

## Walking In Freedom And Liberty In God

'Out of my distress I called on God and He answered me with freedom' (Psalm 118:5). 'I will walk in liberty for I have sought Your precepts' (Psalm 119:45). 'The Lord is the Holy Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty' (2 Corinthians 3:17). 'He who looks into the perfect law of freedom and continues ... being a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does' (James 1:25). 'You will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free ... If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:32 & 36). 'Now you are free (from sin) do not use your freedom for a cloak of wickedness but as servants of God' (1 Peter 2:16).

There are many verses in the Bible that speak of freedom in God but what exactly does that mean? Freedom in God is to be free from the effects of unforgiven sin and also to be free from the terror of death. When we are freed from these two curses that came upon mankind because of Adam's disobedience we will enjoy a special peace within our souls that passes all human understanding (Philippians 4:7). Freedom in God does not mean we are free to behave in a carnal or sinful manner. It means we are free to enjoy life without the burden of sin, without fear of death and we can enjoy an ongoing presence of God. The only way to be free from sin and the fear of death is to be born-again by accepting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His shed blood that cleanses us from sin, and thereafter we must live a life as a servant and a child of God. All people are sinners and we all need to be saved by the blood of Jesus but once we are born-again, we cannot use our newfound freedom to sin. We know if we ask forgiveness we will be forgiven but we should consciously avoid sinning and we should also avoid even the appearance of sin. 'Abstain from every form or appearance of evil' (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

The Scriptures tell us, 'What should we say then? Will we continue in sin so grace may abound? God forbid! We have died to sin so how could we live in it any longer? ... Sin will not have dominion over you. You are not under law but under grace. What then? Will we sin because we are not under law but under grace? God forbid' (Romans 6:1 & 2, 14 & 15). 'Thanks be to God, you were once bondservants of sin but you became obedient from the heart to the form of teaching where you were delivered, being made free from sin, you became servants of righteousness ... you once presented your bodies as bondservants to uncleanness but now present your bodies as servants to righteousness for sanctification. You were bondservants of sin but ... the end of those things is death. Being made free from sin and having become servants of God, you have your fruit of sanctification and the result of eternal life. The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:17 to 23). 'There is no condemnation to those who are in Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Holy Spirit, for the law of the Spirit of Life in Jesus makes us free from the law of sin and of death' (Romans 8:1 & 2). 'Eternal death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? The sting (fear, terror or dread) of death is sin' (1 Corinthians 15:54 to 56).

To keep our hard-earned freedom from sin, fear and death we must remain walking with God. 'Stand firm in the liberty by which Jesus has made us free and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage' (Galatians 5:1). 'Jesus has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and blameless before God, on condition you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast and not moved away from the hope of the Gospel you heard, which is being proclaimed to all creation under heaven' (Colossians 1:22 & 23). We must never forget the original wonderful sensation of being born-again and the excitement of realising we really can have a deep relationship with our Creator. 'If you live after the flesh you must die (spiritually) but if by the Holy Spirit you put to death the carnal deeds of the body, you will live (for eternity), for as many as are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive the spirit of bondage to fear, you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Holy Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit, we are children of God' (Romans 8:13 to 16). Many Christians find life is too hard so they whine and complain or return to sin for comfort. Many people need to be freed from the bondage of sin that encompasses their lives. Giving up sin can be hard, especially for people addicted to smoking, alcohol, gambling, endless shopping, illicit sex, over use of medications, illegal drugs, modern music, wealth and many other forms of modern idolatry.

The modern concept of freedom is not what the Bible teaches. Modern 'freedom' in modern society is to do whatever feels good, to avoid any community responsibility, to be free from honouring one's parents and family, to fulfil ones own selfish desires without any thought to how they might damage the lives of others especially children, a life filled with self-gratification, self-will, self-indulgence, self-rightfulness, selfishness, narcissism and the delusional sense of freedom to be accountable to no one. That attitude is eternally self-destructive. Every person on earth is accountable to God whether they believe it or not, whether they want it or not and one day every person who has ever lived will have to give an account to God regarding their lives and the things they did while on earth, whether good or bad. 'We must all be revealed before the Judgment Seat of Jesus so each one (each individual) may receive (their judgement) for the things (they did) in the body, according to what they have done, whether good or bad' (2 Corinthians 5:10). Our world has become

one of self-importance. People cry out for freedom but it does not come from the desire for true liberty, it comes from a selfish desire to be free of responsibility so they can focus solely on themselves. Freedom without purpose is self-imposed slavery, slavery to self, slavery to sin, slavery to lustful desire and slavery to follow evil are all yokes of bondage. The difference between the two freedoms is the freedom to do whatever one wants versus the freedom to choose to do what is right.

True freedom in God is to become shining beacons of Light to the world to show them the way of salvation and redemption (Matthew 5:16), to increase the Kingdom of Heaven, freely obeying God and His commandments to glorify Him in our bodies while we are still on earth. 'Do you not realise your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price (the blood of Jesus) therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belong to God' (1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20). We need to grasp what true freedom in God is and become joyful and willingly obedient, true children of the King of the Universe. Without God, none of us would exist. 'Worthy are You our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honour and the power, for You created all things and because of Your desire they exist and were created' (Revelation 4:11). God created us so in turn we need to obey Him. The world did not come about by the chance of evolution. This world and everything in it was created by God and for God through His spoken Word. 'All things (absolutely everything) have been created through God and for God. He is before all things and in Him all things are held together' (Colossians 1:16 & 17). The Lord created the earth then in six normal days the Lord said, "Let there be ..." firstly Light, then water, then land, then all vegetation, then the entire universe, then all sea creatures, all birds and flying animals like bats or insects, then all land animals and finally God created mankind after His image and likeness (Genesis 1:1 to 31) and everything was created to be more than good, it was perfect, so He expects all mankind everywhere to repent and obey the Bible. 'God commands all people everywhere to repent because He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man (Jesus) Whom God has ordained' (Acts 17:30 & 31). 'The Holy Spirit and the Bride of Jesus say, "Come!" Those who hear let them say, "Come!" Those who are thirsty (for God) let them come. Anyone who desires let them take the water of life freely' (Revelation 22:17).

Amen and God bless you.

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