

There Are Angels around You

By Pastor Miguel A. Cañete
Sunset Congregational Church
Kendall, Florida

Imagine this. You are going through a tough time. Everything seems to be turning against you. It may be a messy situation at work, a family issue, or a time of deep discouragement. Finally, you cry out to God. And sure enough, your work situation starts to improve, the air in your home feels different, or you feel a sudden burst of strength and courage with no natural explanation. You don't know it, but because of your prayer, God has mobilized His angels in your favor.

We may not see them, but the Bible is clear: Those who belong to God are surrounded by angels. That is why David wrote: "In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him" (Ps 34:7, NIV).

Elizabeth Elliot, a famous missionary, tells about her father's experience with angels:

"My father, when he was a small boy, was climbing on an upper story of a house that was being built. He walked to the end of a board that was not nailed at the other end, and it slowly began to tip. He knew that he was doomed, but inexplicably the board began to tip the other way, as though a hand had pushed it down again. He always wondered if it was an angel's hand."¹

This shouldn't amaze us, after all, the Bible says that angels are "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation" (Heb 1:14, NIV). In one occasion, the prophet Elisha was about to be taken captive by the Aramean army. Being surrounded, his servant said: "Oh, master! What shall we do?" To which the prophet responded, "Don't worry about it—there are more on our side than on their side." Then he prayed, "O God, open his eyes and let him see." And the "eyes of the young man were opened and he saw... The whole mountainside full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha!" (2 Kings 6:15-17, *The Message*). You can look up the passage to read the end of the story, but my point here is that even in the scariest situation—especially in the scariest situation—God's angelic army surrounded His prophet. And it is no different with you and me.

So next time you feel alone, forsaken, weak, or plain terrified, remember: God's angels are around you, and you and them are truly a majority!

"If you make the Lord your refuge... no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold

¹Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers*. Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979

you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!"
(Ps 91:9-13, NLT)