



## FREE TO BE ME | BE FREE

Galatians 6, Hebrews 12

### INTRODUCTION | Welcome | Online Audience | App | 21 Days Opportunities & Resources

*Many of us think freedom means we can do whatever we want. But true freedom isn't about choosing to do whatever we want... but choosing to be more like Jesus.*

### ILLUSTRATION | Comparison Story You don't have to be like someone else! **I Am Free To Be Me!** The fastest way to kill something special is to compare it with something else...

**Comparison Definition:** An estimation of your value & success based on your performance, position or praise in relation to the (perceived) performance of others.

For some of us, we've dealt with comparison our whole life. A brother or sister. Maybe it was another person in class or a coworker. Maybe it was a picture that a parent had of who you should be. No matter what happened, you could never measure up. Never reach it. How good or how bad, it was always compared to the expectation. Maybe you find yourself being the one who has set the tone. You've set the expectation that you'll never be able to reach.

**Galatians 6:1-5 NLT** *Dear brothers & sisters, if another believer is overcome by sin, you who are godly should gently & humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. 2 Share each other's burdens & in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 **If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself.** You are not that important. 4 **Pay careful attention to your own work,** for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, & **you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.** 5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.*

**Galatians 6:4-5 The Message** *Make a careful exploration of who you are & the work you have been given, & then sink yourself into that. **Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself to others...** Each of you must **take responsibility for doing the best you can with your own life.***

There are **TWO** primary responses to Comparison

### I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH

Some of us have been living out of that response for as long as we can remember.

### YOU JUST WATCH ME... BECAUSE I'LL SHOW YOU

These two responses will always trace back to comparison. How do we measure up?

Comparison comes from a seed called sin... As soon as Adam & Eve got their eyes off of the creator & onto things that were created. That's when comparison, jealousy, envy & sin enter into the story.

Their kids Cain & Abel even dealt with it. One was comparing their offering with their brothers offering & a murder happened just a few verses after Adam & Eve left the garden of Eden.

## **HOW WILL YOU KNOW THAT COMPARISON IS SPEAKING THE LOUDEST?**

### **DEVALUES YOUR UNIQUENESS**

But look at what they have... look, look, look!

It will erode the truth that you are fearfully & wonderfully made.

*Comparing makes you feel superior or inferior & none of them honor God.*

### **DISRUPTS YOUR CALLING & PURPOSE**

As long as I'm looking at someone else & their successes or their accomplishments, I will delay or miss out on the calling God has for me.

### **DIVERTS YOUR FOCUS**

Staying focused is challenging especially in light of technology & social media. Comparisons can make you feel inferior, which leads to low self-esteem & keeps you focused on yourself. But God has something new for you every day. He wants you to be in tune with His voice so that you'll know how to hear what God is speaking & do what He is doing.

FOMO Term... How many of heard of the phrase F.O.M.O.?

Harvard Grad students who were on a ski trip created the phrase that originally started as F.O.B.O (Fear of Better Options...) But they changed it because they had a fear of missing out. And at the same time, another Harvard student created a social media platform called, Facebook. And this platform was originally used to... "Compare" students with each other based on their appearance.

A platform that OVER 2.89 Billion people use. That's almost every 3 out of 8 people.

Stay focused with me here... Some of us have gotten so distracted in trying to do so much because we've given into comparison & God is wanting to provide you the freedom if we would just focus on Him. Because of Christ, **I Am Free To Be Me.**

### **DESTABILIZES YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT**

You worked hard & did your best to honor God but at the end of the day, you looked here & you looked there. You saw what they did & what they accomplished. **Comparison is the thief of joy!** And now you've failed. Because you couldn't compete. You couldn't measure up!

As a pastor & a creative... It happens every single week. We serve, worship the Lord, see people come to Know God & then we get home & see other people, friends, churches post how their Sunday was amazing or how their event was life changing. It goes on & on.

All of a sudden, what was once an amazing day... because of Comparison has lost it's value.

### **DESTROYS YOUR PEACE**

Nothing will destroy your peace of mind faster than comparison.

**2 Corinthians 10:12 CEV** *We won't compare ourselves with those who think so much of themselves. But they are foolish to compare themselves with themselves.*

**ILLUSTRATION** | RPMS Comparison will cause us to redline so that we'll push past the breaking point to prove that we are good enough! After all, we'll do whatever it takes to be the best.

So we stay in the red our whole life but Jesus wants to invite us to be the opposite. Be Free!

**Matthew 11:28-30 NLT** *Come to me, **all of you who are weary & carry heavy burdens & I will give you rest...** Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble & gentle at heart & you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear & the burden I give you is light.*

In Freedom, we connect with Jesus in such a way that we know there is a thing for me to do & accomplish... I can do it one way & find myself never measuring up & in the red. Or I can do it another way with Jesus & experience rest & true contentment. **I am Free To Be Me!**

So if this is what Comparison does... How can we Be Free to Be the Opposite?

**Hebrews 12:1-3 NLT** *Therefore, since **we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses** to the life of faith, let us **strip off every weight** that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us **run with endurance** the race God has set before us. **2** We do this by **keeping our eyes on Jesus**, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Or Jesus, the originator and perfecter of our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. **3** Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then **you won't become weary and give up.***

## SEE

The writer of Hebrews wants us to understand the grand story with huge eternal implications. He sets up the hall of faith in chapter 11... With Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses. But then the back half of the chapter (35) talks about people that we don't really know. Those people endured & paid the price in living out their faith.

So while you're looking at someone else & comparing your life with what you have & don't have. Know that there is a group of people who are cheering for you! Even when you don't feel like you're good enough. There is a group of witnesses who believe in you!

It's our turn. You & I are both running the race... **I Am Free To Be Me!**

## RID

Whenever we read this passage there is a tendency to go towards the sins that are self indulging. But it's more about sins like Jealousy, Envy, Coveting, Not embracing the fact that I am fearfully & wonderfully made. It's that false sense of humility that says I'm not good enough when God is saying... "You Are!"

There is something amazing on your life. You can walk in the power of the Holy Spirit knowing that you are fully known, loved & equipped by God.

I am called! I am Anointed! Don't allow the enemy or your own insecurities to downplay the truth that you are somebody & you can change the world & you can make a difference! Get rid of the things that so easily entangle...

Some of us look like were in a kiddie sack race, not a marathon!

Your Stride is way bigger than that... You're too grown for that!

What do you have to get rid of today? What do you have to let go of so that you can hit your stride?

There may be someone here today who has to change their diet. It's time to stop eating comparison for breakfast. God knows you can't breathe, Be Free today.

## **RUN**

We are encouraged to run the race that is set before us. God has an assignment for each one of us & the enemy would want nothing more than to get you off track.

**Romans 12:4-6 NLT** *Just as our bodies have many parts & each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body & we all belong to each other. 6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.*

God made us all different! He didn't want you to be like them, look like them, react like them...

**Romans 12:7-8 NLT** *If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

## **Run Your Race!**

Can we be a people who are walking in freedom? Running our race in such away that we can each carry out God's purpose for our lives. It's not about comparing & wishing that you had this or were more like that. It's about seeing the value in who you are in Christ.

Why don't I have what they have? Can we trust God enough to run our race? To run the path set before us? To understand that only you can do what God has designed for you.

**Instead of comparing, start using & appreciating what God has blessed you with.**

When you stay in your lane, you're guaranteed to finish.

When I am Free To Be Me I can experience what it means to Know God, Find Freedom, Discovering my Purpose & to Make A Difference.

## **FIX**

Fix your eyes on Jesus... When it comes to social media & your life... Who is following you & who are you following? If Jesus isn't at the top of the list, what can we do to change that? What new choices do we have to make in order to seek Him first?

If you want to be like Jesus... If you want to keep your joy. If you want to Be Free, Be like Jesus. He's seated in the place of honor. He is the one who gave us the example & knows everything about you & I. He's the one who has endured. He's the one who fought the war & won.

**The Best Version of Me that I can Be is when I look like Him!**

That's why God tells us we are raised from death to life... That's why we are a new creation. That's why we have the Holy Spirit living in us. That's why we can renew our minds & have his word. That's why God has given us community. So that we can Be Free to grow & be more like Jesus!

## **FIGHT**

There's nothing easy about undoing something sinful in our hearts. There's nothing easy about changing habits & mental thought patterns when comparison has tried to control every aspect of your life.

It's not going to go away all on it's own. Verse 2... Think about Jesus. When I fix my eyes on Jesus, I often think about what he was fixing us eyes on? He was fixed on the joy of knowing that you & I could Be Free & connected into a relationship with God the Father. And in between that was the cross & that cross was not going to stop Him from fighting with everything that He had for that outcome.

When we Know God... When we understand the gift of Salvation that is found in Jesus... The comparison game over! My name is known by God. **I Am Free To Be Me!**

## **CLOSING | Pete | Band**

### **What do we want to hear at the end of our life?**

"Well done you good & faithful servant."

Only God can say that to you because he knows EVERYTHING.

Thank you for running your race well... Well Done... and only one person can tell you that.

That's the trick of the comparison game... Only one person can tell you that. Your friends, your followers... none of them can say that. If it was up to me I could say that but only one voice matters.

Only one person knows everything about us. Only one person knows what we were given. Only one person knows what we did with it. Only one person knows if we trusted Him or not. Only one person can say I know, I know, I know... I know the sacrifices you made secret with out the comments or the likes. I know the prayers you prayed. I know the tears you shed. I know the struggle you went through to be where you are today... I know, I know, I know.

Well done my good & faithful servant.

### **The more you fight for that... the less you'll fight for what anyone else has.**

How faithful can you be?

## **SEE, RID, RUN, FIX, FIGHT**

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER & SALVATION RESPONSE**

1. How can I start this week with Gratitude?
2. How can I increase my focus over these 21 Days?
3. Don't always pick the very best person in every discipline to compare yourself to.
4. Who inspires you? Look at what can you learn from them versus how you compare to them.
5. Compare progress gained in your life, not just the things that need to be gained.  
How far have you come? Where can you find joy in the progress.
6. Who can you publicly Praise for their success?
7. Who can you give credit that has helped you go from where you were to where you are
8. Notice who might be struggling with comparison to you?

Most of us make the highlight reel we see something that is perfect, not knowing the fight behind it.