

What about Angels Today? Do We Need Them? - Part 2

Introduction:

1. You read about angels all throughout the Bible. Angels are spirit beings that God created to glorify Him, and to assist Him in His work. They are mentioned over 250 times in the Bible.
2. But in writing directly to the church, the body of Christ, the apostle Paul only refers to angels about 13-15 times. In none of those references are angels said to be ministering unto us. Why is this?
 - What part do angels play in God's program for the church age today? Do we need angels? The world today is quite enamored with the subject of angels. Even Hollywood has capitalized on this.
 - You can go online and quickly find all kinds of sensational stories about people and their supposed interactions with angels.
 - But, people's experiences are not what we base our beliefs on. We base our beliefs on the truth of God's Word. What does God's Word say about angels?
3. As we learned last week, the apostle Paul gave us a three-fold timeline, in Ephesians chapter 2, which helps us to place Scripture in its proper context, and to understand different subjects and how they have changed over the course of history.
 - **"Time Past" (vs. 11)** – This was when God dealt with the world through the nation of Israel, and on the basis of His prophetic program with Israel. There was a middle wall of partition between Israel and the Gentiles, with Israel enjoying a favored status.
 - **"But Now" (vs. 13)** - Today, Israel's prophetic program has been temporarily suspended and God is forming something altogether new - the church, the body of Christ. We are not living under Israel's prophetic program, but in the mystery program revealed through Paul. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile.
 - **"Ages to Come" (vs. 7)** - This deals with the events that will happen after this present dispensation of grace ends and we are occupying the heavens. God will resume His prophetic program with Israel and bring it to its ultimate fulfillment.
4. We learned that one of the ministries of angels in the Bible was to give instruction and understanding. But we also learned that, in this age, we don't need angels to instruct us because we have the completed Word of God, and God the Holy Spirit living inside of us to instruct and teach us from God's Word.
5. Today, let's examine some more ministries that angels have performed in time past and then compare that to how God has equipped us today ("but now" period).

In time past, angels are seen giving comfort to those in need.

1. An angel comforted Hagar when it looked as if her son would die. Genesis 21:9-20
2. Angels comforted Jesus after He fasted for 40 days in the wilderness and was tempted by Satan. Matthew 4:1-11
3. What about us living in this present church age? Are we promised that angels will comfort us in times of sorrow and discouragement? We all go through these times. I personally have never had an angel comfort me.
4. But I have great news. We have something far better than an angel to comfort us. We have the Comforter Himself – God the Holy Spirit! John 14:16-18, 26, 15:26, 16:7
5. Paul calls Him the “*God of all comfort*” in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5.
6. When we are going through trials, sorrow, and despondency, God doesn’t dispatch an angel to come and comfort us. God Himself brings comfort to our hearts.
7. Our comfort doesn’t come outwardly from an angel, but inwardly from the Holy Spirit. Acts 9:31
8. In Romans 15:4, it speaks of the “*comfort of the Scriptures.*” The Christian in this age can experience comfort 24 hours a day as we read God’s Word, and the Holy Spirit applies its truth to our hearts and brings comfort.

In time past, angels are seen strengthening and empowering others.

1. An angel strengthened the prophet Elijah when he was weak and didn’t feel that he could go on any longer. 1 Kings 19:1-8
2. When Jesus was in agony, praying earnestly in the Garden right before the cross, an angel appeared, strengthening Him. Luke 22:43
3. What should we do today when we need strength and power? Should we pray for God to send an angel?
4. Again, we have something better than an angel. We have the greatest power source on the earth dwelling within us – the Holy Spirit of God.
5. Jesus told the disciples that He would send His Spirit back to give them power. Jesus did this. Today, the moment we believe on Christ, Christ’s Spirit comes to dwell within us.
6. Do you know how God strengthens us today? He strengthens us with might by His Spirit in our inner man (our spirit). Ephesians 3:16
 - Believers today have a power working inside of them that is indescribable and incomprehensible. Ephesians 3:20
7. Have you ever heard a Christian pray, “Lord, give me power.” As believers, we have the greatest power source already living inside of us.
 - **Illustration:** A baby has everything it needs – it is complete. It simply needs to grow.
8. The Bible teaches that we are renewed (empowered, strengthened) daily in the inner man. Outwardly we may be exhausted and feel like we can’t go on, but inwardly the Holy Spirit is there to strengthen, empower, and sustain us. Romans 5:3-5

9. This is why Paul said he had learned to take pleasure in infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, and distresses. When he was weak (outwardly) the strength of Christ and the Holy Spirit could be manifested with greater power in his life. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

In Conclusion:

1. Most believers today do not realize what they possess in Christ. We have such a wonderful, unique blessing today of being "*in Christ*." We are complete in Christ. We lack nothing in Him.
2. Angels are wonderful creatures of God that have ministered comfort and strength to people in time past.
3. But, we clearly see that today we have something better than an angel. We see the complete sufficiency of our salvation. We are in Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit.
4. We also have God's completed Word that God's Spirit uses to minister comfort and strength any time we need it.