

We are to worship and pray only to God. We are not to worship angels or pray to them. It is God and only God who instructs angels to assist us with our particular events. If we worship or pray to angels then we are violating the first commandment, "you shall have no other gods before me," Exodus 20:3. We do have angels who look over us and protect us; however their commands come only from God. We can expect and should expect angels in our daily lives helping us with God's will.

- Heb 1:4-6            having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."
- Heb 1:14            Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?
- Heb 2:16            For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.
- Psalms 91:9-12    Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 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.
- Gen 28:12           Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

**Discussion Item 1:** *Do you put your trust in angels or in God?*

**Discussion Item 2:** *Do you recognize the all knowing power of God and what this can do for you?*

**Life Application:** *Think through how angels are ministering spirits to each of us sent by God and that they serve God. This is why we are to pray to God and not to angels.*

**Helpful Definition:**

angel - A super natural, heavenly being, a little higher in dignity than man. Their creation (Ps 148:2-5; Col 1:16) was certainly before the creation of man (Job 38:7). They are described as "spirits" (Heb 1:14). Their superhuman intelligence and strength is not unlimited (Matt 24:36; 1 Peter 1:12; Ps 103:20; 2 Thess 1:7; 2 Peter 2:11). They are distinct from man (1 Cor 6:3; Heb 1:14), and neither marry nor die (Luke 20:34-36). A vast multitude (Rev 5:11), they are of various ranks and endowments (Col 1:16), but only one—Michael—is expressly called an archangel in Scripture (Jude 9). Both good and bad angels are highly organized (Rom 8:38); Eph 1:21; 3:10; Col 1:16; 2:15).

Angels were created holy (Gen 1:31; Jude 6), but some fell into sin before Satan tempted Eve (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Their fall was due to a deliberate rebellion against God which resulted in their loss of holiness. They became corrupt and were confirmed in evil. Some are in hell until the Day of Judgment (2 Peter 2:4); others are left free to oppose the work of God for a time (Matt 25:41).

Good angels stand in the presence of God and worship him (Matt 18:10; Heb 1:6; Re3v 5:11). They assist, protect, and deliver God's people (Gen 19:11; Ps 91:11; Dan 3:28; 6:22; Acts 5:19; Heb 1:14). They guided Philip to go into the desert (Acts 8:26) and encouraged Paul in Corinth (27:23-24). Sometimes they interpret God's will to people (Dan 7:16; 10:5, 11; Zech 1:9, 13-14, 19).

In order to oppose God and to try to defeat his will and frustrate his plans, evil angels endeavor to separate believers from God (Rom 8:38) and oppose good angels in their work (Dan 10:12-13). They hinder man's temporal and eternal welfare by a limited control over natural phenomena (Job 1:12-13, 19: 2:7), by inflicting disease (Luke 13:11, 16; Acts 10:38; 2 Cor 12:7), by tempting man to sin (Matt 4:3; John 13:27; 1 Peter 5:8), and by spreading false doctrine (1 Kings 22:21-23; 2 Thess 2:2; 1 Tim 4:1). They cannot, however, exercise over people any moral power independent of the human will, and whatever power they have is limited by the permissive will of God.

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