

Freedom that Lasts: First Study

Key Scripture: 2 Peter 1:1-11

"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..."

Introduction:

- "All of us face crisis from time to time..."
- "Life dominating sins bind us like slavery..."
- "We feel there is no way out..."
- "We lose hope..."
- "God loves you...he wants to deliver you from life dominating sins and negative consequences..."

A side note about the introduction:

- Theology---Practice---Way of Life---Wholeness and growth---Abundant living

Jesus Christ is the only Source of Freedom that Lasts:

- "Our greatest problems are not around us; they are in us..."
- "We would like to think that our ...is someone else's fault..."
- "We are think that if we had more money...better job...a good marriage...a better background...people respected us...people would leave us alone...we wouldn't be acting like this..."

A side note on this point:

- **Jeremiah 2:12-13** "Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water..."
 - **Astonishment:**
 - **Fear:**
 - **Desolation:**
 - **Forsaken me:**
 - **The fountain of living waters:**
 - **Hewed them out cisterns:**
 - **Broken cisterns:**

Change starts in the heart:

- **The illustration of a tea bag:** "If we want to change the flavor, we don't change the water. We change the tea bag..."
- "Our actions are a result of what is in our hearts..."
- "Our hearts...our character...must change if we are to overcome our harmful responses to the "hot water" hurts and hardships of life..."
- Lasting change comes from the inside out..."

The key to this entire study: "We do what we do because we are what we are. To change what we do, we must cooperate with God to change what we are..."

- **Conversion:**
- **Growth into Christlikeness:**
- **By the power of God:**
- **Through the scriptures:**

Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37-40

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets..."

Read Appendix C: A Plan for Daily Quiet Time with God