

Who are you talking to?

The title is not meant to be catchy or tricky. It is meant to ask a very serious question about the depth and knowledge of those interactions in our lives that seem trivial and inconsequential. These simple moments are the unfeeling nod or wave to an unknown passerby or the helping hand to the stranger on the bus stop. It may be aiding a little known co-worker with car trouble in the parking lot or the fifty cents given to help some person who is short of money at the convenient store or unfortunately, even the person we disregard and brush off while we are on our phones or in the middle of something seemingly so much more worth our time. These are idle moments in the day that are generally not remembered with any detail and given even less concern. We don't wonder if the lady with the three kids who needed to borrow five dollars for gas money ever got home or if the filthy drunk that you almost physically threatened is still out there harassing somebody else. They are forgotten as nothing time, two seconds after we leave the scene. We never take the time to question why the person on the bus keeps smiling at you or why some strangers seem to be there to talk only to you when you would prefer to just stare out the window. **Hebrews 13:1-2 says "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels UNAWARES."**

In Genesis 18, Abraham was visited by angels on a mission from God. The divine host came in the form of men. Abraham was totally unaware that he was entertaining angels but treated them with great hospitality and brotherhood because it was in his developed nature to treat all men well. Generosity and goodwill was his practice, in prayer and deeds, so that when it was proof time, he just lived what he practiced in his heart. Because of the excellent and generous treatment of the angels, Abraham received great favor from God and great favor with men as well. This was not a test of his faith but a visitation from God that was meant to comfort and bless him. Many of us crave and opportunity to serve God and to see His glory. When we do get it we slap it away because we are unaware of what is really in front of us. We are looking for something grandiose and spectacular when God often uses the simple things of this world to confuse the proud and arrogant. The proud are those who say they seek God but really only seek the god of their imagination and not the God of the Bible. If Abraham had known ahead of time that he was going to be greeted by angels then his actions would not be extraordinary. But Abraham, even in personal anguish over his wife's barrenness, still found time for kindness and true compassion on strangers. This was not contrived goodness. It was real love and it was the doorway to Abraham obtaining the desires of his heart.

The angels that we meet are not always from heaven but are also those true believers born of the Spirit of Christ who are pilgrims and sojourners, like us, in a foreign land. Ministers of the Gospel and saints on the battlefields may find themselves on unfamiliar territory or in inconceivable traumas. It is the obligation of the believers to develop a life where it is our nature and desire to help one another and to extend hospitality to ease distresses according to our abilities. In living a life of kindness and hospitality to all kingdom dwellers, we may not only be entertaining angels and serving them but also the risen Savior personally. Matthew 25:37-40; **"then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee a hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or NAKED, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King (Christ) shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."**