

Chapter One

The PRESENCE *of* **ANGELS**

But above all else, angels work for the Master of the universe and share in our desire to worship Him and accomplish His will.

DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM IN 1991, THIRTY-five nations formed a coalition with the United States, making a total of thirty-six nations, against Saddam Hussein to bring Kuwait back under the leadership of the emir of Kuwait. This coalition created such a powerful force against Iraq that the air strike began and ended within six weeks. Iraq surrendered after these bombings and a four-day ground campaign.¹

This operation was extremely successful because the leaders of these countries came together, agreed on a common goal, organized their attack, and created a fair and uniform way to direct their troops, which promoted unity, easy communication, and a shared goal.²

Each of these thirty-six countries supplied troops based on their military resources. While the United States and Great Britain supplied the most, every country supplied a particular number of troops to champion the cause. As a result, each nation only had to supply a small amount of resources in order to accomplish the goal of liberating Kuwait from Iraq. The strategy was masterfully executed, and because of the formation of this coalition, the sacrifice from each country was minimal.

Fast-forward to modern America: Did you know the present war in Iraq is the longest war in American history? One of the many reasons for its length and complexity is the absence of allies! Unlike Desert Storm, our nation has had great difficulty finding the needed support for our war, and so, alone and exhausted, this conflict has stretched years beyond what was expected. Unfortunately, this scenario epitomizes the unhappy state of believers living in spiritual defeat! Believers are failing to employ and deploy the hosts of heaven surrounding them. All of the great men and women of faith noted in Holy Scriptures operated with the supernatural assistance of various angels.

If you haven't noticed, there is a growing fascination with angels in our society. For some reason, the possibility of supernatural encounters with angelic beings fascinates this generation. I find this astonishing because as a child of the 1960s, I was reared in an environment dominated by the denial of God and the supernatural, but today, the majority of people believe in unseen spiritual forces that can be channeled and interacted with daily.

When did this drastic shift take place, and why has it happened? As Christians, we should be keenly aware of what others are saying related to unseen forces and remember that angels assist us in ways completely unknown to us.

In their younger days, Coach Mike Dubose and his wife, Polly, had just moved from Chattanooga to Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Polly took a break from unpacking the moving boxes in their new tri-level home to put their precious two-year-old son to bed. Secure in the fact that her son was safe in bed, as he had never climbed out of the baby bed before, Polly went downstairs to continue the task at hand. Unknown to Polly, her sweet baby had climbed out of his crib, slipped outside, found his Big Wheel scooter, and disappeared. As Polly continued to get her house in order, she was totally unaware her son was in harm's way.

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As she continued unpacking box after box in the lower level of her beautiful new home, Polly heard a knock at the door. When Polly opened the door, there stood a lady with her son. The woman explained she had found the boy at a busy intersection two blocks away. Now understand that Polly knew no one in Hattiesburg and had just moved to this address. Frightened and startled, Polly turned to set the boy down, then turned back to thank the lady, and there was no one at the door. The lady had just vanished.

OUR INVISIBLE ALLIES

Polly never saw or heard from that woman again. Coach and Polly Dubose believe an angel had rescued their son!

Angels are indeed our “allies.” Allies are close friends who are willing to:

- ☞ Love and protect what you love
- ☞ Face a common enemy with you
- ☞ Share with you the same allegiances and loyalties
- ☞ Obey the same orders
- ☞ Make the same sacrifices
- ☞ Share similar weapons
- ☞ Operate covertly in the enemy’s territory when necessary
- ☞ Keep open lines of communication
- ☞ Stay until the finish
- ☞ Operate in ranks under authority
- ☞ Move based on written agreement

Angels are friends that help guide, protect, and minister to us so that we may endure in the cause of Christ for our lives.

Think about your own life. When living becomes difficult and you are in short supply of moral support and guidance, the instructions are simple and universal: join hands with your friends, family, spouse, and co-workers. These people are your allies. But be honest; isn’t this hard to *do* sometimes? How can allies be trusted in a world full of corruption and decay? Remember the new feeling you discovered when a good friend

betrayed you or when a group project fell apart because there was no cooperative effort? What about the loneliness you felt when your own family abandoned you or a loved one cheated on you with someone else? These encounters initiate all of us into the harsh realities of human nature.

Now, let's reevaluate. Isn't the idea of trusting in allies *hard* to believe? Come on, how are we supposed to trust these angelic beings in our spiritual lives? Aren't there some angels who have "fallen"? My purpose in writing this book is for us to discover that the angelic allies around us *are* trustworthy. They will not abandon us in our efforts to spread the gospel to a lost and dying world. My hope and prayer is that you realize angels are friends that help guide, protect, and minister to us so that we may endure in the cause of Christ for our lives.

The will of God consumes and possesses angels, and they passionately pursue His salvation for us. They minister to us in ways that are wholly unique from any guidance we can receive on Earth. They comfort us, speak to us, monitor the spiritual climate around us, teach us, and help us. But above all else, angels work for the Master of the universe and share in our desire to worship Him and accomplish His will. They are our allies.