

April 21, 2024 Meeker Christian Church ANGELS

Thank you Dalton for that introduction for this sermon. It is an example to help Christians identify angels in their lives.

If you have ever been awe struck with a beautiful scene, setting, worship time, experienced birds singing, beautiful music, or other moments pulling your heart strings closer to the love of God - you have been touched by an angel.

We start with a little scriptural foundation on angels, then move to some practical and personal encounters with angels that will help you become more aware of and praising God for their ministry. Special attention please: never, never, never, ever, never worship or pray to angels. Send your thanks and prayers always, only and forever directly to God the Father. Angels are just doing their kingdom job for which they were created, just as we should be about doing our kingdom job for which we are created.

Hebrews 1:1-14 is a good study for your quiet time and the theme verse behind this message. **Hebrews 1:14 NIV** *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?* Angels have their place in creation to minister to Christians who are those who will inherit salvation.

**Psalms 34:7** *The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.*

**Psalms 91:11-12** *For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

**Matthew 18:10** *“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ///So yes you do have a guardian angel assigned for your well-being.*

In the New King James Version angels are mentioned over 300 times and we will look at a few of them so you know what to expect from angel ministry. I hasten to add that the more we understand about GOD'S angels in the spirit world, the more we are prepared to combat the devil and his fiendish hordes in this world. And it is comforting to know that God has a plan for the devil and his associates as scriptures clarifies in **2 Peter 2:4** *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;* A cross reference is Mathew 25:41.

Many, many of the angelic appearances have to do with angels administering deadly force against evil persons, as an example: **Acts 12:21-23** *So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal*

apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. **22** And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” **23** Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. Some cross references are Psalm 78:49 and Matthew 13:49 And of course, the book of Revelation is replete with examples of angels being God's means of punishment.

Angels worship and praise GOD throughout creation. **Revelation 5:11** *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,///* cross references Isaiah 6:3, Psalm 148:2, Job 38:7, Luke 2:13, Luke 15:7&10. Also in that Revelation 5:11 verse please make note that there are no shortage of Gods righteous angels at the bidding of God.

Angels are all one gender, they do not reproduce. Those created are still on duty today. - **Matthew 22:30** *For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. Our soul/spirit will be like angels, but we do not become angels.* Angels do not die: **Luke 20:36** *nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.*

Angels are involved in carrying the dead to heaven: **Luke 16:22** *So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.* Again - Christians DO NOT become angels when they die.

Here is the icing on the cake: **Hebrews 13:2** *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.* That is definitive evidence that Christians encounter angels without even realizing it.

And just so you will know: Christians will judge angels: **1 Corinthians 6:3** *Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?*

A few more things I will not take time to document: Scripture speaks of angels with wings which includes some of the creatures in Revelation. There are ranks of angels, they can appear in human form, they influence our thinking, they are very able to physically protect us. Angels are catalyst or casual agents in inspiring spiritual experiences like Dalton experienced in camps, they are ever present in Bible studies and any related worship of God experiences. Angels interact with our soul/spirit.

Angels are for sure real beings, the friend, companion and ministering spirits to Christians.

Their ministry assignment to us cannot be contrary to the nature and will of GOD which teaches that mankind will be tested and tried. But note this: those tests and trials are apparently under the direction and supervision of angels. A great challenge for the faithful growing Christian is to understand **I Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.* That way of escape surely must be provided by guardian angels.

The intent of this sermon is to familiarize you with a few of the attributes of angels which we have looked at and now to suggest some specific areas where you experiences angels in your lives. Dalton's testimony is an example of angelic influence on his life. As you recognize the angel activities in your life I believe you will be more equipped to praise and thank God for your blessings and live a more joy filled, spiritually productive, purpose oriented life for which you were created. Here is my evidence:

Have you ever said: "wow that was a miracle!", or "where did that come from?" or "What just happened?" or "I can't believe the whole thing!" Sometimes have you said: "I just had a nagging feeling I should not do it, but peer pressure or something else made me do it anyway." A Guardian Angel was present and prompting those thoughts, sometimes your angel was even contending with fallen angels attacks on you. - a practical point: Your will influenced the devils earthly powers will suppress the righteous influence of angels. That is called sin – every time we deny or inhibit the angels of God, even the tiniest bit – it is sin.

Have you ever fallen asleep at the wheel driving and startled awake just in time to avoid an accident or run into a bridge railing as in my personal case. If you are a pilot have you ever doubted your instruments and started to follow your feelings only to be drawn back to obey the instruments? Your guardian angel saved you. Jean was riding in the back seat of a car going from Craig to Steamboat when the driver swerved and she saw the Yampa River straight down from her window, but the car somehow remained on the road. Angels were at work. As a youth I was drug by a team of horses down the hay stubble without a shirt after the tongue on the rake broke and the lines wrapped around my hands. I still remember each time the team lunged forward my head was jerked back and I saw a hoof fly over. Angels protected me and alerted my brother who saw the whole things and came running to pick up my bleeding body and carry a quarter mile to the closest neighbor. They took me to the Dr. who cleaned me up

told me to be more careful and sent us home. I can share dozens and dozens of similar stories right down to sitting in a college or seminary class praying for help to remember or figure out a test questions and then without explanation the recall would come. Writing sermons or trying to lead lesson discussions – suddenly an inspiration like a light comes on... angels at work. Just under Bears Ears on Black Mountain I lay on my saddle in the middle of the night looking up at the clear star filled night while Pal, the horse I had staked out rested from the days ride. It was as if someone held me in a loving hug and gently but firmly affirmed that heavens glory was calling me to be a minister of the gospel message of Jesus. A bunch of angels were involved that time and so many times since. Protection, safety, inspiration, comfort, encouragement, discipline, help of every imaginable variety, love, laughter, joy, peace, family, children, work, play... every good thing angels are present.

When Frank should have been electrocuted, he was shocked but somehow was knocked clear – the somehow was an angel. When Richard was recently butted and ran over by an angry cow, that cow could have easily seriously or critically injured him. When Golda fell and broke 3 ribs, she could have punctured a lung or who knows what. Those were all angels in action. I urge you to learn to recognize the benefactor in those moments and give credit where credit is due./// Satan hates it when you recognize righteous angels in action because he has tried to make it seem like a coincidence. THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING. The word coincidence should be removed from the English language. God knows everything all the time. What we call a coincidence is in reality angels in action – admittedly - sometimes those are evil fallen angels, but the closer you grow to God the more I believe the ministering angels are your companion.

I know skeptics would tear my stories apart – so be it –/// it does not change the reality of what God has placed in my heart. That is what I pray you take home from this message. The reality, - the presence, - the activity of angels in your life and with those angels, you will gain defense against satan who will do anything and everything possible to divert your recognition of the angels power to circumstance, coincidence or happenstance. When you start recognizing your angelic guardians and thanking and God and praising Him for them, your spiritual senses will increase, your passion for righteousness increase and life will start to make sense like it never has before. I finish where I started with Special attention: please, never, never, never, ever, never worship or pray to angels. Send your thanks and prayers always, only and forever directly to God the Father. Invitation:

**Hebrews 1:14 NIV**

**Psalm 34:7**

**Psalm 91:11-12**

**Matthew 18:10**

**2 Peter 2:4** cross reference Mathew 25:41

**Acts 12:21-23** Some cross references are Psalm 78:49 and Matthew 13:49

**Revelation 5:11** cross references Isaiah 6:3, Psalm 148:2, Job 38:7, Luke 2:13, Luke 15:7&10

**Matthew 22:30**

**Luke 20:36**

**Luke 16:22**

**Hebrews 13:2**

**1 Corinthians 6:3**

**I Corinthians 10:13**