

What Does It Mean to be Truly Free?

(Go To Meeting)

Roger Kendall—August 5, 2022

This is a time of focusing and recognizing the great calling that God has given to us. While the world is going in such a terrible direction in terms of corruption and sin, we can truly trust in God, that His plan is going to go forward! We can rejoice in that and we can plan on a wonderful future in the Kingdom.

What does it mean to be truly free? Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind is *the Way, the Truth and the Life!* He is also *the Way* and *the Source* of true freedom!

John 8:31: “Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples. And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free’” (vs 31-32).

- What did Jesus mean when He said the Truth would set a person free?
- What Truth must a person know?
- What must that person do, actually perform, in order to achieve and receive that blessing from Jesus Christ?

Once a person receives their freedom from Christ:

- What responsibilities or accountabilities do we have once we have been made free?

This is the introduction to what I’m going to be speaking on. I hope to clarify and explain what the Scriptures tell us about this most important subject of *freedom* and how to achieve it!

We know that freedom is one of mankind’s cherished values, and many individuals have laid down their lives to secure and preserve freedom for themselves, their families and their country. Every person wants to live a life in freedom, to be able to plan and build your own future without the oppressive constraints of a cruel dictator who would control every aspect of one’s life.

The children of Israel really appreciated what it means to be in slavery. They were in slavery for many years in Egypt. They knew what slavery was, and lack of freedom. Every slave has in his heart the desire to be free and his own person. What people really don’t understand is that there can many forms of slavery; in bondage! Not just physical, it can be:

- political bondage
- emotional bondage
- spiritual bondage

We know that many of the basic freedoms we have in this country—particularly here in the United States—are founded upon our Bill of Rights in our Constitution. But today those rights are under attack and are being overridden by our current government in Washington, D.C., and we can say by the Democratic Party.

But this is also true in many other countries around the world: Canada, Australia, New Zealand; you’re all feeling the fact that your freedoms are being infringed upon. Indeed, that is exactly what’s happening.

Even if we were able to preserve our Constitution and the freedoms that it provides, does it really mean that we are a free nation? Today Americans consider themselves to be a free people. We can look back and see that the history was the ‘free west’ vs the communist nations. What does it mean? We say that we’re the ‘home of the brave and home of the free’ but is that really true as a nation? *No! We’re under bondage many, many different ways!*

I’d like to point out that in the dark days prior to American entering WWII to fight against the aggression of Nazi Germany and the aggressive Empire of Japan, our President at that time—Franklin Delano Roosevelt—on Jan. 6, 1941 articulated in his speech four basic freedoms that all people in the world should possess. We have seen this depicted in Norman Rockwell’s paintings. Those four freedoms are:

- freedom of speech
- freedom of worship

both are guaranteed in our Constitution, and he added:

- freedom from want
- freedom from fear

The President elaborated that this country should seek to secure these four essential freedoms. Not only for our citizens in this country, but for those in the entire world.

We know has Christians, however, that the President missed an important freedom that most people don’t even consider or even know that they need. That is *freedom from sin!*

Freedom can mean different things for different people. We know that it’s kind of a term that people can use in different ways. To some it means to have *a free spirit* where a person can do whatever they want and not have to be responsible to

anyone else. That they're unhindered by traditional values or morals or ever religious (inaudible).

Freedom of speech and freedom to act in a independent way without the guidance of moral and spiritual values can lead to a breakdown of society and the loss of true freedom in the family and the in the nation.

Without restraints, freedom can actually lead to anarchy! Our founding fathers in America believed this to be true, and that liberty was a gift from God. ***If the nation ever turned away from God and abandoned our Christian heritage they would lose their freedom!***

John Adams stated that our Constitution was made for 'a moral and religious nation.' And Thomas Jefferson also believed without God, liberty or freedom would not last.

It's interesting to consider different aspects of freedom. As we consider true freedom and the ability to keep it, it requires a person to be responsible for the well being of others, and to live a life of integrity based on truth, honesty and sound moral and spiritual principles. You can't have one without the other, as we're going to see.

Many so called 'Christians' today claim that they have received salvation and freedom from sin through the very death of Jesus Christ. That may be true, but on the other hand they also believe that they have freedom from any responsibility to keep God's Laws. They have been done away, or Jesus is keeping the Law for them, and that they don't have to keep them.

They believe that they're not responsible for any good works or keep the Law and their free to live their lives any way that they want. But we know that they're mistaken, for the Word of God tells us quite a different story. They're not free at all; they're still under a death sentence, as the Bible tells us. Those who have sinned and have broken the Laws of God have come under a death penalty.

Romans 3:23: "For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God."

Ezekiel 18:4: "...The soul that sins, it shall die."

Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin *is* death... [which is ***eternal*** death] ...but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

No person can consider themselves to be truly free if they're under such a penalty, a death penalty that just hangs over their head. How can that be?

Those in the world who do not know God or the way to salvation and are going the way of Satan the devil in this world are among ***the walking dead!*** Just as we were before God called us so that we could know His Truth and could know ***the way to true freedom!***

Ephesians 2:1: "Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air... [Satan the devil] ...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience; among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest *of the world*" (vs 1-3).

Verse 4: But God, Who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in *our* trespasses, has made *us* alive together with Christ. (*For* you have been saved by grace.)" (vs 4-5).

Let us remember that in order to come under God's grace that leads to salvation:

- requires action
- requires true repentance
- requires baptism
- requires the receiving of God's Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands

This must be followed by a commitment to believe and serve God, and to keep His commandment and walk in the way of Jesus Christ. This is the way a person remains free from the curse of the Law.

This state of freedom is not now currently available to the vast bulk of humanity because they do not know the way to true freedom.

Paul talks about sin and its consequences, but also how we overcome sin:

Romans 6:1: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound? **MAY IT NEVER BE!**.... [don't let it enter your mind] ...We who died to sin, how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death? Therefore, **we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death**; so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life" (vs 1-4).

When we read this Scripture we realize that there are things that we must be doing and accomplishing in our lives. ***Indeed, true freedom requires a person change the way that they live!***

Freedom without change does not lead to true freedom.

Jesus Christ revealed—He is the true Source—the way to true freedom as He explained to those of the Jews began to believe in Him in:

John 8:28: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you yourselves shall know that I AM, and *that* I do nothing of Myself....’”

Here Christ is revealing that He is, or was the I AM of the Old Testament and He is truly the Son of God Who has come to the earth to bring salvation. Notice that He also reveals the Father to them.

“...I do nothing of Myself. But **as the Father taught Me, these things I speak.** And He Who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, because **I always do the things that please Him?** (vs 28-29).

Verse 30: “As He spoke these things, many believed in Him.” *Interesting statement!* They heard Him and they were inspired and believed Him!

Verse 31: “Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples.... [walking in righteousness and doing God’s will] ...**And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free**” (vs 31-32).

Jesus revealed that He was the Son of God and that He was the great I AM as He spoke of Moses and the exodus back in Egypt. If a man would believe and keep His Word, Christ said that they could be made free, which means that they are not free. It’s clear that the Pharisees who were there as well, did not understand or believe Christ’s words.

Verse 33: “They... [the Pharisees] ...answered Him [Christ], ‘We are Abraham’s seed, and have never been in bondage to anyone....’”

What proud arrogance! Did they fail to remember that their forefathers had been in slavery in Egypt? *Apparently a slip of memory!* Turning on Him, the Pharisees questioned Jesus:

“...What do You mean by saying, ‘You shall become free?’” Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, **everyone who practices sin is a servant of sin.** And the servant does not live in the house forever; **but the Son lives forever**” (vs 33-35).

In other words, He’s focusing on the cause of the bondage; why is a person in bondage and subject to death? *Because of practicing sin!* “...And the servant does not live in the house forever...”

He’s talking about the human body! We are all to die once! What about *eternal death vs eternal life?*

Verse 36: “Therefore, if the Son shall set you free, you shall truly be free.”

If a person would believe and follow Christ’s teachings, follow His Word and believe in Christ and do and perform those things that he said that were needful, they would know the Truth regarding the way to salvation and how they could become free.

When the Pharisees asked Christ what He mean by ‘becoming free’ He did not give them a direct answer, but He pointed out the very cause of the bondage that they were under. He basically told them that they were practicing sin in their lives. They did not like to hear this because they considered themselves to be totally righteous before God.

He said, “...**everyone who practices sin is a servant of sin**” (v 34)—*meaning that a person is in bondage to sin, and therefore subject to death!*

The Pharisees didn’t seem to understand that Christ was referring to this very fact: *that a person is not free because there’s a death penalty hanging over the head of anyone who breaks God’s Holy and righteous commandments!* They did not believe that Christ is the Son of God and came to save mankind from the penalty of death and bring salvation and freedom to those who are held captive by sin.

The Pharisees did not recognize that Christ—Who was the God of the Old Testament—inspired Isaiah to write about Himself:

Isaiah 61:1: “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me because the LORD has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty... [freedom] ...to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”

Focusing on humanity is bound by sin. I don’t any of you can remember that years ago we received a booklet in Worldwide Church of God that dealt with this activity of the world. It was a booklet dealing with sin and the cover was very profound. It showed the world behind bars, ***captive in prison to sin!*** That really struck me, and reading it showed the fact that this world was living in freedom at all but in sin.

This very Scripture, Isa. 61:1, was quoted by Luke in Luke 4:18 when Jesus began His ministry, that He was coming to free the captives. He identified Himself at that point that He was the true Messiah and that death penalty had to be paid in full. Christ our Savior paid that penalty for every single

person on earth through His sacrifice on the cross.

To proclaim that forgiveness of sin *requires a person to repent and to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior*, and to receive God's Spirit.

Acts 2—On the Day of Pentecost where Peter proclaimed that Jesus Christ was crucified and died. Yet, it was through Him that one can receive salvation. So, the people cried out:

Verse 37 "...What shall we do?"

Verse 38: "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for *the* remission of sins, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all those who are afar off, **as many as the Lord our God may call**'" (vs 38-39).

Here's another point; he has to be called. His mind has to be opened to the Truth. That's another aspect of why the many people are still suffering under sin, because God is not calling the world today, only the select few. That we might know the Truth and the Truth can set ourselves free. Not only from the penalty of sin, but also from the consequences of sin in a person's life. So, it's more than freedom from just the death penalty.

Christ said that if a person keeps His Word he/she shall know the Truth—that Truth takes a bit of an explanation—which will lead a person to receive the ultimate true freedom of eternal life in the Kingdom of God. That is the ultimate true freedom that each and every one us are seeking.

It's God's Truth that brings true freedom, as one repents of their sins and learns to live by God's Word and to keep God's righteous and Holy commandments. By receiving God's Holy Spirit and coming into covenant with God that one is now justified. That one is now sanctified, being made Holy by the very dwelling of Christ and God the Father in them. God the Father has given those whom He has called into covenant with Him the righteousness of Christ is in us.

Consequently, we are free from the death penalty because we're no longer under law, but under grace. That grace is reflective of the love of God that He has for us. Eventually, we will be able to give to the whole world. His shed blood, as we know, He paid the penalty and died on the cross to cover our sins and make us free from the death penalty.

Let's understand, as you're beginning to understand my message, that as a person becomes free through the grace of God, they are now responsible and obligated to fulfill our part of the

covenant that we made with God at our baptism.

I would like to discuss now the Word of God and especially God's Truth that leads a person in the way of *true* freedom! That is what Christ said. Christ is *the Way, the Truth and the Life* that leads to salvation and the ultimate freedom that comes through His Spirit and the eternal life that He's offering to those who are going to be raised to eternal life.

Let's begin with the fact of why the Truth has been hidden; why this Truth has been kept a mystery! We know that Satan is the God of this world, and He has deceived the masses, the whole world, regarding the Truth of God and His Word (Rev. 12:9).

As a result we are living in the age of deception, of the corruption of evil works of men who have suppressed truth and have exchanged the Truth of God for a lie!

Romans 1:18: "Indeed, *the* wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the Truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest among them, for God has manifested *it* to them" (vs 18-19).

Not just through creation, but the fact that the Word of God today is available. There are billions of Bibles in the world that clearly shows the way to true freedom, ***IF*** a person would only ***seek God and the Way*** that they can be free from the death penalty.

Verse 20: "For the invisible things of Him are perceived from *the* creation of *the* world, **being understood by the things that were made—both His eternal power and Godhead—so that they are without excuse.**"

Verse 25: "Who exchanged the Truth of God for the lie; and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the One Who is Creator, Who is blessed into the ages. Amen."

That is what's happening, and just as it is today in modern Israel, Hosea tells the children of Israel that they have forgotten their God and abandoned Truth.

Hosea 4:1: "Hear the Word of the LORD, children of Israel, for the LORD *has* a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, **'There is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.** By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and the committing of adultery they break out; and blood touches blood'" (vs 1-2).

This is a clear description of what's going on in the world today! This world and its

governments are not the source of any real truth or freedom! The world is held captive to sin, to lies, to corruption and deception of the Truth. Justice has been cast aside!

Isaiah 59:13: “In rebellion and denial of the LORD, and turning away from our God, talking perversity and revolt, conceiving and speaking from the heart words of falsehood. And justice is driven backward, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth... [God’s Truth] ...has fallen in the street, and uprightness cannot enter. Yea, truth fails; and he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey....” (vs 13-15).

We see that today, that those who stand up for the Truth of God’s Word are castigated, maligned and pushed aside!

“...And the LORD saw, and it was evil in His eyes that *there was* no justice” (v 15).

- Is there any source of truth that you can trust that’s in the world today?
- Do you trust and believe the governments and it’s politicians?
- Do you trust that the mass news media in what they’re telling you?
- How about our medical establishment?
- Do you believe that they’re telling you the truth and that they’re out there to help you have better health?
- And to be restored to health?

We know that this whole Covid thing was a fraud and was based upon lies and deception! Of course, the need to get vaccinated...! Many believed that they were telling them the truth. *Corporate America and all their twisted messages:*

- Do we trust corporate America?
 - Do we know that there are only four or five of these corporate structures that basically control the news media in all aspects of what’s going on?
 - ✓ the mass media?
 - ✓ the social interactions?
 - What about our educational institutions?
 - ✓ colleges?
 - ✓ high schools?
 - What are they teaching?
 - Are they teaching truth?
- or**
- Are they teaching the lies of homosexuality and transgenderism?
 - Are they getting our young children to be hooked on falsehoods?
 - What about religious leaders of today?
 - Do we trust them?
 - ✓ regarding the Truth

✓ regarding the Sabbath

They refuse to keep God’s Truth! No, brethren, the answers are ***no, no, no!***

Psalm 118:8: “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to trust in princes” (vs 8-9).

GOD is the Source of Truth, and will set a person free!

We see now that this society and world is just full of lies and corruption, ***and controlling the masses and removed God from society, the government, the town square and schools!***

Brethren, we re living in a world that Satan is directing! 1-John 5 says that *he is controlling the world and its governments!* Indeed, the whole world is in bondage to sin and corruption. Jesus told this to the Pharisees:

John 8:44: “You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice. He was a murderer from *the* beginning, **and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him.** Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

As a result of Satan’s deception, people have rejected God’s Word and consequently God will send upon them a great delusion because they did not receive the love of the Truth!

2-Thessalonians 2:10: “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing because they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved... [the Truth of God leads one to salvation and freedom] ...And for this cause God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe *the* lie... [tie in Rom. 1] ...so that all may be judged who did not believe the Truth, but who took pleasure in unrighteousness” (vs 10-12).

Christ is coming as both Lord and Master and Judge to rule over and to judge the world! God and Christ is also the Source and Foundation of Truth and Christ is the Light of the world. It’s through His Light that reveals Truth and destroys the works of darkness.

We do know that from Scripture that God is Truthful; He cannot lie! By His own moral standard He has chosen not to ever lie.

Hebrews 6:18_[transcriber’s correction]: “So that by two immutable things, in which **it was impossible for God to lie...**”

God’s ‘Truth produces Holiness and true freedom ***when a person believes and lives by every word of God!*** That is the way to true freedom!

Psalm 119:142: “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Law is the Truth.

Verse 151: “You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are Truth.”

We’ve been called and chosen to know God, to know His Truth! What a privilege, a tremendous privilege that we are to know. Our mind has been opened and we have received the Truth and are practicing the way of righteousness and freedom.

God’s Truth provides understanding, knowledge and wisdom that allows us to make right decisions so that we do not fall under the consequences of sin! We can make righteous decisions that produce greatness.

Hebrews 5:13: “For everyone who is partaking of milk *is* unskilled in *the* Word of Righteousness...”

Milk is for when we are first called. We don’t know a great deal about Scriptures in the Bible necessarily. But as we study and pray and seek God’s Truth, He opens up greater and greater understanding. We then begin to understand the deeper things out of God’s Word. We understand how this applies to us today and on through all eternity!

Verse 14: “But solid food... [the real substance, the very essence of the Word of God and it’s application] ...is for those who are fully grown...”

Those who are more spiritually mature; they can perceive, understand and put into practice those things that God wants.

“...who through repeated practice have had their senses trained to discern between good and evil” (v 14). *So that we can choose:*

- the good
- righteousness
- to serve and love God
- not to serve sin
- God’s Word is the foundation of all knowledge!
- God’s Truth is the basis for making all moral, ethical and righteous judgments

If something does not agree with the Word of God—the Bible—then it should be cast aside and rejected because it’s not true! ***God’s Word and His Truth is perfect without fault or error, it’s:***

- absolute
- pure
- trustworthy

- universal
- eternal

Psalm 19:7: “The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes” (vs 7-8).

The Word of God is a Light to our feet! The Word of God shows us the way that we can walk in true freedom!

Let’s understand how the Truth that God spoke brings *real* freedom! James refers to God’s Law and commandments as being the *perfect Law of freedom for one who keeps God’s Law faithful!* One who keeps the Law of God is living in freedom!

James 1:25: “But the one who has looked into **the perfect Law of Freedom**, and has continued in *it*, this one himself has not become a forgetful hearer, **but is a doer of the work**. This one shall be blessed in his actions.”

James is clearly saying that we must put God’s way of love into action and practice in order to live free. ***It’s on-going living God’s way that produces freedom!***

True freedom is more than just freedom from the death penalty, from eternal death from breaking God’s Law that hangs over every person who has sinned. The freedom Christ promised also included freedom from and protection from the influence of human nature; the very nature in us that can lead us into sin and horrible consequences of sin that leads us to evil thoughts and actions.

God’s Word, Truth and freedom protects us from that. True freedom helps restore a person’s life so that they have one of love, joy and peace from God in this life as well as to receive the promise of eternal life from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Luke 18:28: Then Peter said, ‘Behold, we have left everything and have followed You.’... [Christ] ...And He said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house, or parents, or brothers, or wife, or children, **for the sake of the Kingdom of God, Who shall not receive manifold more in this time, and in the age that is coming—eternal life**’” (vs 28-30).

Very clearly, Christ is pointing out that as we give up the ways of the world, He gives back to us manifold blessings that come back. The more that we put God’s way of life into practice:

- obeying God’s laws and commandments
- loving one another

- standing for Truth
- being a Light, and salt, to the world

We wouldn't have to suffer the consequences of pain and misery that comes from broken laws as a result of sin.

Gaining true freedom starts with heartfelt repentance, accepting Jesus Christ as Personal Savior, being baptized with full immersion and then having hands laid on to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). The point is that receiving God's Holy Spirit is the key that unlocks the way to true freedom in the hope of eternal life. The fact that ***the Holy Spirit is dwelling in us is a mark of eternal freedom!***

2-Corinthians 3:15: "For to this day, when Moses is read, *the veil* lies upon their hearts. But when *their hearts* turn to *the Lord*... [through repentance and seeking God] ...**the veil is taken away**. Now, the Lord is the Spirit; and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**" (vs 15-17).

The presence of God's Spirit dwelling within us makes us free from the law of sin and death and helps us to walk in the Spirit.

Romans 8:1: "Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus... [who have God's Holy Spirit dwelling within them] ...who are not walking according to *the flesh*, but according to *the Spirit*; because the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has delivered me... [makes me free (KJV)] ...from the law of sin and death. For what *was* impossible for the Law to do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God having sent His own Son in *the* likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh; in order that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who are not walking according to *the flesh*, but according to *the Spirit*" (vs 1-4).

As we use the power of God's Holy Spirit then we can free ourselves from the pull of human nature and overcome sins in our lives.

Galatians 5:16 [transcriber's correction] : "Now *this I* say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**"

We are becoming free ***and becoming a bond slave to Jesus Christ!***

Doesn't that sound like a contradiction? *No, it's not!* It means *going from a bond slave to sin, to being a servant and bond slave to Jesus Christ*. It means that we *serve Him and the Father with all of our being, with all of our heart and soul and that we do all that He requires of us!* Walk in the Spirit and do those things that are pleasing to Him! We have been bought and paid for by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

1-Corinthians 7:22: "For he who has been called in *the Lord*, *though he be* a slave, is a free man in *the Lord*. In the same way also, he who has been called as a free man is a slave of Christ; *for* you were bought with a price. Do not become slaves of man" (vs 22-23).

Since we have been sanctified and justified through Christ, God imputes Christ's righteousness to us as we seek repentance daily in our prayers, we stand in righteousness before God. Because of that, we are now obligated to stand fast with God the Father and Christ and never again are we to be drawn into the bondage of sin!

Galatians 5:1: "Therefore, stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and do not be held again in a yoke of bondage.

Rom. 6:17-22—Paul expresses the very fact that we go from being a bond slave of sin to become a bonded slave to Jesus Christ, which really makes us a free person.

Romans 6:17: "But thanks *be* to God, that you were *the* servants of sin, but you have obeyed from *the* heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to you; and having been delivered from sin, you became *the* servants of righteousness. I speak from a human point of view because of the weakness of your flesh; for just as you *once* yielded your members in bondage to uncleanness, and to lawlessness unto lawlessness, **so now yield your members in bondage to righteousness unto sanctification**" (vs 17-19).

Unto righteousness and Holiness that God is forming and shaping in us.

Verse 20: "For when you were *the* servants of sin, you were free from righteousness. Therefore, what fruit did you have then in the *things* of which you are now ashamed? For the end result of those things *is* death.... [eternal death] ...But now *that* you have been delivered from sin and have become servants of God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, **and the end result is eternal life**. For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 20-23).

The fruits of God's Spirit (Gal. 5)—

- love
- joy
- peace
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- patience
- meekness

- self-control

—are a manifestation of the freedom that we have! Through the manifestations of these fruits, we demonstrate that we are free. These fruits of the Holy Spirit reflect the very nature of God. The more we develop the very mind of Christ—let Christ’s mind be in us (Philip 2:5)—the character of Christ develops in us and the more converted we become; ***and the freer we become!***

There’s both physical as well as spiritual bondage, and there is emotional freedom that comes through our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

FDR spoke about every freedom, which also included freedom from want and fear. Man’s ways do not provide these freedoms, but a person who loves God and fears Him has both! The Scriptures tell us so.

Freedom from Want:

Psalm 23:1: “The LORD is my Shepherd; **I shall not want**”—*lacking any good thing:*

Psalm 34:9: “O fear the LORD, all you saints, for **there is nothing lacking to those who fear Him.**”

God does provide the physical things and the spiritual things that we need so that we can live and thrive even in this sinful world in which we’re living.

Freedom from Fear and Anxiety:

1-John 4:18: “There is no fear in the love of *God*; rather, perfect love casts out fear because fear has torment....”

Philp 4—Paul points out that as God’s people we should not be anxious about anything. We shouldn’t be worried to the point that we’re anxious and worried about anything that’s happening in the world. We don’t need to go there!

Philippians 4:6: “Do not be anxious about anything; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving... [being thankful and praising Him] ...let your requests be made known to God in everything.” *Put your needs before God!*

- What are your needs?
- What are your struggles?
- What is the battle that you’re fighting?

Go before God and lay it before Him! Lay it before Christ and He will give you rest and remove your anxiety and fear!

Verse 7: “And **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your**

hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.”

With this freedom comes responsibility. We’re accountable, because God has called us for a purpose. God has given us freedom through His Word and Holy Spirit for a reason, and we are obligated to fulfill that purpose.

We must use our liberty in Christ to serve God and not self. We are to love and serve one another!

1-Peter 2:15: “For so is the will of God, that *by* doing well yourselves, you may put to silence the ignorance of senseless men; as free, and not using *your* freedom as a cover for evil, but as bondslaves of God. Show honor to everyone. Love the brotherhood... [the brethren] ...revere God *and* honor the king” (vs 15-17).

As servants of God, we must never use our freedom in Christ to serve carnal purposes. We must always strive to do God’s will and not our own will. As bond slaves to Jesus Christ we are to devote our lives to serving God and one another, growing in Truth and understanding and doing those things that are pleasing to God. Doing those things that truly reflect Who God is, and the beauty and Holiness that He has and what He wants us to grow in.

We are to focus in growing in righteous character, overcoming sin and learning more about how to become **a true disciple** of Jesus Christ. What does Christ tell us about becoming a true servant of His, a true bond slave of His.

A true disciple will become like His Master (Matt. 10:24-25); we will become like Jesus Christ:

- in attitude
- in the way that we live
- in keeping the laws and commandment
- in doing God’s will

All of this Christ did and exemplified for us!

A true disciple will keep and continue in God’s Word, Christ’s Word and shall live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. This is one who is truly a bond slave to God/Christ. **A true disciple will bear much spiritual fruit!**

John 15:8: “In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples.”

A true disciple will put God first in everything, and be willing to give up all things including our own lives if called upon for our Master and Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father. We go over this for those whom we are counseling for baptism, that they might count the cost and realize:

Luke 13:26: “**If** anyone comes to Me and does not hate... [love less, and love God more] ...his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also, **he cannot be My disciple.**”

God comes first in our lives and we know that. We love God!

- He’s for us
- He loves us
- He preserving us
- He’s keeping us safe

We are to love God with all our being, with all our soul!

Verse 27: “And whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me **cannot be My disciple.**”

Verse 33: “In the same way also, each one of you who does not forsake all that he possesses cannot be My disciple.”

Christ said that you shall be ready to forsake all, but He is prepared to give us everything that we need!

What does it mean to carry your own cross?
This is what each new baptized member needs to understand! To carry our own cross means that:

- we must carry the Christian burden of suffering for Christ sake, enduring trials and hardship
- we believe and love God

This world hates God, and if it hated Him it will hate us!

We have to be ready to bear the burden of suffering, pain and anguish because we love God we are willing to suffer for Christ!

We know that the cross was a killing instrument, a torturous method of killing murderers and those who revolted against Rome. But we can look at it in a spiritual sense.

Galatians 5:24 “But those who *are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. If we live by *the* Spirit, we should also be walking by *the* Spirit” (vs 24-25).

A true disciple will love one another in the same way that God loves the Church (John 13:34-35).

Possessing agape love—love for God and for one another—is the hallmark of one who is devoted to Christ and God the Father and is pursuing the Kingdom of God:

- with their whole heart

- with their whole being
- with their whole desire

We live in freedom as we keep God’s laws and commandments and devote our lives to loving God and doing those things that are pleasing to Him. We walk in freedom when we love God and keep His commandments.

I have covered Scriptures that I hope will help us to truly understand what it means to be free and how Christ brings that about. How to achieve this attribute in our lives. Freedom is where the works of the Holy Spirit are working in us. Where the Holy Spirit is, there is freedom. This is being done in the people of God and those souls so that we can become like Christ.

To keep ourselves free, one must be responsible and accountable and do the good works and keep the commandments as God requires. To love God means you keep His commandments.

IF we are living and keeping God’s way of life, obeying His righteous commandments and living life serving God then a person is living in freedom. This is the way of true freedom; freedom from the physical penalties of broken laws and from the death penalty, *the second death!*

Let’s us be truly thankful for the freedom that we have through Christ and the Holy Spirit that dwells within each and every one of us, knowing that ***IF*** we’re faithful to the end in God and never turn back into this world, ***THEN we shall be given the ultimate freedom, eternal life in the Kingdom of God!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 8:31-32
- 2) Romans 3:23
- 3) Ezekiel 18:4
- 4) Romans 6:23
- 5) Ephesians 2:1-5
- 6) Romans 6:1-4
- 7) John 8:28-36, 34
- 8) Isaiah 61:1
- 9) Acts 2: 37-39
- 10) Romans 1:18-20, 25
- 11) Hosea 4:1-2
- 12) Isaiah 59:13-15
- 13) Psalm 118:8-9
- 14) John 8:44
- 15) 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
- 16) Hebrews 6:18
- 17) Psalm 119:142, 151
- 18) Hebrews 5:13-14
- 19) Psalm 19:7-8

- 20) James 1:25
- 21) Luke 18:28
- 22) 2 Corinthians 3:15-17
- 23) Romans 8:1-4
- 24) Galatians 5:16
- 25) 1 Corinthians 7:22-23
- 26) Galatians 5:1
- 27) Romans 6:17-23
- 28) Psalm 23:1
- 29) Psalm 34:9
- 30) 1 John 4:18
- 31) Philippians 4:6-7
- 32) 1 Peter 2:15-17
- 33) John 15:8
- 34) Luke 14:20-27, 33
- 35) Galatians 5:24-25

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Luke 4:18
- Revelation 12:9
- 1 John 5
- Philippians 2:5
- Matthew 10:24-25
- John 13:34-35

RK:bo
Transcribed: 8/25/22

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