

Believers Teaching Angels

Introduction:

1. Angels are fascinating creatures of God. They are God's heavenly warriors that carry on the business of heaven.
2. We learned last week that, in time past, angels were very involved in the affairs of God's people, Israel. They are mentioned almost 200 times.
3. One of their functions in time past was to give instruction to people. For example, an angel gave Joseph instruction and understanding when Mary conceived Christ.
4. Angels are only mentioned 13 times by Paul when writing to us, the church. Never are angels said to be instructing us or teaching us today. We learned last week that we do not need angelic instruction because we have God's completed Word and God's very Spirit indwelling us today.
5. But this may shock some of you – we, as members of the body of Christ, teach angels today! Angels can learn from us. How can this be? We will learn how from God's Word.
6. There are two simple truths that we must grasp.

First, we must understand that angels are watching us.

1. God makes it very clear that we do not see angels today, but angels **do** observe us. Colossians 2:18 speaks of those who had become fascinated with angels and the spirit world.
 - Paul makes it clear that they were intruding into things that they had not seen, but rather were vainly puffed up in their fleshly minds and had been beguiled (this word means “trickery”).
2. There is absolutely no need to see an angel today. God has equipped us thoroughly (2 Timothy 3:16-17; cf. Colossians 2:10) and we walk by faith, not by sight.
3. But God's Word is equally clear that angels are, indeed, watching us.
 - In 1 Timothy 5:21, Paul encouraged Timothy to observe the things he had taught him because God, Jesus, and the angels were watching.
 - In 1 Corinthians 4:9, Paul stated, “...for we are made a *spectacle* unto the world, and to angels, and to men.”
 - The word “*spectacle*” literally means “a place for public show.” It is the Greek word *theatron* and is translated “theatre” in Acts 19:29.
 - **Illustration:** At a football game there are 60,000 people in the stands looking down on the field watching and observing the players - watching, reviewing, and analyzing them.
4. This is what angels are doing to us. They are curious creatures. Angels are carefully scrutinizing our lives. They are observing and paying close attention to us.

5. I'm sure they are watching our meeting right now. One may follow you home and observe what is going on in your life. They are fascinated by the church, by members of the body of Christ.
6. How important is every detail of your life? When you think that no one is watching, there are unseen observers being instructed *by you* for good or bad, which brings me to my next point.

Second, angels can understand God's wisdom by observing us.

1. Angels are not omniscient (all-knowing). There are many things that they have not experienced and do not understand.
2. In 1 Peter 1:10-12, we see an example of this.
 - In the Old Testament, the prophets wrote about Christ's sufferings and about His future glory when He would rule and reign on this earth.
 - Although God revealed the facts about Christ, He did not reveal the full meaning or the impact of them. The prophets themselves did not understand what they were writing.
 - In verse 12, we see that the angels did not comprehend it either, but they desired to understand. They couldn't put all the pieces together because it wasn't time for God to reveal the big picture.
 - The prophets would write something, and then scratch their heads and think, "How is this going to work?" Can't you just see the angels urging the prophets, "Come on, man! Get it! Figure it out!"
3. In Ephesians 3:9-10 we see another example.
 - There was a great mystery hidden in God from the beginning of the world (vs. 9). This is the wonderful truth of the body of Christ that God is calling out today. Jewish and Gentile believers are baptized into one body (Christ) by the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:27-28
 - God is taking unclean, pagan Gentiles, saving them by His grace (through Christ's work on the cross) and placing them into Christ along with Jewish believers. This is a great mystery time period that was hidden in the mind and wisdom of God.
 - But, now it is possible for the angelic creation (principalities and powers in heavenly places) to learn and understand this great wisdom and mystery of God. It has now been made known, and they can learn it.
 - How will they learn? Verse 10 tells us, "... *by the church.*" That is us!
4. As believers in Christ, we demonstrate to the angels the manifold wisdom of God and grace of God in our daily lives.
 - We don't demonstrate the power of God. The angels saw that when God laid the foundation of the earth on nothing.
5. Angels know nothing of God's grace and redemption, and if they are to know anything about them, it will be by watching us. They learn as they see God's grace and wisdom working in us.
6. Notice the phrase "*fellowship of the mystery*" in Ephesians 3:9.
7. Galatians 3:27 teaches that the believer has put on Christ. This means, when God sees the believer, He sees His Son, Jesus Christ.

8. The believer stands before God in the identity and accomplishments of Jesus Christ. God sees Christ when He looks at us, and the angles see us. They are instructed about the wisdom of God.
9. God makes us one of His children. We are members of the immediate family of God and can cry, "*Abba, Father.*" Only Jesus addressed God this way in the Bible (Romans 8:14-17). This is the fellowship of the mystery.
10. We now have an intimate family relationship with God, the Father. The angels have never enjoyed this. They know nothing of being part of the immediate family of God, sitting at His table, and calling him Father.
11. When the angels see us standing as who we are in Christ (heirs and part of the family of God), and when they see us entering into the very presence of God in prayer, they are instructed about the wisdom of God that made it so.

In Conclusion:

1. How are we doing in our instruction of the angels? Do they see us standing as who we are in Christ, and living a life of victory?
2. Or, do they see us walking according to the old man, in the fleshly lusts of our minds?
3. When believers live according to their marvelous position in Christ, the angels see and learn about the grace and wisdom of God, and our lives have an impact on earth, *and* throughout the heavenly realm.