

Freedom In Christ

July 8, 2007

Jesus gave His life for my freedom

- ***Jesus gave His life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us His very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds. Titus chapter 2 verse 14 (918)***
- Jesus ransomed me from every one of my sins & every kind of sin, then he cleaned me up & made me his own, so that I could live a beautiful life!
- ***The Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. Galatians chapter 3 verse 22 (892)***

As a Christ-follower, I am no longer powerless against sin...ANY sin!

- ***Do not let sin control the way you live... Romans chapter 6 verse 12 (861)***
- ***Consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Romans chapter 6 verse 11 (861)***

What it means to be ALL dead to sin (not MOSTLY dead to sin!)

- Remember Miracle Max's wisdom: "There's a big difference between mostly dead & all dead. Mostly dead is slightly alive!"
- I am no longer a prisoner to my struggles, addictions, cravings. I no longer have to give in to them
- Thru the power of the Holy Spirit in me, I can say "No!" and resist my struggles, addictions & cravings
- Because of the power of the Holy Spirit in me, I don't have to live as a prisoner to my struggles, addictions & cravings
- Jesus promises a way of escape so I don't have to give in to the temptations that surround me (*see 1 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 13*)
- No where in the Bible does God promise me complete & total relief from physical ailments & disease

As a Christ-follower, I must engage in the battle the rest of my life!

- ***Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. Galatians chapter 5 verses 16 & 17 (893)***
- ↳ My earthly life will never be free of this struggle between the Holy Spirit in me and "my flesh"
- ↳ Ongoing sin in my life = a life that is not occupied with the Holy Spirit
- ↳ Being powerless against any sin in my life = a life not occupied with the Holy Spirit
- ↳ Spiritual growth in me = my life being occupied with the Holy Spirit & the Holy Spirit giving me new, God-honoring desires
- ↳ "not free to carry out your good intentions" - my godly intentions will always be challenged by "my flesh." So expect it, don't be surprised by it

As a Christ-follower, I have great freedom in Christ!

➤ ***Why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks? If I can thank God for the food and enjoy it, why should I be condemned for eating it? So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.***

1 Corinthians chapter 10 verses 29 - 31 (876)

- ↳ *God doesn't expect or want me to be like every-other Christ-follower around me*
- ↳ *God made me unique & He expects me to live out my uniqueness*
- ↳ *I have incredible freedom in my life as a Christ-follower*
- ↳ *Remember that the doctrine & moral laws in the Bible are for my benefit & my freedom. That's why God doesn't give me an option in obeying these*

This freedom...It's not about me!

You have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Galatians chapter 5 verse 13 (893)

Next Week: The Strength of My Weakness