

Living in the Grip of God's Glory

Have you ever watched a squirrel try to cross the road? It darts forward, panics, runs back, then decides to run forward again—triple-minded and confused. It's almost comical, except when you realize how often we can live the same way. We start moving toward God's promises, then hesitate, second-guess ourselves, and sometimes even consider turning back to what we left behind.

But here's the truth: we're not meant to live like that squirrel. We're called to be people who press forward, who don't look back, who pursue everything God has promised us without wavering.

The Danger of Looking Back

The children of Israel faced this very struggle. After their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, every time they encountered difficulty, they started romanticizing their past bondage. "It would have been better if we stayed in Egypt," they complained. "At least we had food there." They forgot the whips, the oppression, the slavery—all they could remember was the familiar comfort of what they knew.

This is the subtle deception that keeps so many believers from experiencing God's best. We convince ourselves that what we left behind was somehow better than what God has ahead. We start thinking about turning back.

But when you have Jesus, you don't really have problems—you have the answer to every problem. It's like sitting down to take a test when you already have all the answers. There's no real problem; you just need to fill in the blanks and walk it out.

The Power of God's Presence

Throughout Scripture, we see the overwhelming power of God's presence. In the days of the prophet Samuel, God's glory was so strong in certain meetings that people couldn't help but fall under His power. Even hardened men with murderous intent—sent to kill David—would enter these gatherings and immediately begin prophesying, completely overtaken by the Spirit of God.

This reveals something crucial: just as the enemy's presence can grip people and pull them into sin, God's presence can grip believers and compel them toward righteousness. Adam and Eve weren't just casually tempted—they were gripped by a demonic presence that overwhelmed their better judgment. But the same principle works for good. When we

fellowship with the Holy Spirit, His presence can so overwhelm us that walking in holiness becomes natural, even irresistible.

The question becomes: whose presence are you fellowshiping with?

Living by the Law of Liberty

James speaks of being judged according to "the law of liberty." This is a profound concept. God's Word isn't just a suggestion—it's a law that brings freedom. Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Liberty isn't optional in God's economy; it's commanded.

God demands that you live free. He demands that you walk in health, blessing, and victory. He's not hoping you'll experience these things—He's commanding them. The day will come when believers stand before God and give an account based on how free they lived their lives.

Why weren't you free? Why were you bound by that addiction, that fear, that destructive pattern? You had My Word. You had My Spirit. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. What was your problem?

This isn't meant to condemn but to awaken us to the reality that we already possess everything we need to live victoriously.

The Good, Acceptable, and Perfect Will of God

Romans 12 presents us with three options: God's good will, His acceptable will, and His perfect will. Some believers settle for 30-fold returns, others for 60-fold, and still others press in for the 100-fold blessing.

God is so gracious that He'll work with you wherever you are. When the Israelites demanded a king instead of allowing God to rule directly over them, God gave them what they wanted—even though it wasn't His best for them. He'll help you obtain things that aren't necessarily in your best interest because He respects your choices.

But why settle for anything less than God's perfect will? Why accept "good enough" when you can have the best?

The transformation comes through renewing your mind with God's Word. It's not about trying harder to be better. It's about allowing what's already inside you—the Holy Spirit—to dominate your outward life. When Jesus is your Lord, you have all of heaven's ability and power inside you. The Holy Spirit doesn't struggle with temptation. He doesn't have bad habits. And He lives in you.

As Paul said, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." There's someone else now driving the car, thinking through your thoughts, speaking through your lips, working through your hands.

Breaking Free from Bondage

Here's something surprising: not everyone actually wants to be free. When Jesus asked the man who had been sick for 38 years, "Do you want to be made whole?" it wasn't a rhetorical question. Some people have grown so accustomed to their bondage that they've convinced themselves it's better than freedom.

But if you're willing and obedient, Scripture promises you'll eat the good of the land—and that word "good" actually means the cream of the crop, the best of the best. God wants you to have His absolute best.

This requires a decision: no turning back, no compromise, no settling. It means staying in fellowship with God's presence rather than entertaining the enemy's whispers. It means keeping your mind fixed on truth rather than allowing the undertow of temptation to grip you.

Moving Forward

You're not created to just survive—you're created to thrive in complete freedom. Every answer you need is found in the name of Jesus, the name above every name. The whole Bible is summed up in that name.

So make the declaration today: I choose Jesus. I choose life. I choose health and blessing. I reject every curse and every bondage. I'm too blessed to be cursed. I have the name of Jesus, and I resist the devil, and he flees from me.

You're not a squirrel, confused and double-minded. You're a child of God, pressing forward into everything He has promised. And with His Spirit empowering you, there's no turning back.

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 12:1-2 - Present your bodies as living sacrifices; be transformed by the renewing of your mind to prove God's good, acceptable, and perfect will
- 1 Corinthians 14:23-25 - When the whole church operates in the Spirit, unbelievers will fall down and worship God

- John 8:32, 36 - "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"; "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"
- Romans 14:17 - The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit
- Galatians 5:1 - Stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free
- Isaiah 1:19 - "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land"

Quotes:

1. *Problems aren't really problems when you have Jesus—because in Him, you already have the answer to every problem.*
2. *God commands freedom. He calls you to live a free life, untangled from every yoke of bondage.*
3. *Whatever you're afraid to let go of, remember: what God has for you is far better.*
4. *Faith is the doorway into God's presence. Step into faith, and it opens the door for His presence to enter whatever you're facing.*
5. *We don't go to the Word of God just to learn how to do better—we go to the Word to be transformed, so the change within us begins to shape the world around us.*
6. *It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God.*
7. *If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land. God desires for you to walk in His very best.*

Summary:

This message takes us on a powerful journey from bondage to complete freedom, using the imagery of crossing over—never looking back, never turning around like a confused squirrel in traffic. At its heart is the story of Israel's exodus and the prophet Samuel's ministry, where God's presence was so overwhelming that even armed mercenaries sent to kill David fell down prophesying instead. We're challenged to understand that problems

aren't really problems when we have Jesus—we already possess all the answers through His name. The message confronts our tendency to waver, to second-guess, to hold onto familiar bondages rather than embrace the superior life God commands for us. Drawing from Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 14, we discover that transformation isn't about religiously trying harder, but about allowing the Holy Spirit within us to dominate our outside. It's the Holy Spirit living His habitless nature through us. We're called to reject the world's counterfeits—its false peace, fake joy, and temporary pleasures—and pursue the hundredfold blessing, the cream of the crop, the perfect will of God. This isn't optional; it's a command. God demands our freedom, and one day we'll be judged by the law of liberty—how free we actually lived. The question echoes: will we settle for good, accept what's acceptable, or go all-in for God's perfect best?

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE area to focus on:

Option 1: Presence Over Performance

- Spend 15 minutes daily just fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit (not just reading or praying requests)
- Journal what you sense or experience in His presence
- Share your experience with the group next week

Option 2: Identify Your "King"

- Like Israel demanding a king instead of God's best, identify one area where you've settled for less than God's perfect will
- Write out what God's Word says about that area
- Declare daily: "I choose God's best in [this area]"

Option 3: Transformation Through Renewal

- Choose one scripture from Romans 12:1-2 or related passages
- Meditate on it throughout the day
- Look for evidence of transformation in your thoughts, words, or actions