

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 10
Breaking Every Blockage to Freedom

ONE THING

God's grace does not REMOVE the need for HOLINESS, but EMPOWERS us to live in HOLINESS.

Hebrews 12:14 (ESV) — Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Paul was continuing to answer the questions sent to him...

Paul was dealing with a people who saw the Gospel as an unbiblical freedom to live as they wanted...

Paul wanted to show them how the believer's rights in the Gospel must be in submission to the believer's obligation to the Gospel

Greek Philosophy is first built upon this primase

The soul is trapped within an evil body

Stoic philosophy – Depriving the body of all pleasure is the only way to control the body

Many of the Corinthian believers were following this idea which resulted in the CORRUPTING OVERSTEP against sexuality...

A reaction within the Corinthian Church against this teaching was those who were following the Epicurean philosophers...

Epicurean philosophy – Release the soul from any obligations to the body by letting the body run wild

1. Breaking the STRANGLEHOLD of PRESUMPTION

There is a real danger of believers living in presumptuous grace!

Presumptuous grace takes for granted and takes advantage of God's amazing grace...

This was a very common practice in NT times just as it is today...

Romans 6:1–3 (ESV) — What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

To walk in the freedom of God's amazing grace we must break the stranglehold of presumption!

How do we do this?

➤ **REPAIR faulty ASSUMPTIONS**

1 Corinthians 10:1–5 (ESV) — For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the

cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Notice...

1 Corinthians 10:1–4 (ESV) — For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Paul is talking about a people who entered a covenant with God and began enjoying the fruits of that covenant...

1 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV) — Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

The word used here for “overthrown” literally means strewn about as dead bodies...

Just because God is working miracles among us does not mean God is pleased with us!

Just because God is blessing you does not mean God is pleased with you!

Just because God is protecting you does not mean God is pleased with you!

Presumption is a stranglehold that chokes out the power and presence of God!

➤ **DESPAIR foolish ACTIONS**

1 Corinthians 10:6–10 (ESV) — Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

Idolatry and immorality... Impatience and grumbling

Do not presume on God!

His patience is NOT lenience nor license, but kindness!

Romans 2:4 (ESV) — Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

➤ **PREPARE with faithful AWARENESS**

1 Corinthians 10:11-13 (ESV) — Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1. Breaking the STRANGLEHOLD of PRESUMPTION.

2. Breaking the STRONGHOLD of COMPLACENCY

1 Corinthians 10:14–22 (ESV) — 14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

What does it mean to be complacent?

Complacency means...

“A feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.”

Complacency is cousins with Indifference...

➤ **The DAMAGE of UNDIRECTED spiritual activity**

1 Corinthians 10:14–22 (ESV) — Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar

When we minimize the realities of our Spiritual activity we have a tendency to miss the power of it's reality...

➤ **The DANGER of UNPROTECTED spirituality**

1 Corinthians 10:19–22 (ESV) — What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

Do you believe the Bible?

If you do then you know...

We live in a very spiritual world!

But so many believers, bound up by the cultural paradigm of materialism and humanism have almost totally ignored the realities of the spirit world!

1. Breaking the STRANGLEHOLD of PRESUMPTION.

2. Breaking the STRONGHOLD of COMPLACENCY.**3. Breaking the STUBBORNNESS of LEGALISM****➤ Live like JESUS**

1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1 (ESV) — 23 “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. 25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. 26 For “the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.” 27 If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. 28 But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— 29 I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else’s conscience? 30 If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. 1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

➤ Live in the BALANCE of FREEDOM

All things are LAWFUL, but all things are not LIBERATING!

➤ Live for the GLORY of the Lord**➤ Live for the FREEDOM of Others**

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 10
Breaking Every Blockage to Freedom

God's grace does not _____ the need for _____,
but _____ us to live in _____.

1. Breaking the _____ of _____

- _____ *faulty* _____
- _____ *foolish* _____
- _____ *with faithful* _____

2. Breaking the _____ of _____

- The _____ of _____ *spiritual activity*
- The _____ of _____ *spirituality*

3. Breaking the _____ of _____

- *Live in the* _____ *of* _____
- *Live for the* _____ *of the Lord*
- *Live for the* _____ *of Others*
- *Live like* _____