

Angels Among Us

Oneness and Awareness of the Angelic Hosts

Acts 5:17-25 New Living Translation

The Apostles Meet Opposition

The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, - were filled with jealousy. ... 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ... 19 But an angel of the Lord came at night, - opened the gates of the jail, - and brought them out. - - Then he told them, ... 20 “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!” ... 21 So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, - as they were told, - and immediately began teaching. ... When the high priest and his officials arrived, - they convened the high council—the full assembly of the elders of Israel. ... Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial. ... 22 But when the Temple guards went to the jail, - the men were gone. ... So, they returned to the council and reported, ... 23 “The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside, but when we opened the gates, no one was there!” ... 24 When the captain of the Temple guard and the leading priests heard this, - they were perplexed, - wondering where it would all end. ... 25 Then someone arrived with startling news: “The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!”

Introduction

After reading our text – I feel we need to pause and ask ourselves – what role did the angelic play – in the life of the early church? ... It is interesting how folk view the angelic ... I bet – if you were to ask people – “What do you think about angels?” – you would probably hear something like - - - They are those cute little baby figures with wings you see at Christmas ... Or maybe, “That’s what I have on top of my Christmas tree” ... Our culture has reduced the angelic hosts into ornaments – decorations – and cartoon characters ... But here in the book of Acts – angels were anything but ornaments or cartoons ... They were operatives and agents of the Kingdom.

Here in our text – we see the apostles were thrown into prison ... Bound in chains – doors slammed shut – locked and secured – along with armed guards keeping watch ... The authorities thought they had finally silenced them from teaching and declaring the gospel ... But in the middle of the night – without fanfare – without an announcement – an angel of the Lord appears ... He opens the gates – and leads the apostles out of their prison – and what is interesting is – he then gives them a direct command: “Go, stand in the temple courts, and tell the people all about this new life.” ...

This is not the language of a myth – nor a metaphor ... This is the raw reality of an angelic being breaking into a dire situation – not simply to free them from their predicament – but to declare a proclamation ... He didn’t just save them from jail – he directed them to continue with their assignment.

And here’s the truth we need to grasp this morning ... The Pentecostal experience was not only about the Spirit baptizing humanity ... It also included the releasing of angelic hosts – given to assist us – to come alongside us – for the purpose of carrying out our kingdom assignment.

Transition

Unfortunately – religion has reduced the Pentecostal experience to little more than a doctrinal teaching about power – giftings – and speaking in tongues ... But here – in this passage – we discover a critical and essential dimension of the experience – one that is rarely ever spoken about ... The ministry of spiritual hosts – given to the heirs of salvation – for the purpose of coming alongside – to strengthen – to protect – and to partner with the sons of God.

Pentecost Released Angelic Hosts

When we think of Pentecost – we typically focus on the power of the Spirit coming upon the believers ... And yes – that is true ... In Acts 2 we see the Spirit clothing the disciples with boldness – with utterance – with authority to advance the gospel ... But Pentecost was not only

about Spirit-power ... Something else happened in that upper room – something often overlooked and almost completely ignored.

Luke records that “tongues as of fire” appeared and rested upon each of them ... That was not just a dramatic visual display ... It was a visible manifestation of the heavenly hosts – of angelic presence ... Psalm 104:4 tells us – “The winds are Your messengers, - and flames of fire are Your servants ... Paul reaffirms this in Hebrews 1:7 stating – “Regarding the angels, He says – He sends His angels like the winds - - *{Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm}* – His servants like flames of fire.” - - *{Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them}*

So, at Pentecost – the church received more than power ... They received the active assistance of angelic hosts – ministering spirits – assigned to those – who inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14) ... And for the very first time – the fiery presence of the angelic – rested not on a temple – not around the prophets – but upon ordinary men and women who had experienced the Pentecostal outpouring.

This confirmed once and for all – that the heavenly host had been given as part of our inheritance as sons of God ... The early church went forth with a double empowerment ... The Holy Spirit came upon them with power – and the angelic hosts came alongside them in partnership of ministry.

Revelational Nugget

This is a critical mindset shift we all must make ... We have relegated the angelic host to being nothing more than part of the Christmas story ... But in truth – they come alongside and assist us in the work of ministry ... They are involved in our protection – in our guidance – and even in our refreshment ... But don’t miss this – they are also involved in exhorting us – and urging us – to carry out our mission ... And that’s exactly what we see in Acts 5 ... The angel didn’t just set the apostles free from prison – he gave them a Word: “Go, stand in the temple courts, and tell the people all about this new life.” ... In other words – angels don’t just minister to your

needs – they minister to your calling ... They come alongside not only to protect – but to propel you forward in the mission of God.

The Angelic Move in Response to the Word

In Acts 5 – the angel of the Lord didn't simply open the prison doors and then disappear ... No – he literally spoke ... He gave the apostles a clear – and concise directive ... Now catch this - - The angel didn't just respond to their crisis – he gave them a Word concerning their divine commission ... Angelic hosts were not given to be our personal servants – nor should we be bossing them around ... They are not assigned to us – simply to help meet our earthly needs ... They are assigned to us – to help propel us into our calling ... Angels do not only come to shield us from danger – they come to keep us aligned with the mission of God ... [Let me interject this here](#) – it would be extremely foolish for you – to argue with – or resist in any manner – a directive from a heavenly being ... They are to be respected as fellow servants of the Lord.

Catch this – angels are not free agents ... They don't act independently – nor at random ... Psalm 103:20 declares – “Bless the Lord, you His angels – mighty in strength – who do His word – obeying the voice of His Word.” ... Angelic hosts move when the Word of the Kingdom is sounded ... They respond to the resonance of the Spirit of God.

And this ties directly into the revelation of oneness with Christ – that I have been sharing with you ... When you speak the words of the Kingdom – and you resonate with the frequency of the indwelling Spirit – heavenly hosts will respond ... Let me say it another way – when we speak in alignment with the Spirit – when His voice flows through our voice – the hosts of heaven don't hear two sounds ... They hear one ... That alignment – that oneness – is what sets the angelic hosts into motion ... It is what gives them their directive ... And it is what causes them to come alongside us – for the purpose of carrying out our assignment.

Revelational Nugget

So, here in our text – the angel didn’t decide on his own to bust the apostles out of prison ... He didn’t act on his own authority to give them a directive ... Angelic hosts don’t respond to our emotions – they respond to the resonance of His Word ... When His Word flows through us – in union with the Spirit – and we are vibrating in harmony with the Spirit’s frequency – the kingdom doesn’t hear two voices – it hears one decree ... And it is that resonance – that frequency of oneness – which engages the heavenly hosts – and causes them to move – and minister – on our behalf.

Why Don’t We See This Type of Angelic Activity Today?

I asked a similar question last week – concerning signs and wonders ... But today – I need to raise this concern in an even sharper manner ... To coin a phrase – if we don’t get back to what some once called “old time religion” – and I say that in its truest meaning – we will lose this world ... We desperately need a resurgence of signs – of wonders – and of angelic activity ... This is not exaggeration – this is not hyperbole ... Just look around – there has been a dramatic uptick of violence against houses of worship ... What happened this past week – when children were violently gunned down in a church – was nothing short of horrible and heinous ... Make no mistake – there is a direct assault – a demonic attack – aimed against all who dare stand against the perversions of this culture – and who preach and declare morality and righteousness.

Catch this – I am not preaching today just for preaching sake ... It is imperative that we fully grasp these principles I have been sharing – these last few months ... These is not merely theological principles – designed to increase your intellect ... What I am teaching could very well mean the difference between life and death ... These principles are for our protection – and for our empowerment – to carry out our mission – to turn this world upside down for Jesus – and to hear at the end – “Well done – thou good and faithful servant.”

The apostles in Acts were called to carry out a dangerous mission – a mission that landed them in prison – and eventually cost many believers their very lives – for the sake of the gospel ... And that mission has not changed ... It has now been passed on to us ... Which means it is

incumbent upon every believer to grasp this essential spiritual law – the law of oneness – because everything in the spiritual realm flows out of it.

So, let's be honest and ask – why don't we see the same angelic activity that the early church did? ... The answer is simple – the modern church has reduced angelic activity to mythology – or to a brief symbolic reference in Christmas sermons and songs ... We have placed more confidence in human systems – in religious programs – in counseling strategies – to solve the deepest problems of life ... Rather than recognizing – and engaging – with our heavenly partners in a real and tangible way.

As I said last week – where does the problem truly lie? ... Look in the mirror ... Do you declare the Word of the Lord over the situation? ... Or do you simply declare what you think and feel about it? ... Do your emotions resonate with love – joy – and peace in the situation? ... Or do you allow your emotions to run unchecked – justifying your anger – your frustration – your fear?

Here is the spiritual law of oneness ... Apart from being one with the indwelling Spirit ... Apart from resonating and harmonizing emotionally with the Spirit ... You can do nothing ... No signs ... No wonders ... No angelic assistance ... Because when a believer lives divided – their resonance is faint ... When a believer lives sanctified – their resonance grows strong ... Their light penetrates like a laser ... And their words engage the angelic hosts of the Lord's army.

Revelational Nugget

Let me give you a picture the Lord showed me ... When an angelic being looks and listens to you – he doesn't see and hear in the flesh – he sees and hears in the spirit ... So, when he looks at you – does he see light or does he see darkness? ... And when he listens to the words you speak – do you sound like a son – or do you sound like the world? ... Are you catching the image? ... Do you shine – and do you sound – like a new creation – a kainos being ... Remember – the angelic will only engage when they see and hear – the voice of the Word.

Take Away

Let's keep this simple as we bring things to a close this morning ... The Pentecostal experience is about one thing – “Awakening” you to who you truly are – a Kainos being ... This is why it is so critical – how you view yourself – or better yet – what you believe about yourself ... Do you believe what the Scriptures declare about you? ... Or do you believe what the world speaks over you?

Here is a spiritual law ... You will always receive – and you will always create – what you truly believe ... As the Word declares – “As a man thinks – so is he” ... You cannot believe one thing – and create another ... So always be aware of your oneness with Him ... Catch this – if you are not regularly checking yourself – to see where your focus lies – you will drift out of alignment with the indwelling Spirit ... This is why you must constantly watch your thoughts – and guard your emotions – throughout the day ... And when you sense yourself drifting – stop – and intentionally re-align yourself with the Spirit ... Because it is in that alignment – that you live as who you truly are ... A son ... A daughter ... A Kainos being ... A new creation in Christ ... Let me leave you with this final admonition ... Stay awakened – stay aligned – and stay engage with the angelic hosts – as you live – as the Kainos being – you were created to be.

Closing Prayer

Father – we thank You for the gift of Pentecost ... For the Spirit who indwells us – for the power that rests upon us – and for the angelic hosts that surround us ... Today we choose to walk in the fullness of our inheritance as sons and daughters ... Lord – awaken us to who we truly are in Christ ... Teach us to keep our hearts aligned – our thoughts guarded – and our emotions anchored in Your Spirit ... May our words carry the resonance of heaven – and may the unseen host move in harmony with Your decree through us ... Father – protect Your people ... Empower us with boldness ... And let signs – wonders – and angelic activity break forth again in our day – that this world might be turned upside down for Jesus ... Until the day we hear You say – “Well done – thou good and faithful servant.” ... In the mighty name of Jesus, we pray – Amen.