

Things of the Spirit - Freedom

Have you ever thought about what it means to be free? We live in the USA, the land of the free. We declare that freedom. We take pride in that freedom. We will fight to keep that freedom

But why is freedom so important to us? Doesn't it show that we are no longer under the rule or authority of someone or something?

July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved and published. Our Congress sought freedom from Great Britain. Think about it....Great Britain is all the way across the ocean from here, yet they were the rule and authority over us. They had authority in a land they didn't belong to, in a place they shouldn't be.....so we sought freedom....and obtained it!

Today, right now all around the world, even in this very room....people are bound by a rule and authority that they shouldn't belong to....that is satan. He has rule and authority in a place where he shouldn't even be.....in the lives of people that God created for Himself!

Here's the difference....we sought freedom from Great Britain because we saw that we were bound and desired to be free.....people today under the influence of satan lack that desire to be free because they think that they already are....

See freedom is great only when you know what exactly it is that you have been freed from!

Romans 8:2 (NKJV)

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

God has a law and we have all been guilty of violating it. We have all failed to obey it. We have all sinned and therefore we are all guilty and deserving of the penalty of sin....which is death.

Many people believe that they can live life any way they want and all they have to do is deal with the consequences of their actions and keep on living life until it's over and that's the end.

But the bible says that all will be raised to life and judged by Jesus. And on that day of judgement it comes down to ONE THING.....Do you know Jesus? I mean really know Him, have genuine faith in Him?

If you do, then you will be judged by HIS righteousness and you will be saved, and live with Him forever!

If you do NOT know Him. If you have no faith or if that faith is not genuine.....then you will be judged by the law....the very law that you have violated over and over throughout your life, the very law that was revealed for the purpose of showing that you can't keep the law and you need a Savior.

And when you are judged by that law...you will be sentenced to a life that is void of the presence of God.....it will be hell.

CHURCH, when we talk about spiritual freedom.....THAT is what we are free from if we belong to Jesus! THAT is why freedom is so great!

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

This is the beginning of freedom. This is step 1. Without this step none of the rest matter.

Time and time again I've seen people ask for prayer for some area of bondage. There is something in their life they need freedom from so they reach out for help.....but they don't want freedom from sin.....just freedom from a situation....or from consequences.

That's not all there is to freedom! Living in the USA is not all there is to freedom!

John 8:36 (NKJV)

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

We see the disciples in the NT in chains, in court, in exile, and yet they are completely free in the spirit.

I'm talking about a freedom that NO ONE can take away from you. Freedom to be who you are destined to be.....a child of God!

Jesus made a way when He died on that cross and then rose from the grave. He defeated death itself so that we could have everlasting life with Him. He paid the price....He offers it to all....

It's up to YOU to accept it. For real this time.....no more pretending.....I mean sold out for Jesus with an assurance of your spiritual position in Him.....

The Spirit of the Lord is here. He is present.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Have you let Him fill your life?

Speaking to a large audience, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, "How can I get the air out of this glass?" One man shouted, "Suck it out with a pump!" Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass." After numerous other suggestions Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then went on to explain that victory in the Christian life is not accomplished by "sucking out a sin here and there," but by being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Once you are free from the law of sin and death....you are fully free. If you have repented and given your life to Jesus, you are made new. You are not who you once were. You are born again!

You've got to stop looking back and look forward to where the Spirit is leading you!

*"When you hold on to your history, you do it at the expense of your destiny"
- T.D. Jakes*

So what is holding you back?

Is it sin that you love and don't want to give up?

Is it a lie about God's love for you?

Make the decision today to choose freedom.

So what if you have already chosen this freedom Christ has offered?

The Holy Spirit enables us by renewing our mind to live above the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life because we are no longer slaves to our own sinful appetites.

The Holy Spirit is constantly at work in your life. And one area He is constantly at work in is your freedom. Even if you have freedom from sin and death.....there are areas of your mind that may be bound from ideals that were formed when you were captive.

Think about someone who has been kidnapped and kept bound up somewhere. While they are in captivity, they are mistreated, abused physically and mentally. And there is so much damage done that when they are freed...they are often still captive in their mind or in some areas of it. Are they free? Yes! Is there more freedom to be had? Yes!

The same for us. For some of you satan has abused you so much mentally that even though you are spiritually free by the blood of Jesus and the power of the Spirit, you are still bound in the mind.

This is a question that is often asked. How could a person do XYZ if they are a Christian?

There are two possible answers to that

1. They never really, truly put their faith in Jesus, they weren't born again, made new, they just weren't there in their heart
2. They were spiritually free but mentally bound in some area

There's always more freedom to be had!

Another thing to consider is that there are generational sins that you have inherited and may still be affecting your life. The sins passed down from the parents, grandparents, etc.

What we do in our lives impacts more than just US! There's a reason you see generational patterns. You know who breaks those? It's not the person....it's The Holy Spirit!

Sometimes it appears that a cycle has been broken only to surface when the person is older. Generational sins are handed down, they are present, they may be lying dormant with the enemy just waiting for that opportunity. This is why you need to pray over your children. This is why you ask for prayer for yourself!

There's always more freedom to be had!

And there is always the fact that we don't perfectly obey the Spirit and when we obey the flesh we sin, and when we sin we open the door for satan to come in and get a foothold

Ephesians 4:26 (NIV)

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

This verse shows how anger can "cause" us to sin because we let the devil use that anger to get a foothold on us, we give him room to work on us, we give him that opportunity because we stew in that anger instead of handling it in a godly way.

Anger is not a sin....God gets angry. What you do with it can be a sin. So this is one example of a foothold, but it's basically anything we give the devil an open door to work in us.

I've heard it like this - a toehold becomes a foothold, a foothold becomes a stronghold.

Think about if someone grabs you by the toe, it's a little inconvenient and kind of strange....but they should be pretty easy to shake loose, they probably don't have a real great grip on you. You can really only grab a toe with one hand, just a part of the hand.

But if you don't shake the toehold, and they work their way up and get ahold of your foot. Now on your foot, they can get a little better grip, probably even wrap their arm around it and use the other hand. You might be able to get loose but it's gonna take some work.

If you don't shake the foothold, they work their way up and get ahold of your entire leg, Now they can use most of their body and turn you in a way where they have almost all of the leverage and there's almost nothing you can do. If it's a good leg lock, you aren't getting out of it on your own....and if you do your leg might be broke!

See that's what happens when we don't deal with the thoughts of the mind. A little thought becomes constant voice and that constant voice becomes a wrong mindset. And you can't get free of it and if somehow you do, you are going to be injured by it.

You need the Spirit of Freedom!

1 Peter 2:16 (HCSB)

As God's slaves, live as free people, but don't use your freedom as a way to conceal evil.

The bondage in our lives prevent us from living that full life that Jesus desires for us to have. The life of peace and joy. The life of hope and victory. The life of the redeemed. The life of a child of God.

When you are in captivity, even in one area....you hear the lies over and over and over, and those strongholds make you forget your identity!

The Holy Spirit can set you free! By revealing TRUTH!

John 8:32 (NKJV)

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

***** JASON

We're going to open up the altar. And here's what we're going to do.....

I've got somethings here that I'm going to speak out. Ways that you may be captive and in need of some freedom. If this is you, don't worry about what people think. They need to be examining themselves.

If one of these speak to you, come forward and speak to Jesus about it. Then I'll come along and pray for the Spirit of Freedom to move in your life!

- Do you feel that you don't fit in with the family of God? Do you feel like you are unworthy or that the Kingdom of God doesn't need you and you don't belong here?
- Have you stopped feeling God's presence? Do you not know what it's like to worship Jesus freely and intimately. Do you feel empty and dry, unable to fix your eyes on Jesus because your eyes are on your problem?
- Do you find that no matter how hard you try, you aren't satisfied in this life? You jump from one thing to another looking for purpose and have quit using the gifts and talents that God has given you to do anything significant...
- Are you stuck in your failures? Have you given up the fight because you are tired of losing? Maybe you think there's no point in trying because you feel inadequate to stand in victory against the enemy and you have let him win.
- Do you feel surrounded and overwhelmed by your circumstances?
- Do you feel empty and in need of a fresh touch from God?
- Do you have confusion in your life and need some clarity?
- Are you dealing with spiritual blindness and can't even see what God is trying to show you?
- And of course, if you haven't even experienced freedom in Christ from the law of sin and death. If you need a Savior, today is the day. Don't walk out of this place today if you recognize that you need Jesus....then you are ready to receive Him!