

HOW TO MAKE ANGELS HAPPY

Luke 15:10 ... "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

I am often disturbed by the myths and mystical claims of people about angels. It has always been true that people like to fill in the Bible with their own imaginations, and angels are often the subject of their imaginations. The Bible tells us very little about angels, yet many books and movies have been made on the subject. Our imaginations do not give us license to invent angels in our own image or to assign them roles that the Bible does not state. Today's verse, however, comes from the lips of Jesus himself. So, we do not have to use our imaginations. Although I do not often provide you with how verses read in the original language, in this case Greek, you might find it helpful today.

The phrase from verse 10 that reads: "in the presence of the angels of God," loosely means "in front of the messengers of God in heaven." The term "messengers of God" is found throughout scripture to represent angels. We associate this as happening in heaven because of verse 7: "...there will be more joy in heaven..." Angels reside in heaven; they do not live in your back yard. They do not ride on your motorbike or attend class with you. When you put a plastic angel on your Christmas tree or hang one from your rearview mirror, you are not invoking the presence of real angels into your home or car. You have no control over angels and, according to scripture, they appear to live in heaven, not your kitchen. The exception to this is when God sent his "messengers" to inform prophets of his instructions, when they escorted Lot and his family out of Sodom, and when an angel spoke to Mary and told her she would give birth to the Messiah.

Furthermore, the Bible does not permit us to pray to angels. In Revelation 22:8-9, John was so moved by what he saw that he fell down to worship an angel and the angel rebuked him, saying "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and [a servant] of your brethren the prophets, and [a servant] of those who keep the words of this Book. Worship God." Angels are not deity. When verse 9 says "those who keep the words of this Book," it is a reference to us. Every example of prayer in the Bible is to God, and in the New Testament in the name of Jesus. You will not find a prayer beginning with "Dear Michael," or ending with "in the name of Gabriel" anywhere in the Bible.

Nevertheless, Jesus tells us in both verses 7 and 10, that heaven and the angels rejoice and are filled with joy when even one sinner repents of his sin. If you have become caught up in the silly inventions of men about angels, why not make the real angels happy today? Repent of your sins and bring great joy to God and his angels in heaven through your repentance.

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