

CHAPTER 20

ACTIVATING THE ANGELS (e³)

In September of 1986, a Christian businessman by the name of Norvel Hayes was speaking in our Pacific Northwest Warm Men's advance. One morning he said something I will never forget. He said that Jesus came to him (in a vision) and sat in the car with him, saying to him, "*If my people would only worship me more, they could have whatever they asked.*" Jesus went on to tell Norvel, "*Most churches advertise an 11:00 worship service, but nobody worships me. They just sing a few songs, take the offering and preach a sermon.*" I don't remember anything else that Norvel said in that meeting, but I can still remember those words: "*...no one ever worships me.*" For the next several weeks all I could think about was what Jesus had said to Norvel Hayes: "*If my people would only worship me more, they could have whatever they ask... but no one ever worships me.*" Several weeks later I made a covenant with myself, not with God, but with myself, that whenever I would wake in the night, I would arise and worship the Lord just because He is God. Therefore, since September of 1986, it has been my habit that when I wake in the middle of the night, I rise and go into another room of our home where I worship the Lord and pray.

In February of 1994, my wife Barbara awoke to find my side of the bed empty. Suddenly the wall between our bedroom and the living room disappeared, and she saw me kneeling in prayer. Standing behind me were three large angels with their arms folded across their chests. The next morning, she asked me where I had been praying the previous evening. When I told her, she said, "That's exactly where I saw you," and she went on to relate the vision she had experienced the night before. Barbara said that she had the distinct impression that the angels were waiting for orders. That vision caused me to focus my study of the Creator's Handbook on those scriptures concerning the ministry of angels as they relate to answered prayer. There are several hundred scriptures dealing with angels in the Bible, but let me share just three of these scriptures dealing with angels which I found particularly interesting.

- 1) The Psalmist said, "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).
- 2) In another place the Psalmist writes, "Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure" (Psalms 103:20 & 21).
- 3) The writer of Hebrews wrote of the angels, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14).

A footnote to Psalm 103 included in my Thomas Nelson *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* entitled "Fivefold Ministry of Angels" shows God's purpose for angels and how they exist to serve God in five ways:

- ✚ "To "bless the Lord" (in worship and service)
- ✚ To "do His word" (concerning activity on earth)
- ✚ **To heed the voice of God's Word as it is spoken through the saints on the earth** (*emphasis mine*)
- ✚ To minister on God's behalf (as described in Hebrews 1:14) and
- ✚ To do God's good pleasure (as His hosts at His direction)"

I began to ponder footnote number 3): "To heed the voice of God's Word as it is spoken by the saints on earth." Think about it! Whose voices speak God's Word on the earth? Only the voices of God's people—that means you and I—speak God's Word on the earth. When you or I speak God's Word from our spirit, in faith, it penetrates into the spirit world, and the **angels of God** heed the words that we speak. God's Word (spoken in faith), activates the angels and causes them to bring that portion of God's Word to pass on the earth. "Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven." (Psalms 119:89). But it is up to you and me to establish His Word on this earth. In February of 1994, when I first recognized this truth, I understood that it applied to prayer, and I wrote a small booklet entitled "Praying God's Word" because I understood that praying God's Word would cause the angels of God to bring the objects of our prayers to pass. But several years later God enlarged my understanding, and I understood that either praying God's Word or confessing God's Word would cause the angels to bring His word to pass. We activate the angels of God to bring God's Word to pass when we pray or speak the Word of God to the adverse circumstances that develop in our life. Speak the **Word of**

God to your business and call your business prosperous and successful. Faith is the language of heaven, and when we pray or confess God's Word in faith, heaven is activated to bring His Word to pass in the earth. But to make sure that you do not misunderstand me, I want to make something very clear: the angels do not heed the voice of **your** word; they heed the voice of **God's** Word as it is spoken through you, in faith. You cannot order angels to do your will.

ACTIVATING THE ANGELS?

In November of 2003, I was a speaker at the Canadian National Convention of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, in Regina, Canada. Terry Law was also a speaker in that same convention. Terry is the author of an excellent book on angels entitled *The Truth about Angels* (1). As Terry and I were sitting together in one of the convention luncheons, I raised the subject of angels with him. Both of us had met individuals who thought they had the authority to command angels to do their bidding as if the angels were their personal servants. We agreed that such actions are just plain foolish, but regrettably there are a lot of foolish people in the world. Terry said that he had used the term "activating angels" rather than "commanding or ordering angels" in his book, in order to clarify and avoid the impression that people may order God's angels to do their will. I liked the term "activating the angels," and since our conversation in 2003, as I teach on this very important subject, I have used the phrase often in order to avoid the wrong impression.

In his book *The Truth About Angels* (1) Terry Law teaches five principles that activate angels. One of those principles which we have discussed earlier is praying God's Word. Terry states "I have found that something special happens in the angelic kingdom when Christians speak God's Word in the midst of contrary circumstances. It somehow releases the angelic world to work alongside us"... "Problems do not activate angels. God's Word activates angels. Promises from God's Word brings provisions, including the assistance from angels if that is needed. Someone has said there are seven thousand promises in the Bible. God does not want to hear the problem. He wants to hear the promise that fixes the problem. He wants to hear us praise him in advance for that promise." (1)

AUTHORITY IN THE AREA OF FINANCES

Several months after speaking with Terry Law, I was reading Kenneth E. Hagin's book entitled *Biblical Keys to Financial Prosperity* (2). At the time I was experiencing the severe financial test in my business which I discussed in detail in an earlier chapter. It was, in fact, the most difficult problem I had ever had in the thirty-five years of being in business for myself. In the chapter entitled "Our Authority in the Area of Finances," the Reverend Hagin shares how the Lord taught him that angels were sent to minister "for" the believer. After pastoring churches for a number of years, the Lord had told him to leave his church and go into the field ministry. After traveling for a year, moving from church to church he had gotten considerably behind in his finances, so he began to fast and pray earnestly concerning his financial problems. One day as he was praying, the Holy Spirit said to him, "*The money you need is down there. It isn't up here in heaven. I don't have any American dollars up here. I'm not going to rain any money down from heaven because if I did it would be counterfeit. And I'm not a counterfeiter. The money that you need is down there. It's Satan who's keeping it from coming, not me.*" Then the Lord said to brother Hagin, "*Don't pray about money like you have been. Whatever you need claim it in Jesus Name, and then you say, 'Satan, take your hands off my money.' And then say, 'Go, ministering spirits, and cause the money to come' "* (2).

It was 1950 when the Lord spoke this revelation to Brother Hagin, and it was all new to him. It was so new that he said to the Lord, "*What do You mean? I can understand the part about how we can exercise authority over the enemy, claim the finances we need, and tell Satan, 'take your hands off my money.'* But, what do you mean about the part, 'Go, ministering spirits, and cause the money to come?'"

The Lord said, "*Didn't you ever read in My Word where it says that angels are ministering spirits sent to minister for those who are heirs of salvation?*" (Hebrews 1:14). Kenneth Hagin said that he had read that scripture many times but he had thought it said that the angels are sent "*to minister to those who are heirs of salvation.*" But now for the first time in his life he saw that the ministering spirits (angels) mentioned in the first chapter of Hebrews are sent forth to "*minister for us*" (2).

PUTTING THE REVELATION TO WORK

Hagin went on to explain that after the Lord gave him this revelation; he put it work in the very next church in which he was holding a meeting, He relates: "You see, what the Lord had shown me was new to me, and my head was telling me, 'That's not going to work.' I just stood on the platform, and said privately, 'In Jesus' name, I claim _____" (he stated the amount of money that was required to meet his budget for the time he

would be in that church). And then I said, 'Satan, take your hands off my money in Jesus' name. Go ministering spirits, and cause the money to come. ...' That's it; that's all I did."

He went on to tell the rest of the story: "Then I said to the pastor of the church 'Don't make any special appeal for money. When you get ready to take up my offering, just say as little about it as you can. Don't say a lot about it.' The pastor responded, 'If I just say that this is Brother Hagin's offering and pass the plate, you won't get over a dime.' I said, 'If I just get a dime, you won't hear me say a word about it.' "

Brother Hagin had preached in the same church the year before, and the church had given him only 40 percent of the amount he had just claimed, and the pastor had taken thirty or forty minutes to raise that offering! When he finished that meeting and counted the offering, he found that it was 120 percent of the amount he had claimed and nearly 300 percent of the amount that same church had given him the year before. Brother Hagin concluded by saying "...After that I didn't have to pray anymore about finances; I just said it **one time**. I put into practice what the Lord had taught me about faith for finances. ***And in your own life, just say it once. And whenever you think about it, just praise God for the answer.***"

Brother Hagin admonished the reader later in the chapter: "We're talking about claiming what the Word says is yours. We're not talking about claiming something that's off the wall. Somebody may say, 'Well, I'm going to claim ten million oil wells!' God didn't promise you ten million oil wells. You can only believe and confess in line with God's Word. Don't go off into left field" (2).

I had read the Reverend Hagin's revelation concerning the ministry of angels in the area of finances on several previous occasions, but I had not caught the significance of this very important principle. But now when my back was against the wall I saw clearly the ministry of angels in the area of finances. And more importantly, I saw that it would work for me in the business world. For more on how I applied this principal to my business problem see the chapter in this book entitled "Spiritual Authority in the Area of Finances."

DO MEN HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO COMMAND ANGELS?

Recently a friend gave me a book in which the author compared the Word of God to the standing orders that a military commander might issue to his command. The author suggested that men have the authority to command the angels to fulfill God's standing orders. While the author is correct in comparing God's Word with his standing orders, I am reluctant to imply that we humans have the authority to command angels. But when we put God's Word (His standing orders) in our heart and our mouth, the angels of God will bring those standing orders, the law of heaven, to pass in our lives, not because we command them to do so, but because our hearts and our mouths are in agreement with God's Word, His standing orders.

We are to meditate upon the **Word of God** day and night in order to establish faith in our hearts in that word which proclaims our agreement with the victory that Jesus has already won for us.

We are to take the **Word of God** before the throne of God in prayer and supplication, setting our case before him as an attorney would do before a judge (Isaiah 43:26).

We are to remind Satan of the **Word of God** as Jesus did when He proclaimed, "It is written" (Matthew 4:1-11).

We can either **say** God's Word, or we can **pray** God's Word, but we can't pray His Word without saying it.

As the **Word of God** becomes established in your heart, it becomes your faith. **And your faith in God's Word** will activate the angels of God to fulfill God's Word, to fulfill God's standing orders, to fulfill the law of Heaven on your behalf. Your faith in God's Word will produce victory in every circumstance of your life.

HOW DO THE ANGELS BRING NEW SALES?

Some time ago when I was teaching my "business by the Spirit" principles in a church in the Midwest, I instructed the members of the class that after they had prayed for new sales, they were to confess that they had already received the new sales. I told them that as they confessed God's Word concerning the new sales, the angels of God would work day and night to bring them the increased sales. During the question and answer period following my teaching, the pastor asked, "How do the angels bring God's people new sales?" His question startled me for a moment; I had never thought about how they did it; it had been sufficient for

me to just confess the Word of God and believe that the new sales would come. But immediately the Lord gave me the answer. I asked the congregation "How many of you believe that evil spirits (evil angels) can influence people for evil?" They all raised their hands; then I asked then why can't we believe that good spirits (God's holy angels) can influence people for good? When you produce a good product or service, and believe God for increase, His angels will go before you to influence the people who buy your goods and services to give you new sales. Neither the pastor nor probably most of the congregation had ever considered that the angels of God can influence people for good. Quite frankly, I hadn't thought much about it myself.

(1) *The Truth About Angels*, by Terry Law, © 1994, Published by Charisma House, All rights reserved,

(2) Reprinted by permission. *Biblical Keys To Financial Prosperity*, by Kenneth E. Hagin, © 1995, Rhema Bible Church/Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Tulsa, OK. All rights reserved.
[p. 57 - 67]