

Sunday, August 17, 2025 – BREAKING EVERY CHAIN – Pastor John Henry Raskin

- **Introduction:**

- We begin with a reminder that submission to the Holy Spirit is instrumental to be able to free oneself from destructive thoughts and speech patterns from your old life.

The focus today is on breaking the chains that may still bind us despite having a new life in Christ

- **Key Scripture References:**

- **2 Corinthians 5:17:** Emphasizes that anyone in Christ is a new creation
- **Matthew 9:20-22:** The story of the woman healed by touching Jesus' garment, highlighting the power of faith
- **Hebrews 4:16:** Encourages believers to approach the throne of grace with confidence
- **Luke 13:10-13:** The healing of a woman crippled by an evil spirit, demonstrating Jesus' power over demonic bondage
- **Luke 10:11-14:** The cleansing of ten lepers, illustrating the importance of obedience to Jesus' word
- **Ephesians 2:10:** Reminds believers that they are created for good works prepared by God
- **Psalms 18:28-29:** David's acknowledgment of God's strength and guidance
- **1 John 1:9:** The importance of confessing sins to receive forgiveness and cleansing
- **Galatians 5:1:** A call to stand firm in the freedom given by Christ

- **Main Points:**

- **Breaking Chains:** Despite being new creations in Christ, believers may still struggle with old habits and negative thoughts
- **Enemy's Deception:** Satan tries to make believers doubt their worth and God's love
- **Faith and Healing:** Faith in Jesus is crucial for breaking chains of sin, addiction, depression, and other struggles
- **Obedience and Action:** Believers must actively walk in their faith and obey Jesus' commands to experience true freedom
- **Role of Repentance:** Acknowledging and confessing sins is essential for breaking chains and experiencing God's forgiveness
- **Power of Jesus' Name:** The name of Jesus is a powerful weapon against all forms of bondage
- **Encouragement to Believers:** Believers are encouraged to share their freedom in Christ with others and help them experience the same

- **Conclusion:**

- The sermon concludes with a call to worship and praise Jesus, the Chain Breaker

BREAKING EVERY CHAIN

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the last two weeks we've been talking about how submitting ourselves to the authority of the Holy Spirit is the only way to free ourselves from the old person we were in terms of evil thinking and evil speaking.

Today I would like to go a little deeper into the concept of breaking the chains that may still bind us even though we have this new life in Christ.

Paul tells us...

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

In Christ you are a whole new human.

But still, perhaps that recording in your mind is still playing,

"You're not attractive enough to meet the right partner.

You're not smart enough to get a good job.

You don't have a good personality.

You aren't really different.

You'll never change."

Maybe those thoughts came from not having received enough validation by your parents, siblings, friends, teachers, pastors, etcetera...

But the real source of those feelings which are not necessarily facts is the enemy of your soul.

Satan never wanted you to discover the truth about Jesus in the first place, let alone say yes when He showed up in your life.

So he took that beloved person, you, that was created in God's very image,

and twisted and tormented you into thinking that God didn't care about you or that God made a mistake when He created you.

And if that's you today and you still have not discovered the truth...

that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God and He died on a cross for your sins because you cannot stand before a holy and a righteous God without a savior,

not because you weren't good enough and not because God doesn't love you but because the world of sin is perishing and we all need a savior to escape it...

If that is you...then before we go any further today, I want to encourage you that Jesus is exactly who He says He is in the Scriptures and that He is alive today,

Furthermore, that He is ruling and reigning from the right hand of the throne of Grace and that if you want to know Him,

if you are truly searching for Him,

if you want to have a relationship with the God that created you and loves you,

then please... know now that His hand of grace is out to you today and please come and see me after service.

Now... as for the rest of us who have said yes to our Lord and Savior and taken His offer of deliverance into the abundant life here and eternal life with Him let me just say this...

You were not delivered from slavery to continue to live bound in chains,

bound by chains of loneliness,

bound by chains of shame,

bound by chains of depression, addiction, rage, fear

bound by negative words that were spoken over you.

The good news for you is that Jesus, the One who has set you free, has set you free indeed!

Now that said, I know that it is attractive to believe that once you have said yes to Jesus and your chains are broken that you can go on your merry way doing exactly as you did before...

and while it is true that your chains were broken once and for all by your faith in God's Grace and Jesus' death and resurrection...

Breaking the residual chains of your old habits and living in the freedom of the new creation you ARE may still take work from you albeit in yoke with the power of Christ...

So why is it that so many of us having been set free by our faith in Christ are still locked in cycles and patterns that we were locked in before our life in Christ?

I heard a story about a dog that lived out in the country.

He'd been on a chain leash his whole life, about 30 feet long, tied to a tree.

Other dogs would come by, and he'd take off running to the end of that leash.

When he felt that jerk as the leash stopped him, he would bark and bark.

He wanted to go play with those other dogs and run out through the fields, but he couldn't do it, he was on that leash.

This went on for years, and one day, his owner felt sorry for him, and decided to let him run free like the other dogs.

But instead of taking the whole chain leash off, he just loosened the dog's collar around his neck. He stepped back and waited for the dog to take off.

Another dog came trotting by, and the owner thought, "All right, here he goes," and his dog got up, took off running.

But when he came to the end of the leash, he stopped where he always did. 30 feet and no further.

A few minutes later, a cat came by. This cat had tormented the dog his whole life. The dog wanted to get him so badly, but the cat knew just where to walk outside the dog's range.

The dog got up, took off running. Once again, he stopped where he always did.

What was the problem? The dog was free... he just didn't know it.

He still felt the collar he still heard the chain.

All he had to do was go a little bit further than he normally would, and that collar would have come off and he would have realized he was free.

I've known many homeless people that did significant time in prison because of mistakes albeit tragic and serious ones that they made in their youth.

When they came out of prison, they were kind of like the dog in that story I just told you.

Even though they were no longer locked in a nine by nine foot room, their lives were still in a box.

Their chains may no longer have been physical, but they were still dragging them around as if they were.

Truth be told it's even harder for those of us who have money in the bank and comfortable homes to live in to break out of our old comfortable dysfunctional habits.

So if we are free in Christ how do we act like it if we are still in the mindset of our sinful nature?

It is helpful to remember that Jesus is truly the chain breaker.

But just because you're free doesn't mean everything is instantly going to change.

You're going to have to walk this out.

But what you'll find is as you begin to WALK in your new found faith you're not going to be restricted like you were before.

You're going to be able to do things that you couldn't do before.

The guilt is not going to hold you back.

The depression, the hot temper, the addiction, is doesn't have to control your life. Why? The chain has been broken.

In my years of ministry among the poorest people I have seen many miracles of healing and restoration among believers and always because of their faith to receive them.

In Matthew's Gospel we see a woman whose faith compels her to reach out to be healed...

Matthew 9:20-22

20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. 21 For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." 22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

We must never be afraid to reach out in our pain and our suffering and ask for the Lord to break the chains that bind us.

The Writer of Hebrews tells us...

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

There are many physical reasons in a fallen world why a person is sick or why a person is mentally ill or why a person is chronically depressed but there are also spirits at work.

The new creation is released from all demonic bondage when the power of Christ is brought to bear.

In Luke's Gospel we see this. I believe that this is not a made-up story but an eyewitness account.

Luke 13:10-13

10 One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, 11 he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!" 13 Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!

This lady that came to Jesus had been sick so long, bent over for 18 years. I'm sure she thought it was permanent.

Have you ever gotten out of bed and your back hurts so badly that you just can't straighten up?

Imagine she had been like that for 18 years...

But here she was, on the Sabbath, worshipping God.

And I think of Jesus saying, "Should not this woman, being a faithful daughter of Abraham, be loosed from her sickness"?

She wasn't just any woman... she had rights and privileges because she was one of God's children and worshipping Him on the Sabbath. Obedient. Faithful.

Like her, you're not just anyone, you are a child of the Most High God worshipping Him here at Abundant Life Church.

If Jesus were here today, might he not look at you and say, "Should not this son, should not this daughter of the Most High God be set free from their sickness, free from their addiction, free from that depression"?

You have rights because of who you belong to, and you may have struggled in an area for a long time, but like with this faithful Israelite woman, it need not be permanent.

Jesus said in verse 12, if you'll notice, "Woman, you are loosed from your sickness".

God is saying that to you, you are loosed from whatever is holding you back.

Worship God. Praise Jesus. The chain breaker is at work.

In Luke Chapter 10 we see another miracle...

Luke 10:11-14

11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

In those days leprosy was known as a disease that could not be cured. Lepers were made to stand far away from other people and announce themselves as unclean for that reason.

These ten men recognized Jesus as master and asked only that he have mercy on them.

Jesus is always willing to show mercy.

From a distance, He says to them only “go show yourselves to the priests”.

Now that is the Levitical command... as it was only the priests were the ones who could announce lepers clean according to Mosaic law.

Yet the Son of man is the only one who can MAKE them clean.

Note then that the scripture says “as they went they were cleansed”.

Notice this. It was their obedience to walk at Jesus word that allowed them to be cleansed.

Luke goes on to say how one of the lepers came back to worship at Jesus feet and Jesus says to him ‘go in peace your faith has made you well’.

Do you believe this?

You are a new creation in Christ Jesus. You are a son or a daughter of the Most High God.

None of the old chains that bound you in the past have any real power over you anymore.

You may have failed over and over again. You leaned on your own understanding before you knew the Lord and it did not go well for you.

But you are now a new creation.

When He says go, go. Do your part and try again.

You're going to see doors open for you that you couldn't open before.

People are going to go out of their way to help you.

Things are going to fall into place,

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

and yes, there will be worldly forces trying to stop us, but the power of He that is in you is far greater than the forces that are arrayed against you.

No chain is too much for our God, no addiction too great, no sickness too big, no enemy too powerful.

God controls the universe.

It is your faith and the willingness to move in that faith that unlocks the power of God in your life.

King David knew this...

Psalms 18:28-29

For You will light my lamp;

The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

29 For by You I can run against a troop,

By my God I can leap over a wall.

If God doesn't remove the obstacle, He'll take you over it or He'll give you the strength to endure it.

What's held you back in the past need not enslave you anymore.

Our part of the equation is absolute, complete surrender to Jesus as Master, trusting Him to continue to break the chains of sin and dysfunction as we acknowledge them in our lives and present them to Him to be broken.

This is why one of the most crucial chain breaking tools is repentance.

It is crucial because unless sin is acknowledged it is allowed to remain a chain in our lives.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This scripture, which was given by John the beloved to believers tells us that although we have the ability because of our continued free will to ignore our sins,

if we confess them, then God is faithful to forgive them and by His power and our obedience we can truly turn from them.

The apostle Paul tells us that it takes determination to hold onto the truth and that in order to know the truth we must spend time in God's Word.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Fortunately, scripture gives us chain breaking tools that we can use and teach others to use to resist this entanglement.

With the Knowledge found in scripture and the power of Christ those chains of sin in our lives can be truly broken.

The most potent weapon at our disposal that can break chains in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones is...

The name of Jesus.

Whether you speak it, sing it or shout it in praise, prayer or worship the name of Jesus brings forth the power of the blood to break chains of addiction, chains of disease, chains of generational curses, chains of unforgiveness and dysfunction of all kinds.

The chains of fear, doubt, anxiety, bitterness, unforgiveness, and so many others are broken as we surrender them humbly to Christ.

In Him, we find true freedom, a freedom that transcends our circumstances and is rooted in our identity as children of God.

As believers, we are not only recipients of this freedom but also agents of it.

We are called to share this good news with others, to help them experience the freedom that is found in Christ.

Encourage them to know Jesus by showing them what a life loosed from chains looks like.

Your healed pain may break someone else's chains.

If we want to see more people in our church, then we will do well to encourage each other better to unleash the power of God in our lives and tell others about Him.

Jesus truly is the Chain Breaker! Amen?

Let's pray...