Do You Believe in Angels?

Fallen Angels Series Reference 2

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DO YOU BELIEVE IN ANGELS?

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Do you believe in angels? Have events occurred in your life for which you could not determine any rational or scientific explanation? Have you ever been driving to an important meeting, missed a turn, and then later heard that your intended route had been snarled with hour-long delays, or worse yet, a 24-car pileup that had resulted in a dozen fatalities? Have you been pulled out of the path of an oncoming bus by a stranger? Decided to forego purchasing chicken for a week only to learn later that there'd been an outbreak of salmonella the week you'd refrained from chicken? Been prompted to retrieve your flashlight before reaching beneath a cabinet, and then found a nest of poisonous spiders living there? Missed a plane that subsequently exploded? Or experienced any other event in your life when your original plan would have led to failure or even disaster?

When you recount those events to others, have they sometimes remarked, "You must have angels watching over you"? Do you believe them when they say such things? If not, why not? If you walk out your front door in the morning and find the grass and pavement wet, drops of water on your car's windshield, branches of trees dripping, yet the sky is clear; do you have any doubt in your mind that it had rained in the night while you were asleep?

If your next-door neighbor walked out just then and claimed, "Apparently, the man who just moved in down the street arose at 3 a.m. and tested his brand-new garden hose on the entire neighborhood," would you suddenly change your belief in what your know had truly occurred, a fact that easily can be deduced from the physical evidence?

To understand occurrences that appear to fall beyond the physical world and thus, beyond the realm of science, we should not seek the counsel of men. The Old Testament advises us "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

To our detriment, we have been taught to trust newscasters, teachers, doctors, accountants, celebrities, politicians, pundits, and even loud, boorish no-accounts whose only qualifications are that they have convinced numerous people to believe anything they say without question and can prove this by displaying a list of their followers on social media—the "Lemming Effect." Not one of these trusted advisors has an inerrant record of delivering trustworthy facts or advice, not even those who claim to be spiritual advisors. The only beings with a perfect record are the three members of our Triune God.

In the Holy Bible, God reveals a vast spiritual world existing around us, invisible, yes; however, one that can be seen through its evidence and experienced through its results by way of a simple act of faith. Faith comes from hearing the message, and we hear the message by studying the Word of God—The Holy Bible.

Again in the *New Testament*, we are advised "that our faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

But what is faith from a spiritual perspective? Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Through faith, we understand that the universe was formed at God's command so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Chapter 11 of the Book of Hebrews in the Holy Bible, often referred to as the "Hall of Faith," provides a list of the wonders that have been accomplished by those who walked in faith. These "Triumphs of Faith" were accomplished by ordinary people, some of whose names you will likely recognize: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sara, Isaac and Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Rahab. And Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, and David and Samuel and the prophets. They walked by faith and not by sight, and we are advised to follow their lead and do the same.

When you have an experience that seems too singular, too fortuitous, or too coincidental for the normal order of human affairs, perhaps because its beneficial outcome appears to have been directed at you and you alone, and this causes you to face a decision that requires the weighing of two or more possible explanations about what has taken place, please include the workings of God through His angels as one of the possible explanations, and give it equal probability. Soon you will realize that He deserves more status than the other possibilities you may be considering; in fact, over time, you may come to see that His intervention is the only completely viable explanation for the otherwise inexplicable and extraordinary events in your life.

You might wonder *Why would God choose to make such beings invisible?* There are many reasons. First, if we could see the spiritual realm, we might discover that there are far more angels than humans; they would be distracting; we would feel crowded, overwhelmed, and without hope of solitude. But what might be more detrimental is that we would soon come to rely upon them,

expect them to always rescue us, and some of us might attempt evermore dangerous amusements. Eventually, we would take them for granted. The result of this would be that we humans would not experience personal growth, the sort of growth described in the story "The Refiner's Fire" that appears as a story within a story in this book. Even worse, we might be inclined to focus our worship on angels instead of focusing our worship on the One who created angels and everything else—God.

Bible Verses quoted in "Do You Believe in Angels?"

Paragraph 4: Psalm 118:8

Paragraph 6: Romans 10:17
1 Corinthians 2:5

Paragraph 7: Hebrews 11:1
Hebrews 11:3
Hebrews 11:1-40
2 Corinthians 5:7