

Jesus Christ Came To Set Us Free

I. Introduction

Because of the fall of Adam, a “seed of corruption” entered into the human race. This corrupted seed has affected every area of our lives including our relationship to God, to others, and to ourselves. It keeps us from entering into peace, joy, and righteousness, and it produces all different types of bondages in our lives. Listen to these words and notice that they are talking about people who are caught in holes, hid in prison houses, held captive, have blind eyes, bound, live in darkness and are downtrodden. I have never been in prison, but I know something of what it feels like to be held in captive to all different kinds of fears.

This is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses...(Is. 42:22).

The Lord has anointed me . . . to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners (Is. 61:1).

I have called you...to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those who dwell in darkness from the prison (Is. 42:6-7).

Saying to those who are bound, “Go forth,” and to those who are in darkness, “Show yourselves.” (Is. 49:9a).

God has provided a way of escape for us.

Through His son, Jesus Christ, we can be born again and receive Him, who is the “uncorrupted seed”, into our heart; we can become united with Him in baptism, then we are able to break free from the “law of sin and death” that holds us in captivity.

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable (corrupted) but imperishable (uncorrupted), that is through the living and abiding word of God (I Peter 1:23).

Once we have received Jesus (by faith), we have received a new seed, one that has no corruption in it, and this righteous seed joins with me and brings about a “new creation”. I now have become united with the Christ, and His life (that is indestructible and eternal in nature) wants to touch every part of my being and bring about a growing freedom and wholeness within me. In next month’s transition on 3 June, our theme focuses on how we can grow into this “new creation” in our daily lives.

Lack Knowledge And Understanding

Yet many of God's people remain in bondage, all the while thinking that their lives are normal. Many others struggle with major emotional and psychological issues in their life, like anger, sexual lust, addictions, depressions, anxieties, obsessions, sexual sins, pornography, adultery, etc. Christian people have the same problems as the world. Why?

We are ignorant of the complete work Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the cross, which not only provides us eternal salvation, but also the keys to our freedom and wholeness. Many of God's people do not want the responsibility that comes with this personal freedom and desire to remain dependent upon someone else.

The Bible makes it clear that we are blind, ignorant and spiritual babies, and that we suffer loss in our life because of it. We do not understand spiritual things.

My people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst (Is. 5:13; see Hosea 4:6).

Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see. Who is blind but My servant, Or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? (Is. 42:18-19).

I have come to open the eyes of the blind that they may turn from darkness to light... (Acts 26:18).

Consider Jesus...

In this scripture, Christian people are reminded to "consider" Jesus; i.e., to take note of, to perceive something about Him.

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession (Hebrews 3:1-6).

What is it that we need to consider? In Hebrews 6:1-2, it talks about the elemental teaching about the Christ and the foundation understanding that we need. In fact, the writer of Hebrews is calling Christians to go beyond this elementary teaching, yet says that they cannot, because they are still babies and need to be taught all over again the basic fundamental truths about the Christ.

Therefore leaving the elemental teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity...Not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment... (Hebrew 6:1-2).

What I find is that many of God's people have little revelation in their hearts about Jesus Christ and His work on the cross. They do not understand that the power of the indestructible life that bought Jesus out of the grave (see Hebrews 7:16b and Ephesians 3:20) is in them who believe. They do not know how to break free from fears, lay hands on the sick, or how to use their spiritual authority as a believer.

For by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God . . . you have come to need milk and not solid food (Hebrews 5:12).

Many of us still need to understand at a deeper level (with the eyes of the heart) this basic teaching about Jesus. The spiritual foundation has not been properly laid. If we want to enter into the freedom God promises us, then we must receive revelation of Jesus Christ, His work on the cross, and the spiritual foundation.

Today's focus: The work of Jesus on the cross & freedom

In today's study, I would like to consider the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and how it relates to our personal freedom. I want to consider what happened on the cross and the nature of the freedom that this makes possible. What exactly did Jesus set us free from? What does this freedom mean? How free do we want to become?

? pray...

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the (true) knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come... (Eph. 1:17-21). Amen.

II. God Desires Our Freedom

It is clear from the Scriptures that God desires to make His people free. In fact, this is why He sent Jesus Christ to us.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives . . . to set free those who are downtrodden (Luke 4:18).

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem (free) those who are under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.....(Gal. 4:5-7)..

A. What the Bible Says About Freedom

Here are some scriptures that refer to freedom. As you read them, begin to notice what they say that Jesus set us free from.

That the creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God (Rom 8:21).

...and because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Gal. 4:5-7)

...now we have been released (freed) from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (Rom. 7:6),

Having been freed from sin (Rom 6:18, 22).

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derived your fruit—sanctification and eternal life (Rom 6:22).

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit...(Rom. 8:2-4).

If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed (John 8:36).

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1).

...to spy out our liberty (freedom) which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage (Gal. 2:4).

B. Understanding The Word “Freedom”

We often read or recite scriptures on freedom without deeply thinking about the meaning of the word freedom. Let's consider the following thoughts and definitions:

Quotes On Freedom

There is no gift human beings will run faster from than the terrible gift of freedom (Erich Fromm).

To some, freedom means the opportunity to do what they want to do. To most it means not to do what they do not want to do (Eric Hoffer).

The man is free who knows how to keep in his own hands the power to decide, at each step the course of his life (Salvador de Madariaga).

The man is free, who is self-reliant. . . who masters his passions; who fears neither poverty nor death nor prison; who resists his appetites and despises worldly ambition (Horace).

Freedom is the will to be responsible to ourselves (Nietzsche).

Psychologist Rollo May on freedom

Shortly after WWII, thinking philosophers and psychologists began to speak about a new way of looking at the nature of human beings. Two German philosophers, Nietzsche and Heidegger, helped to focus attention on ideas of personal freedom and responsibility. Other Europeans like Binswanger, Boss, and Frankel adapted this thinking into counseling chambers. American psychotherapist Rollo May brought many of their ideas to the U.S. Here are some of his ideas on freedom:

“Freedom is a basic principle, in fact a *sine qua non*, of personality. For it is by this characteristic that we separate human beings from animals, the human being having the ability to break the rigid chain of stimulus and response which enslaves animals.

The healthy mind is able to hold different impulses in a state of undecided balance and finally to give the decision by which of the impulses prevail. This possession of creative possibilities, which is synonymous with freedom, is the first presupposition of human personality ...a man possess freedom as a quality of his total being...

It is possible to grow in freedom. The more mentally healthy the person becomes, the more he is able to mold creatively the materials of life, and hence the more he has appropriated his potentiality of freedom. It is the role of a function of a counselor to lead the counselee to an acceptance of responsibility for the conduct and outcome of his life...and to appropriate and use his possibilities of freedom." (Rollo May, *The Art Of Counseling*, pgs. 51-53)

May understood that when we lack courage to face our potentiality given by God and turn away from fulfilling it, we give up much of our freedom. When we refused to take up our freedom, we give up our responsibility. If we are unwilling to make choices, we lose sight of who we are and develop a sense of insignificance and alienation.

Definitions of Freedom

Greek New Testament Meaning of Freedom

Eleutheros—freedom; to liberate, i.e., to exempt from liability. In other words, freedom means that one is no longer held responsible or accountable for something.

English Dictionary (Webster's Unabridged)

Here is how a dictionary defines the word "freedom".

- not under the control of some other power or person
- able to move in any direction— not held as in chains
- not confined to usual rules or patterns
- not limited by convention or tradition
- not held or confined by prejudice or bias
- able to choose for yourself, to determine action freely; spontaneous
- able to act or think without *compulsion*
- exempt from impositions and duties
- acquitted
- clear of obstructions, open, unimpeded
- rescue or release from slavery, captivity, authority, or obligation

Words that are similar to freedom (synonyms)

- ✓ Liberty, independence, autonomy, self-determination, self-direction, self-government
- ✓ Liberation, emancipation, release, deregulation

Words that are the opposite of freedom (antonyms)

- ✓ Slavery/slave— human being who is owned by and wholly subject to the will of another; divested of all freedom and personal rights; lost the power of resistance; a condition of submission to some influence.
- ✓ Imprisoned/prisoner— a captive, one taken by an enemy in war; one whose liberty is restrained in any way; a person under custody, whether in prison or not.
- ✓ Bondage— slavery or involuntary servitude, serfdom, captivity, imprisonment; obligate; restraint of a person's liberty by compulsion; the condition of being bound. Bonds— anything that binds or fastens, as a cord, chain, rope; union, connection; chains, fetters.

- ✓ Darkness – absence of light, obscurity, gloom; entirely or partly without light; neither illuminated nor illuminating (Greek *skoteinos*, means full of darkness or covered with darkness; implies a covering over).

C. Who Or What Do You Need To Become Free From?

Here are some suggestions:

- Ungodly and destructive emotions such as anger, resentment, bitterness; false guilt, shame; rejection, abandonment; confusion.
- Ungodly thoughts and attitudes: hopelessness, powerlessness; depression, anxiety; phobias; rejection; blaming, etc.
- Ungodly behaviors and habits: personal sins, addictions, judging others, laziness, cowardice, compulsions, trying to win approval, driven ness, perfectionism, weakness, isolating, etc.
- Fear of people, fear of dying, fear of living, fear of dark, and 4000 other types of fears.
- True guilt, rejection of self, unforgiveness of self.
- Ungodly relationships and soul ties.
- Love of money, prestige, power; love of this world.
- The law of Moses.
- Trying to conform and fit certain patterns to be get your needs met.
- Man’s dead religion; idolatry; winds of doctrine.
- Secrets, denial, hiding emotions

Common fears we are in bondage to:

Some experts have identified at least 4,000 different types of fears. We can be afraid of almost anything. Afraid of truth, afraid of fortune, afraid of death, and afraid of each other. Each person has their own special type of fear. Here are some common fears:

Fear of death of loved one,	Fear of death	Fear of life
Fear of loss	Fear of impending doom	Fear of accidents, disaster
Fear of poverty, hard-luck	Fear of illness	Fear of being alone
Fear of rejection, separation	Fear of anger	Fear of love
Fear of failure	Fear of pain	Fear of being out of control
Fear of mice, dogs, spiders	Fear of water	Fear of truth
Fear of men,	Fear of authority figures	Fear of dogs
Fear of people	Fear of riding in cars	Fear of not remembering
Fear of abandonment	Fear of learning	Fear of telephones ringing
Fear of hospitals	Fear of sexuality	Fear of women, mothers
Fear of leaving the house	Fear of losing control	Fear of not sleeping
Fear of not obeying God	Fear of injury	Fear of punishment
Fear of open or closed spaces	Fear of driving or flying	Fear of another race/nation
Fear of high places, cliffs	Fear of embarrassment	Fear of atomic bombs
Fear of war	Fear of falling trees	Fear of wild animals

Some Fears I Have Broken Free From

How free do we really want to be? What do we need to be free from? One of the things is fear. I will share a few things that I am now free from. Fear of losing my children, fear of losing my friends, fear of losing my husband, etc.

1. My fear of public speaking: When I open my mouth, God will fill it.
2. My fear of the future: Because he lives I can face tomorrow
3. My fear of living: Choose life or death, I chose life
4. My fear of leukemia: experienced moments when I would break free from the fear, but I lived many moments under this fear. It was this fear and experience with our son's illness that brought me to the point of surrender. I came to my own helplessness and faced it, and discovered the power of God. At the moment of death, I found that God's presence is greater than death. Experienced tremendous peace.
5. My fear of loss of child: I let go of my child into the hands of my Lord; I trusted Him; Jesus said, whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
6. My fear of losing my husband to another woman: as I grew confident in who I am and the power of God in me, I came to the place that I said, I will not live in fear again, If I lose my husband, I can live fully and completely.
7. My fear of dusk, early evening: as I grew in my confidence and trust in the presence of God, some fears just disappeared.
8. My fear of not going to heaven: it just disappeared
9. My fear of old age: found the courage and confidence in God to accept what I could not change.
10. My fear of beer, alcohol: faced my enemy and made friends with it. Realized I could not control everything and accepted it, trusting God.
11. My fear of Tim becoming ill with cancer too. Fasted, prayed, and my spiritual man became stronger, and I could function spiritually. I came to a deep surrender and said, If I lose everybody I love, I can still live my life. I will not bow my head to fear again. Never. I made a decision, based on trust in my God. I saw the spiritual freedom gained through acceptance and surrender. I knew the truth of Jesus' words, Whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
12. My fear of thunderstorms.
13. My fear of being alone in the house.

III. What Did Jesus Do On The Cross?

In His work on the cross, Jesus took away the power of Satan, destroyed his works and redeemed us from the curse of the law. He took on the corrupted nature of flesh and blood and all of humanity' sins. He was made sin for us, held under condemnation, locked in a prison house of death for three days and nights. He put away sin and our sin nature through the sacrifice of Himself. He presented His blood as an eternal offering or sacrifice for our sins, to cover our sins and now there is no need to make any offering for our sins any longer, and He made us His Sons. In His work, He removed every barrier that keeps us separated from God.

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation., namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them...(II Cor. 5:18-19).

He made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (II Cor. 5:21)

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Is. 53:6).

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together (*in*) with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast (Eph. 2:1-9).

A. What Did Jesus Free Us From?

1. Satan's Power

The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8). See Acts 10: 37-39.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil (Acts 10:38).

Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness (possessed with devils); lunatics (moonstruck); palsy (feeble, paralyzed); divers diseases (maladies) and torments; and healed those oppressed by the devil (Matt. 4:24).

Through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14-15).

I have the keys of death and of Hades (Rev. 1:18).

These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:19-23).

Now the salvation and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night (Rev. 12:10). Col. 1:13

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Col. 2:13-15).

2. The fear of death

...that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives (Heb. 2:14,15).

3. The law and its curse

Knowing that we can never keep all of the laws, Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law for us and enable us to receive the free gift of grace and the free gift of righteousness. In His work

on the cross, His death and resurrection, He liberated us from the curse of the law and made it possible for us to walk in the Kingdom of God, His righteousness, peace, joy and power.

Therefore my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God (Rom 7:4).

...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ...now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ..... by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances...having put to death the enmity (Eph. 2:12-16).

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree (Gal. 3:13).

But now, we have been released (freed) from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (Rom. 7:5-7).

For you are not under *law*, but under *grace* (Rom. 6:14).

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God (? 9:14).

Now that faith has come we are no longer under a tutor, for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ...(Gal. 3:23).

Many of God's people are still following the Old Covenant based on the Law of Moses and have not fully realized that Jesus fulfilled that Law for us and gave us a new law: the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The law of Moses, even though it is righteous, has no power to transform us or to free us in any way. When we are being led by the law of Moses, we try so hard to perfect ourselves, to be righteous, and it never works (See Appendix A on the nature of the law. A law is something that is laid and fixed. It is rules of conduct established and enforced by some authority. It is a limiting device).

4. The law of sin and death inherent in our Adamic nature

We are of flesh, sold into bondage to sin (Rom 7:14);

But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness (Rom. 6:1-23).

Now he who has died is freed from sin (Rom. 6:7)

...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be

fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit...(Rom. 8:2-4).

Took away our sins (I John 3:5).

Because of the nature of His work on the cross Jesus brought about a new covenant, a change in how we are to function. And He gave us a new law, the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, written on tablets of the human heart, not on stone. This higher law enables us to break free from the law of sin and death operating in our flesh. (II. Cor. 3:3).

5. *The debt we owe for our failure to keep the righteous Law of Moses*

And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Col. 2:13-15).

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derived your fruit—sanctification and eternal life (Rom 6:18, 22).

Where there is forgiveness, there is no longer any offering for sin (Heb. 10:18).

6. *Our identity as a slave*

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem (free) those who are under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Gal. 4:5-7)

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba Father (Romans 8:15).

7. *Being downtrodden and oppressed*

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives...to set free those who are downtrodden . . . (Luke 4:18).

8. *Separated from God and His Love*

For I convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39).

9. *A spirit of fear*

Christ hated fear; fear makes us slaves. He showed us that we were born to live by faith. He came to set us free from fear, and to show us a higher way of living.

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba Father (Romans 8:15).

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (II Tim. 1:7).

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love (I John 4:16,18).

B. What is Jesus Doing Now?

1. The High Priest of a New Covenant

Jesus died a lamb but arose as the Lord High Priest of good things to come. He is seeking the presence and the hearing of God on the behalf of others. When we come through Christ, we have a guarantee to get the ear of God. Jesus is now the high priest of a new covenant, on the basis of the power of an *indestructible life*" (Hebrews 7:16). He is the only one who has the power of an indestructible life, this is why He is the only one who can give us eternal life. He is the only One who has risen from the dead. .

Seeing then that we have a great high priest . . . we may come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need (Hebrews 4:14).

...But according to the power of an indestructible life (Hebrews 7:16).

For the law made nothing perfect, and now there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God (Hebrews 7:19).

Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant (Hebrews 7:22).

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest...who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as he is also the mediator of a *better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises* (Hebrews 7:26–8:6).

This is the covenant I will make...I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them upon their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people (Hebrews 8:10).

Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life (II Cor. 3:6).

2. Our Advocate

Jesus speaks to the Father in our defense; He pleads our cause:

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father (I John 2:1)

He abides forever...hence he is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:24-25)

C. Invites Us To Enter Into His Rest From Our Labor

The full legal demand of the law “of sin and death” was fulfilled in pain upon the body of Jesus in anguish in the heart and soul and spirit of our Lord upon the cross. Because of this we can find rest for our souls. We do not have to strive to fulfill the law of Moses, but we can be led by the Spirit, and keep our hearts full of faith.

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls (Matt. 11:28-29).

Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience ...There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His (Heb. 4:9-11).

...I was angry with this generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart, and they did not know My ways...Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day...for we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end (Hebrews 3:10-14).

IV. How Do We Become More Free?

A. Truth Sets Us Free

Jesus said that truth will set us free. He also said that He is the Truth.

You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).

Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me (John 14:6).

We Must Receive Truth in Our Heart

All that Jesus did for us is true, but we must have it revealed in our heart, because this is where faith is. God’s truth must be seen and known in our heart as well as our mind if it will benefit us at all. The New Testament does not say that we shall know truth by keeping the rules. I encourage you to meditate on the scriptures given in this lesson, praying that the Lord will give you a spirit of revelation in God’s truths, just as the Apostle Paul prayed for the people of God.

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised (I Cor. 2:14).

For to us God revealed them through the spirit. . .(I Cor. 2:8-12)

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints., and what is the

surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe...which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places..." (Ephesians 1:17-23)

The Apostle Paul

The Apostle Paul understood what Jesus had made possible for us through revelation of Jesus Christ. And after he understood these things he set his mind and heart on one thing only: Jesus Christ.

I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (I Cor. 2:2).

Whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ; and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ; the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ. (Phil 3:7-14)

A friend's Vision of Jesus on the Cross

Some years ago, a Catholic friend of mine had a vision of Jesus on the cross. I want to share it with you. We don't talk much about visions and dreams today. Most of God's people are ignorant and afraid of these things. And if someone should receive a vision from God, we want to elevate them to a high position. However I believe that these experiences ought to be part of the normal Christian experience.

Here is my friend's account, in his own words, of his vision experience of Jesus on the cross.

I know that God has given me some wonderful blessed experiences. But it took them, because, without them I don't think I ever could of done the things I have been able to do. The first one was after I had experienced the Holy Spirit, and then the Holy Spirit directed us to go to that little church that was having a gospel sing along...after they had sang two or three songs, then the Spirit of God just fell on this church, and everybody stood up spontaneously and began to praise and worship the Lord.

I am standing there praising God with all the rest, but all of a sudden everything disappears and I'm not in the church anymore... I'm standing out in the middle of a violent storm, pitch black out there, lightning is flashing all over, wind is blowing, and rain is coming down hard, hard...and I mean it's a violent storm going on...and I'm wondering, what in the world happened to me? Because a moment before I'm in this church full of people, next moment I'm in the middle of this storm, and I mean it was real, like you are, as real as could be, of being in that storm.

Then, off to my left a little bit the lightning flashed and on a hill off in front of me a distance, I could see some crosses on the Hill... The lightning flashed behind and I could see these crosses sticking up on the Hill. And I'm looking at them, and all of a sudden the center cross just began to be illuminated, and it was filled with light, and

that radiance came up through that cross and it flowed right up into the sky, like it penetrated... It's just...it's hard to describe... it came out from the cross, the light did, right in the midst of that storm, and all of that light came right out... and it's like it... like... like it impacted me... like all the sudden that light from it hit me here, and all of a sudden I knew something... I remember exactly what I said, because I said, "*My God, it's all for real!*" And the reality of Jesus Christ and the cross entered my heart at that point...see...That's what happened.

The reality of Jesus Christ... see, I'd heard the story all my life growing up as a Catholic...Jesus and the cross and everything, but this was when the reality entered my heart. It was not just a story anymore, this was a reality, and it happened... and I am somehow there seeing this violent storm that it talked about in the Scriptures... there was a violent storm, and I am somehow there seeing this happen... and then I started weeping, I simply started weeping and sobbing... and the next instant I am back in that church again standing there weeping.

I recorded my friend's story of his vision for a research paper I am working on. So I had my husband Jerry key it into a computer using some software program. While listening to this account of the vision of Jesus on the cross, suddenly, the reality of the cross entered into his heart too. And he began to weep and cry with joy. It is interesting how the testimony or witness of our experiences with the Lord can touch another person and cause faith to be quickened in their heart too.

B. Rely Upon The Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Truth

Jesus said it was better that He go away, but promised to send back the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit of Truth, to be with us and in us. The work of the Holy Spirit will be to guide us into all truth.

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him, because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you...(John 14:16-18).

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you (John 14:26).

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth...He will bear witness of me (John 15:26).

When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come (John 16:14).

It is through the Holy Spirit that we can be free

...because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Gal. 4:5-7)

...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom) (II Cor. 4:15-17).

...the Spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing (John 6:53-63).

I will put my Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land (Ezekiel 37:6,9,10,14).

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law...

If you are living according to the flesh, you are about to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live (Romans 8:13)

Who Is The Spirit?

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (II Cor. 3:17)

He who believes in Me...from his innermost being (out of his belly) shall flow rivers of living water...this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive...(John 7:37-39)

If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he does not belong to Him (Rom. 8:9)

C. Go To Jesus, He Is Your Only Hope

The work of Jesus on the cross is real. We can enter into the reality of it. Jesus came to give us fullness of life, a new life, a new relationship of love and union with the Father through the Holy Spirit. Do you really believe Jesus has come to free and transform us? He has the power to transform us, but can you let Him do it for you? How free do you want to be?

The work of Jesus Christ on the cross made it possible for us to have a sense of righteousness. He forgives us, and cleanses us. He makes it possible for us to stand in the presence of God without a consciousness of sins. Jesus cleanses us from that sin consciousness or spiritual inferiority complex that would keep us from coming to God.

It is only by appropriating the finished work of Jesus Christ and co-operating with the Holy Spirit within us that we can come into more freedom.

You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me (John

Make Jesus Lord of your heart

Making Jesus Lord of our hearts enables us to free people from owing us something. See Appendix B on Going To Jesus.

Learn to place your trust in Him and His power

This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent (John 6:29).

Affirm God as your Father

The basis of all healing is to affirm the presence of God in you. I encourage you to make the following affirmation aloud many times every day.

Abba Father, I belong to you.

Prayer Time: Doing Business With God

Start by welcoming the Holy Spirit's presence to guide and empower you.

Give your heart to God now; allow Him to access your heart, praying,

Heavenly Father. I come to you now. I need you. Without you, I can do nothing. Your Word says that you come to set the captives free. I put my faith and trust in You and in Your Word. I am absolutely helpless to set myself free. I choose to surrender myself to you, and place myself in Your hands. Open the eyes of my heart that I may know You. I ask you to bring Your truth and give me revelation of Your work on the cross. I am expecting You to do what You promised. In the Name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

Confess your problem to the Lord

Confess specifically what your area of bondage is. Declare your total dependence on God to free you. Ask God to release and forgive you of the sin. State your desire to turn from it and receive His grace.

Lord Jesus, I confess my sin of and I ask you for your complete forgiveness. I choose to acknowledge this as sin and allow you to cleanse me of all my unrighteousness. Make me clean and whole and release me of this sin. I know I am helpless in overcoming it on my own, and unless you set me free I will never be free. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

My Prayer For The Listeners:

Father God, I ask that you would touch every person reading this and begin the process of making them free. Give them the courage to do what You tell them, to make known that which is secret. You see the heart, and You desire to heal it. I speak now a blessing into your life, that you would be blessed with all the blessing of God, that you would know our heavenly Father, that your heart would be filled with His peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Appendix A: The Work of the Law

Scriptures About the Law

1. Through the Law comes the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20).
2. For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse (Gal. 3:10).
3. By the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified (Gal. 2:16).
4. The Law brings about wrath (Rom 4:15).
5. The Law helps us come to know sin (Rom 7:7);
6. The Law arouses sinful passions (Rom. 7:5).
7. ...making me a prisoner of the law of sin. . . (Rom 7:23).
8. The Law came in that the transgression might increase (Rom 5:20)
9. The law made nothing perfect (Heb. 7:19).
10. You show the work of the Law written in their hearts, . . . and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them (Rom. 3:15).
11. The law is only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never . . . , make perfect those who draw near (Heb. 10:1).
12. We were kept in custody under the Law (Gal. 3:23).
13. . . .were in bondage under the elemental things (Gal 4:3).
14. The Law became our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith, but now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor (Gal. 3:23).
15. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law (Rom. 3:28).
16. Where there is no law, neither is there violation (Rom 4:15)
17. Sin is not imputed when there is no law (Rom. 5:13).
18. . . .that we should no longer be slaves to sin (Rom 6:6).
19. You have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons – saying “Abba! Father!” (Rom 8:15).
20. Whenever Moses (law) is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away (II Cor. 4:15-17).
21. For it was for freedom that Christ set us free, therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (Gal. 5:1).
22. You have been severed from Christ, you are seeking to be justified by Law; you have fallen from grace (Gal. 5:4).
23. For you are not under *law*, but under grace (Rom 6:14).

Appendix B: Go To Jesus

A. Draw Close To Jesus

We must come to place where we realize that nobody else is responsible but me. I must have a direct relationship, an individual relationship between me and God, this is the freeing agent. If you have not made a decision to invite Jesus Christ into your heart, you need to do this. It is key to the transformation and healing of your broken heart and life.

1. “Go To Jesus”

You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:28).

Have you really experienced Jesus? If not, you need to repent and turn to Him. Jesus Christ is the only answer! Jesus Christ is the only way, He is the uncorrupted seed, He is righteous, He brings fullness of life. Acknowledge that it is solely on the basis of what Jesus has done on your behalf that you are receiving your righteousness now.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame’ (Rom. 10:9-11).

As a result of a genuine conversion or born again experience, you have access to the Kingdom of Heaven which is right within you. You need to seek the truth and walk in it. Then you will gradually become free, feel free. Christianity is the only way to be totally free.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days... (Deut. 30:19,20).

Spiritual Realm Does Not Work By Magic

The spiritual realm of God *does not* work through “magic,” but through faith that resides in an honest heart. There are no magical words that will make God become real to you—but only an honest heart that recognizes its need and a tiny bit of faith *that God cannot lie, that what He said is true.*

God Himself said that He sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can have newness of life. Did God lie when He said this? Can you trust what He says? It is faith in God Himself and in the power of God, revealed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that brings about changes within us.

Use The Key: Apply Your Faith In A God Who Cannot Lie!

Now simply go to God, praying from an *honest* heart. Begin your journey to God by praying something that is honest to you, such as...

God, I don't know if you are real, and if you are really there for me, but if you are, I need You in my life. I don't understand everything, but I know that I need a power greater than myself. I need You. Please come into my life. Thank you.

Here is the prayer I prayed thirty-five years ago:

God, I ask for your help. I want to know You. I need Your son Jesus. I place my faith in His work on the cross, His burial and His resurrection. I accept the blood He shed as enough for my sins and the sins of others against me. Jesus, I ask You to come live inside of me. I invite You to come into my life. And I thank you. Amen.

Two examples of the "Sinner's Prayer"

God I am a sinner. I cannot save myself. I know according to your Word that I cannot make myself righteous, but I thank You because You love me and sent the Lord Jesus to die for me. And through His righteousness, redemption is made available to me. I believe that He died for my sins according to the scripture. I believe that He was raised from the dead and is my justification. I confess Him no and take Him as my Savior.

Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen." (taken from <http://www.gotquestions.org/sinners-prayer.html>)

Now, Where Is Jesus?

If I ask you where is Jesus, can you say with confidence: "He is in my heart. I asked Him to come in, and I know He did, because God cannot lie."

Make Jesus Christ Lord

Make a decision to make Jesus Christ Lord of your life, to follow Him in faith and obedience. Decide to lay down your rebellion, surrender, and make Jesus Christ Lord of your life. Decide to do all that the Lord Your God asks of you. You may want to pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I want to know You better, to come closer to You. Please cause me to see more clearly who You are and what You have done for me. Please reveal Christ in me. I thank you. Lord, I make a decision to follow You, in faith and obedience. I will do what You ask me to do. Lay down your rebellion and surrender to the Lord. I choose to make You Lord of my life. Amen

To learn more about the work of the Holy Spirit see Program Notes, "The Work of the Holy Spirit," 22 January 2006.

Jesus Christ Came To Set Us Free
Program Notes
Radio Horeb May 6, 2007

At this time I understand that when individuals receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through genuine heart faith, they receive the “Spirit of Christ” and their own spirit is quickened and made alive, because of the righteousness of Christ Jesus (Romans 8:9,10). I understand the baptism in the Holy Spirit as a distinct work of grace which is not to be confused with the conversion or born again experience. It involves a filling or immersion into God’s power and authority and the capability of praying in tongues and functioning with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Please note that my program notes are not a treatise or doctrinal position on salvation, faith or the Holy Spirit. They simply reflect my understanding at this time. I encourage you to go to God, asking Him to bring revelation to your own heart. He will not fail an honest heart. If we desire to be of service to God and fulfill His purposes for us.

...to spy out our liberty (freedom) which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage (Gal. 2:4).

➤ **Your Response:** What does the word "freedom" mean to you?

1. Underline words in the scriptures referring to freedom & slavery.
2. Which scriptures are you drawn to?
3. What is it that keeps people in slavery and bondage?
4. How free are you on a scale of 0 to 10?
5. Using a scale of 0 (not at all) and 10 (total freedom) how free do you want to be?
6. Write a paragraph about what "*freedom*" means to you. How do you feel about it? Is it scary, frightening, fearsome? Is there a longing in your heart for it?
7. In what areas of your life are you still in slavery?
8. Who or what are you a slave to?
9. In what areas do you feel helpless or bound?
10. Who or what are you chained/tied to?
11. What are you a slave to?
12. Where in your life do you have more freedom than you used to have? Do you have a greater freedom with your family and children?
13. Have you given your children/partners the freedom to be themselves, no longer having to conform to what you are thinking they should be? Are you allowing them to become who God has called them to be?
17. Do your children owe you something?
18. What are some of the rules and laws at work in your life? Whose rules are they? Are you able to fulfill them?