

## Entertaining Angels

Growing up, the only knowledge I had of angels was acquired during the thunder storms. I was told that when we hear the rumbling in the sky, it was merely the angels bowling. Of course, when lightening would flash and crackle, the angel who was bowling had scored a strike! I know this was told to me to calm my nerves, and I confess, it did. My wild imagination allowed me to picture the gigantic bowling alley above the clouds, with the lanes made of gold and the bowling balls, solid gemstones. It would have to be gigantic to make sounds like that! Another favorite explanation was being told that the rumbling across the sky was God moving His furniture. What a throne that must be!

As I grew older, I was introduced to angels through movies. Like so many others, one of my favorite angels is Clarence, from "It's a Wonderful Life". He was so sweet natured and humble, trying desperately to earn his wings. One of my favorite lines is when George Bailey is told by Clarence that he was sent to help him, and George says, "You look about like the type of angel I'd get", or something similar.

There have been so many movies made about angels, causing us to wonder what they must really look like, but then again, does it really matter? Would we know a true angel if there was one in front of us?

There have been times when I have passed a beggar in the street, but didn't leave money in their cup. I have witnessed people doing kind things for others, just for them to be treated rudely. I know more than once I have 'just missed' hitting an object or another vehicle, only to realize that I escaped harm by the grace of God.

I know there is evil in this world, and there are people who try to take advantage of a giving heart. In my own town, there are people standing at nearly every stoplight with signs saying they are hungry or are needing to feed their family, and I know we can't give to all of them. All we can do is stay close to God, read His word, and try to follow what we know to be right. I believe He will help us discern those who are truly in need, from those who may simply be lazy. We cannot stop being kind because of the deceit of some. It is for God to judge their hearts.

Yes, I do believe there are angels among us. They are not here to pass judgement over us, but to protect us from whatever troubles might be in store. I believe God in His wisdom allows some things to happen, but I also believe He sends angels to be at our side, to help us endure whatever burdens may arise. And yes, I also believe there are times when we are entertaining angels, unaware of who they really are. Perhaps it is with this knowledge that we find ourselves thinking twice when it's time to pull the money from our pockets, or provide a warm meal to someone in need. It just may be an angel in disguise who is in need or hungry.

Scripture tells us, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels." (Hebrews 13:2 NKJV)

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