayer but it was also comforting to know that the Spirit of the Lord had sent an angelic army to help me on an island that had less than 100 Christians and 75,000 people who were using witchcraft to fight the missionary couple that the Lord sent me there to help.

There are several examples in the NT, e.g., Acts 5:19, where they unlocked prison doors and delivered the apostles from potential danger or death. Brother Yun in his book, *The Heavenly Man*, gives a similar testimony where he was freed from prison in China after they had beaten him and broken his legs because he was one of the leaders of the Church in China. Brother Yun testifies that when the angel touched him his legs were healed and he walked right out in plain sight of many guards and they never saw him!

■ Angels are used throughout the Bible and the history of man to bring judgment and death. It’s recorded that a single angel killed 185,000 Syrian troops in one night. Angels will be used in judgment in an unprecedented way during the pouring out of God’s wrath at the end of The Day of the Lord as mentioned in the book of Revelation.

My favorite scripture concerning angels is Psalm 34:7 which says,

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about those who fear Him, and delivereth them.”

Praise God for His angels who help us and protect us from the evil demonic forces of the Dark Kingdom! Let’s worship and thank Him today for this protection and work with His angels to bring the Kingdom of God into the hearts of people and upon the earth today.